

GHOST OF A CHANCE

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INT.

Typical College town coffee house. The daily hustle and bustle of students and customers coming and going. There are students hunched over books and laptop, the hiss and noises as latte are made permeate the air. There is a college student at the counter waiting for his order. A large blank faced man puts two tall cups with lids on the counter the student thanks him and takes the drink to a table surrounded by students. He makes six. The Stoner hands one of the cups to a clean cut brown hair student and sits down next to him and picks up a text book and asks a question to the group

STONER

So... Any ideas?

NORMAL GUY

We got nothing. Who would think that coming up with a final project/paper for history would be so hard?

STONER

(Offering an idea weakly) Well I did a power point once instead of a paper....

OTHER GUY

...and

STONER

...I (mumbling) got through the class

Everyone starts talking over each other

BLONDIE

(Filing nails, using phone as mirror touching up make up) Just go talk to those old people at that place where people go to die

HIPSTER

You mean the retirement village?

BLONDIE

Yeah, that's the place. Just record them talking about their past while they still can and write down one of their stories. All done. But I wouldn't go there, it smells like....

HIPSTER

Old people?

NERD

(Not looking up from his books and calculator) with this town having several historical sites going back centuries instead of writing a paper which most would do, I might add, why not see if the rumors are true?

HIPSTER

Rumors? You mean that some of these places are haunted?

NERD

Precisely Each of the older buildings have stories about being haunted. Why not investigate that angle, I'm pretty sure it hasn't been done before in a scholastic project and this way we can check to see if any those stories are true.

NORMAL GUY

And how would you do that?

NERD

Using the tools at hand. The science lab has an old EMP detector in the back. The A/V department has audio recorders. I have a wearable video camera. Someone here must have a digital camera. We could go ghost chasing and present the results as our final project. Easy Peasy. (Without looking up goes back to his books

Everyone stops, looks at each other. They all start to slowly smile at each other

NERD (CONT'D)

(Looking up) what?

OTHER GUY

Best idea yet

NORMAL GUY

Hard to beat

BLONDIE

There won't be any really old
people to smell, right?

HIPSTER

Only dead ones

NERD

I don't think ghosts smell. At
least I don't recall reading that
they do...

NORMAL GUY

Its settled then

STONER

I really don't think....

NORMAL GUY

We all go get stuff, cameras,
reactors...

NERD

(Correcting) Detectors

NORMAL GUY

Detectors and nets and we all go
ghost hunting... (turning towards
nerd).. Where?

NERD

The basement of this coffee house
was part of an original structure
dating back to the late 1880s. We
could use this place. Mrs. Higgins
would let us in after hours cause I
have to come back this afternoon
and fix her cappuccino machine like
I promised. In payment I will ask
to use the basement. I can get the
keys and we meet here tonight.

NORMAL GUY

Done and done

STONER

But you see, ghosts and
all....(Voice trailing off)

NORMAL GUY

(Pulls stoner out of his chair) No worries, if we meet any ghosts they'll think you're one of them with that cloud of smoke that is always around you. You'll blend right in.

They all gather their things and talking to each excitedly they leave.

Behind them a skinny lanky man wearing clothes almost out of date, sipping an espresso listening intently. As soon as they leave he rises from his chair, looks around and goes towards the door. He starts to reach for the door when the STONER bursts back in and goes back to their table and grabs a book he left behind. He pauses with a troubled look on his face, dismisses the thought and leaves. The lanky man is gone.

INT.

Top of staircase to the basement of the coffee house, late that same day.

The rattling of a key in a lock and the door opens and all the students pile into the foyer.

NORMAL GUY

(Looking around) Thought you said this place was old?

NERD

It is and it has had a lot of renovations over the years to keep up with building codes.

HIPSTER

Who's worried about some codes (looking around)

STONER

So this place goes back a few years?

NERD

Centuries, to the late 1880's to be precise. Mostly just the basement is the only part of the original structure. There has been stories almost as old about spirits, doors opening and closing on their own. Things flying off shelves..

