

POTRAIT OF A PHANTOM

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

An unending apartment hallway. Paint chips off the walls, the ceiling is stained, and the carpet is discolored.

Out from around the corner appears, KAITLIN EVANS, 24, an innocent tenant of the building.

She bolts down the hallway. Her feet STOMPING on the ground. Every once in a while she looks behind her, although, nothing is behind her. Yet.

Kaitlin stops at the elevator doors. She mashes the call button.

She looks over her shoulder and screams.

Down the hall, the lights flickers. For a moment OSCAR QUINN, 25, a charred skeleton who is kinder than he looks, appears in the dark. His arms out-stretched.

Kaitlin stops pressing the button and continues to sprint down the hallway. This time she stops at the staircase doors. She pulls on them. Unfortunately for her they are locked.

She yanks them violently. They don't budge.

Oscar is getting closer.

She runs to a near by apartment door and knocks.

KAITLIN
Help! For love the god, someone
help me!

No response.

Oscar is getting even closer.

Kaitlin backs up. Oscar is boxing her in the corner. He makes incomprehensible noises. He reaches out a closed fist out to her.

With no other options, Kaitlin leaps through the window, shattering the glass.

OSCAR
No, no, no, no!

Oscar peers out the window.

He sees Kaitlin fall all the way down, finally splattering on the pavement. Her blood and guts spray the sidewalk.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Why do they always run?

Oscar opens up his fist to reveal a single pearl earring.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
I had a whole thing planned. I was going to say, "missing something?" Not anymore.

Oscar leans out the window one more time.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - ABANDONED APARTMENT - NIGHT

Oscar phases through a wall into an apartment that has been boarded up and forgotten. The inside is all burned up.

A partly burned photo of Oscar's family are framed on a drawer that is still standing, even though it is very damaged from the fire.

Oscar drops the pearl earring onto a pile of other lost things that other tenants have lost and he had found.

He dusts off a mirror hanging on the wall.

His reflection is of him when he was alive, a young lanky man dressed in old fashioned clothing.

He goes over to the pictures of his family. He kisses his fingers, then places those fingers on the photo.

Oscar closes his eyes.

OSCAR
Miss you guys.

PHIL LANCASTER, 28, the spirit of a 70s stage actor who looks like he really should have been smoking reefers with hippies, with a bullet hole for his right eye, moves through the wall.

A heavy cloud of pot smoke follows Phil around.

PHIL
Hey buuuuuddy. What's goin' on?

Oscar twists onnly his head around.

OSCAR
Phil, not right now.

PHIL
Oh? What's the matter, man?

OSCAR
It's complicated.

Phil makes himself at home by taking a seat on Oscar's only armchair.

PHIL
You can tell me. I mean, you can
literally only tell me.

Oscar twists his head back to it's regular position and turns to face Phil.

He looks Phil right in the eye.

OSCAR
I killed someone tonight.

PHIL
That's heavy, man.

OSCAR
It was an accident of course.

Oscar begins to pace around room.

PHIL
Of course! You ain't no killer.

OSCAR
I haven't felt this awful in a
century.

PHIL
Oh, and, I forgot to remind, you
but, Judgement...

Oscar stops pacing.

PHIL (CONT'D)
...It's tonight.

OSCAR
We need to go.

Oscar pulls Phil up from the chair and leads him out the room.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

A long line of ghosts are up at the end of the hallway. The start of the line is at a window.

Oscar and Phil skip most of the line, and end up just a few ghosts behind the window.

One of the ghosts in line behind them, ANTHONY, 24, a short man with a high pitched voice and no left leg or patience, calls them out.

ANTHONY

Hey, go to the back of the line
pal! We were here first.

Phil turns to Anthony.

PHIL

Yeah, well, we died here, man!
We've got priority.

ANTHONY

I've floated thousands of miles,
all the way from Florida just to
come here.

PHIL

Oh, they don't have passages to the
other side in Florida? What a
surprise.

Oscar leans in close to Phil.

OSCAR

Just leave it. C'mon.

Oscar and Phil step out of line and head to the end.

ANTHONY

That's what I thought asshole!

Anthony gives Phil the middle finger.

PHIL

Well, he isn't getting to the other
side. That's for sure.

They step into the end of the line.

At the window a shining golden escalator appears leading all the way to the North Star. Ghost step on it and ride it all the way up.

Phil watches as more ghosts get on. Eventually Anthony gets on himself.

Phil's jaw drops as Anthony rides up.

PHIL (CONT'D)

How?

Oscar pushes Phil forward in line.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - LATER

Oscar and Phil are closer to the escalator to Heaven.

Oscar turns around and his eyes widen.

A few ghosts behind him is KAITLIN EVANS, a disgusting bloody heap, waiting in line.

Oscar avoids her line of sight. Phil notices this.

PHIL

What is it?

OSCAR

Nothing.

Phil peers down the line. He spots Kaitlin, who sticks out like a sore thumb. She's nervous, not really sure of what's going on.

PHIL

Wait, is that the -

OSCAR

Yes. Don't say a thing.

PHIL

My lips are sealed, my man.

The two of them move up the line. Finally it's their turn.

Oscar shuts his eyes and takes a deep breath.

He takes one step on the escalator. It immediately ejects him, hurling him to the ground.

Phil rushes to his side and helps him up.

OSCAR

Thanks.

Oscar looks at the escalator then at Phil who stands beside him.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Aren't you going to try?

PHIL
Oh, yeah.

Phil gives Oscar a quick glance, before stepping on. The escalator goes up a few steps before Phil flies off like Oscar did.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Ow!

Oscar helps him up.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Seems like we both didn't make it.
Oh well.

OSCAR
Yeah.

Oscar hangs his head.

PHIL
Wanna go, scare some dogs?

OSCAR
Nah. I - I'll see you tomorrow.

PHIL
Oh, okay.

Oscar begins to look away. As he turns around to wave goodbye to Phil, he spots Kaitlin Evans riding up the escalator. She sees him too.

KAITLIN
Hey!

Oscar begins to walk faster.

EXT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - MORNING

DENNIS SHANDOR, 22, a young hair bun wearing yuppie who believes the world is his oyster, stands in front of the Botticelli apartment building.

Besides him is his girlfriend, LILI STRUNG, 23, a short fireball of passion, stands beside him.

Dennis breathes in the fresh early morning air.

DENNIS
Do you smell that?

Lili crinkles her nose.

LILI
Yeah. The poisonous fumes of car exhaust.

DENNIS
No, baby, that's the smell of a brand new day. A long time ago my ancestors came here, to New York. And there's no better place to learn about them...

Dennis takes a step back into the street.

Dennis opens up his arms, as if he was trying to give the building a hug.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
...Than one of the places one of them actually lived in!

A car comes careening down the street, almost hitting Dennis.

DRIVER
Get out of the road moron!

Lili pulls Dennis back onto the side walk.

DENNIS
I love this city.

LILI
That's nice and all, but I think we should start moving in your stuff, I gotta get to work soon.

As Lili and Dennis walk off, Lili notices a red splotch on the sidewalk near the apartment building. She grimaces at it.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - MORNING

The elevator DINGS and the doors slide open. Dennis and Lili exit with boxes in their hands.

They walk down the hallway.

LILI

I would do some research on my own ancestors, but my parents didn't tell anything about them. All I know is that I'm at least fifty percent German. Or was it, Finnish?

DENNIS

My dad had these photographs of my ancestors handed down to him. I brought them with me, they should be in one of the boxes. I'll show you later.

They make it to Dennis' apartment, number 707. Dennis puts down his box.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Here, let me take that.

He takes the box from Lili's hands and puts it down. He takes out his apartment keys from out of his pockets.

Dennis opens up the door and slides in the boxes.

LILI

Don't you want to at least put the boxes in the right place?

DENNIS

Ah, I'll deal with it later, lets get all the boxes first.

Dennis looks down at the elevators down at the end of the hallway then back at Lili.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Wanna race to the elevator?

LILI

You're on.

They race down the hallway at full sprint.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - ABANDONED APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Oscar sits on his chair. Staring at the photos of his family. The sound of LAUGHTER and feet STAMPING the ground comes from outside his apartment.

Oscar puts his head up against the wall. He hears LAUGHTER again.

He pokes his head out the wall.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Oscar's head emerges from the wall. He looks down the hall at the noise.

He sees Dennis and Lili by the elevator. The doors slide open and Lili steps inside.

Dennis looks down the hallway, nothing is there.

Oscar emerges completely out of the wall. He stands in the middle of the hallway. He can feel Dennis' eyes on him.

LILI

Dennis? Are you okay?

Dennis snaps out of the mini-trance and steps into the elevator.

DENNIS

Yeah, sorry, I just - felt something.

The elevator doors shut.

Oscar stands in front of the elevator, scratching his head.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Dennis puts down a cardboard box marked, "Kitchen Shit" on the floor.

LILI

Is that the last of the boxes?

DENNIS

Yup. Do you still have some time before work?

Lili checks her cellphone.

LILI

Yeah.

DENNIS

Want to go get some food?

Before Lili can respond, a KNOCK comes at the door.

Dennis and Lili look over at the door, eyebrows raised.

LILI
Who can that be?

Dennis looks through the peephole.

Standing outside is CAESAR VITAILY, 30, a short and portly conspiracy theorist with a thick neckbeard.

DENNIS
Let's find out.

Dennis swings open the door.

CAESAR
Aye-oh! I knew I heard the sound of
people moving in!

Caesar grabs Dennis' hands with his own greasy palms and shakes it.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
The name is Vitaily, Caesar
Vitaily. Your new neighbor.

Dennis wipes his hand on his pants.

DENNIS
Nice to meet you. I'm Dennis. And
that is Lili.

Caesar lets himself in. He sees Lili standing a few feet away and he bows.

CAESAR
Enchante, m'lady.

Caesar turns to Dennis.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
You did not mention a woman.

DENNIS
I did.

CAESAR
Oh. Well, my bad. You too have any
plans tonight? Mayhaps you two can
come over and I'll show you my
fedora collection.

LILI
Well, I've got work. So, maybe just
Dennis.

DENNIS

I - I.

Dennis trails off. He thinks for a bit.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Got stuff.

CAESAR

Oh. Well. I'll see you around.

Caesar heads to the door, but spins around dramatically.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

By the way. This apartment complex
is haunted. Things move and
disappear, dogs bark at nothing,
visions of spirits at the edge of
your bed in the middle of the night
begging for you to take a shower!

Caesar stops to take a breath.

Dennis and Lili look at each other, trying to hold in their
laughter.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

People just think that the building
is old and other bullshit, but I
know the truth.

