

THE CREEPY HOUSE

by

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FADE IN

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP on the face of CASEY (11) -- terrified. Eyes squeezed shut, her breath comes in short spurts.

From O.S. the faraway sounds of KIDS LAUGHING and SHOUTING.

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
Ten! Nine! Eight!

Casey manages to squeeze open one of her eyes, then the other. She looks around. She's alone in the foyer of a dilapidated old house. Light comes in from the cracks in the boarded-up windows. Distorted tree shadows loom on the walls.

Casey's wearing an ill-fitting, homemade clown costume.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The suburban street teems with kids in costume, trick-or-treating.

Keeping watch outside the Creepy House are DOMINIQUE (11) - standing tough in her Katniss Everdeen costume -- and LILAH (11) - goth in her vampire get-up.

Twins HAILEY and BAILEY (6) - dressed impeccably as Thing 1 and Thing 2 -- skip over.

BAILEY
Is somebody in there?

HAILEY
Nobody's supposed to go in there.

Dominique leans in to scare the little kids.

DOMINIQUE
Of course no one should go in there. It's haunted.

LILAH
The ghost is a girl who got her head chopped off.

Hailey and Bailey SHRIEK and run away.

LILAH
I mean, I didn't see her. It was pretty disappointing actually.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Casey looks around the deteriorating foyer: graffiti on the walls; an overturned, splintered chair. She hugs herself and stares at her shoes.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

More KIDS gather around the girls outside.

LILAH

Aren't you supposed to be counting?

DOMINIQUE

Oh, right. Seven! Six! Five!

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Something SCUTTLES towards Casey. She shrinks into a corner, clutching her camera and her bag of candy.

Casey's eyes widen in horror as the SCUTTling gets LOUDER.

Casey lets out a little SHRIEK --

A mouse runs right over her foot and disappears into a hole in the floor.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

A crowd of kids -- including WYATT (8), dressed as Indiana Jones and JAKE (8), dressed as a ninja -- now surrounds Dominique and Lilah.

JAKE

Who's up?

Wyatt looks at Dominique and Lilah, doing the math.

WYATT

Oh no. You really got my sister to go in there?

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

A gust of wind moves through the foyer, fluttering the peeling wallpaper. Faded, long-forgotten pictures RATTLE on the walls.

DOMINIQUE (O.S.)
Four! Three! Two!

LILAH (O.S.)
Almost done!

Casey reaches for the brass doorknob and freezes. Reflected in the doorknob's surface is a dark, distorted shape moving in behind her.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

The throng of kids waits outside.

DOMINIQUE
One!

LILAH
Woo-hoo!

WYATT
She's going to have nightmares
forever.

The kids look at the door expectantly. It doesn't open.

LILAH
Where is she?

DOMINIQUE
You're done, Casey! Come out
already.

WYATT
Do you think she passed out in
there?

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Reflected in the doorknob, Casey sees a GHOST GIRL (11) -- in an old-fashioned pinafore, hair tied back with an oversized bow. The ghost girl's hollow eyes bore into Casey.

Casey's camera clatters to the floor. She finds her voice and SCREAMS.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

The kids outside jump at Casey's SCREAM. Most scatter, but Dominique, Lilah, Wyatt and Jake surge forward towards the house.

MRS. DUFFY (40s) - an icy soccer mom in yoga pants - marches up with Hailey and Bailey in tow.

MRS. DUFFY
Get away from that house!

Casey sprints out the door, SCREAMING. Her plastic bag bangs the banister and splits open, scattering candy everywhere.

Everyone watches Casey disappear down the street. Dominique rolls her eyes. Lilah looks pained.

MRS. DUFFY
Haven't your parents told you to stay out of there?

Dominique turns to her, all innocence and charm.

DOMINIQUE
Of course, Mrs. --

MRS. DUFFY
Duffy.

DOMINIQUE
Mrs. Duffy. We tried to tell her --

MRS. DUFFY
It's bad enough that I have to look at this wreck every day! I don't need you kids in and out of it!

Hailey smiles at Jake.

HAILEY
I like your ninja costume.

Jake does some ninja moves, pretending to kick her. Hailey gracefully blocks him and lands a kick of her own.

JAKE
Nice!

HAILEY
My sister and I do ballet, but I like Tae Kwan Do better.

Wyatt motions to Jake. They sidle behind Mrs. Duffy's back and stuff their bags with Casey's fallen candy. Hailey watches them with interest.

Mrs. Duffy turns on the heel of her spotless athletic shoes and marches off. Bailey follows close behind, sticking out her tongue at the other kids.

Bailey notices Hailey still happily drawn towards the other kids and yanks her arm to pull her into line.

HAILEY

Hey!

A gust of wind SLAMS the creepy house's door shut. Wyatt and Jake, spooked, abandon the candy and run.

EXT. CASEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A section of Casey's front yard has been divided into a grid, with squares neatly marked off with string - an amateur archeological dig.

Casey - racing full speed towards her front door - trips and falls into a newly-excavated section.

CASEY

Mayonnaise, Wyatt!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

AMY (40s) and JASON (40s), keep their eyes on the TV despite the BANGING coming up their front steps.

JASON

Candy's in a bowl out front!

Casey stumbles through the door, smeared in dirt, her clown costume ripped.

AMY

Oh, honey.

Casey kicks off her shoes, close to tears, and stomps up to the stairs.

JASON

You're already done? How much candy did you get?

Amy hits him, giving him a "shut up!" look.

CASEY (O.S.)

I dropped all my candy.

JASON

Whaa-? You're going to let your little brother beat you this year?

Casey's door SLAMS shut.

AMY
Natalie wore that costume for years
and kept it in perfect condition.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Casey throws her bedroom door open again.

CASEY
And why did you let Wyatt dig all
those holes?! I almost sprained my
ankle!

JASON (O.S.)
The string pretty clearly marks off-
Casey GROWLS in frustration and SLAMS her bedroom door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amy and Jason go back to watching TV.

JASON
Rough night.

AMY
I was hoping Wyatt could wear it
next year.

EXT. CASEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dominique and Lilah ring the doorbell.

AMY (O.S.)
Candy's outside!

Dominique pushes the door slightly open.

DOMINIQUE
Mrs. Cavanaugh?

Amy comes to the door.

AMY
Oh, it's you girls! Come in!

Dominique's smile sparkles.

DOMINIQUE
Oh, no thank you, Mrs. Cavanaugh,
we just wanted to check on Casey.

AMY
What happened? Did you split up?

Jason pulls open the door farther.

JASON
How much? C'mon, show me!

Dominique and Lilah hold up their bulging bags of candy.

JASON
Nice! Keep up the good work!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Casey sits glumly, her back against her closed bedroom door.

JASON (O.S.)
Casey! Your friends are here!

INT. ENTRY HALL - NIGHT

Jason and the girls looks expectantly up the stairs. Casey does not emerge.

DOMINIQUE
Okay, well, tell Casey we'll see her tomorrow at school?

AMY
Sure. Have fun!

Amy shuts the door.

AMY
Such nice manners.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Casey rolls her eyes.

JASON (O.S.)
Do we have any more beer?

Casey's room is split in two, a twin bed on either side, a line taped down the center.

One side is neat and little-girlish, with a ruffled bedspread and stuffed animals.

The other side is the realm of a teenager: posters of indie rock bands, piles of novels and journals teetering on the night stand; clothes in piles.

AMY (O.S.)

What time did Natalie say she would be home?

JASON (O.S.)

I guess whenever Brandon drops her off.

Casey looks at the framed pictures on her night stand. One, of her with Dominique and Lilah, she knocks face down. Another, in a "Sisters" frame, shows a younger Casey and an older girl mugging happily for the camera. Casey stares at it glumly.

AMY (O.S.)

You let her drive with him?

JASON (O.S.)

It's Halloween!

Casey stares sadly across the room at the empty twin bed.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Casey lies in bed, asleep. Her eyes flutter open as ROCK MUSIC suddenly BLARES outside. There are INDISTINCT VOICES.

She sits up and looks out the window.

EXT. CASEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

NATALIE (15) exits the car. BRANDON (16) reaches for her.

NATALIE

Turn it down! You're going to wake up my parents!

BRANDON

Natalie! I need you!

NATALIE

Yeah, that's why I saw you all over Alexis in the backyard!

The porch light comes on.

NATALIE

Shit.

Amy opens the front door.

AMY
Get inside, young lady.

The car speeds off as Natalie stomps inside.

INT. ENTRY HALL - NIGHT

Natalie slouches past her mother, towards the stairs.

AMY
Are you in your right mind? It's
two in the morning!

NATALIE
Dad didn't give me a curfew.

AMY
If you think for one minute you are
going out with Brandon and his gang
anymore -

NATALIE
It's not a *gang*, Mom.

AMY
Get upstairs. And stay there until
further notice.

NATALIE
Whatevs.

AMY
And do not wake up your sister!

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Casey pretends to sleep.

Natalie takes off her many bracelets, scattering them angrily
over her night stand. Then she puts her face in her hands and
SNIFFLES.

Casey opens her eyes.

CASEY
Are you okay?

NATALIE
Jeez! I thought I finally had some
privacy.

Natalie kicks off her boots and collapses on the bed, rolling so that her back is to Casey.

Casey studies Natalie's back with concern.

CASEY

Why do you like Brandon?

NATALIE

What do you care?

CASEY

It just seems like, whenever you go out with him...

Natalie puts a pillow over her head.

CASEY

You cry when you get home.

NATALIE

I do not! Mind your own business! God.

CASEY

Sorry. Can I ask you one more question?

NATALIE

No.

CASEY

Is he your boyfriend?

NATALIE

Kind of. I don't know.

Casey considers this.

CASEY

Why don't you ever hang out with Taylor anymore?

NATALIE

I thought that was the last question.

CASEY

I liked Taylor.

NATALIE

Trust me. Everything's different in high school. You'll see.

Casey tentatively crosses the room and perches on the edge of Natalie's bed.

NATALIE
Can you get off my bed?

Casey retreats to her side of the room.

CASEY
They made me go in the Creepy House tonight.

NATALIE
Oh yeah? That I would've liked to see.

CASEY
Oh-CHEESE AND RICE!

NATALIE
Can you just say "crap" like a normal person?

CASEY
I am in so much trouble.

Natalie turns to look at Casey, interested.

CASEY
The camera I borrowed from Ms. Sanchez. I dropped it.

NATALIE
Dumbass. Why'd you take a school camera trick-or-treating?

Natalie chuckles and rolls back over.

CASEY
What am I going to do? I can't go back in there.

NATALIE
Yeah. Casey, for real? You should stay out of there.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Casey stumbles in, sleepy-eyed.

CASEY
Where's Mom?

JASON

She had an early meeting. Oatmeal?

Casey shakes her head. Wyatt is absorbed in a book.

WYATT

Hey, Dad, look at this mummy.

Jason glances at the book.

JASON

Awesome. I wouldn't want to run into him in a dark alley.

WYATT

It's a her. They used to suck the brains out the nose before they embalmed them!

JASON

Casey, you have to eat *something*.

CASEY

Now I really want to eat something.

JASON

I'll make you some toast.

Jason moves to the other side of the kitchen.

Wyatt leans in, speaking quietly.

WYATT

What was your deal last night?

Casey glares at him.

WYATT

Why'd you scream like that? Did something happen in there?

