

THE DARK DOOR

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. NIGHT - OUTSIDE SUBURBAN HOME

SUPER: 1937

A quiet night in a small Wisconsin suburb. A car parks in the driveway of the house on the corner. An man in his late fifties gets out of the car and walks up to the door. After knocking on the door, JOSEPH, a man in his mid twenties, greets him.

JOSEPH

Dad, Thank you for coming.

Joseph hugs his dad.

JOSEPH'S DAD

Well son, your message sounded really, very urgent.

Joseph appears nervous. He casts a nervous look back into his home.

JOSEPH'S DAD (CONT'D)

Joe? How about you just show me what's going on.

JOSEPH

Alright.

The two men walk inside Joseph's home. HELEN, Joseph's wife, stands behind the kitchen counter. She walks up to her husband.

JOSEPH'S DAD

Helen, how are you?

Helen looks penetratingly into her father-in-law's eyes.

HELEN

I'm scared sir.

Joseph's father looks back at her, nervous now, but trying not to show it. Helen turns to her husband.

HELEN (CONT'D)

Joseph, please don't go back down there.

Joseph looks at her.

JOSEPH

Just wait up here honey. I'm just going to show my father to the door and I'll come right back up here with you, alright?

Helen reluctantly lets go of Joseph's arm. The two men go into the basement. Helen waits nervously as moments go by and Joseph does not return. Suddenly all of the lights in the house go off at once and all that is heard are the violent screams of Helen.

INT. DAY- INSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET

Police are seen all over the inside of the house. The owner of the house, MR. OLBAID, is a young man in his early thirties. He walks around the house with the lead detective, Roger Lornski, a man well into his fifties.

DETECTIVE LORNSKI

I would appreciate it very much if you could help us to try to understand what happened here Mr. Olbaid. My team is having a hard time finding any evidence pointing toward a murder of any kind, yet as you can see, its obvious that your tenants did not die of natural causes.

The bodies of Helen and Joseph lay in unnatural postitions on the floor. There is blood spatter on much of the walls and carpet. Mr. Olbaid is obviosuly disturbed by the scene.

MR.OLBAID

I wish that there were something that I could contribute to your investigation detective. The Wilsons were good people.

Mr.Olbaid takes out a handkerchief from his pocket and coughs into it.

MR.OLBAID (CONT'D)

Not only is it a tragedy that this fate has befallen them, but unfortunately, I fear this will also affect my ability to find new tenants.

The two men walk outside.

DETECTIVE LORNSKI

Would you mind if I asked you were you where at the time of the murders?

MR.OLBAID

Of course I don't mind detective Lornski. Last night I was at Richard's bowling alley, having a few drinks with some old friends of mine. I stayed out with them until around three thirty in the morning, at which time one of my friends and I continued the night at his house. It was not too much longer after that I fell asleep.

The detective writes Mr.Olbaid's testimony down on a small notebook.

DETECTIVE LORNSKI

I see. Do you think that there would be a problem if I asked your friend to corroborate your alibi?

MR.OLBAID

There shouldn't be any problem with that detective.

While they speak, the two walk past a window to the basement, at which point Mr.Olbaid takes a suspicious glance at it.

FADE OUT.

INT. DAY- INSIDE THE APARTMENT OF WARREN AND CHAD

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

CHAD, a twenty two year old man comes home to his three bedroom apartment from a long day at work. He puts his stuff down on the couch and walks over to the kitchen. WARREN, a twenty one year old man who lives with Chad is already home. Warren sits at the dining room table looking over some bills.

CHAD

Hey Warren.

WARREN

Hey dude.

Chad puts his work clothes down on the living-room couch and walks over the kitchen to grab a bit to eat.

WARREN (CONT'D)
How was work?

Chad takes food out of the refrigerator.

CHAD
Eh, it was shit.

Chad makes himself a sandwich.

CHAD (CONT'D)
What are you up to?

Warren is going through bills that he has sprawled out on the table.

WARREN
Well, I wanted to talk to you about that. I'm not sure I want to keep living here man.

Chad looks up from his food preparation.

CHAD
What? I thought you said it was fine?

WARREN
Well, its not that I don't have the money.

Warren looks up from his papers.

