

Ghost Trip

Screenplay by

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**FADE IN:**

**INT. DINER-MORNING**

CARLA, 19. A sophomore in college. Dark hair, brown eyes. A thin and muscular built young woman.

Carla sits in the booth, her hands wrapped around a coffee mug. She holds it underneath her nose.

She looks to her right and looks outside the window. Her eyes on her husband. DAVE, 20. A Junior in college. Sandy blonde hair, brown eyes. Thin built, and muscular.

**EXT. DINER-MORNING**

MECHANIC, late 40s. A mechanic for twenty years.

The Mechanic stands in front of Dave.

MECHANIC  
That's sixty bucks?

DAVE  
Deal!

Dave reaches into his pants pocket and hands the Mechanic three rolled up **twenty dollar bills**. The Mechanic takes the money, and stuffs it into his front pocket.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Now, what's the quickest way to get towards the highway?

MECHANIC  
Just go down this road, and it'll lead you towards I-5 South. Where are you headed anyway?

DAVE  
Just a summer getaway.

The Mechanic looks through the window and looks directly at Carla.

**INT. DINER-CONTINUOUS**

Carla looks at the Mechanic and waves her hand.

**EXT. DINER-CONTINUOUS**

MECHANIC

And that's your girlfriend?

DAVE

Wife. What about her?

MECHANIC

Just wondering. You two have a safe trip.

The Mechanic steps away.

DAVE

Thanks again.

MECHANIC (O.S.)

No problem.

Dave looks through the window and he sets his eyes on Carla.

**INT. DINER-CONTINUOUS**

Carla sets a five dollar bill down on the table and picks up a *Styrofoam cup*.

**EXT. DINER-CONTINUOUS**

Carla steps towards Dave, and stands right under his nose. She lifts the cup of coffee in her hands and kisses him.

CARLA

I got you a coffee.

DAVE

Thank you.

Dave kisses her. He takes the coffee and walks Carla away from the window.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on, let's go.

**INT. CAR-MORNING**

Dave drives the car down the road. Carla sits in the front passenger seat. A study book in her hands. Dave looks at Carla.

DAVE  
Babe, what are you doing?

CARLA  
Studying.

DAVE  
You're such a nerd.

CARLA  
A sexy nerd.

DAVE  
What makes you think your sexy?

CARLA  
Because we're together.

DAVE  
We're together?

CARLA  
Yes!

DAVE  
When did this happen?

CARLA  
Shut up!

DAVE  
(laugh)

CARLA  
How long does this road go for  
anyway?

DAVE  
I don't know.

CARLA  
Why are we taking this road when we  
have navigation on our phones?

DAVE  
Because our phones won't pick up a  
signal out here in the middle of  
nowhere.

CARLA  
And this is where we end up dead!

DAVE  
We're not lost.

Carla takes her eyes off her study book and looks at Dave.

CARLA  
Yeah, keep telling yourself that.

A BOY, 7-Years-Old. Blonde hair, blue eyes. His ripped overalls hang by threads of the fabric.

Carla looks towards the road.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
Watch out!!!

Dave looks and pushes his foot down on the *break peddle*.

**EXT. ROAD-MORNING**

The car screeches and slides. The Boy stops and stares at the hood of the car. The Boy looks at Dave, and then at Carla. He turns and starts walking across the road --

**INT. CAR-CONTINUOUS**

Carla looks at the Boy. Dave keeps his eyes on the Boy.

DAVE  
I didn't even see the kid!

CARLA  
Follow him?

DAVE  
Seriously! You want me to follow him down that dirt road?

CARLA  
Yes.

DAVE  
Okay but when I say get back in the car. You get back in the car. Deal?

CARLA  
Yeah, yeah! Just drive!

Dave puts his foot on the gas peddle and turns the steering wheel to the right. Carla leans towards the dashboard. Her eyes on the Boy.

**EXT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-MORNING**

The car parks right in front of an abandoned train station.

**INT/EXT. CAR-MORNING**

Dave looks at Carla.

DAVE  
Stay close.

Dave opens his door. Carla opens hers, and steps onto the ground. She shuts the door. Dave shuts his door, and walks towards Carla.

**EXT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-CONTINUOUS**

He reaches for her hand. She grabs ahold. Carla looks around.

DAVE  
Look at that!

