Episode 5
The Haunting

Written by Mac Summers

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mac@coffeepartners.ca

COLD OPEN

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

School is over for the day. Kids are waiting for their buses and rides. JORDAN sits on a bench. It hasn't been a great day. His sister, JULIA, approaches with a PACKAGE OF PAPERS in hand - she's dressed more stylishly than we've seen her before and is wearing a new pair of shoes.

JULIA

Hey Loser.

JORDAN

Hey.

JULIA

What's wrong

Jordan looks over at a group of kids - one of whom is TABITHA KIM - the object of his affection.

JULIA (cont'd)

What happened when you talked to her?

JORDAN

I didn't.

JULIA

I thought today was the day that you were going to tell her.

JORDAN

I chickened out.

Julia looks at him. What would her mother want her to do right now? And then it comes to her.

JULIA

No you didn't.

JORDAN

Yes I did! I chickened out. I'm such a loser.

JULIA

You're not a loser, loser. You just...forgot what you were going to say.

JORDAN

I did?

JULIA

Of course you did. You had a plan right?

JORDAN

Yeah.

JULIA

Thought it over a million times, right?

JORDAN

Yeah.

JULIA

And then when you saw her you-

JORDAN

-I couldn't remember what I wanted to say. And then I got scared of looking stupid.

JULIA

Do you remember now?

JORDAN

Um.

JULIA

C'mon! You remember right?

JORDAN

Yes.

ΔT.TIT.

Well? What are you waiting for? Go and talk to her.

Jordan gets up and walks towards Tabitha. Julia watches as he approaches her group of friends. He says something, Tabitha smiles and then Jordan smiles. Then he turns around and walks back to his sister. Tabitha has a slightly confused look and then laughs as he walks away.

Jordan returns to his sister and sits down.

JULIA (cont'd)

Well?

JORDAN

Well what?

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JULIA

What did you say? What did she say?

JORDAN

I said "Hi"

OFF Julia's LOOK "You idiot"

JORDAN (cont'd)

(proudly)

And then she said "Hi".

(beat)

Ready to go now?

Jordan walks off towards a waiting school bus. Julia follows him.

JULIA

Jordan! Wait. You don't just walk away after saying "Hi".

Julia watches him as he walks.

JULIA (cont'd)

Hey! Wait up!

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

DONNY, SAMANTHA and TARYN are working behind the counter. The cafe is reasonably busy. ADAM, a very good-looking guy, has ordered a COFFEE TO GO and is being served by Taryn.

ADAM

Thanks very much.

Taryn looks at him and tucks her hair behind her ear. She's just a little lost in his smile.

TARYN

You're welcome.

Adam walks off towards the door.

TARYN (cont'd)

(awkwardly)

Y'all come back now!

DONNY bursts into laughter.

TARYN (cont'd)

(coldly)

What?

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TARYN Shut up. DONNY You liked him. TARYN No. (beat) Yes. (beat) So what if I did? DONNY (still laughing) Nothing. Samantha? SAMANTHA I'm not getting in the middle of... whatever this is. DONNY You're such an easy read. (excuse me?) An easy read? What does that mean? You have a tell. TARYN What the hell is a tell? Samantha is back in the middle of whatever this is. SAMANTHA (to DONNY) The hair thing, right? DONNY Exactly. TARYN What hair thing?

SAMANTHA

Ya'll come back now?

DONNY

You do this hair-tuck thing-

Samantha imitates her 'tuck her hair behind her ear motion'

SAMANTHA

-when you think someone's cute.

TARYN

No I don't.

DONNY

Yeah. You do. It's kinda sweet.

Taryn, a self-made woman, business owner, and proud adult does not appreciate being called 'sweet.'

TARYN

Sweet? It's sweet?

(beat)

Donny, I'm your boss. Remember who you're talking to, OK?

Samantha finds this hilarious.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, patriarchy. Keep it under control.

