

Spirits

Maddy "Gos" Goshorn

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE FOYER 1924 - NIGHT

A heavy thunderstorm thrashes against tall windows bordering the foyer of the Turner House.

JUDY(7) a scared and crying little girl wanders into the foyer holding her arms.

JUDY

Hello? Mrs. Lead? I couldn't sleep.

Judy chokes down a soft sob, and slowly lays on the floor. She cries quietly.

A loud crash startles Judy.

She sits up.

Down the dark hallway a figure's silhouette emerges.

JUDY (CONT.)

Hello?

The figure silently approaches Judy.

JUDY (CONT.)

Who is that?

The figure gets closer.

JUDY (CONT.)

Stop, you're scaring me.

Judy scoots backwards.

The figure runs at Judy.

JUDY (CONT.)

Stop! STOP! AHHHH-

EXT. THE TURNER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Turner House sits ominously atop a hill as thunder and lightning drown out Judy's screams.

EXT. THE TURNER HOUSE 2024 - DAY

Time has worn down The Turner House, dilapidated and empty.

EXT. LEADVILLE MAIN STREET 2024 - DAY

A mining ghost town lined with hap-hazard repairs.

A handful of modern day people walk through the streets with their faces in their phones.

LYNN (17) steps onto Main Street, holding a huge folded paper map. She looks up at a nearby building and back at her map in confusion.

She sees a WOMAN passing her by.

LYNN

Excuse me I'm looking for 486 Benee Street.

The Woman passes her by without looking up from her phone.

Lynn sees a mother and her daughter walking towards her, HARPER (35) and VANESSA (10).

Harper walks fast and on the phone. Vanessa trails behind with her face in a graphic novel.

LYNN (CONT.)

Excuse me miss, do you live around here?

HARPER

Here you go hun.

Harper passes Lynn a dollar, and breezes by.

HARPER (CONT.)

(On the phone)

No I looked at the office space, but it's not big enough. If I'm going to start this business I need a space with potential.

Lynn holds the dollar and looks back at Harper.

She sighs but pockets the dollar and keeps walking.

Lynn passes the General Merch Coffee Shop.

INT. GENERAL MERCH COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The small coffee shop is quiet with one single customer sitting in the corner.

Behind the counter is DANIEL (17) an athletic and handsome young man, and JORDAN (17) a trans man with some face piercings and short hair cut. Both individuals are bored out of their mind.

Daniel stares out the window.

Jordan is deep in the phone scroll.

JORDAN

Hey Dan, do you have your charger, my phone's about to die.

DANIEL

No, I left it at home.

Jordan smirks.

JORDAN

Can you ask your hot mom to drop it off?

DANIEL

Jordan, don't call my mom hot.

JORDAN

Excuse me, Mrs. Vu is a very hot Vietnamese woman, and she deserves recognition. To do otherwise would be to deny her of her power.

DANIEL

Shut up.

TYLER(22), the customer sitting in the corner chimes in.

TYLER

Can confirm, your mom is *super* hot.

DANIEL

No one asked Tyler! And no, I can't ask my mom. She's at work. You're just gonna have to find another way to occupy yourself.

Lynn enters the coffee shop with her giant paper map.

LYNN

Excuse me, I'm a little lost.

Daniel turns to the front of the store, and immediately is smitten by Lynn.

DANIEL  
H-hi, uh whatcha looking for?

LYNN  
I'm looking for Benee Street?

JORDAN  
Haven't heard of it.

DANIEL  
We could look it up.

JORDAN  
No we can't...

Jordan shows Daniel his phone's powering down screen.

LYNN  
Oh, well if you have a phone charger I would try to look it up.

JORDAN  
No charger either.

Lynn nods, a little frustrated.

LYNN  
Okay then. Well maybe you guys could help me find it on this map.

Lynn lays out the map on the counter-top.

LYNN  
I think some of the street names have been changed. I need to find this street, but I don't know where we are on this thing.

Jordan and Daniel examine the map.

JORDAN  
I think this is Middle Earth, not Leadville.

DANIEL  
No wait, there's the abandoned mill.

Daniel points to a building at the corner of a street.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Which would make this, Main Street.

LYNN

Really?

DANIEL

Wow, it used to be called Turner Street. I wonder why they changed it.

JORDAN

Where did you get this map?

LYNN

Uh... my dad was a history nut.

DANIEL

So, Benee Street is this over here in the woods... but I'm pretty sure the road is completely overgrown now.

LYNN

Oh... any chance either of you know the local forest landscape?

JORDAN

What exactly are you trying to find?

LYNN

Just a house.

JORDAN

In the woods... to... sacrifice virgins? Or what?

Lynn closes her eyes and gives a defeated sigh.

LYNN

... Thanks for the help.

Lynn folds up her map and begins to walk away.

DANIEL

Wait! I think I've been to that house before.

Lynn turns around.

LYNN

You have?

Daniel jumps over the counter and extends his hand.

JORDAN

Dude, we serve food on this counter.

DANIEL

I'm Daniel.

Lynn shakes his hand.

LYNN

Lynn.

DANIEL

Just so you know I don't think anyone lives up there.

LYNN

I know.

DANIEL

Then why would you want to go there?

Lynn hesitates.

LYNN

I'm... looking for answers. Answers I think that house might have. I don't expect you to understand, I just feel... I know, that something in that house will help me find closure.

DANIEL

Cool, I'll take you there.

Lynn smiles.

LYNN

Yeah? Okay. Let's go.

The two walk towards the front of the cafe.

JORDAN

I guess I'll run the cafe by myself.  
(Under breath)  
Horny ass bitch.

As Lynn and Daniel leave the cafe, Harper pushes past them.

Vanessa trails behind, still deep in her book.

Harper approaches Jordan at the counter, still on the phone.

JORDAN (CONT.)  
How can I help you?

Harper leans away from her phone.

HARPER  
(Whispers)  
I'll have a large caramel macchiato.

Vanessa accidentally bumps into Harper.

HARPER (CONT.)  
(Whispers)  
Oh and a PB&J.

Jordan matches Harper's whisper tone.

JORDAN  
(Whispers)  
We don't make sandwiches.

