

MURDER MOST FOUL

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A car pulls into a spot in front of a small restaurant. SETH gets out, looks around and walks to the other side. He opens the door as PRISCILLA gets out. While Seth is all smiles, Priscilla is beyond annoyed.

SETH

Stop one on our anniversary weekend.

She couldn't be less excited.

PRISCILLA

(sarcastic)

Oh joy.

(annoyed)

Seth, is all this really necessary? Can't we just stay home and order a pizza? Maybe watch a movie.

SETH

No! Priscilla, babe, this is our one year anniversary! One year! We have to do it big.

She motions for the restaurant behind him. As far from big or grand as you can get.

PRISCILLA

Big?

He looks back at it before turning to her with a wink.

SETH

(suave)

It's not the size, it's how you use it.

She laughs and pushes him playfully.

PRISCILLA

(flirtatiously)

I hate you.

He grabs her hand and pulls her into an embrace.

SETH

You love me.

He kisses her. She kisses him back before pulling away.

PRISCILLA

I'm serious Seth. We shouldn't be going on  
(looks at the restaurant)  
*Trips* no matter what the occasion.

SETH

But one year is a big deal. I've never dated anyone that long before.

PRISCILLA

It's just a number. Doesn't make this weekend any different than any other.

SETH

Wow.

PRISCILLA

Don't get all emotional on me. You know what I mean. We're trying to get a house and spending money on pointless trips isn't the best way to go about that.

SETH

You're right. Just like always. But not how you think. This weekend shouldn't be special because it's our one year anniversary. It should be special because it's *us*. We should celebrate *us* every day, not just once a year.

She rolls her eyes and starts to walk towards the front door.

PRISCILLA

God, you are such a corn ball.

He starts to follow her.

SETH

You know you love it.

His phone starts to ring, he pulls it out and checks the caller ID, it's JOSH.

SETH (CONT'D)

Get us a seat, I'll be right in.

PRISCILLA

Don't be long.



HOTEL GUY  
I'm sorry, we are all filled up for  
the weekend.

SETH  
Filled up?

PRISCILLA  
So? You did reserve a room right?

Seth turns to her.

SETH  
Of course babe. Just have a seat  
and let me deal with this. I'll  
have it straightened out in a  
jiffy.

PRISCILLA  
Uh huh.

She takes a seat on the couches while Seth turns back to the  
hotel guy.

SETH  
Come on man, help me out. You have  
to have something.

HOTEL GUY  
Sorry, we're booked.

SETH  
How can you be booked? Have you  
seen you? This place is huge.

HOTEL GUY  
It's the convention. We've been  
booked up for weeks.

SETH  
It's my anniversary, there has to  
be something you can do.

HOTEL GUY  
Sorry.

3 INT/EXT. MONTAGE

3

We go from hotel to hotel, motel to motel as voices tell us  
that they are booked. We end the montage in

Priscilla stands in front of a bulletin board full of flyers. Half of which are faded and worn out, perfectly matching her mood. Across from her Seth stands tall, trying to hide his mounting disappointment behind false hope.

PRISCILLA

Can we go now?

SETH

But the weekend hasn't even started yet. Don't bail on me now.

PRISCILLA

Seth, this whole trip has been a waste. We could be home having a good time, but nooo, you wanted to drag me all the way out here to the middle of nowhere so that we could get rejected from every god damn hotel in this wastehole.

SETH

It's not that bad. This is nothing more than a setback. Trust me. I have the whole weekend planned out.

PRISCILLA

Trust you? If you have the whole weekend planned out than why are we standing in the middle of this dump with nowhere to sleep? If you planned the rest of the weekend like this, I'm better off walking home.

Seth takes the verbal lashing.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

I swear you are so irresponsible sometimes.

Two young men enter the hallway and walk right in the middle of the feuding couple.

Seth pats his pocket, a small bulge resting there, a look of unease on his face that he quickly hides.

YOUNG MAN

It was so much fun! Figuring out the clues like Shawn Spencer.

Priscilla takes a step back to allow them to pass, pure shock.

OTHER YOUNG GUY

Sounds like! Man, I wish I coulda gone. Stupid work getting in the way of life.

They exit the building.

PRISCILLA

Rude!

(turns to Seth)

Can you believe how little manners people have now a days?

Seth doesn't acknowledge her, his whole world has shrunk down to half a flyer on the bulletin board. Up until the two guys walked by it was blocked from sight by Priscilla. Now it is all Seth can see.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

Seth! Are you even listening to me?

He starts forward, a big grin growing on his face.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

He moves right past her and pulls the half flyer off of the wall.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

Seth!

The flyer advertises a bed and breakfast, complete with address.

SETH

This is it!

PRISCILLA

What?

SETH

It's a bed and breakfast.  
(hands her the flyer)  
And it's close!

PRISCILLA

No! It's time to give up on this failed weekend and go home.

He pulls the flyer out of her hand.

SETH  
But this flyer! It's fate!

PRISCILLA  
It's trash! It's not even the whole  
flyer!

SETH  
It's the address. All we need.

PRISCILLA  
(rolls her eyes)  
Fine.

SETH  
You won't regret this!

PRISCILLA  
But if it's full we go home.

