OH LANTERN

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INT. LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

A dumpy middle aged guy sits in his underwear typing on his computer in the corner of his lounge room. He's horse shoe bald, but his abundance of back hair more than compensates for his nude nut. His name is MANNIE.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN

The monitor has the homepage of a singles chat room on it. In the top corner sits Mannie's name: Mannie Ramóne. The cursor flashes inside a box, under a heading that reads, "Give a brief description of yourself."

END INSERT

Mannie's fingers are poised on the keyboard ready as he thinks of what to type.

MANNIE(VO) Mature, stocky...Nah. Experienced man of the world...Ah, shit.

Mannie takes his hands away from the keyboard and leans back in his seat and continues to stare at the monitor.

He leans back in and has another go.

MANNIE(VO) Mature, well rounded...gent. Seeks...

Mannie loses his temper and throws his hands up in the air. He then leans back in scowling and talks while he types.

> MANNIE Balding, tubby, shlub. Seeks attractive model slash actress. The successful applicant will be financially independent and able to provide accommodation and the use of a car. Please, no time wasters.

Mannie stops typing and hits send with authority.

He gets up and walks over to his bookshelf. He grabs the yellow pages. He walks over to his couch and puts the yellow pages on his coffee table and starts thumbing through it. He stops when he finds what he's looking for.

MANNIE(VO)

Bingo.

Mannie runs his finger down the page over various ads for escort agencies. His finger stops on one called Top of the Town Escorts. He picks up his cordless phone and is about to dial when he's interrupted by a knock on the door.

MANNIE

Shit.

He walks over to the door and looks through the peephole and sees three kids in Halloween costumes. One is dressed as Michael Myers, the other Freddy Krueger and the third is in a Leatherface costume.

MANNIE (angrily) What do you want?

KRUEGER (loud) Trick or treat. Dah.

Mannie walks into his kitchen, opens a cupboard, takes out a seltzer bottle and walks purposefully back to the front door.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

The door swings open and Mannie sprays the kids with the seltzer bottle.

MANNIE

(yells) TRICK!

The kids run off screaming. Mannie laughs.

Mannie shuts the door and a moment later the door is peppered by a hail of eggs which splatter on impact.

INT. LOUNGE ROOM - NIGHT

Mannie walks towards his couch.

MANNIE Too slow, kids. Too slow.

Mannie sits on the couch and picks his cordless phone up off the coffee table. He looks at the yellow pages as he punches in the numbers. INT. BROTHEL - NIGHT

A phone rings on a desk. A hard looking middle aged woman wearing a tonne of make up answers the phone. She's the brothel's MADAM.

MADAM Top of the Town Escorts.

INTERCUT

MANNIE Hi. How ya doing? I was after a girl.

MADAM What kind of woman were you interested in meeting?

MANNIE Oh.I don't know. Something young and thin with big tits.

The madam rolls her eyes.

MADAM We have an attractive thirty year old brunette available at the moment and we also have a twenty year old buxom, blonde who...

Mannie's eyes light up.

MANNIE How much for the blonde?

MADAM Two hundred.

MANNIE How much for half an hour?

MADAM That is for half an hour.

Mannie thinks for a moment.

MANNIE Um...How much for ten minutes?

The madam hangs up the phone. Mannie drops the phone on the coffee table.

END INTERCUT

EXT. FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Mannie's egg covered front door opens. Mannie walks out dressed in a polo shirt, jeans and generic white runners. He looks at his filthy door and shakes his head. He walks off into the night.

EXT. SHOPPING PRECINCT- NIGHT

Mannie walks through a shopping precinct and into an adult bookshop. Various people walk up and down the street in Halloween costumes.

INT. ADULT BOOK SHOP - NIGHT

Mannie walks through the door and stops. He looks around and surveys the wall-to-wall smut.

MANNIE It's like step'n inside my head.

Mannie spots the blow up doll section and walks over to it.

The shop keeper, a young Gothic looking guy with black hair and facial piercings approaches Mannie.

> SHOP KEEPER Can I help you or are you just browsing?

Mannie picks up a box containing a doll.

MANNIE How much for this one?

SHOP KEEPER She's three hundred dollars, sir.

Mannie puts the box back down and points at another.

MANNIE And that one?

SHOP KEEPER She's three fiddy.

MANNIE Shit. I could get a real broad for that much. SHOP KEEPER (smiling) Yeah, but you get to keep these ones. In fact with our buy two get one free deal you could start your own harem.

Mannie gives the shop keeper a lock of disdain which wipes the smile from his face.

SHOP KEEPER (clears his throat) Yes. Well. How much did you want to spend?

MANNIE No more than a hundred.

SHOP KEEPER

Hmph. Look. We've got a few defective ones out back. I could let you have one of them for eighty bucks.

MANNIE

Defective? What's wrong with them? They got the clap or something?

Mannie gently elbows the shop keeper in the ribs. The shop keeper smirks at Mannie's attempt at humor.

SHOP KEEPER Oh you know, the standard stuff. Water damage to the boxes, the mouths don't open far enough. Minor stuff. Don't worry they'll do the job.

MANNIE

Give us a look.

