

The Haunting of 2013

by

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INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT BATHROOM - DAY

It's a typical, modern all-beige apartment bathroom. The room is dark and only lit by candlelight. DAVID, a thirty-year old man, is naked in a bathtub of water. At first it appears he is just relaxing in the warm tub. A CD player on the toilet seat is playing "Kathy's Song," sung by Eva Cassidy. It is a sweet, almost sad song. He smiles as he listens to the young woman's soft voice.

As the camera moves in slowly we can now see into the tub. The water is becoming red with blood from his cut wrists. A bloody razor blade is in the soap dish.

He becomes sleepy and nods off for a moment, but wakes up again. The room is bathed in an unearthly light.

ANGLE ON DOOR

He looks up to see KATHY'S GHOST, a beautiful young woman in white, standing in the doorway. She is bathed in an intense white light that hides her face.

DAVID
(groggy)
Who are you?

KATHY'S GHOST
(whispers)
It's going to be alright. We're
with you now.

David blinks and the woman and unearthly light are gone. He looks down into the water and sees his life draining away.

DAVID
(frightened)
What the hell am I doing?

He tries to get out of the tub but hasn't the strength. He slides back down into the tub and takes a few deep breaths to gather some energy.

He reaches over the side of the tub to his pants on the floor and grabs a cell phone out of the pocket. He dials the phone.

DISPATCHER
Emergency nine-one-one.

The phone slips out of his hand, falling to the floor with a thud. He slides back into the tub and his eyes close.

THE SCREEN GOES BLACK

INT. HOSPITAL MENTAL WARD - MORNING

David is awake sitting up in bed with his wrists bandaged. A psychologist, DR. GREEN, is sitting next to the bed with David's chart.

DAVID
Are you locking me up?

DR. GREEN
Are you going to try it again?

DAVID
No, it was stupid.

DR. GREEN
Well, you did call 911, that's always a good sign. Why did you try to kill yourself, David?

DAVID
I have a brain tumor. Only have three months to live.

DR. GREEN
Are you in pain?

DAVID
No. But in a month or so I'll be stark-raving mad.

DR. GREEN
And that frightens you.

DAVID
(laughs wryly)
Well, yeah, doc, I'd have to say it does. But not enough to kill myself, apparently. Listen, I won't try it again, but please, let me go. I don't want to spend my last good month in the looney bin.

DR. GREEN
(reluctantly)
Okay. I'll talk to your doctor and get the paperwork started.

She leaves.

An OLD MAN in a hospital gown shuffles by in the hall. He stops and comes into the room.

DAVID

Hi.

OLD MAN

You're not supposed to be here.

DAVID

You're telling me.

OLD MAN

You can't cheat death.

DAVID

Don't I know it.

An ORDERLY passes the door, then backs up and enters.

ORDERLY

There you are Mr. Goldman. Come on let's get you back to bed.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - DAY

He is at a table looking over travel brochures.

DAVID

Three month trip around the world.
How far could I get in a month?

Checking the itinerary.

DAVID (cont'd)

Hmmm. Greece. Not too bad I guess.

His phone rings and he answers it.

DAVID (cont'd)

Hello.

DR. BENNET (OVER PHONE)

David, this Dr. Bennet.

DAVID

Hi.

DR. BENNET (OVER PHONE)

A spot has opened up in a medical trial for a new experimental laser.

(MORE)

DR. BENNET (OVER PHONE) (cont'd)
They're looking for tumors like
yours.

DAVID
Will it help?

DR. BENNET (OVER PHONE)
Judging from past cases, it will
most definitely buy you some more
time.

DAVID
Good, because if you can get me
another two months I can make it
around the world.

DR. BENNET (OVER PHONE)
Why don't you come to my office
first thing in the morning and
we'll discuss it.

DAVID
Okay, thanks.

He hangs up the phone and goes to the refrigerator and grabs
a beer.

C.U. David's shoulder.

A badly mangled hand silently appears from nowhere and grabs
his shoulder. Startled, he drops the beer bottle and wheels
around. Nothing is there.

INT. DR. BENNET'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Bennet and David are in front of a picture of a head on a
white board.

DR. BENNET
It's a new procedure that uses a
special laser that bombards the
tumor with microwaves.

DAVID
They're going to microwave my
brain? You've seen what that does
to popcorn.

DR. BENNET
It's just for a few seconds. But
you're right, in a way. The goal is
to pop the tumor from the inside
out.

DAVID

How dangerous is this? Could it give me brain damage?

DR. BENNET

It's safer than surgery or other kinds of laser treatments. No incision is needed. They don't even have to shave your head. They've had pretty good success rates so far.

DAVID

Okay, let's do it.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

David is strapped to a table, his head and neck locked in a medieval-looking device to keep his head completely still.

He looks nervous and claustrophobic as a long needle-shaped laser gun is lowered by a robotic arm into the head device.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A TECHNICIAN is calibrating the equipment. A large red LED readout displays the numbers and he turns a dial. He sets it to "2013."

The technician presses a microphone button.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TECHNICIAN (O.C.)

Okay, we're ready David. You'll hear a buzzing sound in your head, but you shouldn't feel any pain.

C.U. DAVID'S FACE

We hear the laser buzz. It becomes a horrible sound, like a jar full of shaken bees, then it becomes a painful, high-pitched whine like a dentist's drill in a tooth.

P.O.V. - DAVID'S HALLUCINATION - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly the world goes dark and images rapidly fly across the screen almost too fast to see, images of people burning and screaming, images of people committing suicide, the house numbers "2013."

David screams. The images and sound suddenly stop.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DAVID
(terrified)
What the hell was that! My, god!
Shit! Shit!

The technician rushes into the room.

TECHNICIAN
What's wrong?

DAVID
(clawing at the headgear)
Get me out of this thing! Now!

INT. SIDEWALK CAFE - AFTERNOON

David is alone at a table with a cup of coffee in front of him. His cell phone rings and he answers it.

DAVID
Hello.

GARY (OVER PHONE)
Hey, David, it's Gary.

DAVID
Where are you? I've been waiting
for a half hour.

GARY (OVER PHONE)
On my way to the airport. I got a
last minute gig, get this, on the
Tonight Show.

DAVID
That's fantastic. You're hitting
the big time.

GARY
Sorry, to stand you up.

DAVID
Don't be, now you can pay me back
that money you owe me before I kick
the bucket.

GARY (OVER PHONE)
I like how you always see the glass
as half-full. Anyway, I'll call you
when I get back in a day or two.

DAVID
Okay. I'll try not to die before
then.

GARY (OVER PHONE)
That's the spirit. Bye.

David's attention turns to a pretty business woman alone at
another table, KATHY. It was the woman from his vision the
night he slit his wrists. She seems familiar, but he doesn't
make the connection at first.

She has a laptop computer open and she's typing.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT BATHROOM - MEMORY FLASH

David sees the girl again for just a flash, but her face is
blurry.

INT. SIDEWALK CAFE - CONTINUOUS

David is intrigued and he gets up and approaches her.

DAVID
Excuse me, have we met before?

KATHY
(playful)
That's the best line you have?

DAVID
Now I remember, I saw you in a
dream. And in this dream you saved
my life.

KATHY
(smiles)
Okay, that's a better line.

DAVID
I'm David.

KATHY
Kathy.

DAVID
I didn't mean to disturb your work.
I'll leave you alone.

KATHY
It's not work.

DAVID
No?

KATHY
I'm looking at porn. I can do that
later.

Shuts computer.

KATHY (cont'd)
Would you care to join me?

He sits down.

DAVID
In looking at porn or for lunch?

KATHY
Let's start with lunch and see how
it goes.

DAVID
Will it count as our first date? I
never sleep with a woman until the
third date and I am kind of pressed
for time.

KATHY
I leave for a long trip in a couple
of days, so lets count it as our...
(looks him over)
second date. After all, there was
that dream . . .

He smiles.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY
David is going over the CAT scans with his DOCTOR.

DR. BENNET

It's like the tumor was never there. I've never seen anything like it.

DAVID

(skeptical)
I'm cured?

DR. BENNET

Yes. It's a miracle. And I don't throw that word around lightly.

David breathes a happy sigh of relief and his eyes well up with tears.

INT. AUCTION HOUSE - DAY

Inset: "3 months later" fades up and out.

David is bidding in a crowded room with OTHER BIDDERS. The AUCTIONEER has a picture of a house on an easel next to him.

AUCTIONEER

Next up. This beautiful Victorian home, Twenty-Thirteen Hill Street. It was seized by the government from a convicted drug dealer. But don't let that deter you from bidding on this property, it is in a good neighborhood. We'll start the opening bid at five-hundred thousand.

No one raises their paddles.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)

No? This property is worth half a million easy.

He waits.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)

Okay, we'll start the bidding at two-hundred and fifty thousand.

David raises his paddle.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)

We have two-fifty, do I hear three.

No one raises their paddles.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)
Going once...twice....sold!

He slams his hammer down and David smiles.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)
Congratulations, sir, you just
bought yourself one fine piece of
property.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - MORNING

It is a big old house in the middle of the block in an urban, upscale neighborhood. Across the street is a bus stop and bench. It is a bright, sunny morning and KIDS are playing on the sidewalk in front of the house.

C.U. OF HOUSE NUMBER

It reads "2013"

HOUSE MONTAGE

KITCHEN - DAY

David is happily cleaning his new house for the move in. He has trash bags full of garbage and is cleaning the counter with a rag. He opens a cupboard and sees it is full of writhing spiders. In horror, he slams the door shut.

KITCHEN - LATER

David has a can of bug killer and opens the cupboard just a crack and sprays inside. Some spiders pour out and he slams it shut again. He smashes the escaped spiders with the can.

KITCHEN - LATER

David is vacuuming out the spiders and webs from the cupboard. As he looks up at the kitchen clock, the hands start to spin backwards.

KITCHEN - LATER

C.U. of David throwing the clock in the trash.

KITCHEN - LATER

David turns on the water in the kitchen and the pipes shake but no water comes out. He looks down to see water coming out from under the sink and pooling at his feet.