SETH  
(pleading)  
Priscilla.

PRISCILLA  
Deal?

SETH  
(sighs)  
Deal.

As they head towards the exit Priscilla steps on a piece of paper, her foot comes up and we see that it is another part of the flyer, warning of a murder that happened there.

5 EXT. OUTSIDE MURDER HOUSE 5

Seth parks the car in front of the house.

6 INT/EXT. CAR 6

Seth shuts off the car.

SETH  
This is the place.

He kills his GPS and pockets his phone.

PRISCILLA  
I don't like the looks of this  
place. This doesn't look like  
anything.

SETH

It's a bed and breakfast, what's it supposed to look like?

PRISCILLA

Like people stay here! Where are the other cars?

SETH

Maybe it's dead. Better for us. Come on babe, we'll have the house to ourselves. It'll be romantic.

Without another word he exits the car.

7 EXT. OUTSIDE MURDER HOUSE 7

He walks up to the sidewalk, turns around to find Priscilla still in the car.

8 INT/EXT. CAR 8

She shakes her head no. He motions for her to get out of the car, over the top, making a fool out of himself. All with a smile.

9 EXT. OUTSIDE MURDER HOUSE 9

Priscilla gets out of the car.

SETH

That's my girl.

PRISCILLA

I don't want to stay here.

He takes her by the hand and starts to pull her towards the door.

SETH

It's going to be great! All the comfort of home with all the elsewhere of. . .well of being elsewhere.

Seth gets ready to knock on the door but Priscilla stops him.

PRISCILLA

(scared)

Don't.

SETH  
 Why not? This is the key to our  
 weekend getaway.

With that he knocks on the door. Moments pass.

                                PRISCILLA  
 No one's home.

Footsteps on the other side of the door grow louder and  
 louder.

                                SETH  
 Someone's coming.

The footsteps grow louder still. Priscilla grabs onto Seth.

The door creaks open ever so slowly. Priscilla is terrified,  
 even Seth is put off by the unseen man who answered the door.

10

INT/EXT. DOOR FRAME

10

A frightening tall man with a grim look, as close to Lurch as  
 you can get, answered the door in a suit.

                                BUTLER  
 Yes?

His voice is low and deep, grim for a better word.

                                PRISCILLA  
 Let's go.

Seth pulls her close to him.

                                SETH  
 Uh, yeah is. . .is this the bed and  
 breakfast? We were kind of looking  
 for a room.

The butler watches them for a minute, not saying a word.

                                PRISCILLA  
 Let's go.

The butler steps back.

                                BUTLER  
 Come in.

He motions for them to enter. Seth turns to Priscilla and  
 smiles.

SETH

See? Weekend saved.

He walks past the butler and pulls a resentful frightened Priscilla with him.

PRISCILLA

Oh joy.

The butler looks outside before closing the door slowly, a devilish smile gracing his lips as it does.

11 INT. MURDER HOUSE - HALL 11

Seth and Priscilla slowly make their way down the hall, the sounds of people talking growing louder and louder. The fear in Priscilla's eyes matched only by the anxiety in Seth's. They stop dead in their tracks as they reach the end of the hall. We slowly spin around them to find

12 INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS 12

The lobby is lightly sprinkled with guests. A couple in their mid thirties, HENRY and VERONICA, are standing off to one side, arrogant smirks on their faces as they randomly burst into tiny fits of laughter. On an armchair close by sits a young man, RANDALL, who could not look more miserable if he tried. He seems to just shrink into the chair. Along the back wall a man, nicely dressed, mid twenties, TONY, is talking intensely with a girl who judging by her attire could only be the maid or someone getting ready for Halloween a bit too early. Their conversation does not seem to be going her way and she storms off in a fury.

BUTLER (O.S.)

Make yourselves comfortable.

Seth and Priscilla jump at the sound of his voice. They spin around and he is standing right behind them.

SETH

You scared us.

Without another word the butler turns and walks away.

PRISCILLA

I don't like it here.

SETH

It's going to be fine. Trust me.

RANDALL (O.S.)  
He does that for effect.

Seth and Priscilla turn to find the young man in the armchair looking towards them.

RANDALL (CONT'D)  
It's his schtick.

SETH  
I'm sorry?

He shakes his head and leans back into the chair. A vacant look taking hold of him. Seth turns to Priscilla.

SETH (CONT'D)  
That's weird.

PRISCILLA  
I don't feel safe here.

SETH  
Babe, while I'm here nothing will hurt you.

HENRY (O.S.)  
Well, except for Lurch.

They turn to find Henry and Veronica chuckling.

PRISCILLA  
Lurch?

VERONICA  
The butler.

SETH  
That's his name?

Veronica and Henry give them looks of disdain.

HENRY  
It's a joke.

VERONICA  
(disbelief)  
The Addams Family.

HENRY  
You have heard of it haven't you?

SETH

Yeah. I just,  
(moves his hand over his  
head)  
You know?

PRISCILLA

Is he always that creepy?

HENRY

That's his job, isn't it?

They turn and walk away.

VERONICA

(venomous)  
Millennials.

TONY (O.S.)

So, New Bloods.

Priscilla and Seth turn around to find the nicely dressed man standing before them.