DONNY

I'm not the patriarchy.

SAMANTHA

That's just what the patriarchy would do. Deny that it even exists.

TARYN

So true.

DONNY

What are you talking about?

SAMANTHA

You men have it so easy in this life.

DONNY

Me men? Maybe some men. But not me.

SAMANTHA

Really? Do you know what the difference between men and women is?

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DONNY

Oh is there only one?

SAMANTHA

Funny quy.

(beat)

Men worry about women laughing at them.

(beat)

Women worry about men killing them.

It's a profound statement, but Donny speaks without thinking.

DONNY

Yeah, but not all men.

SAMANTHA

(to Taryn)

He didn't just say "but not all men", did he?

Yes he did.

Donny realizes he's not going to win this argument. He puts his hands up in surrender.

DONNY

OK! You win

do not have a tell!

Fine! You don't.

SAMANTHA

(to Taryn)

Yeah, you totally do.

Donny and Samantha share a giggle. The tension has broken JORDAN AND JULIA enter the cafe.

JULIA

What's so funny?

SAMANTHA

Taryn was crushing on a customer.

JULIA

Really? You go Taryn!

TARYN

I wasn't!

DONNY

You kind of were.

TARYN

Are we really going to do this again?

SAMANTHA

Whatever. Doesn't matter. He's gone now anyway.

(beat)

Probably walking down the street.

(sexily)

Lifting that americano to his lips.

(looking at Taryn)

Savoring. Every. Drop.

TARYN

(there are children
 present!)

Guys! Stop it!

JORDAN 7

You shouldn't tease. It's not nice.

DONNY

No. You're right, Jordan. It's not nice to tease.

JORDAN

Did she do the hair-tuck thing?

TARYN

Jordan!

(beat)

Don't you have homework or a science project or an app to develop or something?

Jordan smiles and heads off through the KITCHEN DOOR to the apartment, grabbing a CUPCAKE from the counter as he goes.

TARYN (cont'd)

How was your day, Julia?

JULIA

Fine. Got the package for the art trip.

Donny's attention is piqued on the words "art trip"

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JULIA (cont'd)

You know - the overnight one to the National Gallery?

TARYN

Right. Yes. You did mention that.

JULIA

You're still coming right? Parent - well..Guardian volunteer?

TARYN

Of course. When is it?

JULIA

Next month. 16th and 17th.

Taryn pulls her phone out and starts typing.

TARYN

OK. Putting it into my calendar.

JULIA

Thanks, Taryn

DONNY

You're taking art classes?

TARYN

She's an excellent artist. Was always drawing. It's her best subject.

Donny smiles. He loved being a high school art teacher.

JULIA

Um. I get A's in Math and English

SAMANTHA

We all know how smart you are, Julia.

TARYN

(to DONNY)

You remember our classes together?

JULIA

You guys were in high school together? How come I didn't know this?

	DONNY We didn't exactly have classes 'together'	
	TARYN Yes we did.	
	DONNY No we didn't.	,
;	TARYN Pretty sure. Grade 11 Art.	,
	DONNY I was your student teacher. For one term.	
	TARYN Yeah, but you noticed me. You were totally into me.	
,	SAMANTHA Wait. What? You were her <u>teacher</u> ?	
	the defensive, again. The last thing he assed of something else.	needs
	DONNY I did not 'notice' you. You were sixteen. (to Julia) I did not 'notice' her.	
SAMA Uh-huh.	ANTHA TARYN Seventeen. And you no me.	oticed
Donny tries t	to change the subject.	,
	DONNY (to Julia) So, what are you doing in Art class these days?	
:	JULIA Mid-century moderns.	

DONNY I'm not fifty years old!

SAMANTHA Mid-century? Like how old Donny is?

JULIA

I said mid-century, actually. Like the 1960's.

SAMANTHA

(to Julia)

I heard you, Julia...he just had that one coming.

