Bait
by
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FADE IN:

INT. MAKE UP TRAILER - DAY

MANDY, 20's petite, in a chair while PEYTON, 30's, works on her. Halloween costumes and props scattered.

MANDY
Wow, I look creepy. How long have you been doing this for?

PEYTON
I've been doing make-up for years but this is my first time working for LaMonte.

MANDY
Oh. Look's like we're all first timers then.

PEYTON
Most of the people I've worked on are. A lot of the crew know each other from previous halloween's though.

MANDY
If it wasn't for my very persuasive best friend and my looming debt I wouldn't be here.

PEYTON
Oh, yeah, unfortunate, so sorry. Could you please stop moving!

The trailer door opens and SPENCER, 20's, lanky, enters.

PEYTON
Hey! Pretty boy! You're late, sit down over there.

Mandy pivots in the chair towards Spencer.

MANDY
Spencer? Hi!

PEYTON
I told you to sit still!

MANDY
Sorry.

SPENCER
I'm sorry, do I know you?
Mandy
Y-yeah. Um. It's me, Mandy. Um. Metal mouth Mandy.

Spencer
Oh! Hey! I didn't recognize you at all. All of that make-up didn't make it any easier.

Peyton
You two used to date or something? Awkwaaaaard.

Spencer
We went to high school together.

Mandy
How's law school?

Spencer
Um, yeah about that. I dropped out the first year, and now here I am.

Mandy
Oh... Well, do what makes you happy I guess? I'm drowning in bills for medical school and now... Here I am!

Spencer
How have you been? You look really good. In general, not as a creepy puppet.

Spencer smiles at her and Mandy picks at her cuticles.

Spencer
I can't believe I'm getting paid as much as I am to basically just lay down.

Mandy
You don't move around at all? I'm the doll of a deceased little girl, I have to walk through and jump out and scare people, try and creep them out.

Spencer
That might be easier said than done for you, even with all that make-up you look like an actual cute doll. Not a scary one.
Mandy begins to nervously pick at her cuticles again.

**SPENCER**
I just lay there strapped down while the other guy does all the work. Thank god because I'm not an actor. I think they just let me do this because I'm so tall and skinny I look like a corpse anyways.

Peyton turns away and unzips a bag. Peyton screams and drops the bag onto the counter.

**PEYTON**
It's bad enough I'm not working in A-list conditions, now there's a spider in my bag!

Spencer walks over to the make up bag and picks it up.

**SPENCER**
Don't worry, it's dead. But it's huge.

Spencer throws the dead spider out.

**PEYTON**
Ugh, thanks. Those fuckers have been all over the place.

Peyton finishes putting a fake slice across Mandy's throat.

**MANDY**
I've never even heard of this haunted house before, and I see ad's for them all the time.

**SPENCER**
It's supposedly just a thing for die hard halloween fans. Like really twisted adrenaline junkies. That's why they have everyone whose attending sign a waiver because it's supposedly so scary-

Spencer raises his hands and changes his voice to a jokingly chilling tone.

**SPENCER**
--you could actually be in danger.

Mandy rolls her eyes.
MANDY
People never cease to amaze me. How can you get so scared from something that you know isn't real.

Spencer shrugs his shoulders.

SPENCER
It's just something psychological. It's scary on it's own being locked inside somewhere for an hour and not being able to get out.

MANDY
Well I'm glad there's someone I know so I don't have to do this alone.

SPENCER
Definitely. Maybe after we can go get some late dinner or something.

Mandy stumbles on the first step out of the trailer.

MANDY
Y-yeah. That sounds great.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Mandy admist a crowd of people in various costumes. She smiles as Spencer walks up to her, in a bloodied hospital gown.

SPENCER
Hey!

MANDY
Hi! Wow, you look-

SPENCER
Like I'm actually dead?

MANDY
Yeah. Have you met the guy whose going to be the doctor?

SPENCER
No. But it isn't like we had to strategize or anything, so I'm not worried about it at all.

LAMONTE, clean-cut 40's stands on a prop coffin holding a mega-phone.
LAMONTE
Happy Halloween!

The crowd falls silent.

LAMONTE
For those who know me, I am LaMonte
I would just like to once again
thank you all for taking part in
the scariest haunted house in the
country.

The group applauds him. The applause softens as he holds the
megaphone to his mouth.

LAMONTE
I just want to go over a few things
once more, since we only get one
shot at this.

LaMonte points to a door behind him.

LAMONTE
That, is the entrance to the house.
As soon as the last customer enters
that door, that one and the one at
the exit, will be locked for an
hour.

Spencer whispers in her ear.

SPENCER
Ooooh, scary.