TONY (CONT'D)

See you meet the *intellectuals*. Fun couple don't ya think?

Priscilla turns to watch them walk away.

PRISCILLA

Just the sweetest.

TONY

Than again, everyone around here seems lacking in the fun department.

SETH

I can see that. It's like the joy has been sucked out of here.

TONY

(to Seth)

That's what I've been telling the old man, but will he listen? Nope, not a chance.

(to Priscilla)

But you,

(grabs her hand as if he was about to kiss it)

Might just brighten things up.

He kisses her hand and she blushes. Seth doesn't look happy and pulls Priscilla back.

SETH

(firm)

So who do we talk to about getting a room?

The door opens and the butler emerges with a wild looking old man, EMMETT GRAY, in front of him. He's a cross between Dr. Brown from Back to the Future and Grandpa from the Munsters. His every move is over the top.

EMMETT

That would be me. For I am, Emmett Gray, owner of this fine estate.

TONY

Manager.

Emmett's mood turns dark as he turns towards Tony.

EMMETT

You said something?

TONY

Manager. You're the manager of this dumb. Your brother owned this building. You just ran it for him.

EMMETT

And now he's dead.

TONY

Funny how that worked out.

EMMETT

Isn't it?

Emmett puts his back towards Tony, blocking him from the conversation. His over the top personality is back in the driver seat.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

So I'm told you kiddies want a room?

PRISCILLA

We're good, but

Seth one arm hugs her.

SETH

What she means is we are good and ready to unpack. Show us the way.

EMMETT

Glad to hear it! You two are a bit late for the festivities but I have a feeling things are about to get interesting.

The maid comes back into the room. Shoots the dirtiest look at Tony before turning towards Emmett.

MAID

Sir, you're needed in the kitchen.

PRISCILLA

Seems like your busy.

EMMETT

That's life doll. Aren't we always?

PRISCILLA

We won't take up anymore of your time. Let's go Seth.

EMMETT

Nonsense!

He turns to follow the maid out, stopping in front of the butler.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Take them to their room.

BUTLER

Yes.

The butler walks past them without even slowing down.

BUTLER (CONT'D)

Follow me.

SETH

Come on honey.

She waits a beat, watching Tony watch Emmett as the maid turns and storms out of the room once more. Randall hangs his head low, not interested in what is going on around them. Henry and Veronica giggle at how beneath them all this is as the butler takes them upstairs.

The stairs are full of pictures, including some of Emmett and Tony standing together smiling.

13 INT. MURDER HOUSE - BEDROOM

13

The door creaks open as the butler lets Seth and Priscilla in. It is a surprisingly nice room compared to the rest of the house.

BUTLER

If you need anything I'll be back.

He closes the door with a slam leaving them alone.

PRISCILLA

We need to go now!

SETH

Go? Priscilla we finally have a room!

PRISCILLA

In a hellhole!

SETH

It's a nice room!

PRISCILLA

The room is nice, but the house?  
The other guests? The *staff*?

SETH

Fair enough, but and I can't stress  
this enough. It's our anniversary!

He walks closer to her and pulls her close.

SETH (CONT'D)

What makes you think we'll even  
leave this room?

She smiles at him and starts to move in for a kiss but being oblivious he pushes her away and turns to look at the room.

SETH (CONT'D)

At least until it's time to do  
everything I have planned.

He pats his pocket lightly. Feeling for the bulge.

Annoyed Priscilla heads for the bathroom.

PRISCILLA

Can't wait to see what else can go  
wrong this weekend **Murphy**.

She slams shut the bathroom door. Seth turns around.

SETH

Murphy?

The door to the outside hallway opens with a creak.

SETH (CONT'D)

Hello?

In walks the maid, she looks stunning and she knows it.

MAID

Hello. I saw you down stairs and  
thought I'd come greet you.

The shower turns on. She rubs her hand along his arm.

SETH

Uh thank you. You just let yourself  
in?

MAID

Most men don't mind. You do?

This maid knows how to get a reaction out of men and enjoys every second of it. The more uncomfortable he gets the more fun she has.

SETH

Uh, well my uh my Persephone is uh  
in the uh. . . Restroom!  
(nervous laugh)  
That's it.

He thinks about what he just said.

SETH (CONT'D)

(silently)  
Persephone?

She starts to rub her hands on his chest.

MAID

You're cute.

He backs up and grabs her hand to keep her from touching on him.

SETH

I'm taken.

She pushes forward, trapping him against the wall.

MAID

I don't mind.

SETH  
 What about your man, downstairs?  
 The good looking one.

She backs up, lust turns to loathing as she speaks about Tony. The shower cuts off.

MAID  
 Tony? That asshole? After  
 everything I. . .

She catches herself.

SETH  
 (fishing for more  
 information)  
 Everything you?

The bathroom door opens and Priscilla is standing there in nothing but a towel looking between the two.

SETH (CONT'D)  
 Babe!

He throws down the maids hand, guilt rolling off of him in waves.

PRISCILLA  
 (seething)  
 What's going on here?

SETH  
 It's not. . . Not anything.

The maid starts towards the door, an evil smile on her face.

MAID  
 I've come to tell you that dinner  
 is served.

