

THE WILLARD HOUSE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

STUDENTS walk along the sidewalk in front of the High School.

A BUS pulls up and more students unload as the day begins.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY

Students scurry about as many try to get to their lockers or try to make it to class.

BRANDON, 17, walks through the hallway, wearing his patented Blue and White letter jacket, followed by other football jocks. As he walks through the hallway, students clear a path for him.

Brandon finds a NERDY White Kid, fumbling through the padlock to his locker. He pushes up his glasses to his face as he nervously hurries through his locker combination.

The Kid finally opens his locker only to have it get back shut by Brandon.

BRANDON

Ah! New Kid can't get his books out  
in time for class. What ever will  
he do?

The other jocks laugh as Brandon continues to bully the Nerd.

In the corner on the other side of the hallway stands HUNTER, 16, dressed in goth clothing and wearing white makeup.

Hunter looks across the hallways and notices Brandon bullying on one of the new kids in school.

Hunter pushes his way through the crowd of students as he makes his way over to Brandon.

Hunter yells halfway across the room.

HUNTER

Hey Jockstrap!

CROWD OF STUDENTS

Ohhhhhhhhh!!!!!!

Brandon looks away from the nerdy kid and notices Hunter.

Hunter makes his way through the crowd over to Brandon and steps between Brandon and the nerdy kid.

HUNTER

You know! If you wanted to make an impression on another student, you could have just asked.

Hunter says as he makes his lips pucker to Brandon.

The Nerdy Kid takes this opportunity to make his exit as he quickly runs away from the two.

Brandon motions for his jock buddies as they huddle up behind him.

BRANDON

You know, you got a lot of nerve getting between me and my fun.

HUNTER

Aren't you a little old to be stealing kid's lunch money by now?

BRANDON

Hey, it's an honest living when you're the High School Quarterback.

HUNTER

Oh yeah! You're so tough when you got your boys behind ya.

Brandon stops for a moment to think of a comeback.

BRANDON

Says the guy who grew up White Trailer park trash.

HUNTER

Your Momma!

The two guys get nose to nose, about to go at it.

BRANDON

Give me one good reason why I shouldn't beat your ass right here!

HUNTER

Because the Principal is right there watching everything we're doing. You wouldn't want to get suspended and lose your oh so precious chance to play in next Friday's game, now would you?

Hunter points behind Brandon, The PRINCIPAL is leaning against the door.

Brandon turns back to Hunter.

BRANDON

I'll tell you what! You know that old Willard House down the road?

HUNTER

Yeah, everyone knows about the old town legend. The one that is supposedly haunted and no one is ever able to stay there more than a single night.

BRANDON

Ok so, If you can last one night in the old house, I'll turn over a new leaf and stop picking on the new kids in school... Doesn't mean I'll stop messing with you but we have to start somewhere, right boys?

JOCKS

Right!

Hunter stops to ponder the idea of staying in a haunted house for a night.

HUNTER

You got yourself a deal!

The jocks turn around and walk away. Brandon whispers to his buddies.

BRANDON

(whispering and snickering)

Sucker!

They all laugh as they walk away.

EXT. WILLARD HOUSE - NIGHT

A Group of High School KIDS are standing outside of the house.

Amongst the group is the Jocks, who are now agging Hunter on as Hunter slowly creeps towards the House.

A random high school girl approaches Brandon.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL  
So Brandon, is this place really as  
haunted as people say?

BRANDON  
Girl, you really wanna hear a ghost  
story right now?

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL  
Come on, it's all part of getting  
in the mood.

BRANDON  
Is that a sexy mood or a scary  
mood?

The girl creeps in closer to him.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL  
Depends on whether I like the story  
or not!

Brandon gets a big smile and begins to tell the story.

BRANDON  
Well you see, there was this girl  
named Elizabeth Willard. She was  
about our age.

Hunter slowly continues to creep towards the house, looking  
around and noticing everything, the creepy looking tree in  
the front yard.

Brandon continues his story.

BRANDON (CONT'D)  
Her parents were wealthy commoners  
who had invested a lot of time and  
money into the British colonies.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL  
Wow! This town has some history.

BRANDON  
You wanna shut the hell up and let  
me finish my story... So anyways!  
One day, she got mixed up with one  
of her school teachers. Got sort of  
a crush and before you know it, the  
school teacher's wife was accusing  
her of being a witch. The art of  
seduction.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL  
 Seduction huh! Like the way I'm  
 seducing you into telling me this  
 story.

Brandon looks at her funny.

Hunter approaches the house and enters through the door.

EXT. WILLARD HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Hunter enters the house through the door.

A moment later...

The door is flung open and VILLAGERS are pulling out a young Girl. This is ELIZABETH, 17, dressed in pilgrim clothing. She is kicking and screaming as she is being pulled out to the TREE in his front yard.

A villager tosses a ROPE over one of the branches and places the noose around the young girl's neck.

ELIZABETH  
 Please, let me go! I've done  
 nothing of harm to you people. Why  
 must I be treated in such manner?

