

SATANS BACKDOOR

"A horror comedy play"

Written by

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SCENE ONE

NARRATOR

Ghosts! Spooky Ghosts! They freak out your pets, knock over your cups and fart in your face while you sleep! Good evening dear listener, and welcome to 'The Horror Half Hour,' the spooky radio show designed to chill your spine, curdle your blood, and...bump your goose? This week we bring you the terrifying tale of two sisters whose lives are about to change.... for the worst. So lock the door, check under the bed and make sure your cat isn't staring into space, because they are probably looking at a ghost! Or maybe their blind and you just haven't noticed! But for now settle back and enjoy this spooky story, which we like to call

EVERYONE

Satan's Backdoor.

Enter TANYA (16, emo) and SUSIE (15, nerd).

TANYA

Hey Susie, I've like written a poem.
You wanna hear it?

SUSIE

Tanya! You're finally using your words! I'm so proud of you! Go ahead!

TANYA

Everything is black, or at least a brownish hue.
For the gaping asshole of life, tis stricken with poo.
No one understands me, not since Blink 182.
Least of all my sister Susie, who smells like beef stew
She is the stale piece of bread in my cheese fondue.
The crusty bit of semen in life's tissue.
The smelly piece of shit on the bottom of my shoe.
Her face would make a really bad tattoo.
When she dies Fred Flinstone will be all like yabadabado

SUSIE

Well that wasn't very nice. And I have some notes. Mostly about your syntax. I believe it was Noam Chomsky who once said -

TANYA

(imitating Susie)

My names Susie and I want Noam Chomsky to spunk on my titties.

SUSIE

I do not want him to spunk on my...boobies.

(quietly)

I want him to explain his views on transformational grammar to me, before taking me out for a nice fish supper.

TANYA

You are literally the lamest person in the world.

SUSIE

I think you mean figuratively the lamest.

TANYA

Oh my GAWD! Why don't you go kill mom again? Oh no wait, you can't. Because you already did that. And she's dead.

SUSIE

That was an accident Tanya. Dad knows it was an accident.

DAD (40's, wearing a t shirt with a meme on it) enters.

DAD

Hey my bitches! How's my little murderer doing!?

SUSIE

I..but..

(resignedly)

I'm okay. How are you?

DAD

Fan-f'ing-tastic. I joined this thing called tweeter yesterday and I already have over 34 followers! That's 3 more than the rat from Ratatouille.

TANYA

Dad what the fuck do you want?

DAD

I have some good news to share!

TANYA

You've given up on your dream of becoming a social media star and decided to get a real job?

DAD

HAHAHAHAHAHA. NO! And I would like some respect from you young lady! Who do you think paid for that butt you're sitting on?

TANYA

What are you talking about?

DAD

I bought us a house! We're moving!

TANYA

OH MY GAWD DAD I HATE YOU! YOU RUINED MY LIFE.

Tanya leaves.

DAD

Is she upset?

SUSIE

I think it's a puberty thing. I'm glad I haven't gone through it yet.

DAD

And thanks to my experiments, you never will.

SUSIE

Yeah. Wait. What?

DAD

You don't mind moving do you?

SUSIE

No. A fresh start will do us good. And maybe I'll meet some kids like me.

DAD

What, total losers?

SUSIE

I guess.

(beat)

So where are we moving to? California? Chicago? Canada?

DAD

Even better than that! We're moving to

-

SCENE TWO:

DAD (CONT'D)

Maine!

FX OF SOMEONE SAYING 'I LOVE LIVING IN MAINE'

DAD (CONT'D)

And look this is our new home. Terror House. Number 666 Satan's Backdoor. Maine.

TANYA & SUSIE

(Tanya is depressed, Susie is happy)

I can't believe we're living in Maine!

SUSIE

Did you know Stephen King is from Maine. And so is Anna Kendrick. You love her! We all love her!

TANYA

Dad. How much was this place?

DAD

Almost nothing! I bought it with a groupon voucher.

TANYA

I'm definitely going to kill myself here and blame it all on you.

DAD

Listen, in these days of digital fame, you don't need to live in a big city to get internet famous, and if my blog 'Dad Chat' is going to go viral, it's better if I live in a quaint little town like Maine. It makes me more relatable. That reminds me.

Dad gets out his iPhone.

DAD (CONT'D)

Smile for the instagram. And by smile I mean, look like you're really struggling to adjust.

Tanya and Susie smile unconvincingly as Dad takes a picture.

DAD (CONT'D)

Hashtag ungrateful teenage girls.

TANYA

You're such a bag of dicks.

DAD

Oh [by the way](#) - you guys are sharing a room! Isn't that fun!

TANYA

What? But what about when I need alone time?

DAD

Young lady, you can masturbate into the cutlery draw just like everyone else in this house! Listen, **your mother's death was a complete boner killer** but now I'm finally ready to have meaningless sex with all the lonely divorcees that I meet on tinder. And I intend to do it in every single room in this house. And each room will have a different theme depending on the role play I wish to engage in that day. There will be the medical room, the jungle room and David Carradine's Asphyxiation Closet. But first lets check out your new room.

Mickey and Tim whisper creepily, Andy shuts and opens door a few times, and it cuts in and out.

SCENE THREE:

DAD (CONT'D)

Isn't this great? And look - it's already been decorated for you with bits of broken doll, and check out those lovely stars on the walls -

SUSIE

Those are pentagrams Dad.

DAD

And what about this huge walk in closet! You could keep all your hats in there Susie!

SUSIE

I don't have any hats?

DAD

You and your hats!

(beat)

These beds are high too. Almost big enough to fit a person underneath.

In fact they could live under here for years, and you wouldn't even notice. Just slip at night and sleep. Or watch you sleep. Or just lie here and breathe.

Philip The Ghost appears, looking spooky.

PHILIP THE GHOST
(through LOUDHAILER)
GET OUT!

Tanya, Dad and Susie all run at each other in fear, Dad pushes Susie away via her face.

SUSIE
Did you hear that?

DAD
Yes, which means it's time for my meds! See you later girls.

SUSIE
Tanya, are we going to die here?

TANYA
I don't know. You planning to murder-suicide us?

SUSIE
At least if we died, we could be with mum again.

TANYA
Yeah. And I bet she has a few things she would like to say to you. Like, hi how's it going, and remind me, what's it like to be corporeal?

SUSIE
I told you it was an accident! How was I to know she would explode like that!

TANYA
Whatever.

SUSIE
What do you think she's doing right now?

TANYA
Probably having a three way with Philip Seymour Hoffman and Heath Ledger.

PHILIP THE GHOST
UGHHHHHHHHH KEEP TALKING

Susie goes to hug Tanya, who pushes her down via her face.

SUSIE
AHHHHHHHHHH

TANYA
AHHHHHHHH - I mean whatever. Let's unpack our suitcase.

Susie and Tanya 'unpack.'

TANYA (CONT'D)
That's weird -

SUSIE
What?

TANYA
All my family photos of us. They're shattered. As though some unseen force has smashed them.

SUSIE
Oh my god, and my family photos! All the eyes have been scratched out and someone has written 'die' over our faces!

The girls both burst into laughter

TANYA AND SUSIE
We have the wrong bags!

SUSIE
You and your eye scratching.

TANYA
Why do you smash all our pictures?!

SUSIE
I'm not very well!

TANYA
Me neither!

They start laughing.

Philip the ghost laughs too.

SCENE FOUR

Mic One: Ellen, Andy, Tim

Mic Two: Elizabeth, Mickey

NARRATOR
After a peaceful nights sleep, Susie awakes the next day to a beautiful Maine morning.

SUSIE
Hello?

FLORENCE (40's, dressed like a 1950's housewife).

FLORENCE

Good Maining neighbour! That's what we say in Maine. Good Maining. It's like this morning, but we're in Maine, so it's good Maining, so a good old Maining this morning my fellow Mainer.

SUSIE

Oh - kay. Good Maining to you.

FLORENCE

Is your father in little boy?

SUSIE

I'm not a boy...

FLORENCE

Oh sorry. You have a very mannish beard. Is your father in? Or your mom?

SUSIE

No. I mean he is, but he's busy making Patrick Stewart memes. And my mom, well she's - busy too. Being dead. Can I help you?