DINING ROOM - LATER

David turns on the dining room chandelier and sparks and smoke billow out of the switch plate.

DRIVEWAY - LATER

Outside, David opens the garage only to find it is completely packed with junk. Exhausted and dejected he shuts the door again and walks away.

KITCHEN - LATER

David is in the house while A PLUMBER and ELECTRICIAN are working on the sink and wiring. He looks up at a new clock on the wall as it too is spinning backwards.

KITCHEN - LATER

David opens the cupboard and it's full of spiders again.

FRONT EXTERIOR OF HOUSE - LATER

A Roto-Rooter truck is parked and an exterminator truck pulls up.

END MONTAGE

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - MORNING

David is finishing breakfast. The kitchen is spick and span and redecorated nicely. The wall clock is unplugged and he has a digital clock on the counter. He is dressed for work in a suit and tie. He rubs his head to relieve a headache.

He stands and a cat is at his feet.

DAVID
(to cat)
Where did you come from?

The cat goes to the door and meows. David opens the door for him and he leaves.

DAVID (cont'd)
Thanks for the visit.

As David exits to the dining room he doesn't notice his digital clock is blinking "20:13", "20:13."

INT. DAVID'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David walks though the dining room and we see he has moving boxes he hasn't yet unpacked. He walks into...

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...the living room and goes up the stairs...

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He enters the bathroom and goes to the medicine cabinet. It is a big room with a large, old-fashioned claw-foot tub surrounded by a translucent shower curtain.

David opens the cabinet and takes out a bottle of aspirin. When he closes the cabinet, the word "Fitz" is written in fog on the mirror. He is puzzled, because it clearly wasn't there before and there is no steam in the room. He wipes the mirror clean. It fogs up again with the word "Kang".

David closes his eyes and rubs them and when he opens them the word fades away.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER

David exits his house and crosses the street to the bus stop.

There is a homeless man sitting on the ground next to the bench. He has his face in his hands and is rocking back and forth. David hears him crying softly at first. Then he sobs harder.

DAVID
Are you okay? Do you need some
help?

The man doesn't answer him and doesn't uncover his face. He continues his mournful sobs.

HOMELESS MAN

Two, zero, one, three. Two, zero,
one, three. Two, zero, one, three.
Two, zero, one, three.

David becomes uncomfortable and backs away from the man, and is relieved when the bus pulls up. David gets on the bus.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

David looks at the homeless man through the bus window as the bus pulls away. He doesn't notice that his breath has fogged up the window and the word "Fitz" is momentarily there; it fades when he turns his head to the front.

INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - LATER

David works in a windowless office in the middle of a row of desks. His work area is overly bright under the intense glow of fluorescent lights. David is the first one in the office and all the other desks are empty.

As he sits down at his desk, the light directly above him flickers and starts to buzz with the same sound we heard before from the laser.

He stands up to tap the light, but the buzzing stops the second he stands. When he sits down it starts to buzz again, when he stands it stops.

He laughs, stands, reaches up and gives the bulb half a twist, it shuts off and he sits down.

After a moment, the light flickers back on, buzzes very loudly and becomes brighter and brighter, so bright that he can't look at it directly. The bulb continues to buzz louder and then suddenly shatters. David just manages to cover his face as shards of glass hit him.

Shaken, he brushes the glass off his shoulders and desk and sits down. He looks up at the light puzzled.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He is in bed on the phone. The television is on with the sound down, the movie "The Manchurian Candidate" on the screen. We hear the beep of an answering machine on the other end.

GARY (OVER PHONE)
I'm out sawing girls in half, leave
a message after the tone.

We hear the tone.

DAVID
Hi, it's David. You back, or still
in L.A? Call me tomorrow and we'll
get together.

We hear a hissing sound from the phone...

CRACKLING VOICE (OVER PHONE)
...Don't believe them...They lie.

The hissing stops and the phone goes dead.

He hangs up the phone and turns out the light. It is very
dark in the room.

We hear a noise from downstairs, a loud thud.

We hear another thud.

David turns on the light and hears it again. He gets out of
bed and gets a baseball bat from the closet. He heads
downstairs as we hear another thud.

INT. STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

He creeps down the stairs that are lit from moonlight coming
in the stairway window.

He rounds the corner and looks down into the living room.
The room is dark. So dark we can't see the man sitting on
the floor on his knees, leaning forward and thumping his head
on the floor over and over.

David slowly comes down the stairs and turns on a table lamp
and is startled to see the homeless man from earlier in the
day.

DAVID
(yelling)
What are you doing in my house?
Get out, before I call the police!

The man starts to sob and wail uncontrollably.

DAVID (cont'd)
(louder)
I'm not kidding! Get out!

David takes a step forward and threatens him with the bat.

The man staggers to his feet. We can't see his face in the shadows. He takes a step into the light and we see the man's face is badly burned.

HOMELESS MAN
(wailing)
Help me...help me...

He staggers toward David. David recoils in fear knocking over the table lamp; it crashes to the floor and plunges the room into total darkness. All we hear is the man sobbing and David yelling:

DAVID
(very frightened)
Keep away from me! Keep away!

We hear David bumping over furniture to get away, but we don't see anything. David crashes his way across the room and finds the wall switch and turns on the light.

The man is nowhere to be seen. David goes over to the front door and sees the chain is still on, then runs to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David rushes to the back door and sees that it is also chained.

He becomes more frightened as he realizes the man must still be in the house. David gets a knife from the drawer, puts the bat under his arm and picks up the phone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

TWO POLICE OFFICERS are talking with David.

COP
We've searched the whole house. He must have slipped out a window or something.

DAVID
Thanks.

COP

You say you've seen him before?

DAVID

Yeah, he was out at the bus stop
this morning.

COP

Well, if he's badly burned I'm sure
he'll make his way to the clinic.

They head for the front door.

COP (cont'd)

If he comes back give us a call.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

David is sleeping sitting up in a chair cuddling his baseball bat. His alarm-radio goes off and startles him awake. He swings the bat at an imaginary enemy then realizes where he is.

The clock radio is playing R.E.M.'s "End of the World as We Know It." He turns off the radio.

As he stretches awake, he notices the furnace vent on the wall is loose.

He goes over to the wall and pushes it back on with his foot, but it falls to the floor.

DAVID

Everything in this house is falling
apart.

He squats down to pick up the vent.

ANGLE INSIDE DUCT

We can see the outline of something inside.

ANGLE ON DAVID

He cautiously reaches into the vent, but the furnace kicks on scaring him. He falls back onto his butt. He is amused at himself for being scared and laughs it off. He reaches back in and pulls out a big bundle of money.

He examines it and smiles in amazement.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

David is at the front desk with the money. A DESK SERGEANT is talking to him.

SERGEANT

You can legally keep anything left behind by the previous owners thirty days after closing, so the money is yours free and clear.

The Sergeant looks over the report.

DAVID

Great. Still, I can't believe the previous owners left it behind.

SERGEANT

(looking at report)

You live at Twenty-Thirteen Hill Street?

DAVID

Yeah.

SERGEANT

Well then I know the previous owner won't be back. He was shot in a drug raid.

DAVID

Someone was killed in my house?

SERGEANT

Yeah, so it's probably drug money.

DAVID

The man that was shot, was his name Fitz or Kang?

SERGEANT

I don't know. I can check on it for you.

DAVID

Okay. Thanks.

SERGEANT

Do you have a daytime number I can reach you at?

INT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

David is having lunch with Kathy.

DAVID

...So my luck is definitely changing. First I'm cured of an incurable illness then I find ten-grand in my house.

KATHY

And you found me.

She leans across the table and kisses him. Her cell phone rings and she answers it.

KATHY (cont'd)

Hello.

(listens)

No, tell him not to do any speeches without letting me see them first...right, I'll get in touch with him this afternoon, bye.

DAVID

New client?

KATHY

More like a public relations nightmare. A politician that can't keep his foot out of his mouth. But he looks good in a suit and that's what counts.

She gets up from the table.

KATHY (cont'd)

When am I going to get to see the new house?

DAVID

This weekend if you're free.

KATHY

It's a date.

INT. OFFICE BATHROOM - LATER

Like his office, the room is overly bright with cold, fluorescent light.

David takes some aspirin and bends down to take a drink of water from the faucet. He splashes water on his face, grabs a paper towel and dries off.

The lights flicker, buzz and grow brighter. He looks up and ducks down, worried they might explode again. But the lights stabilize and he relaxes.

The brighter light gives the room an unearthly glow. David looks into the mirror and sees A CONFUSED WOMAN standing behind him.

DAVID

Looks like you have the wrong
bathroom.

He turns to face her but now she is across the room in front of the door. The woman looks confused and panicked.

CONFUSED WOMAN

(mumbling, scared)

How can this be happening?

DAVID

What?

CONFUSED WOMAN

It can't be real, don't you see?

She comes towards David and he backs away until he hits the sink.

DAVID

Uh...

CONFUSED WOMAN

None of this is real. None of it.
Open your eyes, how could it be?

She screams and her skin liquefies. A horrified David watches her skin pour down her body and onto the floor where it flows into the floor drain.

CONFUSED WOMAN (cont'd)

(screaming at David)

Don't just stand there, help me!!
What's happening! Help me...David.
Help us!

ANGLE ON DAVID

David covers his face and crouches down in terror.

ANGLE ON ROOM

The woman is gone. A COWORKER enters and sees David squatting on the floor.

COWORKER
David? You okay?

David uncovers his face and looks around.

INT. OFFICE STARIWELL - MOMENTS LATER

David is very shaken by what has just happened and is rushing up the stairs. He passes a COWORKER coming down the stairs with a pack of cigarettes.

DAVID
Brian, could I bum a cigarette off you?

BRIAN
(offering the pack)
I didn't think you smoked.

DAVID
(taking it)
I do today.

EXT. OFFICE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

David comes out onto the roof where AN OLDER MAN in a rumpled suit is smoking and looking out over the city skyline. There is an ashtray by the door with a pack of matches in it. David takes a match and lights up.

DAVID
Hi.