DENNIS

Thanks for the heads up.

Caesar bows once last time before finally exiting the
apartment. Leaving the front door wide open.

LILI

Hey, maybe that's why you felt
something weird earlier.

DENNIS

Oh, shut up.

Dennis shuts the door.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Phil stands in the middle of the hallway, completely still.
His head is pointed out towards the window.

Oscar steps in front of Phil, blocking his view.

OSCAR

Phil.

Phil jumps back, holding in a yelp.

PHIL

Jesus Harold Christ, Oscar! You just do that to another ghost.

OSCAR

I'm sorry. I- just, I - I -

Oscar doesn't finish his thought and is as out of breath as a spirit can be.

Phil grabs a hold of Oscar.

PHIL

Chill, dude, chill. What's the matter?

OSCAR

Has a human, a live human person that is, ever seen you.

Phil strokes his beard in contemplation.

PHIL

They have certainly looked in my direction. After you know I give them a little spook.

OSCAR

I'm not talking about that. Like actually looking at you, like...like they could see you.

Phil strokes his beard again.

PHIL

...No. That, yeah, never happened to me before, dude.

Phil looks at Oscar.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Wait. You're not saying?

Oscar nods his head.

PHIL (CONT'D)

When did this happen?

OSCAR
A couple of hours earlier?

PHIL
Who was it?

OSCAR
I don't know, but I - I had some
strange feeling like I knew him.

Phil laughs out loud at that statement.

PHIL
Well that's im-fuckin'-possible.

Oscar gives Phil a mean stare.

OSCAR
I know that.

Phil puts his arms around Oscar.

PHIL
Tell you what. Let's go pay him a
visit and see if he can see me as
well.

Oscar brushes Phil's arm off.

OSCAR
What?

PHIL
Yeah. Why not, dude?

OSCAR
Because, I don - I don't want to
scare him off so soon.

As Oscar was speaking, Phil was making the mock talking sign
with his hands.

PHIL
Whatever. Come on, you owe me since
you bailed on me last night.
Besides it's not like he can hurt
you. We'll be in and out. But we'll
make damn sure that we are there.

OSCAR
I don't know.

Phil puts his hands together and begins to beg.

PHIL

C'mon.

Oscar looks at Phil, and eventually he is taken over by Phil's "charm."

OSCAR

Oh, alright.

PHIL

Righteous!

Phil and Oscar float off.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis opens a bottle of beer and plops down on his couch, letting out a huge sigh and turns on his television.

He looks around at all the boxes he still has to unpack. Then he takes a sip of beer.

Oscar and Phil float through the front door. They spot Dennis relaxing.

Phil circles around Dennis.

Dennis doesn't even notice Phil as he passes by his line of sight. Not a single thing.

Phil stands next to Oscar.

PHIL

Well, does that answer your question?

OSCAR

Maybe he wasn't looking at me.

Phil pats Oscar on the back.

PHIL

Sorry. But, now that we are here.
Let me do my thing.

Phil gives Oscar a sly look as he places one his feet onto one of the moving boxes.

OSCAR

Wait!

Phil kicks the moving box, knock it on its side. The contents spilling onto the floor.

Dennis looks over at the commotion. He sees the mess.

He gets up from the couch and inspects the box. Puts everything back inside.

Phil and Oscar float nearby.

Phil blows down Dennis' neck.

Dennis quickly spins around, placing a hand on his neck. And still he sees nothing.

Phil holds in a laugh. Phil playfully hits Oscar on his arm.

PHIL
Check this out.

Phil floats over to the window and swings them open.

The large window sheers move with the cold breeze.

Dennis shivers as he turns his attention to the now open window.

Oscar just watches in the sideline.

As soon as Dennis shuts the window, the television comes alive. Startling him.

DENNIS
What the fuck.

Phil begins to channel surf.

OSCAR
Okay, Phil, I think he gets it.

Phil stops flipping through channels.

Dennis pulls the plug to the television. He grabs his beer and quickly chugs the rest of it. Dennis goes to his fridge and grabs two other beers.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Can we go now?

PHIL
What? No, dude. The best part is when they are asleep. You would know this if you ever fuckin' hanged out with me.

OSCAR
This just isn't my thing.

PHIL
Just this one time? Then you can go
back to moping around.

Oscar sees Phil about to put his hands together again.

OSCAR
Fine, just don't beg.

Phil smiles.

PHIL
Let's just wait for a few.

The two ghosts turn their gaze to Dennis who just finished
downing his third beer.

INT. DENNIS' ROOM - NIGHT

Dennis is tucked snuggly into his bed. Eyes shut tight, in a
deep sleep. Ready to be ruined by two ghosts.

Creeping in the shadows, Oscar and Phil phase through the
bedroom door.

They loom over Dennis at the end of his bed.

Phil studies Dennis. Then he grabs one edge of the bed.

PHIL
Grab the other side.

Oscar does so and looks at Phil.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Okay. One the count of three,
shake, shake as hard as you can.
Okay, dude?

OSCAR
Sure.

Oscar looks over at sleeping Dennis.

PHIL
One.

Phil and Oscar grip the bed tighter.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Two.

Phil grins.

PHIL (CONT'D)

Three.

Phil and Oscar shake the bed.

Dennis opens his eyes. He sees Oscar's charred body standing over him. Dennis lets out a yelp. He tries to move, but he can't. He's frozen still.

Phil laughs.

Dennis hears Phil's laughter as an unpleasant grating noise coming from somewhere in the room.

Dennis screams louder and louder. He even begins to convulse.

Oscar winces at Dennis' spasms.

OSCAR

Phil stop it! He's scared plenty.

Phil doesn't comply. He keeps on shaking the bed.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Phil!

Phil sees Oscar's worried expression and his smile disappears. He stops shaking the bed.

PHIL

Oh, shit. Sorry.

Dennis calms down.

DENNIS

Phil? Who's there?

Oscar eyes widen, well as much as they can with no eye lids.

OSCAR

Can you understand me?

DENNIS

Yes. If you want to rob me, I don't have much money on me. Feel free to take any

Oscar turns to Phil.

PHIL

Let's blow this popsicle stand.

Oscar and Phil float away.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Phil and Oscar phase through the wall.

PHIL
Sorry if I went a little overboard
back there, pal.

Oscar tries to make sense of what just happened back there.

OSCAR
Did you hear him?

PHIL
Yeah I did. Those screams, man oh
man.

OSCAR
Not that. He heard me, he was
talking to me.

PHIL
Was he? I wasn't really paying
attention to that.

OSCAR
I wasn't crazy.

PHIL
But, he still didn't see me.

OSCAR
Huh.

PHIL
It was fun though, I'll see you
later.

Phil floats off.

Oscar turns his head towards Dennis' apartment.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - MORNING

Dennis walks into his kitchen, hair disheveled.

With a shaky hand, he pours himself a cup of coffee, spilling
coffee all over the kitchen floor.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - MORNING

Dennis shuts his front door behind him. He jumps in his skin when he finds Caesar waiting for him out in the hallway.

Caesar hold in his arms an orange tabby cat, who he calls Link.

Link struggles to get out of Caesar's clutches, but Caesar just holds him tighter.

DENNIS

Fuck!

CAESAR

Whoa. Take me out and buy me a drink first.

DENNIS

I'm sorry, I just had, oh what's the word? Sleep paralysis. Very terrifying.

Oscar peaks around the hallway corner, looking at Caesar and Dennis.

CAESAR

Are you sure they weren't ghosts?

DENNIS

I mean, yeah?

Caesar gets up close to Dennis.

CAESAR

Are you one hundred certain?

DENNIS

Yes? 'Cause ghosts aren't real?

CAESAR

I've heard those same screams before Dan. You know where I heard them?

DENNIS

Dan isn't short for Dennis.

CAESAR

They were coming from my own mouth! I was the one whom was screaming, if that wasn't clear.

Dennis doesn't back up, he just stares at Caesar who is still up in his grill.

DENNIS
Wow, okay. I...

Dennis looks at his wrist, even though he is not even wearing a watch.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
... Need to be getting to work.
Let's catch up later.

Dennis slaps Caesar on the back as he rushes off the elevator.

CAESAR
You better.

Caesar kisses his cat before going back into his own apartment.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
You need a bath.

Once everyone is gone, Oscar heads into Dennis' apartment.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - DAY

Oscar floats into the apartment and takes a good long look around the living room.

He doesn't even know where to begin his search.

Oscar examines every inch of wall in the living room, then in every room, in some hope that the apartment is enchanted.

When nothing comes up, Oscar begins to search through Dennis' things. Throwing everything and making a mess.

Oscar opens up Dennis' still packed moving boxes.

As he goes through them, Oscar stops at a photo album that Dennis had made.

He flips through the pages, the photos are of Dennis's parent's and of his parent's parents. Going back for years.

A photo catches Oscar's eyes. A photo that has been damaged by time, but it is familiar to him all the same. He grabs the photo and leaves the apartment.

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT - DAY

Oscar rushes into his apartment and towards the picture of his parents.

He puts the photo that he grabbed from Dennis' apartment up to it.

There is a large disparity in quality between the two photos, but there is no questioning it, those are his own two parents in that photo, and wee baby Oscar is there too.

Then it hits him, Dennis is Oscar's descendant.

Oscar literally sinks to the floor.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - EVENING

Dennis opens his apartment door to the mess that Oscar had made while rummaging through his house.

DENNIS
What in the hell?

Dennis drops his bag and starts putting things back in their places, checking if anything had been stolen.

As he cleans up he notices a trail of his DVD's leading off in a different direction.

Dennis follows the DVD's to his bedroom door.

Scratched on the surface of his bedroom door is a message saying, "We need to talk midnight sorry about the door"

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis sits on his couch. The only light in the room is coming from the television screen.

He is drifting in and out of sleep.

Dennis' home assistant comes to alive and states the time, exactly 12:00 P.M. Then the home assistant blasts some pop music.

Dennis jolts awake.

DENNIS
Alexa, stop the music.

Dennis rubs his tired eyes. He looks around the room, no seems to be there, certainly not the person that left him the message.

He gets up from the couch and to the front door. He looks out the peephole.

There isn't anyone waiting outside, or even coming this way.

Dennis backs up from the peephole. Emerging from the shadows behind him is Oscar, in his grotesque form.

Dennis stops moving when he feels someone behind him. The nhe feels a chill down his neck.

Dennis slowly turns around.

OSCAR
Salutations.

DENNIS
Holy shit!

Dennis tumbles over some of his furniture as he tries to run away from Oscar.