Mandy laughs and begins to pick at her cuticles once again.

LAMONTE
Once inside each of you will go to
your designated scenes of the
house. You are not to leave the
area that you are assigned to, or
to cross over the barricades of the
walkway. Under no circumstances
must any of you break character, no
matter how scared someone is or
what they do.

DEREK 30's dressed as a vampire clown in a prisoner uniform
holds up his hand.

DEREK
What if someone gets injured or
starts having a seizure or
something?
LAMONTE
Very good question, Bozo. You will do absolutely nothing. That is the reason each attendee signs a waiver and there are people and a procedure ready incase that happens.

LAMONTE
Those who are attending tonight are paying a lot of money. Therefore I do not want you focusing on anything else other than the role you are assigned, no matter what happens. Now go in there, and scare em' to death.

The crowd applauds once more as LaMonte waves.

LAMONTE
You ready?

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A group of young adults walk through a dimly lit hallway. Mandy reaches out to the last person in the group.

MANDY
Have you seen Tina? She said that we would play today.

The group screams, GIRL (16)

GIRL
Ah! So fucking creepy!

Mandy tilts her head, stretches her arms out, walks towards them.

MANDY
Tina let that man into the house. It sounds like they're all having fun in the other room. They're all screaming in the kitchen.

The group reaches a dead end and Mandy gets close to the girl's face.

MANDY
The man brought his own knife. Maybe he's making them dinner, why can't I have dinner too?
GIRL
Get away from me! Go, you guys!

The group turns and moves away.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Spencer lays on an operating table held down by leather straps. A DOCTOR has a surgical cap, a mask and bloody scrubs.

BOY
Cool, a deranged doctor.

The Doctor pulls a knife from off the table and stab's Spencer's shoulder.

SPENCER
What the fuck! What are you doing!

The Doctor reaches for a bone saw as Spencer struggles to free himself from the straps, laughter comes from the group watching.

SPENCER
Stop! Please! Someone help me! He's really killing me! Someone please help me!

BOY
The special effects in this place are unreal.

Spencer breaks free and pushes over the operating table and runs towards the exit door and runs into Mandy.

MANDY
Spencer? I was just coming to se-

SPENCER
We gotta get out of here, this shit is real, go!

MANDY

BOY
I'm totally writing about this on Haunt-Hunters.com

SPENCER
No shit I'm fucking bleeding, go!
The Doctor licks the blood from the knife.

MANDY
Oh my god.

The Doctor turns his head to Mandy. Mandy runs into a table of medical equipment and falls onto the floor. Mandy scrambles to get up, a scalpel pierces through the palm of her hand. Mandy cries out.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

Mandy and Spencer enter the room decorated as prison. Derek is in a cell where the door is broken, body parts scattered throughout and blood smeared on the walls.

DEREK
What are you two doing? You're not supposed to break character.

Mandy grabs onto Derek.

MANDY
He's going to kill us! We have to find a way out or else we're all going to die.

DEREK
Wow, you're really into this, huh?

SPENCER
She's being serious, there's some psychopath trying to kill us and if we don't get moving he'll probably kill you too.

DEREK
Obviously you're trying to get us all fired.

Mandy grabs at her hair and screams.

MANDY
I'm not talking this make believe shit! I'm being serious, we have to get out and we have to call the police!

DEREK
You need to calm down! Dude, get this bitch off of me.
Derek pushes Mandy away from him and Spencer grabs Derek by the collar of his shirt.

**SPENCER**
It's not a joke man! Why would we lie about this!

**DEREK**
What the hell man! Sorry for pushing your girlfriend or whatever.

Derek shakes Spencer off.

**SPENCER**
We're being serious, he stabbed me are you that stupid that you can't see these cuts are real?

Derek looks closer at Spencer's wounds.

**DEREK**
What...wait...

**MANDY**
He tried to kill Spencer and now he's trying to kill me. No one is listening.

Derek starts to step back towards the door.

**DEREK**
Alright, now I'm getting freaked the fuck out.

The door opens and the doctor stabs Derek in the neck. Derek struggles, begins to choke on his blood and falls to the floor. Mandy and Spencer run out.

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

**MANDY**
What the fuck is going on!

**SPENCER**
How the hell am I supposed to know, let's just get the hell out of here!

Mandy holds her hand to her chest as she runs up to a group from behind. The hallway is dark except for a strobe light. Mandy grabs onto GIRL.
MANDY
Help! Someone's trying to actually kill us.

BOY (19) laughs

BOY
Woah, this one is the scariest one by far.

MANDY
I'm being serious we have to get out of here! He'll kill us!

BOY #2
Oh no, he's gonna kill us! Hey you're going to get fake blood on me, stop.

