

Stab 2

By

Joshua Patrick Dudley

Based on:

The "Scream" and "Stab" films by
Kevin Williamson, Wes Craven and Joshua Patrick Dudley

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www.StabMovies.com

stabmovies@yahoo.com

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joshua's house sits in what appears to be peaceful silence.

We know this house, it's the same house used in the opening of the Stab reboot.

A scream breaks the silence, echoing through the neighborhood.

INT. CLAIRE MATTHEWS HOUSE - NIGHT

MOVIE CLAIRE MATTHEWS runs through her house, THE GHOST chasing behind her, knife brandished in the air.

THE GHOST swipes his blade toward her but Claire ducks and THE GHOST misses his target.

Claire locks herself in a room, bracing the door with her body.

THE GHOST pounds on the door, trying to gain entry to the room.

THE GHOST
You can't escape me, Claire
Matthews! I know what you did!

Claire whimpers as she tries with all her might to keep the door from opening.

A knife stabs through the door, narrowly missing Claire's face.

Claire screams.

We pull out and reveal this to be a scene from a movie playing on Joshua's television.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We see JOSHUA DUDLEY and HANNAH MADISON sitting on his couch, watching the movie.

ON SCREEN THE GHOST bursts through the door, but Claire is ready for him. She swings a crowbar at him, hitting him in the head and knocking him to the floor. THE GHOST lies motionless on the ground and Claire makes her escape.

The scene fades out to commercials, announcing it's momentary return. "Stabbed in the Back will return after a word from our sponsors."

HANNAH
Where the fuck did she get a
crowbar?

JOSHUA
You don't keep a crowbar under your
bed, just in case?

They both laugh.

HANNAH
I still can't believe this is
happening. Why would Rachel write a
book about you stealing the idea
for the Stab reboot from someone's
actual life?

JOSHUA
For the same reason Lifetime turned
it into a movie... money.

Joshua rises from the couch and crosses to the kitchen,
heading for the fridge.

HANNAH
But I've read her book. She really
thinks you did it.

JOSHUA
A lot of people do.

HANNAH
You didn't though, right?

Joshua pulls two sodas from the fridge and makes his way
back to the couch.

JOSHUA
Hannah! You really think I'd
exploit someone's trauma just to
make another Stab movie for
YouTube?

Joshua hands one of the sodas to Hannah. She puts it down on
the coffee table.

HANNAH
That's not an answer.

JOSHUA
Oh my God, of course I didn't! When
I wrote the Stab reboot I had no
idea there was a real Claire
(MORE)

JOSHUA (cont'd)
Matthews or that anything like that
ever actually happened in real
life.

Joshua opens his soda and takes a sip.

HANNAH
I believe you. It's just such a
weird coincidence.

JOSHUA
A little too weird, if you ask me.

Joshua puts his soda on the coffee table as well.

HANNAH
So, have you spoken to Rachel about
it?

JOSHUA
I tried, but she blocked my phone
number and every social media
account I have.

HANNAH
That is wild! You've been friends
for years!

JOSHUA
Yeah, I don't know how she could
believe something like that about
me.

HANNAH
I wonder where she got her
information?

JOSHUA
I don't know and I don't care
anymore. I'm trying to move on with
my life. No more Stab movies. Ever.

HANNAH
But the fans...

JOSHUA
The fans will get over it. I
already announced it on YouTube and
our website. StabMovies.com is
done.

HANNAH
I just don't understand...

JOSHUA
Hannah, please. New topic.

HANNAH
What do you think of the actors
that they got to play us in this
movie?

JOSHUA
They look nothing like us. And
based on the trailer, their acting
is... well... You make a Lifetime
movie, you get Lifetime movie
quality actors. (beat) I gotta pee.
I'll be right back.

Joshua crosses to the bathroom and closes the door behind
him.

The movie comes back on.

HANNAH
It's back on! Oh god, it's us!

ON SCREEN

We see MOVIE JOSHUA and MOVIE HANNAH.

MOVIE JOSHUA
I got this great idea for our next
movie. I found this article about a
girl named Claire Matthews. I want
you to play her.

MOVIE HANNAH
Wait, so the movie is going to be
based on true events?

MOVIE JOSHUA
Yeah, but obviously we won't tell
anyone.

MOVIE HANNAH
Oh, I don't know about that.
Doesn't that feel wrong?

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hannah looks appalled.

HANNAH
Oh my gosh! This never happened!
(to Josh) Josh, you need to see
this! Hurry up!

JOSHUA
(from bathroom)
I'll be right out! Can't stop the
stream!

The doorbell rings.

JOSHUA
(from bathroom)
Can you get that? It's probably the
pizza. The money is on the counter.

HANNAH
On it!

Hannah turns off the TV, crosses to the door, grabs the
money, pulls open the curtain and reveals... no one.

HANNAH
Where did you go pizza man?

Hannah slides open the door and steps onto the porch.

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

She looks around and down the stairs, but there's no one in
sight.

HANNAH
Hello?! Anybody here? We're hungry!

After looking around again and not finding anyone, Hannah
turns back to the door.

GHOST FACE appears behind her, wraps his arm around her and
drives a knife straight into her chest.

Hannah screams and struggles to free herself from the
killer's grip.

GHOST FACE raises his knife in the air again and plunges it
toward Hannah but she catches his wrist.

GHOST FACE tries to force the blade closer to Hannah but she's stronger than she looks and puts up a good fight.

As the knife gets closer to Hannah's face, she slams her head back into GHOST FACE, headbutting him in his face and sending him stumbling backward.

INT. JOSHUA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Joshua washing his hands, unaware of the events unfolding on his porch.

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hannah rushes toward the door, but GHOST FACE sinks his knife into her back.

HANNAH
JOSH! HELP ME!

GHOST FACE stabs her again and again and again.

HANNAH
JOSH!!!!

GHOST FACE picks her up as she continues to struggle to get away from him.

He turns toward the edge of the balcony and Hannah looks down, seeing her impending doom.

HANNAH
No! Please, no! PLEASE!