OSCAR
Wait!

Oscar follows Dennis, although it is more of a chase, around the room.

Dennis knocks over some items in hope that it slows Oscar down, it doesn't. Oscar just floats through them.

DENNIS
Hell no. What the fuck are you anyway?

OSCAR
You want a serious answer?

DENNIS
You shouldn't even be talking you ugly motherfucker.

Oscar stops chasing Dennis.

OSCAR
Hurtful.

DENNIS

I don't care what you think! You were in my room last night. Making that horrible sound.

OSCAR

Yes, but I - I can explain. And I wasn't the one making the noise.

Dennis grabs a pillow and tosses it at Oscar.

The pillow just falls through Oscar.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

I just want to say, that pillow wouldn't have hurt me even if I was alive.

DENNIS

What are you?

OSCAR

I'm a ghost. Obviously.

An awkward silence fills the air as Dennis just stares at Oscar floating ahead of him.

Dennis cleans out his ears.

DENNIS

A ghost?

Oscar nods his head.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Goddamn, Caesar was right.

Dennis kneels down in front of Oscar. He puts his hands together in a prayer.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Please specter, spare me. I haven't done anything completely morally wrong. I haven't cheated on my girlfriend, I've been a good son to my parents. Why are you before me?

Oscar has no other response than to facepalm.

OSCAR

What? I'm not that type of ghost. I'm not here to kill you or anything like that.

Dennis wipes tears from his eyes.

DENNIS
You're not?

Oscar sees that Dennis had been crying.

OSCAR
Sorry about that and about last night.

DENNIS
Well, thanks

OSCAR
C'mon man, stand up.

Dennis stands to his feet, still cowering under Oscar.

DENNIS
Still, you must be here for some reason.

Oscar begins to pace around the living room.

OSCAR
Out of all the many years that I -
that I have been cursed to live in
this apartment building, no one has
ever understood me. Literally.
Except for you.

Oscar turns to look Dennis in the eyes.

DENNIS
Why?

Oscar gestures around the room.

OSCAR
Well, in my search, sorry about
that again, I found a photograph.

Oscar pulls out the picture that he found in Dennis' album.
Dennis grabs it and takes a look at it.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
That's me. As a wee baby. You are
my descendant.

Dennis looks at the photo more closely in his hands, then
back up at Oscar.

DENNIS
Holy shit. You are just what I'm
looking for.

After thinking for a bit, Dennis looks at Oscar with distrust.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
If anything you are saying is the
truth. I've seen all those movies.
The ghost lures the hero in with
lies, then he turns out to be a
demon or something.

OSCAR
Trust me, you are not the hero.

DENNIS
And what is it that you want out of
this?

Oscar floats a little closer to Dennis, who takes a few steps back from him.

OSCAR
You - you are going to help cross
to the other side.

DENNIS
How in the hell am I supposed to do
that?

Oscar turns around and starts pacing again.

OSCAR
It must mean something that we met.
Please, you've - you've got to help
me.

DENNIS
I can't trust any of this. This
could be a dream.

OSCAR
Please.

Dennis looks at Oscar who is starting to mope.

DENNIS
Alright. I'll verify the photo and
get back to you. And if you promise
me that you'll tell me stories of
your youth.

Oscar spins around ecstatically.

OSCAR
Really?

DENNIS
Yeah, sure.

Oscar goes to hug Dennis, but stops half-way and just stands there.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Was that - were you about to hug me
just then?

OSCAR
Yeah. Then I realized I couldn't.

DENNIS
What are the rules for being a
ghost?

OSCAR
I don't know much about that
either.

There is a small awkward silence.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
I - I'm gonna go now.

Oscar quickly floats out the room.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Dennis sits at one of the computers, earbuds on, the music just loud enough to barely hear it.

He scrolls through the archives on the computer database.

ON COMPUTER:

It's filled with old newspapers and photographs.

He stops when he finds the photo that was in his album. The names on the caption of the photo read, "The Quinn Family"

Dennis opens up his small family tree that he had compiled. He cross-references the last name. He stops when he finds the name, coming from his father's side of the family.

BACK TO DENNIS:

DENNIS
(to himself)
Holy shit.

Dennis saves the photos to his flash drive.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis enters his apartment, slamming the door shut behind him.

DENNIS
Oscar!

No response.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Oscar!

Dennis stands in the middle of the room, waiting.

Oscar floats in through the wall.

OSCAR
I gather you did some research?

DENNIS
I did. And I found out some pretty interesting stuff.

OSCAR
Good or bad interesting?

DENNIS
Let's just say. I'm willing to help.

Oscar's eyes widen.

OSCAR
Re-really?

DENNIS
Why the hell not? I'll start doing some research on the afterlife and what not.

OSCAR
And what should I do?

DENNIS
Whatever the hell ghosts do.

Oscar floats out of the apartment, with a spark in his movements.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Oscar flies around the apartment building, not really seeing where is he moving.

He bumps into Phil, knocking him to the ground.

PHIL
Whoa man, watch where your going.

OSCAR
Sorry, but he said yes!

Oscar helps Phil back up.

PHIL
You're getting married?

OSCAR
What? N-no. Didn't I tell you?

PHIL
No. I'm out of the loop on whatever the hell you are talking about.

OSCAR
I'll catch you up to speed later, what's important now is, I'm going to other side?

PHIL
Now? What about me, man?

OSCAR
What about you?

Phil looks away from Oscar, hurt from what he just said.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Sorry, but what did you mean by that?

PHIL
What I meant, was your just going to leave me here? On this shithole they call earth?

OSCAR
You call it Earth too, Phil.

PHIL
Whatever! And what about our plans?

OSCAR
We didn't have any plans.

Phil stops and thinks for a moment.

As he does so, two PEOPLE walk right through them. The people shiver as they pass through. Oscar and Phil shiver as well.

PHIL
Oh right, but what about our future plans?

OSCAR
We'll just have to cancel them, and hold everything until I get this sorted out.

PHIL
Don't let this, what was his name?

OSCAR
Dennis.

PHIL
Don't let this Dennis, dude becoming between us.

OSCAR
Whatever, I'll see you around.

Oscar begins to float away, the lights above him flickering as he passes under them.

Phil watches as Oscar disappears.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Dennis enters the library with a determined air around him.

He walks up the LIBRARIAN, at the front desk.

LIBRARIAN
How may I help you today?

DENNIS
Yes, I want to find some books about ghosts and the spiritual world.

The Librarian gives Dennis an odd look.

LIBRARIAN
Would that be fiction or non-fiction?

Dennis thinks for a moment.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - SHELVES - DAY

Dennis walks down the aisle of books stock filled with subjects about the paranormal, ghosts, and other similar topics.

Dennis stops in the middle of the aisle and starts grabbing random books off the shelves.

INT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Dennis sits at a table with the stack of books that he took right beside him.

He writes notes on his laptop as he skims through a book.

Dennis' phone goes off.

He rushes to grab it, as the people sitting around him give him an angry look.

DENNIS
(mouthing)
Sorry, sorry.

Dennis looks at who is calling him. Its Lili.

He silences the phone and puts it into his bag. Then he apologizes again silently to the people around him.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - EVENING

Dennis slumps onto his couch. Sliding halfway down the couch, not even noticing Oscar floating next to him.

OSCAR
Hey.

Dennis jumps up.

DENNIS
God!

OSCAR
Sorry, I thought - I thought you
saw me.

DENNIS
You gotta come up with some other
way to let me know you're in here.

OSCAR
Alright, alright. I'll, I don't
know...

Oscar looks around the room.

He spots an old action figure lying sideways.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
If I'm here, this doll will be
standing up.

Oscar goes to the action figure and moves it to an upright
position.

DENNIS
Great. Thank you. And its
technically an action figure.

OSCAR
Did you did any research yet?

Dennis reaches for his bag and takes out his laptop.

DENNIS
Yeah, I wrote some notes down on
my...

Dennis turns to Oscar.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Okay, what this is, will blow your
mind okay? This thing is a laptop.
Its a portable, computer, a thing-

OSCAR
(interrupting)
I know what a laptop is. I'm a
ghost not an idiot.

Dennis opens up his laptop.

DENNIS
Oh. Well anyways, I did find some
interesting stuff.
(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

A lot of the books said basically the same thing. If you want to cross over, you to resolve your unfinished business, stop a great evil, or help someone in need.

OSCAR

One of those things?

DENNIS

Yes. Maybe all three.

Oscar starts pacing pack and forth.

OSCAR

You couldn't have narrowed it down to one?

DENNIS

Listen, you came to me.

OSCAR

Right, sorry.

DENNIS

We can at least cross out unfinished business, since you know what laptops are.

Oscar stops pacing.

OSCAR

Okay, so great evil?

DENNIS

In this apartment building, or the whole world. Can you even leave?

Dennis shuts his laptop and gets up from the couch.

He goes over to the kitchen.

OSCAR

No, if I could I would have left this dump already.

Dennis has his head in the fridge.

DENNIS

Hey! I live in this dump.

Dennis goes back to the couch with a cold beer in his hand.

OSCAR
Weird choice, by the way.

DENNIS
So, helping people.

Oscar starts pacing again.

OSCAR
Do you know anyone who needs help.

Dennis takes a sip of his beer.

DENNIS
I just moved here, I only know one
guy, and you sure can't help me. No
one can.

Oscar stops pacing.

OSCAR
Then lets go find someone then.

Oscar flies out of the apartment.

DENNIS
Wait up.

Dennis chugs his beer. As he leaves, he knocks the action
figure to it's side.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - EVENING

Oscar hovers by Caesar's door. Dennis sees him floating
there, as he exits his own apartment.

DENNIS
Let's start the other way.

OSCAR
Why?

Dennis starts heading the other way.

DENNIS
I don't want to get to it right
now.

Oscar catches up with Dennis at the door, right as he knocks
on it.

The two of them wait patiently by the door.

No one opens up.

Dennis knocks again.

Again, no answer.

Dennis moves onto the next door.

OSCAR

Wait, that's it. Your not going to wait any longer?

DENNIS

No. They're not there, or they don't want to open up.

Dennis knocks on the door. He puts his hands on his hips as he waits.

OSCAR

Why?

DENNIS

Do you want me to explain the human psyche to you?

No one opens up. Dennis sighs and moves on.

As Dennis and Oscar walk door to door, knocking on each door, each time being ignored, Phil watches them while hiding behind a corner.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - LATER

Dennis knocks on the penultimate door.

This time, some one actually opens up. An OLD NEIGHBOR, 70, with no hair, scruffy little facial hair, and no patience, is on the other side.