CARLA  
What?

DAVE  
The tunnel. Let's go get a closer look.

Dave steps closer. Carla leans herself against Dave's back and steps onto the train tracks. A scared look on her face. Dave gets closer and the face of the Boy jumps out of the shadows --

BOY  
-- What are you doing here!!

CARLA  
(scream)

DAVE  
(gasp)

CARLA  
Oh, thank God you're alright!

The Boy steps out of the tunnel with KID #1 and KID #2. Both 6 and 7. Carla looks at The Boy.

CARLA (CONT'D)  
Do you boys live here alone?

BOY  
Of course not. My mama and me live  
in the train station.

DAVE  
It looks abandoned to me.

BOY  
That's because it is.

CARLA  
Can we talk to your mom?

BOY  
Sure.

**INT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-MORNING**

The Boy steps into the Train Station and walks towards a woman in a **dirty white robe**. PEG, 25. Red hair and blue eyes. She stands in the middle of the room, a cigarette in between her fingers. The Boy steps towards Peg and wraps his arms around her --

BOY  
-- Mama!

Peg raises her arms up --

PEG  
-- Hey!

The Boy points his finger at the doorway --

BOY  
Mama, we have company!

Carla steps towards the door. Peg steps towards the doorway -  
-

PEG  
Can I help you?

Carla looks at Peg and then at the Boy --

CARLA  
-- May I come in?

PEG  
Depends. Are you with the police?

CARLA  
No.

PEG  
Are you alone?

CARLA  
No.

PEG  
Then come in. Just you.

Carla steps in, and walks into the room. The room is full of jars. The Boy turns around and walks out.

**EXT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-CONTINUOUS**

Dave sits in a chair, and leans his head towards the wall. The Boy walks past and steps towards the tunnel.

PEG (O.S.)  
I wouldn't sit close to that wall  
unless you want tarantula's  
crawling on --

-- Dave jumps up from the chair --

DAVE  
-- Oh man!

**INT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-MORNING**

Peg walks towards a table of jars and lifts one up. She carries it towards Carla --

PEG  
-- See, tarantula's are a delicacy  
in Cambodia.

CARLA  
Good to know.

PEG  
This is the blue tarantula. He's  
got strong venom. What's good about  
having these things around here is  
that we can eat them --

-- Peg sets the jar down on the counter and grabs a plate of  
**fried tarantula** --

PEG (CONT'D)  
-- Want some --



-- Carla backs away from Peg. She looks at the fried tarantula --

CARLA

-- No thanks. We just came through here and saw your son walking past --

-- Carla steps towards the doorway --

PEG

-- You know why they shut this place down?

CARLA

Why?

PEG

During the great depression, there use to be a homeless camp close to the tracks. The homeless children would fall asleep on the tracks. One of the kids fell asleep when he was supposed to stand guard. Just like that. Splat!!

Carla jumps. She gets a scared look on her face --

CARLA

-- We better get going --

-- Carla rushes out of the train station --

#### **EXT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-CONTINUOUS**

-- Dave brushes his pants off -- Carla walks down the steps --

CARLA

-- Come on! Let's go --

-- Dave walks towards the driver door -- Carla pulls on the door handle and tries to pry it open --

CARLA (CONT'D)

-- Why won't this thing open --

-- Dave lifts up the **car key** and hits the **unlock button**. Carla looks at the key and snatches it from the tips of Dave's fingers --

DAVE

-- What are you doing!

CARLA  
I'm driving!

DAVE  
What happened in there!

Carla pulls the door open --

CARLA  
-- Does it make a difference?

Dave rushes it to the passenger door and pulls it open --

**INT. CAR-MORNING**

DAVE  
-- It does to me --

-- Dave shuts the passenger door --

CARLA  
-- Let's just get out of here!

Carla shuts the door, starts the car and puts the AUTOMATIC in REVERSE. She looks out the window and sees Peg standing in front of her -- Carla jumps out of her own skin -- and rolls down the window --

PEG  
-- You left without trying these --

-- Carla reaches down into the center and lifts a twenty dollar bill to Peg --

CARLA  
-- Thanks for the offer but I think I'll pass. Here, why don't you get yourselves some supplies --

-- Peg takes the twenty dollar bill --

PEG  
-- Thanks.