WARREN (CONT'D)
Its just I don't really want to be spending so much. I mean, I do want to have my own place eventually, and I'm not going to get to that position if I'm not saving up.

CHAD
Yeah, I hear you. I don't know, I guess I don't want to either, but with Rich going to jail, it was just sort of unexpected. I didn't really want to leave this place.

Chad now finished with making the sandwich, walks over with his meal and sits down at the table with Warren.

WARREN

I don't want to leave either, but its not worth having to pay so much dude. We could probably find something smaller, I mean, there are plenty of apartments around here for two people.

CHAD

For sure. Have you found anything promising?

WARREN

Not really, but I mean, I just sat down before you got here.

CHAD

I gotcha. Actually, come to think of it, Mark's dad is a realtor, I bet he knows about what's available around town.

Warren looks up again, almost irritated.

WARREN

We're not looking for a house dude, that's for sure going to be more expensive than this place.

CHAD

Realtors don't just sell houses, they got their hands in anything that has to do with properties.

Chad eats away at his sandwich. He pauses after a moment to speak again.

CHAD (CONT'D)

He comes in for coffee when he drops Mark off at the restaurant, it cant hurt to ask him for some help.

WARREN

Yeah, I guess not.

CHAD

Dude quit worrying about that shit. We're here till the month anyway.

Chad gets up and takes him plate to the sink.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Common dude, I just got a new game.

Warren looks up at him hesitantly, but he gives in.

WARREN
Alright.

INT. MORNING - RESTAURANT

Chad stands behind the counter brewing the days first pot of coffee. As he does, MARK, a twenty-one year old guy, and old friend of Chad's walks in with his father, a man in his late forties.

MARK
Morning Chad

CHAD
Mornin Mark. Morning Mr. English

MR.ENGLISH
Good Morning.

Mr.English walks over to the first stool at the front counter and sets down his coat and briefcase.

MR.ENGLISH (CONT'D)
How's that coffee comin along?

CHAD
Just started it, so it might be a few minutes. I had a question to ask you though.

MR.ENGLISH
Sure, what's up?

Chad walks over to Mr.English.

CHAD
Well, Warren and I don't really want to keep paying so much for rent now that Rich's gone, so I was wondering if you could point us in the right direction? We're not really sure where to look for an affordable apartment around town.

MR.ENGLISH
Well, there are tons and everywhere.

(MORE)

MR.ENGLISH (CONT'D)

I mean, if you pick up one of those "for rent" magazines that they have for free outside pretty much any grocery store you will find hundreds of listings.

Mark walks back out from the back room. He lightheartedly pushes Chad out of the way.

CHAD

Yeah, I hear you, I was actually just wondering if you knew about something in particular, like something that might not be published in one of those. A nice one that's renting cheap or something like that.

MR.ENGLISH

Nope, I don't know anything like that.

CHAD

I gotcha

MR.ENGLISH

I am however, going to see a property today that supposedly is selling really cheap. I mean, the place hasn't had any tenants since the thirties, so it might be really run down, but If its livable I'll let you know.

Chad walks over to the coffee pot, he picks it up and walks over to Mr.English. He pours him a cup.

CHAD

I don't know, we were thinking about cutting down on our rent, not buying a house

MR.ENGLISH

No, I understand, but this house is selling for very little. I might be able to talk the owner into letting you guys pay for it in payments.

He finishes pouring the coffee and walks over to put the pot back on the burner.

CHAD

That would be amazing, I mean, if you could get him to do like, even 700 a month that would be awesome.

MR.ENGLISH

(Chuckling)

Well, I'm seriously not making any promises.

CHAD

Yeah, I understand. Thank you though Mr.English, I really appreciate this.

MR.ENGLISH

Yeah, no problem Chad.

I/E. DAY- THE HOME ON PLEASANT ST.

Mr. English is inside the house on Pleasant street with Mr.Olbaid, who looks as young as he did in 1937. Mr.Olbaid takes Mr. English around his house, which looks absolutely pristine. The furniture looks like its never been touched, and the walls look like they've just been painted.

MR.OLBAID

As you can see, my father took very good care of the house. Its been in our family for three generations.

MR.ENGLISH

May I ask why you want to sell your beautiful property Mr.Olbaid? And at such a low price?