Dennis opens his mouth to speak, but the neighbor beats him to it.

OLD NEIGHBOR

I don't want to buy anything your selling.

The Neighbor slams the door on them.

OSCAR

Then why did you open the door, old man?

DENNIS
Easy. And you're a lot older than him.

OSCAR
Now what?

DENNIS
I don't know. We can try the floor below us.

OSCAR
I'm tethered to this floor. I can't go anywhere else.

Dennis looks to Caesar's door. He lets out a sigh.

DENNIS
Okay, fine. Follow me.

Dennis knocks on Caesar's door.

OSCAR
What's wrong with this door?

DENNIS
You'll find out.

After a few seconds, Caesar opens up the door. It's clear by his red eyes that he had been crying.

CAESAR
Dennis. So you've heard.

DENNIS
No, actually.

CAESAR
C'mon in, please.

Caesar puts his arms around Dennis and leads him inside his apartment.

Dennis gives Oscar a look before the door closes behind him.

Oscar phases through the door after them.

INT. CAESAR'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dennis looks around Caesar's apartment. It's lit mostly with deep red LED lights. He has a library shelf filled with mint condition action figures and other things.

The walls are decorated with posters of the most basic film buff movies.

There is another shelf dedicated solely to Caesar's fedora collection.

Dennis' attention is brought back to Caesar, when he starts to speak to him.

CAESAR
So you haven't heard.

DENNIS
You keep on saying that.

Oscar floats into the apartment and has the same reaction that Dennis had.

CAESAR
My cat, Link, ran away.

DENNIS
(smiling)
Hold up. Your cat's name is Link?

Caesar nods lightly, wiping a newly formed tear from his cheek.

Dennis hears Caesar silently crying. His smiles fades away.

He slowly reaches his arm out and pats Caesar on the shoulder.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Well, he couldn't have gone far.
Right? Seventh floor of an
apartment building and what not.

Caesar looks at Dennis' arm on his shoulder, then he gives Dennis a funny look.

Oscar floats over the window and looks out to the sidewalk below.

OSCAR
Unless Link fell down seven floors,
and splatted on the ground.

Dennis turns to Oscar.

DENNIS
Whoa. Dark. You can't say that.

CAESAR
Who are you talking to?

Dennis turns back to Caesar.

DENNIS
You don't think it's possible that,
uh...

Dennis looks deeply into Caesar's eyes.

CAESAR
It's possible that what? Finish the
sentence.

DENNIS
I'll keep an eye out for Link,
okay?

CAESAR
That didn't sound like the end to
that sentence.

DENNIS
Huh?

CAESAR
That sounded like a completely new
thought.

DENNIS
Right. What sentence were you
thinking of?

CAESAR
The one were you said that maybe it
could be possible, blah blah blah.

DENNIS
Oh that sentence.

Oscar facepalms.

OSCAR
And I thought I had poor people
skills.

DENNIS
Do you think maybe it's possible
that he never left the apartment?

Dennis shrugs.

CAESAR

No.

Dennis stands up and pats Caesar on the back again.

DENNIS

Well, think about it. I'll tell you
if I see Link.

CAESAR

Thanks.

Dennis and Oscar head out the apartment.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Oscar follows Dennis down the hallway.

OSCAR

A cat? That's you've got me doing?

DENNIS

He loves the cat, you got to do it.
If you ever want to leave this
apartment.

Oscar flies half-way through Dennis and stays there.

OSCAR

A cat?

DENNIS

Please get out of me. It feels
weird.

OSCAR

A cat?

DENNIS

Is that all you can say now? A cat?
Can you think of anything better?

Oscar floats out of Dennis.

Dennis holds his stomach as if he had just passed a kidney
stone.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Ow!

OSCAR

Sorry. I - I guess since it's the
only thing.

DENNIS
Besides unless you're right and the
cat is dead, it's easy.

Dennis starts moving again.

OSCAR
And where are you going?

DENNIS
To sleep. Us humans have work you
know.

OSCAR
And what about me?

DENNIS
Start looking Link.

Dennis heads into his apartment.

Phil materializes in behind Oscar.

PHIL
Hey, man. What was that all about?

OSCAR
Nothing, really.

PHIL
Oh, okay. Yeah, I believe you,
totally.

OSCAR
Have you seen a cat, by chance?

PHIL
A cat?

OSCAR
That's what I said.

PHIL
What does it look like?

OSCAR
What does it look like? Like a cat.

PHIL
Yeah, but like what type, what
color is the fur?

Oscar opens his mouth to respond, then realizes, he can't
answer that question.

OSCAR
Damn! He never said.

Phil cocks his head to the side in curiosity.

PHIL
Who never said?

OSCAR
Don't mind what I just said. It's -
it's inimportant.

PHIL
Unimportant. It's un not in.

OSCAR
Are you here to take me away,
grammar police?

PHIL LANCASTER
Nah, nah. I just wanted to see how
you were doing.

OSCAR
I'm fine.

Phil begins to circle around Oscar.

PHIL
Are you? I mean, you seem to be
intermingling with people who are
alive. What kind of ghost doesn't
scare humans?

OSCAR
Didn't we all used to be alive? I
mean at some point?

Phil stops circling for a moment.

PHIL
So? We are more advanced than them
now.

OSCAR
We can't eat or shit, Phil.

Phil starts circling around again.

PHIL
Who needs any of that. And who
needs what's on that other side? We
don't even know what's there.

OSCAR
What? Are you afraid?

PHIL
I'm already dead.

OSCAR
You don't have to be.

Oscar reaches his hand out to Phil, who jumps back quickly.

PHIL
I'm not afraid!

OSCAR
Whatever.

PHIL
That's my line.

OSCAR
I'll see you later.

Oscar floats off towards Caesar's apartment.

He looks over his shoulder to see Phil just standing there, glaring at him.

INT. CAESAR'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Caesar sits on his sofa. A box of tissues beside him.

As he watches T.V, he grabs a tissue and blows his nose.

Oscar floats into the apartment. He take a closer look around the living room.

He spots framed pictures on Caesar's coffee table.

Oscar takes a closer look.

All of the pictures are of Caesar and Link, professional studio photographs.

As Oscar backs up, he accidently bumps into one of Caesar's many shelves.

Caesar looks toward the sound.

CAESAR
Hello?

Oscar starts to carefully move around the apartment.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
Hello?!

Oscar is half-way to the wall when Caesar stands up.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
Ghost!

OSCAR
Damn it.

Oscar rushes to the wall and phases right through it.

Caesar sprints to his video camera that he marked, "ghost camera."

He fires it up and aims the lens all around the room.

CAESAR
Okay, ghost, I've got you this time.

He doesn't see anything on the camera.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
Oh, you've got to be pulling my fucking leg.

He switches off the camera and puts it away.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Oscar paces back and forth in the hallway, thinking and thinking.

Finally, he comes up with an idea and flies off.

EXT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Oscar pokes his head of the wall and looks around at the fire escapes.

No sign of the cat.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Oscar phases through a wall into a random apartment.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Oscar scours the apartment.

No sign of Link.

Before he leaves, Oscar hears a sound coming from a different room.

He heads to check out the noise.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Oscar floats into the bedroom.

He sees shapes moving in the bed.

He rips of the sheets to reveal, the Old Neighbor and an EVEN OLDER WOMAN, going at it.

OSCAR

Dear God!

He covers his eyes.

The sudden pulling of sheet scare the old woman. Seeing Oscar's charred body scares her even more.

She lets out a loud yell.

Oscar is out before the old man even knows he's there.

OLD NEIGHBOR

What? What is it.

OLD WOMAN

There was some ghastly figure watching over us. It pulled the sheets right off the bed.

OLD NEIGHBOR

Was it your mother?

The Old Woman slaps the Old Man right across the face.

OLD WOMAN

Say that again, I dare you.

OLD NEIGHBOR

I apologize.

The Old Man grabs the sheets and pulls them right back onto the bed.

EXT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Oscar floats down the hall, rubbing his eyes.

OSCAR
I want to be more dead.

Oscar stops in his tracks when he hears a MEOWING coming from somewhere down the hallway.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Link?

There is a brief pause, then the MEOWING starts up again.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Link!

Oscar hauls ass towards the direction of the noise.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Lin-

He stops in his tracks again.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
He's a cat.

Oscar continues his way down the hallway.

The MEOWING gets louder and louder as Oscar heads down the hallway.

As he turns the corner, Oscar finds a small hole, small enough for a cat to fit in, in the side of the wall.

Oscar kneels down.

He sticks his head in the hole.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Link?

Link MEOWS from the opposite direction that Oscar is looking down.

Oscar turns his head around.

INT. HALLWAY HOLE - CONTINUOUS

Oscar phases into the dark hallway and walks toward the cat.

He stops when he the noise is right in front of him.

Oscar looks down in front of him.

Link's little cat eyes twinkle in the dark.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis wears a chef's hat and apron, while cooking himself dinner.

Oscar phases through the stove top.

Dennis jumps back.

DENNIS
What did we say?

OSCAR
No time. I found the cat.

DENNIS
Nicely done. Where is it?

OSCAR
In a hole. You got to tell Caesar.

DENNIS
Me? No, that's all you.

OSCAR
He won't be able to understand me.

DENNIS
You'll find a way.

Oscar scowls before slowly disappearing into the stove.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
And don't forget to tell me about
your life!

Dennis goes back to cooking.

INT. CAESAR'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Caesar tears open a new box of tissues.

A loud BEEPING comes from the kitchen.

Caesar gets up and turns off the oven. He puts on paw shaped oven mitts and pulls out a tray of chicken tenders.

He puts the tray of chicken on the stove top.

Caesar reaches into his fridge and pulls out some ranch.

He flops onto his armchair, with a plate of tenders drenched in ranch in his hands.

Oscar pokes his head through the TV screen.

He spots Caesar sitting, disgustingly eating his chicken tenders.

Oscar floats into the middle of the room. He takes a good long look to find something he can use to communicate with Caesar.

Oscar picks up the photo of Caesar and Link. He floats it in front of Caesar.

Caesar spots the floating photo in the corner of his eye. His jaw drops and a half-chewed chicken tender drops from his mouth to the floor.

Caesar reaches out to the picture.

Oscar hands it to Caesar.

Oscar then throws one of Caesar's boxed toys to the front door.

Caesar jumps back when hear the toy crash against the front door.

CAESAR

Jesus, help me! I do not know what
I have done to offend you spirit,
but I assure you, I meant no harm
or disrespect.

Oscar slaps himself on the forehead.