HARPER  
(Whispers)  
Starbucks does it.

JORDAN  
(Whispers)  
This isn't a Starbucks.

HARPER  
(Whispers)  
Fine, a scone please.

JORDAN  
(Shouts)  
Coming right up.

Harper flinches back.

HARPER  
Sorry about that. Yes, I heard everything, but from what you're telling me it's just too small. This is going to be a haunted house attraction. Not a haunted dentist office.



Vanessa takes a seat at a table.

HARPER (CONT.)

What? Wait I can't hear you. Hold on.

Harper steps outside.

Vanessa sighs.

VANESSA

Sorry there's no PBJ Nancy.

Jordan hands Vanessa a scone.

JORDAN

Who you talking to?

VANESSA

Uh... no one.

JORDAN

You said Nancy?

VANESSA

... uh, yeah she's like make believe.

JORDAN

Oh like an imaginary friend?

VANESSA

Uh, yeah I guess.

JORDAN

Cool, I used to have an imaginary friend called Night Stalker.

Vanessa smiles.

VANESSA

That's super cool.

JORDAN

Hell yeah it is. What's your name?

VANESSA

Vanessa.

JORDAN

I'm Jordan. Is that Delilah's Daycare?

Jordan points to the book Vanessa has.

VANESSA  
You've read it?

JORDAN  
I haven't read the books, but I've  
played the video game.

VANESSA  
Cool.

JORDAN  
If you're interested in other creepy  
stuff, I have a witch's spell book I  
got off of craigslist.

Jordan pulls a book out from under the counter.

VANESSA  
Oh wow! My mom loves that stuff.

JORDAN  
Really? She seems a little... uptight.

VANESSA  
She's really busy. We've been on the  
road for a few months.

JORDAN  
What are you two on the road for?

Harper sticks her head back in.

HARPER  
(Whispers)  
Is my coffee done yet.

Jordan snaps back to work.

JORDAN  
Almost!

HARPER  
(Whispers)  
Momma's gonna be right back okay hun?

Vanessa gives her mom a thumbs up.

Harper heads back outside.

Vanessa sits alone.

VANESSA

Do you want to keep reading Nancy?  
Cool.

Vanessa buries her head back into her book.

EXT. LEADVILLE WOODS - DAY

Daniel walks deeper into the woods with Lynn trailing behind.

DANIEL

I used to play in these woods with my  
brothers.

LYNN

Not anymore though?

DANIEL

Nah, they all went off to college.  
Just me and my mom now.

LYNN

That must've been nice though while it  
lasted.

DANIEL

Yeah.

A fallen tree blocks their path, Daniel climbs atop it and  
reaches out his hand to Lynn.

DANIEL

Here.

Lynn looks up to see a "magical" spotlight shining through  
the trees on Daniel.

Lynn takes his hand, and he pulls her up.

They stand very close, meeting eyes, and Daniel smiles.

Lynn breaks eye contact and jumps down.

LYNN

Thanks.

DANIEL

No problem. So, tell me, why are you  
looking for an abandoned house in the  
middle of Nowhere USA?

LYNN

Well it's a long story... my dad used to write these sorta kinda... true crime novels. He would travel all over the world to get his hands on proof that these events happened, and sometimes why they were forgotten or covered up.

DANIEL

That sounds incredible. You must've loved getting to travel and see the world?

Lynn disappointedly smiles.

LYNN

I've never left Ohio until this week. My dad left me behind when I was 4.

DANIEL

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to-

LYNN

It's okay. I often wonder why he left. But I got my mom.

DANIEL

So, wait. What would your Dad be doing at an abandoned house?

LYNN

Well he-

Lynn is cut off by what sounds like a child crying.

LYNN (CONT.)

Do you hear that?

DANIEL

Is that a kid?

JUDY (O.S.)

Help!

Lynn runs through the forest towards the crying child.

DANIEL

Wait!

Lynn doesn't listen, and Daniel chases after her.

JUDY (O.S.)

Please!

Lynn keeps running until she breaks through the trees, and into a clearing in front of The Turner House.

EXT. THE TURNER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lynn looks up and stops for a moment in awe of the house's stature.

JUDY (O.S.)

Please help me!

Lynn regains her urgency and rushes into the house.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Lynn steps through the creaky doors and into a dust covered house.

LYNN

Hello? Little girl?

Judy continues to cry.

Daniel rushes in behind Lynn.

DANIEL

Hey, you okay? Also, damn you're fast.

Daniel leans on a chair to catch his breath.

The chair's leg breaks and Daniel falls to the ground.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Shit! Ow.

LYNN

She's here somewhere.

Daniel is struggling to get up.

DANIEL

Who?

LYNN

The girl, the little girl!

Judy's crying stops.

LYNN (CONT.)  
Where are you? Are you hurt?

Further into the house, Judy cries quietly.

JUDY (O.S.)  
Please help me.

LYNN  
We're coming!

Lynn runs deeper into the house.

DANIEL  
Wait, hold on!

Daniel trips over the broken chair leg and face plants.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lynn turns a corner.

At the end of a long hallway, Judy sits on the floor with her back to Lynn.

LYNN  
Sweetie? You okay?

JUDY  
I don't understand...

Lynn starts walking down the hallway towards Judy.

LYNN  
What honey?

Lynn steps on a book in the middle of the hallway.

She bends down and picks up a *Diary*.

JUDY  
He left me. Why would he do that?

DANIEL (O.S.)  
Lynn? Where did you go?

Lynn walks closer to Judy.

LYNN  
It's okay hun, what happened?

Lynn reaches out to touch Judy's shoulder.

Judy lets out a loud cry and turns around to scream in Lynn's face.

JUDY

He's GONE!

Judy's face is gaunt, her eyes are white, and as she screams black goo flows out of her mouth.

Lynn falls backwards in shock.

The house shakes, and wall decorations fall to the floor.

Judy's ghost form crawls towards Lynn.

Lynn staggers back dumbfounded and scared.

Judy grabs Lynn's leg and tries to drag her down the hall.

LYNN

AHH! Let me GO!

JUDY

Don't leave me! Please! Don't le-

Daniel swings the broken chair leg like a baseball bat, and decks the ghost in the face.