(beat)

Dating a student...that's just so-

TARYN

Inappropriate?

Donny is flustered.

DONNY

Taryn! Tell them the truth. I I was a 22 year old student teacher! were in the class. I didn't do anything!

(beat)

She had to remind me about it on our first blind date (beat)

which was three years later!

TARYN

He's right. I did. He was totally professional at school. Even a little dorky.

(beat)

Like a professional dork.

You were a dork?

SAMANTHA

Were?

Donny's not sure if he should respond or say nothing.

Taryn absent-mindedly tucks her hair behind her ear as she reminisces.

TARYN

But I'm still pretty sure he noticed me on that first day in class.

SAMANTHA

(mimicking the hair tuck motion)

Taryn?

TARYN

It's not a tell!

INT. - HAIR SALON - DAY

A handful of STYLISTS are on duty in a tastefully-decorated, modern salon. A number of women and men are getting their hair styled.

TARYN sits in a chair as ABBY - Taryn's best friend (and stylist) stands behind her holding strands of Taryn's hair in her hands.

ABBY

You're definitely overdue for coloring.

TARYN

Good to see you too.

Taryn tucks her hair back over her ears and looks at herself in the mirror.

TARYN (cont'd)

I'm thinking we might...make some changes?

The phrase 'make some changes' has an obvious traumatic effect on Abby. Taryn notices. This is unexpected.

TARYN (cont'd)

Abby?

ABBY

"Make some changes." That's exactly what Blake said.

TARYN

When?

ABBY

Just before he left and- sorry things have just not been-

ABBY looks like she's about to cry

ABBY (cont'd)

It's just that-

Getting closer to real tears.

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TARYN

Abby?

ABBY is now sobbing.

TARYN (cont'd)

Abby? What is wrong?

ABBY

I'm sorry, Taryn.

(beat)

Usually I'm the one giving...giving you advice.

TARYN

(full best friend

mode)

Yes you are. Great advice too ... mostly. Best hair-apy sessions ever.

(beat) Please tell me what happened.

ABBY

He's moved in with her!

TARYN

Abby. You are so much better off without him.

ABBY is still sobbing.

ABBY

I know. I know. But I just miss him, you know.

(beat)

The way he put his feet on the coffee table...and left his dishes everywhere and...

TARYN

-I get it, Abby.

ABBY

(really?)

You do?

TARYN

Yeah. I do.

(beat)

But you'll be fine. It'll be fine.

(and then)

Totally fine.

ABBY

You really think so?

TARYN

I know so.

It has worked. Abby is calmed, momentarily. Then she picks up a HUGE PAIR OF SCISSORS and grabs a chunk of Taryn's hair.

ABBY

He just makes me so mad, you know?

Taryn is terrified. Abby is going to take her frustrations with her ex out on her hair.

ABBY (cont'd)

I just want him to feel what I'm feeling, you know?

Taryn grabs Abby's hand gently but firmly. Abby releases her grasp on Taryn's hair.

TARYN

Of course you do,

ABBY

I want him to suffer.

(beat)

Like I am.

Abby grabs a handful of Taryn's hair again and raises the huge pair of scissors.

ABBY (cont'd)

How can I make him suffer?

Taryn smiles sweetly and reaches up and removes her friend's hand from her hair. Abby lowers the scissors.

Taryn thinks for a moment. Her friend is in pain. Then it hits her. She smiles. The solution is so obvious.

TARYN

I know this guy-

ABBY

Taryn, I'm not ready to date again.

TARYN

No. Not like that. I think he can help you.

(MORE)

TARYN (cont'd)

(beat)

I think.

(and then)

Let me make a call.

Abby smiles. Her best friend really is there for her. It's enough to bring tears to her eyes.

Abby grabs a chunk of Taryn's hair and picks up the huge pair of scissors again.

ABBY

(choking back the

emotion)

OK. So what are we doing again?