Then, Oscar starts to scratch something on the front door.

This makes Caesar instantly freak out. Caesar lets out an ear piercing screech.

Oscar stops and covers his ears.

OSCAR

How the hell am I-

Oscar looks over at Caesar's shelf full of fedoras.

Caesar stops screeching when he sees all of his fedoras fall to the ground.

CAESAR

Take them. I do not know what you
need with them, but it is a
sacrifice I'm willing to make.

Caesar gasps as he notices that the fedoras are making a
trail.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

The plot thickens.

The front door opens and more fedoras line up to continue the
trail.

Caesar makes a cross motion with his fingers and begins to
follow the trail of his fedoras.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Oscar continues making a trail.

He takes a moment to look up. Phil is watching over him.

PHIL

What's good?

OSCAR

No time.

PHIL

Oh. Is this the human business?

Caesar appears down the hallway. Following the trail.

Phil starts moving around the fedoras, messing up the trail.

Caesar stops in his tracks when he sees that the fedoras are
moving around on their own.

OSCAR

Stop!

PHIL

Nah.

OSCAR

Please?

PHIL

Nah.

Oscar floats over and starts fixing the trail.

Phil goes ahead to where Oscar was, and starts messing it up over there.

The two of them keep on switching places. Oscar fixes. Phil messes it up.

OSCAR
What do you want?

PHIL
You're fuckin' around with the
smell human? Right? Let me help.

OSCAR
No. It's something different. No
go.

PHIL LANCASTER
Is this about the cat? Really?

OSCAR
Yes, now, please go.

Phil hangs his head.

PHIL LANCASTER
Sure, for you.

Oscar finishes fixing the trail.

Phil floats away. As he passes Caesar, he passes right through him.

Caesar makes a face like he the room temperature just dropped 20 degrees.

The trail stops in the hole that Link has made his way into.

Caesar runs over to the hole.

Oscar floats nearby.

CAESAR
Is this is what you wanted me to
see ghost? A hole?

Caesar says this while not even looking in Oscar's direction.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
What -

Caesar hears Link MEOWING from down in the hole.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

Link?

Caesar attempts to stick his head down the hole, but it can fit.

He shoves his hand down the hole.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

Follow my voice, boy. This way is out.

Caesar smiles when he feels Link's fur against his hand.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

My sweet boy!

Caesar pulls Link out from the hole and hugs him tightly.

Link is all dirty from the dust inside the wall.

Caesar, still not looking in Oscar's direction, begins to speak to him.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

Thank you, spirit. I truly mean it.
Take one of my many fedoras as a
token of my appreciation.

Caesar walks off to his apartment. Kissing Link on the head.

After Caesar leaves, Oscar picks up one of the fedoras and tries it on.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis serves himself some food on his plate and sits down at his table.

Just as he is about to take a bite of his food, his phone RINGS.

He sighs as he puts down his utensil and glances at his phone.

Lili is once again calling him.

He answers.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BUS - CONTINUOUS

Lili sits near the back of the bus, earbuds in.

LILI
Dennis? I see you're finally
answering your phone again.

DENNIS
I'm sorry. I was at the library.

LILI
Was what you were doing more
important than me?

Dennis stops to think.

LILI (CONT'D)
It's not that hard of a question,
Dennis.

DENNIS
I mean, it was kind of more
important than all of us?

LILI
What!?

The other people on the bus all stare at Lili.

DENNIS
It's hard to explain.

LILI
Try to.

DENNIS
Well, it's hard to explain with out
me sounding like a complete
lunatic.

LILI
I hear crazy shit all the time.

Dennis leans back in his chair.

DENNIS
Long version or short?

LILI
Short.

DENNIS

My apartment building is haunted by a ghost of my ancestor, and I'm helping him cross over to the other side and in return he's going to tell me about his life.

Lili has no response.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Lili?

LILI

How can he tell you about his life if he's on the other side.

DENNIS

Well...hopefully he tells me before he goes.

There is another silence.

LILI

You're right. You sound like a lunatic.

DENNIS

Thank you.

LILI

Oh, by the way. I'm on my way to your place.

Dennis sits up straight.

DENNIS

What?

LILI

Just wanted to give you a heads up.

Lili hangs up.

BACK TO:

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dennis sighs and puts down his phone on the table.

He grabs his fork and it about to take a bit when, there comes a KNOCK the door.

He slams down his fork and walks over to the front door.

Dennis swings open the door.

DENNIS

Yes?

Caesar is outside.

CAESAR

Hello. Danny.

DENNIS

Caesar. Did you find your cat?

Caesar lets himself in.

CAESAR

I did actually.

DENNIS

Then, what are you doing here?

Caesar spins around dramatically to face Dennis.

CAESAR

Am I just to assume that it's just
a coincidence that soon after you
come to my place, my cat is found,
by a...

Caesar steps closer to Dennis.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

Ghost?

DENNIS

Ghost?

Caesar stomps on the ground.

CAESAR

A ghost!

DENNIS

I mean, that's just silly. I mean,
how do you know for sure it was a
ghost?

CAESAR

Something made my fedoras move
around. They certainly didn't do it
themselves.

DENNIS

No shit.

CAESAR
So, do you know a ghost?

Dennis shakes his head no.

Caesar gets even more uncomfortable close, trying to read Dennis.

Out of the corner of his eyes, Dennis sees Oscar move the action figure from it's side to an upside position. Oscar then floats into the room.

DENNIS
No ghosts here.

Oscar hears this, then he spots Caesar standing nearby Dennis.

Oscar hides into a corner.

CAESAR
I just want to warn you, as a friend. Ghost may seem friendly, but that's when they get you. They may have some insidious plan.

DENNIS
They? I thought it was just the one ghost.

CAESAR
They're like cockroaches, Danny, when there is one, there is many.

Caesar pats Dennis on the shoulder.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
Be careful.

Caesar heads out the apartment and shuts the door behind him.

DENNIS
You can come out now.

Oscar emerges from the shadows.

OSCAR
He just, barges in like that, doesn't he?

DENNIS
It seems that way.

OSCAR

Well, now that is over with. I'll see if I can cross over. Thanks.

DENNIS

Wait. What about me? You still have to tell me about your life.

OSCAR

Right, sorry. Sit down.

DENNIS

Hold on.

Dennis reaches into his bag and pulls out his laptop. He takes a seat on his couch.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Okay, ready.

Oscar sits beside him.

OSCAR

What do you want to know?

Dennis scratches his head.

DENNIS

So, much. Just start at the beginning.

OSCAR

The beginning?

DENNIS

You're child hood, I guess.

OSCAR

Okay, well. I - I wasn't born here in New York. I was born miles away in West Virginia...

Oscar closes his eyes, as he starts to explain everything.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

My mother and father came here from Ireland. To escape the potato famine. They did land here for a while before west...

A train blows its WHISTLE in the background.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
They took a train, which had just
laid its tracks. My dad, he -

Oscar opens his eyes and sees his father, FRANCIS QUINN, 37,
a dark hair man with a thin beard, covered in coal dust
appears in the corner of the apartment.

Dennis doesn't see Francis.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
He worked in a coal mine. All day
and all week. I hardly ever saw
him.

Dennis keeps on typing notes on his laptop.

DENNIS
And what about your mom?

OSCAR
She was out the house a lot as
well. She worked for a maid for the
mine owner's family.

MARGARET QUINN, 34, a shorter with fair skin, slowly appears
next to Francis.

DENNIS
So, who raised you?

ELLEN and THOMAS, two young kids, around 11 years old,
wearing basically rags appear in front of Francis and
Margaret.

Oscar is on the verge of tears when he sees his whole family
standing together in the corner of the room, smiling at him.

OSCAR
My brother and sister...

Before Oscar can continue his thought, Dennis interrupts.

DENNIS
Hold up.

Oscar quickly turns his head to Dennis.

Oscar's family disappears.

OSCAR
What?

DENNIS
I just realized you never told me
any of their names.

OSCAR
Is that important?

DENNIS
I mean, it doesn't hurt.

OSCAR
My dad's name is Francis, my mom's
name is Margaret. My siblings were
Thomas and Ellen.

Dennis types this down.

DENNIS
Thank you...

Dennis looks over at Oscar.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Continue.

OSCAR
We had a nice simple, life. But it,
we were immigrants. As I got older,
everything became more complicated.
And we need more money to simply
survive. So, they sent me away, to
live here in New York. I got job
and sent extra money to my parents.

Dennis takes in all of what Oscar just said.

DENNIS
And how was New York?

OSCAR
Different. Scary. I never lived in
such a big city before. People,
were different.

DENNIS
And you lived...here?

OSCAR
Yeah, my - my place was...

Oscar doesn't want to finish the sentence.

DENNIS
What?

OSCAR
My place was boarded up after -
after, the uh.

Dennis tries to calm Oscar.

DENNIS
After you died?

Oscar nods his head.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
And how did you die?

Something catches Oscar's eye. A small flicker of light in the corner of the room, where his family was standing.

OSCAR
(weakly)
A fire.

The small flicker grows large into a fire that spreads across the room.

DENNIS
What did you say?

The fire consumes the room.

OSCAR
A fire.

Dennis, even though he is set on fire, calmly types on his laptop.

Dennis turns to Oscar who looks like he is in shock.

DENNIS
Are you okay?

A KNOCK at the door brings Oscar back to reality.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Damn it.

Dennis shuts his laptop and gets up from his couch.

He opens up the door.

Lili steps into the room.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Lili.

Dennis leans in to kiss her on the cheek, but she just rushes by him.

LILI

Hey.

Lili tosses her purse on the coffee table and she sits where Oscar is currently sitting.

A chill goes down her spine.

LILI (CONT'D)

Do you have the air conditioning on?

DENNIS

No.

Oscar passes through Lili and she shivers again.

LILI

So, where is this ghost you are talking about.

DENNIS

You don't really believe me.

LILI

No shit.

DENNIS

Then why did you come here?

LILI

Because you need help.

DENNIS

No I don't.

LILI

You've been isolated and you are talking to ghosts.

DENNIS

I don't how to make you believe in me.

LILI

You can't there's no proof.

Oscar steps in front of Dennis.

OSCAR

It's okay. I'll do it.

Dennis looks from Oscar to Lili, then nods his head.

Oscar pushes Lili's purse off of the coffee table.

Lili looks over at Dennis.

DENNIS

You were the one who wanted to meet
him.

Oscar goes behind

LILI

Fuck!

Lili jumps off the couch.

She looks around the room and only sees Dennis, who is
getting close to her.

Dennis tries to hug her, but she pushes him away.