OLDER MAN
(not turning to look at David)
Hell is full.

DAVID
What?

THE OLDER MAN walks to the edge of the roof and looks down.

OLDER MAN
There isn't even fucking time to die.

He steps up on the ledge then off the roof.

DAVID
(Screams)
Jesus!

He rushes to the edge and looks over. There is no sign of him on the sidewalk below.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

David is talking with Dr. Bennet.

DAVID
So you don't think that laser could have done something to my brain to make me hallucinate?

DR. BENNET
Hard to say, there is so much we don't know about the brain. You haven't been sleeping well, sometimes that can cause waking dreams that can seem real. I'll prescribe you some sleeping pills. And I can give you a referral to a psychiatrist.

David looks concerned and the doctor notices.

DR. BENNET (cont'd)
(fatherly)
You were terminally ill, David. Facing down your own mortality can be pretty stressful. It will help to talk to someone.

DAVID
You're right.

DR. BENNET
We'll also run some more scans to rule out anything neurological.

EXT. DAVID'S BACKYARD - DAY

David's back yard is over-grown with weeds. A rotting picnic table is in the center of the weeds. The yard is surrounded by hedges that give it a dark look even in the day.

David is trying to get a lawn mower started but can't.

DAVID

Damn it! What is wrong with this thing?

He turns it over and sees there is a string wrapped around the blade. He digs at it with his fingernail and suddenly the mower starts. He pulls his hand away from the rotating blade just in time. The mower falls over right-side up and almost gets his foot, but he jumps away just before it lands. The mower sputters off again.

WILBUR (O.C.)

You should always disconnect the sparkplug.

David wheels around to see WILBUR, an old man, looking over the hedge.

WILBUR (cont'd)

I mean if you're going to mess around with the blade. Could start on its own.

DAVID

Thanks. I'll definitely remember that now.

WILBUR

Name's Wilbur, I'm your next door neighbor.

DAVID

David. Nice to meet you.

WILBUR

Glad to see someone finally living in that house again.

David comes over closer to the hedge.

DAVID

Say, have you lived here a long time?

WILBUR

No. Just twenty years.

DAVID

Do you remember if anyone lived here named Fitz or Kang?

WILBUR

No, doesn't ring a bell. But there was a lot of people coming and going. Seems like there was always a "for rent" sign out front. Well, I'll let you get back to your mowing.

Wilbur disappears behind the hedges and David turns his attention back to the lawn mower.

Suddenly a dead crow lands with a thud on the picnic table, startling David.

He goes over and examines it. He picks up a stick and pokes at it to make sure it's dead.

DAVID

Poor thing.

Suddenly another dead crow lands in the yard. Then a third. For a moment nothing, then as if a rain cloud suddenly bursts, David and the yard are pelted with dead birds.

David runs inside.

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He slams the door shut and we hear dead birds continuing to pelt the roof.

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

An exterminator is writing up a bill for David.

EXTERMINATOR

It should take a couple of hours to dispose of them.

DAVID

So what do you think happened to them?

EXTERMINATOR

Who knows. But with this many dead, my guess would be they ran into a cloud of insecticide. The city sprays for mosquitoes and sometimes they accidentally hit a flock of birds.

(MORE)

EXTERMINATOR (cont'd)
(tears off bill and hands
it to David)
That will be three-hundred dollars.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

David takes his sleeping pills as he watches "The Tonight Show" on TV. The phone rings so he pauses the show and answers the call.

DAVID
Hello.

GARY (OVER PHONE)
Yo, David, it's Gary.

DAVID
You back in town?

GARY
Yeah, just got in. Did you see me
on Jay Leno?

DAVID
I taped it. I'm watching it right
now. You back for awhile?

GARY
No, I'm leaving again for a gig in
Denver tomorrow. I'll be back in a
couple of days. Then it's a week
at the Hocus-Pocus room. I'll send
you tickets.

DAVID
Okay. Good seats this time.

GARY
When am I going to meet this new
girlfriend of yours?

DAVID
Soon. If you promise not to make
her disappear.

GARY
I can't help it if they fall in
love with me. I'll call you when I
get back from Denver.

DAVID
Okay. Bye.

He hangs up the phone and looks at the television. He takes the remote and un-pauses the VCR.

ANGLE ON TV.

Gary is on stage and is pulling something out of a hat. It turns out to be a big rat. The audience laughs and Gary puts it back in. Then from out of his hat he produces a cat and stuffs it in the hat. The audience laughs again. Then he takes out a small dog and gets a bigger laugh as he makes the dog also disappear into the hat.

The phone rings again. David pauses the tape.

DAVID (cont'd)

Hello?

We hear the buzz from the laser again then a voice full of static.

STATIC VOICE (KATHY)

I miss you....

DAVID

Kathy?

STATIC VOICE (MAN'S VOICE)

...Stay in the house.

DAVID

Kathy, I'm getting a cross connection....

The phone goes dead.

He hangs up the phone and looks at the television. The picture is moving again, but rather than Gary, it's an image of a man engulfed in flames. The closed-captioning is on and it reads "Fitz, Fitz, Fitz".

Intrigued, he tries to turn the sound on but the TV turns itself off. He tries to turn it on with the remote again, but it doesn't work. He gets up and tries the controls on the TV and they don't work either.

Then we hear a static sound from the TV downstairs.

Grabbing his trusty bat he makes his way out of the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David appears at the top of the stairs. A FATHER, MOTHER, a YOUNG BOY and a YOUNG GIRL are sitting on his sofa watching his TV.

DAVID

(angry)

Can I help you? What are you doing
in my house?

They look up at him, say nothing and turn back to watching TV. David comes down the stairs to confront them with the bat. They are too engrossed in the television to notice him.

DAVID (cont'd)

I hate to be unneighborly, but this
isn't...

The family points to the screen in horror. The mother covers the kids' eyes.

David cautiously comes closer to the TV to see what they are pointing to.

ANGLE ON TV

It is the same image of the man in flames he saw upstairs.

ANGLE ON SOFA

The father looks up at David and points over David's head.

DAVID (cont'd)

(afraid)

There's a burning guy behind me,
isn't there?

The man nods his head yes. David turns to see the horrifying image of A BURNING MAN. It stumbles towards David.

BURNING MAN

(crackling flame voice)

Fitz, Fitz, Fitz, Fitz.

David backs away in horror, stumbles over the coffee table and falls to the floor hitting his head hard and blacking out.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

David awakes with a start in bed and springs up to a sitting position. The TV is on and is playing the opening credits of "The Addams Family."

He throws the sleeping pills in the trash.

DAVID
(mumbling to self)
Who the hell is Fitz?

INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY

David is talking with his REALTOR. The realtor is looking over paperwork on the house.

REALTOR
No, none of the past owners were named Fitz or Kang. But the house was rental property for awhile in the eighties and I don't have any records of who rented it.

DAVID
Is there anyone else who would have those records?

REALTOR
You could check with the utility company, they might have records going back that far. The landlord might too, but I doubt it. Once you sell a house there's no reason to keep that stuff around.

INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

David gets a call at his desk.

DAVID
Hello.

SERGEANT (OVER PHONE)
This is Sergeant Caufield. I have the name of the guy who was shot in the house.

DAVID
Great, what is it?

SERGEANT (OVER PHONE)
Dan Mullins.

DAVID
(writing it down)
Thanks.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - EVENING

David is signing in. The desk clerk gives him a key. The room number is 2013. David sees the number and pushes the key back.

DAVID
Can I have different room please?

INT. HOTEL ROOM BATHROOM - LATER

David is falling asleep in a nice warm tub.

A mangled hand slowly comes into the frame from above and behind his head and gently pushes him down. David slowly slides under the water. His eyes spring open when he realizes he is submerged and he struggles to sit up. Now two mangled hands appear to the side of him and hold him down under the water. David struggles but can't surface.

C.U. DAVID'S POINT OF VIEW

We see a MAN WITH A MANGLED FACE through the water as David thrashes. Another figure, KATHY'S GHOST appears behind the man. David can't quite make out her face through the blur of the water.

KATHY'S GHOST
(raspy, whisper)
David, the plug.

ANGLE ON DAVID'S TOES

He frantically kicks his feet around until he finds the drain lever. He pushes it up with his feet and the tub starts to drain.

C.U. DAVID'S FACE

The water slowly drains and David continues to fight the ghost who is still holding him firmly under. The water finally drains to David's nose and he sucks in a hard fought breath. The ghost vanishes and David springs up, gasping for air.

He sits there a moment, breathing heavily. He stands and stumbles out of the tub into the other room. He falls down to the bed and his cell phone rings.

He answers it.

DAVID
(out of breath)
Hello?

KATHY'S GHOST
(buzzing and static)
Can't... protect you...outside...
the house.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - MORNING

David arrives by taxi and goes up to the house. He takes a deep breath of courage and steps onto the porch. The morning sun is making everything brightly warm and he relaxes. He collects the mail and paper and goes inside.

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM

He starts going through the mail when he hears a teaspoon hitting the side of a coffee cup coming through the kitchen.

DAVID
(calling into kitchen)
Gary?

There is no answer, but we hear a chair slide and the faint ruffle of a newspaper.

DAVID (cont'd)
Kathy?

David grabs a fireplace poker and cautiously creeps up to the kitchen. He swings the door open a crack.

ANGLE ON KITCHEN

We see MIKE MULLINS a forty-something man in a business suit sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee and reading the paper. The newspaper blocks his face. The newspaper is blank except for the number "2013" in big, black bold letters.

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

David enters with the poker raised.

The man looks up from his paper and we see he has no eyes, just black sockets.

MULLINS

Who are you? Why are you in my kitchen!

David at first doesn't know how to respond. The man stands and David backs up in fear.

INT. DAVID'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David turns and runs out, but as the door swings back and forth behind him he looks back and sees the kitchen is empty. He stops and cautiously goes back to the kitchen. He opens the door fully and sees there is no sign of the man.

INT. PROFESSOR LEMBECK'S OFFICE - DAY

David is meeting with PROFESSOR LEMBECK. He is in his fifties and his office is strewn with papers and books on the paranormal. Lembeck is taking notes and filling out a questionnaire.