She looks back at Seth.

MAID (CONT'D)  
 See you around handsome.

With a wink of an eye she is out the door. Priscilla walks silently, calmly to the door.

SETH  
 (trying to lighten the  
 mood)  
 That was weird. Let me tell you.

The door closes, a bit too hard.

SETH (CONT'D)

Babe?

Slowly she turns around.

SETH (CONT'D)

(scared)

So uh, how was your shower?

PRISCILLA

(silently)

In our room?

SETH

What?

PRISCILLA

You! Her! In our room? On our anniversary?

SETH

No! No! No, no, no. That's not. No. Just no. Babe, no. It's not anything like that.

PRISCILLA

(her voice grows softer and firmer)

Than what was it?

SETH

Friendly customer service?

PRISCILLA

It had better been turn down service!

Seth moves towards her slowly.

SETH

It was. Believe me, Perse.  
.Priscilla, it was all turn down.  
You know you're the only one for me.

He pats his pocket subtly.

PRISCILLA

I better be.

She picks up her bag and throws it on the bed.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

Let me just get dressed so we can  
go down to dinner.

14 INT. MURDER HOUSE - DINNING ROOM

14

All the guests are seated around a large table. Emmett and Tony at either end. Veronica and Henry sitting next to each other with Randall across from them. The butler stands silently in the corner of the room. The two seats next to Emmett are vacant as Priscilla and Seth enter the room.

Everyone turns to look at them as they enter.

EMMETT

Ah! Welcome! I was beginning to  
think you weren't coming. Please,  
have a seat next to me.

He motions for the chairs nearest him. They go to sit down.

PRISCILLA

Thank you.

SETH

Hope we didn't hold you guys up  
any.

EMMETT

Not at all my good friends.  
(he motions around the  
room)  
Have you met everyone this evening?

Seth scans around the room.

SETH

Yeah.

PRISCILLA

Nice to see you all again.

Veronica and Henry just shake their heads and go back to talking to each other. Randall gives a weak smile before going back to playing with his food.

EMMETT

(to the butler)  
A glass of wine for our new guests.  
(looks to Seth and  
Priscilla)  
Help yourself to anything you wish.  
We have plenty of food.

The butler starts to pour their wine.

PRISCILLA  
This is included in the price  
right?

SETH  
Priscilla!

EMMETT  
(laughs)  
Of course kiddies. Everything is  
included. What kind of host would I  
be otherwise?

TONY  
A successful one?

A darkness crosses over Emmett's face for a few seconds as he looks at Tony but by time he turns his attention back to Seth it's gone.

EMMETT  
Pay him no mind. I'm quite  
successful. I'll have you know this  
bed and breakfast has been in my  
family for generations.

TONY  
Till now.

VERONICA  
(mocking)  
Oh no. Whatever could that mean?

She looks to Henry and they laugh to themselves. Randall looks at them with disgust.

EMMETT  
It's not going anywhere *boy*. Best  
for all involved if you remember  
your place.

PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
They really don't like each other.

SETH  
(whispers)  
I think they're related.

TONY  
Oh I do.

He gets to his feet, leans over the table.

TONY (CONT'D)  
After all, I am my father's son.

The maid walks into the room, a bruise around her eye.

EMMETT  
What is that supposed to mean?

Tony smiles.

RANDALL  
Five.

TONY  
You know what it means!

RANDALL  
Four.

SETH  
(whispers)  
Look at her face.

RANDALL  
Three.

PRISCILLA  
(pissed)  
Really? See something you like?

RANDALL  
Two.

Seth forces Priscilla to look.

SETH  
Just look!

PRISCILLA  
Oh god what happ. . .

Randall points up just as the lights go out.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)  
(screams)  
The lights?

SETH  
It's okay I'm right here!

PRISCILLA  
What happened to the lights?

VERONICA  
So predictable.

HENRY  
No originality.

RANDALL  
It's okay, they will be back on in  
a second.

Sure enough no sooner are the words out of his mouth than the lights come back on. At the end of the table Tony is face down with a bloody knife sticking out of the back.

PRISCILLA  
Oh my god!

She jumps up, Seth gets up and holds her as she turns away.

VERONICA  
(not impressed)  
Really?

HENRY  
So tame.

EMMETT  
Tony!

He jumps to his feet and rushes to his side. He looks up at the guests, fire in his eyes.

EMMETT (CONT'D)  
Who did this?

Everyone looks around at everyone else.

EMMETT (CONT'D)  
Speak now!

He turns to the butler.

EMMETT (CONT'D)  
Fetch the Inspector!

The butler turns and leaves the room.

EMMETT (CONT'D)  
Someone in here took my nephew from  
me, I will not rest till I know  
who.

Veronica gets up and stretches.

VERONICA  
 Could we go back to the living  
 room?

Henry gets up next to her.

HENRY  
 It is a bit more spacious.

EMMETT  
 (annoyed)  
 Fine  
 (regains himself)  
 Let's await the inspector in the  
 living room!  
 (looks to the maid)  
 Bring snacks. Cookies,  
 (motions tiny)  
 the little ones.

Veronica leads everyone out of the dinning room. Priscilla and Seth are dumbfounded. Randall stops and looks at them.