DENNIS

Lili.

LILI

No.

Lili rushes out the door and slams the door shut behind her.

Dennis looks to Oscar.

DENNIS

Why did you have to scare her?

OSCAR

I - I'm sorry.

Dennis rushes after her.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Lili mashes the elevator call button.

Dennis catches up to her.

DENNIS

Lili, wait.

Lili spins around.

LILI

You have to get rid of him.

DENNIS
He's basically already gone. And if
not he's harmless.

LILI
Stop saying he. You don't know it.

DENNIS
I do, sort of.

LILI
You need to get rid of him.

DENNIS
You already said that. I don't even
know how.

Caesar peeks out of his apartment.

CAESAR
Call a medium.

LILI
Thank you.

DENNIS
No one asked you.

Caesar hides into his apartment.

The elevator door slides open and Lili steps in.

LILI
I'll call a medium.

The doors close.

DENNIS
He won't be here.

After a short moment.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
I love you.

Dennis heads back to his apartment.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis looks over at the action figure tipped over.

He lets out a sigh.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - MIDNIGHT

Oscar stands by the window, staring out to the North Star.

He is in first in line for Judgment.

In the line behind him waits hundred of ghosts.

Phil, a few ghosts behind Oscar, peers over at Oscar at the front.

The escalator emerges from the star.

Oscar steps onto the escalator and is immediately denied.

Phil silently celebrates.

Oscar mopes and steps away from

He passes Phil in line.

PHIL

Hey, man. How's it going?

Oscar ignores him.

Phil steps out of line and follows Oscar.

INT. LILI'S APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

Lili sits at her desk. Laptop open in front of her.

ON COMPUTER:

Lili scrolls through many pages of google searches for local mediums. One catches her eyes.

BACK TO LILI:

Lili picks up her phone and starts dialing a number.

She puts the phone up to her ear.

INT. CAFE - EARLY MORNING

Lili enters the cafe and gives it a quick look over.

She spots the medium almost immediately as she is looks out of place.

MARTHA BUSBY-MILLS, 56, a typical local middle-aged woman with a passion with all things paranormal, with long flowing blonde hair and sunglasses, sitting at a booth by the window.

Lili sits down in front of her.

When Martha speaks, Lili is surprised when she speaks with a southern drawl.

MARTHA

Am I correct in assuming that you
are Lili?

LILI

Yes.

MARTHA

Before I even begin, I must ask
what are you looking for? A simple
talk with the dead, or a whole
cleansing.

LILI

Cleansing?

MARTHA

Is what I call an exorcism. Since I
don't deal with demons.

LILI

Yeah, sure, I want that.

A WAITRESS, 24, wearing the classic waitress uniform who is clearly not enthusiastic working this early, walks up to the table and drops off a cup of coffee for Martha.

MARTHA

(to Lili)

Would you like anything?

LILI

No, thanks.

Martha, not giving the Waitress a glance, dismisses her with a wave of her hand.

The Waitress roles her eyes as she walks back to the kitchen.

MARTHA

Now...

Martha pours some cream into her coffee. Then she adds some sugar.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
...Tell me more about this spirit.
How long has the spirit been
bothering you?

LILI
I don't know. To tell the truth,
it's not me who the ghost is
haunting. It's my boyfriend.

Martha takes a sip of her coffee.

MARTHA
This changes thing. Where is the
haunting occurring?

LILI
The Botticelli apartment complex.

MARTHA
Okay.

Martha takes a glance of her wrist watch.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
I'll follow you there.

LILI
Now?

MARTHA
I don't have another appointment
today.

LILI
All right.

Lili stands up.

LILI (CONT'D)
It's not that far.

MARTHA
I'll meet you outside.

Lili exits the cafe.

INT. DENNIS' BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Dennis wakes up to the sound of his alarm clock.

He pulls back his sheets and jumps out of bed.

He grabs his towel.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - EARLY MORNING

Lili's blue Prius drives down the congested streets, followed by Martha's brown Honda Odyssey.

INT. BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING

With his towel wrapped around his waist, Dennis wipes the steam off the mirror.

He combs his hair.

Dennis gives himself a wink as he hops out the bathroom.

EXT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - EARLY MORNING

Lili and Martha step in front of the apartment complex, where Dennis and Lili once stood.

Martha takes off her sunglasses to take a better look at the place.

Martha is immediately drawn to the spot that Kaitlin died.

Martha bends down and touches the concrete.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - LOBBY - EARLY MORNING

Lili holds open the lobby door for Martha.

She then leads Martha to the elevators.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - MORNING

Now with all clothes on, Dennis pours some coffee into his thermos.

Dennis puts on his bag and heads to the front door.

As he reaches for the door knob, out of the corner

Oscar emerges from the shadows. His head down.

DENNIS
What happened?

OSCAR
I - I didn't make it. Again.

A silence fills the air.

Dennis scratches his head.

DENNIS
So, what now?

OSCAR
We try something else.

DENNIS
What else can we try? No one else
is gonna ask for our help.

OSCAR
Then we try something else on the
list. What, something about
unfinished business? What about
that?

DENNIS
I don't have time I've got work.

OSCAR
But you'll help me?

DENNIS
Yeah, you held up your part of the
deal.

OSCAR
Thanks.

DENNIS
Hang tight. I'll be back in the
evening.

Dennis shoots Oscar a smile as he heads out the door.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Dennis marches down the hallway.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Lili and Martha stand side by side in the small elevator.

MARTHA
What's his name?

LILI

Dennis.

Martha puts on her sunglasses again.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Dennis stands in front of the elevator. He stretches out his hand to touch the call button, but the elevator door slide open.

Dennis eyes widen as he sees who is inside: The Old Man Neighbor.

Dennis steps aside to allow the Old Man out, who give Dennis a stink eye as he does.

Dennis then enters the elevator.

After Dennis' elevator closes, the elevator next to it opens up.

From that elevator exits and Lili and Martha.

MARTHA

Which way is the apartment?

Lili points down the hall.

LILI

That way.

Martha leads the way to Dennis' door.

Martha KNOCKS on the door.

No response.

LILI (CONT'D)

Maybe, we shouldn't have tried to have surprised him.

Martha rips off her sunglasses.

MARTHA

You mean, he's not even here?

LILI

I mean, it's the week. He may have gone to work.

Caesar opens up his door.

CAESAR
You two fine ladies looking for
Dennis? He just left for work.

Lili and Martha slowly turn around to look at Caesar.

MARTHA
And who exactly are you?

LILI
He's Dennis' weirdo neighbor.

CAESAR
I take offense to that.

LILI
How do you know he just left for
work? You keeping track of when he
comes and goes.

Caesar tucks away a notebook he was holding in his hands.

CAESAR
No.

LILI
Don't you have a job?

CAESAR
I work from home.

LILI
Then go back to work.

Caesar lowers his head and slinks back to his apartment.

Lili turns back to Martha.

MARTHA
What do you suggest that we do now?

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - EVENING

Martha and Lili stand in the same positions that they were
hours ago, as if they are statues.

They only start to stir when they hear the DING of the
elevator across the hall.

As Dennis approaches Lili and Martha, he takes out one of his
earbuds.

DENNIS
Lili? You didn't tell you were
coming.

Dennis looks at Martha.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
And who is this?

Martha extends her hand out for a hand shake.

MARTHA
The name is Martha, sweetie. I'm a
medium.

Dennis ignores Martha's hand.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
May we come inside?

Dennis gives Lili a look.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - EVENING

Dennis takes a seat next to Lili, and across from Martha at
his dinning table.

Lili strokes Dennis hand.

Martha pulls out a notepad.

MARTHA
So, you are the one who is being
haunted, correct?

DENNIS
Haunted is such a strong word,
isn't it?

MARTHA
What would you wish to call it?

DENNIS
I don't know. Maybe, a strange
occurrence?

Lili rolls her eyes to Dennis' remark.

MARTHA
Okay, let's call it that. When did
the strange occurrence begin?

DENNIS

A couple of days ago.

MARTHA

Lili tells me that this spirit has been telling you that you two are related. This is a common occurrence, to lead victims into a false sense of security.

DENNIS

I have a feeling that something you tell that to every fellow you meet.

LILI

Stop making jokes.

DENNIS

I'm not making any jokes. Just observations.

LILI

From what? This is the first time you met her.

DENNIS

Sure, but I've seen ghost movies before. They all basically say the same thing.

Martha clutches her fist and slams it on the table.

MARTHA

Stop your quarrelling.

Dennis and Lili turn their attention to Martha.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

First of all. Forget everything you ever heard in those movies, okay? Those people are hacks and the writers have no idea of what actual mediums do and the affect they have in the real world!

Martha notices Dennis and Lili have sunken down in their chairs.

She calms herself.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

My apologies. Now, if you could be serious for a moment.

Dennis nods his head.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Good. Now, is he here at the
moment?

DENNIS
He?

MARTHA
The ghost!

DENNIS
No, uh...

Dennis looks over at the action-figure. It's still lying on
its side.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
No. He's, um, not here at the
moment.

Martha turns around and to try and see what Dennis is looking
at. She's isn't sure.

She turns her attention back to Dennis, this time trying to
figure him out.

MARTHA
Are you okay? Mentally? Because if
not, I'm also a certified
psychiatrist.

DENNIS
Can you write me prescriptions?

Lili rolls her eyes.

MARTHA
No.

DENNIS
Shame. But he's not here, so you
really can-

Before Dennis can finish his sentence, Oscar pokes his head
in and moves the action figure up-right.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Do anything.

Martha turns around again and notices the something is amiss.

Oscar then fully enters the apartment.

Martha sense something in the air and stands up.

MARTHA
He's here.

Lili then stands up herself in defense.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Hello.

Oscar looks around, not sure if Martha is talking to him.

OSCAR
Dennis, is she talking to me?

MARTHA
Yes, I'm talking to you spirit.

OSCAR
Why does she sound like that?

MARTHA
I'm from the south.

OSCAR
Oh no!

Lili grabs Dennis and pulls him aside.

LILI
Let's go to your room.

They head off together.

INT. DENNIS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lili and Dennis sit side by side at the end of the bed.

LILI
You need to know, this is for your good.

DENNIS
Sure, my good.

LILI
I mean it.

DENNIS
He hasn't done me any harm so far.

LILI
So far. He, it, is a ghost, you
don't know what it can do.

Dennis stands up from his bed and stands with his back to
Lili.

DENNIS
Maybe Martha is right.

LILI
About what?

DENNIS
If you didn't believe in ghosts,
why do you think Oscar is evil?

