

PUMPKINSEEDS

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FADE IN:

INT. CONDEMNED HOUSE - NIGHT

Surrounded by darkness, the thunder from outside wakes up AARON ARIES (20s).

Flashes of lightning shines throughout the room he is in. With this flash reveal: he is gagged, tied down with thick thorn vines to a wheelchair.

No windows. No visible doors. A massive structure to the far right. Before he sees what it is...

Darkness engulfs him again.

Drops of rain leak through the roof.

The floor creaks.

A few streaks of moonlight peeks through from cracks in the ceiling above.

Aaron looks up.

The house has several exposed rotten wood beams, it is a complete unseen miracle on how the place still stands without caving in.

He glances down to the floor. His eyes go wide.

The floor: loose boards and rusted nails. He sees the ground through the cracks. Mud drizzle down into dead trees as the house rises up like an elevator.

Moonlight fades to black, above and beneath.

A WOMAN'S HAND hovers over a JACK O' LANTERN on a table made of human bones. The ghoulish face on the pumpkin glows without the use of any flame.

The soft light reveals the other person in the room with Aaron, BABA YAGA, who has a young twenty something woman's face sewn on to her head.

Her necklace, made out of human teeth, holds a pendant with a druidic symbol embedded on it. A small dirty robe covers her front up to her ragged elbows and spiny knees.

Her stringy white hair and her raspy voice are that of an elderly woman with a light Russian accent.

BABA YAGA

Remember...

Aaron shouts under his gag. It comes out intelligible.

BABA YAGA

Poor Aaron. None of my dear children escape from me. I do find them. Some sooner than others.

(pause)

Better hang on to somethin'.
Gonna be a bumpy ride.

The house shakes, tilts like a boat at sea. Baba Yaga maintains perfect balance. Aaron, on the other hand, finds his wheelchair out of control.

He spins, whips around. Crashes to the other end of the room.

Slides across the floor with the wheelchair.

Back to Baba Yaga's black pointed shoes.

BABA YAGA

Jill's face needs some work, but between you and your old friend William, I'll soon be back to normal..I know what you're thinkin'. You're thinkin' why don't I find new children...

Aaron slithers backward with the wheelchair. The Jack O Lantern slides off the table and rolls after him.

BABA YAGA

And I will, when I'm back to norm -

Aaron slams into a wall. The impact creates a small hole. The wall bursts open. A hundred pumpkinseeds spill out over him.

The Jack O Lantern slumps next to his face, upside down.

BABA YAGA

Don't you put a hole in my
wall!

The shift in the floor tilts Aaron and the wheelchair
back upright.

Baba Yaga storms up to him, her footsteps in
synchronization with lightning flashes.

BABA YAGA

My beautiful wall!

She stares Aaron directly in the face. Nasty look. Skims
around, pulls out a huge human femur bone out of a
corner, a human skull mounted on the end.

She wedges it under the wheelchair's armrest.

With a light tap, pounds it into the floorboard.

The house continues to shake and rattle.

Somewhere in the dark room, a fist POUNDS HARD on a
surface. Aaron cranes his neck to discover the source.

Baba Yaga bends down, picks up a handful of loose
pumpkinseeds from the floor with her left hand.

With utter disgust, she RIPS down Aaron's gag. Aaron
gasps for breath.

AARON

Look. I don't know who you are,
what you want, I have a family,
I -

Baba Yaga shoves the pumpkinseeds down his throat.

BABA YAGA

I have the right person.

Baba Yaga closes his mouth with her hands, forces him to
swallow.

BABA YAGA

The Witching hour is upon us, I
need your flesh and soul on the
eve of Samhain.

She walks away back to the table of bones. The Jack O Lantern bounces behind her.

Aaron swerves left and right. The house dips.

On the downward angle, Baba Yaba turns as the Jack O Lantern lands on the table upright; The demon face swivels to face Aaron as well.

BABA YAGA

And you know my name.

The house tilts the opposite way.

Baba Yaga reaches out to her left. A large mortar and pestle drifts out of the darkness and into her hand.

She extends out her wrinkled, spindly left leg. Reaches out, puts the pestle under the heel. Lets it go. The pestle stays under her foot.

AARON

Baba... Yaga?

The unseen KNOCK sound echoes from a dark corner. Aaron glances that way, sees nothing in the darkness. His focus goes back on Baba Yaga.

Baba Yaga chants. She takes the mortar with both ends and the wood expands like a big stick. She stop her chant.

Places the mortar-stick between her legs, crouches in a fetal position. Hovers in the air.

AARON

Can't be. There's a set of rules you follow.

BABA YAGA

Rules?

AARON

If you're really...Baba Yaga. For starters, I'm abducted. I have no memory of entering this house. A person has to be sent here or come of his or her own free will.

BABA YAGA

Free will was your answer. You
and your friends. When you were
younger Wanted to see, wanted
to know.

