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# Don ' t Knock Twice

By Mark Huckerby

- So, Ben, have you ever sat for her?

- God, no. No.

Her subjects are, um, mothers, babies so she has no use for me.

- I've read about your latest show. Congratulations.

It must be a real thrill to do all that hard work come good.

-Yeah, it went down a storm and she got a couple of commissions which is always a bonus.

- Your success will really help your application.

Everyone here at the home is thrilled that you've applied for custody. I know that

your recent relationship with your daughter hasn't been easy but Chloe needs this as much as you do.

-Hi, Chloe.

- I'll leave you to it.

- Wow, my photo of you is really out of date.

So, Louisa said that you were thinking about our offer.

Come and stay with us, see how you feel.

We've got a great bedroom.

The house is in a quiet neighborhood,

but it's just a short train ride...

-why are you doing this?

-I was hoping..

Now that I've moved back for good

that you and I could spend

some time together.

- Nine years ago  
was when I needed you.

Didn't want me then.

-I did.

I..

I... I..

-Don't come here again.

Don't call me.

Just leave me the fuck alone.

Okay?

- Chloe, please don't leave.

- Jess, you know how  
important tonight is for me.

Will you please get ready?

We're going to be late.

Jess?

I've already moved this dinner  
twice because of you.

- Tira, do you mind  
if we pick this up next week?

-Of course.

- We need to leave  
in 20 minutes.

-Bye, Ben!

Can you hold her?

-Um, yeah.

Okay. Hi.

Oh.

- Don't be sad  
about your daughter.

A mother's love for her child  
is very powerful.

This is a talas.

Its magic will help  
your daughter

see the love in your heart.

-It's pretty. Thank you.

-You're welcome. Bye.

-What?

- Fucking kids.

- Do you remember  
when we used to play that game?

You should see Mary's house now.

They knocked down  
the whole street.

Come.

I wanna show you something.

- But I haven't finished.

- It looks great to me.

You know kids are scared  
to come here now?

They say that 'cause Mary's dead  
there's no one left  
to feed the demon.

They reckon  
it's still trapped in there  
waiting for someone to knock.

- Why are we even here?

You know I hate this place.

- Once to wake her from her bed.

Twice to raise her  
from the dead.

If you knock her door,  
she still hears it.

Sooner or later she comes  
knockin' for you.

- That's not funny.

She took Michael.

-It's just a story.

I'm sorry.

I, I didn't wanna upset you.

Look. I'll prove it to ya.

Gonna have a go?

-Danny?

Danny!

- Hah!

- Oh, fuck!

You are such a shit!

- That was great.

-Why would you do that?

-Your face.

Wait, I'm sorry,

I'm joking, I'm joking.

Come on. You alright?

-Danny.

It's coming.

Get out.

Run.

-Sorry, did I wake you?

-I don't feel right, chlo.

-Hang on. Two secs.

Sorry, that's so creepy.

I thought someone was  
at my door.

Danny?

- Danny's phone.

Leave a message.

-Where are you?

Just call me, okay?

Danny?

- Run for your life.

-Danny.

- Chlo..

-Danny.

- Do you mind?

The cleaners wanna do the room.

- Yeah, sorry.

I'll just get my phone.

Someone open the door! Help!

Someone open the door!

Someone open the door!

Open the door! Open the door!

Help!

Help, open the door! Please!

Please!

-What's going on?

-Ben.

-What?

-There's someone here.

-What?

-Wait.

-No, no. Wait there.

-Can I stay?

- Okay. Bye.

So, um, they said  
that it's okay for a few nights  
but you have to call Louisa  
in the morning.

- It's lovely to have you here,  
Chloe.

Okay, I'll see you

in the morning.

-Sorry about the mess.

We've been redecorating.

We were really hoping that  
you would pick  
the paint color for the room  
and, uh, you know, just  
make the room your own, really.  
Yeah.

The bathroom

is through that door.

And, um, Ben and i  
are just across the hall  
if you, if you need anything.

-This place is huge.

Did you win the lottery  
or something?

-Um, no.

Although sometimes  
it does feel like it.

The last few years  
have been amazing.

The only thing missing was you,  
Chloe.

- Well, I'm not gonna  
stay very long.

Couple of nights maybe.

- Listen, about  
what you said before.