With one swift motion GHOST FACE tosses Hannah's body over the edge and watches as she falls the ground.

HANNAH
N0000000000000!

SPLAT!

Hannah connects with the ground and blood erupts from her skull. 86 Hannah.

GHOST FACE double checks his work, wipes the blood from his blade and dashes out of frame.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joshua emerges from the bathroom. The movie is still playing on the TV but Hannah is nowhere to be found.

JOSHUA
Was it the pizza? (beat) Hannah?

He looks around his empty apartment and then notices the door open.

JOSHUA
Hannah? Is everything OK?

No answer. This makes Joshua worried.

He slowly makes his way toward the door. Suspense building with every step.

He peaks his head out of the door.

JOSHUA
Hannah?

He looks down and sees the puddles of blood from Hannah's attack.

JOSHUA
Oh shit! Shit!

He ducks back inside his apartment, slamming the door shut behind him and locking it.

He freezes for a moment in shock, trying to decide what to do.

JOSHUA
(to himself)
Call the cops, you moron!

He crosses back to the living room and picks up his phone but it rings!

UNKNOWN CALLER.

JOSHUA
Oh, no fucking way. I don't think so.

He ignores the call and starts to dial 911 but his phone rings again.

JOSHUA

Fuck!

Reluctantly, he answers it.

JOSHUA

Hello?

GHOST FACE

Hello, Joshua.

JOSHUA

Who is this?

GHOST FACE

What's your favorite scary movie?

JOSHUA

Oh I get it now. This is a prank.
Hannah, you can come out now. You
almost got me.

GHOST FACE

Hannah's part got edited out. Guess
she won't be back for the sequel.

JOSHUA

There is no sequel! I told everyone
I'm done! No more Stab movies.

GHOST FACE

That's where you're wrong. Just
because you don't want to make the
Stab movies anymore doesn't mean I
don't. You've been cast as the
opening kill! Congratulations!

JOSHUA

This isn't funny. Whoever this is,
game over.

GHOST FACE

Oh no, the game is just beginning.
Sadly for Hannah, this was a two
player game. Just me and you.

JOSHUA

What do you want?

GHOST FACE

You know what I want. Horror movie
trivia. Answer right, you live.
Answer wrong, you die!

JOSHUA
Fuck you!

GHOST FACE
No, fuck you, you little twink!
Play the game or die right now!

JOSHUA
Not happening.

Joshua hangs up on the killer.

His doorbell rings, which scares the shit out of him.

JOSHUA
Fuck!

He looks toward the door and sees... the PIZZA MAN!

PIZZA MAN
Delivery!

JOSHUA
Jesus, you scared me. Sorry, I'm
coming.

Joshua makes his way toward the door but as he reaches it,
GHOST FACE appears behind the Pizza Man and stabs him in the
head.

GHOST FACE rips his blade back out of the Pizza Man's skull,
who drops to the porch, blood pooling around him, and GHOST
FACE disappears back out of frame, dragging the Pizza Man's
body with him.

Joshua's phone rings again. He crosses to the living room
while answering it.

JOSHUA
Hello?

GHOST FACE
Guess you know this isn't a prank
now. Ready to play?

JOSHUA
No!

GHOST FACE
That's OK. I have a backup plan.
There's something you forgot.

GHOST FACE appears behind him, slowly climbing up the
interior stairs, phone in one hand, knife in the other.

Joshua turns back to the kitchen door.

JOSHUA
What's that?

GHOST FACE
There's 2 main doors to your house
and you only locked one of them.

Joshua's eyes grow wide with fear.

GHOST FACE raises his knife in the air and slams it down
into Joshua's back.

Joshua screams!

GHOST FACE pulls Joshua off his blade and throws him across
his kitchen counter, sending Joshua tumbling over the edge
to the other side.

GHOST FACE approaches him slowly.

Joshua scrambles to get to his feet and pulls a knife from
from the counter where it was resting on a cutting board
with various cheeses, holding it toward the killer and
stopping GHOST FACE in his tracks.

JOSHUA
Stay the fuck back!

Joshua swings the knife wildly toward GHOST FACE.

GHOST FACE catches his wrist and bends in back, Joshua
screaming in pain, until we hear his arm break and the knife
falls from Joshua's hand.

GHOST FACE slams his head into Joshua's, knocking Joshua
onto the counter, and then raises his knife above him.

JOSHUA
No!

Joshua acts fast and kicks the killer, but GHOST FACE
catches his foot and snaps his ankle to the side.

The killer throws Joshua over the counter.

Joshua takes a second to recover, then runs toward the door,
but GHOST FACE closes in on him.

Joshua pulls the door open but GHOST FACE slashes at him,
stabbing him in the side.

They lock gazes.

GHOST FACE punches Joshua across the face and sending him back to the floor, away from the door.

Joshua rushes toward his bedroom.

GHOST FACE follows closely, knife in the air.

Joshua grabs a picture off the wall and smashes it across GHOST FACE's skull.

GHOST FACE grabs Joshua by the back of the neck and slams him into the staircase to the loft.

GHOST FACE raises his knife and swings down but Joshua rolls out of the way, forcing the killers arm to slide between the stairs and allowing Joshua to run toward the door.

GHOST FACE turns back, seeing Joshua making headway and throws his knife across the room.

Joshua reaches the open door just as the knife connects with his back.

Joshua goes down hard onto the balcony.

GHOST FACE approaches Joshua and rips the knife out of his back, then throws Joshua back into the house.

Joshua is bleeding profusely, but rolls over to look at the killer. He inches his way across the kitchen on his back, away from the killer. He's too injured to stand.

JOSHUA
Who are you?

GHOST FACE
Good question.

GHOST FACE takes off his mask revealing MARK HAGGETT.

JOSHUA
Mark?! What the fuck? What are you doing?

MARK
Finishing what you started.

JOSHUA
I didn't start anything!

MARK
Oh really? What about those three
YouTube movies that got shut down
(MORE)

MARK (cont'd)
that I was in? What about my chance
to play the killer? To give my big
speech?! You took that away from
me! So I'm taking it back!