Judy lets go of Lynn with a grunt as her head repels back.

DANIEL

C'mon!

Daniel grabs the back of Lynn's shirt and pulls her back.

Lynn stands up and the two of them run.

Judy chases the two of them on all fours, down the hallway and into the Foyer.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Lynn and Daniel run for the front door.

JUDY (O.S.)

Please help me!

Daniel opens the front door, steps out and holds the door.

DANIEL

Go! Go!

Lynn runs for the door.

Judy pounces towards Lynn.

Lynn reaches the door and Daniel slams it, just in time.

EXT. THE TURNER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Daniel presses his back against the closed door.

DANIEL

What the hell was that?

Lynn catches her breath in the clearing in front of the Turner House.

Daniel joins her.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Lynn? What was that?

LYNN

I uh, it was a-

DANIEL

Never mind, you wanted to see the house, and you saw the house. Let's get the hell out of here.

Daniel proceeds into the forest.

Lynn takes a step after Daniel, but not before taking another look at the Diary she took from the House.

On the back of the Diary is written: "Judy Croyle"

Lynn take a glance at the Turner House, before running into the forest after Daniel.

INT. CHEAP HOTEL - NIGHT

Vanessa sits at a small dining table alone. The hotel's flickering light bulbs barely illuminate the room.

Vanessa draws with a few colored pencils in her notebook.



VANESSA

I think mom said she'd be back soon,  
maybe we should stick the dinner in  
the microwave?

Vanessa looks to an empty chair on her left.

VANESSA (CONT.)

Yeah, you're right, we should wait.  
She might bring back some pizza. I  
hope it's pepperoni.

Harper opens the door and beelines to her suitcase on her  
bed.

HARPER

Hey Van-van. We might have a place,  
but the owner could only show it off  
at 9. I know I said we'd watch Witch  
World, but this guy only has this  
window for the whole week.

Harper grabs a document from her suitcase and returns to the  
exit door.

HARPER (CONT.)

Can you heat up a microwave dinner and  
tuck yourself in bed?

VANESSA

Sure mom.

Harper stands in the doorway.

HARPER (CONT.)

Thanks Van-van. I'm so glad you're an  
easy kid. Love you, bye!

Harper blows Vanessa a kiss and closes the door.

Vanessa sits alone again in a quiet hotel room.

VANESSA

I knew there wasn't going to be pizza.

Vanessa gets up and takes a microwave-able meal out of the  
hotel fridge and puts it into the microwave.

VANESSA (CONT.)

Why did you get my hopes up?

Vanessa pulls out a plastic fork in a travel bag.

VANESSA (CONT.)  
You know sometimes it's not easy being  
your friend. Sometimes you can be  
real... bitch.

Vanessa looks around to make sure no one heard her.

VANESSA (CONT.)  
...But you're my only friend.

The Microwave beeps.

EXT. LEADVILLE SUBURB - NIGHT

Daniel is driving Lynn through a neighborhood.

He stares ahead in stunned silence.

Lynn sits a little uncomfortably.

LYNN  
You doing okay?

DANIEL  
Yeah... I'm uh...

They sit in silence for a few moments.

DANIEL (CONT.)  
Look I'm still in shock here. I don't  
know...

LYNN  
Yeah, no I get it.

DANIEL  
I think I'm just gonna try to forget  
about it.

LYNN  
Yeah, I think most people who've seen  
a ghost just move on with their lives.

DANIEL  
We don't know that was a ghost.

LYNN  
I mean... I don't think it was a  
werewolf.

DANIEL

Okay! Sure it was probably a ghost.  
But we left, and it stayed. So... it's  
fine!

LYNN

Yeah.

DANIEL

Oh my God, ghosts are real.

LYNN

...Yeah.

Daniel slows down in front of a house.

DANIEL

So uh, that's that. I need to forget  
this day. Is this your Airbnb? I don't  
see any lights on. Are your parents'  
here? Uh, I mean your mom?

LYNN

It's just me.

Daniel peers again out the window.

DANIEL

Wait, so your mom isn't here. And your  
Dad... wait you said you were here  
because of your dad.

LYNN

Right.

DANIEL

But he's not here either?

LYNN

No... I'm here to find out how that  
girl died. And I think I may be able  
to figure it out with this.

Lynn holds up the Diary she grabbed at The Turner House.

DANIEL

What are you talking about? You knew  
that thing was gonna be there? Why?  
Why would you do that?

LYNN

Look it's a long story.

DANIEL

Apparently! But you're done now right? You don't need to go back to that house?

LYNN

I'm probably going back tomorrow.

DANIEL

Jesus! Did you see the creepy and violent ghost girl? And you're going back? You are the most crazy and nonsensical person I've ever met!

LYNN

Oh please, I'm the crazy one? I met you two hours ago and you went into the woods with a total stranger.

DANIEL

Well... I am a gentleman! And... I don't know, maybe there's even crazier people out there than you!

Lynn gets out of the car and scoffs at Daniel.

LYNN

Thank you for the ride.

Lynn puts a hand on the car door and gives Daniel a snarky smile.

LYNN (CONT.)

This was a lousy date.

Lynn slams the door.

DANIEL

This was a date?

Lynn walks away from the car and into the house.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Wait hold on!

Lynn shuts the house door.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Damn it.

INT. LYNN'S BNB - CONTINUOUS

Lynn turns on the lights to expose a cluttered room filled with boxes and bags.

Lynn stifles back tears as she walks around piles of junk.

Lynn finds a table amongst the mess and sits down.

As she flips through a notebook for an empty page, a photo of a younger versions of her father and herself comes loose.

Lynn sighs and tucks the photo back into the notebook.

Lynn opens up the Diary she took from the house and reads.

JUDY (V.O.)

April 7th. Dear Diary, mother passed away yesterday. It was sudden and father is struggling to form words about anything. I miss mother terribly and the sister I now will never meet, I feel so alone. I've gone to bed hungry the past two days. I tried to help father with the stove, but he yells at me.

Lynn flips to another page.

JUDY (V.O.)(CONT.)

April 9th. father lost his job today. He was crying all day and seemed unbothered about not going to work. He says to avoid living on the streets, we'll have to leave Chicago. When I asked where we'll go he said, "I don't know, but we'll be together."