DAVID

So, Professor Lembeck, that's when my friend, Gary Olsen, referred me to you.

LEMBECK

I'm surprised, Gary has always been quite the skeptic.

DAVID

I have to admit I have been too. That is until now.

LEMBECK

(turning back to questionnaire)

Okay, just a few questions. How many ghosts have you seen in your house?

DAVID

(counting on his fingers)
The burning man, the family...the
business man in the kitchen...six.
And maybe the homeless man, but he
could have been real. Oh, and I saw
two ghosts at my office. A woman
with melting skin -- very
unpleasant -- and a guy who jumped
off the building.

LEMBECK

Have the walls dripped blood or has
blood come out of the faucets?

DAVID

No. Water barely comes out.

LEMBECK

Any massing of flies on the
windows?

DAVID

No, but a bunch of dead crows
rained down on my house.

LEMBECK

(writing it down)
Interesting. Have the ghosts
talked to you? Made any sounds?

DAVID

Yes, they've talked to me....and I
think they call me on my cell phone
and the Burning Man is haunting my
TV. Man, this sounds weird.

LEMBECK

Oh, the haunting of electronic
devices is becoming very common.
Ghosts are mostly electrical
energy, so it's the easiest way for
them to communicate. They've been
rather fond of haunting iPods
lately.

DAVID

Well, they're using up my cell
phone minutes.

LEMBECK

Have you been in the basement yet?

DAVID
Just for a moment, with the
realtor.

LEMBECK
Don't go down there alone.

DAVID
(worried)
Uh, okay.

LEMBECK
Have you experienced any missing
time?

DAVID
No.
(thinks)
Wait, sort of. I can't keep the
clocks in the house set to the
right time, and there was this
strange happening last week...

INT. CITY STREET - FLASHBACK

David is at an empty street corner and is about to cross the
road. He looks at his watch.

DAVID (V.O.)
I was late getting back to work
from lunch. I was standing at a
street corner about to cross the
road. I looked at my watch and it
said one-0-five.

He looks left and right and we see empty road as far as the
eye can see.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)
The street was empty, but as I
stepped into the street...

He steps into the road and a car seemingly appears from
nowhere, almost running him over. He leaps back onto the
curb. The road is now full of fast moving cars.

INT. PROFESSOR LEMBECK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DAVID
When I looked back at my watch it
said one-ten.

(MORE)

DAVID (cont'd)
It's like that one footstep took me five minutes. Could that mean something?

LEMBECK
Time dilation is often a sign of a haunting. I've experienced it myself.

DAVID
Really?

LEMBECK
(excited)
We spent the night in a haunted castle in Scotland. The next day we went into town and found that nearly a week had passed.

DAVID
(skeptical)
Interesting.

LEMBECK
Has anyone else seen any of your ghosts?

DAVID
No. So you can see why I was reluctant to come to you. I'm still not sure that I didn't imagine it all. I mean, I saw a ghost at the office. If it is the house that's haunted, how could I have seen a ghost away from the house?

LEMBECK
People can become haunted too. Or a ghost can attach itself to you from a haunted place.

DAVID
Great. I have a phantom stalker.

LEMBECK
We just documented a haunting of an RV. A couple vacationing in New Mexico picked up a ghost of a gold miner. And there is a famous case of a woman haunted by an incubus that followed her from house to house her whole life.

DAVID

Incubus?

LEMBECK

That's a ghost that has sex with you while you're sleeping.

DAVID

Why can't I get ghosts like that?

(beat)

Does it mean that all those people died in my house?

LEMBECK

No. Sometimes ghosts haunt a place they were happy in. They might have lived in the house at some point then returned when they died.

Lembeck turns back to his questionnaire.

LEMBECK (cont'd)

Have you recently been in a coma?

DAVID

No, but I had a brain tumor.
And...

LEMBECK

And?

DAVID

A suicide attempt.

LEMBECK

Interesting.

DAVID

It is?

LEMBECK

Yes. Near death experiences sometimes remove the veil between worlds. It makes some a lightning rod for the paranormal. Any physical contact from any of the ghosts?

DAVID

One tried to drown me, I think. I might have just fallen asleep in the tub and dreamed that though.

LEMBECK
(concerned)
It tried to kill you?

DAVID
Yeah, I guess. It pushed me down in
the tub and held me under the
water.

LEMBECK
(very concerned)
Is there something you're not
telling me? Have you
recently...harmed someone?

DAVID
No, why?

LEMBECK
Ghosts require strength to
materialize in our world. To
appear to the eye they must move
around photons. For most spirits
this is considered heavy lifting.
To make sounds they must move air
requiring even more energy.

DAVID
So to actually touch me...

LEMBECK
They need a lot of energy. Ghosts
that can actually move objects come
in two flavors. One is the
poltergeist which usually draws
energy from an adolescent in the
house. They're mostly harmless.

DAVID
(worried)
And the other flavor?

LEMBECK
A vengeful spirit.

DAVID
Well, if I did something to piss
off this ghost, I don't know what
it was.

LEMBECK

We had better find out, because if this ghost can touch you, your very life is in danger.

DAVID

So what's the next step?

LEMBECK

We'll do some more research on the house. See if anyone besides the last owner died there.

(digging out a photo on his desk)

Oh, when you called me I was able to dig up a picture of Dan Mullins, the man that was killed in your house.

He hands Gary a newspaper obituary clipping.

LEMBECK (cont'd)

Is this one of your ghosts?

C.U. A picture of a young fat man.

DAVID

No, not one of mine.

LEMBECK

Are you sure? The burning man, perhaps?

DAVID

No, he's skinny and I get a sense he's older. He's not bashed-in-face guy or ghost Dad either.

(beat)

Listen to me, I sound crazy.

LEMBECK

And if you aren't?

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

David is sitting in a chair with a coffee cup in hand. The TV is showing the movie "The Dead Zone." Next to him is a pot of coffee.

DAVID

Going to be a long night.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - LATER

David has fallen asleep in the chair. He stirs awake. The TV is showing the movie "Jacob's Ladder." Half-asleep he turns off the TV and exits the room for the bathroom.

INT. DAVID'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He gets a drink of water and behind him in the mirror, ghost dad is hanging by a noose from the ceiling. David is too sleepy to notice.

He exits.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He comes back into the bedroom and climbs into bed. He turns off the light, but then turns it on again and looks around the room.

DAVID

Listen ghosts, I'm going to sleep
and you'll have to do your haunting
later.

He snuggles into his pillow, exhausted, and dozes off.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The sunrise is just starting to fill the room and David is asleep but moaning in a quiet ecstasy, as if he is having an erotic dream.

DAVID

(in sleep)
Oh, baby, yeah that's nice.

The camera pulls back and we see the shape of a person under the covers who appears to be performing oral sex on David.

DAVID (cont'd)

(waking)
Kathy, you little vixen....
(smiles with pleasure)

His smile quickly fades as he realizes it probably isn't Kathy. He sits up and quickly backs up against the headboard.

DAVID (cont'd)
(fearful)
Who are you?

Still cloaked in the covers the figure crawls toward David. The blankets fall away until just a sheet covers the head. David is paralyzed with fear.

DAVID (cont'd)
(breathing heavy)
Go away...please.

He turns his head to keep from looking at it, but then curiosity gets the better of him. With a trembling hand he reaches for the sheet and pulls it off the figure.

It is Kathy. He starts to breathe normally again. He is so relieved it is someone he knows he doesn't notice she looks pale and sickly.

DAVID (cont'd)
Kathy, how the hell did you get in here. Not that I'm complaining or anything.

He runs his fingers through her long hair and it comes out in clumps in his fingers.

The figure opens its mouth to reveal badly bleeding gums. The blood drips out of her mouth as she speaks.

KATHY'S GHOST
I want you so bad.

David quickly throws the blanket over the ghost. He rolls off the bed and falls to floor. As he leaps to his feet to run, the lump under the blanket deflates and the ghost is gone.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LATER THAT MORNING

David is leaving for work and is walking toward the bus stop, still shaken from the earlier events.

ANGLE ON BUS STOP

David is shocked to see, MIKE MULLINS, the man from his kitchen waiting at the bus stop.

ANGLE ON DAVID

David keeps back and hides his face behind a tree. The man is wearing a different suit and his eyes look normal.

The bus comes and Mullins gets on. David boards the bus just before it pulls away.

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

David takes a seat in the back, passing Mullins on the way. Mullins looks up but doesn't show any recognition of David.

David sits for a moment then yells out

 DAVID
 Hey Fitz! Fitz!

The man doesn't respond.

 DAVID (cont'd)
 Kang?

He doesn't respond to that either.

When Mullins gets off the bus, David does too and follows him.

EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

David follows the man to a large building. Mullins enters.

INT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Mullins gets on the elevator. David hesitates for a moment but gets in just as the door closes. Mullins continues to ignore David.

The elevator stops and Mullins gets out. The sign on the wall over the receptionist's desk reads "HoloTech Imaging Systems."

Mullins disappears down the hall.

 RECEPTIONIST
 (to David)
 Can I help you?

DAVID

Yeah, uh, this is kind of embarrassing. I had a job interview yesterday with that man who just got off the elevator, but I forgot his name. I don't want him to think I'm an idiot if he calls me in for a second interview.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, that's Mr. Mullins.

DAVID

Dan Mullins?

RECEPTIONIST

Mike Mullins.

DAVID

Thanks. What does this company do exactly?

RECEPTIONIST

We make holographic equipment for projecting three-D images.

DAVID

Wow, that sounds...cutting edge.

The phone rings.

RECEPTIONIST

Excuse me a moment while I get this.

When the receptionist isn't looking, David dashes down the hall. He sees Mullins in his office and knocks.

MULLINS

Come in.

INT. MULLINS'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DAVID

Mr. Mullins?

MULLINS

Yes?

DAVID

Sorry to burst in like this, but have we met before?

MULLINS
No, I don't think so.

DAVID
I'm David Smith. Do you know a Dan Mullins?