JOSHUA
I didn't take anything from you!
Production shutting down was out of
my control!

MARK
Shut the fuck up! This is my
moment! You're done talking. You're
done directing this scene. This
time I get to take the lead! I
won't make the same mistakes as
you. I won't replace GHOST FACE
with some cheap, no name knock off.
I won't let my production get shut
down! I'll be the director my fans
deserve!

JOSHUA
Your fans? I'm the one--

Mark stabs Joshua in the chest.

MARK
I said shut the fuck up! Your part
in Stab is over, like it should
have been a long time ago. I will
give you some credit though. Your
idea of basing the movies on true
events was inspiring! So, I'm going
to do it, too! I'm going to kill
the cast of the Stab reboot and
then turn it into a movie! Think of
the press! Think of the views!

JOSHUA
It won't work! I used to joke about
doing that all the time! It won't
work, Mark! You'll get caught.

MARK
Oh yeah?! Who's gonna stop me?

Mark raises his knife in the air to deliver the final stab.

BANG!

A gunshot rings through the house and right through Mark's
head, spraying blood and brain matter all over Joshua.

COREY DUDLEY, Joshua's cousin and a police officer, stands in the doorway, holding a smoking gun.

COREY
Me, motherfucker.

Corey rushes to Joshua's side.

JOSHUA
Corey?

COREY
Yeah, cousin Corey to the rescue.
You're gonna be OK. Just stay with me.

Joshua blacks out as Corey radios for backup.

COREY
Officer Dudley requesting backup
and medical assistance at 34 Elm
Street. 2 dead, 1 critical.
Assailant has been... well... I
killed the fucker. (beat) Stay with
me, Josh!

CUT TO:

STAB 2 TITLE CARD

CUT TO:

DOCUMENTARY CLIP/NEWS SEGMENT

Images and video footage flash across the screen, forming a murder-board type collection of information.

NARRATOR
Three people brutally murdered. One
survivor who claims to be an
innocent victim. Evidence that says
he may not be as innocent as he
seems. As a media frenzy unfolds,
we'll uncover the truth tonight on
"Case Files: Unsolved." It has been
one month since Joshua Patrick
Dudley made headlines by surviving
a vicious attack by an assailant
dressed as the infamous Ghost Face.
Under the mask, his friend and
costar Mark Haggett. Joshua is
(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

known for creating the Stab films for YouTube, which also feature Ghost Face as the main villain, leading detectives to speculate that Mr. Dudley could be more involved than originally suspected. Joshua claims that he and Hannah Madison were watching a movie, a movie based on their lives, when he left the room for just a moment. When he returned, he discovered Hannah had been stabbed and thrown off of his balcony to her death. He claims he received threatening phone calls, another plot device from his films, as he watched Chris Jones, a pizza delivery man, get murdered in front of him. Joshua claims he attempted to call the police but was attacked by Ghost Face, who revealed himself to be Mark Haggett. Joshua's cousin, Manchester Police Officer Corey Dudley, shot Mr. Haggett, killing him and saving his cousin's life. But was it convenient timing or a perfectly devised plan by Joshua? Did Joshua commit the murders himself and then frame Mark by putting him in the costume after his death? Did his cousin help him cover up the crime? One detective thinks that may be the case.

DETECTIVE

There is a substantial amount of evidence that could help us convict Mr. Dudley of these murders. But we are still searching for the right evidence to make an arrest.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Mr. Dudley has not left his home, which has been swarmed by the media for the last month, prompting the Manchester Police Department to put up a barricade. But is the barricade in place to protect Joshua while detectives work to solve the case, or is it another attempt by his cousin, who still remains on active duty, to cover up Joshua's crimes?

BYSTANDER

I think it's a real shame. They are letting him get away with murder! And the police are protecting him!

DETECTIVE

The truth is out there. And we will find it eventually.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Joshua's former filmmaking partner, Rachel Alexandria Arnold, is celebrating the success of her book and Lifetime movie that exposed Joshua's crimes. Her booktour makes a stop in Manchester today, with citizens welcoming her home and hailing her as a hero.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

We see an exterior of a hotel on a beautiful day.

Inside we find...

INT. HOTEL - DAY

RACHEL ARNOLD enters her hotel room, followed by ASHLEY SWANK and SHERI LEE.

Ashley and Sheri now work for Rachel. Ashley is her manager and Sheri is her social media manager.

RACHEL

Well, that was a bigger turnout than I expected. I didn't know people still read books.

SHERI

Perks of having a social media manager, like me, promoting all your book signings.

ASHLEY

And so modest, too. (beat) Tomorrow's schedule looks just as busy. 7am hair and makeup. 9am Live on Good Morning Manchester. 11am brunch with--

RACHEL
Wait... Manchester? Is that where
we are?

ASHLEY
Since last night... yes.

SHERI
All the traveling has my brain
melting a little, too.

RACHEL
We've been so many places in the
last 2 weeks, I'm amazed I still
remember my name.

ASHLEY
You're Rachel, I'm your manager
Ashley and that's Sheri... who's
job title seems to change daily.

SHERI
I think I'm sticking with social
media manager. And speaking of!
Your Twitter officially passed 10
million followers today!

RACHEL
Can we focus on the topic at hand?
Why are we back in Manchester? I
specifically remember saying
Manchester was off limits.

ASHLEY
Complete transparency: It's a PR
stunt. It's been a month since
Hannah's murder and Joshua's
attack.

RACHEL
So, we're celebrating that?

ASHLEY
No, no! Not at all. The press will
just be good for your book sales.

RACHEL
I'm already number 2 on the best
seller's list, I don't think we
need--

SHERI

But, who doesn't want to be number 1?! You're so close.

RACHEL

I just don't need any more stress added on to the heaping pile that I already have. Since they green lit the sequel to the Lifetime movie, the pressure from my publisher to finish the second book is overwhelming.