Lynn's eyes close as she suddenly remembers a painfully memory.

EXT. LYNN'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - NIGHT

A young CHILD LYNN(4) is sitting in a car seat crying. Her father, DALE(30), is in the driver seat buckling his seatbelt.

Child Lynn reaches out to her mother, MIRANDA(29), violently sobbing and trying to open the car door from the outside.

CHILD LYNN

Mommy!

INT. LYNN'S BNB - CONTINUOUS

Lynn wipes her eyes again and tries to read.

JUDY (V.O.)

May 2nd, Dear Diary, father and I have been traveling from town to town for a few weeks. Every day, father asks everyone he sees for a job, and then drinks in the evening. A nice lady gave me some bread and spoke to father about a place called The Turner House.

Lynn sits up, and flips the page.

JUDY (V.O.)(CONT.)

He's gone.

Lynn flips to another page.

JUDY (V.O.)(CONT.)

He's GONE.

Lynn flips quickly through the pages.

JUDY (V.O.)(CONT.)

He's Gone, He's Gone. He Lied, He Left. He's Gone. I'm Alone, I'm Alone. He Lied. Why would he leave? What did I do? He's gone. I'm alone. I'm wrong. I'm Alone. It's my fault. All my fault. Please come back. Please.

Lynn remembers another painful memory.

INT. HOSPITAL - 2012

Dale stands in the doorway of a hospital room, Child Lynn weakly reaches for her Dad from the hospital bed.

CHILD LYNN

Daddy?

Dale looks back and walks out the door.

INT. LYNN'S BNB - CONTINUOUS

Lynn slams the Diary down.

Lynn stands up and looks through her bag for a vape pen.

She finds it and takes a hit, her breathing slows. She takes another hit, and she's calm.

She looks back at the Diary but grabs her coat instead and steps outside.

INT. GENERAL MERCH COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Daniel 100 yard stares out the window.

Jordan opens the employee entrance to see Daniel entranced.

JORDAN

Oh, you came back. I thought you  
Thelma and Louise-ed with Dora the  
Explorer. I closed just fine on my own  
by the way. Which means it's my turn  
to leave work early with a hot mystery  
girl.

Daniel turns around to Jordan.

JORDAN (CONT.)

Oh my God. You look like you got the  
soul sucked out of you... Must've been  
a good night, boi!

Jordan give Daniel a few punches on the arm.

DANIEL

I'm not in the mood. I think I'm...  
traumatized? Is that what this is?

JORDAN

Ah, she ditched? Sorry dude. But hey,  
she was just passing through right? So  
you won't ever-

Jordan sees Lynn approach the Cafe's front doors.

JORDAN (CONT.)

Have to miss her because she's coming  
in right now.

DANIEL

What?

JORDAN

Now right now, she's coming in.

Lynn tries to open the front doors, but they're locked.

JORDAN (CONT.)

Oh wait, we don't open for another 20 minutes.

Lynn pulls on the door handle again.

LYNN

(Muffled)

It's locked.

JORDAN

Yeah we're not open yet! We open at eight!

Beat.

Lynn shakes the door handle again.

JORDAN (CONT.)

Do we need to call the police?

DANIEL

No, it's fine.

Daniel walks over to the door.

DANIEL (CONT.)

What?

LYNN

(Muffled)

I just want to explain myself. Can I come in please?

Daniel looks back at Jordan, but lets Lynn in.

DANIEL

Fine. But I only have a few minutes.

LYNN.

Sure.

Lynn places Judy's diary and a newspaper clipping on a table.



LYNN (CONT.)

So I thought about it... I wanted to show you that I'm not crazy. I danced around the issue before but I'm ready to tell you everything.

Jordan stands next to Daniel.

LYNN (CONT.)

My dad didn't just make true crime novels. He was a ghost writer.

JORDAN

He wrote under someone else's name?

LYNN

No. He wrote stories about ghosts.

JORDAN

Like... Stephen King?

LYNN

No, like real things that happened to real people, and now dead people, and he would talk to the... now dead people.

JORDAN

...Wait-

LYNN

Ghosts are real, and my dad-

DANIEL

Your Dad looked for ghosts too. Why didn't you say that before?

JORDAN

I'm sorry, hold up, you saw a ghost?

DANIEL

Yes Jordan! I saw a ghost!

JORDAN

And you didn't tell me about it?

DANIEL

I was in a state Jordan!

LYNN

The little girl you saw was one of 28  
ghosts that died over a hundred years  
ago in that house.

Lynn shows them the newspaper clipping from the 1920's.

LYNN (CONT.)

That's why my dad came here.

Daniel reaches out to take the clipping, but Jordan snatches  
it from his hand.

It rips.

LYNN

Dude!

Jordan, reached behind the counter.

JORDAN

It's okay. Don't worry. We have tape.

Jordan reveals a tape dispenser and tapes his right half to  
Daniel's left half.

LYNN

Just please be careful!

Once taped back, the Clipping reads:

"Turner Boarding House Massacre, 28 Men, Women and Children  
Dead.

DANIEL

Your dad gave you this?

LYNN

He didn't say anything to me for ten  
years. And then I receive this  
newspaper clip in the mail. And... I  
don't know, I think something  
happened.

JORDAN

Why haven't we ever heard about this?  
This sounds like the kind of story  
people would love to talk about.

LYNN

I don't know, maybe that's a part of the story, it could be a cover up.

DANIEL

... Okay. So?

LYNN

So?

DANIEL

You didn't explain anything. I was not rolling in anxiety about why you were looking for ghosts. I'm freaking out over the fact that I almost died because GHOST!

JORDAN

C'mon man, you knew ghosts were real.

DANIEL

No I did not!

JORDAN

I told you my house was haunted.

DANIEL

I didn't believe you! And you didn't see a ghost child vomiting ecto-shit!

LYNN

Look I'm sorry okay! I don't know why ghosts are real! They just are! I came back to try to explain myself.

DANIEL

I could've died! YOU could've died!

LYNN

I didn't know what we'd find! And frankly I didn't ask you to follow me into the house.