RANDALL  
 It used to be a lot better. I  
 promise,  
 (he shrugs)  
 just times are tough.

He walks through the door. Seth looks over at the dead body.

SETH  
 Times are tough?

PRISCILLA  
 He's dead!

SETH  
 And that kid is talking about times  
 being tough? What the fuck kind of  
 twilight zone did we walk into?

PRISCILLA  
 We need to get out of here!

Seth nods and they follow everyone else into the

Emmett is pacing back and forth all a rage. Randall has returned to his armchair and Veronica and Henry are talking in hush voices in the corner of the room. With the exception of Emmett no one seemed too upset over the murder.

PRISCILLA  
 (whispers)  
 How is everyone so calm?

Seth just shakes his head as he starts to lead her to the stairs. The maid storms into the room and throws a cookie at Emmett's head.

MAID  
 You did this!

EMMETT  
 You dare!

MAID  
 I dare!

EMMETT  
 He was my nephew! How could anyone suspect me of such underhandedness!

MAID  
 He was going to shut you down! Just like his father before him. Convenient how they keep dying isn't it?

Veronica and Henry seem to be getting into it, watching it like a movie, all they are missing is some popcorn. Randall could care less about it all.

EMMETT  
 You're saying I had reason? What about you? We all know you were screwing him! And what about your eye? Trip? Again.

The maid slaps Emmett before turning and storming out of the room.

PRISCILLA  
 (whispers)  
 I'm scared.

SETH  
 We need to call the cops.

INSPECTOR HELMS (O.S.)  
 No need to call for the authorities.

Seth and Priscilla turn to find INSPECTOR HELMS standing on the stairs.

INSPECTOR HELMS (CONT'D)  
I'm already here.

SETH  
And you are?

Randall mouths along with the inspector.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
Inspector Helms. Now where is the  
body.

EMMETT  
Inspector, it's my nephew. That  
bitch of a maid stabbed him in the  
back. His rotting corpse is even  
now wasting away in the dinning  
room.

The inspector starts to walk down the stairs.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
The maid you say? And where were  
you?

EMMETT  
On the other side of the room, as  
all here will attest.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
Ah but weren't the lights out? They  
were in my room. If so, than who  
knows where you were!

VERONICA  
This is getting good.

HENRY  
We need popcorn.

VERONICA  
With butter.

HENRY  
And salt!

EMMETT  
I can assure you Inspector that I  
had nothing to do with his untimely  
demise.

INSPECTOR HELMS

I shall be the judge of that! I will inspect the body. No one is to leave this building till I return.

He scans around the room as he speaks, locking eyes with everyone.

PRISCILLA

What is going on?

The inspector storms into the kitchen and Emmett storms out another door.

SETH

I don't know, but it looks like we're stuck here for a while.

Randall looks up at them.

RANDALL

It goes by quick. Always does.

Priscilla takes Seth's arm and turns him around away from Randall.

PRISCILLA

(whispers)

How the hell does this kid know so much?

Seth looks over his shoulder at Randall before looking back at Priscilla.

SETH

(whispers, completely serious)

I've been thinking a lot about that, cause he knows everything. Like the lights.

PRISCILLA

(whispers)

He counted them down!

SETH

(whispers)

Even knew when they were coming back on!

PRISCILLA

(whispers)

You thinking what I'm thinking?

He nods.

                  SETH  
(whispers)  
Groundhog day

                  PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
He's the killer.

                  SETH  
(whispers)  
What?

                  PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
What?

                  SETH  
(whispers)  
Groundhog day. Like the movie. What  
do you mean he's the killer?

                  PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
He knows whenever anything is about  
to happen, how would he know that  
unless he is the killer?

                  SETH  
(whispers)  
See above for groundhog day!

                  PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
What the hell is groundhog day?

                  SETH  
(whispers)  
You know the Bill Murry movie,  
where he relives groundhog day over  
and over again.

                  PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
So help me if you say groundhog day  
one more time!

She turns back to Randall.

                  PRISCILLA (CONT'D)  
What do you know about all of this?

He shrugs.

                  RANDALL  
Most of it by now. I'm here a lot  
and it doesn't change much.

                  SETH  
See!

PRISCILLA  
 Shut up Seth!  
 (turns to Randall)  
 What do. . .

The door to the kitchen swings open as Inspector Helms storms into the room.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
 I have learned all I can from the  
 body!  
 (he scans the room once  
 more)  
 Now time for *interrogations*.

VERONICA  
 (dull)  
 Oh god.

HENRY  
 (bored)  
 So predictable.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
 I'll start with  
 (he scans the room and  
 stops on Seth)  
 You!

Seth points at himself.

SETH  
 Me?

INSPECTOR HELMS  
 Yes you! Unless you have something  
 to hide?

SETH  
 No,  
 (he pats his pocket)  
 Nothing to hide.

Inspector Helms spins and storms out of the room.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
 Than follow me!

A lone bright light shines down on Seth's face. The rest of the room is in total darkness. A wooden chair is scrapped across the floor as Inspector Helms takes a seat.

SETH  
 (scared)  
 Is all this necessary?

INSPECTOR HELMS (O.S.)  
 I'll ask the questions!