FLORENCE

Well yes little boy! My names Florence. I'm your Maine-ber. Your Maine neighbour and I brought you a care package just to say, welcome to the Maine-ber-hood.

(beat)

But I was really hoping to meet your father though. How's his girth?

SUSIE

His what?

Florence gets out some MUFFIN MIX. Shakes it.

FLORENCE

Would you like some muffin mix?

SUSIE

Sure. Muffin mix. My favourite?

FLORENCE

It's home made. Listen, while you whip that up, maybe I could just come in and wander around the house for a bit?

SUSIE

I guess that would be alright.

(beat)

So you knew the old tenants?

FLORENCE
Oh yeah. Terrible tragedy.

SUSIE
What do you mean?

FLORENCE
Oh no, I shouldn't say, I don't want
to scare you.

Tanya enters.

TANYA
Who's this bitch?

SUSIE
Tanya. This is Florence. Our new
friendly neighbour.

Florence clears her throat.

SUSIE (CONT'D)
Sorry. I mean Maine-ber.
(beat)
She bought us muffin mix!

Tanya takes the muffin mix out of Susie's hands.

TANYA
What kind of shitty moving in gift is
this? Where's the fucking fruit
basket? Maine sucks.

FLORENCE
I can see someone is going through
puberty.

TANYA
I can see someone has a massive
vagina. Dad! DAD THERE'S A WOMAN HERE
AND SHE'S TRYING TO MOLEST ME

DAD
Get away from my -

Dad runs in. And is struck by Florence's beauty.

DAD (CONT'D)
Oh hello.

FLORENCE
(flirtatiously)
Well, these girls never mentioned they
had an older brother.

DAD

Oh they don't. Well Susie did have a twin, but we think she drowned him in the womb.

SUSIE

What?

DAD

Bygones.

FLORENCE

I'm Florence. Your Maine-ber.

DAD

Our Maine neighbour. Of course. That's hilarious.

TANYA

What?

FLORENCE

I bought muffin mix. I can stay and make them if you -

SUSIE

What was that?

DAD

Shared hallucination? Anyway I would love you to stay and make us all muffins. Say, you ever thought about writing a food blog?

TANYA

Dad. You know what. I feel an emotional confession coming on, followed by a breakdown followed by a tearful realization. Wanna film it for Dadchat?

DAD

DO I? Yes I do. I'm sorry Florence - it was nice meeting you but duty calls.

TANYA

Yeah see you.

Dad and Tanya leave.

SUSIE

I'm sorry about her, she's a sassy one.

FLORENCE

No problem. I'm sure she'll learn her lesson. And soon.
BAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

Everyone joins in the laughing for a bit.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

Well that was fun. See you soon little boy, and tell your Dad I do my kegels.

SCENE FIVE

Mic one: Tim/Elizabeth

Mic Two: Ellen

Andy throws FLOUR in Ellen's face, whilst Elizabeth puts a APRON over her head and TRAY OF MUFFINS in her hands.

NARRATOR

When life gives you muffin mix, you make muffins. And that's exactly what Susie did.

SUSIE

Dad? I made muffins! Are you upstairs in the attic?

Philip The Ghost approaches mic, makes creepy ghost face and puts torch under his face.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Wow. This attic is amazing! It's filled with hundreds of expensive looking medals and awards and trophies. And over there, is that the Shroud of Turin? And wow, look at that - it's a sculpture of Jack Nicholson made entirely out of fermented pickles. What a sight. Shame no one else can see it. I guess I should take a closer look at all these trophies. This one says Phillip Willis 2008 Spelling Bee School Champion. And this one says 2009 Spelling Bee County Champion. And will you look at this one - he won Best Grammar Corrector and Most Patronising Prick in the same year!

She picks up a dusty dictionary and blows on it.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

And look at this old book.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

The Diary of Philip Willis, aged 15.

She begins to read from the start of the book.

PHILIP THE GHOST

"June 21st - spend the morning learning how to spell all the words beginning with A, then did some light reading - Anna Karenina by Tolstoy. I am enjoying the romantic elements of the plot, but could do without the pages and pages on Russian farming rituals"

SUSIE

- Oh my god YES! -

PHILIP THE GHOST

"they seem to deviate wildly from the plots central themes!"

SUSIE

I agree! It's like they chose...

PHILIP THE GHOST/SUSIE

"functionality over form!"

SUSIE

Who is this STUD? My God this is - the most erotic thing I have ever read - and I have read 'Forever' by Judy Blume.

Susie looks around her. Then puts her hands down her pants.

She hears a sudden CREAK FX, and pulls her hands out of her pants and lifts them up in the air.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

I'm not doing anything. This is normal. I was just scratching. I don't get turned on by books.

PHILIP THE GHOST

Just pretend like I'm not here.

SUSIE

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

SCENE SIX

Mic One: Andy, Elizabeth, Tim

Mic Two: Ellen, Mickey

NARRATOR

In bed that evening Susie tried to sleep and forget the shame of being caught masturbating by a ghost, but something was bothering her.

SUSIE
Tanya, are you awake?

TANYA
No.

SUSIE
What was that?

TANYA
I didn't hear anything?

SUSIE
A FARTING GHOST?! That's not funny.
(beat)
Can I get into bed with you?

TANYA
Oh. You'd like that wouldn't you? Bit
of old fashioned incest, the kind of
thing you read about in your War and
Peace and your Game of Thrones and
your Push: A Novel by Sapphire.

SUSIE
How do you know about all these books?

TANYA
I've read Wikipedia.

SUSIE
I'm scared.

TANYA
Well, then just think of something
unscary. Like a clown with a really
big smile surrounded by children
without eyelids. Or a fish... *with*
eyelids.

SUSIE
Okay. Suprisingly relaxing images.

Susie starts to settle down into her bed

SUSIE (CONT'D)
Oh. I found an old diary in the attic
today. I think it belonged to the boy
who use to live here.

TANYA
I really don't care -

SUSIE

- his name's Philip and he likes books, and he was a spelling bee champion and - well, when I started reading his diary - I think his ghost appeared.

TANYA

Ghosts don't exist.

SUSIE

But I saw -

TANYA

Everyone knows that ghosts are something we make up so we can deal with the finality of death.

SUSIE

Wow. That's so poignant. Sometimes I think I have you figured out all wrong -

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Goddamit Tanya.

Tanya puts her headphones in.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

I know I'll read from Philip's diary. That might help calm me down.

Susie picks up the diary.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

"June 25th - me and Dad played scrabble for 12 hours. And then we went out for ice cream. It was the best day ever." That does sound like the best day ever.

There is a loud BANGING FX noise.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

What was that?

Two more BANG BANGS FX'S.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Tanya! Listen!

Tanya takes off her headphones.

TANYA

What?

SUSIE

There was a noise - it came from the closet!

BANG BANG BANG.

TANYA

So that's where I left my fireworks!

Susie starts to cry.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Oh my God Susie - what is your deal?

SUSIE

I'm scared and I miss mum. I miss the way we use to play scrabble and she never let me win. Because she loved words. And winning.

TANYA

You know what she loved more?

SUSIE

What?

TANYA

Oxygen. Existing. The ability to age.

CLOSET DOOR FX. FOOTSTEPS FX

PHILIP THE GHOST

LEAVE THIS HOUSE, OR YOU WILL D-I-E.

TANYA/SUSIE

Awwwwwww

Philip leaves his mic and heads over to Tanya/Susie, looking menacing.

TANYA

No, no no!!!! Oh the pain!!!

Mic One: Andy, Tim, Elizabeth

Mic Two: Ellen, Mickey

NARRATOR

The next day, a sleep deprived Susie went downstairs to find her father in the kitchen, taking photos of his breakfast.

DAD

Hey kiddo! Look what I made - quinoa pancakes with kale sausages and a egg made of soy that I painted to look like an egg.

hashtag eating clean amirite? Oh and I only made enough for one. I thought you and your sister could go forage in the woods for food. I'll film it for the youtube. Anyway, sleep well?

SUSIE

Not really, I think we were visited by a ghost.

DAD

Oh, you kids.

SUSIE

And Tanya's head spun around.

DAD

You and your imagination.

SUSIE

And then it came off, and now she's dead.

DAD

Listen, I miss your mother too, but there's no need to act out.

