

HOLIDAY NIGHTMARE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SEEDY HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Old, weathered furniture. Dirty clothes on the floor. Hasn't been cleaned in months, if ever.

On the bed, a young couple finishes an exhausting romp beneath the covers. SADIE CARTER (17), a dark-haired beauty who is a ticking time bomb, a gothic look about her, catches her breath.

BRANDON WILLIAMS (18), decent looking but wouldn't know a job if he tripped over it, rolls off of her. He opens his nightstand drawer. Inside is a platitude of drugs - heroin, coke, weed, etc.

He digs through the mess and removes a joint, along with a lighter. Lights it and inhales a puff.

SADIE

You gonna share that or what?

BRANDON

I paid for it so I get first dibs.

Brandon passes off the joint to Sadie. She takes a hit.

SADIE

You mean you paid for it with money you got from stuff you stole.

BRANDON

Doesn't matter where I got the money. It tastes the same.

Sadie hands the joint back and exhales a cloud of smoke.

SADIE

I'm really slumming it with you. I could do so much better.

BRANDON

Ha! Like you're a prize.

SADIE

I don't hear you complaining.

BRANDON

Touché.

SADIE

Bet you don't even know what that means.

BRANDON
True, but I've always liked the
word. Touché.

Sadie gets out of bed and dresses.

BRANDON
You're not staying?

SADIE
I need to get up early and go job
hunting. It sucks being broke.

Sadie puts her purse strap around her neck and looks at
Brandon, waiting.

SADIE
Aren't you going to walk me home?

BRANDON
I wasn't planning to.

SADIE
Loser.

Sadie storms out.

BRANDON
Pot meet kettle.

Brandon takes another hit.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A poor area of town. Small houses and slums. Sadie walks
confidently, although she keeps an eye out for trouble. She
comes to a little house surrounded by a falling down fence.
The yard is overgrown and full of weeds.

An old duffle bag stuffed full of clothes lies in the grass.
A few articles hang out of it, caught in the zipper. There
are other miscellaneous items by the bag: a few pairs of
Sadie's shoes, a couple of books, and an umbrella.

Sadie's jaw drops at the sight.

SADIE
Son-of-a...

Sadie marches into the yard and up to the...

PORCH

She bangs on the door.

SADIE
Kathy! Let me in!

No response. Sadie pulls out a house key from her purse and tries the lock. The key doesn't fit. Sadie grows frustrated.

SADIE
What the hell?!

Sadie bangs harder on the door.

SADIE
Open this door!

A window to the side opens. KATHY (19) pops her head out.

KATHY
Go away, Sadie.

Sadie charges over to the window.

SADIE
Why did you throw my stuff in the yard?

KATHY
You haven't paid rent in three months.

SADIE
I'm going out in the morning to find a job.

KATHY
Good for you, but you're not getting back in. I changed the lock and if you try anything, you'll be sleeping in a jail cell.

Kathy closes and locks the window. Shuts the curtain over it.

SADIE
You'll be sorry!

Sadie goes to the...

YARD

She picks up the loose items. Tries to juggle everything in her arms as she charges out of the yard.

LATER

The middle of the night. All is quiet. A shadow moves past the house. An unrecognizable figure wearing a hooded jacket pours gas from a gas can around the porch. Gloved hands light a match.

INT. KATHY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - SAME

Kathy sleeps. A light flickers outside her window. It grows more intense. Kathy wakes slightly and sniffs the air. Grows alert and sits up. Her attention turns to the window.

She jumps out of bed and races from the room.

LIVING ROOM

Kathy heads toward the front door. Flames already burn through the walls. Her escape route is cut off. She whirls around and runs toward the back door in the...

KITCHEN

Kathy grabs the doorknob and immediately recoils. It's hot. Flames shoot up outside the door. Kathy back pedals, terror on her face.

EXT. KATHY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Flames engulf the house. Kathy's terrified SCREAM rings out.

ACROSS THE STREET

The figure watches gleefully as the house burns to the ground. We now see this is Sadie. She lowers her hood to unobstruct her view of the spectacle. A devious smirk crosses her face.

O.S. A SIREN sounds in the distance, growing closer.

Sadie turns and walks away. She fails to notice SAMUEL (20s), homeless, watching from the shadows. He gets a good look at Sadie's face.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Down the street from Brandon's house. Sadie approaches confidently, her arms full with her belongings. Her pace slows to a stop when she sees...

Two police cars parked in front of Brandon's house, lights flashing. Several NEIGHBORS stand in their yards to watch.

Two POLICE OFFICERS drag Brandon outside in handcuffs. They load him into the back of a squad car.

Sadie ducks into hiding behind a tree to watch a little longer. She turns around and hurries into the shadows.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Looks like it could rain any moment. MRS. DUVALL (60s), busybody, walks her small dog Mickey on a leash. She carries a purse with the strap around her neck. Mickey sniffs the ground as he looks for the perfect place to pee.

MRS. DUVALL

Enough already. I think I left my
car windows down.

Someone hits her in the side of her head with a rock. Mrs. Duvall falls to the ground. Blood trickles down the side of her face. She's heavily dazed. Mickey wanders away from her, dragging his leash.

Sadie, wearing her jacket with the hood up, roughly removes the purse from her victim and looks through it.

MRS. DUVALL

Please, no.

SADIE

Shut up!

Sadie locates a nice amount of cash and shoves it into her pocket. She drops the purse on top of Mrs. Duvall and hurries off. She disappears into the woods.

Mrs. Duvall attempts to sit up. The horrid pain keeps her down. She sobs quietly.

MRS. DUVALL

Mickey.

Mickey returns to his owner and licks her face.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The middle of a school day. The parking lot is full of cars.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - SOCIOLOGY CLASSROOM - SAME

The chairs are mostly full of STUDENTS seated at their desks. HANNAH PARKER (16), always has her head in the clouds, doodles in a notebook. She's a very talented artist, evident from the various animals she draws.