NORMAL GUY

Nothing to do with the place being
old and the building settling..
Right?

BLONDIE

There better not be any spiders

STONER

Least of our worries

NORMAL GUY

Okay lead the way (waving down the
stairs)

STONER

Yea, lead but follow.

As they descend the stairs they are all talking about the place and making a lot of noise. In the basement under a ceiling light are three people. The lanky guy from earlier, another guy with ripped up clothes carrying an axe and a woman pale wearing a torn up white dress. She has sunken eyes. They all turn and look at the students as they come down the stairs.

Once the students arrive at the bottom of the stairs they take a look at what is before them. They see a dark basement with low hanging ceiling lights. One of the lights is slowly swinging back and forth.

NORMAL GUY

Okay, this looks promising

BLONDIE

Promising how?

OTHER GUY

Nice place for a murder

NERD

There may have been if the stories
are correct and they may still be
here.

STONER

Why is that light...(being cut off)

NORMAL GUY

Okay lets break into groups

STONER

Isn't that not what to do?

NERD

Divide and conquer. I concur

BLONDIE

This place looks dirty and dusty.

NORMAL GUY

What we need to do is each take a section of the basement and their stuff and focus on that area. (Pointing to STONER and BLONDIE) you to use the E.X.P.

NERD

EMP

NORMAL GUY

Whatever and record anything you see.

Behind the group things float from on shelf to another, Things move on their own and the chair slowly moves across the floor making a small noise.

NORMAL GUY (CONT'D)

Wait ! (they all pause) never mind, you two (pointing to the HIPSTER and OTHER GUY)...

HIPSTER

I get it, I get it. Come on (dragging OTHER GUY behind her)

NORMAL GUY

Which leaves you and me.

NERD

Swell (Puts on Head Camera and adjusts it following behind NORMAL GUY)

CUT TO:

NERD and BLONDIE slowly moving down a row of shelves. NERD has the EMP detector in front of him waving it back and forth. BLONDIE is trailing him. She is finishing up using a lip gloss. She then pulls out a small atomizer bottle.

NERD (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I'm picking up something.

BLONDIE

Try a different channel

NERD

It doesn't work that way.

Behind them the female ghost in the white dress emerges from the shelves and motions to attack BLONDIE from behind. At that same moment BLONDIE sprays and sprays around her head with the atomizer. This hits the female ghost who has a look of surprise as she is scattered like smoke in a fan.

NERD (CONT'D)

Hmm. The signal is gone.

BLONDIE

Still think trying to tune that thing would work.

NERD

Maybe

CUT TO:

STONER with NORMAL GUY are near some boxes and shelves. STONER keeps fiddling with the camera on his head and the NORMAL GUY is trying to figure out the digital camera.

NORMAL GUY

Stop messing with it

STONER

We need to be ready. Who knows what will attack us down here.

NORMAL GUY

No one is going to attack us except for me if you don't quit it.

STONER

Obliviously you haven't see many movies lately

NORMAL GUY

Now what are you doing

Holding up a large flashlight with a piece of red plastic taped to the front

STONER

I have put a red filter on this flashlight to pick up ghosts using UV.

NORMAL GUY

Nimrod that's IR, Infrared and that isn't going to work. (Pulling off the red plastic off the flashlight)

The STONER is waving the flashlight around trying to get the red plastic back from NORMAL GUY. When the light beam hits a shelf near them the head of the Slinky ghost head is there. The ghost is watching them and is getting angry. The STONER grabs the plastic back and puts it back on the flashlight, When the red beam hits the shelf you see a skull with eyes instead. The NORMAL GUY gets mad and shoves the digital camera onto the shelf where the ghost head is. At the same the ghost starts to scream and camera flash goes off in a puff of smoke the ghost head is gone.

CUT TO:

HIPSTER and OTHER GUY are struggling with the audio recorder. They are using a microphone taped to a broom handle. The HIPSTER is wearing headphones and has the audio recorder in hand. They are slowly moving around the electrical boxes.

HIPSTER

I don't know if this thing is working or even on.

