SCAREDY CAT

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Pitch dark. FRANK (30), frumpy, enters through the front door. He hollers out to his Echo device, ALEXA --

FRANK
Alexa, turn on the lights.

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. I can’t do that right now.

A nervous breath, then Frank slowly proceeds down the hall.

FRANK
Alexa, turn on hallway lights.

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. Hallway lights are not responding.

FRANK
What the hell good are you?

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. You wouldn’t need the lights if you weren’t such a pussy.

He feels along the wall, flips on a light switch, and --

GRISWALDA, a black cat, jumps on his face! Frank fends her off. But not before she claws bloody scratches into his face.

INT. FRANK'S HOUSE - FIRST FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Frank walks through rooms flipping on light switches until --

INT. FRANK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He flips on the kitchen light to find his girlfriend sitting at a table. This is GRETCHEN (35), a bit gothic.

GRETCHEN
Hey, babe.

Frank jumps back.

FRANK
What the shit!
(beat)
You’re sitting in the dark?

GRETCHEN
Nothing wrong with the dark, dude. You should try it. Might cure your nyctophobia.

She stands.

GRETCHEN (CONT’D)
I’m heading out with my friends.

FRANK
Oh. Want me to come?

GRETCHEN
No. Do you have fifty bucks?

Frank digs it out of his wallet. Gretchen kisses him.

GRETCHEN (CONT’D)
Thanks, babe. See ya.

INT. FRANK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Frank grabs his iPad.

FRANK
Okay, Alexa. Let’s figure out what’s wrong with you.

He opens the iPad but stops fast. His eyes widen in fear.

FRANK'S POV

The page shows the devil -- with the headline LEARN HOW TO SUMMON SATAN, followed by JOIN US FOR ONLY $50.

BACK TO SCENE

Frank drops the iPad and runs out scared.

INT. FRANK'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

He breaks for the front door in a panic. As he opens it to leave --

FRANK
Alexa, turn off lights!

ALEXA (O.S.)
Added ton of ice to shopping list.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Frank paces. His friend ADAM (30), a hot alpha-male, brings in two beers and hands one to Frank. They sit.

ADAM
So, let me get this straight.
You're on your iPad...
(redirects)
Bro, what happened to your face?

FRANK
Griswalda scratched me.

ADAM
Your girlfriend's name is
Griswalda?

FRANK
No, her cat. Gretchen is my
girlfriend.

ADAM
Oh. Well how would I know? It's not
like she ever comes out with us.
So, Gretchen was surfing some Satan
worshipping shit, and now you're
sleeping over here?

Frank grabs Adam's iPad and surfs for the Satan page. Frank hands the iPad to Adam, who looks it over.

Then, the sound of a PIPE BANGING. Frank overreacts --

FRANK
What's that?

ADAM
I don't know, bro. A pipe?

During this, TIFFANY (27), Adam's wife, who's just as hot as him, enters and sits next to Adam. Her TABBY CAT follows, jumps on an ottoman in front of Frank, and stares at him.

TIFFANY
(to Echo device)
Alexa, set the heat to seventy degrees.

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. The heat is fine as it is.

TIFFANY
(reacting to Alexa)
What did I do?

Adam hands Tiffany the iPad. She looks at the Satan page and makes an impressed face.

ADAM
Bro, you're such a pussy about these things.
(sarcastic imitation)
I'm Frank. I'm afraid of ghosts. A Ouija board attacked me once.

TIFFANY
Adam, stop.
(to Frank)
You're not a pussy.

FRANK
Thank you, Tiffany.

ADAM
He's afraid of his own girlfriend.

Tabby Cat jumps on Frank's lap and PURRS.

FRANK
She's probably out with her Satan-worshipping friends doing, I don't know...what do Satan worshippers do?

TIFFANY
Worship Satan, I guess.

Tabby Cat PURRS out of control, kneading everything from Frank's lap to his crotch to his stomach.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
You're fine, Frank. I get it.

ADAM
You do?

TIFFANY
No, not really. But I need to sleep.

Tiffany kisses Adam as she gets up to leave.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)
I'm heading up.

Tabby Cat follows her out. Frank is covered in cat hair.

Frank's CELL PHONE RINGS. He looks at the caller.

FRANK
It's her!

Adam makes a sarcastic "oh no" face.

Frank answers. He tries but fails to be cool.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Hey, babe. Hi. Hey.
(listens)
Oh. Nothing. Just drinking with Adam. So, uh, I think I'm just gonna stay over here tonight. You know, so I don't have to drive.
(listens; panics)
Huh? No. Nothing. I was just trying to fix Alexa.

INT. FRANK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gretchen talks on her phone while staring at the iPad, which has the Satan page open.

GRETCHEN
Are you sure? Cause it looks to me like you ran away from something scary again.
(listens)
Well, I just hate for my man to be a wuss, that's all.
(listens)
Yup. Okay. Love ya.

After ending the call, she contemplates while staring at the iPad.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frank stares dejectedly at his phone.

FRANK
She called me a wuss.

Adam gets up and clears the beer bottles.

ADAM
The shoe unfortunately fits, bro.
(to Echo device)
Alexa, set lights for bedtime.

ALEXA (O.S.)
I'm happy to, Adam. Sleep tight.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - LATER

Adam and Frank talk outside the guest room, which is down a long hall from Adam and Tiffany's room.

ADAM
Sheets are clean. Extra blankets in the dresser. If you need anything during the night...I don't care. Don't wake me.

Frank fixates on a strange, open door across the hall. It's one-third the size of a normal door.

FRANK
That's weird. What's that?

ADAM
Huh? Oh. Just some storage shit.

FRANK
Can you close it? It's creepy.

ADAM
(while closing door)
But if you hear something knocking during the night...be sure to let it out.

