

## **The Haunted Smoke Alarm**

FOR SKIT, SHORT FILM:

THE COMIC STRIP AFTER THE STORY CAN BE USED AS FILM/SKIT STORYBOARD. DIALOGUE CAN BE NARRATION, VOICE OVER. CG/ANIMATION IS DA VINCI RESOLVE, MS EDIT ETC.

SCENE BEGINS, FADE IN FROM BLACK:

ROLL CREDITS: THE HAUNTED SMOKE ALARM

PAN INTO THE LIVING ROOM, THE ROOM IS AVERAGE SUBURBAN, FILLED WITH SMOKE. OMINOUS MUSIC PLAYS IN THE BACKGROUND. PAN TO A SMOKE ALARM ON THE WALL. IT DOES NOT LOOK NORMAL, A FACE SEEMS TO APPEAR ON IT, (CARTOON OR CG).

The room was smokey, and there was no reason to think that the house was not going to burn down. The alarm was not working right, something that came out of it that looked like a puff of smoke, but it had a consciousness.

The previous owners had burned the house down. One of them had died in the fire, and their spirit had been consumed by the smoke alarm. Now they were trapped, the only way out being if there was another fire, and the alarm would release them. The spirit tried to influence the present occupants to start a fire.

It could not do anything physical to start one, being trapped in the alarm. So, it would whisper as wisps of smoke to try and influence the occupants.

THE SMOKE ALARM BEGINS TO SPEAK, THERE IS NO MOUTH BUT SOUND COMES OUT.

"Try smoking, its healthy." "The BBQ needs to be in the garage, use the whole bottle of lighter fluid." "That soup should splatter when you cook it." "Plug in another appliance".

These requests would often be ignored. Either the occupants would not hear it, or they thought the neighbors were playing tricks on them. However, that was about to change.

FADE TO DAUGHTER WALKING DOWN THE QUIET, SUBURBAN TREE LINED STREET. HOUSES ARE QUAIN, MID-CENTURY COTTAGES WITH SOME LARGER VICTORIAN. COLLEGE TOWN LOOK AND FEEL.

One afternoon the daughter of the family came home from school. She was in middle school and loved chocolate. The spirit saw their chance and decided to whisper into her ear.

“Chocolate bars taste great melted over an open flame.”

The only open flame she could find was the gas stove burner. She didn’t think twice about where the voice came from, or why it would tell her to do this. All that mattered was the taste of newly melted chocolate bars.

Away she went to the kitchen, bar in hand. She figured out how to light the burner, remembering her parents doing it, set the bar on the burner and left to get a glass of milk.

PAN OUT TO THE KITCHEN, A FIRE HAS STARTED ON THE STOVE BURNER, THE CHOCOLATE BAR HAS MELTED.

Smoke now fills the room; the daughter runs in and starts to scream. “Help, help! The stove is on fire!”

The smoke alarm should have gone off, but it was no help.

THE SMOKE ALARM EMITS A SHORT BEEP. THE FRONT CASE OPENS AND A WHITE MIST SEEPS OUT. THE MIST SOUNDS LIKE A BREEZE AS IT MOVES THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW. SHORT BEEP (CG OR CARTOON).

There was a short beep, then the front battery case opened. A white mist filtered out, and a noise that sounded like a breeze blowing through an alley.

This sound was the spirit finally able to escape their prison. The daughter was able to run to the neighbors and they immediately called the fire department. Luckily only the stove was burned, and there was some smoke damage on the kitchen walls. The girl’s parents agreed that they would never buy that brand of smoke alarm again.

THE MIST IS GONE; A VORTEX/ PORTAL (CG) BEGINS TO FORM IN FORM IN FRONT OF THE SMOKE ALARM.

What they failed to notice is that when the smoke alarm was done beeping and the wisp of sound had left, there was a void that formed in front of it.

This void continued to grow as it consumed smoke particles and dust floating around after the fire was extinguished. The void began to form the shape of a vortex and grew in length. The more smoke and dust it inhaled the larger and more powerful it became.

PAN TO THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE; FIREFIGHTERS BEGIN TO ARRIVE, SIRENS ON. FRANTIC MUSIC PLAYS, SIGNALING DANGER.

The firefighters had not allowed the homeowners into the house yet, and they were too busy cleaning up to notice the vortex.

PAN TO FAMILY CAT ON WINDOWSILL, ARCHING ITS BACK AND HISSING.

Only the family cat, who had snuck in during the commotion, realized what was going on. It arched its back and hissed.

Good thing the vortex only had an appetite for smoke and dust. No other organic materials were on the menu, so the family members and their cat were safe.

FADE OUT AND IN, FAMILY IS FEEDING THEIR GARBAGE INTO VORTEX, WHICH HAS GROWN AND IS FLOATING IN THE KITCHEN CORNER. WHOOSHING NOISES ARE HEARD AS GARBAGE DISAPPEARS.

In fact, once they realized they had a vortex in their kitchen the family was able to use it as dust and smoke garbage disposal. It acquired a taste for dirt, and kept the kitchen clean.

CLOSING CREDITS: FADE OUT, THE MUSIC IS MORE UPBEAT AND HOPEFUL. THERE IS A SHRINKING DOT AT THE CENTER OF THE SCREEN. IT CONTINUES TO SHRINK LIKE A VORTEX, THEN DISAPPEARS AS SCREEN FADES TO BLACK. CREDITS ARE SHOWN BELOW.

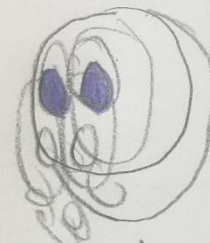
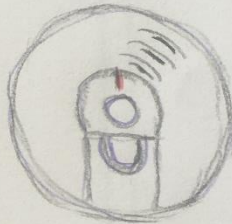
Possessed Smoke alarm



emits Toxic  
Smoke



VORTEX

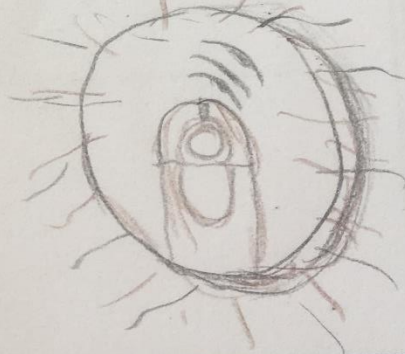


spirit deceased  
inside

PREVIOUS died in house  
fire, spirit Trapped in  
Smoke alarm



Vibrates, shaker



CREDITS: SCROLLING DA VINCI RESOLVE, OR MS FILM EDIT.

THE HAUNTED SMOKE ALARM, A SCRUFF PRODUCTION.

WRITTEN, PRODUCED, DIRECTED BY SCOTT LITTLE

ACTORS: LIST IN ORDER

DAUGHTER,

FIREFIGHTERS (3-4),

FAMILY CAT,

MOM,

DAD,

BROTHER (UNCREDITED)

MUSIC COMPOSED BY SML

THANKS TO THE CITY OF CLAREMONT, CITY OF UPLAND, CAL POLY POMONA, AND OPHELIA'S JUMP PRODUCTIONS. WITHOUT THEIR ASSISTANCE THIS PROJECT WOULD HAVE MATERIALIZED.

@2024 COPYRIGHTED BY SCOTT LITTLE PHD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USE AND DUPLICATION OF MATERIALS WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR AND SCRUFF PRODUCTIONS.