Taryn calmly reaches up and once again removes her hair from her friends grasp.

TARYN

I think today we'll just touch up the color, okay?

INT. CAFE - AFTERNOON

SAMANTHA is behind the counter.

DENNIS enters the cafe and swaggers up to the counter. His clothes suggest 'ex-special ops commando.' He wears MIRRORED AVIATOR SHADES.

He removes the shades.

DENNIS

Hey there, Samantha.

She swoons a little.

SAMANTHA

Um. Hi Dennis.

(beat)

Would you like a coffee

(and then)

or something?

DENNIS

Just a coffee, thanks.

Dennis turns and scans the cafe. He returns his gaze to Samantha.

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DENNIS (cont'd)

I'm waiting for a client.

SAMANTHA

A client? Oh? What kind of business are you in?

Abby enters the cafe.

DENNIS

I think that's her.

Dennis slides a five dollar bill across the counter.

DENNIS (cont'd)

Wish me luck.

Dennis walks over to Abby and they take a seat together.

DONNY emerges from the kitchen.

DONNY

Is that my brother?

SAMANTHA

(dreamily)

Uh-huh.

(beat)

He's meeting a client. What kind of business is your brother in, anyway?

Donny watches curiously as Dennis sit down at a table with Abby. Samantha sighs softly as she watches him.

DOMNZ

I have no idea.

INT. - TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TARYN is relaxing on the couch, the TV is on. JORDAN and JULIA are scrolling through their phones.

TARYN flips through a STACK OF MAIL. She looks over at the kids.

TARYN

Is anyone actually watching TV?

JORDAN

Um. Yeah.

He taps on his phone.

TARYN

Who are you texting?

JORDAN

Tabitha.

JULIA

All right, Jordan!

TARYN

Tabitha?

JULIA

His new girlfriend.

TARYN

Girlfriend? Wait-

Her PHONE rings. The CALL DISPLAY reads ABBY.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

TARYN (cont'd)

Hey girl.

ABBY (O.S.)

So I met him.

INT. ABBY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

ABBY sits on a couch in a small studio apartment.

ABBY

Dennis.

TARYN (O.S.)

And? Did he say he could help you?

INT. CAFE - EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON

Dennis and Abby are seated at the cafe table.

DENNIS

So Taryn filled me in some of the details. Are you sure you want to go ahead with this?

ABBY

I'm sure.

DENNIS

Once I put this in motion, there is no going back. The results will be (beat)

Permanent.

ABBY

I don't care. He deserves it. No he earned it.

DENNIS

OK. You're right. He did. He has this coming.

ABBY

Did you have to use that word?

DENNIS

Sorry. The two of them have earned what I'm about to unleash on them.

ABBY

Unleash?

Abby begins to unravel. Dennis looks puzzled.

ABBY (cont'd)

Leash. I was going to get him a dog for his birthday.

DENNIS

I mean they will rue the day that they met.

Abby pulls herself together.

ABBY

Rue the day? Rue the day? Who talks like that?

DENNIS

(slowly and sounding
 as legalese as
 possible)

Sorry. What I mean is that they will look back on their initial meeting and regret fully and completely their ensuing actions and understand that those actions merit certain consequences.

Abby nods. A big sniffle. She likes this.

ABBY

OK. You're sure? You've done this before?

DENNIS

Every case is different. What I've got planned is not something I've done before, but I'm sure you'll be satisfied.

Abby slides a photo across the table to him.

ABBY

I brought the photo. Like you asked.

DENNIS

Thanks. We can't pull this off without the photo.

Abby is getting emotional again, but in a good way. Finally, a man who will keep his promises.

Dennis pulls out his phone as Abby watches.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

JAG, 30's, is also dressed like an ex-special ops commando. He sits at a desk. His workstation is covered with multiple computer screens showing maps, charts, flight paths and graphs. If you didn't know better, you'd think this was in a command center at the Pentagon.