CASEY

Like I'm going to tell you. After I twisted my ankle in your stupid dinosaur hole.

Wyatt shrugs and goes back to his book.

WYATT

I'm not looking for dinosaurs.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Casey and other STUDENTS watch ARTHUR (11) make a presentation. His poster board is titled: "The Forgotten Apocalypse"

ARTHUR

The 1918 Flu actually killed more people than the World War I. Sometimes people caught the flu on the way to work and died when they got home the same night. That's why it was like...an apocalypse.

Arthur looks up expectantly. The other STUDENTS look back blankly.

ARTHUR

Um, that's it.

The kind-looking but harried MS. SANCHEZ (30s) applauds.

MS. SANCHEZ

Okay, Arthur, thanks. Come on, everyone!

The students give Arthur lackluster applause.

MS. SANCHEZ

Now, who has questions? For extra credit?

An ENTHUSIASTIC GIRL (11) in the front row shoots her hand into the air.

The wind springs up outside, drawing Casey's gaze to the window. The trees sway; leaves go swirling through the air.

ENTHUSIASTIC GIRL

Why did soldiers die of the flu?

MS. SANCHEZ

Good question...Arthur?

Their VOICES FADE in the background.

Casey doodles in her notebook. A sketch of a girl emerges, with a pinafore dress and an oversized bow.

MS. SANCHEZ

Who hasn't gone yet...Casey?

Casey studies her drawing, oblivious to the spotlight that's been turned on her. Students GIGGLE.

MS. SANCHEZ
Casey! Earth to Casey?

Casey suddenly realizes everyone's looking at her.

CASEY
Oh! Sorry, what was the question?

MS. SANCHEZ
It's your turn. Are you ready?

Casey turns green.

CASEY
Um....no.

The class LAUGHS. The bell rings. As students file out, Ms. Sanchez approaches Casey's desk.

MS. SANCHEZ
Why do you keep avoiding this?

Casey looks down.

MS. SANCHEZ
I told you, you can pick anything
about the World War I era.

Casey doesn't say anything.

MS. SANCHEZ
You have to learn to do this. Did
you get any ideas from taking
pictures? There are lots of things
from that era around town.

CASEY
Um, about the camera...

MS. SANCHEZ
I don't like the sound of that.

CASEY
I know where it is! I can get it
back.

MS. SANCHEZ
By tomorrow morning?

Casey nods. Ms. Sanchez examines Casey's drawing.

MS. SANCHEZ
I'd scold you for doodling if it
didn't look like you've been doing
research.

CASEY
What?

MS. SANCHEZ
That girl's straight out of 1918.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Casey enviously compares her apple and a peanut butter sandwich to the fries and chicken tenders on Dominique's tray. Lilah eats sushi from a varnished Bento box.

Dominique indicates the photograph sticking out of Casey's art portfolio.

DOMINIQUE
What's that?

CASEY
For the art show.

Dominique peers at it.

DOMINIQUE
You took a picture of shadows?

CASEY
It's abstract.

Dominique gives her a funny look.

LILAH
Hey, is Sanchez giving a pop quiz?

Casey slides the photograph back into her portfolio.

CASEY
No. But she called on me when I
wasn't paying attention and
everyone laughed.

LILAH
You're such a spacer.

CASEY
I was drawing.

Casey holds up her notebook to show them.

DOMINIQUE
Who's that? Some anime girl?

LILAH
That is so not anime.

DOMINIQUE
Whatever. Pokemon.

CASEY
Gimme a break, I'm not Wyatt. She's
from 1918.

Casey leans in and lowers her voice.

CASEY
Remember when I screamed last
night?

DOMINIQUE
You don't need to whisper. The
whole neighborhood heard.

CASEY
I saw *her*.

DOMINIQUE
Yeah, right.

LILAH
Wait, you saw a ghost?

DOMINIQUE
Did you take a picture?

CASEY
I freaked out and dropped the
camera.

LILAH
It's not fair! How come you saw
her?

DOMINIQUE
You left Ms. Sanchez's camera in
there?

Casey looks miserable.

CASEY
I have to get it back to her by
tomorrow.

LILAH

We'll go with you!

DOMINIQUE

The day after Halloween? There's no way my mom's letting me out again on a school night.

LILAH

We'll say we're doing a school project.

DOMINIQUE

That could work.

CASEY

Can you guys go in and get it for me?

DOMINIQUE

When are you going to stop being such a scaredy-cat? I thought last night would get you over this.

CASEY

Well, it didn't, okay? It made it worse.

DOMINIQUE

Okay, how about this? Suicide Slope. Once it snows.

CASEY

Like I'm ever doing that.

The bell rings.

Lilah snaps her Bento box shut.

LILAH

So, meet at Casey's house tonight?

DOMINIQUE

Sounds like a plan. Around seven?

CASEY

You guys, no!

DOMINIQUE

We're going to go inside with you.

CASEY

I'm not going back in there.

Dominique picks up her tray.

DOMINIQUE
I gotta run. Mr. Li is not playing
when it comes to tardies.

LILAH
See you tonight!

Casey tosses her uneaten lunch in the trash can in
frustration.

EXT. CASEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dominique, flanked by Lilah, reaches for the doorbell, but
Casey pulls the door open first.

CASEY
I told you we are not doing this!

DOMINIQUE
You need to get the camera back to
Ms. Sanchez, don't you?

CASEY
Where would I even say I was going?

NATALIE (O.S.)
Casey! Who's at the door?

Natalie yanks the door wide. Her face falls in
disappointment.

NATALIE
Oh.

Natalie slouches off.

CASEY
Can't we do this when it's light
out?

Jason comes to door.

JASON
Hi, girls!

DOMINIQUE
Hi, Mr. Cavanaugh. Did Casey tell
you about our science project? It's
about the night sky.

LILAH

We just need Casey for a few minutes so we can take the measurements...

DOMINIQUE

...with her protractor.

LILAH

Right.

JASON

(to Casey)

Do you have a protractor?

CASEY

No, I don't even know why -

JASON

I think Wyatt has a protractor around here somewhere. Hey, Wyatt? Grab your protractor!

(to Casey)

Are you all done with your other homework?

CASEY

Yes, but -

Wyatt comes to the door with the protractor. Jason hands Wyatt and Casey their coats.

JASON

All right then, you guys, but be back soon, okay?

He ambles back inside. Casey glares at Wyatt.

CASEY

You're not coming. We're just borrowing your protractor.

WYATT

You want my protractor, you get me, too.

Lilah and Dominique head down the sidewalk.

DOMINIQUE

Just let him come, Casey. We're wasting time.

Casey and Wyatt hustle to catch up.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The kids walk towards the Creepy House.

LILAH

I'm going to need your help
contacting the spirit.

WYATT

What spirit?

CASEY

I'm not telling you anything.

LILAH

Casey saw a ghost last night. We're
going to have a seance.

Lilah opens her bag to let Wyatt peek at the Ouija board,
candles, and other paraphernalia.

WYATT

I should have brought my tools.
There are probably tons of
artifacts in there!

They round the corner and see Mrs. Duffy getting out of her
minivan. Dominique pushes everyone behind a bush.

DOMINIQUE

Wait until she goes inside.

Hailey and Bailey emerge from the back seat in ballet gear.
Bailey pirouettes along the sidewalk in her tutu. Hailey
skips past her.

MRS. DUFFY

Hurry, girls! Mommy has Pilates at
7:30!

With Mrs. Duffy's back turned, Bailey runs for the door. She
pushes Hailey out of the way, making her trip and fall.

HAILEY

Ow!

Mrs. Duffy turns to see Hailey sprawled on the ground.

MRS. DUFFY

Hailey, if you want to be a
ballerina you have to be graceful.

Hailey grumpily follows the others inside.

DOMINIQUE
Okay. Coast is clear.

WYATT
So, what's the plan?

DOMINIQUE
We should probably have a lookout.

CASEY
I'll be the lookout.

DOMINIQUE
No, you're coming in. Wyatt, hide
by the porch and yell if anyone
comes.

WYATT
But I want to see what's in there!

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

The door GROANS open as Dominique, Lilah and Casey tiptoe
inside. Lilah lights a candle.

LILAH
It's like I can feel the presence
of something.

DOMINIQUE
Probably of a whole lot of rats.
This place is a mess.

Lilah places the candle and her Ouija board in the center of
the floor. She sits in a meditation pose in front of the
board.

DOMINIQUE
Oh, please. That floor is
disgusting.

LILAH
Shhh. I'm trying to summon her.

Casey looks around.

CASEY
I thought I dropped it right here.

LILAH
Seance first! Sit down and give me
your hand.

Dominique and Casey join Lilah on the floor. Three hands press into the Ouija board planchette.

LILAH

Now just close your eyes. Clear your mind.

Dominique and Lilah close their eyes. Casey looks around anxiously. The planchette doesn't move.

DOMINIQUE

What are we doing?

LILAH

Oh, yeah. We have to ask the ghost a question.

DOMINIQUE

Okay. Who are you? What do you want?

LILAH

Now relax your hands. Keep your eyes closed until it starts to move.

There is a SCRATCHING sound from near the front door. The girls' eyes fly open.

CASEY

What was that?

The SCRATCHING gets louder and more insistent. The girls stumble to their feet.

DOMINIQUE

Something's by the front door.

LILAH

It's the spirit!

The sounds of CLAWING and SCRABBLING gets LOUDER. The girls back away. Lilah grabs the candle and the flame dies.

DOMINIQUE

Why'd you put it out?

LILAH

I didn't!

CASEY

We have to get out of here!

DOMINIQUE

There must be a back door.

The girls run towards the back of the house. Dominique trips over Lilah and CRASHES onto a rotting section of floorboards, which split open and splinter apart. Dominique YELLS as she falls towards the gaping hole.

Casey lunges forward and catches her at the last second. They peer into the hole.

DOMINIQUE

Holy crap! That goes clear down to the basement!

A FRANTIC GNAWING comes from wall near the front door.

Dominique pulls herself and Casey away from the hole, then lunges for a doorknob door behind them.

DOMINIQUE

It's stuck!

The girls push on the door together and it flies open, sending them tumbling into a windowless pantry. The door SLAMS shut behind them and they SCREAM as they are enveloped in blackness.

INT. PANTRY - NIGHT

Lilah strikes a match and lights her candle. The girls' faces emerge into the glow.

Above them, messy shelves hold rusty kitchen implements.

DOMINIQUE

This is where the murderer takes his victims.

CASEY

Shut UP!

DOMINIQUE

Why are we hiding in here, anyway?
It's probably nothing.

CASEY

You pulled us in here!

Lilah peers at a dilapidated old-fashioned doll, its porcelain eyes wide and vacant, its cloth limbs half-rotted away.

LILAH
What the heck?

DOMINIQUE
Just somebody's creepy old toy.
Come on, I don't hear anything.
Let's get out of here.

There is a SCRABBLING sound directly outside the door. The girls shrink back. The sound stops.

DOMINIQUE
It's just a rat.

CASEY
No way. I'm not going out there.

WYATT (O.S.)
ALLIE ALLIE IN FREE!

CASEY
That's Wyatt.

DOMINIQUE
He's trying to tell us something.

Dominique steels herself and flings the door open with a BANG.

An enormous raccoon darts away, directly across the Ouija board.