MULLINS
(upset)
He was my brother. What's this about?

DAVID
What do you know about twenty-thirteen Hill Street?

MULLINS
I used to own that house with my brother.

Mullins gets up and shuts the door.

MULLINS (cont'd)
Who are you, what do you want?

DAVID
Just information. I bought the house.

MULLINS
Oh. So you know I lost the house because my brother was convicted of a crime. Are you here to blackmail me or something? I wasn't charged with anything, I didn't know my brother was selling drugs.

DAVID
Oh, no nothing like that. It's just that I...I've been seeing things in the house. Do you know anyone named Fitz or Kang?

MULLINS
No. Look, I don't know how I can help you. Please leave, I'm very busy.

DAVID
Please tell me. Have you ever seen anything strange in that house?

MULLINS

(he hesitates a moment)
You mean like a ghost.

DAVID

Yes.

MULLINS

I thought I saw something once. I was just getting over the flu, so I chalked it up to a fever or something. It was that one time and only for a second.

DAVID

What did you see?

MULLINS

Well, for a moment I thought I saw a ...man in my kitchen. His wrists were slit and his face was covered in blood. But when I blinked he was gone.

DAVID

That's one I haven't seen. Is there anything else you know about the house, anything strange happen there in the past...built on an ancient Indian burial ground...

MULLINS

No, nothing out of the ordinary. Except for that one moment, I never felt anything but happy in that house.

DAVID

Okay, thanks for your time.

MULLINS

Say, you wouldn't be interested in selling me back the house, would you?

DAVID

Not right now, I just moved in.

Mullins hands him a business card.

MULLINS

Well, take my card and give me a call if you change your mind.

DAVID
Yeah, I just might.

INT. PROFESSOR LEMBECK'S CLASS - LATER

David is meeting with Professor Lembeck in a classroom just before the class begins. Students trickle in as they talk.

DAVID
So how can I be seeing ghosts of a person that's alive? Why would I see the ghost of my girlfriend and this Mullins guy?

LEMBECK
It could be doppelgangers.

DAVID
Doubles?

LEMBECK
In the world of paranormal it is a spirit of a living person that can become detached from the body and live a life of its own.

DAVID
(skeptical)
Why would it do that?

LEMBECK
In German folklore it is said to happen to a person just before a crisis. It's usually a foreshadowing of death. In other traditions it's merely a spirit that takes on the image of someone you know to trick you. So if they ask you to do something I'd think it over very carefully.

DAVID
So either way it adds another layer of weird to my life.

LEMBECK
Most definitely. I am very excited to investigate your house. It just might be the most haunted place I've ever documented.

DAVID
How nice for me.

INT. BAR - EVENING

David is at a table having drinks with his friend GARY.

GARY
Man, Stephen King got nothing on
you when it comes to scary stories.

DAVID
So, do you think I'm going insane?
Or is my house a ghost hotel?
Either way it's not good.

GARY
There is a third possibility.

DAVID
What?

GARY
Someone might be trying to gaslight
you.

DAVID
You mean someone is trying to make
me think I'm crazy?

GARY
All it would take is a few
magicians' tricks.

DAVID
The visions are so bizarre and seem
so real. I don't see how anyone can
fake it.

Gary drops his swizzle stick and reaches down to pick it up.

GARY
The eyes are the easiest thing to
fool.

When Gary comes back up with the swizzle stick we see he has
no eyes, just white sockets.

GARY (cont'd)
(spooky voice)
The eyes, David, the eyes!

David scream and jumps up from the table.

DAVID

Jesus!

Laughing, Gary pops out the white contacts.

GARY

See how easy it is?

David catches his breath and sits back down.

DAVID

You bastard, you just about gave me a heart attack. My sanity is hanging by a thread as it is.

GARY

I can think of a dozen ways all the ghosts might have been faked. Mullins might be using his company's holographic technology, or someone might have slipped you psychedelic drugs.

DAVID

Why would somebody do that?

GARY

The key seems to be the house. Maybe they want to scare you out of it.

DAVID

(sarcastic)

Yes, I'm sure my life has become a Scooby-Doo cartoon.

GARY

Think about it. That house had money in the vents. What if there's more somewhere? What if the drugs are still there?

Kathy enters and is waved over by David.

DAVID

Here she is, let's not mention that I'm crazy.

KATHY

Hi.

DAVID
Kathy this is Gary, Gary Kathy.

KATHY
Nice to finally meet you.

GARY
Likewise.

Gary pulls out a chair for her.

KATHY
Oh, and such a gentleman.

DAVID
Careful, he might make the chair
vanish.

They all sit.

GARY
I would never do that to a lady.

He holds up a woman's watch.

GARY (cont'd)
And here's your watch back.

She checks her wrist.

KATHY
Wow, how'd you do that?

GARY
It's all about misdirection. Oh,
and magic. So, David was just
telling me his house is severely
haunted.

David shoots Gary a look.

KATHY
Is that so?

GARY
I think you should spend the night
with him to protect him from the
boogey man.

KATHY
We'll see how I feel after a couple
shots of tequila.

GARY
David, I like this girl.

DAVID
I'm so glad. Now give her back her
wallet.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

David is in bed with Kathy. She is asleep in his arms but he is wide awake.

David gets up and goes to the bathroom.

INT. DAVID'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He gets aspirin from the medicine cabinet.

He hears a dripping in the tub. He takes a fearful deep breath and turns to face the tub.

DAVID
(quietly)
Listen ghosts, I'm not in the mood
tonight. Give me a break, okay?

Breathing heavily, he creeps up on the tub and pulls the curtain back. He is relieved to see that there is nothing there.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kathy is passed out on the floor. There is an empty bottle of sleeping pills next to her.

DAVID
Kathy!

He bends down and scoops her up in his arms and shakes her. She slowly comes to.

DAVID (cont'd)
Did you take these pills?

KATHY
Forgive me.

DAVID
(confused)
For what? How many pills did you
take?

KATHY
Forgive me, David.

David grabs his cell phone to dial 911, but all he gets is
the buzzing sound. His phone screen blinks "2013", "2013".

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He rushes downstairs to use the phone in the living room. As
he dials, Kathy comes out of the kitchen with a glass of
milk.

KATHY
David, what's wrong?

He looks at her then looks upstairs.

DAVID
You tell me. Did Gary put you up to
it?

KATHY
What?

DAVID
The fake suicide attempt upstairs.

KATHY
That isn't funny.

DAVID
No, it isn't. How'd you come down
without me seeing you?

KATHY
You were in the bathroom when I
came down. David, what's the
matter?

DAVID
(covering his paranoia)
I'm sorry, I must be sleep walking.
I had a dream you were dead.

She puts her milk down and gives him a hug.

KATHY

Oh, David. It's okay. It was just a bad dream.

EXT. CITY PARK - MORNING

David and Gary are sitting on a park bench.

GARY

Are you sure she couldn't have come downstairs when you weren't looking?

DAVID

You think she's in on this hoax?

GARY

Yeah, I mean how well do you know this girl?

DAVID

There would have to be a half-dozen people in on this.

GARY

Some con games do have dozens of people to pull them off. I'm just saying keep an eye on her.

(beat)

So you're still thinking it's all in your head.

DAVID

Maybe.

(beat)

Yes.

GARY

Why don't you go to the place that lasered your brain. Ask them if anyone else has had the same problem.

EXT. MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

David goes inside the medical building.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He goes to the operating room where he had his laser surgery only to find it empty.

INT. MEDICAL BUILDING HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

He wanders down the hall to a dentist's office entrance.

INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A DENTAL ASSISTANT is behind a desk.

DAVID

Excuse me. Do you know where the laser surgery unit went?

DENTAL ASSISTANT

No, sorry.

DAVID

When did they leave?

DENTAL ASSISTANT

They moved out about three months ago.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

PSYCHIATRIST

Our own subconscious has a way of haunting us sometimes.

DAVID

So, am I crazy?

PSYCHIATRIST

Everyone is a little crazy. The mind is complex. The brain has a very powerful dream state. Ever notice no matter how strange the dream is, you never question it while you're in the dream?

DAVID

I guess so.

PSYCHIATRIST

If that dream state is strong enough it can be activated when we are awake. The fact that you're seeing ghosts of people that are alive tells me they're coming from your own memory. Even if we just glimpse someone for a second during the day, they can show up as characters in our dreams later.

DAVID

What do I do about it? It's getting so I can't tell fantasy from reality.

PSYCHIATRIST

First, I would try to get some sleep. This kind of thing is usually brought on by exhaustion.

DAVID

Sleeping pills just made it worse.

PSYCHIATRIST

I'll teach you some deep relaxation techniques.

DAVID

What if I have another episode?

PSYCHIATRIST

I would try to find out what these visions want from you. It's a way to tap into your subconscious.

DAVID

They seem so...angry. So real. That one tried to kill me in the bathtub.

PSYCHIATRIST

Did it? Or did you merely fall asleep in the tub and slip under the water?

DAVID

I don't know anymore.

PSYCHIATRIST

Have any of the other ghosts tried to kill you?

(MORE)

PSYCHIATRIST (cont'd)
Or have they just been trying to
communicate with you?

DAVID
I do get the feeling they want to
tell me something.

PSYCHIATRIST
Next time, if there is one, listen
to them. Remember they are just
visions, they can't hurt you. If
you see another one, confront it
and demand an answer.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - MORNING

David watches as Professor Lembeck is taking readings using a
thermo-sensor. An ASSISTANT is setting up audio recording
equipment.

LEMBECK
Very odd readings.

DAVID
How so?

LEMBECK
Haunted houses tend to have cold
spots. Yours seems to have hot
spots. Here by the stairs it's ten
degrees warmer.

DAVID
That's where I saw the burning man.

ASSISTANT
This is the last mic. I have them
in the kitchen, bathroom and
bedroom.

LEMBECK
We getting any thing on the E.V.P.
equipment?

ASSISTANT
(surprised)
Oh, yeah. Wow.

DAVID
E.V.P.?