SHERI

Ironic that your first book is titled "Stabbed in the Back" when you're using your second book to stab Joshua in the back... again.

RACHEL

Ouch!

ASHLEY

Jesus, Sheri. Why don't you make yourself useful for once and go get us all some coffee?

SHERI

Choosing to ignore that comment, but yeah, coffee sounds good. Be right back!

ASHLEY

Not the hotel lobby coffee. Starbucks please.

SHERI

But that's on the other side of town!

ASHLEY

But it's Rachel's favorite!

SHERI

Fine! But I'm taking the rental.

ASHLEY

Keys are on the table.

Sheri grabs the keys and exits.

RACHEL
Ashley, I told you I didn't want to
come back to this one Starbucks
town. The point of the book tour
was to get out of Manchester.

ASHLEY
I promise, it'll be good for you.

RACHEL
My sales, you mean.

ASHLEY
No, good for you as a person. Maybe
it's time to pull that knife out of
your back and talk to Josh.

RACHEL
Maybe it's time for you to go back
to your own room.

ASHLEY
Maybe you're right. (beat) You have
2 hours before your next
appearance. Let me know if you need
anything before then.

RACHEL
I will.

Ashley smiles, hugs Rachel and exits.

Rachel picks up her phone and scrolls to Josh in her
contacts.

She hesitates and doesn't call.

RACHEL
Fuck that.

She throws her phone down, pulls out her laptop and begins
to write.

CUT TO:

PODCAST SCREEN

JENNIFER
Welcome to "Murders in Manchester."
The only true crime podcast
following the real life "Stab"
movie killings, live, as the case
(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)
unfolds. I'm your host, Jennifer Jolie. The quiet city of Manchester, New Hampshire has exploded into a media frenzy after Joshua Patrick Dudley was accused of murdering the lead actress from his films, Hannah Madison, and allegedly framing another of his actors, Mark Haggett for the crime. Mark was later gunned down by the police, in what some people are calling a cover up. After his former best friend and colleague, Rachel Alexandria Arnold, released her book, "Stabbed in the Back," which was later turned into a Lifetime movie of the same name, it seems as if Joshua may have taken matters into his own hands. Did Joshua murder his actors? Stay tuned for more updates on the next episode of "Murders in Manchester."

CUT TO:

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - DAY

Josh's house is lit up by the sun.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - DAY

Joshua lays on his couch in the dark. All his curtains are pulled shut, he's withdrawn from the world.

He has a sling on his arm and some left over bruises still show over his face and body.

He's watching the Lifetime movie again. The scene he's watching is between Movie Josh and Movie Rachel... played by herself.

ON SCREEN

RACHEL
Josh, why didn't you tell me the movie was based on true events?

MOVIE JOSHUA
I swear to you, I didn't know!

RACHEL
Stop lying to me! We're best
friends! Best friends don't lie to
each other!

MOVIE JOSHUA
So, are you saying you don't want
to be in the movie? Because I
already have another actress lined
up to play your part.

RACHEL
All you care about is this movie.
I'm done with you. I can't take it
anymore.

MOVIE JOSHUA
If that's how you feel, than that's
how you feel.

RACHEL
That's how I feel.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - DAY

Joshua looks disgusted.

JOSHUA
I can't believe she plays herself
in this movie. And who wrote this
script? Garbage.

His doorbell rings.

Joshua freezes.

The doorbell rings again.

JOSHUA
GO AWAY!

The doorbell rings again!

JOSHUA
I SAID GO THE FUCK AWAY!

From outside we hear ETHAN RODGERS' voice.

ETHAN
Josh? It's Ethan. I thought you
might need some company.

Joshua thinks about it, sighs, turns off the TV and slowly
makes his way off the couch, each move still causing him
agonizing pain.

JOSHUA
I'm coming.

Joshua makes his way to the door and opens it.

ETHAN
You're alive!

JOSHUA
Sort of...

ETHAN
Can I come in? I brought weed and
munchies!

Ethan presents a bag full of goodies.

JOSHUA
Yeah, sorry about that. The press
has just been all over me, trying
to uncover the "real truth."

ETHAN
Yeah, they are still on your block,
but the police put up a barricade.
I basically had to pass a
background test to get in here.

They make their way toward Joshua's couch and sit.

Ethan starts packing a bowl.

JOSHUA
Thanks for coming by. No one else
is really talking to me.

ETHAN
Well, I believe your side of the
story.

JOSHUA
That means a lot to me. (beat) Am I
missing anything out in the real
world?

ETHAN

Well, Rachel is writing a second book, claiming that you killed Hannah and Mark and framed Mark for it!

Ethan takes a hit of his bowl.

JOSHUA

I know. I don't wanna talk about that. Please. Any other fun topics?

ETHAN

Oh, yeah! You remember Adam from the Stab reboot? The kid with the hearing aid.

JOSHUA

Yeah, obviously. It hasn't been that long. How's he doing?

ETHAN

He's dead.

Ethan tries to pass Joshua the bowl but Joshua declines.

JOSHUA

What?!

ETHAN

Yeah, he offed himself. Left a letter basically blaming you, saying he felt guilty over playing someone who actually died.

JOSHUA

Dear God, Ethan! Do you have anything to talk about besides people dying because of me?

ETHAN

Well, I just thought it was weird. Because in Rachel's book, she claims Adam's character wasn't based on a real person. He was just added into the movie for diversity.

JOSHUA

OK, shocking news aside, let me clarify. I don't want to talk about anything related to Stab.

ETHAN
Got it! Video games?

JOSHUA
I only have one hand...

ETHAN
I'll go easy on you.

JOSHUA
Sold.

Joshua turns the TV back on.

Ethan passes Joshua the bowl and picks up the PS4 controllers.

Joshua hits the bowl, puts it on the coffee table and takes one of the controllers.

ETHAN
Game on, motherfucker!

Joshua smiles and shakes his head. He's happy to have company.

CUT TO:

EXT. NICOLE LINTON'S HOUSE - DAY

A house in the middle of nowhere. The sun is still shining but beginning to set.

INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Inside we find NICOLE LINTON, in her kitchen, cooking.

There's a knock at her door.

She crosses to it and opens it.

ARIANNA PRESCOTT and Officer Corey Dudley stand on the other side.

COREY
Afternoon Ms. Linton.

NICOLE
Hi, sweet girl! Officer Dudley.
Been a while.

Nicole hugs Arianna, who looks upset but holds back her tears.

NICOLE
How are you doing? Are you hanging
in there?

ARIANNA
I'm OK. Thank you for letting me
stay here.

NICOLE
Of course, honey. You've always
been like a daughter to me. I'm
happy you're here!

ARIANNA
Thank you.

NICOLE
Dinner is almost ready, why don't
you go have Sierra show you where
you can put your stuff?

ARIANNA
OK.

Arianna carries her stuff out of the room.

Nicole turns to Corey.

NICOLE
So, how is she doing?

COREY
She was quiet the whole ride up
here. I think she misses her mom.

NICOLE
Obviously. (beat) How are you?

COREY
I'm just fine.

NICOLE
And how's Josh?

COREY
Hanging in there. He seems to be
recovering well. But I can't get
him to leave the house.

NICOLE
Josh is a bad bitch. He'll pull
through. I'm planning on giving him
a call once I get the kids settled.

COREY
I'm sure he'd appreciate it.

NICOLE
Well, I wish I could chat longer
but I gotta finish cooking! Thank
you for bringing Arianna here.

COREY
My pleasure. If you need anything,
don't hesitate to call.

NICOLE
Thank you, Corey.

Corey smiles and exits.

Nicole goes back to cooking.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL - EVENING

The sun begins to set over Rachel's hotel.

INT. RACHEL'S HOTEL - EVENING

Rachel sits at her computer, busily typing her next book and
sipping the Starbucks Sheri got for her.

There's a knock at her door.

Rachel looks at the clock.

RACHEL
Shit! (beat) I'll be right there.

Rachel hurries to the door and opens it to find Erika Otte
AKA Movie Claire Matthews.

RACHEL
Erika!

ERIKA
Hi, Rachel! (beat) Oh, you look
shocked to see me. Is this a bad
time?

RACHEL
I was just expecting my managers.
Please, come in.

Rachel leads Erika into her hotel room.

RACHEL
I should warn you though, I don't
have long. I'm running late for my
next book signing.

ERIKA
This won't take long, I promise.
There's something I wanted to talk
to you about and I wasn't sure how
to bring it up.

RACHEL
You know me, right to the point.
Don't beat around the bush. What's
up?

ERIKA
It's about your book and the movie.
I'm not sure I can come back for
the sequel.

RACHEL
Well, you have plenty of time to
decide, I haven't even finished
writing the book. But I'd hate to
lose you.

ERIKA
I had a lot of fun working with you
and making the movie... it's
just...

RACHEL
Time crunch... remember?

ERIKA
I'm sorry, maybe I shouldn't have
come.

RACHEL
Spit it out!

ERIKA
I don't know if the story we're
telling is accurate. And I know you
don't want to reveal your source,
but are you sure the information
you received was correct?

RACHEL

Yes.

ERIKA

I just... I've been googling Claire Matthews since we started production and there's nothing. Like, literally nothing until your book comes out. No news stories covering the murders... no history of Claire Matthews' mother's arrests... It's just... odd.

RACHEL

I promise you, I wouldn't have written a book without concrete evidence. You came all this way, just to talk to me?

ERIKA

And to find answers. If there is a Claire Matthews from Manchester, I should be able to find her.

Another knock on Rachel's door and Ashley and Sheri enter.

ASHLEY

Time to go... oh my god, you're not even dressed!

SHERI

Erika! What are you doing here?

ERIKA

I was just leaving.

RACHEL

Erika, wait, we can talk more about this.

ERIKA

It's fine. I'll let you know if I find anything. Bye, girls.

Erika exits.

SHERI

What was that about?

RACHEL

I'm not sure.

ASHLEY

Let's worry about that later. Less talking, more getting your ass in gear! We have to go. Sheri, help her touch up her makeup and I'll get an outfit ready for her.

Sheri leads Rachel into the bathroom and Ashley starts to dig for clothes.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHRISTOPHER JACQUES HOUSE - NIGHT

Darkness has fallen on Manchester.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CHRISTOPHER JACQUES and his girlfriend MACKENZIE SWEET sit on their sofa, eating popcorn and watching the Stab reboot.

MACKENZIE

I thought we were going to watch the Lifetime movie... Stabbed in the Back!

CHRISTOPHER

You have to watch the Stab reboot first to fully understand. Plus, I'm in it. Don't you want to see your man play psycho killer?

MACKENZIE

Chris, I'm all about seeing you all psycho-sexy and shit... I just really wanted to see the Lifetime one.

CHRISTOPHER

We'll watch it right after!

MACKENZIE

Fine.

CHRISTOPHER

Tell you what. I'll hop in the shower now and when I get out we can have a little NC-17 interlude and then watch the Lifetime movie. Cool?

MACKENZIE

I can never say no to you, stud.

Chris kisses Mackenzie and makes his way toward the bathroom.

He left his phone on the kitchen counter and it rings.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris starts to strip down and hears his phone ringing.

CHRISTOPHER

Mackenzie, can you get that? It might be work. Tell them I'm in the shower.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MACKENZIE

No problem, babe!

Mackenzie crosses to the counter and grabs Christopher's phone.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris turns on the shower, tests the water and then steps inside.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mackenzie answers the phone.

MACKENZIE

Hello?

GHOST FACE

Hello? Who's this?

MACKENZIE

Mackenzie... who's this?

GHOST FACE

Oh, I'm sorry. I was trying to get in touch with Chris.

MACKENZIE
I'm his girlfriend, he just got in
the shower. Can I take a message?

GHOST FACE
Sure, tell Chris I'll call back in
a few.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Chris soaping up in the shower.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MACKENZIE
And who is this? Your number is
blocked?