The shop keeper walks towards the front counter. Mannie follows him.

EXT. SUBURBAN BACK STREET - NIGHT

A suburban back street is alive with kids running from house to house trick or treating. Mannie walks up the street with his parcel under his arm. He stops to admire a particularly large Jack O'Lantern in the front window of a house. INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door opens and Mannie walks in with his parcel under his arm. He flicks the door shut with his foot, walks over to the couch and puts the parcel on the coffee table. He sits on the couch and opens the package.

MANNIE

OK.

Mannie takes the doll out of a plastic bag . He then unfolds it and finds the mouthpiece. Mannie blows it up and every part of it inflates except the head. Mannie sticks the the plug in the mouthpiece and sits the doll next to him on the couch.

> MANNIE Water damage to the box. Yeah right.

Mannie digs a receipt out of his back pocket and picks up the cordless phone on the coffee table. He reads a phone number of the receipt and then punches the number into the phone.

INT. ADULT BOOK SHOP - NIGHT

The Gothic shop keeper sits at his desk surfing the net when the phone rings.

SHOP KEEPER Hello. Club X.

INTERCUT.

MANNIE

Hi. I was in your store about forty minutes ago. I bought that blow up doll from you.

SHOP KEEPER (looking puzzled) Meh?

MANNIE I was the tubby bald guy who bought the defective doll from you. SHOP KEEPER Oh yeah. What's up?

MANNIE The head won't inflate.

SHOP KEEPER What do you mean?

MANNIE

I blew it up and everything inflated except the head.

SHOP KEEPER

So? Don't worry about it. You don't look at the mantelpiece when you're stoking the fire.

MANNIE

Look. You might not think so, but I have standards and I draw the line at a blow doll with no head.

SHOP KEEPER

Sorry, pal. I didn't mislead you I told you the doll was defective. That's why you got it for such a great price.

MANNIE

How am I supposed to get head from something...that...doesn't have a head?

SHOP KEEPER Look pal. I'm a smut peddler not a relationships counselor.I gotta go.

END INTERCUT

Mannie puts the phone on the coffee table and turns to the doll. The silence is interrupted by a knock on the door. Mannie looks up with a scowl on his face.

MANNIE

Those fuck'n kids again.

Mannie walks into the kitchen grabs his seltzer bottle of the kitchen bench and then walks over to the front door. He swings the door open and sprays the seltzer all over a...PIZZA DELIVERY GUY. PIZZA GUY (shocked) Hey. What the fuck?

Mannie stops as soon as he realizes his mistake.

MANNIE Shit sorry. I thought you were one of the local brats.

PIZZA GUY Yeah. Whatever. Did you order sixteen meat lovers pizzas?

MANNIE

No.

The pizza guy puts his pizzas down and takes a note pad out of his top pocket. He reads it.

PIZZA GUY Is this six Magnolia Street?

MANNIE Yeah it is, but I...

Mannie looks past the pizza guy and sees Krueger, Myers and Leatherface laughing and pointing at him from across the road. Mannie starts walking towards them.

> MANNIE (yells) Come here you little bastards.

The kids run away still laughing.

KRUEGER (off screen yells) Bon appetit.

MANNIE (yells) I know where you live and I'm gonna

talk to your parents.

Mannie turns around and walks back to the pizza guy who is picking up his pizzas.

MANNIE Sorry. Pal. Those little bastards have played a prank on you. PIZZA GUY Ah forget it. This shit always happens on Halloween and April the first.

The pizza guy walks back to his car shaking his head.

MANNIE Hey. If those pizzas are just going to go to waste I'll take one off your hands.

PIZZA GUY Sorry. Unless your going to buy all sixteen, I have to take them back to the store.

Mannie nods his head and waves the pizza guy away. He turns to go back inside when his attention is drawn to the Jack O' Lantern he was admiring earlier in the house across the road. A smile creeps across his face.

> MANNIE (smiling) It's time to carve me a Jack O' Lantern.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mannie slams a large pumpkin on to his kitchen bench and goes to work on it with a carving knife.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The flickering orange glow of a candle illuminates Mannie's bedroom. A lump under the bed covers moves up and down.

MANNIE Oh yeah. That's it. Ah...Yeah.

Mannie grunts and groans until he reaches climax and stops. He rolls over and falls on his back. The sex doll lyes next to him with a glowing Jack O'Lantern for a head. Mannie lets out a massive sigh and turns to the doll.

MANNIE Any complaints?

The Jack O'Lantern doesn't respond. Mannie smiles.

MANNIE

Good.

Mannie grabs a cigarette from his bedside table and then leans over the top of the Jack O'Lantern and lights the cig through it's eye socket. He lyes back, has a couple of drags and then holds the cig in front of the Jack O'Lantern.

MANNIE

Want a drag?

The Jack O'Lantern doesn't respond.

MANNIE

Hmph. Smart.

Mannie takes a few more drags and then butts the cig out in an ashtray on his bedside table. He turns to the Jack O' Lantern and kisses it on the cheek.

MANNIE

Good night, Pumpkin.

Mannie blows the Jack O'Lantern's candle out.

CUT TO BLACK.