(beat)

Wait, actually maybe there is. This could be a perfect blog post! DADCHAT.

Dad gets out his phone and shoves it in Susies face.

DAD (CONT'D)

Where are the drugs Susie?

SUSIE

What?

DAD

WHERE ARE THE AMPHETAMINES?

Susie pushes the phone away from her face.

SUSIE

This is serious!

DAD

So is this new video filter! Check it out - it's called bruised colon.

SUSIE

Tanya is dead! We need to call the police!

DAD

Sure, but first let me try this food -

He takes a bite of his food. MUNCHING FX.

DAD (CONT'D)
 Oh my god this is disgusting! It
 tastes like old veruca's.

FLORENCE
 DID SOMEONE SAY MUFFINS?

Susie jumps/falls over in shock.

DAD
 Oh hi Florence!

Florence gives Dad a muffin. He shoves it in mouth.

DAD (CONT'D)
 (mouth full of muffins)
 God, these are delicious.

FLORENCE
 Well thank you. You look very handsome
 this morning.

DAD
 Thanks I worked out six years ago.

FLORENCE
 And Toosie

SUSIE
 Susie.

FLORENCE
 You also look very handsome as well.
 And where is your other delightful
 daughter?

DAD
 Dunno

SUSIE
 SHES DEAD!

DAD
 Oh that's right.

FLORENCE
 Oh my! How ghastly! What happened?

SUSIE
 I don't know. I was knocked out.

FLORENCE
 Well that's convenient.

SUSIE
 What?

FLORENCE

Oh nothing. It's just interesting that your mother is dead, and now your sister. And the only thing they had in common was you.

SUSIE

They had more in common than that. They were also seasoned fisherman. And it was the ghost that did it!

FLORENCE

The ghost?

DAD

Oh, she thinks there is a ghost in the house who is trying to kill us all. Teenagers? Hormones? Periods? Amirite.

FLORENCE

Oh Roosie -

SUSIE

SUSIE!

DAD

Don't correct the beautiful woman who feeds us.

FLORENCE

Oh, my, I'm blushing. hashtag shy

Dad drops the muffin and looks at her in awe.

SUSIE

We need to call the police. Or an exorcist.

DAD

You go call the Ghostbusters and I'll memorialise Tanya's Facebook. Want to join me Florence?

FLORENCE

I would love to.

Susie gets out her mobile. Tim makes sound of other person of phone?

SUSIE

Hello? Is that Ghostbusters? I want three white men and one ethnic minority to come to my house and get rid of a ghost. They've retired? Oh. They've been replaced. Oh thank God. By who? By WOMEN? Jesus! I'm not that desperate.

(beat)

I'm so lonely. I miss my mum. And long form print journalism. And Princess Diana. And -

Tanya starts moving props about as though she is invisible. Susie stares at her.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

I can see you Tanya.

TANYA

Oh. Right. Well hi, I'm a ghost.

SUSIE

Great. How did you die?

TANYA

I dunno. I was like asleep. And then I was dead.

SUSIE

Well, then maybe you should go into the light.

TANYA

Oh thanks. I thought it would be nice if I just came by to say hi, and that I am dead, but if you're going to be such a fucking turd about it I might as well go back to the twerking competition I was having with [Maggie Smith](#)

SUSIE

I don't think she's dead.

TANYA

Betty White?

SUSIE

No still with us.

TANYA

Angela Lansbury?

SUSIE

Sure. Why not? So what's it like, being a ghost?

TANYA

I prefer the term mortally challenged, but it's alright. Also you have to get out of this house.

SUSIE

Why?

TANYA

Because it's haunted. Duh. Also asbestos.

SUSIE

That's nice Tanya, but I can't just leave. Dad has really taken to this place. He seems like he is finally happy, and if I'm not here, then who will make sure he goes to the toilet?

I'll try and reason with the ghost.
But how do I reach him?

(beat)

Oh! I know! Last time he appeared after I read his diary.

She starts to read the diary.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

"July 3rd. Today I masturbated over a portrait of Jane Austen."

NARRATOR

Suddenly the walls start to bleed!

TANYA

Oh my god.

SUSIE

What? She was a very handsome woman.

TANYA

No. Look

SUSIE

Oh no! Bleeding walls!

SCENE EIGHT

MIC one: Andy, Tim

Mic Two: Ellen

A PLUMBER enters, in a Mario costume.

PLUMBER

Yep. Looks like you have a severe case of bleeding walls.

SUSIE

What can we do to fix it?

PLUMBER

You could help the trapped spirit in the house find peace, or you could throw a coat of varnish on it.

SUSIE

I think I'll go for the varnish for now. How much would that be?

PLUMBER

Let's see -

He gets out an ABACUS and starts using it.

PLUMBER (CONT'D)

So with a day's labour plus varnish, a Spotify premium account, a couple of chai lattes, some weed for when I just want to chill, some coke to pick me, the inevitable call out from the ambulance when I O.D that will be...

He moves things around on the ABACUS

PLUMBER (CONT'D)

\$25

SUSIE

You drive a hard bargain. But deal.

PLUMBER

Wasn't this Bob's place?

SUSIE

Who?

PLUMBER

Bob Willis. Use to live here, with his son Philip. Real nice folks - unhealthy interest in spelling bee competitions but they were good people. Terrible what happened to them though.

SUSIE

What happened to them?

PLUMBER

Oh it was terrible it was.

SUSIE

Okay. What was it?

PLUMBER

It was ghastly. It was in all the papers. Shocking I would say.

SUSIE

So what happened?

PLUMBER

Just so terrible. Seemed like such a normal family too.

SUSIE

OH MY GOD.

Susie's dad strolls in. He has a t shirt on it that says
HASHTAG DAD CHAT

DAD

Oh hey Susie, hi man I don't know. You better not be touching up my daughter! HAHA I know you wouldn't. I mean... look at her. Hey guess what Susie, I'm going to expand my burgeoning social media empire with Florence's help! I am starting a podcast in which I review the babies of celebrities, and she is going to co-host.

(beat)

Gee she's swell.

SUSIE

She seems a bit weird to me.

DAD

No you're weird. Anyway, today we are looking at dexterity and basic motor skills. What's up?

SUSIE

Well, the walls are bleeding hourly, the mirrors are all cracked and I think the asbestos is making me bleed internally. Also I am pretty sure I should be at school by now.

DAD

Life is school Susie. Life is school. Listen, we have to go to Hollywood and judge some babies. We'll be back in 3 days.

SUSIE

But you have to help me!

DAD

You're so rufus! This nice man can be your father for a while. I'm going to the bathroom.

PLUMBER

How about I put you in touch with the town psychic? They might help you out with the terrible thing that happened here -

DOORBELL FX. Susie goes to answer it.

SCENE NINE:

Mic One: Elizabeth/Andy

Mic Two: Ellen/Tim

SUSIE

Hello?

PSYCHIC

Hello - I like sensed I was needed.
I'm psychic Dana.

SUSIE

Wow, you're good.

PSYCHIC

Like thanks - also you've just run out
of toilet paper

DAD (O.S)

Noooooooooooo

PSYCHIC

(to plumber)

And you're last sperm just died.

PLUMBER

Farewell sailor.

The plumber leaves.

PSYCHIC

I'm sorry about your mom.

SUSIE

Thanks. Would you like a cup of tea?

PSYCHIC

No. You're milk just went off. So I
can totally sense a restless presence
in this house.

SUSIE

Can you help me talk to them?

PSYCHIC

I can try. Just let me just get out my
special equipment.

She gets out an old VHS and throws it on the table.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

Restless spirit, are you there?

Emmeline Pankhurst enters.

EMMELINE PANKHURST

Hello! It is I Emmeline Pankhurst.

SUSIE

Oh WOW. What an honour! It's so great to speak to you.

EMMELINE PANKHURST

Your welcome, just coming in to check that women have exactly the same rights as men now.

SUSIE

Erm...

EMMELINE PANKHURST

I would hate to think I died for nothing.

SUSIE

Meryl Streep played you in a film!

EMMELINE PANKHURST

A film of my life?

SUSIE

Well you were mentioned.

EMMELINE PANKHURST

Cunty bollocks

Emmeline starts crying and runs away.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Errrrrr

PSYCHIC

Sorry, contacting the dead is a bit like working on a switchboard, you dial a lot of wrong numbers. Let me try again.