DOMINIQUE
See? That's all it was.

LILAH
It's actually kind of cute.

WYATT (O.S.)
HELP!

The girls look at each other.

DOMINIQUE
Uh-oh.

Dominique and Lilah run for the front door.

Casey gets there last -- and the Ghost Girl emerges from the gloom.

Casey skids to a stop, terrified. The Ghost Girl blocks her exit, the hem of her dress fluttering, her face blank.

Casey is frozen with fear.

But then she has an idea. She finds her voice.

CASEY

Are y- are you from 1918?

Deep in the ghost's empty eyes, a spark of recognition faintly glimmers.

CASEY

Did you die from the flu?

The spark in the Ghost Girl's eyes glows. A more human expression flickers across her face. Casey stares at her in wonder.

WYATT (O.S.)

CASEY!

CASEY

That's my little brother.

The Ghost Girl slides out of the way to let Casey pass.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Casey flies out the door, almost smack into Mrs. Duffy, who holds a very scared Wyatt by his hood.

MRS. DUFFY

Caught one!

CASEY

Let go of him.

MRS. DUFFY

This is all beginning to make sense. You're Jason Cavanaugh's kids, aren't you?

Casey reacts with shock.

MRS. DUFFY

I thought so. I remember how he'd send you to the playground *alone* when you were Hailey & Bailey's age. Outrageous.

CASEY

We were just --

MRS. DUFFY

Not surprising that this is what that kind of free-range parenting leads to. And let me guess -- your mother's still at work, right?

CASEY

We weren't doing anything!

MRS. DUFFY

What you're doing is trespassing, and it's a crime.

Mrs. Duffy grips Casey's shoulders with her free hand and turns her toward the house.

MRS. DUFFY

Since your parents have failed to, apparently I need to explain it. That house is falling apart. The very first time you step on a nail in there, you'll be foaming at the mouth. Because you probably didn't get vaccinated either, am I right?

Mrs. Duffy releases them both. Casey catches hold of Wyatt and puts him behind her, protectively.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

From the window, the Ghost Girl watches the scene outside.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Mrs. Duffy looms over Casey and Wyatt.

MRS. DUFFY

But maybe that's what it's going to take. Some child seriously injured before the town finally condemns it.

Hailey and Bailey emerge from their house in identical, bunny-eared pajamas.

HAILEY AND BAILEY

We're ready, Mama!

Mrs. Duffy narrows her eyes at Wyatt and Casey.

MRS. DUFFY

Go home. Your parents will hear
from me.

Mrs. Duffy marches back to her house, ushering Hailey and
Bailey inside.

CASEY

Jeez. She's almost as scary as the
ghost.

WYATT

You saw her again?

CASEY

Come on.

Casey walk down the block. Wyatt hustles to catch up.

WYATT

Hey, Casey?

CASEY

What.

WYATT

Just, you know. Thanks.

Casey half-suppresses a smile.

CASEY

Whatever. Don't get used to it or
anything.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is a cacophony of kids. Casey unloads her
backpack into her locker. Dominique and Lilah hurry over.

DOMINIQUE

Dude. What happened?

LILAH

Did she catch you?

Casey ignores them, carefully arranging her textbooks.

DOMINIQUE

Uh-oh. She's gone ice queen on us.

LILAH

We're sorry.

DOMINIQUE

We had to run.

CASEY

You just ditch my little brother
out there with Mrs. Duffy?

LILAH

We thought you were right behind
us.

CASEY

Well, Duffy called my house.

DOMINIQUE

Oh, no. Are you grounded?

Casey smiles.

CASEY

Natalie answered. She told Mrs.
Duffy I'd be grounded forever.

DOMINIQUE

Sweet!

CASEY

Yeah, she can still be all right
sometimes.

Ms. Sanchez, hurrying down the hallway, stops abruptly when
she sees Casey.

MS. SANCHEZ

There wasn't anything on my desk
this morning.

CASEY

It will be tomorrow. I promise.

Ms. Sanchez sighs and continues on her way. Casey turns to
her friends.

DOMINIQUE

I got cheerleading after school.

LILAH

Sorry. Hebrew school.

CASEY

I can't go back in there alone.

LILAH

It's so unfair. You don't even like ghosts!

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Casey paces in front of the house, doing Lamaze-like breathing.

CASEY

I can do this. I can do this.
Ghosts probably sleep during the day.

Hailey and Bailey, their jump-rope game paused, watch Casey curiously from the sidewalk across the street.

BAILEY

Who are you talking to?

CASEY

Myself. My imaginary friend.

BAILEY

You still have imaginary friends?

CASEY

Whatever, don't worry about it. Go back to your business.

Mrs. Duffy hustles out of the house, her car keys in hand.

MRS. DUFFY

Girls! Get in the car!

Mrs. Duffy stops short at the sight of Casey.

MRS. DUFFY

Now why would you be here? Again.

CASEY

I'm just...going for a walk.

MRS. DUFFY

This is what your parents call grounding?

Mrs. Duffy closes her eyes and takes a conscious yoga breath.

MRS. DUFFY

Come on, cupcakes. No Starbucks for little girls that make Mommy late!

BAILEY

My mom's going to call the police
if you go in there again.

MRS. DUFFY

Never mind, Bailey. That's the
scared one. She won't go in there
all by herself.

Mrs. Duffy speeds away. Casey steels herself and marches up
the steps of the Creepy House.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

The door creaks open. Casey peers in.

CASEY

Hello?

Casey steps over the threshold.

CASEY

I can do this.

The Ghost Girl peers around the corner, curiously. Casey
doesn't see her.

CASEY

I will find it.

Casey gingerly peels aside pieces of trash in the entry hall.

The Ghost Girl inches closer, soundlessly. Casey paws through
dusty junk.

CASEY

Where is it?!

The Ghost Girl points at the camera, discarded in a corner.

GHOST GIRL

This?

Casey whirls around and SHRIEKS. She sprints for the door,
but the Girl slides into her path again.

Casey tries to stop, but skids right into the Girl. Casey
SHRIEKS again, dancing in a circle to shake off ghost
cooties. She forces herself to meet the Ghost Girl's gaze.

CASEY

I just need the camera. Please?

The Ghost Girl sweeps back to where the camera lies on the floor and scrutinizes it.

GHOST GIRL

Camera?

Casey tentatively tiptoes forward. The Ghost Girl looks up at her.

Casey lunges for the camera. The Girl blocks her path.

Casey surges back with another SHRIEK.

CASEY

Come on!

The Girl struggles to find more of her voice.

GHOST GIRL

You're scared of me.

CASEY

I don't meet a lot of ghosts.

The Ghost Girl blinks at Casey, a smile flickering over her face. She concentrates, reaching for a distant memory.

The Ghost Girl curtsies.

GHOST GIRL

Edith...Warwick. So pleased to...
make your acquaintance.

The Ghost Girl -- EDIE -- looks proud of herself.

CASEY

Hi. Um, Edith.

Edie shakes her head.

EDIE

Edie.

CASEY

Okay. Edie.

Edie's face glows at the sound of her nickname.

EDIE

I'm Edie.

Edie stretches out her ghostly fingers, seeing them in a new light.

CASEY

Uh -- nice to meet you.

Eddie gestures at Casey.

CASEY

What? Oh, you want me to...

Casey mangles a curtsy. Eddie giggles.

CASEY

Well, people don't really do that anymore.

EDIE

And your name?

CASEY

Casey. Cavanaugh.

EDIE

Casey Cavanaugh.

Eddie peers down at the camera.

Casey gingerly scoots by Eddie and nabs the camera. Eddie peers at it with interest. Standing at arm's length, Casey shows Eddie how the camera turns on. Casey scrolls through some pictures. Eddie gapes at the screen.

Eddie points at a portrait of Natalie staring pensively into the distance.

CASEY

You like that one?

EDIE

It's like a painting. Lovely.

CASEY

I'll probably have to delete it. If she ever sees it she'll kill me.

A pebble STRIKES the window. Casey and Eddie peer outside.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY, CONTINUOUS

Wyatt is on the sidewalk. Casey opens the door.

WYATT

I knew it.

Wyatt leaps up the steps.

WYATT
 Mom wants to know why you didn't
 unload the dishwasher.

CASEY
 You unload the dishwasher.

WYATT
 I'm setting the table.

Wyatt tries to peer around Casey, but Casey steps to block his view.

WYATT
 What are you doing in there?

CASEY
 Just tell Mom I'll be home soon.

WYATT
 Maybe I'll tell Mom you're...what's
 it called? Trespassing.

Casey groans and shuts the door in Wyatt's face.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY, CONTINUOUS

Casey turns back to Edie.

CASEY
 I gotta go.

Edie peers at her mournfully from the shadows.

CASEY
 I'll come back. I promise.

Edie brightens and gives a little curtsy. Casey takes a picture. Edie jumps at the flash.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY, CONTINUOUS

Casey shuts the door behind her.

Wyatt reaches for the doorknob. Casey hip-checks him out of the way.

WYATT
 It's not yours, whatever's in
 there!

Wyatt tries to push past her, but Casey hustles him down the steps.

WYATT

Get off!

CASEY

Can you just stay out of my beeswax
for once? Please?

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Edie watches Wyatt and Casey get smaller as they walk away down the street.

EDIE

Casey Cavanaugh.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Casey does homework on her bed. Natalie's stretched out on her bed, eyes closed, earbuds in.

CASEY

Natalie.

Natalie doesn't respond. Casey comes over and taps Natalie's leg. Natalie removes an earbud.

NATALIE

Off. My. Bed.

Casey retreats to her side of the room.

CASEY

I just wanted to ask you something.

NATALIE

This better be good.

CASEY

Do you believe in ghosts?

NATALIE

No. Anything else?

CASEY

Natalie, there's a real ghost that
lives in the Creepy House.

NATALIE

Did you see it?

Casey pulls out her camera and turns it on.

CASEY

I took a picture of her! Look!

Casey finds the picture. Natalie peers over her shoulder.

Casey stares in dismay at

INSERT

A digital photo of the foyer of the Creepy House -- empty.

CASEY

But she was right there!

NATALIE

Ghosts don't show up in
photographs.

CASEY

Oh.

NATALIE

I'm just kidding. Ghosts aren't
real, loser!

Natalie replaces her earbud and closes her eyes again.

CASEY

I talked to her!

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Casey steps over the threshold and closes the door behind her.

CASEY

Hello? Edie?

Edie steps slowly down the stairs, fixated on Casey. As she moves, the peeling wallpaper flutters around her. Casey watches her descend, a little nervously.

Edie stops right in front of Casey. They stare at each other.

CASEY

Hi. I was just on my way home from
school and...

Edie circles Casey, stirring up a wind around her. The hair stands up on the back of Casey's neck.

CASEY
What are you doing?

Casey backs slowly towards the door and puts her hand on the doorknob.

EDIE
No! Please don't go!

CASEY
You're kind of freaking me out.

Eddie stops circling Casey and makes a visible effort to contain herself.

EDIE
Sorry. It's just...been a long time since anyone's come here. To see *me*.

Casey relaxes a little.

EDIE
Please, welcome. To my home.

Casey looks around, taking in traces of faded elegance beneath the years of grime and neglect.

CASEY
It must have been nice when you lived here.

EDIE
I still live here!

CASEY
I mean when you were...alive.