**EXT. ABANDONED TRAIN STATION-CONTINUOUS**

The car reverses and drives away. Peg walks towards the train station.

**INT. CAR-CONTINUOUS**

Carla looks towards the road. Dave looks at Carla. Carla looks at Dave --

CARLA  
-- What?

DAVE  
Nothing.

CARLA  
Why are you looking at me like that?

DAVE  
What was that food she had?

CARLA  
Fried tarantula.

DAVE  
Are you serious! Gross! Who eats spiders?

CARLA  
Apparently, she does. They all do.

A noise comes from the front tire --

CARLA (CONT'D)  
-- What the --

DAVE  
-- Did we hit something?

CARLA  
Why don't you tell me? You're the passenger!

**EXT. HIGHWAY-AFTERNOON**

Carla leans down and looks at the front right tire --

DAVE  
Ain't that a kick in the pants --

CARLA  
-- That's not a word.

DAVE  
Ain't?

CARLA  
It's not in our vocabulary.

DAVE  
Who says?

CARLA  
Says our professor.

A *red Pickup Truck* drives past.

**INT. TRUCK-AFTERNOON**

JOE, early 40s. Blonde hair, blue eyes. Plaid shirt, dirty jeans and worn down boots.

Joe looks at Carla's bottom. He turns the steering wheel and parks the truck on the side of the road.

**EXT. HIGHWAY-CONTINUOUS**

The driver door opens to the truck. Joe gets out of the truck and shuts the door. Dave looks around. Carla grabs ahold of the hood and stands up. Joe walks towards Carla. She looks at Joe --

JOE  
-- What seems to be the problem?

DAVE  
We have a flat tire.

Joe looks at the tire and then looks Carla --

JOE  
-- That's a bummer.

DAVE  
Are there any towing places around here?

JOE  
One going back that way for at least a mile.

DAVE  
We just came from that way.

JOE  
I can give you a ride back to the motel, and maybe you can ride back with the tow truck?

DAVE  
Yeah, that sounds awesome. Thanks.

**INT. TRUCK-CONTINUOUS**

Carla sits between Joe and Dave. She leans herself close towards Dave. Joe looks at Carla, and smiles. His attention returns to the road --

JOE  
What brings you out here in the middle of nowhere?

DAVE  
Vacation.

JOE  
In Santa Cruz?

DAVE  
Something like that.

JOE  
Are you two newlyweds?

DAVE  
Yes.

JOE  
Oh.

DAVE  
We met some spider lady back there.

JOE  
Peg?

DAVE  
Yeah.

JOE  
Don't mind her. She's doing what she can to survive.

DAVE  
By eating tarantula?

JOE  
Yeah! I eat them. Taste like chicken!

DAVE  
I don't know how you people can eat  
stuff like that?

Joe's facial expression changes --

JOE  
-- What do you mean by you people?!

DAVE  
Hey, I didn't mean it in a bad way.  
I was just saying how you like to  
eat spiders. Like her, you know?

JOE  
No, I don't know --

DAVE  
-- You can drop us off right here -  
-

-- The truck turns to the right, and pulls off the road. Dave  
pushes the door open --

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Thanks for the ride --

JOE  
-- Sure.

Carla gets onto Dave's lap and gets out of the truck -- Joe  
looks at Carla and then at Dave --

DAVE  
-- I apologize if I offended you --

JOE  
-- Offending people might be the  
last thing you want to do in this  
life. You never know how you're  
gonna get yourself out of a jam  
like you were back there!

**INT/EXT. TRUCK-AFTERNOON**

Carla steps down from the truck. Dave looks back at Joe and  
steps down to the ground --

DAVE  
Pleasure meeting you. What's your  
name?

JOE  
Joe. And your name?

DAVE  
Dave.

JOE  
Good meeting you.

Dave shuts the passenger door. The truck drives away.

**EXT. MOTEL-AFTERNOON**

Carla looks at the motel -- Dave reaches into his pants pocket and pulls out three twenty dollar bills --

DAVE  
-- Here. Take this and go get a room. I'll be back with the car.

Carla takes the money and walks towards the motel. Dave walks towards the tow truck lot.

**EXT. TOW TRUCK LOT-AFTERNOON**

Dave walks towards the tow truck lot.

The Mechanic stands in the middle of the lot. Dave looks at the Mechanic --

DAVE  
-- Hey!!