(beat)

I would like to speak to the restless spirit within this house.

Arthur Conan Doyle enters.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Good day to you kind madam. I am Arthur Conan Doyle.

SUSIE

Arthur Conan Doyle, this is amazing! I love your books.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

What my Brigadier Gerard series?

SUSIE
No. Sherlock Holmes?

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
Holmes? Bloody Sherlock Holmes? That
smug twat? Is that all I am known for?

SUSIE
People think you might have been Jack
the Ripper?

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
Oh fucking great.

Arthur Conan Doyle strides off.

PSYCHIC
Can't please everyone. Okay - can we
please speak to the person in this
house who moves the plot forward?

HENRY FORD
It is, Henry Ford the famous anti-
semite. How's my company doing? Hope
its not run by some stinkin Jew.

PSYCHIC
Oh for gods sake.

Nietze enters.

NIETZE
Hey its me Nietze, hope no one
misunderstood my teachings and used
them to commit genocide.

SUSIE
Erm... -

NIETZE
The German work for fuck

Nietze exits.

PSYCHIC
Okay. I have him - oh my - this spirit
is powerful. They're taking over my
body.

Philip the ghost pops up at other microphone and the psychic
mimes his words, as though possessed.

SUSIE
Dana? Are you in there?

PSYCHIC
THERE IS NO DANA - ONLY ZUHL

SUSIE
What?

PSYCHIC
Sorry little bit of a Ghostbusters ref
there. Hi I'm Philip. The Ghost.
What's up sexy?

SUSIE
I'm not sexy, I'm bookish and shy.

PSYCHIC
Which is totally sexy. I watch She's
All That in reverse when I want to get
a boner.

SUSIE
What do you want?

PSYCHIC
I want my spirit freed duh, and my
murder avenged. I am trapped in hell
for all eternity otherwise.

SUSIE
You're in hell? But you were a
spelling bee champion? What could you
have done?

PSYCHIC
Turns out that whole thing totally
gets you into hell! The first circle
anyway.

SUSIE
So I guess Dante got it all wrong.

PSYCHIC
I always thought Virgil was the unsung
hero of that book myself.

SUSIE
Oh me too. He is like the hidden
protagonist.
(beat)
Stop distracting me! Why did you kill
my sister?

PSYCHIC
Did I?

SUSIE
Yes? Well, If you didn't then who did?

PSYCHIC

I can't tell you that.

SUSIE

Okay. So who killed you?

PSYCHIC

Can't tell you that either.

SUSIE

Why not?

PSYCHIC

There is this whole protocol to being a ghost okay. I'm only meant to do low level haunting, you know, knock a few cups over, turn down a thermostat, creak a few floorboards. I'm not meant to help you. In fact every time I do I move down a hell circle and suffer a new kind of horrific torture. I'm in the second one at the moment, reserved for those -

SUSIE

Overcome by lust.

PSYCHIC

Yep. And people who insist on splitting the bill at restaurants after ordering way more drinks than anyone else.

SUSIE

They should throw in the people who think J K Rowling is actually a good writer.

PSYCHIC

I know right? Harry and The Overly Descriptive Flat Prose RIGHT?

SUSIE

Yeah. Harry and the Cliched Emotional States!

They both giggle

PSYCHIC

You know what. I think I sense some chemistry here. How about we do a little bit of role play here? You be Demi Moore and I'll be Whoopi Goldberg -

SUSIE

I don't know -

PSYCHIC

Not your thing? Okay, you be Jeff Goldblum and I'll be a dinosaur and-

SUSIE

How can I free your spirit Phillip?

PSYCHIC

By solving my Maine-der obviously. That's what we call murder in Maine.

SUSIE

Yeah I get it. But how?

PSYCHIC

You could start by asking Florence about the secret ingredient she puts in those muffins.

SUSIE

Poop?

PSYCHIC

Oh no, I'm being dragged back to hell... it's poison in the muffins!

SUSIE

What?

PSYCHIC

Poison!!!!

SFX DUH DUH DUH. Everyone gasps.

NARRATOR

What a dramatic cliffhanger! Join us next week to find out what the deal is with Florence, what made Susie's mom explode and whether anyone's accent improves. But for now, good night.

NARRATOR

Last time on Satan's Backdoor: (RECAP OF EVERYTHING)

SUSIE

Did he say poison? Or raisons? Probably raisons.

PSYCHIC

What happened? Where am I?

SUSIE

Your body was overtaken by Philip The Ghost and he told me that Florence puts raisons in her muffins. It's like DUH.

PSYCHIC

Oh my god. Something has been written
on the walls in blood. Or jam.

SUSIE

It says...Radix pedis diaboli

PSYCHIC

What is that? Mexican?

SUSIE

Close. It's Latin.

PSYCHIC

What does that mean?

SUSIE

I have no idea. Yet. To the library!

INT. LIBRARY - LATE MORNING

Library sounds?

SUSIE

According to this latin dictionary
Radix pedis diaboli means The Devils
Root. Why does that sound so familiar?

LIBRARY GOER

Excuse me, could you keep it down?

SUSIE

Yeah sorry.
(beat)
Maybe there are some old local
newspapers here which could tell me
more about Philip and his dad.

LIBRARY GOER

Huh?

SUSIE

Sorry - again. Thinking out loud.

LIBRARY GOER

Okay, well this is a library not a
theatre audition.

SUSIE

Sorry.

NEWSPAPER SOUNDS

SUSIE

Wait here it is. Front page news!
"August 23rd. 2005.

Philip Willis 15, won 2 million dollars yesterday in the spelling bee final, spelling out the word... chair."

LIBRARY GOER

Seriously. Can you shut up. I'm trying to get into Brown University.

SUSIE

Hmmmmmm I wonder if there's any other reports. Wait here it is, in the sports pages. "The hunt continues for Philip Willis, regional spelling bee champion, who, along with his father Bob, has been missing for the last 3 months. His \$2 million prize has also gone missing."

LIBRARY GOER

Oh my god. Could you maybe have your mental breakdown somewhere else? If I don't get into Brown then I can't get a job at a top law firm and get my brother out of jail who was wrongfully arrested and -

SUSIE

I'm sorry - I feel like that's unnecessary information your telling me.

LIBRARY GOER

So you're allowed to monologue and I'm not?

SUSIE

Listen Mr... sorry, what's your name?

LIBRARY GOER

I don't know. I don't have one.. Oh my god. THE WRITER DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER GIVING ME A NAME!

SUSIE

The who?

LIBRARY GOER

WE DON'T EXIST. None of this is real...dont you see...we're in a... everything is a lie! I CAN'T GO ON.

SUSIE

Where did that gun come from?! Put it down Mr...

LIBRARY GOER

Noooooooooooooooooooo

The library goer shoots himself.

SUSIE

That was weird.

EXT. LIBRARY STEPS - LATER

Susie is sitting on the steps of the library reading Philip's diary.

SUSIE

"July 22nd - was meant to practise words that start with silent Q's today but Dad said he had to take a rain check. He had a date with his new girlfriend. He said she smelt of forgotten dreams, knew how to bake the worlds best muffins and had a cracking pair of boobies. I stayed at home on my own and played scrabble with myself. I lost."

I'm hungry. Maybe I'll eat the muffin Florence gave me. I do like moist muffins.

HOMELESS MAN

Excuse me young lady, sorry to interrupt you whilst you're talking to yourself but do you have any spare change?

SUSIE

Nope.

HOMELESS MAN

Oh. What's a nice looking girl like you doing by herself on a Saturday night. Why aren't you hopped up on PCP with your friends?

SUSIE

I don't really have any. Everyone who gets close to me dies. I even killed my own mother.

HOMELESS

I'm sure that isn't true.

SUSIE

No, it is, I made her explode.

HOMELESS

What?

(beat)

HAHAHAHAHAHA

SUSIE

It's not funny!

HOMELESS

I'm sorry its just... hahaha. SHE EXPLODED? What is she? Wile E Coyote.

SUSIE

I was 10 and it was a hot summer day, my mom had been gardening all morning and had been eating mentos, because they were her favorite, and even though I knew you shouldn't wash them down with fizzy pop, I still offered her a swig of my coke because I was distracted by a book and she was really thirsty and ... OH GOD THERE WAS SO MUCH BONE MARROW.

