

Surprise Visitor

By

Marvin K. Perkins

FADE IN:

INT. JOHNSON'S RESIDENCE - BATHROOM - DAY

ELIJAH JOHNSON(35), average looking, balding, clears a spot on his bathroom mirror.

He looks at his reflection, face contorted in a frown.

He shaves, brushes his teeth, and combs his hair.

He forces a smile.

ELIJAH

Mirror, I have one question for you. And I want the truth, I can take it.

His face turns serious again.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

I'm a rich man...an intelligent man. A handsome man, envied by all...Even revered.

He stands flexing in front of the mirror, wearing only a bath towel.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

But, will I ever find my true love?

He listens, no answer. He waves disgustedly.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

Hell, you're just mirror, what do you know?

A DARK FIGURE, a one dimensional entity, appears in the mirror, beady red eyes flashing.

Elijah whirls around, there is no one behind him.

He looks back in the mirror, he sees only his own reflection.

He starts to walk away, the Dark Figure appears again.

DARK FIGURE

I could help you.

(CONTINUED)

ELIJAH

Wha...What?

DARK FIGURE

I could help you.

ELIJAH

Help me? Help me with what?

DARK FIGURE

Don't play dumb...I heard your whole conversation.

ELIJAH

Well I don't know what you thought you heard.

DARK FIGURE

I know what I heard...You want to be loved by a beautiful woman. That's every man's desire.

ELIJAH

Okay, I'll admit what you say might be true. But how can you help me?

DARK FIGURE

I can make it happen. Just give me the word. But it's gonna cost you.

ELIJAH

I'm a man of means. I can pay.

DARK FIGURE

It'll cost you your soul.

ELIJAH

Oh please...Are you kidding me. The Devil, right here in my bathroom.

DARK FIGURE

In the flesh...well not exactly flesh, but that's me.

ELIJAH

Okay...I'm game. Where do I sign?

DARK FIGURE

There is no contract...You will have love like you have never known. Your happiness will be without measure. But there is only one catch. At the end of one month, you will owe me your soul.

(CONTINUED)

ELIJAH

Sure, why not...What have I got to lose?

The Dark Figure disappears from the mirror.

Elijah looks around confused, then smiles.

INT. MONTEBELLO RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - DAY

ASHLEE MONTEBELLO(30), stunningly beautiful, brushes her long dark hair, her brown eyes twinkle.

Her reflection in the dresser mirror brings a smile to her face.

She pushes up her ample breasts. They bounce in her Victoria Secret's bra.

ASHLEE

Damn...Am I gorgeous or what?

She puts on her lipstick, pats her luscious mouth with a tissue.

ASHLEE(CONT'D)

Look out world...Ashlee Montebello is on her way.

She stands and looks at her full figure in the mirror.

ASHLEE(CONT'D)

Some man is in big trouble today.

A dark shadow crosses the room, the lights flicker momentarily.

Ashlee is mesmerized for a few seconds.

ASHLEE(CONT'D)

What the hell?

She goes back to looking at herself in the mirror again.

ASHLEE(CONT'D)

Now, where was I? Oh yeah, talking about how incredibly fine I am.

The Dark Figure is standing in a corner, Ashlee is not aware of him.

He puts his index finger up to his lips.

He suddenly disappears.

EXT. HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Elijah, briefcase in hand, struggles to keep his hair from blowing out of place in the strong wind, as he approaches the front door of his office building.

ELIJAH

I really must give that Hair Club
for Men a call...this is
ridiculous.

The DOORMAN opens the door for Elijah.

DOORMAN

Good morning, Mr. Johnson.

ELIJAH

Morning...

Elijah gives his best imitation of a smile.

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Once inside Elijah does his best to put his hair back in place, and straightens his tie.

He lumbers over to the elevator and pushes the button, impatiently waiting for the door to open.

ELIJAH

Come on...any time today.

One of his co-workers SAMUEL RODGERS(45) chubby, sidles up next to Elijah.

SAMUEL

How you doing Elijah...looking good
today. Still haven't called the
Hair Club for Men yet I see.

Samuel gives a little chuckle.

ELIJAH

No...very funny. And I see you
haven't given Jenny Craig a call
yet either.

(CONTINUED)

SAMUEL

To shay Elijah, Checkmate.

The elevator arrives with a ding that breaks their banter.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Elijah and Samuel stand almost motionless in the elevator watching the floors go by, uncomfortable looks on their faces.

INT. TENTH FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

The pair disembark from the elevator with only a nod goodbye and head for their respective offices.

INT. ELIJAH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Hard at work at her desk is Elijah's personal secretary VERONICA CORTEZ(45) Latino, conservative.