Adam heads down the hall LAUGHING.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I'll make a man of you yet, bro.

When he gets to his bedroom door, he looks back and puts two fingers to his head to make devil horns and an evil face.

Adam LAUGHS, enters his bedroom, and shuts the door.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gretchen, wearing a black hooded cape, holds Griswalda as she stares at the house.

She walks to a side door, which has a pet door at the bottom.

She holds Griswalda out in front of her while conjuring up a satanic chant. Except she's really bad at it. She half-heartedly improvises, ad-libbing with each line --

GRETCHEN
Oh beast of great scorn.
You have big and beautiful horns.
Darkness of my life.
I will be your devil wife.
Share your awesome evilness.
With Griswalda, my feline-ness.
May she bring this spell I made.
(thinks; proud of herself)
To Frank and make him brave.

Griswalda MEOWS as Gretchen pushes her through the pet door.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - LATER

Frank sleeps with a lamp on. It goes out -- he jolts awake.

FRANK
Alexa, turn on the light!

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. I don't recognize you.

Then, across the hall -- a soft KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. Frank freezes in fear.

FRANK
(sotto)
It's just the pipes.

He puts his head under the covers -- KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. Are you <u>not</u> gonna get that?

FRANK
Bullshit. He's screwing with me.

Frank gets out of bed -- barefoot, in sweatpants and a t-shirt. Nervous but determined, he opens the bedroom door.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Adam, I know that's you.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Frank steps into the dark hallway. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. He closes his eyes and commits. Quickly, he opens the creepy door and steps back. Nothing happens, until --

Tabby Cat MEOWS and jumps out. Frank sighs and shakes his head. He begins to close the door, but --

An arm reaches out and grabs his leg! Frank SCREAMS and runs back to his room.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frank slams the door, jumps in bed, and hides under the covers.

The door slowly CREAKS open. A black humanoid shape -- a SHADOW PERSON -- crawls across the floor.

With an eerie MOAN, Shadow Person reaches up and touches Frank's foot through the covers.

Frank jumps out of bed SCREAMING. He races out of the room --

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

And down the hall to Adam's room. He reaches for the doorknob but stops. He politely KNOCKS.

FRANK
Guys? Are you decent?

Frank looks back down the hall. Shadow Person crawls along the floor towards him.

Frank freaks out. He pushes open the bedroom door. But a devil face pops up through the opening!

Frank about faces. Shadow Person is gone, so he heads for the stairs. He SCREAMS all the way down.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

In pitch darkness, Frank rushes for the door. But --

A small SHADOW FIGURE jumps on his face! Frank SCREAMS as he swats it off him. MEOW! Frank breaks for the kitchen.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Frank continues to the side door, where --

Another SHADOW PERSON peers in through the door window! Frank jumps back, about faces, and heads back to --

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Frank runs to the front door but trips. Another MEOW! He crawls to the door, stands, and looks through the window. A face stares back!

Frank SCREAMS! But he looks again -- it’s Gretchen.

FRANK
Gretchen? What the...
(beat; angry)
No. Screw you and your Satan shit.
I’ll show you what a wuss I am.

Without letting her in, he heads back to --

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Frank opens a drawer, pulls out a knife, and returns.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Shadow Person, now across the living room, MOANS. Gretchen watches through the window, excited.

Frank shows Shadow Person the knife.

FRANK
That’s right you demon asshole.
What-da-ya think of me now?

He charges Shadow Person! But he’s tackled out of the blue -- by Devil Face! Devil Face rolls on top of Frank. Frank rolls on top of Devil Face.

SHADOW PERSON (WOMAN’S VOICE)
Alexa! Turn on living room lights!

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sorry. I can’t do that right now.

Frank doesn't back down. Devil Face holds Frank's arm to keep from being stabbed!

DEVIL FACE (MAN'S VOICE)
Frank! Frank, stop!

Shadow Person jumps on Frank's back. Gretchen jumps up and down applauding -- she's conjured up Satan!

DEVIL FACE (CONT'D)
Shit! Will someone turn on the friggin' lights?!

ALEXA (O.S.)
I'm happy to, Adam.

The lights turn on.

Tiffany, in a black hoodie and sweatpants, is on Frank's back helping Adam, who's dressed like the devil. They finally stop Frank, who now realizes what's going on.

The three collapse to the floor out of breath. Gretchen, still watching through the door window, is disappointed.

Adam and Tiffany laugh, high-five each other.

TIFFANY
Seriously. That was almost worth watching you get stabbed for.

ADAM
Right?

FRANK
Nice. You're proud of being a couple of assholes?

ADAM
You should be thanking us, bro. Look at you, stepping up like that.

Frank opens the front door for Gretchen.

FRANK
I suppose you're in on this too?

GRETCHEN
In on what, babe? I was just trying something out.

Then, a CREEPY, LOUD, AND LONG HOWL from the kitchen.

FRANK
Yeah, okay. You guys can cut the shit now.

But Adam and Tiffany are a little freaked out.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Guys? Seriously?

The HOWL gets louder and creepier -- like a ghost's OWOOOO!

Frank slowly walks to the kitchen. Gretchen takes his arm and walks a step behind. Adam and Tiffany follow.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Frank steps in, the others looking over his shoulder.

Frank, Adam, and Tiffany cock their heads in fascination. Gretchen frowns.

GROUP POV

Tabby Cat has mounted Griswalda. Griswalda HOWLS in delight. Mid-action, Tabby Cat looks back at us.

FRANK
(deadpan)
Alexa, turn off the lights.

ALEXA (O.S.)
Sure, Frank. Sleep tight. You deserve it.

The group leaves the room. The lights go out.

OVER BLACK.

ALEXA (O.S.)
Adding kitten toys to shopping list.

FADE OUT.