HOMELESS

Please stop... its too funny.

SUSIE

Fuck you.

HOMELESS MAN

Say, that muffin sure looks good.

SUSIE

Yeah it does doesn't it. You want to sniff it?

HOMELESS MAN

Okay, that seems rather cruel but sure. Smells delicious.

The HOMELESS MAN eats the muffin aggressively. SOUND OF MUNCHING

HOMELESS MAN

NUM NUM NUM

SUSIE

That was my muffin you bastard.

HOMELESS

I'll tell you what young lady, in exchange for that delicious muffin, I will give you some advice.

SUSIE

Some advice?

HOMELESS

Yeah, you crack me up kid you really do - but you gotta remember you're still young. You have you're whole life ahead of you, and believe you me, things will only get worse. Especially for you. Because your a girl who reads. I mean, the whole planets dying, everyone is getting increasingly vapid and self involved, money holds us all in its icy death grip, people's brains are changing for the worst due to technological advances, the wealth gap is growing and soon the robot uprising will start and it makes me grateful that I am one of the lizard people, you know? David Icke has a space for me in his bunker on the Isle of Wight.

SUSIE

Do you have a point?

HOMELESS

Yeah. Want to see my winky?

SUSIE

Thanks but no thanks. Im out of here.

HOMELESS

Suit yourself. Ill put on the winky show for my friend Mr rat instead. Wait.....come back...I can't breathe...

The homeless man suddenly starts choking, grabs his throat and drops dead behind her.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Susie lies alone in bed shaking.

SUSIE

Your fine. Your fine! After all Dad will be back in 2 days. And as long as the lights are on then nothing scary can happen.

SOUND OF POWER GOING OFF.

SUSIE

Oh for heaven's sake -

BANGING SOUND

SUSIE

Hello?

TANYA
IS IT ME YOUR LOOKING FOR?

SUSIE
AWWWW. That's not funny Tanya.

TANYA
Why are you lying down? Shouldn't you be solving Philip's murder, so his spirit can be freed and come to heaven so I can beat the fucking shit out of him?

SUSIE
Philip isn't a bad guy -

TANYA
Ohhhhh someone wants ghost spunk on their face.

SUSIE
I do not.

TANYA
Whatever. I was just popping in to check you hadn't gone completely mental but I gotta run - I was just playing Call of Duty with Michael J Fox. He's really good you know.

SUSIE
Susie, I don't think he's dead.

TANYA
He's not? So whose this guy?

ERIC STOLZ
Hello.

SUSIE
That's Eric Stoltz

ERIC STOLTZ
You know my performance of Marty McFly was actual very nuanced-

SUSIE AND TANYA
SHUT UP ERIC STOLZ

Eric Stolz disappears

SUSIE
I don't think he's dead either -

BANG FROM UPSTAIRS

SUSIE

What was that? Tanya, were did you go?
You coward!?

INT. ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

ATTIC DOOR OPENING FX.

SUSIE

Anyone up here? Oh no! Someone
ransacked the attic? Maybe it was
Philip.

Susie gets out Philips diary - She starts reading from it.

SUSIE

"August 23rd - have the spelling bee
championship tomorrow. I am super
nervous about it. Dad's new girlfriend
has moved into our house. I don't like
the cut of her jib. I tried to explain
this to dad, but he just laughed at me
and said to grow up and stop talking
about her genitals like that. She does
make great muffins though."

PHILIP THE GHOST

Wassup?

SUSIE

Where you just in here rummaging
about?

PHILIP THE GHOST

No. I was in the third circle of hell.
Reserved for people who commit
gluttony and make vague facebook
status updates.

SUSIE

I am so sorry Philip. This is all my
fault. I let Tanya die, and I haven't
solved your murder - and

PHILIP THE GHOST

This isn't your fault. Your the first
person that has even tried to help me.
Don't blame yourself.

SUSIE

At least Dad's happy. He has Florence.

PHILIP THE GHOST

Yeah about her - you been getting my
clues right?

SUSIE

What clues?

PHILIP THE GHOST
 ARE YOU FREAKING KIDDING ME. So it's
 like this...Oh god! I'm being pulled
 back into hell! Poison is in the
 muffins!

SUSIE
 Employ some puffins?

PHILIP THE GHOST
 Poison in the muffins!

SUSIE
 Boys give you dutch ovens!

PHILIP THE GHOST
 Listen to me. Poison

SUSIE
 Flamboyant

PHILIP THE GHOST
 Muffins

SUSIE
 MacGuffins

Sound of door opening.

SUSIE
 Your a silly goose. I got to go,
 sounds like my dad is back. See you
 later!

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Susie runs into the living room. Her dad is on the couch
 talking to Florence, but Susie doesn't clock her at first.

SUSIE
 Dad you're back! Thank God! Someone
 broke into our attic last night
 and..oh hi Florence. What are doing
 here?

DAD
 I could say the same thing to you.

SUSIE
 I live here?

DAD
 Right you "live" here. Florence I got
 married. We have documented our love
 on storify if you wanted to check it
 out.

And then we documented our lovemaking on youporn, if you wanted to check that out too.

SUSIE

But what about mom?

DAD

Who?

FLORENCE

You seem upset, what's the matter. Muffin?

SUSIE

Stop calling me muffin, that's what my mother use to call me.

FLORENCE

But she exploded. I don't intend to explode. Now give your new mother a hug.

SUSIE

Wait. You - you smell like forgotten dreams...

DAD

Susie, thats very rude. Florence smells like petrol. Now, apologise to your new mother.

FLORENCE

She's just adjusting. I'm sure she'll get use to me being here.

(whispers to Susie)

Or else.

SUSIE

I'm going.

FLORENCE

Goodbye Moosie. Take a muffin for the road. It's moist.

DAD

Yes. Like her vagina!!!

SUSIE

Dad, before I go - can I have a quick word?

DAD

Whatever you need to say to me you can say it in front of my new wife.

SUSIE

I just think you need to be...
careful. Okay?

DAD

Oh don't worry - I've had a vasectomy.

FLORENCE

And I'm barren!

SUSIE

Urgh, dont say I didnt warn you

Door opens and closes FX

FLORENCE

Well. I have errands to run.

DAD

Give me a frenchie first

HORRIBLE KISSING SOUND FX

FLORENCE

Yummy. Don't forget that batch of
muffins is all for you.

DAD

Okay my little nightingale. Catch you
on the flip side. Yo.

DOOR FX

MUNCHING SOUND FX.

DAD

These muffins are so moorish.

LOTS OF MUNCHING. YUMMY SOUNDS, AND THEN:

DAD

URGH. OH NO!

Susie enters.

SUSIE

Dad! What happened?

DAD

I think i'm dying Susie.

SUSIE

Oh. I'm sure it'll pass, you'll be
fine

He violently throws up on her. VOMIT FX This goes on for some
time. Every time she goes to speak, he vomits some more.

SUSIE

See - you're fine.

DAD

I wanted to eat all the muffins so there would be none left for you. I guess I was hoisted by my own pertard.

SUSIE

You just misquoted Shakespeare!? I didn't think you knew who he was. Or even how to read to be honest.

DAD

Your mother use to quote him to me. God I miss her. You know you remind me of her. The way you laugh, the way you know long words, the way you fart and then blame it on a nearby dog.

SUSIE

Thanks?

DAD

Maybe that's why I have been holding you at arms length since she died.

(beat)

I'm sorry Susie.

SUSIE

It's okay Dad. I'll mean I will probably spend my life trying to rescue emotionally abusive men who cheat on me because of your lack of parental love. But really, we're cool.

DAD

"All we have is now, and right now we have each other."

SUSIE

Wow. That's beautiful Dad. Who said that? Gandhi? Martin Luther King?

DAD

No. Britney Spears in the 2002 film Crossroads. It's my favourite. I saw it 47 times.

SUSIE

Great.

(beat)

So I will avenge your death and all, but I need to know who did this to you?

DAD

"This time, we didn't make any wishes for the future. We said goodbye to our past."

SUSIE

Dad seriously, who killed you?

DAD

(singing)

I'm not a girl, not yet a woman!
WOMAN!

SUSIE

Okay, you can die now.