SETH  
 I think I want my lawyer.

INSPECTOR HELMS (O.S.)  
 Only guilty men ask for them.

SETH  
 Or men who want to live! I've seen  
 straight outta Compton.

INSPECTOR HELMS (O.S.)  
 Where were you when the lights went  
 out?

SETH  
 Sitting next to Mr. Gray.

INSPECTOR HELMS (O.S.)  
 Did you hear him get out of his  
 seat?

17 INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY

17

Randall looks up as Priscilla paces back and forth.

PRISCILLA  
 What is taking them so long?

RANDALL  
 The inspector likes to make a show  
 of everything. If you ask me he is  
 kind of a ham.

She stops and looks down at him.

PRISCILLA  
 Do you know him well?

Randall shrugs.

RANDALL  
 I've been coming here for a few  
 years and he's always been here.

PRISCILLA  
 Does he live here?

RANDALL

I think. They all do more or less.

Emmett walks into the room. He stops against the wall in between Priscilla and Randall.

18 INT. MURDER HOUSE - SMALL ROOM

18

Sweat starts to pour down Seth's face as the intense light heats up the small room.

SETH

I don't know! It was dark and everything was happening so fast.

INSPECTOR HELMS

Likely story!

(stands up, causing his shadow to cross over Seth's face)

Now tell me!

19 INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY

19

In the middle of Randall and Priscilla the Maid comes up and confronts Emmett.

PRISCILLA

Why are you always here?

The Maid and Emmett start yelling at each other, we can't make out what they are saying. There's a reason they are in the background.

Randall Shrugs.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

(motherly)

Tell me.

He looks up at her, his moodiness melting away.

RANDALL

My mother use to love this place.

The more tender their conversation the more outlandish the Maid and Emmett get.

PRISCILLA

What happened to her?

RANDALL  
She passed away.

On cue the Maid slaps Emmett and keeps on hitting him.

PRISCILLA  
I'm so sorry.

Randall nods.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)  
How. . .how did it happen?

Emmett is in trouble.

RANDALL  
Cancer.

The Maid is all over Emmett, he might not make it.

PRISCILLA  
I'm so sorry.

He nods, tears in his eyes.

20 INT. MURDER HOUSE - SMALL ROOM

20

The shadow engulfs Seth's face.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
Why did you come here this weekend?

Seth looks up.

SETH  
What?

INSPECTOR HELMS  
Why did you come here?

SETH  
It's my anniversary.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
How long?

SETH  
A year.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
(cheerful)  
Congrats!

SETH  
 (confused)  
 Thanks?

Inspector Helms sits down.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
 You love this girl?

Seth's eyes say it all.

21 INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY

21

The Maid and Emmett's fight is at an all time high but we stay with Randall and Priscilla.

PRISCILLA  
 So you come here to feel close to her?

RANDALL  
 That's the idea, but

PRISCILLA  
 You miss her.

Randall nods.

Across the room Veronica watches the fight between Maid and Emmett. She is enjoying the hell out of it. Henry walks up next to her with a bag of popcorn.

HENRY  
 I found popcorn.

Veronica takes a handful.

VERONICA  
 Good job!

Now back to Priscilla and Randall.

PRISCILLA  
 It must be hard being reminded of her everywhere you look.

The Butler grabs the Maid and pulls her off of Emmett, she kicks and swings.

RANDALL  
 That's the problem, I use to see her everywhere around here but now

Emmett starts to get off the floor.

PRISCILLA  
Not so much?

He shakes his head.

RANDALL  
I miss her. I just want to see her  
face, hear her voice but I can't.  
It's all starting to fade.

Priscilla leans down next to Randall and gives him a hug.

22 INT. MURDER HOUSE - SMALL ROOM 22

Seth wipes the sweat off of his forehead.

SETH  
I just wanted this weekend to be  
perfect for her.

He looks into the darkness and pulls out a ring box.

SETH (CONT'D)  
This was supposed to be the big  
weekend.

23 INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY 23

Priscilla kneels in front of Randall.

RANDALL  
She was all I ever had. It's hard  
going through life alone. You're  
lucky to have someone.

PRISCILLA  
I guess. It's just, Seth isn't who  
I see myself with. He's so  
irresponsible. We're nothing alike.

24 INT. MURDER HOUSE - SMALL ROOM 24

The lights click on.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
Think she'll say yes?

Seth looks at the box then up at the inspector.

SETH  
She's my girl.

25                  INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY

25

                                PRISCILLA  
I think I need to break up with  
him.

Randall points at Veronica and Henry who were throwing popcorn at Emmett and laughing.

                                RANDALL  
Those two are alike. You want to  
end up like them?

                                PRISCILLA  
God no.

                                RANDALL  
Just because you guys aren't the  
same person doesn't mean you aren't  
meant to be together.

The door opens up as the inspector leads Seth back into the room.

                                INSPECTOR HELMS  
You with the popcorn! You're up.

He turns and leaves the room as Henry follows him out. Seth walks over to Priscilla and Randall, who stands up.

                                RANDALL  
I think I'll leave you two alone.

He walks up the stairs.

                                PRISCILLA  
How was it?

Seth wipes the sweat off of his forehead.