VERONICA

Morning Mr J...Coffee's on, got a full calendar today. Remember you're interviewing junior associates today.

ELIJAH

Morning Veronica, don't remind me. Sure we can't just cancel my appointments and you and I fly off to Aruba or somewhere equally as exotic?

VERONICA

As good as that sounds...I don't think we better.

ELIJAH

Yeah...I guess not. Okay, who is my first victim, I mean applicant?

Veronica brings up the information on her computer screen.

VERONICA

At nine you have George Antoine followed by Ashlee Montebello at ten. I'll send Mr. Antoine in when he gets here.

(CONTINUED)

ELIJAH

I'll be in my office. If you hear a bang, don't be alarmed. It's just me blowing my brains out.

VERONICA

Thanks for the warning. I'll let you know when your first appointment arrives.

INT. ELIJAH'S PRIVATE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Elijah sits aimlessly at his desk, takes a sip of coffee, smacks his lips, blows the liquid in his cup.

ELIJAH

Good...Hot.

The phone rings, Elijah picks up the receiver.

ELIJAH

Yes, Veronica...okay, send him in.

There is a knock on his door.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

Enter...

The door opens and a timid middle-aged man, GEORGE ANTOINE enters the office.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

Close the door please George.

George speaks with a squeaky voice.

GEORGE

Yes sir...I'm George...George Antoine.

The two shake hands.

ELIJAH

Have a seat George.

George takes a seat fidgeting, looking very uncomfortable.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

Tell me a little bit about yourself and why you feel you would be the best man for the junior associate position.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

I have a MBA from UCLA and ten years experience in finance management. I graduated top of my class and was president of the student business union. I was lead tenor in the glee club and president of the chess club. I have a wife and two children...

Elijah zones out for a few moments, when he comes back to his senses George is still talking.

GEORGE(CONT'D)

...And that's why I feel I am the best and most qualified candidate for the junior associate position.

Elijah clears his throat.

ELIJAH

Well...thanks Mr. Antoine. Just leave your resume with my secretary...Thanks for coming in.

GEORGE

Thank you sir.

They shake hands and George leaves the office.

ELIJAH

Yeah, thanks George for coming in and boring the hell out of me. Why me Lord?

Elijah sits at his desk head in his hands.

INT. TENTH FLOOR - DAY

Ashlee Montebello stands outside Elijah's office door building up her courage.

ASHLEE

Okay Ashlee...You can do this...You're the best. Put your game face on, let's go.

The Dark Figure is standing down the hall out of her sight, he gives Ashlee the thumbs up.

INT. ELIJAH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ashlee walks in Elijah's office, her white teeth sparkle as she introduces herself to Veronica in a pure, sweet voice.

ASHLEE

I'm Ashlee Montebello. I have an appointment with Mr. Johnson.

VERONICA

Oh yes, of course. He's expecting you. I'll let him know you're here.

EXT. ELIJAH'S PRIVATE OFFICE - CONINUOUS

Ashlee pauses for a moment, takes a deep breath and knocks on the door.

INT. ELIJAH'S PRIVATE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

ELIJAH

Enter...

Ashlee walks through the door, a halo radiates around her head, a trumpet sounds faintly from a distance, the door shuts and locks, as she opens her mouth to speak her name.

ASHLEE

I'm Ashlee...

Elijah's crop of hair raises up on his head, he stands to run towards Ashlee, traveling like he is caught in a time warp, feet making only a step a minute along his journey.

He knocks a cup of coffee off his desk, the liquid falls towards the floor, taking a minute to arrive to it's destination.

They lock in embrace and kiss passionately.

Elijah knocks everything off his desk and lays Ashlee down, passions rising, both of them moaning.

There is a knock at the door.

Elijah ignores it and continues kissing Ashlee.

The knock gets louder.

(CONTINUED)

VERONICA(O.S.)
Is everything all right, Mr.
Johnson?

Elijah stops kissing Ashlee, turns his head.

ELIJAH
Everything's find Veronica, just
knocked a cup of coffee off my
desk. Not to worry.

He goes back to kissing Ashlee...

INT. ELIJAH'S OFFICE - ONE HOUR LATER

The clock on the office wall reads "11:00" as Elijah and
Ashlee walk out of the office, straightening their clothes.

ELIJAH
Ms. Montebello, you'll being
hearing from us...I don't think we
need to look any further. You would
be perfect for the position.

ASHLEE
Thank you so much, Mr. Johnson.

She gives Elijah a seductive look.

Veronica gives both of them a funny look.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Superimpose: ONE WEEK LATER.

Elijah and Ashlee sit holding hands, lost in each other's
gaze.

ELIJAH
I never knew it could be like
this...I love you so much.

ASHLEE
I love you...

