

CURSED CABARET

by

TOM ROCCO

ACT ONE

We see onstage an average looking house. 4 Girl Scouts enter and make their way DS.

KAYLA:

Come on in, my scouting sisters. Thank you for coming to tonight's meeting here at my fabulously uninteresting house. With my Dad being away on business again I just couldn't get a ride home if we met somewhere else.

MARIA:

Thanks, Becky. I'm just so excited to be at my very first EVER Girl Scout meeting EVER!

CHLOE:

(sarcastically) Yeah, Tina, it's so exciting I could bust.

LEAH:

Well, Regina, I for one have BIG cookie selling plans to discuss. I cannot WAIT to share all of my graphs and projections and pie charts. *(She cracks herself up)* Pie charts for cookies! I'm hilarious!

KAYLA:

Yeah, I promise we'll get to all of that. But there's something I need to share with you guys first. Lately, I've been having the creepiest feeling that I'm being watched. I haven't told anybody about it but I know you've all taken our oath *(she makes oath fingers)* "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed." Well, you're needed, so...help out.

She sings "SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME"

KAYLA:

I want to have a seance. I need to figure out what's going on here.

MARIA:

(Nervously) I'm *pretty* sure the recruitment information didn't say anything about this sort of thing.

CHLOE:

FINALLY, something interesting at one of these meetings.

LEAH:

Are there any reference materials in our handbook for this?

KAYLA:

Of course not, but I found an awesome TikTok on how to hold a seance. I also found a really cool one on how to fold a fitted sheet, but that's a different story. *(She starts to chant)* **Spirits, ghosts and ghouls alike. Show yourselves this fateful night. Shriek or scream or groan or moan. Make your presence hereby known.** *(Matter of factly)* Sponsored by Michael's. *(Explaining)* The Tik Tok said you needed to give that credit at the end for copyright infringement reasons.

Sound Effects: DOORS SLAMMING, WINDOWS CLOSING

KEVIN (a voice on a microphone):

(Scarily) Greetings! I come from beyond the grave! *(Not scarily)* How's everyone doing tonight?

The girls (except Chloe) SCREAM

LEAH:

Who are you?

KEVIN:

I am Demento. I'm a demon that's been trapped within the walls of this house for centuries. And I gotta say, you people watch a LOT of reality television. It's SUPER boring. Tell me something about yourselves.

LEAH:

Well, Mr. Demento. I'm Betsy. We are Girl Scout Troop #13 and we are having a meeting tonight to strategize our cooking selling domination over Troop #29.

KEVIN:

Girl Scouts? Can you expound on that a little?

LEAH:
Sure thing!

She sings GIRL SCOUT

KEVIN:
Interesting. So you do good in the world and you also supply peoples' Do Si Do habits. And what about you, girl in the high-heeled shoes? You don't really seem too scared by my presence here in this house tonight.

CHLOE:
Are you kidding me? I'm an 8th grade girl with a bad attitude. YOU should be scared of ME!

She sings WORLD BURN

KEVIN:
Well, that's a lot to unpack. So, like I said, I'm a malevolent entity who has been stuck here forever. (*Girls react: Ah, Oh, Oooh*) But in a strange twist of fate, I've also been studying to get my degree in being a Life Coach. (*Girls react: Eh, Ew*)

CHLOE:
That's not a real thing!

KEVIN:
You believe in demons but you don't believe in Life Coaches? YES, being a life coach is a REAL thing. And I quote: "A life coach is a type of wellness professional who helps people make progress in their lives in order to attain greater fulfillment." But don't forget my side gig of being a demon. So, I could easily incinerate this whole house and all of the people in here. But I do need some practice hours for my degree. I'll strike you a deal, since I've been VERY BORED for a VERY LONG time. If you and all of the other beings trapped in this house put on a show for me tonight...one that I find AMUSING...I will lift the curse by morning and free you all. If you don't...well, unfortunately, Troop #29 will definitely be selling more cookies than you this year. Now, why don't we start with you, Mean Girl. Why don't you be a little sweeter like Perky Girl. And Perky Girl, why don't you knock the sugary sweetness down a few hundred calories, like Mean Girl? That's some free life coachin' for you. OK Becky, bring me the other people trapped in the house.