LILI
Because in mov-

Dennis spins around, cutting her off.

DENNIS
You see, in movies they're almost
all evil. But that's not a
reflection of real life. Most
movies aren't, so why should ghost
movie be any different?

Lili gets up from the bed.

LILI
Why are you being so damn
defensive?

DENNIS
I know you worry about and all that
sappy bs, but I'm fine okay? If a
ghost was attacking me, you would
be the first to know.

There is a small moment of silence.

Lili steps closer to Dennis.

LILI
(close to tears)
I would?

DENNIS
Of course.

Lili and Dennis embrace.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Martha circles around Oscar.

MARTHA
You've been here over a hundred
years and haven't left yet?

OSCAR
That's why I've been talking to
Dennis.

MARTHA
All those years alone, must have
been scary.

PHIL (O.S.)
He wasn't alone.

Both Oscar and Martha turn around to see Phil standing in the corner.

MARTHA
And who are you?

PHIL
Phil, I've been friends with Oscar
for, like forty years, man.

Phil turns his attention over to Oscar.

PHIL (CONT'D)
If you can even call us friends.

OSCAR
I-I'm sorry.

Phil knocks over Dennis' coffee table.

Martha quickly backs up from the shattered glass.

INT. DENNIS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dennis and Lili are still in their embrace, when they hear the SMASHING of the coffee table from the other room.

They give each other a concerned look before running out of the bedroom.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dennis and Lili run into the main room.

Their concerned faces turn into shock when they see Dennis' things being thrown around the room.

Martha shelters herself on the ground.

DENNIS
What the hell!

Oscar, scared of Phil's actions, simply turns to Dennis, not sure what to say.

LILI
I told you.

Oscar snaps back to Phil's actions when Phil tosses something that passes right through his body.

OSCAR
Phil, stop!

Phil stops.

Lili runs over to Martha and helps her up.

LILI
Are you okay?

MARTHA
I've faced worse.

Phil looks around at the destruction he caused. Then he looks up at Oscar.

PHIL
You did this.

OSCAR
Wha-what are you talking about.

PHIL
I told you no good comes from talking to humans.

He points over at Martha.

PHIL (CONT'D)
You see, look at what you brought, man. A fuckin' medium. Now, were all fucked.

OSCAR
I just wanted-

PHIL
Shut up, man. Just shut up.

Phil slowly exits the apartment.

Oscar looks over at Martha.

OSCAR
I'm sorry.

MARTHA
You say that a lot.

OSCAR
I know.

MARTHA
Besides, it's not worth apologizing
I've made my decision.

OSCAR
What?

Martha goes over to the dining table and gathers her things.

MARTHA
This whole building needs a
cleansing.

DENNIS
What?

MARTHA
I'll be back tomorrow, with all of
my equipment.

Martha steps over the disaster that is the room, to the front door. She places her hands on the door knob and looks back at Dennis and Lili.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
And by this time tomorrow, this
whole apartment complex will be
ghost free.

And with that, Martha is out the door.

DENNIS
Wait.

Dennis chases after Martha.

LILI
Wait.

Lili chases after Dennis.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Martha waits patiently by the elevator.

Dennis catches up, out of breath.

DENNIS
Hold on, just a moment lady.

Martha turns to Dennis after that comment.

MARTHA
What done is done.

DENNIS
No it isn't. You have done the
exorcising or whatever.

MARTHA
I was talking about what happened
in your apartment.

DENNIS
Oh.

Lili catches up with them.

LILI
It's all going to be okay, Dennis.
I'll be here with you, all the way.

Dennis looks into Lili's eyes.

DENNIS
Okay.

Then he turns to Martha.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
And where do the ghosts you
exorcise go?

Martha thinks for a good second.

MARTHA
Wherever it is. It's no heaven.

Dennis gulps.

The elevator doors slide open and Martha and Lili step in.

Lili shoots Dennis one more smile before the doors close on her.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dennis gives the mess in his living room a good long look.

He starts picking up some of the items and puts them where they used to be.

He grabs a broom and starts sweeping up the broken glass.

As Dennis sweeps, he feels something coming up behind him. He turns around to see Oscar floating over the mess.

OSCAR

Hey.

DENNIS

What was all that about? Why'd you mess up my place?

OSCAR

It wasn't me, I swear. It was Phil.

DENNIS

Phil? Who the fuck is Phil?

OSCAR

He's - he's another ghost.

DENNIS

Oh good, more ghosts.

Dennis continues sweeping.

Oscar musters up the courage to ask something.

OSCAR

What about looking for something else.

DENNIS

Do you really think this is a good time for that?

Dennis motions to the mess.

OSCAR

So, when?

DENNIS
I dunno. Maybe, later, if you're
still here.

OSCAR
What does that mean?

Dennis throws the broom to the ground.

DENNIS
Are you being fucking facetious
right now?

OSCAR
I-I don't know what that means.

DENNIS
There is a goddamned exorcist after
your ass right now. Did you not get
that?

OSCAR
Maybe if we-

DENNIS
No! Not maybe, there is no time.
Okay, I'm sorry.

There is another silence.

OSCAR
So, what now?

Dennis picks up the broom and starts sweeping again.

DENNIS
I. Don't. Know. Maybe leave me
alone for a fucking minute. Maybe
go hide for a few days so Martha
won't send your ass to hell.

Oscar floats a few feet back after that comment.

With out saying anything, or moving the action-figure, Oscar
is out the door.

After a few moments, Dennis turns back around to say
something, and is surprised that Oscar has gone.

He just goes back to sweeping.

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT - NIGHT

Oscar sits on his burned up couch, moping.

He stares intently at the photo of his family.

Oscar goes from a neutral emotion to anger.

He stands up quickly and starts tossing things in his own place, although there is not many things to throw.

He stops when he gets to the photo of his family. He just holds it in his hands.

After a moment, he just lets it go. The photo drops to the floor.

He turns around to find Phil standing there.

OSCAR
What the hell do you want?

PHIL
A curse, you're a different ghost,
man.

OSCAR
I asked you a question.

PHIL
I want to apologize.

OSCAR
You?

PHIL
I may have gone a little too far.

OSCAR
Really?

PHIL
Yeah.

Phil takes a seat on Oscar's couch.

PHIL (CONT'D)
But, I have a plan.

OSCAR
Which is?

PHIL
We scare Martha so much, that she
just leaves.

Oscar sits down besides Phil.

OSCAR
And that'll work?

Phil stands up.

PHIL
Of course.

He starts circling around the couch.

PHIL (CONT'D)
Then, we can stay here. Forever.

OSCAR
Then, I can focus on leaving.

Oscar turns to Phil.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Stay?

PHIL
Leave?

Oscar stands up.

Phil takes a seat on the couch.

OSCAR
Yes. The whole reason we're in this
mess. To leave.

PHIL
But, I don't want you to leave?

OSCAR
Why not?

Phil looks up at Oscar.

PHIL
You're my only friend man. What am
I supposed to do when you're gone?

OSCAR
Oh, shut up.

PHIL

I mean it.

Oscar now sees Phil in a different light, a more serious tone.

OSCAR

Oh.

With out anything to say, Oscar sits down on the couch, next to Phil.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Then let's go together.

Phil scoffs.

PHIL

To the other side?

Oscar looks over at Phil.

OSCAR

Yeah.

PHIL

No. It's not clear if we go over there.

OSCAR

What do you mean? It's heaven. It can be whatever you want it to be.

Phil stands up front the couch.

PHIL

It could be hell. No one has come back. They could be trapped.

OSCAR

Don't be an idiot.

Phil turns to Oscar.

PHIL

No. Forget it.

Phil phases through the wall, leaving Oscar alone with his thoughts.

INT. MARTHA'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

Martha slowly gets up from her bed in order not to waken her husband, STEVEN MILLS, 57, a chubby, balding man wearing silk pajamas.

Martha opens up her closet and takes out a large, black purse with the words, "Exorcism Kit" embedded in the fabric.

She searches in her regular purse for something, but she can't find it.

INT. MARTHA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Martha searches in a bowl, marked, "keys." Yet she still doesn't find the keys she is looking for.

As Martha searches through cabinets and drawers, she sees something in the corner of her eyes.

Her son, CALVIN, 11, curly blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing Spider-Man pajamas, holding Martha's car keys in his tiny hand.

MARTHA

Hey, sweetie. What do you have there?

Calvin hides the keys behind his back.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Can I have my keys?

CALVIN

No.

MARTHA

And why not?

CALVIN

I don't want you to go.

Martha bends down so she can be eye level with her son.

MARTHA

I have to go. People need my help.

CALVIN

It's dangerous.

MARTHA

I know. But it's work that needs to be done.

Calvin looks down at the ground.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
When I come back, I'll bring food
from your favorite restaurant. How
does that sound?

CALVIN
Good.

MARTHA
Yeah? Now give me a hug.

Martha hugs her child tightly.

She takes the keys from his hands.

Martha gives Calvin a kiss on the forehead.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - MORNING

Martha stands in front of Dennis' apartment.

The exorcism kit lies by her feet.

She knocks on the door.

Of course there is no response.

After a moment, she knocks again.

DENNIS (O.C.)
Go away.

MARTHA
Why delay the inevitable, Dennis?

DENNIS (O.C.)
I can hope.

Martha sighs.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dennis peers down the peephole.

MARTHA
You are only making this harder for
yourself.

Martha picks up her kit and walks off.

Dennis leans on the door, relieved for a short moment.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Martha stops by Caesar's apartment. She knocks on his door.

Caesar opens up.

CAESAR

Yes?

He recognizes Martha.

He steps out fully into the hallway.

CAESAR (CONT'D)

Oh, it's you again. What brings you here?

MARTHA

Dennis isn't allowing me to enter his apartment. And I'm certainly not going to do a cleansing out here in the hallway.

Caesar understands where she is going.

He steps aside, holding the door open.

CAESAR

Come right in.

MARTHA

Thank you.

CAESAR

The pleasure is all mine.

Martha heads in.

With a smile on his face, Caesar enters as well, closing the door behind him.

INT. CAESAR'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Martha stops in her tracks when she finally sees the inside of the apartment.

She drops her kit in surprise. Jaw dropped.

Caesar steps in behind her. He picks up the kit and takes a look inside.

He takes out a Bible and small bottle of holy water.

Martha turns around.

She snatches the bible out of Caesar's hands.

MARTHA

Give me that.

CAESAR

What else is in here?

Martha grabs her kit and holy water.

MARTHA

All of my equipment for the
cleansing.

CAESAR

Neat-o. What do you need me to do?