EDIE
Oh. Yes. It was. Mother kept everything so nicely. She was teaching me to make lace.

CASEY
Do you ever go outside?

Eddie shakes her head.

CASEY
Really? You haven't left this house since 1918?

Casey runs to the front door and throws it open to the sunshine. Eddie looks alarmed.

CASEY

This'll be great! Where should we go first?

EDIE

I can't.

Eddie recedes back into the gloom. Casey follows her.

CASEY

I get it. It's scary for you to go outside. Just like it was for me to come in.

EDIE

That's not it.

CASEY

There's so much I want to show you! We can get Happy Meals. Wait 'til you play Minecraft!

Eddie hovers in the shadows.

CASEY

Eddie, I know what it's like to be scared. But --

Eddie sweeps forward to the front door. She takes a deep breath and dips one toe over the threshold.

A gale force wind blows up around her foot, sucking it towards the outside.

Eddie fights against the wind, reaching with the rest of her body towards the gloom inside the house.

The wind tears at her, but Eddie grits her teeth and pulls against it. Her body goes sideways, perpendicular to the floor -- her hands clawing for the shadows inside her house as her foot threatens to be torn off by the wind.

Casey watches in horror as Eddie gives it everything she's got.

Eddie finally wrenches her foot out of the clutches of the outside wind. She's free, but the release sends her somersaulting back into her house.

Eddie collapses into a ball in a corner. Casey runs to her.

CASEY

Are you okay?

Eddie raises her head, weakly.

CASEY
Why did you do that?

EDIE
You were rather insistent.

Eddie pulls herself up with effort. Casey crouches beside her.

EDIE
It's always like that. It's easier
if I just stay in here.

Eddie shivers and puts her head in her hands. Casey watches her with concern.

CASEY
Jeez. I'm really sorry.

Eddie collects herself.

EDIE
You didn't know.

Eddie lifts her hand and creates a gust of wind that makes the door SLAM shut. The girls smile at each other.

CASEY
Cool. What else can you do?

Eddie shrugs.

EDIE
How did you know it was 1918?

CASEY
We studied it in school. The flu
and all that.

EDIE
How novel!

CASEY
What?

EDIE
My life. It's in schoolbooks now.

CASEY
Don't you get bored?

EDIE

I do miss my hill. Above the cemetery?

Casey shakes her head.

EDIE

You can see the whole town. I used to watch the sky. And when the leaves changed...divine.

CASEY

Is that what you did for fun?

EDIE

I also went to the pictures. Is the cinema still there, downtown?

Casey shakes her head.

CASEY

There's a multiplex at the mall.

EDIE

Mary Pickford.

Casey looks at her blankly.

EDIE

She was my favorite.

CASEY

It must be hard to be stuck in here.

EDIE

It's not so bad.

Eddie gestures toward the door.

EDIE

I can't go out there. I'm not like you.

CASEY

Like me?

EDIE

Brave and strong.

Casey laughs.

CASEY

That is not how my friends would describe me.

EDIE

A true friend can see who you really are.

EXT. CEMETERY HILL - DAY

Casey leans against her bike at the top of the hill. The old cemetery is below her, and beyond that, the steeples and rooftops of her town.

At first she sees the vista as it must have looked in Edie's day - the sleepy, compact town surrounded by forest and fields, with one road snaking out into the wider world.

The only sounds are the wind RUSTLING the trees and BIRDCALLS.

As she watches, the vision fades, and she sees the vista as it now exists. The farm fields become big box stores surrounded by parking lots. Multiple roads radiate from the town, towards a busy highway in the distance. An airplane flies overhead.

The sounds of TRAFFIC and AIRPLANES fade in with the modern scene.

Casey makes a careful stack of colorful leaves and puts them in her pocket.

EXT. CASEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Dominique and Lilah jump up from Casey's front steps as Casey coasts into the driveway on her bike.

LILAH

There you are!

Casey busies herself locking up her bike.

DOMINIQUE

What happened with the camera?

CASEY

I got it.

DOMINIQUE

You did not go back in there by yourself.

CASEY
What if I did?

DOMINIQUE
No way.

CASEY
I'm not as scared of everything as
you seem to think.

DOMINIQUE
Since when?

CASEY
A true friend sees you for what you
really are.

DOMINIQUE
Says who?

CASEY
Says Edie.

Lilah gasps.

LILAH
You met the ghost girl.

DOMINIQUE
Oh, come on.

CASEY
You don't believe me?

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Casey leads Dominique and Lilah over the threshold.

Edie slides out from the shadows, her eyes empty.

Lilah breaks into a SCREAM. Casey claps a hand over her
mouth. Dominique turns to run but Casey grabs her with her
and holds on.

CASEY
Edie, it's me.

Edie's eyes focus on Casey, and a more human expression
flickers over her features.

EDIE
Casey Cavanaugh.

Edie smiles and her eyes come alive again.

CASEY

Yeah. Hi.

Dominique shrinks behind Casey and stares, open-mouthed.

DOMINIQUE

Holy holy.

Casey removes her hand from Lilah's mouth. Lilah SCREAMS again, and Casey claps her hand back.

CASEY

Shhh! Do you want the evil twins to hear? I thought you were super into ghosts.

Lilah tries to talk, but the sound is muffled. Casey removes her hand.

LILAH

I never actually met one.

Casey gently releases her grip on Dominique, who shivers but stays put, her eyes locked on Edie.

Casey pulls colorful autumn leaves from her pocket and holds them out.

CASEY

I brought you these.

Edie gasps in delight and holds out her hands, but the leaves flutter past them and scatter on the floor.

CASEY

Oh, sorry --

EDIE

Don't worry. Ghost hands don't work so well. But I'll look at them lying there all day.

She beams at Casey.

EDIE

You have an artistic temperament.

CASEY

What's that?

Edie gestures at the colorful autumn leaves.

EDIE

Mother used to say it. I'd bring home robin's eggshells just because they were the bluest blue...Do you like poetry?

CASEY

We read some Shel Silverstein at school.

EDIE

"I would I were alive again/To kiss the fingers of the rain/To drink into my eyes the shine/Of every slanting silver line"

CASEY

Wow. Did you make that up?

EDIE

Edna St. Vincent Millay. She's one of my favorites.

CASEY

You sound different.

EDIE

Things are starting to come back to me. Ever since you came around.

They smile at each other. Dominique clears her throat.

Casey turns to her friends, remembering them again.

CASEY

Sorry. This is Dominique and Lilah.

Eddie curtsies.

EDIE

Shall we sit in the back parlor? That was my favorite room.

INT. BACK PARLOR - DAY

The girls follow Edie. Lilah stumbles in a hole in the floorboards and her friends steady her.

EDIE

Oh dear, my apologies. It is a little treacherous.

Edie turns slowly in a circle, examining the mildewed furnishings of the room.

EDIE
It's not quite how it was in my
day, of course.

She perches over a ruined antique chaise lounge.

EDIE
We used to take tea in here.

Edie sips from an imaginary teacup. The girls giggle nervously.

CASEY
Can I ask you a question? If you're
still here -- why aren't lots of
dead people around?

EDIE
Most of them go on, I suppose.

CASEY
Why did you stay?

EDIE
You have a brother.

Casey nods.

EDIE
When the flu came, Mother went
first. And then it was my turn. I
thought Willie would be next. But
he pulled through.

As Edie talks, the back parlor fades into what it looked like in 1918. The peeling wallpaper is intact again; the faded furnishings restored.

FLASHBACK

INT. EDIE'S HOUSE, BACK PARLOR, 1918 - DAY

Two coffins - one large and one smaller - dominate the center of the room.

MOURNERS talk quietly from chairs on the perimeter.

Edie's FATHER (30s) steadies himself against the larger coffin, his face a mask of grief.

WILLIE (8) dejectedly drags a wooden baseball bat behind him. The bat catches on a large vase of flowers, spilling its contents onto the carpet.

FATHER

William!

Father strides angrily to Willie and slaps him across the face. The mourners shrink back in shock. Willie runs from the room.

EDIE (V.O.)

Father was - I just couldn't leave Willie alone with him.

INT. ENTRY HALL/STAIRS, 1918 - DAY

Willie races up the stairs, clutching his baseball bat, his face smeared with tears.

Father chases after Willie. A TRANSPARENT EDIE intercepts Father, throwing up a wind that makes him stumble and cough.

Father looks around wildly - he can't see Edie - and then shivers. He pulls up his collar and takes a flask from his jacket pocket. He drinks from it, looking around uneasily.

EDIE (V.O.)

I couldn't protect Willie as much as I wanted. But I tried to keep Father at bay.

END FLASHBACK

INT. BACK PARLOR - DAY

The parlor fades back in to its present dilapidated state.

CASEY

Your father and Willie couldn't see you?

EDIE

It was all so new. I hardly knew what I had become myself.

Edie moves to the window.

EDIE

A lot of good my hanging around did, anyway.

(MORE)

EDIE (CONT'D)

Willie ran away as soon as he was
16 - just walked off down the road
as if he were 'The Tramp.'

CASEY

What tramp?

EDIE

Charlie Chaplin?

Casey gives her a blank look.

EDIE

Never mind. In any case, a few
years later, Father packed a bag,
walked out the door and never
returned.

LILAH

You've just been alone here ever
since?

Edie looks out at the road curving away from the house.

EDIE

The worst part is -- I don't know
what became of Willie.

The sound of HAMMERING comes from the front door. The girls
jump.

INT. FRONT HALLWAY - DAY

The girls peek out the window.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Mrs. Duffy stands by proudly while MS. JACKSON (50s), in
classy corporate attire, hammers a notice to the front door.

INT. FRONT HALLWAY - DAY

The girls duck down, out of view.

CASEY

Duffy.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

The women survey the notice with satisfaction.

MRS. DUFFY

We just have no room anymore. With Hailey and Bailey getting bigger --

MS. JACKSON

It makes perfect sense.

MRS. DUFFY

Wait 'til you see the designs for the pool. We're looking at this Mediterranean tile--

MS. JACKSON

Sounds gorgeous!

MRS. DUFFY

Suzanne, it kills me that you won't get the commission. After everything --

Ms. Jackson winks.

MS. JACKSON

Just consider this good constituent service from your favorite council member. I'll remind you at election time.

The women go smugly down the steps, away from the house.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Casey cracks the door open and checks to see if the coast is clear.

The notice nailed to the door reads: "ORDER TO RAZE."

CASEY

What does that mean?

Eddie's face falls.

Dominique reads out loud.

DOMINIQUE

"The town board has found that the following described building is old, dilapidated, or out of repair, and, consequently, dangerous or otherwise unfit for human habitation."

EDIE
But it's my house!

CASEY
What does "raze" mean?

LILAH
They're gonna tear it down.

Casey notices Edie drifting away from their circle.

CASEY
But Edie, if they tear the house
down...what will happen to you?

Edie recedes into herself, her eyes emptying out again. Casey turns back to Lilah and Dominique.

CASEY
You guys, we can't let them do
this.

DOMINIQUE
What are we supposed to do about
it?

CASEY
Well, we have to figure something
out!

Edie has disappeared into the house's gloom.

CASEY
Edie! Where are you?

The wallpaper flutters as a wind stirs up. The faded pictures on the hallway walls RATTLE.

Dominique and Lilah gravitate together, nervously, but Casey steps forward.

