

SEVEN SINS `TIL SUNDAY

Written by

Vicky L. Neal

3024 Apple Knoll Lane
Middletown, Ohio 45044
(513) 539-0258
vickyneal5@yahoo.com
www.vickylneal.com

FADE IN:

EXT. SMALL TOWN - STREET - NIGHT

A figure runs toward us, glancing behind her with panic. It's a YOUNG WOMAN (20s), wearing a designer dress but without her shoes. Another look behind her reveals:

Someone dressed in black, wearing a hood with his face obscured, walking at a very fast clip behind her. He holds a butcher knife down by his side in a gloved hand.

YOUNG WOMAN

Help!

Young Woman races up the steps of the nearest house.

PORCH

She pounds on the door, still keeping a watchful eye on her stalker closing in fifty yards away.

YOUNG WOMAN

Help me!

The porch light turns on. ELDERLY WOMAN peeks around her curtain.

Young Woman notices and moves closer.

YOUNG WOMAN

Please! Let me in!

Elderly Woman ducks back. The light turns off.

YOUNG WOMAN

No!

Young Woman pounds on the door again.

The hooded man charges up to the porch and lifts his knife. Young Woman shrieks as she dodges the blade. Its tip barely cuts across her shoulder.

Young Woman jumps over the rail and lands in the:

YARD

She falls to the ground but bounces back up. Hobbles away as fast as she can on a sprained ankle.

The hooded man follows the same course in pursuit but makes the jump without injury.

BACKYARD

A group of tall bushes stands to the back. Young Woman scurries into their midst.

INSIDE THE BUSHES

She pulls the bushes closed around her and stoops silently as she listens to approaching FOOTSTEPS. Her eyes squeeze closed.

The FOOTSTEPS suddenly stop. Young Woman's eyes snap open, reflecting a glimmer of hope that he's gone. Just when it looks like she may be safe--

A gloved hand grabs her by the hair and stabs her in the back of the head.

IN THE YARD

Young Woman drops to the ground, partially outside of the bushes. Eyes frozen open in sheer terror.

The gloved hands use a large leaf to wipe blood from the blade. The leaf drops to the ground as FOOTSTEPS move away.

EXT. SUNRISE, NEBRASKA - MAIN ST. - MORNING

A quaint little town. The kind of place where everyone knows each other and you can leave your doors unlocked at night. Shops line both sides of Main St. No visible activity on this Sunday morning.

SUPER: SUNDAY

INT. DANNY'S HOUSE - HER BEDROOM - MORNING

DANIELLE (DANNY) SIEGER (mid 30s), long hair, a strong attitude that doesn't match her feminine exterior, stands before the mirror, looking herself over in it. She wears the kind of dress that is appropriate for church.

From her jewelry box, she removes a small yet beautiful jeweled cross dangling from a chain. With building emotion, she studies the trinket for a moment before draping the chain around her neck and securing it.

Danny looks to a framed picture positioned on the dresser to face the bed. She picks it up and grins.

INSERT PICTURE: Danny, her daughter Kathy (13), and Danny's husband Will sit together for a professional portrait.

Danny lightly touches Will's image with her fingertips.

KATHY (O.S.)

Mom?

Danny quickly returns the picture to its spot, just before--

Her daughter, KATHY SIEGER (16), cheerleader/homecoming queen perfect, enters in a skirt ensemble that is a little on the short side. She tries to feign illness, and does a poor job.

KATHY

I think I have a fever. There's some bug going around school.

Danny isn't buying it. She feels Kathy's forehead.

DANNY

Hmmm. Doesn't feel warm to me.

KATHY

Fevers can be funny that way.

DANNY

So you're saying you can have a fever but not be warm?

KATHY

(too excited)
Exactly!

Danny's face tightens. Kathy downplays her enthusiasm instantly.

KATHY

My stomach hurts.

DANNY

I would like to say "nice try", but I can't.

Danny enters her walk-in closet and locates the only pair of dress shoes she owns - a black pair of conservative shoes with a very small heel. Everything else she owns is more tomboyish (sneakers, oxfords, etc.).

Kathy plops down on the bed, obviously disappointed.

KATHY

Why do we have to go to church today? I only get two days a week to sleep in and you're ruining one of them.

Danny emerges from the closet with the shoes on.

DANNY

Because Easter meant a lot to your father.

KATHY

Easter's not until next Sunday.

DANNY

We're going then, too.

Kathy moans in complaint and throws herself back to the bed.

Danny returns to the mirror and puts on a pair of dangly earrings. Her ears are pierced but she normally wears studs.

KATHY

I hate my life.

DANNY

That means I'm doing something right.

Danny picks up her casual purse and turns to Kathy.

DANNY

Move it.

Kathy drags herself up. She notices the cross lying against her mom's chest and holds it in her hand.

KATHY

How come you only wear it at Easter?

Danny brushes a lock of hair back from Kathy's face.

DANNY

Because your dad gave it to me the Easter before he died. I don't know. I just feel like that's the only time I should wear it.

KATHY

You promised time would make it hurt less. It doesn't.

DANNY

It takes a lot of time, and it never completely goes away.

Kathy lowers her head in sadness.

DANNY
(changing subject)
Now quit stalling and get moving.

Kathy groans as she stomps out of the room.

Enjoying the sight, Danny grins as she follows her.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Danny and Kathy walk up the street, toward the only church in town.

KATHY
I hear the new preacher is hot.

DANNY
(shocked)
Kathy.

KATHY
Don't you want me to find something enjoyable about the service?

DANNY
It's just not right to think of a man of the cloth as... hot.

KATHY
He's a preacher, not a priest.

Danny slips an arm around her daughter.

DANNY
Just keep those thoughts to yourself, all right?

KATHY
(disgruntled)
I'll try, but no promises.

They keep walking.

EXT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

A very old structure built with the original town. The age gives it character.

TOWNSPEOPLE dressed in their Sunday best file in for service. Most people attend Sunday morning services in this town.