The Mechanic looks at Dave --

MECHANIC  
Yes --

DAVE  
-- You gave me a bad tire!

MECHANIC  
No. That tire was brand new.

DAVE  
Then why did it pop?

MECHANIC  
There are people that slash tires around in this area. Where is your car now?

DAVE  
A couple of miles down the road you  
told me to take.

MECHANIC  
Come on. Let's go!

**INT. BATHROOM-MOTEL ROOM #2-AFTERNOON**

Carla stands in front of the bathroom mirror. She dries her hair with a towel. A knock at the door --

CARLA  
-- Just a second!

**INT/EXT. MOTEL ROOM #2-MOTEL-AFTERNOON**

Carla steps towards the front door of the motel room, and opens it. She leans against the door --

DAVE  
-- Hey!

CARLA  
Hi.

DAVE  
Are you gonna be alright here?

CARLA  
I'm a big girl.

DAVE  
I know you are --

-- Dave leans towards Carla -- He kisses her and backs away --

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Be back in a bit --

-- Dave backs away from the door --

**EXT/INT. TOW TRUCK-AFTERNOON**

Dave steps towards the passenger door of the tow truck. The Mechanic sits in the driver seat. Dave looks at the Mechanic --

MECHANIC  
Climb on in --



-- Dave opens the door, sits in the seat, and buckles up --

DAVE

-- Are we going or not!

The Mechanic looks in the back -- Dave looks in the back --  
Joe smacks Dave across the face with the handle of a **Shotgun**.

**INT. MOTEL ROOM #2-MOTEL-AFTERNOON**

A knock on the door. Carla gets up from the bed and steps  
towards the door --

CARLA

-- Back so quick --

She opens the door -- and Joe pushes himself in -- He punches  
her across the face -- Carla falls to the floor, unconscious  
--

JOE

-- Hello, dolly!

**INT. BATHROOM-MOTEL ROOM #2-EVENING**

Carla sits on the toilet seat. Her eyes closed. Joe rubs his  
hands on Carla's cheek -- Carla opens her eyes -- She jumps  
at the sight of Joe --

CARLA

-- What's going on here! Why are  
you here?!

JOE

Don't worry. We're gonna get to the  
bottom of it soon enough!

CARLA

What'd you do with Dave!

JOE

Relax. He's just in the other room  
with my sister!

CARLA

Your sister!

**INT. MOTEL ROOM #2-MOTEL-EVENING**

Peg stands in front of Dave. She holds the jar of the blue tarantula. Dave sits in a rocking chair. His mouth taped shut --

PEG

-- Do you care to meet my friend!  
He wants to meet you --

-- Dave nods his head "No."

Peg reaches into the jar and pulls the tarantula out. She drops the jar -- and steps towards Dave --

PEG (CONT'D)

The Blue tarantula is the most vicious and the most deadliest. It's venom is the strongest. My great great grand daddy brought these home and harvested them. Of course we eat them but they understand they're sacrifice to us. We all got to eat. So do they --

-- Peg forces the tarantula towards Dave --

**INT. BATHROOM-MOTEL ROOM #2-CONTINUOUS**

DAVE (O.S.)

(muffled)

CARLA

Dave!!

Joe reaches down to cover Carla's mouth -- Carla drives her head into Joe's groin -- Carla reaches for the lid to the toilet -- and hits Joe over the head with it -- and Joe hits the floor --

**INT. MOTEL ROOM #2-MOTEL-CONTINUOUS**

Peg looks towards the bathroom --

PEG

-- Joe --

-- Dave looks down at Peg's knee -- and kicks it --

PEG (CONT'D)

(scream)

Carla steps into the room. She looks down at Peg and then at Dave. Carla steps towards Dave and yanks the tarantula off Dave's face -- She leans down and shoves the tarantula into Peg's mouth --

CARLA  
-- You eat it!!

Carla kills the tarantula by punching it into Peg's mouth --

PEG  
(choke)

Carla cuts the tape from Dave's wrist and feet. She yanks the tape from his mouth --

CARLA  
-- You're okay now!