CASEY
Edie! Come back!

The wind and the RATTLING stops. Edie speaks from the shadows.

EDIE
It was better before you came. I
had stopped feeling things.

CASEY
No, Edie --

Edie comes halfway out.

EDIE

Don't you see? I missed my chance.
When they take my house I'll just
be -- nowhere.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Dominique and Casey huddle over a table among the stacks of books. Lilah is absorbed in an ancient-looking volume.

CASEY

Her dad left in 1920-something. Why
would the house be empty all these
years?

DOMINIQUE

Well, if her dad never sold it, but
kept paying the taxes...

Casey looks at her quizzically.

DOMINIQUE

My mom's a real estate lawyer.

CASEY

But how can they tear it down now?

DOMINIQUE

Maybe the taxes are in arrears.

CASEY

Now you're just showing off.

Casey notices Lilah, lost in reading the dusty tome.

CASEY

Lilah, do you have to read your
vampire books right now? We could
use your help.

Lilah looks up at them with wide eyes.

LILAH

She'll be doomed.

DOMINIQUE

What?

Lilah shoves the book towards them. Dominique and Casey lean in.

INSERT - BOOK ILLUSTRATION

Lilah's finger points to a Gothic black-and-white engraving of ghoulish ghosts attacking a terrified child.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Dominique pulls away from the gruesome image.

DOMINIQUE

Uhh. I do not need to see that.

LILAH

A ghost that loses connection to its life becomes a wraith.

DOMINIQUE

A who?

CASEY

Oh no. You're saying without her house --

LILAH

She'll wander the earth. Forever.

Lilah points to the engraving again.

LILAH

And she could turn evil.

The girls digest this information.

CASEY

No way. We are not letting Duffy turn Edie into a -- a --

LILAH

-- wraith --

CASEY

-- a wraith just so she can build a McMansion.

DOMINIQUE

Totally.

CASEY

Think, you guys.

DOMINIQUE

Well, we can at least find out who owns the house. It'll be online.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Casey, Lilah and Dominique peek their heads around the front door, which is ajar.

From a back room comes the sound of MUFFLED VOICES.

CASEY

Is someone else here?

Edie sweeps into view so quickly that Casey jumps and SHRIEKS until Lilah clamps her hand over Casey's mouth, stifling it.

DOMINIQUE

I thought you weren't afraid of ghosts anymore?

Casey pushes Lilah's hand away.

CASEY

She startled me! It's not because she's a ghost.

EDIE

Shhh! They'll hear you.

The girls share a look of concern.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Casey, Lilah, Dominique and Edie peer into the back parlor through a crack in the wall.

INT. BACK PARLOR - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

In a corner, Brandon and ALEXIS (16), pass a flask back and forth, talking in whispers.

TAYLOR (15), a bright-eyed girl but clearly not one of the cool kids, examines architectural details in a different corner. Next to her, Natalie fiddles uncomfortably with her many bracelets.

NATALIE

This place gives me the creeps.

TAYLOR

Yeah -- but the wainscoting is beautiful. And that wallpaper? Must be original to the house. Maybe 1890s?

NATALIE

I don't understand anything you just said.

Taylor giggles.

TAYLOR

Sorry. Historic preservation geek over here.

Natalie looks pained.

TAYLOR

I'm surprised this house hasn't been restored. It's a gold mine.

Natalie watches Brandon and Alexis whispering and flirting across the room.

TAYLOR

Hey, by the way -- thanks for inviting me. We haven't hung out in so long. Do you guys always hang out here?

Natalie shakes her head.

BRANDON

Yo, Nat. Come here.

NATALIE

Just a sec.

Natalie joins Brandon and Alexis.

NATALIE

You guys, I don't think --

ALEXIS

I told you she'd chicken out.

BRANDON

What do you care about her anyway?

Brandon swigs from the flask and then holds it out.

BRANDON

Hit this. And then go tell her you want to show her something interesting in that closet.

Alexis and Brandon crack up. Natalie sighs and drinks from the flask.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Edie, Casey, Lilah and Dominique watch through a crack in the wall.

DOMINIQUE
What's your sister up to?

CASEY
That's the dumb guy she likes.

INT. BACK PARLOR - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Taylor examines details in the faded wallpaper. Natalie opens the door to a closet with resignation.

NATALIE
Taylor? There's something in here I want to...

Natalie glances over at Brandon and Alexis, who smile, egging her on.

NATALIE
...show you.

Taylor skips over.

TAYLOR
In the closet?

NATALIE
Just go in. You'll see it.

Taylor tentatively steps into the closet.

TAYLOR
I don't see --

Brandon whips out his phone and starts filming. Alexis runs forward, pushes Taylor all the way in and slams the door shut.

TAYLOR (O.S.)
HEY!

Alexis finds the bolt and slides it shut.

ALEXIS
Brandon! Don't get me in the shot!

Taylor BANGS on the door.

TAYLOR (O.S.)
Open the door! Natalie?

Natalie watches, miserable.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Casey, Dominique and Lilah watch through the crack in the wall. The sound of Taylor BANGING on the door resonates, shaking the walls.

Casey notices Edie, her eyes grown cold. The wind whips up around her.

CASEY
Edie?

Edie, lost in a memory, peers into the back parlor.

FLASHBACK

INT. BACK PARLOR, 1918 - NIGHT

The back parlor is restored to its former grandeur.

Edie's father grips her arm as he drags her towards the closet.

EDIE
You're hurting me! Father, please --

Edie's father shoves her into the closet.

FATHER
I have had enough of this
insubordination!

He slams the door and bolts it.

INT. CLOSET, 1918 - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Edie rattles the door from the inside.

EDIE
Please, Father! Don't leave me in
here! Mother! Willie!

INT. BACK PARLOR, 1918 - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Eddie's father ignores her cries and marches out of the room.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Eddie rises into her full stature, her eyes coldly glowing, the wind WHIPPING around her. The windowpanes RATTLE.

Casey, Lilah and Dominique shrink back.

INT. BACK PARLOR - NIGHT

Brandon, Alexis and Natalie look up as the walls VIBRATE and plaster flakes from the ceiling.

The ancient chandelier SHAKES above them. Taylor stops banging.

TAYLOR (O.S.)
What's going on out there?

BRANDON
What the --

The teens look up in horror as the chandelier SHAKES LOOSE and hurtles towards them.

Brandon grabs Alexis and pulls her to him as the chandelier CRASHES to the floor. Natalie leaps back in the other direction.

Brandon and Alexis race out the door. Natalie unbolts the closet and pulls Taylor out.

NATALIE
Come on! We have to get out of here.

Taylor pulls her hand angrily from Natalie's.

TAYLOR
What the hell was that?

NATALIE
The door got stuck! I swear!

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Eddie lifts her hand and wind blasts through the crack in the wall.

INT. BACK PARLOR - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Plaster flakes fly off the floor and surge into a mini-tornado around Natalie and Taylor.

Natalie and Taylor huddle together, shielding themselves from debris.

INT. HALLWAY, NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Casey reacts with alarm.

CASEY
Eddie, stop!

Eddie continues, unmoved.

The wind rips the door off the closet and sends it BANGING across the room.

CASEY
That's my sister!

Eddie drops her hand.

INT. BACK PARLOR - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

The tornado disintegrates. Plaster rains to the floor.

NATALIE
Come on!

Natalie pulls Taylor from the room.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Casey watches Eddie, warily.

CASEY
Eddie?

Eddie turns her head towards Casey, but her eyes have gone dead. She floats away, into the gloom.

CASEY

Edie!

Dominique takes Casey's arm.

DOMINIQUE

I think we should get out of here.

Casey shakes free.

CASEY

No.

Casey chases after Edie, into the parlor.

INT. BACK PARLOR - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

Edie hovers in front of the closet, her face grim. Casey watches her from the doorway.

CASEY

Edie, please. Come back.

Edie slowly turns. Casey searches her empty eyes.

CASEY

It's me. Casey. Are you still in there?

Edie struggles to focus on Casey. Slowly, her eyes grow more human.

CASEY

You scared me.

Dominique and Lilah cautiously enter.

CASEY

Look, we found out what we could about the house. It's still in the name of William Warwick.

Edie looks back at the closet.

EDIE

My father.

DOMINIQUE

The taxes were paid until a few years ago.

CASEY

Although he couldn't have lived that long.

DOMINIQUE

Well, someone was paying them. But since they'd stopped, it made it easy for the town to condemn the property. Duffy saw her moment and stepped in.

Eddie looks out the window.

EDIE

So that's it then.

CASEY

No! We don't have to just give up.

DOMINIQUE

We can try to halt the raze order. If we could prove the house was passed down to someone -

EDIE

But it wasn't. No one's been here in years.

DOMINIQUE

Did your dad have a will?

Eddie gives a small gasp.

EDIE

Mother always said that there was a box.

INT. FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Eddie frantically circles the room, looking in all the corners. The other girls watch her.

EDIE

A metal box, in the event it had to withstand a fire.

Eddie touches the walls clumsily.

EDIE

Useless ghost fingers.

She motions to Casey.

EDIE
Here, knock right here.

CASEY
Why?

EDIE
Just do it.

Casey knocks on the wall.

EDIE
Hear that?

CASEY
Not really.

EDIE
The tone. I believe it'll be
slightly lower if there's something
inside the wall.

Casey looks at her blankly.

EDIE
Don't you read Sherlock Holmes?

CASEY
Who?

EDIE
Never mind. When Father had the
house built, he inserted a box with
copies of important papers, for
safekeeping. In a wall, I suppose.

CASEY
But which wall?

Eddie bites her lip.

EDIE
They never told me.

LILAH
So it could be anywhere? How could
we find it *without* tearing down the
house?

EXT. CASEY'S FRONT YARD - DAY

Wyatt and Jake are on their knees, hunched over the
archeological dig.

Casey, Lilah and Dominique approach.

DOMINIQUE
Hey! Indiana Jones.

Wyatt looks up.

CASEY
We need your help with something.

WYATT
Oh, really? Isn't that interesting.

Wyatt goes back to digging.

LILAH
It's about the ghost.

WYATT
Of course. Everything with my
sister is about the ghost these
days.

CASEY
Please, Wyatt. They're going to
knock down Edie's house.

DOMINIQUE
Because evil Duffy wants to build a
McMansion.

LILAH
And if that happens, Edie turns
into an evil wraith. Forever.

WYATT
What does this have to do with me?

Casey kneels down next to Wyatt.

CASEY
We need an archaeologist.

Wyatt sits back on his heels and breaks into a grin.

INT. WYATT'S ROOM - DAY

Wyatt carefully selects excavation tools from the drawers in
his room, piling them into the waiting arms of Lilah and
Jake.

EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

Casey and Dominique haul a wheelbarrow out of the shed.

INT. WYATT'S ROOM - DAY

Jake and Lilah stand at attention, their arms piled with tools.

Wyatt muses over his bookshelf, pulling out volumes and pondering their usefulness.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Casey pushes the wheelbarrow across the yard. Dominique leaps into it and relaxes luxuriantly like a queen being carted along by her servants.

Casey rolls her eyes and tilts the wheelbarrow, dumping Dominique on the ground.

INT. WYATT'S ROOM - DAY

Wyatt milks his newfound position of importance for all it's worth, adding books to the piles in Jake and Lilah's arms, then reconsidering and subtracting books, then adding them again.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Lilah and Jake emerge through the back door, teetering under their piles of books and tools.