KAYLA:
You got it, D!

KEVIN:
And you're absolutely right. I HAVE been watching you.

The GIRL SCOUTS and KAYLA exit

KORINA dances to I PUT A SPELL ON YOU and exits

AJAY (entering with a flashlight):
What the heck was THAT? Hello? Anybody home? It's Bob, the Orkin man. I'm here to inspect your traps but there seems to be a problem with your doors...as in none of them are opening to let me back outside.

KEVIN:
Looks like you were in the wrong place at the wrong time. I'm Demento and I'm afraid this may be your last day as an insect wrangler.

AJAY:
That would be awesome. This is just my day job. I'm actually a rapper.

KEVIN:
Then get working on those raps, son. Let's see what you got.

KAYLA enters with the BOOK CLUB LADIES

KAYLA:
Hey, Demento. My Mom was in the den with her Stephen King Book Club members. I have a feeling they're gonna LOVE this scenario.

KAYLA exits

JULIA:
Hello, Sir. I understand you have put a curse on us and that we're all at your mercy. Pretty smooth. My name is Margot and I'm head of Global Outreach for a boutique marketing firm and I'm wondering if you've put any thought into expanding your scope. I mean, cursing one small house really isn't taking advantage of the interconnected avenues available to you. Also, can you please give me telekinetic powers so that I can move things with just my mind?

KEVIN:

That isn't exactly how this works.

JULIA:

That's how it worked in *Carrie*.

KILEY:

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Margaret and I'm a VP in Branding. If you're the kind of demon who can pull off this stunt we need to talk about streamlining your brand and giving you some name recognition. How do you feel about Christie Brinkley being your commercial spokeswoman?

KEVIN:

I think that's a terrible idea.

KILEY:

You're absolutely right. I'm so sorry about that. How about Shawn Mendes?

KEIRA:

Can we talk about what kind of online presence you have with your Merch? I'm Peggy and I run several extremely successful Etsy stores and I know how to hit the ground running with Demento t-shirts, Demento back scratchers. You name it! Imagine your face on Demento toilet paper cozies.

KEVIN:

Why would I want my face on toilet paper cozies?

KEIRA:

Why WOULDN'T you?

SARAH:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Karen (*pause*) and I don't appreciate how you're running this haunting. I would like to speak to your manager.

KEVIN:

What? I don't have a manager.

SARAH:

Well then, I'd like to speak to your supervisor.

KEVIN:

I don't have a supervisor.

SARAH:

Well then I'd like to know exactly how your name appears in your ads so that I can find you and give you a terrible review on Yelp. I'm also very adept at going online to FB chat groups and writing VERY negative things and then dotting them with the scratching chin emoji, the head exploding emoji and the vomiting emoji.

KEVIN:

You must be a lot of fun at parties.

MADELEINE:

Look, Mr. Demento, I'm Beth and my daughter told me that you're an evil entity and all but you are also a guest in my home and I have to apologize for the disrespectful treatment you're getting from these ladies here. You'll have to forgive them. They get a little bloodthirsty when we read our horror novels.

KEVIN:

And what is it that you do? Are you another high-powered player like the rest of them?

MADELEINE:

Me? Oh heavens no. You're looking at what I do. My whole world is taking care of the 4 of us who live in this house.

She sings JUST A HOUSEWIFE

KEVIN:

Well, Beth. I think you're selling yourself short. You seem like a great lady. You should be happy with your lot in life. Being a mom and housewife is very important. That being said, I'm gonna need you all to come up with a great act for the show or I'm gonna have to squash you like bugs.

MADELEINE:

C'mon gals. I have boxes and boxes of Christmas decorations we can raid to get ourselves gussied up! And I have a lot of darling Halloween decorations that we can use to dress up the house!

The BOOK CLUB LADIES exit

AJAY:

Speaking of squashing bugs, I have my first rap for you. I think I'm gonna call myself The Notorious B.U.G. Or maybe BUGGY SMALLS?