GHOST FACE
Oh yeah, that's right. I have a
feeling he'll know who this is.

MACKENZIE
OK. Well, we'll be watching a
movie, so just call back whenever.

Mackenzie, still on the phone, crosses back to the couch and
sits.

GHOST FACE
Oh, what movie are you watching?

MACKENZIE
Stab. The reboot.

GHOST FACE
Oh, that's one of my favorites.
Except they got the killer all
wrong.

MACKENZIE
I know... that Ghost mask is... not
Ghost Face.

GHOST FACE
Do you like scary movies?

MACKENZIE
Hell yea!

GHOST FACE
What's your favorite scary movie?

MACKENZIE
Ummm... Child's Play!

GHOST FACE
Oh, you're a Chucky fan, huh?

MACKENZIE
The biggest! I know everything
about those movies!

GHOST FACE
Maybe we should play a game then.
See who knows more.

MACKENZIE
Try me.

GHOST FACE
Who wrote the original Child's
Play?

MACKENZIE
Don Mancini!

GHOST FACE
Very good! You are a fan! On to
round 2!

MACKENZIE
I think I'm gonna go. Chris should
be out of the shower soon if you
wanna call back.

GHOST FACE
Hang up on me and it'll be the last
thing you ever do!

MACKENZIE
What the fuck?

Mackenzie stands in shock.

GHOST FACE
Question 2.

MACKENZIE
Fuck off!

Click! Mackenzie hangs up the phone.

She starts to make her way toward the bathroom.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Christopher is still scrubbing himself in the shower.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mackenzie makes her way to the front door and locks it.

The doorbell goes off.

She screams and jumps back in horror.

Her phone rings.

Stupidly, she answers.

MACKENZIE

Hello?

GHOST FACE

Hang up on me again and I'll kill
you and your little boyfriend right
now!

MACKENZIE

What do you want?!

Mackenzie peers out the window as the conversation
continues, making sure nobody is outside.

GHOST FACE

To finish the game. We were on
round 2. Who wrote the remake of
Child's Play?

MACKENZIE

I don't know! That movie was trash,
I didn't even waste my time
watching it!

GHOST FACE

Wrong answer.

GHOST FACE appears behind Mackenzie.

She sees the reflection of the killer in the glass.

She turns, just as GHOST FACE grabs her by the throat,
raises his knife in the air and stabs down into her chest.

She hits him with the phone and starts running toward the
bathroom.

The phone hits the floor.

MACKENZIE
CHRIS!! HELP!

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris hears Mackenzie's scream and jumps out of the shower.
He quickly throws on his clothes.

CHRISTOPHER
One sec!

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

GHOST FACE leaps onto Mackenzie, taking them both down to the floor.

Mackenzie squirms but it's no use.

GHOST FACE raises his knife in the air and repeatedly stabs Mackenzie until the life drains from her.

86 Mackenzie.

GHOST FACE grabs Mackenzie by the ankles and drags her away.

Chris comes bursting out of the bathroom.

CHRISTOPHER
Mackenzie? What's wrong?

No answer.

CHRISTOPHER
Mackenzie?

He starts to make his way to the living room but slips on a puddle of Mackenzie's blood and falls to the floor.

He can see his cell phone laying next to him. It starts to ring.

CHRISTOPHER
What the fuck?

Chris reaches for his phone but notices his hands are covered in blood.

CHRISTOPHER
Mackenzie?!

He grabs his phone and answers it.

GHOST FACE
Hello, Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER
Who is this?

GHOST FACE
Just another ghost from your past.

CHRISTOPHER
What are you talking about?

GHOST FACE
You heard that the Stab reboot was based on a true story, right?

CHRISTOPHER
And?

GHOST FACE
I'm here to finish the sequel.

Christopher climbs to his feet, soaked in Mackenzie's blood.

CHRISTOPHER
Where's Mackenzie?

GHOST FACE
She's right in the other room. Go see for yourself.

CHRISTOPHER
If you did anything to her I swear to god I'll fuckin kill you.

GHOST FACE
I'd like to see you try, pretty boy.

Christopher enters his living room and discovers Mackenzie's body, sitting on the couch, gutted, holding the bowl of popcorn.

He runs to her, distraught.

CHRISTOPHER
Oh my god! Mackenzie! Fuck!

GHOST FACE
Ha ha ha. Mackenzie couldn't hack
it, but I could.

CHRISTOPHER
What the fuck are you talking
about?

GHOST FACE
She lost our little game. Think you
can do better?

CHRISTOPHER
I'm not playing any fuckin games.
I'm gonna fuckin kill you! You hear
me?! FUCKING KILL YOU!!

Christopher throws his phone and tries frantically to revive
Mackenzie.

CHRISTOPHER
I'm so sorry, baby!

Chris hears the front door open and rushes to it.

CHRISTOPHER
You're fucking dead!

He pulls it open and nobody is there.

GHOST FACE bursts from a closet behind Chris, knife in the
air.

GHOST FACE leaps on top on Chris.

Chris flips the killer off of him and they both rise to
fight.

Chris throws a punch and GHOST FACE ducks it.

GHOST FACE stabs him in the gut.

Chris charges the killer, taking him back to the floor and
starts to punch the killer in the face.

He rips off GHOST FACE's mask and his eyes grow wide with
shock and confusion.

GHOST FACE sees the opportunity and slides the knife right
through Chris's jaw and into his brain.

Chris chokes on the blade and his blood.

GHOST FACE rips the knife out of Chris's skull and Chris's body hits the floor.

86 Christopher.

We see the gloved hand of the killer grab the mask.

The killer exits as we watch Chris bleed out on the floor.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Back to Rachel's hotel.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Rachel enters her room and tosses her keys and purse on the desk.

She collapses onto the bed and turns on the TV.

Just in time to see another scene from the Lifetime movie.

RACHEL
Do they play any other movies on
this channel?

She notices the bottom of the screen that says "Stabbed in the Back All Day Marathon."

RACHEL
All day marathon? I feel like
someone owes me more money.

