

UNHAUNTED

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A full moon shines down on acres of towering pines.

EXT. LOG CABIN - NIGHT

RUSTLING leaves swirl across a narrow forest road, and past a SOLD sign that stands at the end of a long driveway. Hidden amongst the trees is an old, weathered cabin. A loose shutter BEATS against the home. A new mini-van parked outside.

INT. ATTIC BEDROOM - NIGHT

A 1970's era alarm clock sits on a nightstand. The dim light that illuminates the flipping numbers fades in and out as static CRACKLES from the speaker. An EMF reader stands beside it. The needle pulses in sync with the static.

Then-- the bedroom door CREAKS open and a low, FLAPPING sound seeps into the room. An ENTITY that resembles a flat, flowing white sheet, glides inches above the hardwood floors, towards the foot of a large sleigh bed. It stretches up the bedpost and creeps over the comforter towards EDDIE (27) and GINNY HUNTER (31) -- both sound asleep.

The sheet begins to flutter. Slow at first, but then FASTER and LOUDER, like a flag in a hurricane. STATIC blasts from the radio and the EMF needle stretches halfway across its colorful array. Ginny's eyes blink open. She slowly rises and SEES THE ENTITY inches in front of her. She opens her mouth-- maybe to scream, but only yawns, unfazed.

GINNY

Again with this? Really? We just want to help. That's all. And if we can't, we'll leave. Tonight!

A BEAT, then... the fluttering slows and the sheet retreats into a dark corner of the room, before a frail, OLD WOMAN steps out of the same dark shadow.

INT. HOME LIBRARY - NIGHT

Ginny lights the fireplace then sits in a worn, leather chair -- her vintage alarm clock clutched in her lap. The Old Woman sits across from her.

GINNY

Bet you're wondering why I'm always clinging to this old clock.

CAMERA PULLS BACK -- drifting away from the conversation.

GINNY (CONT'D)

It belonged to my mom. She died when I was seven. I didn't know much about the afterlife then. Just the basics. You're good, you go to heaven. You're bad... you don't. But the night after her funeral, all that changed.

INT. ATTIC BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ginny -- excited, plops onto the bed, waking Eddie.

GINNY

I did it! I spoke to her, Eddie! I know why she's still here! I know why she's haunting this house.

EDDIE

Great. Can't wait to hear about it.

Eddie makes chewing noises and rolls over. She shakes him.

GINNY

Hey! Come on! We have to help her!

EDDIE

Now? Can't it wait til morning?

GINNY

No. It's gotta be at night. Now get up! I'll go get the kids dressed.

Ginny heads for the door. Eddie sits up, confused.

EDDIE

Get the kids-- Where are we going?

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Dead trees dot an old cemetery, covered in a low lying fog. A mound of fresh dirt is piled beside a tombstone belonging to Francesco and Matia Cassisi, both died days apart. Then-- a owl HOOTS, and Eddie, now dirty and distressed, pops up out of the open grave. His eyes dart across the landscape.

EDDIE

What was that?

Ginny stands above the grave with DILLON (3) -- a joyfully toddler who eagerly reaches for Eddie, clutched in her arms.

GINNY

Just an owl, hun.

ASHLEY -- (8) leans in. Her dark hair pulled back in a pony tail. A big smile on her bright face. A lantern in hand.

ASHLEY

You want some help, dad? I brought an extra shovel!

EDDIE

That's okay, pumpkin. Digging up dead bodies is no job for a little girl. Daddy's got it under control.

Ashley smiles. Then-- DOGS BARKING in the distance.

CEMETERY WORKER (O.S.)

Hey! Who's there?!

OLD WOMAN

Please! Keep digging!

Eddie nods and gets back to work. A few more scoops of dirt are flung from the hole, then-- metal meets wood. CLINK!

EDDIE (O.S.)

I found it!

The BARKING dogs -- closing in. Eddie pries the coffin open. Ashley leans in with the light. The Old Woman watches, waiting, then... a marble URN is lifted up out of the grave.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Please tell me it's him.

The Old Woman smiles. It's him!

OLD WOMAN

Francesco.

A flashlight SHINES in their direction.

EDDIE

Let's get out of here! Quick!

The family takes off, leaving Eddie behind in the hole.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Not that quick!

They return to help him out. Eddie scoops up the urn and they pile into the mini-van. The doors slide shut and the van speeds off, just as the CEMETERY WORKER and his dogs arrive. He watches as their tail lights disappear into the darkness.

CEMETERY WORKER
 LOUSY, NO GOOD GRAVE ROBBERS! HAVE
 YOU NO RESPECT FOR THE DEAD?!

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Tree branches scrape the doors and fenders as the mini-van bounces along an unkept, dirt road.

EDDIE (O.S.)
 How much further is this place?

GINNY (O.S.)
 Can't be much further now.

Above the treetops, a tall waterfall ROARS in the distance.

EXT. WATERFALL - NIGHT

Mist clouds the base of the falls as Eddie emerges from a trail -- the burial urn in hand. Ginny and the kids are right behind him. The Old Woman is there waiting.

GINNY
 It's a beautiful spot.

OLD WOMAN
 Yes, but-- I promised Francesco I'd scatter his ashes at the top.

She points to the top of the falls. It's a long climb up a steep, jagged, stone staircase. Eddie -- not happy.

EDDIE
 You know... the ashes are just gonna wash down here anyway.

Ginny elbows her husband -- OUCH!

ASHLEY
 Daddy!

Ashley gives her father a stern look -- arms crossed. Foot tapping. Eddie smiles then reaches his hand out for Ashley.

EXT. TOP OF THE FALLS - DAWN

Eddie gallops up the staircase -- Ashley on his back and having a blast, followed by Ginny and Dillon. They gather with the Old Woman at the river's edge. Ashley climbs down off of Eddie's back and he opens the urn.

OLD WOMAN
 See you soon, mi amore.

Eddie scatters the ashes into the water. The Old Woman smiles, like a weight's been lifted. Then-- a brilliant light intensifies behind her, saturating the area in a warm glow. She turns to face the family -- all of them smiling.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

Thank you. For helping me.

GINNY

Thank you for letting us.

EDDIE

You rest in peace now, Matia.

Matia nods, then moves towards the light. The family watches, huddled together as the bright light PULSES and ZAPS -- reflecting on their faces before fading away. Darkness returns to the forest. Dillon CLAPS and GIGGLES.

DILLON

She went bye-bye.

GINNY

She sure did, Pickle. That's another soul saved.

EDDIE

And another house unhaunted.

Eddie winks. Ashley giggles.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Wonder how much we'll get for it.

ASHLEY

It's not about the money, dad!

GINNY

Nope. It's about doing something good, and doing it as a family. Because we are a team, and as long as we stick together, everything will be fine.

Eddie and Ginny smile and pull their kids in for a hug.

TITLE CARD: UNHAUNTED