

SCARY BIRTHDAY

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FADE IN:

INT. THEATER - NIGHT

APPLAUSE from the audience.

Curtain rises.

APPLAUSE settles down as the lights are dimmed.

In the crowd sits HANK next to his wife SAMANTHA, both in their mid 40ies.

Hank's eyes are half opened and red, he coughs.

SAMANTHA
(whispering)
Sure you'll make it?

HANK
Yeah, don't worry. I took an extra
pill before we left.

Hank snuffles slightly.

HANK
Good idea with the theater, it's
been a while since we watched a
play together.

SAMANTHA
I knew you'd love it.

Hanks smiles, Sam smiles back and kisses him softly on the cheek.

SAMANTHA
Happy birthday.

An old ACTOR with long white hair under a cowboy hat, wearing a long trenchcoat and heavy boots steps out on the stage.

Another burst of APPLAUSE welcomes him.

VAN HELSING
(pretentious)
An evil creature walks abroad and
brings terror and death. From the
tundra of Transilvania it once
arrived here in England with a ship
and it's thirst for blood has been
unappeased ever since. I swear by
god, I, Gabriel Van Helsing will
hunt this demon down even if it's
the last thing I will ever do.

VAN HELSING walks off and the play begins.

MONTAGE (PARTS OF THE PLAY)

- A young woman on the stage sings a sad melody.
- The audience applauds. Henry can hardly keep his eyes open.
- The young woman sleeps in bed when a scary shadow moves across the walls.
- Hank startles up as the audience applauds.
- Van Helsing talks to the young woman and warns her against an evil creature chasing her.
- More applause from the audience, Hank coughs and puts a hand on his forehead.

END OF MONTAGE

On the stage, the young woman walks through a dark London side alley.

Behind her, an actor dressed as DRACULA is let down from the theater roof with a cord.

The woman notices him, throws her hands on her cheeks and SCREAMS.

The scream wakes up Hank from a nap.

He takes a tissue out of his jacket and blows his nose.

Dracula grabs the woman from behind and bites her. Doing so, he stares right into Hank's eyes with a piercing look.

Hank realizes it, turns around in bewilderment. He looks back to the stage, where the woman's screams are about to hush as Dracula drains all blood out of her body.

Sam notices Hank's unrest.

SAMANTHA

Is anything wrong?

Hank shakes his head, Samantha leans back again.

Dracula lets the lifeless body slump down to the ground and runs to the side exit of the stage.

Right before he disappears behind the curtains, he stops and turns his head to Hank again.

He stares at him and an evil grin crosses his face before he continues his way off the stage.

Hank frowns and gives Sam's elbow a kick.

HANK

Did you see that?

SAMANTHA

No, what?

HANK

Never mind.

Van Helsing storms on the stage and picks up the dead woman.

VAN HELSING

What did this monster do to you? I
swear I will avenge you, my love.

A lightshow simulates a thunderstorm, the water from a
sprinkler system above the stage completes the illusion.

Sparks spray down from the roof over the stage and the
lights in the theater die completely.

Hank stares at the stage with wide open eyes, but he can't
see anything through the darkness.

After a few tense seconds, the lights go on again.

To Hank's surprise, the audience around him has disappeared.

He looks around through the theater hall, but there is
nobody here.

As his eyes move back to the stage, he sees Dracula stand
there, staring at him with a straight face.

HANK

What the...

Before he can complete his sentence, Dracula raises his arms
and jumps off the stage, directly into his direction.

Hank becomes frightened and, as an instinctive reaction, he
jumps up from his seat and runs up to the exit.

As he arrives at the door, he realizes it is sealed. He
aggressively janks on the door handle, but no chance, the
door doesn't move.

Dracula is gaining on him and comes threateningly close.

Hank runs to the side floor and back down towards the stage.

Dracula follows him.

In despair, Hank tears open the door to the backstage area
and enters a

INT. WARDROBE TRANSITION - NIGHT

He slams the door behind him and storms through the pathway.

On his way, he checks the wardrobes he passes, but there's nobody here.

Half way through the transition, he hears Dracula SLAMMING against the door from outside.

He stops and stares at the door. He agitatedly washes the sweat from his face and looks out for an exit.

At the end of the transition, stairs lead to an upper floor and light shines through.

The SLAMMING against the door stops.

Hank thinks for a moment before he sneaks towards the stairs.

On his way, he passes an open door which leads to the requisite room.