LEMBECK

Electronic voice phenomenon.
People found out awhile ago if you
take a tape recorder to a graveyard
or haunted house and record
silence, messages come through in
the static. We have developed
special equipment to capture those
frequencies.

ASSISTANT

(looking at readings)
I've never seen any thing like
this. It's constant.

LEMBECK

Let's hear it.

ASSISTANT

First we filter out the audible and
turn up the inaudible.

The assistant turns up the volume and presses playback.

We hear the buzzing David heard in the laser and in his
haunting.

LEMBECK

What is that? Bees?

DAVID

I've heard that sound before.
First in a laser, then in a light
fixture and even on my cell phone.

LEMBECK

Does it come with the hauntings?

DAVID

Yes, sometimes.

LEMBECK

(to assistant)
Loop it and slow it down.

As the assistant turns a knob the buzz morphs into the sound
of many people screaming in agony.

DAVID

(frightened)
What the hell is that?

LEMBECK
Hell is right.

ASSISTANT
(excited)
Do you think we found one?

LEMBECK
Quite possibly.

DAVID
Found what?

LEMBECK
A hell-mouth.

DAVID
That doesn't sound good.

LEMBECK
It's a thin spot between this world
and the next. The tormented are
especially attracted to such
places.

ASSISTANT
Only the superstitious think it
really is a doorway to hell.

DAVID
Glad I'm not the superstitious type
then.

LEMBECK
You sure the walls have never
dripped blood?

DAVID
Not while I was here anyway. And
they'd better not, I just painted.

LEMBECK
(to David)
Let's check out the basement.

DAVID
This way.

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

They pass through to the basement door. Lembeck is carrying two pieces of equipment, the thermo-sensor and a magnetometer.

INT. DAVID'S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

They turn on the light and come downstairs. It is an unfinished basement with a dirt floor. It still retains an old-fashioned coal bin and exposed wiring.

LEMBECK
(looking at thermo-sensor)
Another hot spot here on the floor.

He sets down the thermo-sensor and turns on the magnetometer that has a wand-probe attached to it.

LEMBECK (cont'd)
Getting some strange magnetic
readings where you're standing.

David steps away.

LEMBECK (cont'd)
Hmmm. Gone now.

He moves the probe closer to David, then away.

LEMBECK (cont'd)
It's coming from you. You've never
been struck by lightning, have you?

DAVID
No. Peed on an electric fence once.

Suddenly they hear the sound of an animal scurrying and scratching.

LEMBECK
Did you hear that?

DAVID
Yeah. Could be a cat. One got in
the house before.

They hear a scratching sound coming from the coal bin door.

LEMBECK
Here kitty, kitty, kitty.

The scratching multiplies then gets louder and louder.

DAVID

I don't think that's a cat.

Lembeck puts down his equipment and approaches the bin door.

LEMBECK

Let's see what it is.

DAVID

I don't think we should be opening anything in what might be a hell mouth.

LEMBECK

If it is supernatural, a door isn't going to hold it back. Maybe we're supposed to see something in here.

David backs up toward the stairs, Lembeck pulls the latch down and the door swings open. The scratching sound suddenly stops. We can't see inside because it is too dark. Lembeck pulls out a flashlight, turns it on and points it inside.

Suddenly hundreds of rats pour out.

Lembeck falls back and David rushes over to help him up. The river of rats becomes stronger and David fights to pull Lembeck up.

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

David and Lembeck fling open the door and run into the kitchen with hundreds of rats behind them. They stumble and fall to the floor as the rats swarm on top of them.

David and Lembeck scream. The Assistant rushes into the kitchen. He kicks at the rats but they attack and swarm around his legs.

Suddenly the cat from before is on the kitchen table hissing and growling. The stream of rats turns and starts heading back toward the basement. The cat continues to snarl and hiss and all the rats quickly disappear back down to the basement.

David stumbles to his feet, covered in tiny scratches and bites. He slams the basement door shut.

The Assistant helps Lembeck to his feet. David looks around.

DAVID
(catching his breath)
That cat saved our lives.

ASSISTANT
What cat?

David looks around and the cat is nowhere to be seen.

DAVID
Okay, that ghost cat saved our
lives.

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Lembeck and his assistant are gone. David is talking with
the exterminator again.

EXTERMINATOR
Another three-hundred ought to
cover it.

DAVID
This house is going to put your
kids through college.

Getting out his check book.

DAVID (cont'd)
How infested am I?

EXTERMINATOR
That's the funny thing. They look
like they just came in. There's no
droppings or signs they are
anywhere else in the house.

DAVID
You're sure?

EXTERMINATOR
Yeah, rats give a house a terrible
smell. Looks like they came through
a hole in the coal chute and
haven't been here for more than a
few hours. You might want to get
that hole plugged up.

DAVID
I'll get right on that. Bet it'll
cost around three hundred dollars.

EXTERMINATOR

You keep a lot of food down there
or something?

DAVID

No, just a hell-mouth.

EXTERMINATOR

What?

DAVID

Nothing.

EXTERMINATOR

Well I gassed them and I'll have
them out of there in a couple of
hours. Don't go down there for a
few days.

DAVID

I may never go down there again.

EXTERMINATOR

You might want to get a rabies shot
and get those bites taken care of.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON

David is alone in the room waiting for a meeting to start.
He has tiny bandages on his face covering his rat bites. He
doesn't look happy.

An ANGRY MAN bursts in. He's sweating, disheveled and drunk.

ANGRY MAN

Where is he!

DAVID

Who?

ANGRY MAN

Don't play dumb with me you sack of
shit!

DAVID

Oh, crap, not again.

ANGRY MAN

(angrier)

Don't look at me like you know me!
You're not better than me! Why are
you here and not me!

David picks up a chair to defend himself and backs into a corner.

ANGRY MAN (cont'd)
You think you can stop me with
that?

The man pulls out a gun and David crouches down to make himself less of a target.

DAVID
(to self)
They can't hurt me. They can't
hurt me.

ANGRY MAN
I just want someone to listen to
me!

Gathering some courage David puts down the chair and defiantly stands up straight.

DAVID
What do you want from me?

ANGRY MAN
Justice!

David steps closer.

DAVID
How can I do that?

He points the gun at David.

ANGRY MAN
You can start by being dead.

DAVID
(calmly)
That's not going to bring you back,
now is it?

ANGRY MAN
Shut up! Shut up!

DAVID
Just tell me what you want.

A security guard rushes into the doorway. The man turns quickly and shoots him. The guard falls to the ground. People in the office hallway scream and run away.

The angry man turns back to David. David has the horrible revelation that this guy isn't a ghost.

The man puts the gun to David's head. David cowers in fear, closing his eyes and waiting for the inevitable bang.

ANGRY MAN
Nobody fires me!

DAVID
Just calm down!

WIDE SHOT OF ROOM

The ghost woman from the bathroom is suddenly behind David, looking normal now. The angry man is startled. He raises his gun and takes a shot at her, but the bullet goes right through her. David grabs the man's gun, there is a struggle and a shot is fired. The man falls to the floor dead. The ghost is gone.

INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - LATER

The POLICE are interviewing people as the CRIME SCENE CREW goes about their work. David is sitting in shock at his desk. MARY a coworker brings him a cup of coffee.

MARY
Here you go.

He takes it.

DAVID
Thanks.

MARY
I put a shot of brandy in it, you know, to calm your nerves.

DAVID
I quite honestly don't have any nerves left.

MARY
It must have been frightening. But think of all the lives you saved. You're a hero.

She bends down and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

David's supervisor, FRANK, approaches.

FRANK
(To David)
How you holding up?

MARY
He's still in shock.

FRANK
What causes a guy to go off the
deep end like that?
(to David)
David, we're giving you six weeks
off with pay as thanks for your
bravery. So why don't you go home
and relax.

David lets out an exhausted giggle.

ANGLE ON ROOM

David looks up to see the Melting Face Woman across the room.
She appears normal and is talking with the POLICE.

FRANK (cont'd)
Well, I'd better go see to the
others.

He leaves.

DAVID
(to Mary)
Do you see her?

MARY
Who, Carol?

DAVID
Carol?

MARY
She's new, just started yesterday.
Do you want me to call someone to
come get you?

DAVID
Uh, no I already did, thanks.

MARY
I have to get home, I'll see you
later.

DAVID
(Not taking his eyes off
Carol across the room)
Yeah. Later.

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David is with his friend Gary who is setting up a video camera.

DAVID
Thanks for spending the night.

GARY
No problem. After the day you've had I don't think you should be alone. Besides, I've always wanted to see a ghost.

DAVID
You think they show up on video?

GARY
Didn't you see The Ring? They love to be in front of the camera. Big showboats. If one comes by we'll get it. I've hooked it into your Tivo so we should get a full eight hours of video.

INT. DAVID'S BATHROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

David is brushing his teeth when he hears water dripping into a full tub. In the mirror he can see the shadow of a figure sitting in the tub.

DAVID
Gary?

There is no response.

DAVID (cont'd)
If you're trying to scare me, stop.
It isn't funny.

He marches up to the tub and angrily flings back the shower curtain. He is horrified to see himself naked in the tub with his wrists slit. There is blood in the water and on the tub. On the wall written in blood is "Kill Fitz."

The eyes of the suicidal David open and he smiles as he seems to recognize the other David. He reaches up and draws a mushroom cloud on the wall next to the words "Kill Fitz."

DAVID (cont'd)
(screaming, but can't take
eyes off vision)
Gary! Garyyyyyy!

Gary rushes into the bathroom and David turns to look at him. When he looks back to the tub the vision is gone.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

David and Gary are watching the video tape. They stare at the blank room for a moment then there is a buzz and a glitch for a single frame. They rewind and pause it on the glitch. We see the ghost family sitting on the sofa watching TV. The cat from the kitchen is sitting on the back of the sofa.

GARY
Who the fuck are they?

DAVID
Oh, that's the ghost family. They
seem nice. Still think it's a hoax?

GARY
We could have picked up something
from the Tivo that didn't get
erased.

DAVID
Funny, I don't remember recording a
show that takes place in my living
room.