ELIJAH
I want us to be together for all
time.

ASHLEE
I will love you always.

ELIJAH
Will you marry me?

Elijah takes a ring and places it on her finger.

ASHLEE
Yes, yes...

They kiss.

The Dark Figure is sitting at another table, he smiles.

INT. JOHNSON'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Superimpose: THREE WEEKS LATER.

Elijah and Ashlee are entwined in a passionate kiss.

The phone rings.

Elijah pick up.

ELIJAH
Hello...Yes she's here.

He hands the receiver to Ashlee.

ASHLEE
Hello...Oh, hi Mom...Okay, I'll see
you in a few. Bye.

She hangs up.

ELIJAH
And what did your lovely mother
want?

ASHLEE
She needs me to take her to the
store.

ELIJAH
Okay, if you must...But don't be
too long.

ASHLEE
I'll back as soon as I can, babe.

ELIJAH

I will be counting the minutes.

They kiss a long kiss goodbye and Ashlee leaves.

Elijah sits back on the couch, picks up a book and starts to read.

There is a knock at the door.

ELIJAH

Now who could that be?

Elijah goes to the door.

ELIJAH(CONT'D)

Who is it?

DARK FIGURE(O.S.)

Gas company...

ELIJAH

I didn't call the gas company.

DARK FIGURE(O.S.)

Telephone man...

ELIJAH

I don't have a problem with my phone.

DARK FIGURE

Pizza delivery...

ELIJAH

Damn it! I didn't order a pizza either.

The Dark Figure materializes through the door.

DARK FIGURE

Okay, enough games.

Elijah stands motionless, in shock.

ELIJAH

Oh...my...God.

DARK FIGURE

I would prefer if you didn't mention his name around me.

Elijah is still in shock.

(CONTINUED)

DARK FIGURE(CONT'D)
You shouldn't be so surprised, I
told you I would be back in a
month.

ELIJAH
You're real?

DARK FIGURE
Oh yes, I assure you...I'm real.

ELIJAH
But...But...

DARK FIGURE
But what...I'm here to collect.

ELIJAH
Collect what?

DARK FIGURE
We had a deal.

ELIJAH
A deal?

DARK FIGURE
Yes...You would have the love of a
beautiful woman for a month, and I
get your soul.

The Dark Figure motions towards the couch.

DARK FIGURE(CONT'D)
Could I have a seat...Had sort of a
busy day...kinda tired.

ELIJAH
Sure...Have a seat.

He sits down on the couch.

DARK FIGURE
Thanks...As I was saying I'm here
for your soul.

ELIJAH
You mean Ashlee doesn't really love
me?

DARK FIGURE
(laughing)
Are you kidding? A fine woman like
that love you. Give me a break.

(CONTINUED)

ELIJAH

I didn't think you were real.

DARK FIGURE

Yeah, yeah. You said that already.
It's time to do this?

ELIJAH

Wait a minute, wait...You can't
just take my soul.

DARK FIGURE

I can, and I will.

ELIJAH

Can't we make another deal?

DARK FIGURE

Nope, all deals are final. Stand up
and be a man.

ELIJAH

No...No...No...

DARK FIGURE

Yes, yes, yes. Now stand up. Let's
get this over with. I have a busy
schedule. Got to go to the White
House later on. Pretty cool, huh?
Get up.

ELIJAH

You can't have it.

DARK FIGURE

I said get up.

The Dark Figure snatches Elijah off of the couch.

He shoves a black shadowy hand deep into Elijah's chest.

He pulls the soul out of his body.

The shell of Elijah's body stands motionless and pale.

In a few moments it disintegrates and falls to pieces like a
pile of dust on the floor.

DARK FIGURE

Pleasure doing business with you,
Elijah. Got to go.

He disappears in a puff of smoke.

INT. JOHNSON'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Ashlee looks around the house. Comes back to the living room.

ASHLEE
Elijah...Elijah where are you
honey?

No answer.

She notices a pile of dust on the living room floor.

ASHLEE(CONT'D)
That's odd. Elijah is so
neat...Can't believe he left a pile
of dust on the floor.

She goes in the kitchen, gets a dust pan, comes back in the living room and sweeps up the dust.

She dumps it in the trash can.

ASHLEE(CONT'D)
Now that's better.

She sits on the couch, suddenly there is a flash of light.

Ashlee looks around puzzled.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The PRESIDENT is in his office.

There is a knock at his door.

PRESIDENT
Who is it?

DARK FIGURE
Pizza delivery.

PRESIDENT
I didn't order a pizza, I'm the
President.

The Dark Figure materializes through the door.

PRESIDENT
Oh no...It's you.

The Dark Figure laughs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

15.

The President screams...

FADE OUT:

THE END