

Ghost Written

By

Matt Pniewski

copyright 2010 Matt Pniewski

INT. ATTIC-DAY

A mysterious figure (CONNER, 24) walks across the floor with a wooden box.

He puts the box on the ground. A rope is tossed over a support beam.

The rope falls into place, revealing a noose.

The figure steps on top the box, and puts his head through the noose.

He steps off the box.

A young woman (AMY, 22) enters the room. She sees the man hanging.

AMY

Conner!

Conner turns his head up.

CONNER

Still gets you!

Conner phases through the rope, and lands on the floor.

AMY

Don't do that!

CONNER

Come on, how long have we been dead?

AMY

I don't know remember.

(beat)

That's not the point!

CONNER

Then what is the point?

She turns around and head back for the door.

AMY

I'm not talking to you.

Amy opens the door. She closes it on Conner, who phases through.

INT. HALLWAY-DAY

Conner follows Amy out the door.

CONNER

Come on, who else are you going to talk to?

AMY

It's not appropriate.

CONNER

What else is have I got? Don't eat, don't sleep, all we do is hang around the house. We could move on, there is a world of potential in this afterlife thing-

Mary passes them in the hall.

AMY

Go without me. I'd like that. I can "hang around the house" with relative peace and quiet.

Conner stops. Mary turns and enters the room.

CONNER

You know I can't do that.

Loud music starts playing from Mary's room.

CONNER

I'm shorting out that damn radio.

He turns around, and walks towards the room.

AMY

Don't do that. She's going to notice something.

CONNER

I don't care, I'm shorting out that damn radio.

Conner phases through Mary's door.

INT. MARY'S ROOM-DAY

Mary is sobbing, putting pen to a piece of paper. Conner phases through the door.

INT. HALLWAY-DAY

Conner returns.

AMY

So?

CONNER

She's writing a suicide note.  
You're right, these things do tend  
to work themselves out.

AMY

Conner, she can't-

CONNER

Yeah, and why not?

AMY

You know how she is-

CONNER

Irritating?

AMY

What happens when you die?

Mary comes out walking away in a rush. Amy follows in a hurry.

AMY

How long to you think you can put  
up with it?

CONNER

Yeah?

(beat)

Oh....

After his realization, he starts to follow.

INT. FRONT ROOM-DAY

Mary walks down the stairs, and enter the front room.

CONNER

You know, it might just be one of those things. I mean, you had one of those phases right?

AMY

Yeah. And now I'm dead.

CONNER

Not from suicide.

AMY

What if she gets lucky?

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Mary enters the Kitchen, and goes right under the sink. She grabs a can of cleaner.

AMY

(off Screen)

She'll be telling us about her favorite Glee character for eternity.

She opens it, tilts it to see that it is empty. She pouts.

She stands and turns around, Amy is right in front of her. She walks right through Amy, who jumps.

Mary looks back, sees nothing. Mary makes her way to a doorway that leads, presumably, to the garage. Conner and Amy follow.

CONNER

Maybe sure earned enough points to go to heaven, and we don't even have to bother?

Amy gives Conner a strange look.

CONNER

Your right. Heaven is a happy place.

Amy grabs the handle.

CONNER

She'll notice the radio going out  
but not the door opening by itself?

AMY

Well, what choice am I given?

The door opens, and the two spread wide apart to avoid being touched. Mary re enters with a rope and a folding chair. The two follow her into the front room.

INT. FRONT ROOM-DAY

Mary is standing on the folding chair, tying the rope around a Chandelier.

Conner and Amy enter. Amy starts to move for her, but Conner blocks her with his arm.

CONNER

Wait-

Mary tries to hang herself, but the chandelier comes crashing down.

INT. ATTIC-NIGHT

Conner is sitting down, listening to Mary's parent's yelling in the background. Amy enters, and sits down.

AMY

Looks like her parents are more  
upset about the Chandelier. How'd  
you know it wouldn't hold?

CONNER

Are you kidding? Your father paid  
me fifty bucks to install the damn  
thing.

She forms a half smile.

AMY

I miss him.

CONNER

Yeah.... So, what now?

INT. MARY'S ROOM-NIGHT

Amy sits down by the computer, searches through a drawer to look at a diary.

CONNER

Can you be a little bit quieter with that?

AMY

She won't notice. She'll think it's the cat, and go back to sleep.

CONNER

She doesn't have a cat.

AMY

That's right. I had the cat.

Amy pulls out the diary.

AMY

Tyler was then only thing that made my pitiful life worth living.

CONNER

So it's about a guy?

Amy nods.

CONNER

Then how about we try to get these two kids back together?