DAD

I'm going towards the light Susie.
Don't cry for me I am already....

He dies.

SUSIE

DAD! NO! NO! WHYYYYYYYYYYYYY.

Tanya enters.

TANYA

Hey what's going. Oh my God what is that smell?

Susie points at Dad.

SUSIE

It's Dad. He soiled himself. And then he died.

TANYA

Bummer.

SUSIE

I'm sorry Tanya. He'll be with you soon.

TANYA

That Philip is such a murdering bastard.

SUSIE

Well maybe it wasn't Philip.

TANYA

What do you mean?

SUSIE

It just might make more sense if you were killed by a person rather than a ghost.

TANYA

You like Philip don't you? May I remind you that he is dead and therefore unable to feel you up. What kind of relationship would you have?

SUSIE

An intellectual one. After all, I believe it was E L James who said "The mind is the most erotic part of the human body." Or was that Oliver Sachs. I can't remember.

TANYA

Susie, have you ever gotten to first base?

SUSIE

No.

TANYA

So you've never even kissed a guy?

SUSIE

Well yeah. I've done that. But that's not first base.

TANYA

Wait, what do you think first base is?

SUSIE

Penetration. Obviously.

TANYA

No. That's like last base. I mean if that were true what would second base be?

SUSIE

Water sports?

TANYA

Oh my god. How about you read a little less Hello God, It's me Margaret by Judy Blume and a little more Forever by Judy Blume.

SUSIE

It doesn't matter! We have to do something! What if I'm next?

Florence enters.

FLORENCE

Hello Woosie. It is I, your new mother...

SUSIE

What are you doing here?

FLORENCE

Why I live here now. With your father dead I automatically inherit his entire estate.

SUSIE

Wait a minute. How did you know he was dead?

FLORENCE

Facebook?

SUSIE

Oh my god it was you. You're a murderer.

FLORENCE

I have no idea what you're talking about. Anyway. I now own everything in this house. Including you.

SUSIE

Surely he left everything to me.

FLORENCE

Oh didn't he tell you. He changed his will yesterday.

SUSIE

He had a will?

FLORENCE

Well - he had an app. It did everything that a will would do. Completely legally binding as well.

SUSIE

That sounds really handy

FLORENCE

I know right! Now bring in my belonging.

HEAVY LIFTING FX. BOX BEING PUT DOWN FX

SUSIE

A plant and six boxes of muffin mix? That's all you own?

FLORENCE

Well it's like my mother said, all a girl needs to get by in this world is plants and yeast.

SUSIE

My mother use to say that you're never alone when your reading a good book.

FLORENCE

Sounds like your mother was a shit weasal. Although I do like Arthur Conan Doyle

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Did someone mention me?

CANNED LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE.

FLORENCE

Just your Sherlock Holmes books obviously.

SUSIE

Oh yes, the rest are utter shit.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Why I oughta - screw you all.

HE EXITS

SUSIE

But anyway, your not my mother. My mother was nice. Unlike you. You're a murderer. You murdered my dad!

FLORENCE

Come back here

TUSSLE FX

SUSIE

Get off me!

FLORENCE

What's this in your pocket? It's Philip's diary! I mean... a book I have no interest in. I mean shut up. Go to your room.

INT. SUSIES ROOM. EVENING

CRYING FX

SUSIE

Oh Philip, maybe your diary can give me some hope. "Sometimes I wish I could crawl into a book and just live in the pages. And sometimes I wish I could give myself oral sex." Me too buddy. Me too.

(beat)

I wish you were here.

Philip crawls out from underneath the bed.

PHILIP THE GHOST
I am. Wanna make out?

SUSIE
Awwwww you scared me!

PHILIP THE GHOST
Sorry - I was hiding underneath the bed, and your butt smelled so good I couldn't help myself. It smelt like cheerios!

SUSIE
Philip you look awful? What happened to you?

PHILIP THE GHOST
I'm in the fifth circle of hell now. Anger. And people who pronounce espresso, Espresso.

SUSIE
I know Florence is the murderer now. I just need proof. How is she killing people?

PHILIP THE GHOST
Really? Jesus F-ing Christ.

SUSIE
You know Philip no one has been this nice to me since, well, since my mom. She worked two jobs so she could save up for me to go to Harvard.

PHILIP THE GHOST
Harvard? You? Really? I mean...sure you could work as a janitor there I guess.

Florence bursts in to the room with a HUGE muffin

FLORENCE
(singing)
Happy birthday to you - happy birthday to you! HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR CABOOSIE
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.

SUSIE
It's not my birthday?

FLORENCE
Yes it is. Silly girl. All this traumatic death has made you lose your memory. You are now...28 years old.

SUSIE

I'm 15!

FLORENCE

Well, whatever. All this death must be making you hungry. Have a muffin.

SUSIE

It has been a week since I last ate. I guess I could have a.... Oh my god THE WALLS ARE BLEEDING AGAIN! I KNEW THAT PSYCHIC WAS A SCAM ARTIST.

FLORENCE

What the hell? Are you on your period? Get away from me you DEVIL!

Door opening and closing.

SUSIE

Devil...devil... Devils root! Of course!!! *Radix pedis diaboli*. That's what you were trying to tell me Philip! The muffins are poisoned!

PHILIP THE GHOST

OH MY GOD!

SUSIE

Tanya TANYA!

Tanya appears wearing an apron.

TANYA

What? Marlon Brando was just showing me how to make a Victoria sponge. He was was just getting the butter out of the fridge.

SUSIE

I need your help. I need to break into Florence's house, and you need to be my look out.

INT. FLORENCES HOUSE - EVENING

DOOR FX. SOUND OF BOOK OPENING.

SUSIE

Lets see what Florence has in her book case. Wow there's like seven unofficial autobiographies on Richard Gere here. Ah ha! Just as I suspected. Florence has Adventure of the Devils Foot by Arthur Conan Doyle. You will recall that Florence said she liked Sherlock Holmes books...

FLASHBACK

FLORENCE

I really like Sherlock Holmes books.
And Richard Gere.

BACK TO PRESENT

TANYA

Yeah, and?

SUSIE

Well, in this Sherlock Holmes
adventure the famous explorer Dr. Leon
Sterndale uses the plant *Radix pedis
diaboli*, or Devils Root, to poison
people. That's what Florence has been
doing - growing those plants and then
putting them in her muffins.

TANYA

But why?

SUSIE

I don't know. But I think it has
something to with Philip's diary.
Luckily its safely hidden away in my
front bottom.

Sound of book being taken out.

TANYA

That's Anne Franks diary? Does she
know you have it?

SUSIE

No. No no no no! Where's the diary????

FLORENCE comes in clapping.

FLORENCE

Well done Susie, you almost had me.
But what you didn't know about me is
that I am an expert at sleight of hand
magic, and I stole the diary while you
were distracted by those bleeding
walls.

SUSIE

Why are you doing this?

FLORENCE

Read the last entry.

SUSIE

"I won the spelling bee! I am now the
champion of bees and can command them
to obey my every whim!

I also won lots of money which I have safely hidden away because Dad doesn't trust banks. But Dad says we can use it get a new start, and move away from Maine. When I asked if his girlfriend would be coming, he said he didn't think so. I am excited about my new start in life."

(beat)

What? So this was about being the commander of bees?

FLORENCE

No, I don't give a fuck about those stripy bastards. It's about the money of course!!! Why else would I date your father if not to murder him, inherit this house, AND gain legal ownership of the secret two million dollars hidden somewhere in it?

SUSIE

Yeah fair point.

FLORENCE

That money is mine. I earned it.

SUSIE

No, it belonged to Philip! He earned it. He suffered through years of bullying and loneliness and sacrificed his entire childhood for the chance of spelling bee glory.

FLORENCE

You may think that being a smart child is tough, but being the parent of a smart child is worst. You have to sacrifice everything for them, and what do you get back? A smug, boring and self involved child who acts weird when guests visit. Before he met me, Philip's dad hadn't been felt the webbed fingered touch of a woman in nearly 15 years. I was doing him a favour when I put him out his misery. After a cracking blow job of course.

SUSIE

My God. Your right. Mom always put me first. Before Tanya and before Dad. No wonder they resented me so much.

FLORENCE

You can dwell on that in my basement!