SPENCER
Seriously, give me your phone, call 9-1-1!

Mandy looks behind her, the Doctor is approaching.

MANDY
We have to get out! I'm not trying to scare you please listen to me! He's coming he's right there!

BOY
That's the lamest trick In the book.

Mandy points to the Doctor, the girl screams.

GIRL
Come on let's see what else there is, this doll is really starting to freak me out.

MANDY
Because I'm being serious! Look! Look at my hand, this isn't fake blood it's real! It's real! Please god, help me! This can't be happening!

SPENCER
These morons aren't going to help us we need to go!

Boy #2 laughs and pulls his arm away.
INT. ROOM - NIGHT

The room is very small, dark, cold and confined. Bloody props and butcher knives arranged to look like an abandoned meat locker. Body bags hang in the place of slabs of meat. Mandy fumbles through the items as Spencer looks for another exit.

MANDY
This can't be happening this can't be happening. We're going to die in here.

SPENCER
You need to calm down we're not going to die we just... We just need to figure a way out of here.

MANDY
Your arm.

SPENCER
It's fine.

Mandy rips off cloth from her costume and wraps Spencer's arm. Spencer does the same to her hand.

SPENCER
What a first date, huh?

Footsteps approaching, Spencer hurriedly unzips a body bag on the floor and Mandy crawls inside.

SPENCER
Just don't move.

Spencer gets in and zips the bag as the Doctor opens the door. Mandy looks to the side and sees the face of Derek's corpse pressed against the bag beside them. Spencer covers her mouth. The Doctor moves some of the props around and stops right in front of where they are hidden.

DOCTOR
Now where are you hiding? I'm not going to hurt you, dolly. I just want to play.

Mandy closes her eyes, the Doctor lets out a sigh and leaves the room. Mandy waits before crawling out from where she is hidden and crawls over to the door.

MANDY
Oh my god, the dead clown... his face was so close to mine.
Mandy opens the body bag that Derek is in.

**SPENCER**
What are you doing?

Mandy lifts up Derek's sleeve and takes off his watch.

**MANDY**
We need to know how long we have until the doors open. Ok, we have half an hour, how are we going to-

**SPENCER**
Wait hold on, I think I found another door out.

Spencer opens the door and it slams behind him, Mandy tries to open it.

**MANDY**
Spencer! Spencer!

Mandy pounds her fist on the door and runs to the other exit.

**DOCTOR**
Peek-a-boo.

Mandy screams as he grabs at her.

**MANDY**
Stop! Help! Somebody help me!

Mandy kicks at him as she reaches for a butcher knife on the table. The **DOCTOR** mimics her voice.

**DOCTOR**
Help! Somebody help me!

Mandy grabs the knife and cuts into him, the Doctor grabs her by her hair and throws her onto the floor. Mandy loses her grip on the knife and it lands across the room.

**MANDY**
Please don't do this to me. Just let me go.

**DOCTOR**
Please don't do this to me. That's my favorite. And you're feisty, I like that.

Another group of attendee's approach.
MANDY
Help! You have to help me, please he's going to kill me!

The Doctor puts his face close to Mandy's and sniffs her hair before tightening his grip and starting to strangle her. Mandy struggles as the group watches.

BOY
This is the second time I've seen her in here she's a really good actress.

Mandy kicks and scratches at the Doctor, removing his mask and revealing LaMonte.

MANDY
Let go of me, I'll do anything, please.

LAMONTE
Oh I love Halloween. It's the one night of the year where I'm allowed to be myself. You really think I go through all this trouble just to make some money, hmm?

MANDY
Please, don't.

LaMonte tightens his grip on her hair and shakes her.

LAMONTE
SHUT UP! And as if killing wasn't fun enough. But imagine how fun it is when there's nothing that you have to hide. Better yet, imagine all the fun I can have when I can put on a show in front of an audience.

LaMonte runs his blade down Mandy's side making a long cut.

LAMONTE
It's not so bad. I only kill once a year, I think that's fair. You think it's fair, right?

Mandy looks around trying to find anything that will free her, LaMonte lets go of her hair and kicks her in the stomach.

LAMONTE
ANSWER ME!
Mandy shakes her head and tries to reach for the knife.

LAMONTE
I wasn't planning on killing you, honest. Your friend would have done fine, and that annoying clown. But the second that I saw you and how much you looked like her...

LaMonte looks down at his hands for a moment and frowns before erupting into laughter.

LAMONTE
I couldn't help myself. And it's a load of fun.

Mandy kicks him in the balls, grabs the knife and stabs him again. She hears Spencer calling her name in the distance and runs away. LaMonte cackles.