OTHER GUY

Is the bars moving (pointing)

HIPSTER

I don't know... it might just be us.

Behind them the ragged man with the axe is stalking them and is moving slowly towards them. He is dragging the axe behind him and it is making a slow scrapping sound.

HIPSTER (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I hear something !

The ghost stops in surprise. He looks over at the other two ghosts who urge him on.

HIPSTER (CONT'D)

It's gone now

The ghost moves forward again dragging the axe.

HIPSTER (CONT'D)

There it is again. I am definitely picking something up. No it's gone again.

She looks towards OTHER GUY. He is standing on some of the cords. She pushes him off the cords in anger.

The ghost stops in surprise. He takes a few more steps forward and hears nothing. Looking behind himself he sees that the axe was dragged onto a throw rug which has muffled the axe. He quickly looks up at the other two ghosts.

The lady ghost is standing there glaring at him with her arms crossed. The lanky man just slowly shakes his head. The ghost with the axe waves his arms as if asking "what do I do now?"

At that moment STONER and NORMAL GUY come around the corner, the flashlight dissolving the ghost with the axe. The NORMAL GUY is fiddling with his camera and didn't see anything but the STONER pauses and points but is interrupted by everyone else arriving.

NORMAL GUY

So anyone get anything?

BLONDIE

Just dirty and grim. Didn't know ghost hunting is so dirty.

HIPSTER

Nothing... at least I don't think so.

STONER

But I just saw...(being ignored)

NERD

There were some readings that will need to be investigated.

HIPSTER

I think there might be something here too but I'm not sure.

OTHER GUY

So was this a waste of time?

Everyone is talking over each other.

NERD

Wait, wait. Let me take a look at the results and study them. We'll all meet back here tomorrow and I will let you know what we got.

Everyone agrees and they all leave with the STONER looking over his shoulder wondering.

The ghost with the axe appears next to the other two ghosts. The lady ghost still has her arms crossed. She quickly turns and goes through the wall. Papers on the wall move. The lanky guy looks at the ghost with the axe and just shakes his head slowly. The ghost with the axe just slumps his shoulders and sighs deeply.

Next day:

Everyone is sitting at their table talking excitedly waiting for the NERD to tell them their results. He comes in and goes to the counter and orders a latte. While waiting for his order he goes to the table.

NORMAL GUY

And....

NERD

I have results

The lankly guy is behind them sipping his espresso He puts down the cup and leans forward

Everyone is talking at once. NERD holds up his hand for quiet

STONER

I hope it's good news since we risked our lives.

NERD

Its both good and bad

OTHER GUY

How can it be both good and bad?

NERD

The results were inconclusive.
There may or may not be something.
I think it's mostly artifact or feedback.

NORMAL GUY

And that's the bad news?

NERD

It is. We have proven that this structure is apparition free. No lingering spirits which goes against some theories of energy not being destroyed but changing form. I am excited about going deeper into our results to find out more.

STONER

SO how does this help our project?

HIPSTER

It doesn't. You know just writing a paper isn't looking so bad now.

BLONDIE

I agree

Everyone turns and looks at BLONDIE.

NORMAL GUY

New plan, we go to the library and split up the research and write papers about different parts of this town's history. Agreed?

Everyone agrees. They all get up and leaves. Normal GUY pats NERD on the shoulder as he walks past.

The NERD goes back to the counter to pick up his order.

NERD

(Talking to the guy behind the counter) It would been nice to actually prove the existence of ghosts you know. Who knows maybe I'll find something in all that stuff we got after all.

The NERD drops a dollar in the tip jar and leaves. The guy behind the counter has a blank stare and is wiping the counter. The camera pulls back to show that the torso of the guy is in the counter. He's a ghost too.

The camera pulls back farther we see things floating across the room and all the patrons watch the nerd leave. They all then take on a ghostly appearance and then they all fade away.

The door opens again and everything floating falls to the floor. The STONER comes in and goes back to their table to pick up his book he left behind again. He starts to leave and then sees the place completely empty. He starts to call out to the group as he runs out the door.

Fade to black.