

PARALYSIS
Terrance Parker

INT. OLD HOUSE -- NIGHT

JAX, a young teen wearing a skeleton costume, lays on the floor of a rotting, wooden floor. His heart races, but he remains still with his back against the wood. His eyes are open, in complete shock.

A completely black silhouette of a figure wearing a hat emerges from a closet, and watches over Jax.

The figure then takes a step forward, and Jax's adrenaline spikes even more. He takes vigorous deep breaths.

The figure extends its arm, slowly unraveling its long, skinny fingers above Jax's face.

Jax finds it even harder to breathe as the silhouette presses its hands against his chest, and pushes.

The figure then suddenly stops pushing, and turns to leave through the back door.

ANERES

Jax, c'mon. Wake up!

Jax jumps from the ground, with his heart still frantic, and looks around to see Aneres right in front of him. She's a young woman, wearing a witch costume with a watch that doesn't match the rest. The silhouette is gone.

JAX

Wha--? Who--? Who was that?

ANERES

Did you have sleep paralysis again?

JAX

God, I think so. I--I

couldn't move.

His right leg is shaking beneath Aneres' leg. She puts her hand on it to calm him down.

ANERES

It's alright. It's not real.
But you really got
knocked-out cold, huh?

Jax then looks around to notice the trashed house around him. Food and cups are stuck to the ceiling, chairs are split in half, and a 10-foot pole penetrates a dangling chandelier above.

JAX

Umm... what?

ANERES

Yeah. Thank God I held this
Halloween party at some
random house, though.
Imagine if it was at my
parents'.

JAX

Oh, you wouldn't live to
tell about it.

They both chuckle. Jax feels the bruise on his arm, and grimaces.

JAX

So... how did I get down here?

ANERES

Dude, someone spiked the
punch bowl with vodka. You
were slurping it up.

JAX

Ugh, God.

He turns, and starts spitting on the ground in disgust.

ANERES

Nah, it's okay. You'll piss
it out soon enough.

She grabs his shoulder and helps pick him up from the
ground.

Aneres grabs some shattered plates and throws them away in
a trash bag.

JAX

So, uh, did Cassandra come?

ANERES

(chuckling)

Maybe. Why?

JAX

Did--did I dance with her?

ANERES

Uh... it was something
alright.

JAX

Dang it. That was the only
reason you could convince me
to come to this crazy place.

ANERES

If you knew how to dance,
then you would have.

JAX

Hey, I know how to dance.

ANERES

You call this dancing?

She starts sporadically moving her arms like in a seizure. Jax wears a depressed face as he helps clean up the trashed home.

ANERES

Hey... it's alright. I'll teach you.

JAX

Wha--?

ANERES

C'mon.

Aneres grabs Jax's hand, and walks him outside the back door.

EXT. FIELD -- CONTINUOUS

They exit the back of the house into a corn field. There is an old, rusty car sitting by itself under a street light.

A slight, eerie sound, mimicking a scream occurs in the distance. He flinches, only to see the swaying wind chimes hanging from a tree.

ANERES

Hey, it's okay. C'mon.

JAX

You know they've reported muggers and hijackers out here before, right?

ANERES

Nah, that's just a trick to scare us into coming out here.

Aneres gets to the car and opens the door. She scrolls through the radio, and finds a slow song, with the slight sound of wind chimes in the back. Aneres leaves the window open and shuts the door.

ANERES

Alright, here we go.

She puts her arms around his shoulders, and he flinches for a second. However, he gives in, and starts to sway with the music.

ANERES

Now, you're gonna want to put your arms around my waist.

Jax seems skeptical at first.

ANERES

(chuckling)

It's okay. We're just friends. This is just for practice.

He puts his arms around her waist.

ANERES

Okay, now get in closer.

They both lean in, and are very close.

ANERES

Now... feel the music. Sway to the beat. And anticipate every moment. But don't anticipate too much, or else you'll overcorrect yourself.

Jax starts swaying to the beat of the music.

JAX

Like this?

ANERES

Yeah. Just like that.

She takes his hand.

ANERES

Now, I'm gonna spin.

She spins and goes under Jax's arm. Jax almost stumbles, however he keeps his ground.

ANERES

And then come back.

She meets back up in their original position.

ANERES

Hey, there ya go!

Jax gives a sigh of relief, however, it fades away as he turns to see the driver's seat inside the car. The hatted silhouette is sitting there.