ON SCREEN

We see Movie Joshua, Movie Claire and Movie Piper. They are all inside Joshua's house, which looks to be almost an exact replica with some minor differences.

MOVIE JOSHUA
Wow, the real Piper Belmont and
Claire Matthews, in my house. What
an honor.

MOVIE PIPER
I wish I could say the same, but I
think what you did is absolutely
despicable. You took this poor
(MORE)

MOVIE PIPER (cont'd)
girl's story and turned it into a
splatter movie!

MOVIE JOSHUA
Claire, I'm sorry. I had no idea
when I was writing my movie--

MOVIE CLAIRE
I don't want to hear it! That's an
insane and impossible coincidence!
You exploited me!

MOVIE JOSHUA
Remind me again why I invited you
two into my house?

MOVIE PIPER
Don't worry, we're leaving. We just
wanted to confront the beast face
to face. You egotistical, maniacal
loony toon!

MOVIE JOSHUA
Yup, time to go! Bye now.

Movie Joshua leads the ladies to the door.

MOVIE PIPER
This isn't the last you'll hear
from us!

MOVIE JOSHUA
Why do I believe that? Byeeeee!

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Rachel chuckles at the scene.

RACHEL
That kid really did nail Josh.

Her phone rings. But it's back on the desk and Rachel isn't
pleased about having to get up to get it.

She mutes the TV, crosses the room and picks up her phone.

UNKNOWN CALLER.

RACHEL
Spam! I got up for spam!

She ignores the call.

It instantly rings again.

RACHEL
Fuck it. (answering) Hello?

GHOST FACE
Hello, Rachel.

RACHEL
Oooh, exciting. A prank Ghost Face call. Do you like scary movies?

GHOST FACE
That's my line.

RACHEL
Lighten up, let's have some fun with this!

GHOST FACE
I'll be having lots of fun while I'm pulling your intestines out!

RACHEL
Oooh, creepy! I love it! We should have hired you for the movie.

Rachel makes her way back to bed and sits.

GHOST FACE
I'm making my own movie. You inspired me.

RACHEL
Oh God, not another fan film. I'm so over those.

GHOST FACE
What's wrong with fan films?

RACHEL
Been there, done that. They are all the same and none of them are as good as the actual movies.

GHOST FACE
That's not fair! People put a lot of hard work into fan films to show their love for a movie franchise.

Rachel lays down on the bed.

RACHEL
Preaching to the choir, I made fan films for a decade. (beat) Are we gonna get to horror trivia at some point or are you gonna pop out of a closet or something, soon? I'm sleepy.

GHOST FACE
Do you want to play a game?

RACHEL
Sure. Why not?

GHOST FACE
Which Stab cast member did I just murder?

Rachel sits up. That shocked her.

RACHEL
What do you mean? Who is this?

GHOST FACE
I'm the one asking the questions.

RACHEL
Well, I don't know. You tell me.

GHOST FACE
If you need a hint, turn on the news.

Rachel looks even more scared. She grabs the remote and changes the channel to the news.

NEWS ANCHOR
The butchered bodies of Stab star Christopher Jacques and his girlfriend Mackenzie Sweet were discovered after neighbors claim someone dressed in a Ghost Face costume was lurking outside their home and reported it to the local police. Could this be official confirmation that there is a copycat Stab killer on the loose in Manchester? Stayed tuned for more updates as we continue to cover this story. This is Kylie Scott reporting live for News 9.

RACHEL
Holy fuck...

GHOST FACE
Ha ha ha. Round 2. Who do you think
is next?

RACHEL
Fuck you, who is this?

GHOST FACE
You'll find out soon... very soon.

The killer hangs up. Rachel is in utter shock.

Sheri and Ashley burst through the door, scaring the shit
out of Rachel.

SHERI
Oh, thank God, you're still awake!

ASHLEY
We need to talk to you. Something
happened.

RACHEL
I saw.

ASHLEY
Saw what?

RACHEL
The news! I saw what happened! I
know about Chris!

ASHLEY
Do you think it was Josh?

RACHEL
I don't know. That doesn't make
sense... he's still recovering from
what I hear.

SHERI
Exactly what I said. How could
someone with major injuries pull
off a double homicide?

ASHLEY
They can't. Unless he healed a
whole lot faster than we think.

RACHEL
Or he's faking his injuries.

SHERI
What does this mean for your next book?

RACHEL
Seriously?! Someone we know got murdered and you're still thinking about my book?!

SHERI
Well, let's not lie. It's great publicity. Maybe I should change my title to publicity manager instead of social media manager.

RACHEL
Get out!

SHERI
What?

RACHEL
I said, get out! You're fired!

SHERI
WHAT?!

ASHLEY
Whoa, whoa. Let's all take a deep breath and talk about this.

RACHEL
Do you want to be fired, too?

ASHLEY
No, I just think we could discuss it in the morning. You know, let cooler heads prevail.

RACHEL
I've made up my mind. Sheri, you're fired. Pack your shit and go home. I don't wanna see you again.

SHERI
Rach, I didn't mean to upset you--

RACHEL
Get the fuck out!

Sheri looks at Ashley. Ashley just stares back in shock.

SHERI
OK. I'm gone.

Sheri looks at Rachel hoping she'll change her mind, but she doesn't. So, she exits.

ASHLEY
That was... a bold move.

RACHEL
The killer called me.

ASHLEY
What? When?

RACHEL
Right before you came in. I thought it was a prank and then I saw the news. He said he's making his own movie.

ASHLEY
We have to call the police. If the killer knows where you are, you're gonna need protection.

RACHEL
Maybe I deserve it. Maybe I have been wrong. I think I fucked up.

Rachel looks to Ashley, desperate for advice but all Ashley can do is hug her.