MR.OLBAID

Well, to be completely honest with you, keeping this house in my possession makes me a bit sad. You see, while in my fathers care, a young family was murdered in the house. The police where never able to identify how or why however. Since then this house has been empty.

MR.ENGLISH

No one has lived here?

MR.OLBAID

No one I'm afraid. My father came once a week to keep everything nice and clean in the event that anyone would want to take a look at it, but unfortunately my father has passed, and since I have beautiful house of my own, I figured it was time to sell her.

MR.ENGLISH

I see. I'm sorry to hear about your father.

MR.OLBAID

Its alright, It was his time.

MR.ENGLISH

Are you sure that you want to sell it for just ten thousand though? A house like this could easily sell for more than one hundred and fifty thousand. Easily.

MR.OLBAID

I'm well aware Mr. English. My father and I believe in being modest with material possessions. Life has been good to me, and I just want to be able to give someone else the opportunity to say the same thing.

MR.ENGLISH

That's truly benevolent Mr.Olbaid

MR.OLBAID

It really is nothing. Would you like to take a look in the basement?

MR.ENGLISH

Of course.

Mr.Olbaid takes Mr.English into the basement which is absolutely beautiful. Fully carpeted, and it even has a wet bar.

MR.ENGLISH (CONT'D)

This is absolutely stunning. Its like a whole other apartment down here.

MR.OLBAID

Yes indeed. There is a full bathroom, and two more rooms. Not to mention the wet bar and the living area.

Mr.English Turns to Mr.Olbaid, but before we hear what he has to say the scene ends.

INT. NIGHT- INSIDE THE APARTMENT OF WARREN AND CHAD

Warren sits on the couch in the living room, obviously working on some sort of writing project as there are papers littering the center table, and he is writing in a spiral notebook. Chad comes home excited.

CHAD

Aight doo, check this shit out, tell me what you think.

WARREN

Ok.

CHAD

So, this morning I talked to Mark's dad about our situation, and he said that he was going to see about a house that was selling real cheap.

WARREN

What dude, I thought we.

Chad interrupts him.

CHAD

Hold up dude, hear me out. I just talked to Mark's dad again when he went to go pick Mark up from work, and he told me that the guy is selling the house for ten G's. Can you believe that? Ten G's.

WARREN

That's fucking redick dude, but still, that's a fuck-ton of money.

CHAD

No ok, check this shit out though Warren, he got the guy to sell it to us in payments! Three hundred bucks each a month!

WARREN

What?

CHAD

For real dude. And listen to this, the fucking place has five rooms. Three and a half bath. There's a carpeted basement with a fucking wetbar, and all of it is like, brand-fucking-new!

WARREN

That shit is like, way to fucking good to believe.

CHAD

Dude, that's what I said.

WARREN

Yeah, but, I don't know dude. That's like way to fucking good to believe.

CHAD

Get this. Mark's dad said that this guys philosophy was that he had had a great life. I mean this guy has his own house and family apparently, I don't know, but he said that he just wanted to let someone say that they've had a good life too! I mean, can you believe this shit?

WARREN

No, I honestly cant.

CHAD

Well believe that shit dude. I'm gonna take the deal. I mean, if you want to miss out on this fucking unicorn of an opportunity then go right ahead. I will seriously call anyone else at this point.

WARREN

Nah dude, I'll go with. But whose house is it gonna be, mine or yours?

CHAD

Lets just go halvsies on it. I mean, when we want to sell it, we could at the very fucking least get one hundred G's out of it. That's like, so fucking ridiculous to even think about right now.

WARREN

That really is dude.

EXT. DAY- OUTSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET.

Chad, Warren, and Mark are seen unloading boxes into the from lawn of the house. They are there with they're long time friends Tom, a twenty three year old male, and Dan, a twenty two year old man. As they do this Mr.English drives up to the house. He greets them as he steps out of the car.

ASSORTED GUYS

Hey Mr.English.

MARK

Hey Dad

MR.ENGLISH

Hey guys.

Mr.English Walks up to Warren and Chad.

MR.ENGLISH (CONT'D)

Hey guys, you excited?

CHAD

So excited.

WARREN

I still cant even believe this.

MR.ENGLISH

Warren, if I didn't already have a house, this one would have been mine.

The three of them laugh.

MR.ENGLISH (CONT'D)

Ok well, here are your keys guys.