AARON

This isn't a hut.

Baba Yaga floats towards him. Her pendant glows with a
lime amber glow.

BABA YAGA

It is a home. A discarded one
which I am now moving in.

The house rattles. Aaron's body leans closer. He fights
to straighten himself up. He can see her mouth move- an
army of jagged teeth.

BABA YAGA

While I am here, the house does
not burn. It does not break
unless I want it to.

(pause)

Or if my guests get sloppy and
rude.

AARON

You can't harm anyone with a
good spirit.

BABA YAGA

Which is why I have to break
it.

Baba Yaga's eyes. Dark ovals. Bird-like.

BABA YAGA

See the face? It was Jill's.
Now it's mine. She had pretty
eyes. Made a fine soup. That's
some of her bones there,
keeping you right there.

Aaron glances over to the fused skull and bone close to
him.

BABA YAGA
Pure of heart. Like candy.

Baba Yaga's mouth chatters.

BABA YAGA
Or like pie. Sweet Pumpkin pie.

Baba Yaga eases one of her fingers on Aaron's right wrist. Aaron cringes as part of the flesh turns into a gooey light brown substance.

Like pumpkin pie.

Baba Yaga licks the finger. Spits in Aaron's face.

The witch gives a cranky laugh.

An innocent, unseen little bell rings out.

Her laughter fades out. Drool hangs from her mouth.

She turns her attention to the dark corner where the sounds of the thumps originate.

Aaron cringes, pushes his jelly like hand through the vine. Baba Yaga pays no attention.

She glides on over there. Her pendant light reveals: A GIANT BRICK STOVE.

With caution, she opens up the stove cage door. White mist pours out, along with -

WILLIAM - a bald face of dark textured brown and two huge blue doll like dots of where his eyes would be. His lips cherry red.

His hands like mittens, he reaches out.

His raspy voice struggles.

WILLIAM
Turn your back to -

Baba Yaga swats his nose. William's nose ashes off like loose crumbs. She pushes William back in the stove. His right hand SNAPS off like a cracker!

Baba Yaga closes the lid.

Picks up the gingerbread hand. Takes a bite.

BABA YAGA

A few more minutes.

Aaron eases back his severed pumpkin wrist back to his hand over the vine. Baba Yaga turns, watches him.

AARON

Sick.

BABA YAGA

No, My young guest. You are the sick. I have the cure. Tell me. Why are you in that?

AARON

Car accident a few months ago. Doctor said I would walk again, so if you think I'm bitter about it, you're wrong. I forgiven the driver who smacked into me too.

Aaron squirms, manages to move his pumpkin fingers.

BABA YAGA

Sure you have. We'll see what happens when your children go looking for you. They will seek, and they will find.

Baba Yaga discards the rest of the human cookie, reaches to her face. Pulls off the Jill mask.

Baba Yaga's true face: a black feathered crow with a stunted beak. The beak nose grows. Feathers sprinkle off to reveal a pale wrinkled skin

Aaron uses all his might to unhinge the bone staff that pins the chair down.

AARON

House! Turn your back to the forest and face me!

The movement of the house stops. Baba Yaga spins in the air. The Jack O Lantern smacks into the ceiling.

Aaron rolls down towards a door that opens up like a alligator's mouth.

Aaron's momentum stops. Two severed, bony hands grab the wheelchair handles, pull him back.

BABA YAGA

Yes, my servant friends. Bring
him back. Bring Him back!

Aaron swats the bone hands off with Jill's skull. His pumpkin fingers squish flat in the process. He loses the skull along with his fingers. The skeleton hands slip on the handlebars.

Aaron rambles forward once more.

Towards the open mouth door.

AARON

I beat you, witch!

The door bites into him at the last second. His arms and shoulder explode in pumpkin filling and seeds. His wheelchair stops the impact from crushing completely.

BABA YAGA

You are not pure of heart,
Aaron Aries. You are not
blessed.

Aaron gasps as the door pushes in, the metal squeezes together...

The monster mouth door crushes the chair and the remainder of Aaron squishes all around part blood, part pumpkin goop.

Baba Yaga clasps her hands in delight. She opens up the lid of her demonic Jack O' Lantern, reaches in. Pulls out a small pumpkin.

She lands on her feet, strolls over to the mess. Places the pumpkin on the spill.

Aaron's ghost SCREAMS. Two triangle eyes and a sad mouth shoot out of the pumpkin along with an army of pumpkin seeds.

An amber glow from within the newly formed Jack O' Lantern with Aaron's death face.

Baba Yaga lifts up the Aaron Jack O' Lantern. Listens to the moan.

EXT. CONDEMNED HOUSE - NIGHT

The thick legs, made up of human bones and skulls, wobble to maintain balance.

The legs crouch down, the decrepit house rests on a mud hill.

FADE OUT.