Wyatt - now dressed in a khaki vest whose many pockets are filled with various archeological instruments - saunters out after them and surveys his team.

Lilah and Jake dump the books and instruments they're carrying into the wheelbarrow that Casey holds.

WYATT

Careful! Those are delicate instruments.

Lilah looks at Casey in exasperation.

CASEY

Please? We kinda need him.

A car pulls into the driveway, and Jason hops out.

JASON
Hey, kids! Ready to unload
groceries?

Casey surreptitiously pushes the wheelbarrow behind a bush.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Amy types on her phone as Jason dishes up casserole. Wyatt and Casey peer at it.

WYATT
What kind is it, Dad?

JASON
Lentil-bulgur. Should be delicious!

The kids shrink back in horror.

Natalie stares at her phone as she joins them at the table.

JASON
Well, this is an unexpected
pleasure.

He goes to serve her some casserole, but she waves it away.

NATALIE
Not hungry.

JASON
No phones at the table.

NATALIE
Tell Mom.

Amy quickly puts her phone away.

AMY
Sorry. Work. Natalie?

Natalie puts her phone down.

AMY
Maybe we can all play a board game
after dinner.

NATALIE
That sounds thrilling.

CASEY
Um, actually I have to finish that
astronomy project --

AMY
On Saturday?

WYATT
Remember when Casey had to borrow
my protractor?

CASEY
I need Wyatt's help again.

AMY
You're not going out by yourselves.
It's dark already.

CASEY
Dad lets us!

Amy gives Jason a look.

JASON
What? We've talked about this --

AMY
But not after dark --

Natalie finishes typing a text and pockets her phone.

NATALIE
I can watch them.

Everyone looks at her.

NATALIE
It's not like you're going to let
me go anywhere else. Anyway, I like
astronomy.

Amy and Jason look at her with suspicion.

NATALIE
What? I'm sick of you guys
stereotyping me!

EXT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amy watches from the window as Casey and Wyatt push the
wheelbarrow down the sidewalk. Natalie trails them, absorbed
in her phone.

AMY
And Natalie's just going to text
the whole time instead of keeping
an eye on them.

Jason clears plates from the table.

JASON
They'll be fine.

AMY
Why are they taking the
wheelbarrow?

Jason joins her at the window to see the kids disappear
around the corner.

JASON
Huh.

He shrugs.

AMY
Don't you think we should know
what's actually going on?

Jason smiles and embraces her.

JASON
They're off on some adventure.
Don't you remember what it was like
to be that age?

AMY
Not really.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Casey, Lilah, Dominique and Jake line up before Wyatt,
wearing head lamps and carrying tools.

Natalie stands off to the side, absorbed in her phone.

WYATT
Okay, team, once we get there,
we're going to divide the house
into a grid--

A car pulls up. The younger kids shrink back, but Natalie's
face lights up.

NATALIE
Later, suckers.

Natalie jumps in the car, which is filled with TEENAGERS and
driven by Brandon. Natalie slides in next to him.

BRANDON
How'd you get out?

NATALIE
I'm babysitting, can't you tell?

Casey steps up to the car window.

CASEY
You're not coming with us?

NATALIE
Why would I come with you?

CASEY
You're really going to hang out
with...them again?

NATALIE
Who are you -- Mom?

CASEY
What are we supposed to tell Mom
and Dad?

NATALIE
Who cares? I'm already grounded!

Casey watches the car speed away, MUSIC BLASTING and
TEENAGERS WHOOPING.

Wyatt turns his attention back to the project.

WYATT
So once we're inside --

DOMINIQUE
Hang on. There's Mrs. Duffy to deal
with first. Who's the lookout?

All the kids look at Jake.

JAKE
I don't get to do anything?

Wyatt puts his arm around Jake's shoulders as they continue
down the street.

WYATT
It's actually a really important
job. Be ready to hold her at bay.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jake crouches behind a bush on the side of the house as the other kids scoot past him.

He sinks back, despondent at being left out.

He notices a pebble under the bush, then another and another. He collects pebbles, making a pile.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Casey leads the other kids in through the back door.

CASEY

Eddie?

Eddie floats into the room. Her face lights up when she sees Wyatt.

EDIE

You've brought your brother! Wyatt,
is it?

Wyatt stumbles backwards.

CASEY

Don't be scared.

WYATT

I'm not!

EDIE

It's a pleasure to finally meet
you.

Eddie curtsies.

WYATT

Uh, you, too.

Eddie looks at Casey knowingly.

EDIE

He's just the age Willie was when I
died.

The kids look at Wyatt expectantly.

WYATT

Right. Head lamps and work gloves
on, team.

The kids all switch their head lamps on and point them towards the floor, where Wyatt is unrolling some drawings.

WYATT

First, we need to see what the walls are made of. Let's each take a room.

DOMINIQUE

And watch out for the giant holes in the floor.

The kids disperse.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Jake continues to amass a pile of pebbles behind his bush. He has quite a collection by now.

He darts furtively out from the bush's cover to gather more.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Lilah holds a ruler against the wall and draws a line with a pencil.

Wyatt nods in approval and takes the pencil, putting it behind his ear.

Lilah places a chisel against the line and hammers it.

Eddie hovers, watching anxiously.

INT. MRS. DUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bailey plays with the iPad by a living room window. Hailey watches over her shoulder.

HAILEY

It's my turn!

Bailey ignores her.

Through the window, Hailey notices the light from the kids' head lamps moving around inside the Creepy House.

Hailey moves to the window. She sees Jake dart across the yard.

Bailey follows Hailey's gaze.

BAILEY

Mama?

Hailey runs from the room.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE, PARLOR - NIGHT

Casey pries open a section of wall and is greeted with a cloud of plaster dust, which coats her face and sends her stumbling back, coughing.

INT. MRS. DUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mrs. Duffy peers out the window. Bailey points to moving lights.

MRS. DUFFY

Oh, for goodness sake -

EXT. MRS. DUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hailey makes a beeline to the bush where Jake is hiding.

HAILEY

Watch out. She's coming.

Hailey darts back to her house.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - STAIRWAY

The group is gathered in the front hall.

WYATT

We need to rethink this. You can't hide a box in a plaster wall.

CASEY

Maybe the walls are different upstairs?

WYATT

Unlikely.

CASEY

We might as well look.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Mrs. Duffy marches towards the Creepy House.

Jake gasps as he sees her approaching. He dives for his rock pile.

INT. STAIRWAY - NIGHT

The kids head upstairs. Edie hovers near the bottom, nervously.

EDIE

Oh, watch that stair, Casey!

Casey's foot goes through a rotting step and she stumbles. Lilah and Dominique catch her. Casey works to pull her foot from the hole.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Mrs. Duffy storms up the front walk.

Jake pelts her with pebbles.

Mrs. Duffy SCREAMS in outrage as she tries to dodge pebbles, many of which hit the mark.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE, STAIRWAY - NIGHT

The kids jump at Mrs. Duffy's SCREAM.

Lilah looks at Edie in horror and delight.

LILAH

I thought you were the only ghost here.

EDIE

If there were other ghosts, I would be the first to know.

Edie sweeps to the window.

EDIE

Oh dear. It's worse than a ghost.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

The stoning of Mrs. Duffy continues.

MRS. DUFFY

Are you kidding me? You cannot do this!

Jake continues to lob pebbles at her, like a machine. Mrs. Duffy gives another yell of frustration and runs back toward her house.

MRS. DUFFY

Don't think I won't find out who you are!

She runs into her house, slamming the door behind her. A pebble lands squarely against it.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

The kids gather around the window, looking out.

DOMINIQUE

We gotta get out of here. You know she's calling the cops right now.

Casey peers into the hole in the stair.

CASEY

You guys! Look at this!

Casey pulls a metal box from the hole.

EDIE

That's it!

Casey tries to open the box.

CASEY

It's locked.

Police sirens WAIL in the distance.

DOMINIQUE

We have to go NOW!

Dominique runs for the back door. Jake bursts in and collides with her.

JAKE

I think Mrs. Duffy called the cops!

DOMINIQUE

You think?

Dominique and Jake flee out the back door.

WYATT

Wait, take some tools!

Wyatt and Lilah scramble to collect tools. Edie looks crestfallen.

EDIE

I can't open the box without you.

CASEY

Wyatt and I will open it at home.
I'll be back first thing in the
morning, I promise.

Wyatt and Lilah run out the back door. Casey grabs the last of the tools and follows.

Edie stands alone in her dark foyer. Casey sticks her head back around the corner.

CASEY

Don't let the cops follow us, okay?

Edie smiles at her.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE, FRONT - NIGHT

A police squad car pulls up, lights flashing.

Mrs. Duffy, holding an ice pack to her head, marches out to meet them, steam practically coming out of her ears.

Two police officers, CHAVEZ, a burly guy, and CHEN, a petite woman, climb out of their car in an unhurried manner.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE, BACK YARD - NIGHT

Casey, Lilah and Wyatt hurriedly toss tools into the wheelbarrow.

CASEY

Turn off your headlamps!

Lilah and Wyatt comply, looking anxiously towards the flashing police lights.

LILAH

We can't go back on the street.

Casey pushes the wheelbarrow towards the next yard.

CASEY

We'll cut through. Come on!

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE, FRONT - NIGHT

MRS. DUFFY
...pelted with rocks!

Chen makes notes on her pad, nodding.

Chavez peers towards the house with his flashlight. He speaks into his radio.

CHAVEZ
Entering 60 Brewster Street to
survey the premises --

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lilah holds up a backyard laundry line as Casey and Wyatt quickly duck under it, pushing the wheelbarrow.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Chavez pushes the creaky door open, shining his flashlight at the dark interior.

CHAVEZ
Police! Anybody here?

He steps confidently inside, surveying the dusty interior.

He shines his flashlight up the stairs.

His radio crackles and he speaks into it.

CHAVEZ
Appears suspects have left the
premises. Place is a wreck. Bunch
of kids messing around if you ask --

A wind sweeps through the room, ruffling the wallpaper. Chavez shivers and peers toward the back of the house.

The walls VIBRATE slightly, RATTLING the picture frames, and then everything falls still.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Chavez? You there?

CHAVEZ
Hang on.

The door to the pantry CREAKS open.

Chavez takes a few cautious steps towards the pantry, one hand at the gun on his hip.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE, FRONT

MRS. DUFFY

It's condemned, so I would think
any act of trespassing -

CHAVEZ (O.S.)

Chen!

Chen pockets her pad and bounds up the steps. Mrs. Duffy follows.

CHEN

Wait on the sidewalk, ma'am,
please.

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

Chen joins Chavez a few feet from the open doorway of the pantry.

CHEN

What's up?

Chavez indicates the pantry, and they step forward together, shining their lights inside.

The pantry is empty.

CHAVEZ

Huh. I guess it was the wind --

Chen cracks a smile.

CHEN

You afraid of haunted houses?

Chavez rolls his eyes.

CHAVEZ

Yeah. Petrified.

CHEN

I'll keep you company while we look
around then.

The cops swagger away from the pantry.

Unseen by the cops, Edie floats on the pantry ceiling, watching.

EXT. SECOND NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The kids skid to a stop at a backyard fence.

WYATT

Now what?