Martha puts her kit on Caesar's coffee table and starts
pulling out other stuff. A bundle of incense, more bottles of
holy water, and crosses.

MARTHA

When the time comes, I'm going to
need you to say some prayers out
loud for me.

CAESAR

Oh! Wait, I've got something.

Caesar excitedly runs to his room.

While she waits, Martha prepares some more. She opens up the
bible to a specific page that she book marked.

She lights the incense and walks around the room.

Caesar returns with a camera and microphone.

MARTHA

What is that for?

CAESAR

My blog.

Martha rolls her eyes.

MARTHA

Will it impede your ability to say
a prayer?

CAESAR
Not at all.

Martha thinks for a second.

MARTHA
I'll allow it.

Caesar grins and sets up his camera.

Martha continues spreading the incense.

After a while, she stops and places the incense on the coffee table.

She grabs her bible.

Caesar focuses his camera on her.

Martha looks over at Caesar.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Are you ready?

Caesar nods his head.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
Repeat after me. Most glorious
Prince of Heavenly Armies, Saint
Michael, defend us in our battle
against principalities and powers,
against the rulers of this world of
darkness, against the spirits of
wickedness in high places.

Caesar steps away from the camera.

INT. DENNIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dennis finishes up cleaning his room, when he starts to hear something.

He goes up to the wall separating his apartment and Caesar's.
He puts his ears up to the wall.

CAESAR
(muffled)
...against the spirits of
wickedness in high places.

MARTHA
(muffled)
Amen.

CAESAR
(muffled)
Amen.

Finally understanding, Dennis backs up from the wall.
With a moment of hesitation, he runs out the door.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - MORNING

Dennis rushes down the hallway.

DENNIS
Oscar! Oscar!

He continues running around the hallway, frantic.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Oscar!

Dennis pounds on the wall.

His Old Neighbor pokes his head out his door.

OLD NEIGHBOR
Stop that racket! People are trying
to fu-sleep!

Dennis stops.

DENNIS
Sorry.

Oscar phases through the wall.

OSCAR
What's the matter?

Dennis spins around dramatically.

DENNIS
Martha is starting the exorcism or
whatever the hell she calls it.

Down the hall, Phil hides behind the corner, eavesdropping on the conversation.

OSCAR
Shit. What can we do to stop it?

DENNIS
No clue. She's locked up with
Caesar.

OSCAR
I've got an idea.

DENNIS
What is it?

OSCAR
Just, do all you can to interrupt
them, from the outside. And I'm
going to do the say from the
inside.

DENNIS
Okay.

Dennis nods and runs off.

Oscar turns around. He spots Phil hiding behind the corner.

They have a stare down for a moment.

OSCAR
You can just stand there, or-or you
can help.

Phil doesn't respond.

Oscar floats off.

INT. CAESAR'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Martha sprinkles holy water around Caesar's room.

Some holy water hits Link. The cat slinks back.

MARTHA
...but deliver us from evil.

Oscar holds onto a cross.

CAESAR
...but deliver us from evil.

MARTHA
Amen.

CAESAR
A-

Caesar is interrupted by a hard KNOCK on the door.

Martha shuts her eyes tight.

MARTHA
Finish it.

CAESAR
-men.

A knock comes again.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
Who is it?

Martha opens up her eyes.

MARTHA
You know damn well who it is.

Martha goes over to the door.

EXT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Dennis is pounding on the door.

MARTHA
(muffled)
Have a change of heart?

DENNIS
Nope. Just you know, trying to stop
you.

MARTHA
(muffled)
Well, keep on trying.

Dennis pounds some more.

DENNIS
Martha! Martha, Martha, Martha!

Martha doesn't respond.

The Old Neighbor opens his door again. This time he steps all
the way out.

OLD NEIGHBOR
How many goddamned times do I have
to tell you to be quiet?

Dennis looks over at his neighbor, then back at Caesar's
door.

DENNIS

I'm sorry. The thing is, the guy in there and stole my shit. So, you know, it's kind of an emergency.

OLD NEIGHBOR

Then call the cops.

DENNIS

The cops aren't going to help.

Down the hall, the elevator opens up.

Lili steps out.

LILI

Am I late? Did Martha already start the cleansing?

OLD NEIGHBOR

Now, hold on a minute. Cleansing? I thought you said you were robbed.

Dennis steps away from the door.

He turns to his Old Neighbor.

DENNIS

I have no time for this, old man. I apologize for being so loud. But, now, please, go back to your apartment and stay there.

Without saying anything, the Old Neighbor heads back to his apartment and shuts the door.

Lili watches the exchange with surprise.

LILI

So...Martha is with Caesar?

Dennis nods his head.

Lili knocks on the door.

LILI (CONT'D)

Martha, it's Lili.

Dennis notices Oscar float right into Caesar's apartment, as they wait for Martha's response.

Martha opens the door slightly.

MARTHA
Come right in.

Martha swings the door open, just enough to let Lili in.
After Lili enters, Dennis attempts to enter.
Martha slams the door shut on his foot.
Dennis hops around on one foot, clutching his hurt foot.

DENNIS
Oh c'mon.

INT. CAESAR'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Caesar continues mumbling prayers to himself.
He stops when he notices Lili enter.

CAESAR
Wow.

LILI
What?

CAESAR
I've never had this many women in
my place before.

Lili doesn't respond.

Oscar takes a place behind everyone, trying not to be noticed.

Martha walks over the middle of the room.

LILI
I'm not too late, am I?

MARTHA
Of course, not. Perhaps you can say
that you made it just on time.

Martha motions for Lili and Caesar to come over to her.

CAESAR
Hold on.

Caesar hops over to his camera. He adjusts it so its aiming at Martha.

Then he rushes over to Martha and Lili.

CAESAR (CONT'D)
All good now.

MARTHA
We have one more prayer to say.
But, we must hold hands during the
entire prayer, or else it won't
work.

Martha holds out her hands.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
The forces may try everything in
their powers to stop us. But you
must power through. Is that
understood?

Lili and Caesar nod their heads in agreement.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
I didn't hear you.

LILI
I understand.

CAESAR
Same.

Lili holds Martha's hands.

Caesar grabs Martha's hands.

Martha squirms a little when that happens.

Lili reacts the same way when Caesar holds her hand.

Oscar comes closer to the circle that the three of them have
made.

Phil emerges from the shadows.

PHIL
They look really stupid.

Oscar turns around.

OSCAR
How long have you been here?

PHIL
Long enough.

OSCAR
Are you here to help?

Phil doesn't say anything. He just passes right through Martha.

Martha feels him passing through.

MARTHA

One of them are here. The time is now.

Martha bows her head.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

In the name of Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, strengthen by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary...

PHIL

What do you suggest we do to make them stop holding hands?

OSCAR

Like you suggested. Scare them.

Phil smiles.

MARTHA

...Mother of god, of Blessed Michael the Archangel...

Phil blows out the incense.

Oscar looks over at Caesar's camera. He knocks it over.

The sound of the camera crashing to the ground makes Caesar whimper.

Martha and Lili hold on tight to his hands.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

...Of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints...

As Martha continues in the prayer, the room shakes.

Caesar almost falls to the ground.

PHIL

Maybe we don't even have to do anything.

MARTHA

...and powerful in the holy authority of our ministry...

Another shake of the room. Like an extremely powerful earthquake.

All of the stuff starts to fall of Caesar's shelves.

Lili almost falls, but is supported by Caesar and Martha.

PHIL

See?

Oscar notices the shelf behind Martha is about to fall on her.

OSCAR

Phil. The shelf!

Phil looks over at the shelf. He kicks the coffee table towards Martha, knocking her to the ground.

Martha lets go of Lili's and Caesar's hands.

The shelf tumbles over, crashing to the floor.

Martha takes a look at where she was standing. She would have been killed for sure.

She looks at Lili and Caesar in shock. Then she looks over at Phil and Oscar.

MARTHA

Lili. Caesar. If you could leave for a moment.

They exit slowly.

Martha helps herself up.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Why did you save my life?

OSCAR

It wasn't me. It was Phil. He did it.

Martha stares at Phil.

MARTHA

It seems that I was mistaken about you two. But, do not give me a reason to come back.

OSCAR

Of course.

PHIL
Yeah, no problem.

Martha gathers her things and leaves.

OSCAR
Being nice wasn't that hard, was it?

PHIL
Eh.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - MORNING

Martha closes the door behind her.

She sees Dennis, Lili, and Caesar waiting outside for her.

DENNIS
What happened.

Martha puts on her sunglasses.

MARTHA
I had a change of heart.

DENNIS
So?

Martha pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to Dennis.

MARTHA
Check or money order only, please.

Martha heads over to the elevator and presses the call button.

Dennis looks at the paper. It's an invoice. \$500.

Martha enters the elevator. She gives the three of them one last look.

MARTHA (CONT'D)
And don't ever contact me again.

The doors close and Martha disappears.

CAESAR
Well, I'm going back to my place.
And clean up.

As Caesar enters his apartment, Phil and Oscar exit.

DENNIS
What the hell happened in there?

LILI
Something pushed Martha away from a
shelf that would have crushed her.

PHIL
Me, I did that.

OSCAR
They can't hear you.

Dennis looks over at Oscar.

DENNIS
You saved a life. You did some
good, prevent an evil maybe?

OSCAR
I-I guess I did. Goodbye, I guess.

DENNIS
Goodbye.

LILI
I'm not going anywhere.

Dennis and Oscar stand a few inches away from each other. The
both of them hiding their emotions.

Oscar is worse at hiding than Dennis.

DENNIS
I'm not going to try and hug you
this time.

OSCAR
Have a nice life.

DENNIS
You too.

Oscar and Phil head down the hallway.

Lili and Dennis head back to his apartment, the opposite
direction.

INT. BOTTICELLI APARTMENTS - 7TH FLOOR - NIGHT

Oscar and Phil stand in front of the line waiting for
Judgement.

The escalator comes down from the star. The window opens up.
Phil and Oscar share one last look.
Together they step onto the escalator and ride it up all the way up.

INT. CAFE - MORNING

Lili and Dennis sit across from each other.

DENNIS
I found a nice place in Brooklyn.
For the both of us.

LILI
What's wrong with your old place?

DENNIS
Literally so many things.

A waitress drops off the check.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
I've got this.

He takes out some cash and a tip.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
If you got this.

Dennis hands Lili a folded piece of paper.

LILI
Sure.

Dennis gets up.

Lili unfolds the paper. It's Martha's invoice.

LILI (CONT'D)
Dennis!

Dennis is already out the door.

FADE TO BLACK.