DENNIS (O.S.)

Jag? I've got a timeline we need to get onto the web. Names, dates, news articles, urban legend sub-reddits, social media. Everything.

JAG

You'll be wearing the Body Cam?

DENNIS (O.S.)

Yeah.

JAG

When do you need this by?

INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

DENNIS looks at ABBY. He's all business now.

DENNIS

Yesterday.

Dennis takes a picture of the photo Abby gave him with his phone.

DENNIS (cont'd)

Sending you the photo now.

INT. JAG'S WORKSTATION - CONTINUOUS

JAG smiles. He's loves a challenge.

Did you want me to arrange a drone feed?

INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Dennis smiles. His friend is a true

DENNIS

Yeah. Let's scramble the drone for this one.

Abby's eyes widen with awe. This guy doesn't fool around.

INT. - TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TARYN sits on her couch. She is still on the phone with ABBY. Abby has just described her afternoon meeting with Dennis.

TARYN

Wait. A drone!? Abby! What exactly is he going to do?

ABBY (O.S.)

He wouldn't say.

(bravely)

But Blake will rue the day he cheated on me!

EXT. - SUBURBAN HOME - EVENING

DENNIS stands in front of an older, but modest, house on a tree-lined street in an established residential neighborhood. A late model SUV sits in the driveway. He approaches the front door and rings the bell.

INT. JAG'S WORKSTATION - CONTINUOUS

JAG sits at his desk staring intently at the computer screen. He clicks his mouse. On one of his monitors a video feed appears.

EXT - SUBURBAN HOME - EVENING

A QUAD-COPTER DRONE hovers silently over the house.

INT. JAG'S WORKSTATION - CONTINUOUS

JAG zooms in on the video feed from the QUAD-COPTER DRONE

POV - QUAD-COPTER DRONE

We zoom in to DENNIS at the front door of this house.

INT. JAG'S WORKSTATION - CONTINUOUS

JAG

And cue the audio.

POV - DENNIS BODY CAM

An attractive woman, CASSANDRA, early 20's has answered the door.

DENNIS (O.C.)

Hi there, I'm Dennis McLeod

(beat)

Of Haunted Toronto Tours?

EXT. - SUBURBAN HOME - CONTINUOUS

DENNIS stands at the front door of the home.

CASSANDRA

Haunted Toronto Tours? Um. Thanks but we're not interested in buying any-

DENNIS

Oh. I'm not selling anything.

CASSANDRA

You're not?

DENNIS

(such a funny

misunderstanding)

Oh heavens no. I run the tours. You and your husband-

CASSANDRA

Boyfriend

DENNIS

Right. Just moved in, right?

CASSANDRA

(unsure)

Yeah?

DENNIS

Right. So this house - Your house - has been part of the tour for years.

CASSANDRA

The tour?

DENNIS

The Haunted Toronto Tour.

(beat)

Basically, I charter a bus once a month - during the full moon - and we drive around to all of these different places in the city. I do my little spiel and-

Cassandra believes in ghosts. This is really frightening.

CASSANDRA

Our home is on a haunted house tour?

DENNIS

You didn't know about this?

Cassandra calls out over her shoulder to her boyfriend.

CASSANDRA

Blake!

Donny mouths the name "Blake" - what an odd coincidence. Cassandra notices him doing this and looks puzzled.

BLAKE (O.S.)

What?

BLAKE, 40's, appears at the door.

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BLAKE

Who the hell are you?

Dennis hands him a business card.

DENNIS

Dennis McLeod. Haunted Toronto Tours. (beat)

Here's our brochure.

Blake glances at the brochure. Who is this asshole?

BLAKE

Go away. We're not buying.

DENNIS

Oh. I'm not selling. In fact, we always do a profit share with the homeowners.

Blake is suddenly intriqued.

BLAKE

Profit-share?

CASSANDRA

Honey? No.