Carla lifts Dave up from the chair and walks him towards the door -- She opens the door --

#### **EXT. MOTEL-EVENING**

The Mechanic stands ten feet from the door. Carla let's go of Dave -- and let's him lean against the doorway -- Carla steps towards the Mechanic -- The Mechanic looks back --

MECHANIC  
Did you guys do what you needed to do --

-- Carla drives her foot between his legs -- The Mechanic drops to the ground --

CARLA  
-- That needed to be done --

-- Carla grabs the keys from his pants -- and grabs Dave by the arm and walks him towards the tow truck --

CARLA (CONT'D)  
Let's go!

#### **INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-MORNING**

Dave lies in bed. A piece of gauze over his left cheek. Carla reaches down and touches him on the hand. Dave opens his eyes. He looks at Carla --

DAVE  
-- Hey.

CARLA

Hey.

DAVE

How'd we get here?

CARLA

I drove the tow truck.

DAVE

What happened to the spider?

CARLA

I took care of it.

DAVE

And my face?

CARLA

It'll heal.

DAVE

I'm not gonna need plastic surgery,  
am I?

CARLA

Looks don't matter to me.

DAVE

I'm always gonna remember that ugly  
spider regardless, I guess. I'm  
sorry we didn't get to enjoy our  
vacation.

CARLA

I did. Next time, let's just fly.

DAVE

Deal. Any word from our parents?

CARLA

They're not too thrilled about us  
getting married and not including  
them.

Carla leans down and kisses Dave -- He brushes his hands  
through her hair --

SHERIFF, early 50s. The sheriff for ten years.

The Sheriff walks into the room.

SHERIFF  
(clears throat)  
Excuse me?

Dave looks at the Sheriff --

DAVE  
-- Sorry.

Carla sits up and looks at the Sheriff --

CARLA  
-- Sheriff.

DAVE  
What can we help you with?

SHERIFF  
I just dropped in to see how you  
were. Your wife told me you had an  
encounter with a big spider.

DAVE  
Ugh! Don't remind me.

CARLA  
What about the spider and the  
woman?

SHERIFF  
The lady, Peg. Well, she has her  
issues. She owns that abandoned  
train station. Her great great  
grandfather owned it back in the  
1930s.

CARLA  
What about the kids?

SHERIFF  
What kids?

CARLA  
The boys. I saw them in the tunnel?

SHERIFF  
I'm sorry but there are no boys.

Carla looks at Dave --

CARLA  
-- I'm not crazy. I saw boys. You  
almost hit one with the car.

Dave looks at the Sheriff --

DAVE  
-- I did.

CARLA  
What about Peg?

SHERIFF  
Peg is in mental health. She'll be getting the best care that she needs.

CARLA  
And what about us? Does this mean we're done here?

SHERIFF  
You did what I would've done. I like to personally escort you to the airport.

DAVE  
When?

SHERIFF  
Today. You have an hour to get ready.

DAVE  
Thank you.

SHERIFF  
I'll leave you to it then.

The Sheriff turns around and walks out of the room.

**INT. SHERIFF'S CAR-AFTERNOON**

Carla and Dave sit in the back. Carla looks at Dave. Dave grabs ahold of Carla's hand and holds it on his lap -- Carla leans her head on his shoulder -- The car drives past the road. Carla raises her head and looks out the window --

**EXT. ROAD-AFTERNOON**

The Boy walks past. He looks at the car.

**INT. SHERIFF'S CAR-CONTINUOUS**

Carla looks at the Boy run across the road --

**EXT. ROAD-CONTINUOUS**

The Boy turns and smiles -- He runs away from the road.

**INT. SHERIFF'S CAR-CONTINUOUS**

Carla leans her head on his shoulder -- and closes her eyes.

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY-AFTERNOON**

Peg sits on a bed. Her back leaned against the wall. The light from the window glaring in on top of her head. The Boy walks into the room. She looks at him --

PEG  
-- Hello, honey.

**INT. LIVING ROOM-APARTMENT-NIGHT**

SUPER: SIX MONTHS LATER

Carla sits on the living room floor. Dave sits across from her. He looks at her. Her hands on her stomach, rubbing for good luck.

DAVE  
Is he giving you a good kick?

CARLA  
She is. She could be a soccer player.

DAVE  
Well he could be a football player.

CARLA  
Are we really gonna have this argument all over again.

Dave crawls towards Carla and sits beside her. He wraps his arms around her. Dave closes his eyes. Carla closes her eyes.

**FADE OUT:**

**THE END**