VILLAGERS  
 Hang the witch! Hang the witch!

Moments later, the villagers string the girl up with her hands binded behind her back.

She struggles for a moment, choking on the rope that is holding her up until she eventually becomes motionless.

EXT. WILLARD HOUSE

The group of high school students stand in front of the house as Brandon finishes his story.

BRANDON  
 And ever since that day, the  
 Willard house has been cursed. No  
 one has ever been able to last one  
 night inside the house.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL  
 Do you think that'll change  
 tonight?

BRANDON  
Ha! That's funny!

The high school girl turns her head and walks away.

BRANDON (CONT'D)  
Hey, can't we talk more or  
something...Like in the bedroom!

Brandon chases after the girl and the rest of the crowd slowly follow behind them.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE LIVING ROOM

Hunter, equipped with camping gear (sleeping bag, backpack, etc.), walks into the living room and immediately drops his gear near an old dusty PIANO.

Hunter reaches down into his bag and pulls out a FLASHLIGHT.

Hunter turns on the flashlight and begins to investigate the house.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE FOYER

Hunter walks into the main Foyer and notices the spiral staircase.

Hunter shines the light on the staircase and he begins to ascend.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE HALLWAY

Hunter reaches the top of the staircase and walks into a long narrow hallway.

Hunter stops to think about which door he should enter first.

Hunter sees a room with an open door at the other end of the hallway and makes his way to the room.

INT. ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM

Hunter enters the room and see an old bed with lots of dust on it.

As a matter of fact, everything in this room is dusty.

Hunter walks to a nearby closet and attempts to open the door only to find the door falls off when pulled.

Hunter lets the door fall to the ground as he makes his way over to a mirror next to the open window.

The mirror perfectly shows the closet in the reflection.

Hunter looks on for a moment in the reflection when suddenly

A girl is seen in the reflection.

Hunter quickly turns around to see the girl only to find nothing in the closet when he turns around.

Hunter breathes a sigh of relief as he walks over to the bed, pushes as much dust as he can off of it, and lays down to sleep.

INT. ELIZABETH'S BEDROOM (HOURS LATER)

CRYING is heard in another part of the house.

Hunter awakens to the sounds and decides to exit the room.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE HALLWAY

Hunter makes his way down the hallway, trying to listen for sounds coming from each of the rooms.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE FOYER

Hunter descends the stairs slowly, still listening for the sounds of a girl's cries.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE LIVING ROOM

Hunter enters the Living room and notices someone rocking back and forth in the ROCKING CHAIR.

Hunter slowly approaches the Rocking Chair and notices a young girl is rocking back and forth in the rocking chair.

HUNTER

Excuse me! Are you ok? You know,  
you shouldn't be here, this place  
is haunted you know.

Hunter walks around the chair to get a face to face with her.

Elizabeth rocks slowly in the chair, crying. Her face is place white all the way down to the middle of the neck where her skin color goes back to normal.

Elizabeth slowly turns her head towards Hunter.

ELIZABETH

I don't know why everyone hates me!

HUNTER

Ah! Relax, no one hates you.

ELIZABETH

Really! Then explain this!

Around the center of her neck, you can notice a ROPE BURN where she was hung at.

Hunter sees the rope burn and quickly backs away!

HUNTER

Oh my god! It's true! You're the-

ELIZABETH

Witch... Ghost... I was just a girl with a crush on my school teacher. My mother and father spend so much time away that I never had anyone around to care about me... except him.

Hunter walks back over to the girl slowly.

Elizabeth turns back towards him.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Well... Why aren't you trying to run away now? Like everyone else does!

Hunter puts a hand on her shoulder.

HUNTER

I know how you feel. My parents aren't around for me anymore either. I'm labeled rebellious in school simply because none of the cool kids want to hang out with me. I don't have any friends.

Elizabeth turns and looks up at Hunter.

ELIZABETH

Would you like to be my friend?

Hunter smiles.

HUNTER  
I'd like that very much.

The two continue to converse.

INT. WILLARD HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hunter sleeps in his sleeping bag, next to the rocking chair in the living room.

Brandon, the jocks, and a few high school kids enter the room.

They stand over Hunter's sleeping body.

BRANDON  
Well Well Well, will you look at that? The little creep did it!

Brandon kicks the sleeping bag, waking Hunter.

BRANDON (CONT'D)  
Rise and shine!

Hunter rubs his eyes and looks up at Brandon.

BRANDON (CONT'D)  
Congratulations! I didn't think you had it in you.

HUNTER  
What!

BRANDON  
You lasted through the night.

HUNTER  
I had the strangest dream.

Brandon laughs at him as he turns to make his way towards the door.

BRANDON  
Sure you did!

INT. WILLARD HOUSE FOYER

The high school kids make their way out the door.

Hunter makes his way towards the door, but turns his head back towards the staircase.

EXT. WILLARD HOUSE

Hunter lets out a disappointed sigh as he make his way out of the house.

Over his shoulder, Elizabeth sits on the staircase, watching Hunter as he leaves the house.

FADE OUT.