

SENIOR NIGHTMARE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. UNDISCLOSED HOUSE - NIGHT

A two-story house a fair distance away from others. It's an older home with plenty of room inside. The interior is dark.

Lightning flashes. Rumbles of THUNDER follow closely. A fierce wind HOWLS through the trees. An eerie atmosphere.

INT. UNDISCLOSED HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - NIGHT - SAME

MIRIUM (20s) stumbles up the stairs within flashes of lightning, taking panicked glances behind her. She races down the hall.

Someone ascends the steps behind her at a slower pace, mostly masked by the darkness. A flash of lightning illuminates their shadow against the wall, showcasing a hand holding a kitchen knife.

INT. UNDISCLOSED HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Miriam races inside and slams the door closed. She locks it and leans against the door.

MIRIUM

You can stay! Please don't do this!

The point of the knife suddenly impales the door, right by her head. Mirium lets out a shriek and staggers back. The knife stabs the door over and over near the knob, making a larger hole each time. Mirium ducks into the...

CLOSET

Miriam closes the door and falls back to the floor in her panic. Clothes hanging on the rod partially obscure her. She sits quietly, eyes wide and focused on the door.

O.S. The bedroom's door BANGS into the wall as it flies open.

Miriam covers her mouth with her trembling hands to stifle a scream. Her eyes close in silent prayer.

O.S. Slow FOOTSTEPS approach the door.

Miriam's eyes snap open. She pulls her knees to her chest to become as small as possible.

The door flies open. Mirium battles tears. The clothing in front of her blocks most of her view. All she can see is a pair of women's loafers on the other side.

Miriam sits completely still. She forgets to breathe. Just when it looks like nothing will happen...

The intruder yanks some of the clothing to the side. Their face is hidden by the darkness, even during the flashes of lightning. The knife, held by a gloved hand, rises into the air.

Miriam screams in terror during a flash of lightning.

CUT TO:

INT. NURSING HOME - LOBBY - DAY

A nice little establishment that feels lonely the moment you enter the door. A RECEPTIONIST works behind the main desk. A NURSE walks past, pushing a SENIOR MAN in a wheelchair.

SARAH RICHARDS (17), very sweet and simplistic, walks in through the main doors. She goes straight to the desk.

SARAH

Hi. I'm Sarah Richards, the new volunteer?

RECEPTIONIST

If you'll have a seat, someone will be right with you.

Sarah goes to a few chairs together nearby and sits. While she waits, she watches RESIDENTS as they wander about. Most are pretty much helpless, either in wheelchairs or barely able to walk with a walker or cane. It saddens Sarah.

BETTY MADISON (40s), nurse's uniform, approaches Sarah.

BETTY

Sarah?

Sarah stands. Betty extends her hand.

BETTY

I'm Betty Madison. You'll be answering to me.

Sarah looks a little uneasy. Betty chuckles.

BETTY

That sounded pretty strict, didn't it? I mean you'll be working for me. Is this your first time volunteering?

SARAH

Yes. I need community service for the Honor Society.

BETTY

There's plenty of that available here.

An ELDERLY MAN using a cane barely makes it across the room. Sarah watches sorrowfully.

SARAH

Are most of the inhabitants like him?

BETTY

Afraid so. Those who are in much better physical condition usually go to assisted living. Now, let me show you around.

Betty leads the way down the hall. Sarah's eyes linger on the elderly man as she follows after Betty.

INT. NURSING HOME - REC ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

RESIDENTS hang out and socialize to the best of their ability. Some watch the TV hanging on the wall, turned to a movie. A few play cards at a table. A few more work on a jigsaw puzzle. It's a very low energy room, except for...

A game of Bingo taking place off to the side. Five SENIORS sit at a round table with a couple of Bingo cards before each. They use Bingo chips to mark their numbers called.

The only ray of sunshine in the entire room is MABEL BRAXTON (74). She looks youthful, especially compared to everyone around her, almost as if she works there. She radiates life. Seated on a stool, Mabel spins the ball and selects a ball from inside.

Betty escorts Sarah inside. Sarah absorbs everything taking place. Mabel stands out to her in comparison to the others.

MABEL

B-6.

A WOMAN in a wheelchair finishes a row.

WOMAN

Bingo.

Mabel gets up and limps to the woman, favoring her right side. Walking seems a little painful for her.

MABEL

Let's see what you have here,
Brenda.

Mabel moves the markers on the woman's card slightly to verify them. There isn't a B-6 on her card. Instead, she mistakingly placed the marker on B-8.

WOMAN

Did I win?

Mabel smiles warmly at her.

MABEL

You sure did.

WOMAN

Oh goody.

Mabel goes to the cart with the bingo supplies and reaches under to a shelf, where a small box stands. She pulls out a store baked cookie in a wrapper and takes it to the woman.

MABEL

You get one of these delicious
cookies.

The woman lights up like a small child as she reaches for it. Mabel withdraws the cookie.

MABEL

But you have to promise you'll wait
until after dinner to eat it.

WOMAN

Okay.

Mabel gives the woman her cookie. Betty walks over with Sarah.

MABEL

Hello, Betty. You just missed a
rousing game of Bingo.

BETTY

Maybe next time. Mabel, this is
Sarah. She's our new volunteer.

Mabel takes Sarah's hand into both of hers and hangs on.

MABEL

It is such a pleasure to meet you,
dear.

(MORE)

MABEL (CONT'D)

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to chase me down.

SARAH

Thank you.

BETTY

It's almost time for dinner. Sarah, if you wouldn't mind cleaning up in here once everyone is gone...

SARAH

Sure.

Betty goes to the latest Bingo winner and pushes her chair toward the door.

Mabel starts to gather the Bingo cards and chips. Returns them to their box on the cart.

SARAH

Let me help you with that.

Sarah lends a hand.

MABEL

That's so sweet of you, dear.

While they work...

SARAH

Why do you help around here? Isn't that what the staff's for?

MABEL

I love keeping busy. Besides...

Mabel looks around the room at the seniors in much worse shape physically than she is.

MABEL

... these folks need all the attention they can get. Time's in short supply around here.

Sarah gazes at Mabel with admiration.

EXT. SARAH'S HOUSE - DAY

A nice house in suburbia. There is a bonus area above the garage with exterior steps. A car pulls into the driveway and parks. Sarah gets out and goes to the front door.