Mr.English hands them a ring with around fifteen keys on it.

CHAD

Dude, that's a lot of keys.

MR.ENGLISH

Yeah, It's an old house, most of the bedrooms have locks, as well as the garage.

WARREN

Gotcha.

MR.ENGLISH

There is one room in the basement that he didn't give me the key for. He said something about there being old belongings of his father that he hadn't quite had the time to move out yet.

CHAD

That's cool. I mean, I'm sure we'll find plenty of closets to put our stuff in.

The three of them laugh.

WARREN

Thanks Mr.English.

CHAD

Thank you so much Mr.English.

Chad hugs Mr.English. Its obvious that this gesture makes Mr.English uncomfortable, but he understands the happiness that he has caused the two kids and he doesn't make a big deal about it.

INT. DAY- INSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET

Warren walks down the stairs of the house while Chad is laying on the couch in the downstairs living room. As paul descends, he stumbles over a box on the floor.

WARREN

Dude, its been a week since we moved in, when are you gonna finish at least putting all your shit in your room.

CHAD

Dude, I just decided I was gonna take a downstairs room. Ill have the rest of the boxes downstairs by the time you get back from work.

WARREN
Aight dude. Peace.

CHAD
Peace doo.

Chad is then shown walking down the basement steps. He takes the boxes over to his room and drops them inside. As he walks out he notices the locked closet. He stops in front of it and looks at it.

CHAD (CONT'D)
What is inside you.

He smiles to himself, then proceeds to go back upstairs. He then comes back downstairs with another box. He drops that one off inside his room as well, and as he goes back up, we see that he looks at the closet door again as he walks past it.

INT. NIGHT- INSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET.

Chad is seen in his bed, he is awake, and it is obvious that he cannot sleep.

INT. MORNING- INSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET. (TOMS HOUSE)

Chad walks up the stairs, dressed for work, but looking unprepared. Warren sits in the dining room eating breakfast.

WARREN
Dude, you look tired as fuck.

Chad laughs.

CHAD
Yeah dude, I am tired. Zero sleep last night.

WARREN
Whys that?

CHAD
I don't know, I was just thinking about tons of stuff. Oh, by the way, how about next week Friday for the house warming party?

WARREN
For sure dude, I don't work Saturday.

CHAD

Nice. Start calling people up, I'll send out some texts. Dude, this is our own fucking house and we're not exactly next to any other house on the block.

Warren laughs.

WARREN

I know dude. Lets make it epic.

CHAD

I hear that shit.

Chad then walks out of the door.

Warren is then shown upstairs with the key ring. He has a sheet of colored stickers which he is using to label the keys. When he finds the key that opens each door, he places a sticker on the door, and then one of the same color on the key.

We then see him in the basement. He tries a key in Chad's room's lock and then labels it. Chad's room was the last one in the house, however he still has one key left without a label. He looks at it, then turns around and looks at the locked closet.

He walks up to the closet, looks at the key, then looks at the lock. He contemplates the situation for about a minute, then he takes the key and unlocks the door, and opens it.

INT. NIGHT- INSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET.

Chad walks in the door as he comes home from work. Warren is sitting on the couch in the living room with the T.V on. He has a blank stare however, as if he were lost in thought. Chad notices and walks into the living room.

CHAD

Sup dude. What you watchin?

Warren looks at him, as if suddenly awaked. He turns off the T.V before he starts talking.

WARREN

Dude.

He sits quietly for a moment.

CHAD

What Warren, spit it the fuck out.

WARREN

Well dude. This shit is going to sound fucking weird. No, fucking crazy.

CHAD

What?

WARREN

I opened the fucking door dude.

CHAD

What? The door downstairs? I thought we didn't have the key?

WARREN

No dude, he have the fucking key.

CHAD

Ok well. What's in there?

WARREN

Chad, you're not even going to believe me. Its fucking terrifying.

Chad's face immediately reacts to what Warren is saying.

CHAD

Is there like, a fucking dead body in there?

WARREN

No dude. Its like.

He sits there quietly for a moment.

CHAD

What Warren!?

WARREN

Ok, let me try and describe it. I was labeling the fucking keys earlier, and after I got to your room there was still one key left. So, I was like, ok, what does this one open, and I turned around and saw the fucking closet.