GARY
(getting freaked out)
Yeah, there's that. I think maybe
we should sleep at my place
tonight.

DAVID
I'll get my toothbrush.

INT. GARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

David is sleeping soundly on the couch.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly his eyes open and we see he is in the operating room with the head gear on. This time he is also strapped down and the head gear has clamps that keep his eye lids forced open.

DAVID
(panicking)
What the hell's going on, let me
out of this!

He struggles, but can't move much. The Technician from earlier approaches with a very, very long needle. The melting woman, Carol, approaches from the other side of the table. She appears to have her skin back, but is pale and sickly.

CAROL FROM OFFICE
He's awake.

TECHNICIAN
He won't remember anything. Or
he'll think it's a dream. Pity.

Gary appears at the end of the table.

DAVID
Gary! Help me!

GARY
(matter-of-factly)
What are you doing?

TECHNICIAN
I'm helping him see.

He plunges the needle into David's eye.

David screams.

GARY
(calmly)
I think you killed him.

TECHNICIAN
He's already dead.

He withdraws the needle from the eye and David gasps with pain.

WOMAN FROM OFFICE
He still can't see the truth, you
had better do the other eye.

DAVID
No!!!!

WOMAN FROM OFFICE
Open your eyes David! You have to
open your eyes!

INT. GARY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Gary is shaking David awake.

GARY
David! David, wake up!

He wakes up gasping for air, then settles down.

DAVID
Oh, thank god, it was just a dream.

GARY
You were screaming for a couple of
minutes and I couldn't wake you.

C.U. ON DAVID'S FACE

We see a drop of blood come from David's tear duct.

GARY (cont'd)
Your eye, it's bleeding. Are you
okay?

David wipes the blood away with his finger and looks at it.
Then he looks with paranoia at Gary.

DAVID
I'm fine. Do you have any coffee?

GARY
I'll go make some.

INT. KATHY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kathy is hanging a picture and David is helping her.

KATHY

I for one would think living in a haunted house could be kind of interesting.

(Steps back looks at picture)

Does it look straight?

DAVID

Left corner up I think. Yeah, I suppose I could write a book or something.

KATHY

Exactly. Just think of how much those Amityville people made.

DAVID

Didn't they all die in the house?

KATHY

Did they?

There is a knock at the door and Kathy puts the hammer down and opens the door. CINDY, a ten-year-old girl is standing there.

KATHY (cont'd)

Hi, Cindy, what can I do for you?

CINDY

I locked myself out of the apartment again. My mom's not home.

KATHY

Come on, we'll go find the Super and have him let you in.

CINDY

Thanks, I feel so stupid.

KATHY

Don't, I do the same thing all the time.

(to David)

I'll be right back.

She and Cindy leave and David shuts the door. He turns around to see AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL (older version of Cindy) standing there.

DAVID

(startled)

Oh, hi. I didn't know Kathy had company. I'm David.

OLDER CINDY

Get back to the house David. We're stronger now, but still not as strong as he is.

DAVID

Uh, I see. What do you want from me?

She suddenly gets a horrified look on her face.

OLDER CINDY

Run, David! He's here!

He doesn't have to be told twice and heads to the door. When he opens it, the Smashed-In-Face ghost is standing there with his head tilted down and his eyes (what we can see of them) angrily staring at David. He steps forward. David steps back, recoiling in horror. The young girl is gone. The door slams shut by itself behind the ghost as he staggers toward David.

DAVID

(to self)

They can't hurt, me...they can't hurt me.

The Ghost picks up the hammer from the table and hurls it at David. It slams into his chest and he screams in pain as he falls to the ground.

DAVID (cont'd)

Okay, they can hurt me.

The Ghost squats down and recovers the hammer from the floor. He raises it over his head and brings it down towards David's head, but David rolls on his side and the blow smashes into the floor. The ghost struggles for a moment to pull the hammer free and this gives David time to crawl away.

David tries to hide under the coffee table. The ghost frees the hammer, stands and limps toward David. He brings down the hammer onto the table, smashing it to bits but missing David. David covers his head the best he can waiting for the next blow.

There is a pounding at the door and we hear Kathy scream:

KATHY (O.C.)

David!

DAVID

Kathy, don't open the door!

The ghost turns, stands and staggers toward the door. David jumps up and tackles the ghost and the two of them fall hard against the door.

INT. KATHY'S APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

KATHY

David!

MORE TENANTS pour into the hallway. Kathy frantically inserts her key, unlocks the door and throws it open. The ghost is gone. David is sitting on the floor in pain.

DAVID

Call nine, one, one.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

David has his shirt off and his ribs are bandaged. Kathy and David are giving a statement to two POLICE DETECTIVES.

DETECTIVE

(to Kathy)

And you saw this man too?

KATHY

No.

DETECTIVE

(to David)

How'd he get out of the apartment?

DAVID

I guess out the balcony.

DETECTIVE

(skeptical)

He jumped from a third floor balcony?

DAVID

(in pain)

I don't know, I didn't seem him leave.

DETECTIVE
(pointing to bandages)
You going to be okay?

DAVID
Just a cracked rib.

DETECTIVE
Did he try to rob you? Did he say
anything?

DAVID
No.

DETECTIVE
And you never saw him before?

DAVID
(hesitates)
No.

DETECTIVE
You say his face was bloodied. You
wouldn't be the one that bloodied
it, would you?

DAVID
No.

DETECTIVE
(skeptical)
So he came in the apartment that
way?

DAVID
Yes.

DETECTIVE
And you recently had a guy with a
burned face break into your house,
right?

DAVID
That's right.

DETECTIVE
I see. And you killed a
disgruntled shooter in your office?

DAVID
Strange, huh?

DETECTIVE

Very.

KATHY

I don't know what more we can tell you. Are we through? I need to get him home.

DETECTIVE

Miss, can I talk to you in the hall a moment?

She steps out with him.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The detective shuts the door.

DETECTIVE

Have you two been dating long?

KATHY

Three or four months, why?

DETECTIVE

Has he ever shown any violent tendencies?

KATHY

No, what are you getting at?

DETECTIVE

I don't think there was anyone in that apartment. I think he might have just gone berserk and started smashing up the place.

KATHY

And he broke his own rib? And just why would he do that?

DETECTIVE

I don't know, maybe he likes the attention. Lots of crazy people file false police reports. Maybe shooting a guy in his office triggered something in him.

KATHY

(defiant)

Is there anything else?

DETECTIVE
No, you can go.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - EVENING

Kathy has given David a ride home and they are parked in front of his house.

INT. KATHY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Kathy looks out at the dark house.

KATHY
Are you sure you want to go back in there and spend the night alone?

DAVID
Yes. I have to put all this silly ghost stuff behind me sometime.

KATHY
Okay.

She gives him a kiss and he gets out of the car.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

She drives away and David marches up the porch steps. He turns and looks back at the street to see the Bashed-In-Face ghost standing at the end of his walk way. Suddenly the Ghost Dad and Mom are standing on either side of him.

David opens his door and steps inside. The Ghost Dad and Mom close the gap and stand defiantly in front of the door with their arms crossed.

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David closes the door and starts up the stairs. He looks down into the living room and sees Kathy's Ghost standing there.

KATHY'S GHOST
Sleep David. We'll watch over you.

He smiles and heads upstairs.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

David enters a restaurant where his Kathy is sitting at the bar with MAX, a well-dressed man in his forties. There is a TV above the bar, but it's muted and the closed-captioning is on.

KATHY
(happy to see him)
David!

DAVID
(tired)
Sorry I'm late.

KATHY
David, this is Max.

MAX
How do you do?

DAVID
Nice to meet you.

KATHY
You look great.

DAVID
I finally got a good night's sleep.

KATHY
How are the ribs? Are you still in a lot of pain?

DAVID
I'm better. It doesn't hurt to breathe anymore.

MAX
Kathy told me what happened. How horrible. I can't believe how bad crime is getting in this city.

They all sit and pick up menus.

MAX (cont'd)
Have they caught the guy who attacked you yet? I mean with a description like that I don't think he could get far.

DAVID
No, not yet.

KATHY
I still shake when I think about
it.

DAVID
(changing subject)
So, Max, Kathy tells me you're in
politics.

KATHY
Congressman Fitz is on his second
term in the fourth district. And
now he's making a run for the
senate seat.

David is stunned at hearing the name Fitz.

DAVID
...Fitz?

MAX
Yes?

David just stares at him.

KATHY
David, are you okay? You look like
you've seen a . . .
(stops herself from saying
ghost)
. . .are you okay.

He comes out of it and forces a smile.

DAVID
Oh, it's just I'm starting to hurt
again. I think my pain medication
is wearing off.

KATHY
I think I have some Advil in my
purse.

She opens her purse and starts to dig for it.

DAVID
Have we met before?

MAX

Maybe. I meet so many people, I can't remember them all.

DAVID

Do you know someone named Kang?

MAX

No. I really don't know any Chinks.

Kathy shoots him a look as she hands David some Advil.

MAX (cont'd)

Sorry. Chinese.

KATHY

Asians. I know it doesn't seem like much, but a slip up like that can cost you an election.

MAX

(to David)

So who is this Kang?

DAVID

Someone I met, I don't remember where. He spoke highly of you.

MAX

So we got the Asian vote, that's good.

DAVID

Speaking of Asia, what do you think about the current problems with the Korean nuclear talks?

MAX

We should have never let it get this far. If China or Japan won't do anything about it, we should.

DAVID

You mean a preemptive strike?

MAX

It's an option. A nuclear bomb sure taught the Japanese a lesson they'll never forget.

KATHY

Can we please not talk about politics.

David looks up at the TV above the bar and sees a newscaster with a picture of Max Fitz behind him. The closed-caption scrolls "President Fitz launches strike against China." The screen flickers and is replaced with a football game.

KATHY (cont'd)

David, are you sure you're all right?

DAVID

Yeah. I just need some food in my stomach. Let's order. We don't want to be late for Gary's show.

INT. HOCUS-POCUS ROOM - NIGHT

David, Kathy and Max are in a packed audience watching Gary on stage. The audience is still applauding the last trick as GARY'S ASSISTANT wheels out a large man-sized box.