He performs his FIRST RAP

KORINA enters and dances to I PUT A SPELL ON YOU and exits

AJAY:

Hey...wait up! What's your name?

AJAY exits as KAYLA enters with the BIGFOOT HUNTERS

KAYLA:

So, there was another meeting going on in the basement, Demento. I brought them all up to meet you. I'd like to introduce you to my brother, Joey, and his group of-

KEVIN:

Don't tell me! I'd know this anywhere! The jumpsuits, the backpacks, the equipment. You guys are GHOSTBUSTERS!

JORDAN:

NO! NO! NO! WHY DOES EVERYONE THINK WE'RE GHOSTBUSTERS? We are obviously Bigfoot hunters.

KEVIN:

Then why do you have a big patch with a ghost on it?

KAYLA:

That's exactly what I said the first time I saw it. *(She exits)*

JORDAN:

It is CLEARLY a Bigfoot foot print. Duh! How on earth could you think it looks like a ghost? *(He stares down at the patch and sees the problem)* Oh. Anyway, I'm Linus...the head of our outfit. And just because we have never found a SINGLE shred of evidence does NOT mean that Bigfoot isn't real!

JESS:

I'm Smitty, Special Ops Supervisor. I'm in charge of all of our equipment. I have digital night vision binoculars, remote predator decoys and infrared scanning devices. Plus, I've sprayed myself with skunk oil because Bigfoots are known to be attracted to it.

AD LIBS: Is that what that is? I thought I smelled something! Ugh!

KEVIN:

Now, *that's* devotion. So, Linus, how did you settle upon the pastime of hunting for Bigfoot? Were you tired of looking for a chupacabra?

JORDAN:

Scoff all you want. Bigfoot is REAL! This is NOT like when I was a flat-earther! Or when I was on the UFO Sky Scanning Committee. Or when I lived in Scotland that one summer looking for the Loch Ness Monster.

INES:

(Lovingly) That's right, Linus. You are the most sincere Bigfoot hunter in all the world. And one day you are going to see Bigfoot rise out of a pumpkin patch and you'll get that evidence you've been searching for and prove to the world that Bigfoot is REAL. And I'll be right there at your side.

JORDAN:

Thanks, Sally. I'm glad that you believe in me. But you know, I've really been having major self doubts lately. Maybe I'm just a screw up.

He sings NOBODY DOES IT LIKE ME

KEVIN:

Well, the Life Coach in me says not to be so hard on yourself. My Demonic side says you're an idiot.

The GHOSTBUSTERS exit

KEVIN:

Joey, hang back for a minute. I want to talk to you.

MICHAEL:

Yes, Sir?

KEVIN:

You didn't tell me about yourself. How come you don't have anything to say?

MICHAEL:

No reason. Enjoy your wicked spell. *(He starts to exit)*

KEVIN:

Not so fast. You're hiding something. Out with it.

MICHAEL:

Oh well, I might as well tell someone or I'm gonna burst. The reason they've never found any evidence of Bigfoot is because I've been hiding it! I've been filling in the footprints with mud! I've been collecting the loose hairs and the teeth! I've been adding air freshener to Smitty's skunk oil bottle! And I'm doing all this because...because...because BIGFOOT IS MY FRIEND!

KEVIN:
Say what?

MICHAEL:
Yes. He's really low key fun to hang out with and we understand each other and he's the best friend a guy could ever have. In fact (*pause*) he lives here in our basement. PLEASE DON'T TELL MY MOM. Do you want to meet him?

KEVIN:
Uh...yeah!

MICHAEL:
(*Does a Bigfoot yell*)

BIGFOOT enters and he and MICHAEL do YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

KEVIN:
I think it might really help Linus' self esteem if you let him know that Bigfoot is real. Now get out of here.

They exit

AJAY performs his Second Rap and exits

KAYLA enters

KAYLA:
(*Embarrassed*) So, Demento, here's a news flash. When we quite innocently performed our seance, not only did we conjure your spirit here but we accidentally summoned a motley crew of ghouls, also. C'mon in everybody.

