

Blind Casting

by  
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FADE IN:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

A chalk pentagram drawn on a bare brick wall, upside down and covered in arcane runes, lit only by pillar candles.

ASHLEY (early 20s), jet-black hair, thick eyeliner, pierced eyebrow and lip, faces the pentagram, quietly chanting and swaying.

A CELL PHONE beside her buzzes, an alarm set for 11:59pm.

ASHLEY

Molly Madison, Molly Madison,  
Molly Madison.

She pulls a HAIR off a pink hairbrush and uses a candle flame to part it.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - SAME TIME

A lush small clearing surrounded by tall trees, bathed in bright moonlight.

WILL (mid-20s), long hair, angelic face, naked muscled body, sits cross-legged in the thick grass. A small fire burns in a stone bowl on the moss-covered tree stump before him.

He drops a LIPSTICK into the flame.

WILL

Cat of ebon, whiskers white, share  
your luck with Molly tonight.

The cell phone next to the bowl reads 11:59pm.

INT. COFFEE SHOP STOREROOM - SAME TIME

A well-stocked storeroom for a coffee chain, lit only by a trio of candles. A cell phone buzzes continuously on the floor.

PENNY (early 20s), in a naughty nurse costume covered in fake blood and zombie makeup, waves a NAPKIN over a candle until it ignites.

PENNY

Vengeful spirit, hear our plea.  
Molly's sins are ripe for thee.

INT. GRADE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

A large classroom filled with small desks. Children's drawings line the moonlit room.

HELEN (early 30s) sits on the floor beneath a chalk pentagram on the chalkboard, hair tied tight, thin-rimmed glasses reflecting light from the single candle before her.

She drops a burning BAND-AID into a metal trash can.

HELEN

Bound by blood and purpose true,  
do our bidding, we command you.

She pierces her finger with a needle and squeezes a blood drop onto the flame.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - SAME TIME

MOLLY MADISON (30s), dressed to the nines, hair done up, expensive coat and extravagant shoes, struts along a tree-lined street with row houses and cars parked at the curb. Two GIRLFRIENDS (30s) walk with her.

Molly says something and they all burst into laughter, weaving unsteadily.

ASHLEY/WILL/PENNY/HELEN (V.O.)

Itch and twitch, bile and burn.  
With these lessons, Molly will  
learn that vengeance comes to  
those who sin against the Coven.  
Let it begin.

As Molly passes a hedge, a SKELETON leaps up.

SKELETON

BOO!

Molly's friends shriek but Molly scowls, annoyed.

SKELETON

Oh! Sorry, thought you were kids.

The Skeleton ducks behind the hedge again as the women continue walking.

A BLACK CAT snakes out from beneath a car and rubs itself against Molly's leg, meowing.

Molly kneels to pet the cat. Her friends continue on, laughing.

The cat arches its back and purrs. Molly smiles. The cat looks up at her, eyes the color of the moon and just as bright.

The smile vanishes from Molly's face as the cat hisses and bats her hand, leaving a long scratch. It darts into the shadows before she can react.

Molly stares after it, rubbing at the scratch. She takes a step and her heel breaks, twisting her ankle.

GIRLFRIEND (O.S.)

Hey Molly, you coming?

Molly scratches at the scratch and hobbles after her friends.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

A spacious bedroom with stylish urban decor and a plush carpet. Will sleeps fitfully on the king-size bed. At his waist, a lumpy shape bobs up and down.

Will moans and opens his eyes. He looks down groggily.

Molly's head slides up from beneath the sheet, one eye bloodshot, hair singed, chin scraped. She smiles wickedly, two teeth missing.

MOLLY

Found you.

Will screams--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Will wakes and bolts upright. There's a shape under the sheet, bobbing on him as before. He kicks and shoves it off the bed.

WILL

Get off me, bitch!

The sheet flies off of BRYAN (20s), muscle-toned olive skin, perfect teeth and hair, his face a mix of shock and anger.

BRYAN

What's your damage, bitch?

Will struggles to shake off the dream.

WILL

Bryan! I'm so sorry.

BRYAN

Uh-uh, you got some explaining to do.

WILL

It was a bad dream, I freaked out.

BRYAN

You fucked up, that's what you did. You want to crash at my place, fine, but that's the last time you get a wake up call.

WILL

Don't be like that.

Will helps Bryan to his feet. Bryan pulls away.

BRYAN

You want to make it up to me?  
Breakfast in bed.

WILL

Yes, sure. Washroom first.

BRYAN

I'll go make coffee, the rest is yours.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Will steps out of the bedroom and down the hall wearing only white boxer briefs. He steps into the

LIVING ROOM

Upscale furniture, expensive art on the walls, and a pentagram, drawn with charcoal, on the thick carpet.

Bryan stands in the center, soaking wet. The yellowish fluid drips onto the carpet, staining it.

BRYAN

Will. Help me.

Behind him, the front door opens. Molly stands in the doorway, looking exactly as she did in the dream, but her clothes are also disheveled and her left hand badly burnt.

She points the burnt hand at Will.

MOLLY

Tonight.

She snaps her fingers and Bryan BURSTS INTO FLAMES! He screams in agony, screams that go on and on.

Will grabs a blanket and beats at the flames, sobbing, but it's no use.

The screams cease as Bryan slumps over, still burning.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Will dashes out the door of the burning house, shirtless and barefoot, and runs down the street.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. UPSCALE HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Expensive furnishings, a mix of styles that doesn't quite work. Pentagrams and wiccan symbols are everywhere, engraved into the furniture, on the walls, around the door frames.

Will sits on the couch, mourning. Helen holds him and Ashley brings him a cup of tea.

ASHLEY

Why would the Order send us after another witch?