                                SETH  
Hot,  
                                (he pats his pocket)  
I need a shower.

Without looking at her he heads upstairs. She watches him go.

26 INT. MURDER HOUSE - BATHROOM 26

The ring box sits open on the sink, steam from the shower starts to fog up the mirror. We slowly move towards the shower where Seth is leaning against the wall, the water rushing over him.

27 INT. MURDER HOUSE - BEDROOM 27

Priscilla sits on the bed looking at the bathroom door. Her face awash in a sea of emotions.

The bathroom door opens and Seth walks out in his towel. Priscilla locks eyes with him. The tension in the room mounts, you could cut it with a knife. Or a creaky door, so as if on cue the Butler pushes the door open.

BUTLER

Your presence is required  
downstairs.

With that he is gone and the door shuts firmly behind him. Priscilla looks back up at Seth but he has already moved on to getting dressed.

28 INT. MURDER HOUSE - LOBBY 28

Everyone beats them to the lobby but for Inspector Helms. Emmett and the Maid are on opposite sides of the room, eyeing each other. Veronica and Henry are sitting together and Randall has his normal seat in the lounge chair. The butler standing behind him.

Seth starts down the stairs with Priscilla a few steps behind him.

PRISCILLA

(whispers)

Seth.

He keeps walking.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

(whispers louder)

Seth.

No change.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

Seth!

Everyone turns to look. Seth spins around and rushes up a few stairs.

SETH  
(whispers)  
What are you doing?

PRISCILLA  
Why won't you talk to me?

Seth looks at everyone watching them.

SETH  
(whispers)  
Now isn't the time.

PRISCILLA  
It's the perfect time. What's wrong? Tell me.

SETH  
Me. I'm what's wrong. All I wanted  
(leans in and whispers)  
Was to give you a perfect weekend,  
to show you how much I love you and  
look how gloriously I failed. I  
don't deserve you, you deserve  
better.

He turns and starts walking down the stairs.

PRISCILLA  
Seth.

SETH  
I'm sorry.

He takes a spot near Randall's chair. Priscilla comes up next to him.

PRISCILLA  
(whispers)  
Seth, you didn't

The door opens with a bang as Inspector Helms walks in cutting their conversation short.

INSPECTOR HELMS  
(projects)  
Ah, everyone is here! Good so I can  
make this short!

VERONICA  
That'll be the day.

The inspector shoots her a dirty look before returning to what he was saying.

INSPECTOR HELMS

After carefully reviewing all the facts and interviewing everyone there that fateful night I have finally deduced who killed Tony!

A hush flows over the room. Veronica and Henry look bored, Randall mouths "it's the butler" Emmett and the Maid give each other dirty looks and Priscilla holds on tight to Seth.

Inspector Helms walks over to Emmett.

INSPECTOR HELMS (CONT'D)

Emmett Gray! It's well known you had a running feud with your nephew and his father, your brother's death is still under investigation. An investigation that you are still a prime suspect of! After all, when he died this bed and breakfast went not to you, his brother, but to his son! And as we all know he wanted nothing more than to sell it!

EMMETT

This is my home! I'll be damned if I let that child sell it out from under me, but I didn't kill him!

The Inspector doesn't respond to him, instead he walks across the room and stops in front of the Maid.

INSPECTOR HELMS

The maid, your reputation for sleeping with every man to walk through these doors precedes you madam.

(pulls out a pair of panties and hands it to her before saying in a hushed tone)

You forgot these.

(stands up normal and once more projects his speech)

But everyone here knows you had a different relationship with the departed!

(he turns to face the whole room)

A business relationship!

EMMETT

What?

Inspector Helms starts to make his way back to Emmett.

INSPECTOR HELMS

Don't play coy Mr. Gray. I know you know all about how they were in talks to sell your home, your business out from under you. Even had a buyer all set to meet with them later this week.

EMMETT

(to the maid)

You dare!

MAID

I dared!

Inspector Helms turns back towards the maid.

INSPECTOR HELMS

But it didn't work out for you did it! Why do you have the bruise on your face?

The Maid covers her eye with her hand. Inspector Helms faces the crowd.

INSPECTOR HELMS (CONT'D)

I'll tell everyone why!

(he spins to face the maid  
and points at her)

He double crossed you! Tried to cut you out of the deal, but no, you didn't like that. You confronted him. Here in this very room where everyone could see you.

(he gets in her face)

You gave him everything and he left you out to dry. Revenge is a powerful motivator for *murder!*

MAID

I didn't kill him!

EMMETT

Well neither did I!

INSPECTOR HELMS

You're both right! Neither one of you killed him.

EMMETT

What?

MAID

Than who?

Randall mouths "the butler".

Inspector Helms turns to look at the Butler.

INSPECTOR HELMS

Why, the Butler of course. He's worked in this bed and breakfast his whole life, before him his father worked here. He had just as much to lose by the selling of this place as anyone else.

EMMETT

You killed my nephew?

MAID

Tony?

BUTLER

It had to be done.

INSPECTOR HELMS

You can tell it to the judge.  
(pulls out a small gun)  
Come on, let's go.

The butler turns to look at Emmett.

BUTLER

Sir, I need to go now.