AMY

That's a terrible idea.

CONNER

Then perhaps we could-

Conner looks around the room, and notices Mary's bed is now empty.

INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT

Mary is standing in the bath tub, holding a toaster. The door is open a crack.

Conner phases right through, while Amy tries to carefully maneuver around it.

AMY  
Conner, stop her!

Mary drops the toaster, Conner lazily unplugs the chord.  
Mary looks with equal parts confusion and disappointment.

MONTAGE-CONNER AND AMY SUICIDE PROOFING THE HOUSE

Amy make a careful inventory of the pills in the bathroom.  
She dumps out a jar, and replaces them with Tic-Tacs

Conner puts a letter into an envelope, and writes "Tyler" on it.

Conner paints a grey shag carpet orange while Amy loosens a ceiling fan.

Mary searches through a chest of tools, and finds several pieces of rope, that have been cut no longer than one foot each.

Mary dumping a bunch of pills onto a piece of paper. She looks at them, confused, tastes it, realizes its sugar

Mary tapes the plug into the outlet, and takes the toaster into the bathtub. Conner shoves his hand into the wall, shutting down the circuit.

The power goes out in the house.

INT./EXT GARAGE-DAY

Conner is under the car, Amy is keeping watch.

Conner rolls out from under, and hands Amy the Muffler.

AMY  
You didn't have to cut off the entire-

Conner gets up.

CONNER  
Hey, if I had the mechanical knowledge you seem to think I do, we'd probably still be alive.

Mary walks out the Garage door, carrying the bright orange carpet. She lays down in the street, under the carpet.



AMY  
Shouldn't we-

CONNER  
Relax. I painted it orange. People  
drive around orange things.  
Sometimes yellow. So, how long do  
you think we can actually keep this  
up?

AMY  
Until we-

A car carefully drives around Mary.

CONNER  
What? She's pretty determined. The  
moment she finds out there is an  
extension cord she'll be back in  
the tub with the toaster again, and  
I'm going to just let her.

AMY  
What if she dies? Where will she  
go?

CONNER  
Probably remain here, like us.

AMY  
No. There isn't enough room!

CONNER  
Fine. She can stay here, we can  
move on. But it's not about that  
any more, is it?

AMY  
What do you mean it's not about  
that anymore? (beat) If you want to  
move on so bad, how about you do  
it? Just go right now?

CONNER  
No problem here. I've been waiting  
to move on for years.

Another car carefully drives around Mary.

AMY  
And what's keeping you?

Tyler pulls up on his bike, and notices the large bulge  
under the carpet. He kicks it gently.

Conner and Amy notice the fight, and quickly move outside.

TYLER

You wonder why I broke up with you?  
Look at yourself!

MARY

You told me you loved me!

TYLER

Yes. When were dating! These things  
do change, Mary!

Tyler reaches into his pocket, and pulls out the note.

TYLER

And now you are going to kill  
yourself if I don't take you back?

CONNER

That was a bad idea.

AMY

That was your idea.

CONNER

I know. It was a bad idea.

MARY

Let me see that.  
(she looks at the letter)  
This isn't even my handwriting!

TYLER

Look, just leave me alone.

MARY

What the hell? I had sex with you!

TYLER

And?

AMY

Don't do anything

CONNER

I can't do anything...

Mary, enraged, rushes towards Tyler, who tosses her to the ground.

Amy tries to embrace her. Mary looks up at Tyler, but then back down to her arms, and then up with wonder.

AMY

It's okay.

She now knows that somebody is there.

INT. MARY'S ROOM-NIGHT

Mary is taking down her pictures.

Amy watches from behind. Mary turns around, catches a glimpse of Amy. The two nod to each other. Mary mouths "It's okay now".

Mary turns back around. Amy leaves through the wall.

INT. ATTIC-DAY

Amy enters, sits down.

AMY

She knows we are here now.

CONNER

Well, that was bound to happen. Not that I mind. Well, anymore.

AMY

Yeah.

The two sit in silence.

AMY

This is her home now, isn't it?

CONNER

Yeah.

AMY

So, I guess it's time to go.

CONNER

No, not just yet.

EXT. SCHOOL-DAY

Tyler is riding his bike away from the school. He is hit in the head with a flying orange, and tumbles off the bike.

Conner looks at the chaos, accomplished.

AMY

You carry that with you--

CONNER

Had it in my pocket when we died.

The two of them turn around, and walk away.

AMY

So, what do you expect? I mean, think we can actually get into heaven? Or the other place?

CONNER

How about Australia? I've never seen a Kangaroo up close before.

The two of them disappear, together.