The GHOULS enter

DEIRDRE:
I guess I'll go first. I'm John. John the Ghost. John the Ghost who is also a singer/songwriter. John the Ghost who is a *misunderstood* singer/songwriter.

And if you think there is ANYONE more haunted than a misunderstood singer/
songwriter you've definitely been cooped up too long.

KEVIN:

Nice to meet you, John. I expect that you'll have a very angsty, cathartic song to
perform for me. And thank you for giving this show some artistic cred.

ROUNIA and SOFIA step forward and stare menacingly

KEVIN:

Hello, you two. You look *very* familiar to me. What's your story? (*Silence*) What
brought you to this house? (*Silence*) What's the square root of 64? (*Silence*) Well,
you've managed to unnerve ME...an evil spirit that has seen it all...so touche'.

STEFANI:

Greetings. So, here is my very particular predicament. I'm a ghost who has been
cursed into a highly unusual setup. (*She looks into a hand mirror and screams*) I
was very beautiful in life but equally as evil. Because of this, I have been
sentenced to an afterlife that is split into two distinct sections. Firstly, every time
I look at my hideous reflection in a mirror, I am horrified and scream. (*She looks
into the mirror and screams*) Secondly, I have been cursed with no short term
memory...so I am constantly forgetting that I have just looked into a mirror and
screamed at my hideous reflection. Oh, and one more thing...(she looks into the
mirror and screams)

KEVIN:

Bummer!

KORINA dances through to I PUT A SPELL ON YOU

KEVIN:

So what's her story? I've seen her a couple times now.

BELLA:

(In a British accent) Her curse is that she has been rendered mute. Not until true
love finds her can she regain her speech and finally put an end to the grand
jete's and pirouettes. (*Changing the subject*) Cheers, *Demento*. (*she says this
with a weird British pronunciation*) My name is Hallie Parker and I am a hybrid.
What that means is that I am the product of a vampire father and a werewolf
mother. Sadly, my mother and father split up and my mum took me to England
to live with her. It's long been my dream to meet my father and for us all to be
reunited. To add insult to injury, I am a vegan. I'll give you a minute to piece

together just how difficult being a vegan makes life for a vampire. I can't suck blood from anything with a face. And turnip juice just isn't doing it for me.

EMMA:

If you think that's rough, imagine being ME. My name is Annie James and I'm ALSO a hybrid! I wanted to be a vampire like my dad but I turned out to be a werewolf, like my mom...whom I've never even met.

She sings MAMA MIA! and turns into a werewolf

BELLA:

Wait a minute! You've never met your mom...who's a werewolf. And I've never met my dad, who's a vampire.

EMMA:

Nope. I only have a picture of her...torn in half right down the middle. *(She pulls out a picture)*

BELLA:

OK...I'm getting the chills here. I only have a picture of my dad...also torn down the middle. *(She pulls out a picture)*

The two girls match their half pictures to each other

EMMA/BELLA:

OMG! My sister! I can't believe this! I didn't know you existed!

KEVIN:

Demento: Life Coach. Bringing Families Together Since 7:05pm This Evening. *(Pause)* Well, this Disney moment has been very heartwarming but may I please remind you of the matter at hand? Now that I've met everyone trapped here in the house, I leave you to your task. IF you put together a show for me that amuses me and takes my mind off of my torturous existence, I will free you all. If you fail to amuse me...none of you will see the light of day. *(He laughs a long, evil laugh. The laugh brings the whole cast out onto the stage.)* Was the laugh too much? I've always wanted to try that.

AJAY performs his THIRD RAP

KAYLA:

Well, I don't know about the rest of you...but I plan on making it through this horrible night and breaking this curse!

THE CAST performs I WILL SURVIVE

INTERMISSION (?)

ACT TWO

We see the same house but it's festooned with all types of Halloween decorations.