I know that I can't change  
what I did.

-I'm pretty tired.

-Of course.

Um..

See you in the morning.

-Can you leave it open?

Please.

-Yeah.

I'm really glad you're here,  
Chloe.

She hates me.

I don't blame her.

- Sweetheart,  
you can't change the past.

What matters  
is that you're trying  
to do the right thing now.  
Look, I've got to go.  
I'll be back for dinner,  
alright?

- Why are we having  
this conversation again?  
I thought we agreed  
there would be no more  
work trips for a while.  
-I know, I know, I'm sorry.  
Look, it's only for a few days.  
-Get someone else to go.  
-I would if I could.  
Some new client has insisted  
i attend personally.  
-Hey, Chloe.  
It's carrot and coriander soup.  
-I'll alert the media.  
- Do you like it?  
It's organic.  
-Mm-hmm.  
-Thank you.  
-So, I was thinking  
maybe tomorrow  
you could give me a hand  
in the studio?  
It would be a big help to get  
the new collection ready.  
- Well, maybe she doesn't want  
to be an artist.  
Some people have real jobs,  
you know.  
-What, like being a banker?  
- Hah, okay.  
You got me there.  
We are a bunch of shits.  
- You enjoy his money though,  
don't you?  
- Actually, we, we bought  
the house together.  
-Did you?  
- Just to be clear,

i didn't need her to  
I'm bloody loaded,  
but your mother is  
a very stubborn,  
independent woman  
and those hideous things she  
makes sell for a fortune.

Christ!

Hey.

- What's the matter?

- Hey, let me.

Let me do it.

Maybe she doesn't like  
coriander.

I'll be back soon.

- Yeah. Bye.

Chloe?

Who are you?

- Przepraszam.

-No!

Jesus!

-I heard you shouting.

-Um, it was just a dumb dream.

I'm fine.

-What was it?

-Um..

There was this, um  
old woman  
with red hair  
and she was crying  
and she had a... a knife and..  
She killed herself.

- When I was a kid, there was  
this strange, old woman  
who lived near the home.

She had this long,  
dirty red hair  
everyone called her ginger.

And she never came out of  
the house, but you'd see her  
in the window sometimes..

And people started saying  
that she was a witch.

And so after she died,



stories started  
that if you went  
and knocked on her door  
she would come and get you.  
Danny and I went there  
the other night.  
We knocked.  
And now Danny's gone  
and I think  
she's coming for me next.  
- Oh, sweetie,  
it was just a bad dream.  
-Please don't let her get me.  
-Okay.  
Nothing is gonna happen to you.  
You're safe, okay?  
Morning.  
I think we overslept.  
-Sorry.  
-Don't be.  
Oh.  
It's okay.  
Tira?  
-Am I early?  
- Oh. God. Um, you know,  
i must have totally forgotten.  
Uh, just give me a second.  
Alright, let's go.  
We're gonna finish  
by the time she's walking.  
-That soon?  
- I thought you might like  
some coffee.  
-Oh, gosh, would I ever?  
Thank you.  
Um, sorry, tira,  
this is my daugh..  
Um, sorry.  
Uh, this is Chloe.  
-I'm sorry, I have to go.  
-Tira?  
-I think I have to go.  
-Tira?  
What's goin' on?

-Nothing. I can't stay.  
-Tell me.  
- Be careful, Jess.  
You can't help her.  
She belongs to someone else.  
There's a darkness around her.  
Trust me, Jess,  
i know about these things.  
She's marked  
by something terrible.  
-What do you mean?  
- How's your mother  
been treating you?  
- Okay.  
- You look upset.  
- I'm fine.  
- Are you both getting on okay?  
- Yeah.  
-Are you okay?  
-Chloe?  
-This is detective boardman.  
- Don't worry,  
she's not in any trouble.  
Friend of Chloe's, Dan chambers,  
he's been reported missing.  
I'm just following up.  
I was just telling her  
there's probably  
nothing for her to worry about.  
- Right. And, um,  
you two know each other?  
-Oh, yes, we..  
We've known each other  
since she was little.  
A few years ago we got called  
to woodman house  
the children's home.  
One of their boys,  
a ten year old, Michael flowers  
he'd been reported missing and..  
His mates, Chloe and Danny,  
got it into their heads that  
this old lady, Mary aminov,  
had something to do with it..