He sees a rack with all sorts of cutting weapons through the door.

He rushes inside and returns with a dagger in his hand after a few moments.

He tiptoes further towards the stairs, checking back at the door to the theater a few times.

He moves up the stairs only to realize it leads to the stage.

HANK
(quiet)
Shit...

INT. THEATER, STAGE - NIGHT

He stands next to the stage, his dagger ready to stab out.

Carefully, he tries to spot anything on the stage, but the theater hall lies in darkness.

At the other side of the stage, he notices an illuminated fire exit sign over the obscured shape of a door.

He takes a deep breath and peeks behind the stage curtain.

There's no one to be seen in the unlit theater hall.

He swallows and steps out on the stage.

Step by step he closes up to the fire door on the other side. He constantly turns to all directions in fear.

As he reaches the middle of the stage, Dracula floats down from the roof of the theater hall behind his back and surprises him by grabbing him from behind.

Hank SCREAMS and tries to use his dagger, but Dracula's clutch is too strong and he can't move his arms.

Dracula opens his mouth and brings his four unnaturally long and pointed incisors in position.

In a last desperate attempt, Hank knocks his skull into Dracula's face.

Dracula sounds an UNNATURAL GASP and tumbles backwards.

Hank turns around like an arrow and points his dagger at Dracula who slowly recovers.

Hank storms at Dracula, his dagger lifted up in the air, and tries to stab him, but Dracula grabs his wrist and keeps the dagger away.

Dracula pulls Hank's arm down and overexpands it. With another SCREAM, the dagger slips out of Hank's hand.

Dracula bursts into a DEMONIC LAUGHTER as he stares into Hank's face which is contorted with pain.

With his free hand, Dracula grabs Hank's neck and pulls him closer.

Once again he opens his mouth and gets ready to bite him, but Hank rams his knee into Dracula's belly with all the power his fear of death sets free.

Dracula emits a PAINFUL HOWL and staggers down to the floor.

Before Hank can pick up the dagger, Dracula grabs his leg.

Hank stumbles down as well and lands prone on the weapon.

He feels for the dagger beneath him, but Dracula jumps on his back and chokes him from behind with unnatural force.

With his last ounce of strength, Hank grabs the dagger and rams it into Dracula's leg.

With an UNHOLY SCREAM, Dracula lifts his grip and longs for the dagger in his leg, but Hank uses the chance to catch him off-guard and bump him off his back.

Dracula lands next to Hank on the floor, he issues WHIMPERS OF PAIN as he longs for the open wound at his leg.

Hank grasps for air and picks up the dagger. He stands next to the defenceless Dracula and looks right into his eyes with an exhausted face.

HANK

You are not going to bite anyone
else, you bastard!

He readies his dagger and rams it right into Dracula's heart.

With wide open eyes, Dracula sounds a TERRIFYING DEATH SCREAM as Hank uses all his power to stab the dagger deeper and deeper into his flesh.

INT. THEATER - NIGHT

The curtains fall and people stand up to issue a HURRICANE OF APPLAUSE. Hanks startles up from a nap, he is bathed in sweat.

Samantha stands as well and joggles his shoulder.

SAMANTHA

Hey, wake up, it's over.

Hank wipes the sweat from his face and orders his clothes as he gets up to join in on the applause.

SAMANTHA

(smiles)

Had a good sleep?

HANK

(smiles back)

I'm sorry.

She puts one hand on his shoulder and laughs.

Slowly the applause fades out and people begin to leave their places.

Sam grabs her jacket from her seat and nods at Hank who turns to the path in the middle of the hall.

They take a few steps behind other people to get to the exit as suddenly a TERRIFYING FEMALE SCREAM is heard from behind the stage curtains.

People stop and look at the stage. The actress who played the young woman sticks her head out and waves the THEATER DIRECTOR over to the stage.

The elderly man hurries over to her and she whispers something in his ears. The old man's face turns to stone.

THEATER DIRECTOR

(to an assistant at the door to the wardrobe)

Quick, we need an ambulance!

HANK

(frowns)

What's going on there?

SAMANTHA

No idea...

A younger man runs to the stage.

DOCTOR

I'm a doctor, can I help?

THEATER DIRECTOR

Yes, please...

He pulls the curtains open a bit to let the doctor in. Just far enough so Hank can see it.

In a puddle of blood lies the actor who played Dracula. A dagger is rammed deep down into his chest.

FADE OUT

THE END