He quickly moves Aneres to block his vision of the seat, frightened.

ANERES

What is it?

Jax looks back, to find nothing there.

JAX

Okay. It's gone.

She looks back at the driver's seat to find nothing there either.

ANERES

Your sleep paralysis demon?

JAX

Yeah. But not the usual one I talk about. This one wears a hat. Mine isn't usually that fancy.

ANERES

But you're awake--

The wind chimes on the tree suddenly cut out. Jax turns towards the tree, and sees the figure again. Now, it takes a step forward.

JAX

Shit! C'mon!

ANERES

Wha--?

He takes her hand, and runs back inside the house.

INT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The house is still completely trashed, and Jax slams the door shut. He grabs an armoire, and uses all of his strength to push it against the door.

ANERES

Jax, wha--?

He continues to batten down all the hatches.

ANERES (CONT'D)

Jax! What is happening!

Jax sits hard against the floor, and grasps onto his hair. He hyperventilates, and tears streaming down his face. Aneres gets down in front of him, wearing a completely terrified face.

ANERES

Jax!

He quickly gets up, and his arm barely hits the side of a cabinet. However, he starts to hold it, and screams in pain.

ANERES

(crying)

What! What! Jax! What!

JAX

My arm! It's broken! It's broken!

ANERES

Huh--?

JAX

Pop it back into place!
Please!

She bends down, and places his arm against the wall.

JAX

Do it now! He's coming! He's

coming!

She then pushes his arm the opposite way, but nothing happens. Jax gives a sigh of relief, and falls onto the ground.

JAX

Okay, okay, okay--

ANERES

Jax! C'mon! We need to get you out of here!

Aneres runs away from Jax, however, he remains on the ground.

JAX

Wait! Aneres! Aneres!

He tries to get up, but all of a sudden feels pinned down. He takes heavy, deep breaths.

JAX

No! No! No!

His frightened eyes are locked on the long, still hallway in front of him. However, that's abruptly when the door slowly creaks open.

The black silhouette comes out, and stands in the middle of the hall.

JAX

(muttering)

Anticipate. Anticipate.

The figure starts to walk down the hall towards him. Jax turns to see a broken glass on the ground, as he picks it up.

The figure then stops, and turns. However, it locks onto Jax again, and sprints toward him.

JAX

Anticipate!

He jumps up from the ground, and charges the figure. Then, he stabs it right in the abdomen. The silhouette starts to fade and lighten up, to reveal a watch strapped to it.

EXT. HOUSE -- MIDNIGHT

A police car comes rolling down the street with its lights and sirens on, and abruptly stops outside the house.

Two POLICE OFFICERS get out.

POLICE OFFICER

Dude, we don't get paid
enough to deal with annoying
kids on Halloween.

POLICE OFFICER #2

If it weren't for you trying
to impress the sheriff we
wouldn't be here.

POLICE OFFICER

(sarcastically)
Yeah, cause I live to
impress Johnny. His
cross-eyed ass shouldn't
even be handling a gun.

A disturbing noise comes from the house.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Hey, shut up.

They both go up to the door.

POLICE OFFICER
Alright! Everyone! Keep your
hands up--!

INT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

They enter through the door with their flashlights wielded,
to find nothing but a trashed house.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Split up. Fast. Find anyone
in trouble and get them out.

The other police officer nods, and goes through the left
corridor.

Police officer #2 continues down, with his face slowly
getting more frightened.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Hello?

He turns a corner to find nothing. Then, he hears the
police car start from outside.

POLICE OFFICER #2
What the--?! Damn it, Steve!

He starts to run around another corridor, towards the back
door, however runs straight into the other officer. Then,
he gets up to notice the room around him.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Jesus!

Jax is on the ground, holding both a dead Arenes and phone. His eyes are hypnotized, and all throughout the walls he has written in her blood "It was him," with many sketches of the hatted figure.

The other police officer wakes up from the fall.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Steve! Steve!

He gets up, and looks completely shocked by the whole situation. They both turn to Jax, who seems completely crazed. Then, they get up, seeming like they're going to leave.

JAX

No! Stay! Please! Help... me!

POLICE OFFICER #2

Wait, Steve. Then what about
the--?

The engine of the police car roars outside. They both sprint out of the house to meet it.

EXT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The police car is driving away towards a lit-up rural city in the distance. The ground is completely flat, except for a small, black hat against the gravel.

FADE OUT