DANIEL

You seriously just can't admit that you were too self-centered to maybe clue me in before you brought me into a dangerous place?

Lynn snatches the newspaper clipping and heads towards the door.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Where are you going now?

LYNN

I still haven't found my dad.

DANIEL

There's no way he's in there. Not alive anyways! Don't go back.

LYNN

Why do you care?

DANIEL

Because you're going to die if you go back! Don't be crazy!

LYNN

Oh, I'm sorry. Is it crazy to want to know what happened to your Dad? Is it crazy to wonder why he left me as a kid? Is it crazy to want to know why he chose ghosts, dead people, over his own daughter? Is it crazy to ask for a little bit of closure, or ask why I wasn't good enough for him? You don't know me, or what I've gone through.

Lynn opens the front door and gestures her middle finger.

LYNN (CONT.)

Sit and spin asshole.

Lynn slams the door and walks around Harper and Vanessa waiting outside the Cafe.

JORDAN

Nice going Dan.

DANIEL

What did I do?

JORDAN

You let the cute ghost hunting girl just walk out of here? She's the most interesting thing that's happened around here... ever.

DANIEL

She's crazy!

JORDAN

A. Stop calling women crazy, it's a pejorative. B. She's not crazy, she's just a little weird. C. She's looking for her Dad, give her a break.

DANIEL

She led me through the woods to be attacked by a ghost. And now she's going back!

JORDAN

She's going back by herself. She's not crazy, she's hella brave. She came back to apologize, and you attacked her character. No shit she snapped back.

Jordan see's the Diary Lynn left behind, and walks towards it.

JORDAN (CONT.)

And she left behind her journal.

Jordan flips it open.

DANIEL

Her journal?

JORDANL

No wait. This is super old. Judy... this belonged to Judy Croyle.

Jordan browses through a few pages.

DANIEL

I'm sure Lynn will come back if she needs it.

JORDAN

Unless she doesn't come back. Just like her dad.

Daniel looks out the window to see if he can still see Lynn.

DANIEL

C'mon we gotta open soon.

Daniel gets back to work, but Jordan flips through a few more pages.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE FOYER - DAY

Lynn steps through the front doors of The Turner House.

LYNN

Hello?

Lynn takes her time walking through the Foyer and into the hallway.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lynn examines the hallway before she walks.

No ghost.

LYNN (CONT.)

I'm looking for my Dad.

Whispers through the walls travel above, below, the left and right. As if multiple people are saying the same thing.

ORPHANS

Dad? Dad? DAD?

Lynn turns around to look for the source of the whispering.

LYNN

Yes, have you seen my Dad?

The chorus of voices scream.

ORPHANS

DAD! DAD! WHERE'S DAD!

Lynn covers her ears, and runs further into the house.

The screams don't stop. The voices cry and scream in anger.

Lynn runs around corners into the halls of the Turner House.

Suddenly the screams stop when Lynn passes by a particular door.

Lynn stops running, and turns around.

Lynn stands in front of the door. It seems normal.

Lynn reaches for the handle.

JUDY  
Don't do that.

Lynn turns to see Judy standing in the hallway.

LYNN  
Why not?

JUDY  
We don't open that door.

Judy looks scared.

LYNN  
What's behind the door?

JUDY  
Please don't open it.

Judy starts to cry.

LYNN  
I won't.

Lynn steps away from the door.

LYNN (CONT.)  
Promise.

Judy's cry stifles into sniffles.

LYNN (CONT.)  
I just want to ask you a few  
questions.

JUDY  
I don't know anything.

LYNN  
Hey hey, it's okay. I just want to  
know what happened to you and the  
other children.

Judy looks down, her hair falling in front of her face.

JUDY  
I was alone. I'm always alone.

LYNN  
And then what happened?

JUDY

I just don't know what I did wrong.

LYNN

Okay, it's okay. Just calm down.

Lynn puts up her hands and takes a step towards Judy.

Judy screams, causing a strong wind to blow through the hallway.

JUDY

NO!

Lynn tries to protect her face as she staggers backward, blown by the force of the wind.

Judy looks up to reveal a monstrous face of multiple mouths replacing her eyes and covering her cheeks, all screaming.

Chairs, lamps, and paintings fly past her.

Lynn takes a step back and feels for the wall. She grabs the door handle of the "forbidden" door.

Lynn opens it up and goes inside.

She's embraced by darkness and falls.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Down the stairs, in the dark, Lynn tumbles down until she hits the ground, hard.

INT. LYNN'S BEDROOM - 2012

Child Lynn sleeps peacefully in her bed.

She's stirred gently by her dad, Dale.

DALE

Lynn? Mini Linnie?

Child Lynn stirs, and opens her eyes.

CHILD LYNN

Daddy?

DALE

Hey baby. Daddy wants to show you something.



Child Lynn rubs her eyes and nods.

Dale picks her up and takes her to his car.

EXT. LYNN'S CHILDHOOD HOUSE - NIGHT

He buckles her into a car seat.

As he walks around the car. The front door opens and Lynn's mom, Miranda, runs up to Dale.

Child Lynn watches from within the car.

MIRANDA

Dale! Is she in the car? Stop! Stop,  
stop. Give her back right now!

Dale puts his hands up and holds Miranda in place.

DALE

We're just going on one little trip,  
we'll be back.

MIRANDA

No, Dale! You can't sneak in the  
middle of the night and take her away!  
Jesus Christ!

DALE

You would've said no!

MIRANDA

Because you're crazy!

DALE

No, I'm not Miranda. And please just  
give me a chance, I'll prove it.

MIRANDA

No. No, no! Give her back.

DALE

... No.

Dale runs to the driver seat and starts to drive away.

CHILD LYNN

Mom?

Miranda chases after Dale with frantic tears in her eyes.

MIRANDA

Dale! LYNN!

CHILD LYNN

Mommy?

Miranda starts banging on the driver side, as Dale backs up the car and drives down the street.

MIRANDA

Dale, stop, please Stop! PLEASE! My baby! Dale!

CHILD LYNN

Mommy!

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE BASEMENT - NIGHT

The room is drastically quiet, as Lynn opens her eyes.

LYNN

Ow.

Lynn picks herself up, and tries to stand.