ANGLE ON STAGE

Gary gets inside the box, the assistant spins it and then opens the door to reveal a burning man. The audience gasps, then applauds. The burning man steps out of the box.

ANGLE ON DAVID

He is horrified but tries not to scream.

ANGLE ON STAGE

The burning man backs up into the box and the assistant shuts it and give it a spin. When she opens it again, Gary steps out and takes a bow.

INT. BACKSTAGE AT THE HOCUS-POCUS - LATER

Gary is mingling with the crew when Kathy, David and Max come backstage.

GARY

(waving them over)
David, Kathy!

KATHY

That was great! You should be doing Vegas! Do you have a publicist?

GARY

I guess I do now.

KATHY

Oh, Gary this is Max Fitz.

MAX

A great show.

GARY

Thanks.

DAVID

(paranoid)

Yeah. I especially liked the Burning Man. Although it seems like I've seen it before.

MAX

Well, I've never seen anything like it.

GARY

I've just been booked on the Tonight Show again, and I think that's the routine I'll do.

MAX

Wow, the Tonight Show.

GARY

Aw shucks. It's just a little magic. So what are the plans for the rest of the night?

KATHY

How about a little club hopping? We should celebrate your leap to the little screen.

GARY

Sounds good. David can I talk to you a minute?

DAVID

Sure.

(to Kathy and Max)

(MORE)

DAVID (cont'd)
You two go on, we'll meet you
outside.

They leave.

GARY
I hope that didn't freak you out
too much.

DAVID
Really? You recreate my
hallucination and you don't think
it will freak me out!

GARY
I wanted to show you it could be
done.

DAVID
How do I know you're not creating
the whole thing?

GARY
What? Don't be paranoid.

DAVID
(yelling)
You're the one that told me to be
paranoid! How did you do the TV
crawl in the restaurant? I suppose
that's easy enough.

GARY
What are you talking about?

DAVID
Kathy, Fitz, Mullins, you're all in
on it!

He storms off.

GARY
David wait!

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

David is lying on a couch being hypnotized by the
psychiatrist.

PSYCHIATRIST
Ten. You are completely relaxed.
Listening only to the sound of my
voice.

DAVID

Yes.

PSYCHIATRIST

Think back to that day of your
laser surgery.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

We see David as in the first scene with his head in a
harness.

DAVID (V.O.)

Okay.

PSYCHIATRIST (V.O.)

How do you feel?

DAVID (V.O.)

Claustrophobic. I can't move my
head.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

PSYCHIATRIST

You don't feel that now. Only
relaxation.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - DAY

David relaxes.

PSYCHIATRIST (V.O.)

What happens next?

DAVID (V.O.)

The laser is turned on and there is
a horrible buzzing sound.

We hear the buzzing again.

DAVID (V.O.) (cont'd)

(getting scared)

Then these horrible images flash
before my eyes.

PSYCHIATRIST (V.O.)

You are not frightened. What are
the images of?

DAVID (V.O.)
I can't tell, they go by too
quickly.

PSYCHIATRIST (V.O.)
I want you to see the images again.
Only this time you slow them down.

The images are still fast, about a second each, but slow
enough to see them:

President Fitz, Chinese Premiere Kang, missiles in the sky,
burning cities, the burning man, the melting woman from the
office, the family on the sofa in terror, people wandering
through the rubble, his house, the homeless man, Kathy
committing suicide, himself slitting his wrists.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

David's eyes spring open.

INT. PROFESSOR LEMBECK'S OFFICE - DAY

He is talking with Lembeck again.

DAVID
You say ghosts can return to a
place they were happy, but could
they return to a time when they
were happy? Could they be haunting
me from the future?

LEMBECK
Well I would imagine they aren't
bound by the same rules of time and
space as we are. If ghosts are
created in severe psychological
trauma, then I suppose the end of
the world would create a lot of
pissed off ghosts. This is just
hypothetical. You're not thinking
they are from the future?

DAVID
No, that would be crazy.

INT. CITY PARK - DAY

David is sitting on the park bench with Gary.

GARY

Still, how do you know it wasn't a dream?

DAVID

Some of the images that flashed before my eyes were of Fitz and my house. Both of which I didn't first see until months later.

GARY

I know a thing or two about hypnosis and one of them is past and present images get all mixed up. Those images you saw in a trance might not have been the same ones you had on the operating table.

DAVID

I'd agree except....

GARY

What?

DAVID

Kathy says Fitz has been approached by his party to make a run for the Presidency in 2012.

GARY

Damn.

(thinks a moment)

I guess if he wins we'll know.

DAVID

And then it will be too late.

GARY

You're not thinking of doing anything crazy, are you?

DAVID

What if you had a chance to stop Osama Bin Laden wouldn't you?

GARY

(concerned)

David. What are planning to do?

DAVID

Campaigning really hard for his opponent.

GARY
(laughs)
Oh, okay.

DAVID
I mean we don't have to kill him,
we just have to make sure he
doesn't become president.

EXT. KATHY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

David is in the hallway at Kathy's door. He rings the bell and there is no answer. As he walks away there is an orange glow behind him. He turns to see the burning man. The ghost walks through Kathy's door.

David rushes to the door and starts pounding.

DAVID
(yelling)
Kathy! Kathy!

Panicked, he takes a few steps back and kicks in the door. He rushes in and sees Fitz coming out of the bedroom in his underwear. Kathy comes out of the bedroom wearing a bathrobe.

KATHY
David! Are you crazy!

DAVID
You're sleeping with him?

MAX
You'd better leave, I'm calling the
police.

KATHY
David, I never said we had an
exclusive relationship. Why did you
break my door down?

DAVID
I...I thought you were in danger.
I'm sorry.

Embarrassed, he rushes out.

KATHY
David, wait!

INT. DAVID'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

He's pacing back and fourth, confused about what to do. Strewn throughout the living room are newspaper articles, magazine clippings and maps of China.

Suddenly the burning man is behind him.

BURNING MAN

Kill Fitz.

David turns away to see the Homeless Man.

HOMELESS MAN

Kill Fitz.

The ghost family is on the couch

CHILDREN

(in unison)

Kill Fitz, Kill Fitz.

Eyeless Mullins walks in from the kitchen.

MULLINS

Kill Fitz.

Kathy's ghost is on the stairs, she is dressed in pajamas and is very pale.

KATHY'S GHOST

Please, David.

DAVID

How? I can't do it! I can't!

KATHY'S GHOST

(whispers)

He's coming.

The doorbell rings and the Ghosts vanish. David opens the door.

MAX

(surprised to see David)

David. Well, this is awkward.

DAVID

What are you doing here?

MAX

Kathy called me and told me to meet her at this address.

DAVID

Oh. Come in.

He enters. David shuts and locks the door.

DAVID (cont'd)

Did she tell you why?

MAX

No. There's something wrong with my phone, there was this buzzing sound. I could barely make out what she was saying.

DAVID

I'd like to apologize for the other night. I don't have any claims on her.

MAX

I'm sorry too. But we're all adults here.

DAVID

Can I take your coat?

Max turns to take off his coat and David picks up the baseball bat that is by the door.

MAX

I hope we can all be friends, I know how much she likes you.

David raises the bat up, but then chickens out and puts it down.

When Max turns to face him, we see his face now appears bashed in and bleeding. David steps back in horror.

INSET SHOT OF KATHY'S APARTMENT FROM BEFORE

We see the bashed-in face ghost coming at David with the hammer.

INT. DAVID'S DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MAX

What's wrong, David. You look
frightened.

In seemingly one motion David quickly picks up the bat and swings it hard against the side of Max's head.

INT. DAVID'S BASEMENT - LATER

David is finishing digging a hole. Fitz's body is rolled up in a throw rug next to the hole.

As David is digging the body suddenly starts to thrash and tries to sit up. David jumps out of the hole and bludgeons him with the shovel in the face until he's dead.

EXT. CITY PARK - MORNING

David is sitting on a park bench watching children play. He smiles as he feels that he has ultimately done a good thing. It starts to rain and David gets up and leaves.

INT. DAVID'S KITCHEN - LATER

He is getting lunch out of the refrigerator. When he shuts the door we see a new ghost of a DISFIGURED LITTLE GIRL standing there.

He jumps back. Another new ghost of an OLD MAN is behind him.

A third ghost, a YOUNG SOLDIER, is sitting at his table.

DAVID

(yelling)

I did what you wanted, why are you
still haunting me?!? Why!!

LITTLE GIRL

Kang. Twenty-Fourteen.

OLD MAN

Kang. Twenty-Fourteen.

SOLDIER

Kill Kang.

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As the camera closes in the house address.

DAVID (O.S.)
 (screams)
 No!!!!

EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - DAY

Title: "One Year Later."

A moving van is in front. The ghost family from before is alive and well and moving in. The kids are playing in the yard and the cat is sunning itself on the steps. The Mom brings a box into the house.

Dad grabs a box out of the truck and Mullins pulls up in a car and gets out. The Dad puts the box down and goes to greet Mullins.

DAD
 Hi, Mr. Mullins.

MULLLINS
 I forgot to give you a copy of the lease.

Hands it to him.

DAD
 Thanks. This is a great house.

MULLLINS
 I'm glad you like it.

The Dad looks around to make sure his kids can't hear him.

DAD
 (quietly)
 So they really found a body buried in the basement?

MULLLINS
 Why do you think the rent is so cheap?

DAD
 Did they catch the guy who did it?

MULLLINS

Yeah, jealous boyfriend. He's
doing a life sentence.

DAD

(joking)

I'll let you know if I see any
ghosts.

INT. HONG KONG APARTMENT BATHROOM - MORNING

A Chinese man is brushing his teeth. He rinses with a glass
of water and bends down to spit. When he comes back up again
the word "Kang" is written in Chinese in the fog on the
mirror. The man looks puzzled.

CHINESE MAN

(in Chinese with English
subtitles)

Who is Kang?

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

Red LED numbers flicker on "2014" then off.

FADE TO BLACK.