CHAD

Please just tell me what's in there Warren

WARREN

So, I was like, lets see if this is it, and I put it in and I opened it. Inside dude, is like, a fucking hallway.

CHAD

What?

WARREN

A fucking hallway dude. I was like, what the fuck? It was weird though, because there was like a light on at the end of the hallway, but it was seriously like, maybe thirty feet in.

CHAD

What the fuck dude.

WARREN

(frantically)

No dude. Wait. So, right away I'm like what the fuck is in here, but it felt weird dude, like, it was like there was no noise or something in the hallway, its like, once I opened the door I couldn't hear anything anymore, or maybe it just didn't matter because what happened next made me like, fucking shit my pants.

CHAD

What happened?

WARREN

At the very end of the hallway, like, where the light was coming from, I saw a fucking person walk from the side into the middle of the fucking hallway dude.

CHAD

What the fuck are you talking about Warren.

WARREN

No dude, I fucking freaked out, I slammed the fucking door. But I was like, ok, wait, no, maybe I just freaked out.

(MORE)

WARREN (CONT'D)

So, I opened the door again and there was no guy anymore, just the light, but after like three seconds, the fucking guy stepped into the fucking hallway again and started walking toward the door.

Chad just sits there silently hearing what Warren is saying.

WARREN (CONT'D)

I fucking slammed the door again and locked it. I've just been sitting up here since, waiting for you to fucking come home. I can barely think dude. Like, I'm fucking lost in my own mind.

CHAD

I want to see.

Hesitantly Warren gets up and he and Chad head down to the basement.

They get to the door and Warren unlocks it. He steps back and Chad opens the door. He sees the long hallway, and there seems to be a light on about thirty five feet in. Suddenly, a figure is seen stepping into the hallway. Its impossible to determine if the person is male or female, as all that is visible is a dark outline. The figure slowly begins to walk toward the open door.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Hey, Who are you? What are you doing in here?

The figure continues to slowly and silently make his way toward the door.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Dude, what are you doing in this closet!?

The figure remains unresponsive. As he is about twenty five feet in, the ominous silence of the figure is too much for Chad to bear, so he closes the door. He and Warren stand there for a moment, then Chad again opens the door. The figure is gone, however after about three seconds, the figure steps back into the middle of the hallway, and starts his thirty five foot walk once again.

CHAD (CONT'D)

What are you doing in here?!

The figure says nothing, and continues to slowly walk toward the door.

Chad closes the door, and locks it.

He and Warren are shown outside by their cars.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Dude, what the fuck is that. I dont want to go back in there dude. That shit was not fucking cool.

WARREN

I don't even know what to think about this. This is like, way too much.

CHAD

Look, the owner said not to open it, so lets just not fucking open it, its that simple.

WARREN

What? Are you fucking kidding me you want to stay here?

CHAD

Well, its not even anything Warren. I mean, the door is locked, and its not like we hear banging on the door downstairs or anything. Lets just try and get in touch with the owner and I'm sure he'll tell us what's up. I mean, for real dude, think about it, we got this place for ten G's, that's absolutely nothing. Push comes to shove we'll just sell the place.

WARREN

Ugh, I don't know man. I don't like that shit down there.

CHAD

Well then, lets keep the fucking door locked, and once were done paying for this place, we sell it and get our own places.

WARREN

I guess if you can live it with I can live it.

(MORE)

WARREN (CONT'D)

I mean, your staying in the basement, I'll know to get the fuck out of the house when I hear the screams.

CHAD

Fuck you dude.

INT. NIGHT- INSIDE THE HOME ON PLEASANT STREET.

A few days have gone by and it is now Friday. Chad and Warren are setting up for the party when Mark arrives.

MARK

Sup guys.

WARREN

Hey dude

CHAD

Hey Mark

MARK

Brought some brewskies

CHAD

Nice.

WARREN

Just put them in the fridge downstairs, I gotta finish making the Margaritas.

MARK

Nice, how much tequila you put in that?

WARREN

I don't know, a lot.

CHAD

Well put a lot more in then.

The three of them laugh

Mark is seen going downstairs and Warren and Chad continue working on making drinks, and setting up chips and dip trays. Mark then comes back upstairs.

MARK

You guys are probably the luckiest mother fuckers I've ever even heard of.