DENNIS

Yeah - I mean I can't really tour the most haunted places in the city without the help of the homeowners.

BLAKE

Haunted places? This is a joke, right?

DENNIS

(offended)

Um. No.

(then)

Once a month, I charter a bus. We drive around to all of these different places in the city. I do my little spiel. And this house, of course, is kind of the star of the show.

BLAKE

This house?

DENNIS

(really?)

You <u>do</u> know about the history of this house, right?

CASSANDRA

Honey?

Blake waves his arm at her to shut up like the asshole that he is. The man did say 'profit-share' after all.

Cassandra meekly complies. She pulls out a phone and starts searching.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

I'm googling this.

BLAKE

History?

DENNIS

I mean...it was like fifty years ago...and if you're new to the area-

Cassandra looks up from her phone.

CASSANDRA

OH MY GOD.

Cassandra is terrified

BLAKE

What?!

Cassandra holds up her phone. She is confused. Angry. Terrified.

CASSANDRA

What is going on, Blake? Why is your picture in these old newspaper articles?

BLAKE

What?

Cassandra is terrified. Nothing makes sense. She keeps scrolling her phone and seeing more and more horrific stories about "Blake" and the events of fifty years ago. This is like some kind of horror movie. And she's not going to be the next victim.

CASSANDRA

Oh my god. I have to get out of here.

(beat)

My friends were right.

(beat)

You are old and creepy.

Blake looks dumbfounded at this accusation. What the hell is going on? He stands with his mouth agape. Like an idiot.

BLAKE

What are you talking about? What is going on?

(to DENNIS)

You need to get out of here.

Cassandra has grabbed her coat and purse. She pushes past Dennis and runs to the SUV.

BLAKE (cont'd)

Cassie! Come back. This is some kind of mistake.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

CASSANDRA, out of breath and terrified, starts the engine and slams it into reverse. We see the look of terror in her eyes in the rear view mirror.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - CONTINUOUS

BLAKE and DENNIS watch as the SUV backs out of the driveway at high speed.

BLAKE

CASSANDRA!

Dennis watches the scene unfold. Almost exactly like he wrote it.

BLAKE (cont'd)

(to Dennis)

Get the fuck off of my property!

Dennis raises his hands in surrender and backs away. He turns and walks down the sidewalk. He smiles to himself and looks up towards the QUAD-COPTER DRONE.

INT. ABBY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

ABBY sits on a couch in a small studio apartment with a cup of tea. Her CAT is asleep on the couch next to her.

A NOTIFICATION SOUND plays on her phone. She picks the PHONE up and clicks on a message. She smiles. Then laughs. Revenge is sweet.

INT. - TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TARYN sits on her couch watching TV. The STACK OF MAIL is on the coffee table the letter on top says 'JURY DUTY NOTICE'.

JULIA scrolls through her phone. We hear the audio looping from a VIRAL VIDEO.

CASSANDRA (O.C)

My friends were right.

(beat)

You are old and creepy

(laughing)

What a loser!

TARYN

What are you watching?

JULIA

Just this video. It's hilarious. This girl's dumping this old dude.

Julia hops onto the couch and shares the video with Taryn.

CLOSE ON PHONE

A looping video of DENNIS' BODY-CAM video plays on the phone.

CASSANDRA

Oh my god. I have to get out of here.

(beat)

My friends were right.

(beat)

You are old and creepy.

BLAKE looks dumbfounded at this accusation. What the hell is going on? He stands mouth agape. Like an idiot.

INT. - TARYN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

JULIA

It's new but it's trending like crazy.

TARYN begins to laugh. Dennis delivered on this one.

INT. JAG'S WORKSTATION

Property of Coffee Particular Fade Out We see the video feed on JAG's MONITOR from the QUAD-COPTER DRONE as DENNIS puts on his MIRRORED AVIATOR SHADES and looks up to the drone.

JAG smiles and clicks on the screen.