Casey and Lilah struggle to lift the wheelbarrow over the fence, but it tilts precariously, spilling supplies over the side.

WYATT

My tools!

The wheelbarrow comes down with a THUD.

CASEY

Wyatt - shush!

Wyatt switches on his headlamp, searching the ground for tools.

Inside the neighbor's house, a dog BARKS.

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

What is it, girl?

A security light clicks on, flooding the back yard with light.

LILAH

Uh-oh.

CASEY

Head for the driveway!

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

The cops shine their flashlights into the hole in the floor.

CHEN

The sooner they tear this place
down the better.

In the pantry, Edie's eyes narrow.

EXT. SECOND NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Casey, Lilah and Wyatt run down the driveway towards the sidewalk.

The dog BARKS ferociously now. The back door BANGS open.

CASEY

RUN!

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - NIGHT

The cops find the back door wide open.

CHAVEZ

That's where they went out.

CHEN

Let's take a look out back.

Inside the dark interior of the pantry, something TUMBLES to the floor.

Chavez and Chen share a look.

The creepy doll comes sliding out of the pantry, its limbs askew, one eye missing. It comes to a stop at their feet.

Chen reaches down for the doll.

Wind BLASTS from the pantry's interior, sending the doll skidding out of reach. It's thrown violently against the wall, SMASHING its porcelain head and then dropping lifelessly to the floor.

Chen and Chavez scramble towards the back door, but a funnel of wind stirs up around it, sending it BANGING open and shut repeatedly.

The cops hightail it out the front door.

Eddie peeks out of the pantry and watches them go, giggling.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE, FRONT - NIGHT

Mrs. Duffy waits on the sidewalk. Chavez and Chen race past her.

CHAVEZ

All clear in there, ma'am!

MRS. DUFFY

That's it? Aren't you going to search the neighborhood?

The cops dive eagerly into their car.

CHEN

We'll file a standard report and keep you updated on the situation.

MRS. DUFFY

This is unacceptable! I want your badge numbers --

They speed off. Mrs. Duffy looks after them in exasperation.

EXT. SECOND NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE, FRONT - NIGHT

The kids emerge onto the sidewalk and tear around the corner.

The NEIGHBOR, his dog lunging at the leash, jogs down his driveway. He stops on the sidewalk, just missing seeing the kids disappear around the corner.

NEIGHBOR

Hey! Who was that?

INT. CASEY'S HOUSE, FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Casey, Wyatt and Lilah roll the wheelbarrow behind the bush. Dominique and Jake are waiting there.

DOMINIQUE

Boo!

Lilah jumps.

LILAH

Hey! You scared me.

DOMINIQUE

Really? Because Casey here didn't even flinch.

Casey and Dominique smile at each other.

JAKE

So what do we do now?

Everyone looks to Casey.

JASON (O.S.)
Natalie-Casey-Wyatt! You guys out there?

CASEY
Now we all better get home before we get caught.

JAKE
Hey, by the way, one of Duffy's twins is totally on our side now.

WYATT
Which one?

JAKE
Who knows? They look exactly the same.

INT. WYATT'S ROOM - NIGHT

Casey, clutching the box, shuts the door behind her and releases a deep exhale.

She sets the box down on the carpet where Wyatt sits, waiting.

CASEY
Okay, here goes.

Wyatt hands her a tool and Casey pries off an ancient, rusted lock. She opens the box.

Inside are a few dusty papers.

Casey takes the first one out and peers at the unfamiliar print.

CASEY
Birth certificate. Edith Florence Warwick, 1907. Wow - that's her!

Wyatt takes the next paper out.

WYATT
William Herbert Warwick, 1910.

CASEY
That's her little brother.

Casey smooths out the next paper.

CASEY
Marriage certificate. William
Warwick and Edna Hopkins. 1905.

Wyatt takes out the final piece of paper.

WYATT
A deed to the house.

Casey peers into the empty box.

CASEY
That's it? What about the will?

WYATT
Maybe her dad didn't write one.

CASEY
But there's nothing in here that
can stop the house from getting
torn down!

WYATT
Maybe we could find something out
about her brother --

CASEY
We already Googled him. Nothing.

Casey puts her head in her hands.

CASEY
What am I going to tell Edie?

The window RATTLES and Casey and Wyatt look up in alarm.

The window opens and Natalie climbs through.

NATALIE
What's wrong?

CASEY
They're going to tear Edie's house
down. Not that you care.

NATALIE
Hey, what did you tell Mom and Dad?

CASEY
That you were right behind us. They
hardly looked up from their movie.

NATALIE
Perfect. Thanks.

CASEY

Whatever.

NATALIE

No, really -- I owe you one.

Natalie slips out the door.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Natalie picks at her lunch, left out of Alexis's and Brandon's joking around and flirting.

Natalie looks up hopefully when Taylor walks by.

NATALIE

Hey. Taylor.

Taylor ignores her and chooses an empty table.

BRANDON

Nice, Nat. Make up with her.

ALEXIS

Yeah. Maybe we can plan something a little better and actually get it filmed this time.

BRANDON

It's not my fault that house is frigging haunted.

Brandon leans over to Natalie and plays with her hair.

BRANDON

Okay, I got it. Invite geek girl to the party this weekend.

ALEXIS

We'll get her totally wasted --

Natalie scoots out of Brandon's reach.

NATALIE

No thanks.

Natalie picks up her tray.

BRANDON

Where are you going?

Natalie ignores him and approaches Taylor.

NATALIE

Hi.

Natalie stands with her tray, waiting for an invitation.

Taylor throws her lunch in the trash and leaves.

Brandon and Alexis snigger. Natalie sees Brandon put his arms around Alexis and whisper something in her ear.

Natalie throws out her own lunch and marches back to Brandon and Alexis.

NATALIE

Okay, I'm done.

Brandon reaches out for Natalie flirtatiously.

BRANDON

No, don't give up! It's gonna be epic --

Natalie steps away from him and turns to Alexis.

NATALIE

Do you know he sends me booty texts when you're busy?

Alexis slides away from Brandon with a disgruntled look. He reaches for her pleadingly.

BRANDON

Don't listen to --

NATALIE

And I'm not torturing people for your videos.

BRANDON

It's just a joke.

NATALIE

Not anymore.

Natalie leaves the lunch room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Natalie finds Taylor at her locker.

NATALIE

Hey.

Taylor doesn't say anything.

NATALIE

I'm sorry.

TAYLOR

Really? That's nice. Now run along back to the cool kids.

NATALIE

You're right, okay? They're assholes.

TAYLOR

And yet they're your new best friends. Go figure.

Taylor slams her locker shut and walks away.

NATALIE

Taylor! Come on!

Taylor whirls around to face Natalie.

TAYLOR

What, you get to act like that and then just - "Sorry"? No thanks.

NATALIE

I don't know what else to say.

TAYLOR

You know, the worst part is, when you invited me out with you, you actually had me thinking--

Taylor stops herself and walks away. Natalie intercepts her and blocks her path.

NATALIE

Wait.

TAYLOR

Move out of the way.

NATALIE

I'm not just sorry about the other night. I'm sorry about all of it.

Taylor's listening.

NATALIE

I'm not like you, okay?

TAYLOR

What is that supposed to mean?

NATALIE

When we got to high school, you didn't change at all.

TAYLOR

Was I supposed to?

NATALIE

You don't seem to care what anybody thinks. You just do your thing.

TAYLOR

So?

NATALIE

So...I wish I could. Not care.

Taylor looks at Natalie, considering.

NATALIE

When I look at my sister and her little friends -- they're so, I don't know, innocent or something. I wonder if they'll change as they get older. Or keep on being friends.

Taylor rummages in her bag. She holds out a "BFF" necklace: half of a heart shape.

NATALIE

Oh my god. You still have that?

TAYLOR

Of course. Where's yours?

NATALIE

At home.

TAYLOR

Well, wear it tomorrow and I'll know you're serious.

Natalie shifts uncomfortably. Taylor cracks up.

TAYLOR

Gotcha! C'mon, I'm not that much of a dork.

Natalie chuckles with relief and embarrassment.

TAYLOR
I always could get you going.

They smile at each other.

TAYLOR
I think I see a little glimmer of
the Natalie I used to be friends
with.

NATALIE
Look, I'm really sorry we took you
to that house.

Taylor shrugs.

TAYLOR
Yeah, that was closet thing was
super lame.

Natalie hangs her head dejectedly.

TAYLOR
The good news is I love old houses.

Taylor pulls a folder from her bag and flips through some
papers.

TAYLOR
I did some research on that one.
It's actually a great candidate for
historic preservation.

Taylor pauses on a printed-out obituary.

TAYLOR
Although the owner won't be any
help. He just died.

Natalie takes the obituary and reads it.

NATALIE
Can I show this to my sister?

INT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Casey holds the obituary up. Edie's eyes pass swiftly over
it.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER OBITUARY

An obituary: "Herb Warwick, 1910-2015". The photo shows a
handsome World War II sailor in uniform.

Eddie looks up, her eyes filled with tears.

CASEY
That's him, right? Willie?

EDIE
He grew up.

CASEY
"Herb". That's why we couldn't find anything about him.

EDIE
Clearly he didn't want to carry on Father's name.

Eddie's expression darkens and she glides away.

CASEY
I thought you'd be happy to find out what happened to him.

Casey looks back at the obituary.

CASEY
Did you read it? He fought in World War II. Became a doctor.

EDIE
But he never came back.

CASEY
Maybe it was too hard for him to come back here.

Eddie stares out the window, lost in thought.

CASEY
At least he tried to take care of the house.

Eddie looks around and snorts in derision.

EDIE
Is this how you treat a house you care for?

CASEY
I just mean - it must have been him paying the taxes all these years. He didn't want it torn down. Maybe somewhere deep down he knew you needed it.

The setting sun slants in the window.

CASEY
I gotta go home.

EDIE
You're just like them! You'll just
leave me like everyone else!

Wind swirls up around Edie. Her eyes glow coldly, taking on the empty, dead look again.

CASEY
Edie?

Edie's eyes are empty as she raises her arms. The wind tears sheets of wallpaper free. Pictures hanging on the walls CRASH to the floor.

The furniture SHAKES and then rises a few inches off the floor.

CASEY
Edie, STOP!

Edie drops her arms. The furniture falls to the ground with a THUD.

Edie crumples to the floor. Casey runs to her.

CASEY
Edie. Don't give up on me. I'm a
true friend, remember?

Edie looks up at Casey. Her eyes are back to normal.

EDIE
How long will you stay away this
time?

CASEY
I'll see you tomorrow, okay? I
promise. We'll figure this out.

Casey hurries out. Edie stays curled up on the floor, hugging herself.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Natalie and Taylor do homework at the table. Casey enters.

CASEY
Hi, Taylor.

TAYLOR

Casey! When did you get so big? I remember when you were just a cute little kid.

NATALIE

You mean an annoying little kid.

TAYLOR

Come here. I want to show you something.

Taylor takes the folder out of her bag.

TAYLOR

Natalie told me you're interested in that old house. Do you know anything about historic preservation?

CASEY

It would keep them from tearing it down?

TAYLOR

Yep. The problem is the original deed is missing from the records office, but I think based on the architectural detail --

CASEY

I have the original deed.

TAYLOR

You what?

Casey races from the room.