And they hounded her.  
Kept knocking on her door,  
night after night  
until in the end..  
She couldn't take it any more.  
She killed herself.  
By the time we found the body,  
the foxes had got to it.  
It was a nasty business.  
-Um, did you ever find out  
if she took Chloe's friend,  
Michael?  
- There wasn't any evidence,  
but..  
99% of the time  
when something bad does happen  
to a child,  
it's down to someone they know.  
- You said you believed us.  
- And I investigated.  
Thoroughly.  
Now, ahem.  
When was the last time  
that you saw Danny?  
-We knocked on ginger's door.  
She took him,  
and now she's coming for me.  
-Chloe..  
The one thing that we can be  
really certain of  
is that old lady aminov  
is not back from the dead.  
-Chloe.  
- Must be very difficult  
bringing up a child on your own.  
- My husband will be back  
in a few days.  
-Okay. Stay in touch.  
-Will do.  
Hey. It's just foxes.  
We get them around here.  
What are you looking at?  
-You need to see this.  
Baba yaga,

it's eastern European, I think  
but it means different things,  
evil hag, dark mother.  
She's the most  
ancient kind of demon.  
She opens a doorway between  
hell and the world of men  
so that she can devour  
the innocent.  
Like my friend, Michael.  
The demon's powers are limited  
so she needs the help  
from a human slave  
or... or a cursed soul to help  
do her bidding here on earth.  
And you can tell  
who the human slave is  
because the demon marks them.  
Look.  
I bet Mary had that mark.  
When you knock, the first  
knock raises the demon  
the second  
summons the human slave  
and the only way that  
the human slave can be free  
of the demon  
is if they kill themselves  
or if they trick someone else  
into replacing them  
by forcing them to do  
something truly, truly evil.  
-Enough.  
- I thought  
you wanted to help me.  
- I do, sweetie,  
but this is insane.  
What is it?  
-Doesn't matter.  
-Yes, it does. Come here.  
Come here.  
Okay.  
Um..  
We are gonna work

with some Clay.

Here.

Warm it up in your hands.

We're just gonna put it around.

Like this.

Doesn't have to be pretty.

Cover the whole thing.

Fingers too.

See? Fun.

- Do you remember when you  
and your friends had that party  
and you painted all those crazy  
animals on my wall?

-Um..

Yeah, yeah, I do.

You must have been, like five?

Maybe?

- There was that turtle  
above my bed

the big green one  
looking down on me

I loved that thing.

-That's right.

- That horrible bear  
you painted behind the door.

It used to scare me so much.

- I... I don't remember  
doing that.

- Probably 'cause you were high.

You were though, weren't you?

-I was, I was sick.

I hate that word, but, uh,  
but it's the truth.

And..

When it got..

Really bad, I just..

I figured that  
you were safer with..

Someone else lookin' after you.

-Well, I wasn't.

Forget it.

- I tried to get you back  
sooner, I... I really did.

They just,

they... they wouldn't let me.  
Maybe they were right,  
maybe I... I wasn't  
I wasn't ready back then, but..  
I'm ready now.  
God, I could use a drink.  
But we are a, uh..  
Soft drink only family now, so..  
Uh, we've got diet and regular  
I'm sure juice, soda water  
um, and let's see.  
Uh, regular good?  
You really shouldn't move them  
like that.  
They're so fragile.  
I'm sorry.  
I am not angry at you.  
-I thought I was safe here.  
-You are.  
Chloe!  
- Thanks for the tour.  
It's an incredible house.  
-Thank you.  
Do you mind if I check on Chloe?  
We had a big delivery  
for the studio.  
-No, no problem.  
Hello, Chloe.  
-Hi.  
There's just one more box.  
-Okay.  
-She's been really helpful.  
Okay. The studio's this way.  
- Jesus.  
- No.  
What?  
Did you do this?  
-No.  
-What is wrong with you?  
- You know, I'm gonna  
have to put that  
in my assessment, don't you?  
If you feel unable to cope.  
Chloe can always

come back to us.

You've got my number.

Okay?

- Hello, woodman house  
child services?

Hello? Is anyone there?

Listen, whoever this is,  
I can hear that you're upset.  
Just know that you can  
speak to me in confidence  
and I'll do my best to help you.