DOCTOR
You're stuck in here with me, dolly, there's nowhere for you to go.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

The door closes behind Mandy, the room is pitch black.

MANDY
Spencer! Spencer!

Mandy hears Spencer from the other side of the wall.

SPENCER
Mandy! I'm right here! Open the door!

MANDY
I can't see anything it's too dark!

SPENCER
There's a door on this side, you're going to have to feel your way. I'll try and guide you.

MANDY
Oh my god... Okay.

SPENCER
Follow my voice.
Mandy runs her hand along the walls.

SPENCER
Are you doing it?

MANDY
Yeah, all I keep feeling is the wall.

Mandy screams.

SPENCER
Are you okay! What's happening!

MANDY
I'm fine I just thought I felt someone come behind me.

SPENCER
Just hurry and find the door!

MANDY
Holy shit!

SPENCER
Stop screaming and just tell me what's going on!

MANDY
Spencer! There's something crawling on me!

Mandy turns the knob and the door opens, wolf spiders are crawling over her arms and torso.

MANDY
Oh my god! Get them off of me!

Spencer swats the spiders off of her and the two hug.

MANDY
I seriously don't think I can handle anymore of this.

SPENCER
How much time do we have left?

Mandy looks at the watch.

MANDY
Like ten minutes.
SPENCER
Just calm down, you can do it for ten more minutes.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT
Spencer looks at the watch and whispers to Mandy.

SPENCER
There's only four minutes left. We just have to stay alive for four more minutes.

MANDY
How are we going to get out of here?

Spencer leans against the wall and sighs sliding to sit down and spots an air vent under a table.

SPENCER
Look, we can probably crawl through there.

Mandy begins to move around fake spider webs as something falls on her head and knocks her out.

SPENCER
Mandy! Are you okay?

Spencer rolls her over and lightly slaps her face, Mandy is unconscious.

SPENCER
FUCK!

Spencer shakes Mandy lightly trying to wake her up. Spencer takes the cover off the vent and begins to pull Mandy to it and tries to push her through the other side. Halfway through Mandy regains consciousness.

MANDY
Huh? What happened?

Mandy touches her head and looks and sees blood on her hand.

SPENCER
Go! Push through to the other side!

Mandy looks up and pushes away the cover to the other side off and crawls out.
MANDY
I hear the doors starting to open, come on! We did it!

Mandy looks into the vent extending a hand as Spencer begins to crawl through.

DOCTOR
Where do you think you're going?

Mandy screams as the Doctor begins to pull Spencer from the vent.

MANDY
Spencer!

SPENCER
Get off of me!

DOCTOR
Where you not having fun? Stay a little longer.

Spencer kicks at the Doctor as he is being pulled from the vent.

SPENCER
Mandy just go! Go!

Spencer is pulled from the vent as Mandy begins to back away.

DOCTOR
Now you've lost me my favorite play thing. You're going to have to make it up to me.

Spencer cries out in the background as Mandy runs away.

EXT. BACK OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Mandy stumbles into the backyard, she is tattered and moving slowly from blood loss.

MANDY
H...help me. Please.

Attendees look behind them as she reaches out to them.

BOY #2
Wow, they really play this out
until the very end.

Boy pulls out his phone and takes a pictures of Mandy.

MANDY
Stop, help me.

Mandy falls to the floor, the Boy #2 takes a selfie and leaves. Attendees get in their cars and drive away. She looks to the road and crawls.

MANDY
Oh my god... Please.

Mandy looks and see's LaMonte. He comes towards her. Mandy panics, limps towards the road and see's headlights approaching.

MANDY
Stop! Please, please stop!

A car flashes it's lights and and stops. Mandy gets in and sobs.

DRIVER
Are you okay? Oh my god you're bleeding everywhere. I'm taking you to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Mandy is laying in a hospital bed, two police OFFICERS walk in.

OFFICER #1
We went to check out your story. There was nothing there.

MANDY
What do you mean there was nothing there!

OFFICER #2
It was just an empty house, it looks like no one has been there for years.

MANDY
There was something there! That's not possible! I didn't do all this to myself!
OFFICER #2
Were you drinking? Did you take any illegal drugs tonight?

MANDY
No!

OFFICER #1
Maybe you should just get some rest, it looks like you had a long night. We will keep investigating but there was nothing there.

MANDY
You have to go back! I'm telling you he killed people! He killed my friend Spencer!

A NURSE comes into the room as Mandy tries to get out of the bed. The Nurse pushes her back.

NURSE
You need to calm down, dear.

The Nurse puts a needle in the I.V.

MANDY
Wait! What are you giving me I have to find out what happened to Spencer he saved me...

The medicine takes affect and Mandy falls asleep.

FADE OUT