

HAUNTED HOUSE

by  
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Adapted from  
Haunted House by Virginia Woolf

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EXT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE & APPLE ORCHARD - MORNING

We see a modern, twenty acre, farmhouse and orchard in Sonoma.

A well-suited MR. HARVEY (30s), who could double for an FBI agent, drives a BMW around a circular driveway and parks. He steps out, folder in hand, and looks around.

MR. HARVEY  
(shouting)  
Mrs. Bridgeforth!

JULIA BRIDGEFORTH (40s) ,sensitive and strong, scurries from the orchard. She carries a basket of apples.

JULIA  
Mr. Harvey, my husband's coming  
from work. Can...

She stands beside him now and sets the basket down.

MR. HARVEY  
-- I have another appointment.  
Mrs. Dennison left you the  
property. All I need is your John  
Hancock.

He offers Julia his folder. Attached is a document, keys, and a pen.

She steals a glance at her watch then grabs the pen and signs. She pockets the keys.

MR. HARVEY  
Thank you. Never would have  
guessed the house is 60 years old,  
are you going to sell?

JULIA  
No. I want to live here. My  
grandfather built this house for  
my grandmother. They lived their  
entire married life here.

MR. HARVEY  
Who'd you use for the remodel?

JULIA  
My husband's company, John  
Bridgeforth Construction.

INT. OFFICE OF JOHN BRIDGEFORTH CONSTRUCTION - CONTINUOUS

JOHN BRIDGEFORTH (40s), introspective, self-destructive, artist sits at his desk. He stares at his phone before picking it up and dialing an extension.

JOHN  
Sam, come in please.

SAM (V.O.)  
(giggling)  
Be right there, Boss.

The door CREAKS open and CLICKS as it locks.

SAMANTHA HEMPHILL (30s), sultry, beguiling, prances toward John. She unbuttons her blouse, pulls up her skirt, and sits on his lap. Wrapping her legs around him, she kisses him.

SAM  
(grinning)  
So, I take it we lost DuFrame?

John kisses her neck and ignores the question.

SAM  
You know, you have a meeting  
scheduled on Tuesday with Morgan.  
Are we planning to lose that bid  
too?

John glares at her.

SAM  
Hey, John. It's alright with me. I  
like loser-sex.

John pushes her off his chair and wheels away from her.

JOHN  
Get out!

He stares at the door as it closes. He shakes his head as a tear escapes.

INT. HOME OF JOHN & JULIA BRIDGEFORTH - BEDROOM - DAY

We see a sterile room lacking warmth.

Julia stomps in and out.

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CONTINUED:

John sits on the bed and watches her performance then waits in the doorway for her.

JOHN

You just gonna ignore me?

Julia pushes past him. She struggles to remove a suitcase from the closet.

John reaches for the suitcase.

Julia raises her hand.

JULIA

I don't need your help.

JOHN

Jules, I told you I might not be able to make it. The DuFrame account, remember?

Julia glares at John, rolls the suitcase to the dresser, and opens it. She dumps the contents of a drawer into it.

JULIA

That's what you said but that's not why you missed the appointment this morning. You know it and I know it.

Julia empties another drawer and grabs clothes from the closet.

JOHN

Jules...

JULIA

--I can smell her all over you. You don't even respect me enough to wash her off.

(beat)

I'll make this plain. I'm moving into the farmhouse, with or without you.

INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A country-casual living room greets us.

Julia sits on the couch and stares at her cell phone on the coffee table. Then, she eyes her grandfathers' television/DVD media cabinet.

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CONTINUED:

JULIA

You sure did love that old TV,  
Gramps.

MONTAGE - JULIA REMEMBERS

-- INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - DAY -- John and Grandpa  
Dennison set up the television in the living room.

-- INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - DAY -- Julia and Grandma  
Dennison make apple pie a la mode in the kitchen.

-- INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT -- Grandpa and Grandma Dennison  
toast John and Julia at their wedding.

BACK TO SCENE

Julia wipes her eyes, walks to the cabinet and selects a  
DVD. She turns on the TV, inserts it into the player, and  
returns to the couch to watch.

ON THE TV

John and Julia kiss and walk together to their reception.  
They dance to the applause of guests.

Julia fights back tears and bolts into the kitchen as the  
DVD continues to play.

INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Julia fixates on the island and the basket of apples she  
picked earlier. She grabs a knife and begins scalping  
apples.

JULIA

You bastard! I hate you. I hate  
you so much!

The television BLIPS and POPS OFF.

INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia unplugs the television and plugs it in again. No  
response.

JULIA

(shouting at the TV)  
That's great! You lying jerk.  
Sorry excuse of a man, I hate that  
I love you!

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CONTINUED:

SLAMMING noises and a loud THUD reverberate off the walls in the kitchen.

INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The country kitchen has gone haywire.

Cabinets and drawers SLAM OPEN and CLOSE.

Knives embedded vertically pierce all the apples.

The freezer SWAYS OPEN.

A gallon of vanilla ice cream SLIDES across the floor.

Julia sprints into the living room as the lights go out.

DENNISON FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia fumbles around screaming. Her cell phone PLAYS its "ON" jingle and touchtones as it DIALS. She runs from the house into the orchard.

INT. HOME OF JOHN & JULIA BRIDGEFORTH - BEDROOM - SAME

John sits on the bed. On the nightstand beside him, a large cache of pills, a glass of gin, and his cell phone. He grabs the pills and places them in his mouth.

His cell phone RINGS and ANNOUNCES "JULIA" and he spits them out and grabs the phone.

INTERCUT - DENNISON LIVING ROOM / BRIDGEFORTH - BEDROOM

JOHN

Jules, Ju...Julia?

JULIA (V.O.)

(hysterical crying)

I nee-need help.

EXT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE & APPLE ORCHARD - NIGHT

John skids his Lexus to a SCREECHING halt in the driveway and jumps out.

JOHN

(shouting)

Julia! Jules! Jul...

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CONTINUED:

Julia runs from the orchard into John's arms.

He strokes her hair for a beat.

JOHN

What has got you so...

Julia searches his eyes.

JULIA

It's ha-haunted.

JOHN

Come on, Jules. You know that's not true. I'm sure there's a...

JULIA

I can't go back in there.

JOHN

Jules, I'll make sure the house is safe. Then, I'll come get you. We'll go in together, O.K.?

Julia crosses herself as he enters the house.

John rejoins her after a beat and walks her back into the house.

INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room shows no signs of the earlier mayhem. Julia looks around and runs into the kitchen.

John follows.

INT. DENNISON FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The kitchen too, is absent of earlier havoc.

JOHN

See, no ghosts.

They sit on stools at the island.

JULIA

Johnny, this isn't some *Lost* episode. I didn't dream what happened.

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JOHN

It's been a long time since you called me Johnny,...needed me...

JULIA

I don't need you, Johnny. Is that why you came tonight?

JOHN

You called me crying. You said you needed my help.

Julia gasps.

JULIA

I didn't call you, John. The ghost...

JOHN

Don't say a ghost called me. If it wasn't for your call, I would've swallowed a bunch of pills and probably be dead right now.

JULIA

You...you were going to kill yourself? Why?

John chuckles.

JOHN

Let's go down the list. Shall we? My business is failing. You don't need me. See me....

JULIA

(shouting)  
So this is my fault?

John gets up from his stool.

Julia follows him.

JOHN

(shouting)  
It's not about you. It's about me and what I need. And I need you to need me, not just want me, need me.

(beat)  
You've never said it until tonight. It was your voice I heard on the phone, not a ghost...

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The volume on the TV SOARS and the SLAMMING of the cabinet doors resumes.

Julia's cell phone PLAYS their wedding song. She turns to run. John grabs her hand.

JOHN

I think I know what's going on here. Trust me.

Julia turns around to face him. They stare into each others eyes. John pulls her closer.

JOHN

Dance with me.

They dance together and the noises cease.

JOHN

Remember, the toast at the wedding. Your grandparents said, there's nothing a dance and an apple pie a la mode won't fix. I think maybe this is them trying to remind us...

Julia chuckles and snorts. John joins in.

JULIA

I remember.

JOHN

I'm sorry. Can we start again? I...I do. I do love you, Jules.

JULIA

Johnny, I...I do. I do need you.

They hold each other in a tight embrace.

JULIA

(sniffing)  
Oh, my God! You smell that?  
It's...

JOHN AND JULIA

-- Apple pie a la mode!

FADE TO BLACK

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9.

(CONTINUED)

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10.

(CONTINUED)

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11.