INT. BASEMENT. EVENING

Susie is thrown into a dark basement.

FLORENCE

Have fun in my basement! WHICH ISN'T FUN.

SUSIE

You'll never get away with this!

FLORENCE

Whose going to rescue you? Everyone you love dies remember? Why don't you think about that whilst I tear your stupid house apart, find my money and then run off to somewhere glamorous. Like Eng-er-land.

SUSIE

So you're just going to leave me down here?

FLORENCE

Oh no. I am going to set fire to this place, with you in it. You and Bob that is.

Florence laughs. Door FX.

SUSIE

Wait! Whose....

BOB comes lurking out of the dark looking mental.

BOB

HELLO! I'M BOB!

SUSIE

AHHHHHHHHHHH

Susie hides behind a box.

BOB

Oh no! Don't be scared. Sorry. I just haven't seen anyone in such a long time, i've forgotten my manners. My name is Bobithy. Please to make your acquaintance.

SUSIE

Who are you?

BOB

I'm Bob. Didn't I say that already. I might have lost my mind. Are you real?

Bob starts prodding her.

SUSIE

Ow! Yes. Stop prodding me.

BOB

Prove it.

SUSIE

How can I prove I'm real?

BOB

I don't know, but if you don't I might kill you.

SUSIE

Okay. Lets shake hands. Hi I'm Susie.

BOB

Okay. I believe you. Susie I am the Bob. Bob Bobbins. I LOVE BOBBINS. I always wished I could sew but my mother said I was a naughty bob and had to go and live in the pixie zoo along with all the other naughty pixies.

SUSIE

Right.

(beat)

Why are you here?

BOB

My name is Bob. I lived next door with my son Philip. He was Philip and I was Bob and together we were Bolip or Phob.

SUSIE

Oh my god, your Philips dad!

BOB

You know my son? He's alive! Oh thank God.

SUSIE

Erm....

BOB

That evil witch told me he ate that muffin and died - but I didn't believe her. He was too smart for that, he saw through her from the start. But I didn't. She had the honey I so desperately wanted to suckle. She had the pollen I needed to pollinate. She had the lock and I needed to shove my key in here.

SUSIE

Please stop.

BOB

How is he? I bet he's doing great, bet he's got a couple of kids now called boberta and bobetha, and a kitten called Bobina and a wife who looks really good when she makes the effort. Which is on birthdays and at funerals. Bet he's spelling stuff somewhere with a nice view. Maybe of the ocean. Or of a quarry. Bet he doesn't think of me at all. Or how he left me down here to be her sex slave. Oh the things she made me do Susie, you wouldn't believe, there was rats involved and wounds and non approved star wars merchandise and she likes it when I call her the Colonel and... that little bastard, leaving me to rot after ALL I did for him. I gave up everything for him and his stupid fucking spelling bee's.

SUSIE

Oh no he's dead.

BOB

Oh. Well, I guess I can't be mad at him.

SUSIE

Bob, we have to get out of here, we have to stop Florence! She's going to burn down the house once she finds the money.

BOB

But how? There's no way out. WE CAN IMAGINE IT THOUGHT. That's what I do. I go to imagination land where all my friends are. There's Tim and Tom and Timmy and Tommy and Thomas and Timothy and Thom and Thim and -

SUSIE

With this....

BOB

Whats that?

SUSIE

The last page in Philips diary. I managed to swipe it from Florence, because I too am a expert at sleight of hand magic.

BOB

A diary. A diary will save us you say? Anne Frank had a diary too. Fat lot of good it did her. I use to have a diary you know, but I was in love with a cow so I use to address it Dear Dairy...

SUSIE

Hey Bob. Play with this ball.

Ball bouncing FX. Bob giggles and chases it:

SUSIE

'Dear Diary, The money is hidden -'

PHILIP

It's me! Mario. Jokes. It's me Philip The Ghost.

SUSIE

Philip!!!!

BOB

Philip?

PHILIP

Dad? Dad you're alive!

BOB

Yes, and you're... a ghost.

PHILIP

Fraid so.

BOB

Oh Philip can you ever forgive me? I should never have started dating her, but it was her knee you see. You know I can't resist a good knee. And butt. I also like buttons. She had none of those though.

SUSIE

I think he's been here for too long.

PHILIP

It's okay Dad. I'm sorry I made you sacrifice so much for me -

SUSIE

Guys, we can do this delightful reunion later. Philip, you have to help us. Florence is using your diary to find the money you hid, and then she is going to burn down this house!

PHILIP

Damn. Wait. If she has the diary, how did you summon me?

SUSIE

Oh, I stole the last entry from her.

PHILIP

Then she can't find the money. The clue to its hiding place is in that page....

(sound of Philip fading away)

SUSIE

She's coming back! I'll have to just... eat the diary entry.

SUSIE EATS THE PAGE SOUND

FLORENCE

Where is it?

SUSIE

Oh hi Florence you massive bitch.

FLORENCE

I know you have the last page...

SUSIE

I think you will find I did have it but I just ate it.

BOB

Her bowels are not gonna thank her in a few hours.

FLORENCE

NOOOO I'LL KILL YOU

TANYA

Not if I kill you first.

FLORENCE

But I killed you!

TANYA

Nu UH!

EPIC FIST FIGHT SOUND FX

TANYA

She's out cold.

SUSIE

What the hell?

TANYA

Oh yeah, I'm totally not dead.

SUSIE

What?

TANYA

Been pretending this whole time. It's called the reverse M Night Shyamalan

SUSIE

But why?

TANYA

To help you silly. I knew Florence was a no good gold digging muffin poisoning liar the first time I saw her.

SUSIE

But I saw her kill you?

TANYA

No, you saw her kill a drifter I picked up a few hours before, drugged and disguised to look like me. I was hiding underneath the bed the whole time. You know what I would not think about the logic too hard.

SUSIE

Oh Tanya. I'm sorry for ever doubting you. And I'm sorry for being moms favourite.

TANYA

That's okay.

There Dad enters.

DAD

Hey! It's me!

SUSIE

Dad! Tanya's alive!

DAD

I know. I was pretending to be dead too. Susie, pass me that vase.

Sound of vase smashing.

DAD

Oh no. Guess I'm actually dead

BOB

Ladies - shall we get out of here and live happily ever after in the soup tower?

FLORENCE

Not so fast. Eat muffins and die Tanya!

TANYA HAVING MUFFIN SHOVED IN MOUTH

TANYA

No....

SUSIE

WHY DID YOU SWALLOW?

TANYA

I DON'T KNOW.

FLORENCE

Aha! Now it looks like I have the upper hand again. Susie. I know you memorised that page before you ate it, like all good book worms do. Now, tell me where the money is, or I won't give her the antidote to the poison.

SUSIE

It was just a diary entry though, it didn't say where it was.

FLORENCE

Then I guess Tanya dies.

SUSIE

No, wait. Not now. We were just getting on. I'll figure it out. I just need some time.

FLORENCE

You have 4 minutes. Starting...one minute ago! HAHAAHAHAHA

TANYA

Go fuck a pumpkin hole. You old cunt.

Florence leaves

SUSIE

I can figure this out. Dad, I need you to try and find Philip! Go and check the libraries...

DAD

On it.

BOB

Did you at least memorise the last entry before you ate it?

SUSIE

Of course. This isn't my first rodeo.

BOB

Is this what they are like? I never went.

SUSIE

Do you have a pen or paper?

BOB

No, but we can use the basement wall. I have been drawing on it for years. Do you like the art I have made?

SUSIE

Oh, yes. Lovely.

BOB

Thanks - I really think I came onto my own during my blue period. I never had a period before. I thought they were red.

TANYA

Oh my god! What is this? A freaking dinner party?

SUSIE

Sorry. Sorry. How did you draw these?

BOB

Faeces.

SUSIE

Okay that will do.

TEN MINUTES LATER:

BOB

Thats the whole of the last entry? It doesnt make sense? It's got lots spelling errors in it, my son would never misspell on purpose. THE CLAW!

TANYA

Like unless he isn't as smart as you think he is.

SUSIE

No, he's right. It must be a code. Just give me a second to work it out. Talk amongst yourselves.

BOB

So you come here often?

SUSIE

I have it! Oh you are a smart boy Philip. The money - it's here. He hid it here - the last place Florence would think of looking.