Are you still there?

Hello?

- Chloe?

What are you doing?

-Leaving.

-Why?

- 'Cause you're gonna  
send me back, aren't you?

Dump me?

Isn't that what you do?

- Do you know the scariest part  
about having a baby?

It's not the pain  
or the sleepless nights  
it's not even doing it alone..

It's the love.

Nobody prepares you for that.

It's like, uh..

This wave that crashes into  
you and pulls you out  
to sea, you can't..

You can't fight it.

It's too strong.

I loved you from  
the moment I saw you.

I loved you

when you were crying.

I loved you when I was high.

I loved you when I..

I loved you when I gave you up.

I loved you when I was..

Thousands of miles away.

And I love you now.

No matter what happens..  
Nothing will ever change that.  
-It wasn't me.  
-Okay.  
-Jess?  
Jess?  
Jess?  
Jess?  
Jess?  
- Run.  
-Jess?  
Jess?  
-Run!  
-Jess, please!  
Jess! Help. Help!  
Don't, she's in there!  
- Chloe,  
there's no one in there.  
Sweetheart, there's no one  
in there. Okay?  
Okay.  
Shh.  
Okay.  
I've got you. Shh.  
Hey.  
I got an idea, alright?  
I might need your help.  
Okay.  
-Did you grab my passport?  
-Yes.  
- Uh, we're gonna be  
super early, though, so.  
-Jess.  
Help!  
-Chloe, Chloe!  
Come on, no!  
-Jess?  
Jess, please!  
- Chloe, no!  
- Help!  
God, no!  
- You finally covered up  
dad's initials.  
Good choice.



What are we gonna do?

- We're gonna find someone who can help.

Okay?

Okay.

- I'm so sorry, Jess, I want to help.

I have my own daughter to think about.

- Just tell us what we're dealing with, that's all.

You said that Chloe belongs to someone else, what did..

Did you mean this?

-No. This is not right.

Don't believe everything you read on the Internet.

It's not a baba yaga haunting you.

-Then what is it?

- Mary was accused of a terrible crime she didn't commit and driven to suicide.

Chloe helped spread that lie and now Mary wants revenge.

Jess, so far your love for Chloe has protected her.

-It's my fault.

-No, it's not. Don't say that.

-Hi.

-Hey! Stay away from her!

I don't want you near my baby.

-Okay. Okay.

Tira, how do I stop this?

- Jess, there is only one way to save your daughter.

- How?

- By clearing Mary's name.

If she didn't take that boy, then find out who did.

And if you listen hard enough, perhaps she will guide you.

-What do you think?

Chloe?

Chloe!

That missing boy Michael..

Were there ever any other suspects besides Mary?

- Not as I recall.

Chances are he just ran away.

- But Chloe said that you believed her about Mary taking Michael, what changed your mind?

- I didn't say

I changed my mind.

We closed the case, that's all.

Jess.

- And if you listen hard enough perhaps she will guide you.

- "Michael flowers."

- That Michael flowers, he's not the first, is he?

What about her?

Or her? Or him?

Tell me!

What do you think will happen to you when people find out what you did?

I will make sure that everybody does.

- We're here to discuss what happens next.

-What do you mean?

- Chloe was very upset when detective boardman returned her to us this morning.

He's raised some serious concerns about your relationship with her.

-Just trying to protect her.

She needs me.

- She spent last night alone on the streets.

She believes that witches are conspiring

to feed her to a demon.

How exactly is exposing her  
to this kind of nonsense  
protecting her?

- Have you asked Chloe  
what she wants?

-Jess, are you using again?

- No. -Then would it be alright  
with you to provide a sample?

-Sure. You got a cup?

- You're showing  
some aggression.

-Oh, you have no idea.

No fucking idea.

I am just trying to protect her,  
okay?

She's my daughter. She's mine.  
Goddamnit!

- There will have to be  
a full review

but it's only fair to warn you  
that in light of what's happened  
it is very likely your contact  
with Chloe will be restricted.

She's a traumatized,  
vulnerable young woman  
who needs a stable environment.

Perhaps you should  
consider counseling  
for your own issues before  
reapplying for custody.

- Michael flowers.

- Sorry?

- Is this detective boardman?

- What?

-Is this detective boardman?