Emmett nods as Inspector Helms leads the Butler out of the room, pausing in front of the Maid.

INSPECTOR HELMS

(whispers)  
Stop by my room later for an  
*inspection*.

With that they are gone. Emmett goes to face the whole room.

EMMETT

At long last we have solved the murder of my beloved nephew.

MAID

You never loved him.

EMMETT

Nor did you, but that is no longer important. We have a business to run, so let us run it.

With that the Maid and Emmett leave through the creaky kitchen door.

VERONICA

That's it?

HENRY

So lame.

VERONICA

Knew it would be.

RANDALL

It's always the butler.

Seth turns to face Priscilla.

SETH

(defeated)

I guess we can leave now. You ready to go home?

PRISCILLA

Seth, this wasn't your fault.

SETH

Of course it was. I wanted to show you a good time so I took you to a murder. A murder. How could I ever have thought I could be a good fit for you? You're right, I'm so irresponsible. I can't even take care of myself.

She moves forward and takes hold of his arm.

PRISCILLA

Seth, this wasn't your fault. I lo...

The creaky door swings open as Emmett and the Maid walk out. Priscilla and Seth stop talking to look.

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

What now?

Inspector Helms and the Butler follow them out.

SETH

What?

Tony is the last one out the door.

PRISCILLA

He's alive?

SETH

What the hell?

EMMETT

Thank you ladies and gentleman

Emmett, the Maid, Inspector Helms, the Butler and Tony hold hands and bow.

PRISCILLA

What is going on? What is this?

Randall starts to clap, he is alone, he looks up at Priscilla

RANDALL

What do you mean?

The actors stand up and leave, they don't look too happy.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

It's a murder mystery.

The creaky door closes.

PRISCILLA

A murder

SETH

Mystery?

Veronica and Henry get up and head towards the stairs.

VERONICA

Please don't tell us you thought that was real?

HENRY

It was painfully pedestrian.

They start up the stairs.

VERONICA

(disdain)  
Millennials.

Seth and Priscilla look at each other and back at Randall.

SETH

This was all fake?



PRISCILLA  
It was all fake.

SETH  
That damn  
(air quotes)  
Inspector, had me under a damn  
light sweating my ass off.

PRISCILLA  
They went all out.

SETH  
We need to come back some time. Now  
that we know it is fake.

Priscilla smiles.

PRISCILLA  
So are we okay?

He pats his pocket, shakes his head no, a small smile crosses his lips as he looks up.

SETH  
Let's just see what happens.

She grabs his hand.

PRISCILLA  
I'm good with that. Let's go home.

They head for the stairs.

29 EXT. OUTSIDE MURDER HOUSE

29

Priscilla and Seth are walking to their car, bags in hand. Emmett is standing on the corner smoking. The wind is blowing, Priscilla starts to shiver. Seth takes his jacket off and puts it around her.

PRISCILLA  
Thank you.

SETH  
No problem.

He spots Emmett.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Hold on.

He jogs over to Emmett.

SETH (CONT'D)

Mr. Gray?

Emmett lets out a puff of smoke.

EMMETT

Yeah?

SETH

I just wanted to tell you that you and the rest of the cast did an amazing job.

EMMETT

Thanks kid.

SETH

It must be a lot of fun, you know working here.

Emmett looks back at the house, he lets out a sigh.

EMMETT

Maybe once. A long time ago.

He takes a drag of his cigarette.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

Life has a habit of passing you by.

(looks at Seth)

Maybe you haven't noticed yet. You're still young, but life goes by so fast. If you don't seize the moments it gives you than there is no point in living.

Seth looks back At Priscilla who is standing waiting for him. Looking amazing as always as the wind blows through her hair.

SETH

I think I know what you mean.

EMMETT

Good, never let something you want pass you by kid.

Seth turns back to look at Emmett.

SETH

What if you aren't ready?

EMMETT

I ever tell you about the time I was almost in a movie?

Seth shakes his head.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

I had some friends, grew up with them even. Wanted to film a movie. No pay, just go out to a cabin and make a little horror flick. But me, I had this job. Real money. Real acting. Our other friend took the role. You know what he is doing now?

SETH

What?

EMMETT

Staring in a TV show on Stars based off of that movie. And where am I? Playing the same role I've played for decades. I'm like Snake from Degrassi. No one wants to be Snake from Degrassi. Although I was almost on Degrassi, I was supposed to play a film maker who was making a movie at the school. But they gave that job to some fat guy from Jersey. I guess what I'm saying kid, is go for what you want. Even if you don't think you're ready. You might surprise yourself.

Seth absentmindedly pats his pocket. It's flat.

ANGLE: PRISCILLA

She stands watching Seth with her arms folded in front of her. She smiles and lowers her arms as she looks up at the clear sky and puts her hands in the jacket pockets. She feels something in the pocket and pulls it out, confused.

It is a ring box, she opens it to find an engagement ring inside.

SETH (O.S.)

Ready to go babe?

She turns around a big smile on her face as she slips the box back into her pocket. She runs over to him and gives him a big hug.

PRISCILLA

Yes! Yes! The answers yes.

Seth, still hugging Priscilla looks at the camera confused as  
we

31

FADE TO BLACK. 31