LYNN (CONT.)

Oh, Ow, ow. For real ow.

Lynn pulls out her phone and turns on her flashlight.

The room is dusty and full of cobwebs.

Lynn tilts her phone down to look at her foot.

She touches her ankle. It's swollen and sore, no blood.

She tilts her phone around to see the rest of the room.

It's filled with old suitcases, clothes, and wooden boxes that have empty cans of food.

Lynn limps a step forward and nearly trips over a rusty open can of food.

Lynn points the light down to see the floor is covered in cans.

LYNN (CONT.)

Gross.

On the other side of the room, something else kicks a can.

Lynn jumps and shines her phone to where she heard the noise.

LYNN (CONT.)

Hello?

Nothing appears to be there.

Lynn limps further into the basement.

The scratchy and monstrous voice of FRIEND(??) speaks out from the darkness.

FRIEND

Hello.

LYNN

Who are you?

FRIEND

A friend.

LYNN

I'm looking for my Dad.

FRIEND

No fathers here, no mothers either.  
It's just *Me*.

LYNN

Okay.

Lynn hobbles a few steps back.

FRIEND

Don't go.

LYNN

I won't.

Lynn doesn't stop walking backwards.

FRIEND

I said, *STOP*.

Lynn is startled by the yell and falls backwards.

She drops her phone, and the flashlight shines towards the ceiling.

Lynn crawls backwards to the base of the stairs.

In the phone's flashlight beam, an eerie face and boney body on all fours, draped in rags, walk into light from the darkness.

It's unclear if it's human or monster.

FRIEND (CONT.)

Why don't we play a game?

Lynn gasps.

Friend walks out of the light and back into the darkness.

Lynn turns around and crawls up the stairs, wincing with pain.

She tries to open the door, but it won't budge.

LYNN

Help!

Lynn bangs on the door.

LYNN (CONT.)

Help! Help!

In the dark, we hear Friend climbing up the creaking stairs.

LYNN (CONT.)

Please! HELP!

The door suddenly flies open and Lynn falls forward and on top of Daniel.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

DANIEL

Ow.

Lynn sits up, and hugs Daniel immediately when she realizes she's safe.

LYNN

Daniel! Oh my God! Thank you!

DANIEL

Wow. You're welcome.

Jordan stands next them.

JORDAN  
I'm here too.

Lynn looks up.

JORDAN (CONT.)  
How is your ghost hunt going?

LYNN  
Uh, a little too well.

JORDAN  
What does that mean?

Judy's screams can be heard down the hallway.

LYNN  
Run.

Lynn stands up and starts to run, but her twisted ankle stops her. Lynn staggers and falls.

LYNN (CONT.)  
Or not.

JORDAN  
Whoa Lynn! You okay?

LYNN  
Ahh, just a sprain.

Jordan and Daniel help her to her feet.

The screams get louder as the three try to hobble down the hallway.

LYNN (CONT.)  
We gotta hide! Check the doors!

Jordan tries to open any passing door, but they're locked.

JORDAN  
What are we running from exactly?

DANIEL  
I assume the ghost girl, I think I decked her in the face yesterday.

JORDAN  
I'm sorry, you want to hide from a ghost? Don't they go through walls!?

Lynn looks back behind her.

LYNN  
Fine then Run! Just look out for-

DANIEL  
Whoa Lynn!

Lynn turns back around to see Judy standing several feet in front of her.

Lynn tries to step back quickly and starts to fall, but Daniel catches her.

DANIEL (CONT.)  
Lynn!

JUDY  
Just leave! Like everyone else!

LYNN  
Judy! You have to calm down!

JUDY  
Don't tell me to calm down!!

Judy screams and rattles the hallway, and a psychic push throws Lynn and Daniel back.

Lynn's head hits the wall hard, and her vision goes dark.

INT. DALE'S CAR - 2012

Child Lynn sleeps in her father's car.

The car stops, and Dale comes around back to wake her up.

DALE  
Hey, Linnie. We're here.

Lynn rubs her eyes and starts to shiver.

CHILD LYNN  
Cold.

DALE  
Oh, I'm so sorry baby, I forgot your jacket. Here.

Dale takes off his jacket and tries to wrap it around her.

She grasps on to it but she's still shivering.

DALE (CONT.)  
C'mere baby girl.

Dale picks up Lynn and gives her a kiss on her forehead.

Lynn continues to shiver, her bare feet sticking out from Dale's jacket.

DALE (CONT.)  
You ready to meet Daddy's friend?

Little Lynn's teeth are chattering and she nods.

Dale takes her to a seemingly abandoned house.

INT. HAUNTED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The room is dark. The only form of light is the moonlight shining in through the windows.

Lynn grasps tightly onto her Dad.

CHILD LYNN  
It's too dark.

DALE  
There's no lights honey. But my friend is here. Michelle?

Out of the shadows and into the moonlight, a ghost tattered in white clothing MICHELLE(32) crawls in the room.

Child Lynn starts to panic.

CHILD LYNN  
No, NOOOO!

DALE  
Honey it's okay. She's a ghost. Daddy talks to ghosts for work.

Michelle crawls closer.

Child Lynn thrashes in her father's arms, desperately trying to get away.

DALE (CONT.)  
Whoa, Lynn!

Child Lynn tumbles out of her father's arms and hits the ground.

DALE (CONT.)  
Lynnie?!

Child Lynn screams in pain.

Dale struggles to pull his phone out of his pocket, and when he finally does he sees Child Lynn on the ground her arm twisted unnaturally.

DALE (CONT.)  
Oh my God, Lynn don't move honey.  
Hello? 9-1-1?

The five-year-old writhes in pain on the floor, but starts to lose consciousness.

DALE (CONT.)  
Lynn honey, can you hear me? Lynn?  
Lynn?!

Child Lynn's vision goes dark.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

DANIEL  
Lynn!

Daniel is shaking Lynn awake.

LYNN  
Wha?

DANIEL  
Oh thank God. You're okay.

Daniel and Jordan have knocked over a wardrobe and pulled Lynn behind their make-shift shelter.

JORDAN  
You okay?

Lynn gathers her surroundings.