- Yes. He's volunteered  
here for years.

The kids love him.

- But 99% of the time  
when something bad  
does happen to a child.

- Jess, we're not finished.

- It's down to someone

they know.

-Chloe. Come on.

Shit.

- This way.

- Jess, I don't think  
i can help her.

- Please, tira,  
we don't have anyone else.

- Okay. I'll see  
what I can do.

- Okay.

- Meet me back in the park.

I don't live far from there.

Thanks for coming back for me.

-Chloe!

Chloe! Chloe!

Shit.

Chloe?

Chloe, is that you?

- Yeah, I've got her,  
she's down here.

- No, I need more time.

I need more time.

You didn't give me enough time.

I can bring you what you need.

I just need more time.

- You are trespassing.

- Come with us.

- I don't know what to do!

- Come outside. Don't resist.

-Wait. Ow, ow, ow, wait.

- Just stay with her.

I'll be back.

- You're expecting someone else?

This little reformed character

act you've got going

it's paper thin, isn't it?

Scratch the surface

and you're still

the same selfish piece of shit

that abandoned your kid

as soon as she got

in the way of your career.

-You don't know me.

-No. You don't understand.  
You fucked up that poor  
little girl's life once.  
And I am not gonna let you  
fuck it up again.  
Now, where did you take Chloe?  
What did you do with her?  
Where is she?  
- She took her.  
- Who?  
-Mary aminov.  
Ginger.  
- What?  
- I thought I could protect her.  
But once you knock,  
she doesn't stop.  
She just keeps coming.  
-Oh, enough!  
Tell me the truth.  
-You didn't tell me the truth.  
You said that the kids  
hounded that woman.  
But it was you.  
You blamed her for the killings.  
You kept at her until  
she couldn't take it any more.  
-She killed herself.  
She got what she deserved.  
-Did she? Did she really?  
It's usually down  
to someone they know.  
That's what you told me.  
- So?  
- So, you knew them  
better than she did.  
You knew Michael,  
you knew all the kids.  
Why were you so determined  
to point the finger at Mary?  
Was she an easy scapegoat?  
Why were there  
never any other suspects?  
How did it happen?  
How does something

like that happen?  
Did you see him out  
on the street that night?  
Did you offer  
to give him a ride home?  
How many others have you taken?  
-We'll talk again later.  
-Come on.  
Come on. Come on. Come on.  
What are you waiting for?  
What are you waiting for?  
Chloe? Chloe.  
- Jess.  
Jess.  
This way.  
Chloe?  
Hello?  
Wait. Wait!  
Wait.  
Hello?  
Chloe?  
Ah!  
- Michael.  
- Help! Help!  
Get away!  
No!  
-Jess!  
- Hi. I'm gonna get you  
out of here, okay?  
-It's coming.  
Let's go!  
- Help!  
Help us!  
Come on!  
Run.  
- No!  
Come on!  
- Wait!  
Help me. Help me.  
- Come on.  
Come on, we gotta go. Come on.  
-What the fuck?  
Jess?  
Jess!

What are you doing?

Where's Jess?

I'm calling the police.

-Ben?

So, Chloe and I are home.

Um, we're safe. So, come back.

Okay. Bye. Love you.

You okay?

-Just thinking about boardman.

-He did some very bad things.

He had it coming.

- What do you mean?

What did he do?

-Your friend, Michael boardman  
is the one who really took him.

He made everyone think

that it was Mary

so they wouldn't suspect him.

He got what he deserved.

-Boardman didn't take Michael.

He was a good man.

He always protected us.

- How are you?

You being taken care of?

- He's volunteered

here for years.

The kids love him.

-What are you talking about?

-I saw Michael.

Mary fed him to the demon.

Boardman was the only one  
who believed us.

- And I investigated.

Thoroughly.

Everybody knows what you did.

She killed herself.

-No!

- She got what she deserved.

- And the only way

that the human slave

can be free of the demon

is if they kill themselves.

Or if they trick someone else  
into replacing them

by forcing them to do something  
truly, truly evil.

- Mary was the demon's slave.  
She killed herself to be free.  
Tira lied to me.

- It's not a baba yaga  
haunting you.

-She tricked me.

- If she didn't take that boy,  
then find out who did.

- She made me believe that  
boardman was guilty.

Shit!