TANYA

Huh?

SUSIE

Look - if you take the first letter of each misspelt word, it spells out -
(beat)
Money in Florence Basement.

BOB

ITS IN HER KNICKERS!

SUSIE

No. That's here. Where we are.

BOB

Oh so that's what this bag in my trousers is that has "spelling bee prize winning money" written on it. I thought it was just a weird pillow.

FLORENCE

Figured it out yet fuck heads?

SUSIE

Yes actually. But I won't tell you until you give Tanya the antidote.

FLORENCE

You wanna play hardball?

SUSIE

Yeah. I love hardball.

FLORENCE

SO DO I

BOB

She really does. She use to make me put mine in the freezer.

FLORENCE

What are you doing over there in that corner Bob?

BOB

Oh nothing. Just enjoying the day.

FLORENCE

Don't lie to me.

BOB

Fine. I just did a very smelly fart and thought it polite to do it over here, in the corner.

FLORENCE

Oh Jesus. I can't believe I ever let you lick my eyeball.

(to Susie)

You have two minutes left before she dies.

SUSIE

No, you have two minutes left before the secret of the money's location dies with her.

FLORENCE

1 MINUTE AND 59 SECONDS

SUSIE

EXACTLY.

TANYA

What's going on?

BOB

I think your sister is finally standing up for herself.

TANYA

Yeah. But it's really boring.

FLORENCE

Fine. Here. Drink this Tanya.

DRINKING SOUND. VOMITING SOUND

FLORENCE

Oh yes - you might experience some slight nausea, diarrhoea and a sudden fondness for Scandinavian crime dramas.

(beat)

Now. Tell me where the money is.

TANYA

Wait. Susie -

SUSIE

Bob has it.

TANYA

- Urgh...I was going to say don't tell her because that was our only bargaining chip.

SUSIE

Oh.

FLORENCE

Thanks Susie. Now it's time for you all to die in a super ironic way.

SUSIE

Your going to get Alanis Morrissette to sing us to death?

FLORENCE

No. I am going to RELEASE THE BEES.

BOB

Of course! Now she is the commander of all bees. We are done for. I want there to be salt at my funeral. But NO PEPPER.

SUSIE

You won't get away with this!

FLORENCE

I think you will find I will. The police here are the worst. I mean - those Stephen King books aren't actually fictional. They are his published confessions.

(beat)

Any - hoo. Time to die darlings. See you all in hell. BEES KILL THESE BASTARDS.

Florence heads upstairs. BEES SOUND FX

SUSIE

Oh my god. We're going to die like Malculy Culkin did in *My Girl*, except without our glasses. Tanya I'm sorry, this is all fault. Its like I'm cursed.

TANYA

It's okay. I mean, thanks. But you're not cursed. You're just unlucky. And you know what. You're also... alright.

SUSIE

Thanks Tanya. I appreciate that.

TANYA

At least we're together.

BOB

It's strange. I always hoped I would die like this.

They all hold hands as the sound of the bees gets louder and louder.

SUSIE

Goodbye everyone.

HEAVENLY SOUND. BEES SOUND FADES OUT.

MOM

Hello my children.

SUSIE & TANYA

Mom?

BOB

I didn't touch them.

MOM

Yes my darlings. Its is I. Mom.

SUSIE

I'm so glad you're here, it's been horrible, there was this ghost, and muffins, and this homeless guy made fun of me, and Arthur Conan Doyle was here and he's really mean and Bob is weird and now the bees and I MISSED YOU MOMMY.

MOM

You have suffered much little Susie, but don't you know, through it all - I've always been here.

SUSIE

Really? Like, the whole time.

MOM

Yes. Even when you ate all of that apple because you couldnt find a bin to put the core. I was there.

SUSIE

Right. Well...

MOM

No judgement. It seemed resourceful if anything.

SUSIE

Well. It's so good to see you and I'm sorry about the whole killing you thing.

MOM

It's cool, I was mad for a while, but I got over it. Besides turns out I had this whole undetected brain embolism anyhow so I would have died 5 minutes later, if I hadn't exploded first.

DAD

Hi Guys!

TANYA & SUSIE

DAD

SUSIE

You're back. Did you bring Philip?

DAD

No I couldn't find him anywhere.

SUSIE

Oh shit. Of course - he's in hell.

DAD

Right. Could have told me that before I searched all the libraries in heaven of which there are 400 because the government there don't cut funding for things that matter.

MOM

I think you will find all you need is this. Philips Diary.

She hands Susie Philips diary.

SUSIE

Where did you find it?

MOM

I stole it off Florence. Because i am also an expert in sleight of hand magic.

TANYA

Was there like a discounted course or something.

MOM

I can not believe your father banged that saggy ball sack!?

DAD

Sorry darling.

MOM

Now summon Philip. Quickly! I cant hold off the bees for much longer.

The sound of Bees gets louder.

SUSIE

Okay - erm... 'Dear Diary, March 15th. Today I pondered the eternal question that has plagued mankind for centuries. Poo's for shoes, or shoes for poo's."

PHILIP

Aloha!

SUSIE

Bees are about to eat our faces!

PHILIP

I can control them! Naughty bee's go back to whence you came.

Philip stops the bees using his powers. Florence comes down.

FLORENCE

Now, before I leave I must point and laugh at their dead bodies before skull fucking them all.

She sees everyone is alive.

FLORENCE

Oh. Did I say skull fuck I meant - doesn't matter. How are you alive?

SUSIE

Because we have something you don't Florence.

FLORENCE

PPI insurance?

SUSIE

No. Friends. Like Philip.

FLORENCE

No. I killed you.

PHILIP

Hi and fuck you Florence - your muffins weren't even that moist.

FLORENCE

You take that back.

PHILIP

It was like going down on a person
made of sand.

SUSIE

Yeah!

FLORENCE

HOW DARE YOU!
(to Susie)
And you two! Your parents must have
been related!

Dad and Mom step out from behind a screen.

DAD

Hey! The heart wants what the heart
wants!!! Right, sis?

MOM

Right!

They hi-five.

FLORENCE

Ha. This is the most pathetic family
reunion ever. What can a family of
ghosts do against me? You can't stop
me killing Susie, with this knife! Say
goodbye!

PHILIP

No! This ends now. Bee's kill
Florence!

BEEES FX.

FLORENCE

AHHHHH Not the bees. ANYTHING BUT THE
BEEES. AWWW THEIR MAKING HONEY IN MY
BRAIN!

SUSIE

Finally. She's dead. Lets get out of
this basement.

FLORENCE

I'M NOT DEAD ACTUALLY.

MOTHER

Here Susie, take these mento's and
this bottle of coke and do what you do
best. Make people explode.

SOUND OF MENTO'S AND COKE.

SUSIE

Enjoy the afterlife Florence. YAH

Sound of explosion.

FLORENCE
AW MY BONE MARROW!

EXT. STREET - LATER

Street sounds.

SUSIE
We're finally free.

TANYA
Yeah, but we're also like orphans.
Whose going to take care of us now?

BOB
I would be honoured if you would allow
me to be the one to do that.

TANYA
I'm not so sure -

SUSIE
Is that the best idea -

MOM
What do you think Dad?

DAD
I think bacon.

MOM
Then that's settled.

PHILIP THE GHOST
Susie, I have to go. I feel the call
of heaven.

SUSIE
Heaven?

PHILIP THE GHOST
Yeah. Turns out brutally murdering
Florence redeemed me in the eyes of
our lord SOMEONE FUNNY. He also said I
could do this, just the once.

Philip kisses Susie.

SUSIE
Wow. That's better than any book.

MOM
We have to go too. It's been a while
since your dad has visited my secret
garden. Oh, and girls, try not to have
children.

Since me and your dad are related,
they might turn out a bit funny.

SUSIE

Of course mom. Now go give Dads
prostate a good tickle. And Dad. Well.
See ya.

DAD

Bye, don't forget to blog about me.

TANYA

Hashtag gone but not forgotten.

PHILIP

Bye Susie. I'll save you a seat in
Heaven. Bye Dad - take good care of
those two.

They all wave goodbye.

BOB

What shall we do now?

TANYA

I could do with some food.

BOB

What shall we have?

SUSIE

Anything but muffins!

They all laugh.