LYNN  
I'm okay. Where are we?

JORDAN  
Uh... ghost fort?



Judy starts to scream, and wind starts gushing down the hallway.

Lynn, Jordan and Daniel cup their hands over their ears.

DANIEL  
(Yelling)  
What do we do?

LYNN  
(Yelling)  
I...I don't know!

DANIEL  
(Yelling)  
What?

LYNN  
(Yelling)  
I don't know okay! I'm not a ghost  
hunter. I didn't know how dangerous  
this was gonna be. I'm an idiot!  
And... I'm sorry!

Daniel looks at her gently.

DANIEL  
(Yelling)  
I'm sorry too. I was a real asshole.

LYNN  
(Yelling)  
Thank you for coming back for me, even  
if we might all die here.

DANIEL  
(Yelling)  
God I hope I don't die to a dumb  
ghost!

JORDAN  
(Yelling)  
You know it's not her fault, right?

LYNN  
(Yelling)  
What?

JORDAN

(Yelling)

It's not her fault. She's upset about her Dad leaving her. But that wasn't her fault.

Lynn removes her hands from her ears.

LYNN

(Yelling)

What?

JORDAN

(Yelling)

In her Diary. She was left here by her Dad who never came back for her. This place used to be some kind of Orphanage!

DANIEL

(Yelling)

Her Dad left?

JORDAN

(Yelling)

Her Dad couldn't take care of her! He was trying to make the best decision for her! But she's haunted by his abandonment!

DANIEL

(Yelling)

But she's a ghost! How can she be haunted?

JORDAN

(Yelling)

Hey Dumbass? She was just a little girl!

Lynn stares ahead, as a long forgotten memory floods back.

INT. HOSPITAL - 2012

Child Lynn wakes up in a hospital bed. Dale and Miranda are outside the door arguing.

DALE

No, I didn't do anything! She fell.

MIRANDA

I don't care, you took her in the night to an abandoned building, and then your idiotic ghost chase put our daughter in serious harm. She could've died Dale!

Dale hangs his head.

DALE

I never meant to hurt her, I love her Miranda.

MIRANDA

I takes more than love to be a good parent. You can say goodbye, and then you leave.

Dale nods.

DALE

Okay, okay. I'm sorry.

He enters the hospital bedroom.

Child Lynn looks at her dad and reaches out.

Child Lynn is hooked up to an IV drip for her pain, it's making her very tired.

CHILD LYNN

Daddy?

Dale smiles and walks over to her.

DALE

Hey baby. I'm so sorry that this night didn't go well. You feeling better?

CHILD LYNN

No.

Dale's smile fades.

DALE

I have to leave honey. Daddy can't see you anymore okay.

Child Lynn's eyes are struggling to stay open.

DALE (CONT.)

I just want you to know, that I love  
you very much.

CHILD LYNN

I love you too Daddy.

Dale gives her a kiss on the forehead, and walks away.

Child Lynn blinks twice, and suddenly he's gone.

CHILD LYNN

Daddy?

Child Lynn closes her eyes, and fades to sleep.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

The wind is gushing past Daniel, Jordan, and Lynn. Judy's  
screaming is deafening.

Judy levitates with tears and black ectoplasm streaming down  
her face.

Lynn stands up.

DANIEL

(Yelling)

Lynn? LYNN!

Lynn limps out from their shelter into the hallway, guiding  
herself along the wall for support.

Lynn puts her other hand up to fight against the wind.

DANIEL (CONT.)

(Yelling)

Lynn come back!

JORDAN

(Yelling)

Be careful!

Lynn limps up to the levitating Judy, her face tilted upwards  
as she screams.

Lynn reaches up to Judy's hand and grabs it.

Judy stops screaming and gushing wind stops blowing.

LYNN  
Judy? It's not your fault.

Judy looks down at Lynn.

LYNN (CONT.)  
You were just a kid. You didn't do anything wrong.

Judy floats down to the floor, and on to her knees.

Lynn falls to the floor too, still holding Judy's hand.

LYNN (CONT.)  
Sometimes adults do things that hurt their kids, when they think they're doing the right thing.

Judy begins to cry.

LYNN (CONT.)  
Your dad couldn't keep you safe, so he left you here. He didn't mean to hurt you. He loved you.

Judy looks up at Lynn.

JUDY  
He did?

LYNN  
Yes. He wanted you to be happy here.

JUDY  
...But I'm not happy.

LYNN  
...I know. But-

Jordan steps next to the two of them and takes Lynn's other hand.

Lynn is a little surprised but doesn't pull away.

JORDAN  
But once you leave here, you'll have the time and space to move on. You can finally be happy.

Judy sniffles, but nods.

Judy hugs Lynn.

Lynn looks at Jordan, who's looking at Lynn fondly.

Jordan crouches down and hugs Lynn and Judy.

JUDY

Thank you.

Silent tears squeeze through Lynn's closed eyes.

Judy lets go and starts to walk down the hallway.

The ghost girl starts to fade away.

LYNN

Oh wait!

Judy turns around but continues to fade.

LYNN (CONT.)

What happened here? How did you die?

Judy's voice fades out as she says her final words.

JUDY

I was attacked, by someone I thought  
was my friend.

Judy's form fades away.

Lynn, Jordan, and Daniel watch as she fades away.

JORDAN

That was beautiful. Are you okay?

Lynn realizes she's still holding Jordan's hand.

LYNN

Yeah, I'm okay.

Jordan looks charmingly into Lynn's eyes.

JORDAN

You were incredibly brave.

LYNN

I was brave? You were amazing, and you  
knew just what to say.

JORDAN

Thanks... I've had a lot of therapy.

Jordan pulls out a tissue in his pocket and pats Lynn's tears.

Lynn smiles.

LYNN

That whole thing with Judy was very... similar to something I've gone through. You made me realize that my Dad leaving wasn't because he didn't love me, but to keep me safe.

JORDAN

Oh, Daddy issues? Say no more.

Lynn pulls her hand away to give Jordan a light punch on the arm.

Jordan smiles.

LYNN

Hey, would you want to-

DANIEL

Hey guys, can we maybe get out of here first?

Daniel points behind them to other ghost children poking their heads into the hallway amongst the darkness.