Penny drops a heavy handmade book on the table, bound in rough leather with a pentagram pressed into the cover. She opens it.

PENNY

Feels like we were set up.

ASHLEY

Maybe they didn't know.

Helen checks her phone and tosses it on the couch in disgust.

HELEN

They're not answering.

PENNY

There are a few wards in here we haven't used yet. She just snapped her fingers? No words?

Will nods woodenly.

The doorbell rings. They look at each other, panicked.

Ashley peeks out the window and sighs with relief.

ASHLEY

Pizza's here.

HELEN

That was fast. I told you it pays to tip well.

Ashley opens the door for the PIZZA DELIVERY GUY, purse ready.

INT. UPSCALE HOUSE - DUSK

Ashley, Penny, and Helen munch on vegetarian pizza. Will's slice sits untouched on his plate.

HELEN

Come on, you need to eat.

Outside the front window, the last rays of sunshine disappear.

Penny reaches for another slice but stops.

PENNY

Do you feel that?

Ashley nods. She takes a deep breath and exhales. Her breath frosts in the air.

WILL

She's here, isn't she?

Ashley's exhale turns to choking, coughing, gagging. Her eyes bug out as she claws at her throat and chest.

PENNY

Are you okay?

Helen whips out a braided wicker ankh.

HELEN

Breath of night, cold's delight,  
by my words spoken this curse is  
broken.

Ashley convulses and stops breathing. Her mouth stretches wide--

Black BEETLES swarm out of her mouth, crawling over her face, dropping to the floor.

The others recoil in shock as Ashley tries to draw breath, her eyes pleading for them to help. But no breath comes as she gags on beetles, more and more crawling up her throat and out her mouth and nose.

Ashley's eyes roll up in her head and she collapses. Beetles continue to stream out of her, a growing mound of crawling, swarming, biting insects.

HELEN

Fuck.

Penny crushes outlier beetles but won't go near the mound.

PENNY

How did she do that?

WILL

The pizza.

Penny and Helen look from the pizza to the door.

PENNY

The delivery guy!

HELEN

The delivery guy!

Helen grabs Ashley's purse and rifles through it. She pulls out a tightly bound bundle and tosses it on the table.

WILL

Hex bag.

Penny takes a silk cloth out of a drawer and drops it over the hex bag.

PENNY

Helen, go check the stoop, he  
might have left one out there too.

Penny picks up both and ties the bundle with twine as Helen moves for the front door.

As she passes a mirror, she sees Molly standing behind her. She screams and turns--

No one is there. She turns back to the mirror. Molly's reflection reaches out for her.

WILL

What is it?

Helen turns to Penny to speak, but her head twists violently, snapping her neck.

PENNY

Helen!

Helen is lifted into the air by her head, her body hanging like a rag doll.

WILL

Oh shit! Uh, blind though I may be, eyes will lie but truth be seen.

Penny holds up the ankh.

WILL

Shrouds of darkness pierced by light, bring forth this spirit into our sight!

PENNY

Shrouds of darkness pierced by light, bright forth this spirit into our sight!

Molly appears out of thin air, holding Helen's head by one hand. She winks.

MOLLY

Hey, lover. Do you smell something burning?

Will's face twists with rage. He picks up the pizza knife and advances--

Rage turns to horror as his hand goes to his crotch, scratching and rubbing. He squirms uncomfortably.

Molly smiles wickedly and licks her lips.

Will darts away to the washroom. Penny advances, holding her ankh before her.

MOLLY

Wait your turn, bitch.

Beetles swarm from Ashley's half-eaten body to intercept Penny, forcing her to stop.

Molly looks around with admiration.

MOLLY

Love what you've done here. A bit hodgepodge, but beggars can't be choosers.

PENNY

We were just given your name. We didn't know.

Molly sneers.

MOLLY

Good little soldiers, doing the Order's bidding. Too bad your pathetic magic can't help you see the truth.

She looks into Helen's dead eyes.

MOLLY

Mind if I add something to the decor?

She slams Helen's face down so hard it spatters blood everywhere. Penny cringes at the brutality.

Molly lets blood pool for a moment and then drags Helen's face across the floor, limping, drawing a pentagram with the smeared blood.

PENNY

Searing flesh and eyes of jet,  
teeth to rip and claws to shred.

Molly hastens to complete the pentagram.

PENNY

From your slumber I awake you,  
Mammon rise and claim your dead.

A deep RUMBLE mounts and the house begins to shake.

MOLLY

Cute, but you aren't strong  
enough. Not alone.

PENNY

You sure about that?

Molly completes the pentagram and tosses Helen's body aside. She touches it and holds out her burnt hand.

MOLLY

Guess I'll just have to kill you  
then.

Penny braces herself but nothing happens. She smiles at  
Molly's confusion and holds up the ankh.

PENNY

Six hundred years old, crafted by  
witches more powerful than you.

The house lurches and shakes. The beetles scatter.

MOLLY

Guess you got me.

PENNY

Walls crumble and light retreats,  
with Mammon comes--

Molly pulls out a GUN and shoots Penny in the head.

The shaking and the rumble cease.

MOLLY

Fucking amateurs.

Molly steps over Penny and moves to--

THE WASHROOM

Will stands in front of the sink, hacking at his crotch  
with the knife. Blood flies with each stroke and soak his  
clothes and the floor.

WILL

(whimper)

It burns, it burns, it burns--

Molly touches his shoulder. He shakes his head as though  
waking up and then he screams with pain and shock.

MOLLY

Tell the Order I'm going to burn  
it down. Burn you all.

She limps back to the--

LIVING ROOM

Molly picks up the ankh, opens the door, and limps out  
into the night.

FADE OUT.