AJAY enters and performs his FOURTH RAP

KAYLA enters

KAYLA:

And now, Demento, sit back and put up your cloven hooves, or whatever it is that you have that pass for feet, and get ready to enjoy your own personal show. We put it together with grit and determination...and mostly fear for our lives... and we now present to you...The "Please Let This Crap Break Your Curse" Follies. Presenting our first performer, who is sure to put you into an existential crisis, John the Ghost.

DEIRDRE performs an original song then exits as JORDAN enters

JORDAN:

Next up...they used to spend nights reading about fictional ghouls until they met YOU and you showed them that they were maybe a little too uptight. Here to cut loose a little bit on your behalf, please welcome the ladies of the Stephen King Book Club.

He exists as the BOOK CLUB enters and performs DREAMGIRLS then exits

KORINA enters and performs one last segment of I PUT A SPELL ON YOU

AJAY enters

AJAY:

Hey! Hold up! I want to tell you something. You absolutely HAVE put a spell on me. Would you like to go get a coffee sometime?

KORINA:

I'm really much more of a latte girl, myself. (*She is totally surprised that she was able to speak*). Hey! You broke my curse!

KORINA and AJAY grab hands and run offstage

MADELEINE enters

MADELEINE:

Well, it appears we have a Parent Trap-type situation here with a couple of surprise sisters who have big plans for reuniting their family...IF we all get out of this mess. Please welcome the Ghouls!

MADELEINE exits as BELLA and EMMA enter

KEVIN:

The time has come for you to lip sync for your lives! Literally! Good luck (*pause*) and DON'T mess it up!

They lip sync to SISTERS

They're joined by ROUNIA and SOFIA for SISTERS ARE DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES

They're joined by DEIRDRE and STEFANI for WE ARE FAMILY

At the very end of the number, STEFANI looks into her mirror and screams

ROUNIA:

That was the most fun we've EVER had, Demento!

SOFIA:

Thank you SO much for believing in us!

ROUNIA & SOFIA: (together)

And now, please join us in welcoming the Bigfoot Hunters, and, making his world debut, a VERY special guest!

They exit as the BIGFOOT HUNTERS and BIGFOOT enter

They perform PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

MICHAEL:

Mr. Demento, please welcome back to the stage, my sister, Becky and the girls of Troop 13.

The BIGFOOT HUNTERS exit and the GIRL SCOUTS enter

KAYLA:

Well, it's been quite a night, D. You've scared us, you've made us think. Heck, you've even inspired us, you crafty life coach, you. We certainly hope we've amused you with our little show. First and foremost, so you don't turn us all to dust. But secondly, because you deserve it. You've taught us that even a terrifying hellhound like you deserves a little happiness.

She starts singing FOR GOOD, then is joined by LEAH and CHLOE and eventually the FULL CAST

In the applause we hear a voiceover cut through

TOM:

Ladies and Gentlemen. This is Lieutenant Bolton of the Ghostbusters. I mean, the real Ghostbusters. Not a similar group that wears jumpsuits and has an ambiguous logo. We've surrounded the house and we're happy to inform you that there is no Demento. That was actually your neighbor, Marvin. He pulled all of this off using Ring doorbell equipment. Come on out, Marvin.

KEVIN enters

KEVIN:

(Sheepishly) Can I borrow a cup of sugar?

KAYLA:

MARVIN? This was YOU? Why on earth did you put us through all of this?

KEVIN:

What can I say? I was lonely.

CHLOE:

It's all right, Marvin. I'm sorry you're lonely. I'm working on my Considerate and Caring Badge. And I'd be happy to come by and visit you.

MISS OLIVERI:

Hey guys! It's Janey! I'm a Ghostbuster now! Last year I worked on a cruise ship but THAT turned out to be a total mess. Anyway, Marvin wasn't a real demon but you girls did unleash these other trapped spirits here and I'm happy to say that we Ghostbusters are now going to help send them on their merry ways. All in a day's work. Now, I have one question for you...Who you gonna call?

CAST:
GHOSTBUSTERS!

*The CAST dances to GHOSTBUSTERS, which turns into the CURTAIN
CALL*

THE END