LYNN

Fair enough.

Daniel and Jordan start to walk down the hallway towards the exit.

Lynn hangs back.

LYNN (CONT.)

I'm coming back, okay?

The ghost children don't move, but they whisper in a cacophony.

ORPHANS

The door. You opened the door.

Lynn looks back at the door that had Friend inside.

It's ajar.

She limps over as tension builds and closes it.

LYNN

It's okay. See? Everything is going to be okay.

The whispers don't stop.

ORPHANS

The door. The door was opened.

Lynn raises her hands up.

LYNN

I'll be back, I'm gonna help you...  
I'm gonna figure out what happened.

Lynn leaves The Turner House.

INT. GENERAL MERCH COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

The Coffee Shop is quiet with a few people enjoying an evening drink.

Harper is looking through her phone, while Vanessa is sipping a hot chocolate and reading her graphic novel.

Tyler sits in the corner working away on his project. Lynn is sitting at a table with a laptop.

Daniel is making a tea for Lynn while Jordan is wiping down a table.

JORDAN

It feels wild to come back to work after the day we had.

DANIEL

Okay, see! This is why I was weird this morning.

LYNN

Yeah, the first time I saw a ghost, it shook me up a bit. But now, I dunno. Ghosts feel as natural as rain.

DANIEL

That's unbelievable. I hope I never see a ghost again.



LYNN

Hmm.

DANIEL

What do you mean hmmm?

LYNN

Well now that you know the truth...

JORDAN

Yeah Toto, you looked behind the Wizard's curtain. You can't just go back to Kansas. I want to do more Wicca research, and I think it could help me when I go back.

DANIEL

Go back?

JORDAN

Lynn asked me if I would.

Daniel finishes making Lynn's tea, and walks over to her.

DANIEL

You're seriously-

Lynn raises an eyebrow.

DANIEL (CONT.)

Seriously going to go back without me?

LYNN

I just had a feeling you were gonna call me crazy, or something.

DANIEL

What? Never, calling woman crazy is pe-door-ative.

JORDAN

Pe-JOR-ative, stupid.

DANIEL

Right, well how much work could there be right?

LYNN

The newspaper article said 28 people were mysteriously killed one night. And the only info we have is that they

were killed by someone they knew, a  
"Friend."

Daniel smiles as he puts Lynn's tea on the table.

DANIEL

I think we could figure out the 100  
year old mystery of The Turner House.  
Afterall, we make a great team.

Jordan throws a rag at Daniel's head.

JORDAN

Boss just texted; he's coming by, now.

DANIEL

Oh shoot.

The two vigorously clean in preparation.

As Lynn smiles at her two new friends, her laptop dings.

An email reads:

"Hey Honey, how's the college tours? Is your phone working?  
You haven't texted me back. Call your mom when you get the  
chance? Love you"

Daniel looks behind his shoulder at Lynn.

He speaks softly to Jordan to make sure it doesn't carry.

DANIEL

I really like her.

JORDAN

Really? You sure this isn't just your  
girl of the week?

DANIEL

Nah man, she's something special.

Jordan looks back at Lynn too.

JORDAN

Yeah, I know what you mean.

Jordan looks at Daniel, and sighs.

JORDAN (CONT.)

Go for it man.

DANIEL  
Just try and stop me.

Jordan smiles and hits Daniel in the back of his head with a cleaning rag.

DANIEL (CONT.)  
Fart Face!

Daniel attempts to slap Jordan with the rag, but Jordan evades.

The two continue to attack each other with their wet rags.

Lynn looks up from her laptop to see the two rag slap each other.

She smiles.

Harper looks back behind her at the three teenagers.

Harper picks up a phone call.

HARPER  
Hey Esteban, yeah no that place didn't work out. Have you heard of, "The Turner House?" You have, by any chance do you know if it's on the market?

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE FOYER - DAY

The Relator Esteban(32) and Harper enter in the Foyer.

ESTEBAN  
This house has been on the market for decades. It does have a lot of work to be done before it's up to code for business though.

Harper is in awe of the aesthetic.

Vanessa trails behind the two of them.

HARPER  
Oh my God. This place is amazing! Look at the floor! Oh my word how old is that chandelier? So much potential! What do you think? Do you love it?

VANESSA  
It's spooky.

HARPER

That's the exact word I would use. I think this is it. Harper's Spooktacular Haunted House. What's the current price?

ESTEBAN

Well that's the thing, it's technically owned by the city. You'll have to petition your offer to the city council.

Vanessa walks deeper into the building as Harper and Esteban talk logistics.

Vanessa drags her hand across the walls, leaving a dusty trail behind as she goes.

INT. THE TURNER HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Vanessa continues to walk further down the hall, until she see's an open door.

Vanessa peers inside to see a bedroom.

INT. FRIEND'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vanessa walks inside to see several bunk beds, dressers, and toys.

Vanessa touches the bunk bed beams.

VANESSA

This could've been a cool room to have. I'd have the top bunk, and you could have the bottom.

FRIEND (V.O)

Sounds like fun.

Vanessa stops.

VANESSA

...Nancy?

Friend's voice changes from the scratchy monstrous voice to a little girl.

FRIEND (V.O)

(Nancy Voice)

Yes, it's me Nancy.

Vanessa looks around the room.

VANESSA  
Nancy? You sound different.

FRIEND  
(Nancy Voice)  
It's me, I'm over here.

On the other side of the bedroom a little girl is waving calmly in a small mirror sitting on the dresser.

Vanessa walks over to the mirror.

VANESSA  
Nancy? You're... real?

FRIEND  
(Nancy Voice)  
Of course, you believed in me, didn't you?

Vanessa looks down, confused and trying to make sense of the situation.

VANESSA  
... Yeah, yeah of course. I believed in you, just believing in Fairies. That made you real?

FRIEND  
(Nancy Voice)  
Yes, I'm like a Fairy!

VANESSA  
Are you stuck in there?

FRIEND  
(Nancy Voice)  
I am, but you could help me. Would you like to help me? Then we could play, all the time.

Friend smiles.

Vanessa looks concerned but smiles as well.

VANESSA  
Yeah, sounds like fun.

END