NATALIE

Oh boy. I'm glad I invited you over so you can geek out with my sister.

Casey returns with the deed.

TAYLOR

Where did you get this?

CASEY

It was in the house.

Taylor examines it.

TAYLOR

Wow. With this, we can really make a case.

Taylor turns to her computer.

TAYLOR

We can file the application right now.

Casey hugs Natalie impulsively. Natalie peels Casey off of her.

CASEY

I can't wait to tell Edie!

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE - DAY

Casey runs down the sidewalk, where a throng of neighbors are assembled, including Dominique, Lilah and Taylor.

LILAH

I called you as soon as I heard.

An area around the house is cordoned off with yellow 'caution' tape.

CASEY

They can't do this now!

Casey pushes through the crowd to where Mrs. Duffy stands at the front. Taylor and the other girls follow her.

CASEY

Mrs. Duffy!

TAYLOR

Ma'am, we've filed for historic preservation status for this house.

MRS. DUFFY

I don't know what you're talking about.

She turns to Casey.

MRS. DUFFY

But I do know you had something to do with this.

Mrs. Duffy indicates the band-aids pockmarking her face.

CASEY

We found the original deed --

MRS. DUFFY

Want to know why the council speeded this up? Something to do with a recent uptick in vandalism.

TAYLOR

This house has both historic and architectural significance. Beyond its commercial value --

Mrs. Duffy rolls her eyes.

MRS. DUFFY

Whatever. It'll all be over in a moment.

A bulldozer moves towards Edie's house. Taylor steps back in shocked dismay. Casey grabs Mrs. Duffy's arm.

CASEY

No! You have to stop them!

Mrs. Duffy pulls her arm away with distaste.

MRS. DUFFY

What is it with you and this house?

CASEY

This house is important! You don't understand!

MRS. DUFFY

Maybe it's time you grew up a little.

Casey runs towards the house, but Dominique and Lilah catch her and pull her back.

DOMINIQUE

Are you crazy? You're going to get killed!

The bulldozer slams into the side of the house. Casey SHRIEKS as if in physical pain.

CASEY

EDIE!

Casey collapses into her friends' arms.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE SITE - DAY

The bulldozer and the crowd of onlookers are gone.

Dominique, Lilah and Casey look at the pile of rubble that was Edie's house.

Casey ducks under the yellow caution tape. The creepy doll is half-submerged in the debris.

LILAH

Maybe she's...still here somewhere.

DOMINIQUE

Is she going to come after us? I mean, if she's one of those wraiths now.

Casey tugs at the doll's arm to free it, and carefully scoops it up. Only a fragment of its porcelain face remains.

CASEY

No. I can tell. She's gone.

Casey tosses the doll back into rubble.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Casey collapses into a seat at the table.

Jason puts a plate of pancakes in front of her.

JASON

Perfect timing!

Wyatt eats and reads the comics. Amy drinks coffee and looks at her phone.

CASEY

They tore it down.

Wyatt stops with his spoon in mid-air.

WYATT

What? Already?

CASEY

Duffy got it moved up. Because of "vandals."

WYATT

Oh no.

JASON
Who tore what down?

WYATT
The Creepy House. I can't believe
it.

JASON
That thing was there forever. It's
like the end of an era...And yet
another McMansion will rise to take
its place.

Natalie slouches in and slumps into a seat. She notices Wyatt
and Casey's downcast faces.

NATALIE
So who died?

Casey gets up from the table and runs out of the room.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Casey hugs her knees on her bed.

Natalie enters and perches at the edge of Casey's bed.

NATALIE
Can I sit here?

Casey shrugs.

CASEY
It's your room, too.

NATALIE
Yeah, but this is your *side*. Very
important.

The girls share the silence for a few moments.

NATALIE
I saw her once, you know.

CASEY
You did?

NATALIE
My friends made me go in there,
same as you. She had these terrible
eyes --

CASEY

Once you got to know her, her eyes were normal.

NATALIE

I just ran. And I never told anybody.

Natalie puts an arm around her little sister.

NATALIE

I can't believe you actually hung out with her.

Casey buries her face in Natalie's shoulder.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Students work on projects at tables.

Alone at her desk, Casey stares out the window. The wind moves through the trees outside.

MS. SANCHEZ

How's the project going?

Casey slowly breaks her reverie to focus on her teacher.

CASEY

Is there any way to keep someone from building on a piece of land?

Ms. Sanchez laughs.

MS. SANCHEZ

Not exactly the topic --

CASEY

I mean, you can preserve a house if it's historic, right? But what about if the house is already gone?

MS. SANCHEZ

Well, there are places that are preserved that don't have houses or buildings. Battlefields, for instance.

CASEY

Something historic just has to happen there? What about that flu in 1918? A lot of people around here died from it, right?

MS. SANCHEZ
Half the town, from what I've read.

Ms. Sanchez pulls a book off the shelf and hands it to Casey.

MS. SANCHEZ
A little local history.

Casey flips through the pages of black-and-white photographs. She freezes on one and gasps in surprise.

Eddie stares back at her from a turn-of-the-century family portrait.

Ms. Sanchez looks over her shoulder at the picture.

CASEY
Can this be my project?

Ms. Sanchez smiles at her.

INT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

The town council, including the CHAIRWOMAN, COUNCIL MAN, COUNCIL WOMAN and Ms. Jackson -- presides over a public meeting.

Gathered TOWNSPEOPLE include Casey, Dominique, Lilah, Amy, Jason, Natalie, Wyatt, a proud Ms. Sanchez, and an infuriated Mrs. Duffy.

Taylor addresses the council from a podium.

TAYLOR
Which is, in short, why we respectfully propose that the commercial sale of the property at 60 Brewster Street be blocked --

Taylor looks at Mrs. Duffy, whose eyes shoot daggers back.

TAYLOR
-- with the intention of creating a memorial to those that died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Casey?

Casey takes a deep breath and comes to the podium. She aims a remote control at a screen. A picture of the dilapidated Creepy House appears.

CASEY

Until recently, there was a house at 60 Brewster St. Some people in town didn't like it because it was falling apart.

Casey clicks to the next slide. A black-and-white photo of the same house -- brand new -- appears.

CASEY

But 100 years ago, it looked like this. The Warwick family lived there.

The next slide shows the portrait of Edie and her family.

CASEY

A girl named Edie lived there. She was my age when she died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Her mother died, too. Then the house was empty for a long time.

Casey loses some of her nervousness and speaks more forcefully.

CASEY

Maybe the house was falling apart. But just because it's gone doesn't mean we should forget the people that lived there. Where Edie's house was -- it should be a park to remember what happened there. It's part of our town's history. A hundred years from now, don't you want people to remember us?

The audience APPLAUDS. Casey returns to her seat.

COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN

Well done, girls.

The chairwoman turns to the council.

COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN

Comments on the proposal?

COUNCIL MAN

There's some crossover here with raising awareness of current public health issues.

COUNCIL WOMAN

I'm in favor of whatever we can do to preserve open space. This town is being swallowed up by developers.

Other council members nod in agreement. Ms. Jackson looks uncomfortable.

COUNCIL MAN

But how much would this cost?

COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN

I move that we vote on blocking the commercial sale of the abandoned property and give these young people a shot at raising the funds needed to turn it into a memorial park.

Ms. Jackson looks apologetically at Mrs. Duffy.

MS. JACKSON

I'll have to recuse myself. I was the buyer's agent.

COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN

Understood. All in favor?

All the council people other than Ms. Jackson raise their hands.

The Chairwoman bangs her gavel.

COUNCIL WOMAN

The proposal to block the sale passes. We'll revisit the progress on the memorial park at a later date.

The audience ERUPTS INTO APPLAUSE. Mrs. Duffy storms out of the room.

Taylor and Casey, hugging, are joined in celebration by Dominique, Lilah, Natalie, Wyatt, Amy and Jason.

Ms. Sanchez high fives Casey.

MS. SANCHEZ

A-plus!

As the celebration continues, Casey's attention drifts to the slide of Edie and her family.

LILAH
She'd appreciate this.

DOMINIQUE
Also? We're egging Duffy's house
every Halloween from now on.

CASEY
I just wish I could've said
goodbye.

LILAH
I have an idea.

CASEY
I'm not doing the Ouija board.

LILAH
No, this is better.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The girls kneel in front of a gravestone, whose ornate
carving reads:

"EDITH WARWICK. 1907-1918."

Casey touches the letters of the inscription as she reads.

CASEY
"She was but a smile/that glistens
in a tear/Seen but a little
while/But, oh! How loved, how
dear!"

Lilah places some wildflowers in front of the grave.

Casey considers the grave, then stands, brushing off her
hands.

CASEY
She's not here. She never was. But
there's somewhere else we can go.

EXT. CEMETERY HILL - DAY

The girls climb the winding path. At the top, they catch
their breath, taking in the view.

LILAH
Wow. I can't believe I've never
been up here.

CASEY

It was her favorite place.

Dominique glances towards the trees and reacts with shock.

DOMINIQUE

Uh, you guys...

On a great gust of wind, Edie flies towards them.

Casey runs to her.

Edie makes a visible effort to counter the wind's force. With difficulty she comes to a stop in front of Casey. Her ghostly form is less substantial now, fractured and flickering.

CASEY

I thought you were gone!

Edie gives Casey a sad smile.

CASEY

You're not a wraith!

EDIE

No.

CASEY

But we were so worried, without your house --

EDIE

When we first met -- I was practically a wraith then. All those years, alone in that house. Anyone who saw me turned and ran.

(Beat.)

EDIE

But then you came along, and I got to be Edie Warwick again. You saved me, Casey Cavanaugh.

CASEY

And now...you're going?

Edie reaches her hand up into the wind.

EDIE

I think it's time. Don't you?

CASEY

But I don't want you to go.

EDIE

"Down in a meadow/Carved in
rock/Are these words/Forget me not"

Casey looks perplexed.

EDIE

It's what I'd write in your
autograph book, if you had one.
You've been a true friend to me.

She looks at Dominique and Lilah, who hang back a bit.

EDIE

And your other friends -- I think
they see you better now. Goodbye,
Casey.

CASEY

Goodbye, Edie.

Edie closes her eyes and releases herself up into the wind.
Her form flashes, fractures, and is gone.

Dominique and Lilah run over.

DOMINIQUE

Why'd she let the wind take her?

CASEY

She was ready to go.

Dominique and Lilah each put a comforting arm around Casey,
as they stare in wonder at the space into which Edie
disappeared.

EXT. CREEPY HOUSE SITE - DAY

It's snowing. Lilah and Dominique hold a hand-painted sign
steady as Casey hammers in its stakes.

The girls stand back to admire the sign. It reads "Edie
Warwick Memorial Park".

Behind them, the rubble of Edie's house looms.

CASEY

Well, it's a start.

LILAH

We can do a lemonade stand to raise
money for the cleanup. Or I could
tell fortunes!

Dominique shivers and pulls her jacket around her more tightly.

DOMINIQUE
Maybe a hot chocolate stand.

Casey considers the snow.

CASEY
It's already sticking. Sledding,
anyone?

Dominique looks at Casey.

DOMINIQUE
No way.

LILAH
What did I miss?

CASEY
Suicide Slope?

Casey runs down the street through the falling snow.

CASEY
Last one there is a rotten egg!

The other girls run to catch up, laughing.

THE END