CUT TO:

PODCAST SCREEN

JENNIFER
Welcome back to "Murders in Manchester." It's your girl, Jennifer, here, with some exclusive updates and breaking news. It seems as if Joshua Patrick Dudley may be innocent after all. Stab actor Christopher Jacques and his girlfriend Mackenzie Sweet were found murdered in their Manchester apartment. And we're not just talking a simple in and out murder. According to police reports Mackenzie was gutted and Christopher was stabbed through the skull.
(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)
 Neighbors reported seeing someone in a Ghost Face costume lurking around their apartment building. Joshua, who is still in critical condition after his attack, couldn't possibly be responsible for these murders... or could he? I attempted to contact Joshua and Rachel Alexandria Arnold for a comment on the situation but was unsuccessful. Could there be an actual Ghost Face on the loose in Manchester? My sources say yes. Find out more on the next episode of "Murders in Manchester."

CUT TO:

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Back to Joshua's.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ethan has gone and Joshua is fast asleep on the couch.

His doorbell wakes him up.

Joshua looks around, groggy.

He pulls himself to his feet and makes his way to the door.

Corey stands on the other side.

Joshua opens the door and let's him in.

COREY
 We need to talk.

JOSHUA
 What time is it?

COREY
 It's 2 in the morning. But this is important.

JOSHUA
 I hope so. Good news or bad news?

COREY
Bad news. Very bad.

JOSHUA
That seems to be the only news I
get nowadays.

They make their way to the couch and sit.

COREY
Christopher Jacques and his
girlfriend were murdered by someone
dressed as Ghost Face.

JOSHUA
What the fuck?

COREY
Multiple witnesses saw the Ghost
Face costume. If the killer is
targeting people from your movies,
you could be next.

JOSHUA
They tried that already, remember?

COREY
But you survived. Maybe they are
trying to finish what Mark,
started.

JOSHUA
What makes you think they are
connected?

COREY
Really? The Ghost Face costume. And
Chris was Mark's brother.

JOSHUA
Sorry, my pain meds really mess me
up when I'm sleeping and woken up
in the middle of the night.

COREY
It gets worse. The rumors about you
setting up Mark for Hannah's
murder... didn't go away. So, now
that someone else got murdered...

JOSHUA
Everyone thinks I did it.

COREY

Do you have an alibi for where you were tonight?

JOSHUA

Do I need a fucking alibi? I can barely move!

COREY

It would certainly help to dispel the rumors.

JOSHUA

Ethan!

COREY

Say what?

JOSHUA

Ethan was here. We were playing video games all night. He must've left after I took my meds and fell asleep.

COREY

I'll get in touch with Ethan and make sure that he's ready to corroborate your story. In the meantime, the chief is putting extra units on your house.

JOSHUA

For my protection?

COREY

Yes, and to make sure you don't sneak out to kill anyone else.

JOSHUA

Hilarious.

COREY

I'm being serious. I'm one of the units assigned to your house. I'll be right outside if you need anything. You should get some sleep. You look like shit.

JOSHUA

Thanks, cuz.

COREY
Like I said, right outside. Just
yell if you need me.

JOSHUA
I will.

Corey exits and Joshua returns to the couch. He takes out his phone and opens his message thread for the Stab reboot.

He sends the group a message. "My house. Noon."

He tosses his phone on the table and lays back down. He's not sleeping tonight.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Sheri comes through a door and starts heading toward her car.

Her phone goes off. It's the message from Joshua.

SHERI
Well, Mr. Dudley. What exactly are
you planning.

She responds to the group thread. "See you there."

She tucks her phone back in her purse just as it starts to ring.

She answers it without looking.

SHERI
Go for Sheri.

GHOST FACE
Hello, Sheri. I was hoping you
could help me. I'm trying to book
Rachel Arnold for an appearance.

SHERI
I'm sorry, I'm no longer working
for Ms. Arnold, as of 20 minutes
ago.

GHOST FACE
That's too bad. She was really
making headlines. Maybe you can
make some headlines of your own.

SHERI
I'm not sure I understand.

GHOST FACE
Alone in a parking garage at 2am is
not the safest place to be when
there's a killer on the loose.

Sheri stops dead in her tracks.

SHERI
I'm sorry, who did you say this
was?

GHOST FACE
I didn't. But it's not me that's
important. It's you. This is your
big scene. Smile for the camera.

Sheri looks around and notices several security cameras.

SHERI
I don't know who this is but your
little Stab game isn't funny.

GHOST FACE
If you want, we can cut your scene
short and get right to you bleeding
out on the ground.

SHERI
Fuck you!

Sheri hangs up the phone and starts to run toward her car.

Her phone rings but she ignores it and keeps running.

She finally reaches her car, her phone still ringing and she
climbs in.

She locks the doors as soon as she gets in and looks around.

She doesn't see anyone else in the parking garage.

She looks in her rear view mirror. Still nothing.

Then it dawns on her. The backseat.

Sheri turns and looks in the backseat and discovers... it's
empty.

She turns back, puts on her seat belt and starts her engine.

SHERI
 You've seen way too many movies
 girl. There's no one in the
 backseat and the car started,
 you're good.

GHOST FACE appears next to the driver side window. He raises his knife in the air and smashes through the window.

Sheri screams as shards of glass spray all over her.

GHOST FACE lunges through the window and grabs at Sheri but she punches him in the face and he stumbles back.

She throws the car in reverse and the engine stalls.

SHERI
 What the fuck?

She looks at the fuel gauge, it's on empty.

SHERI
 Shit!

Sheri looks around but GHOST FACE is nowhere in sight.

Outside the car we see a puddle of gas pooling. The killer has cut the gas line.

Sheri looks around again and discovers GHOST FACE standing several feet away from the car.

Sheri is terrified.

She tries to start the engine over and over again but it won't turn over.

She looks back to GHOST FACE who pulls out a match and lights it.

Sheri's eyes grow wide with terror.

GHOST FACE drops the match into the pool of gasoline that has almost reached his feet.

Sheri tries to get out of the car but her seat belt won't unfasten.

She looks back to GHOST FACE one last time as the car erupts into flames.

86 Sheri.

GHOST FACE watches as the flames engulf the car.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN ON:

EXT. THE CITY OF MANCHESTER - MORNING

The sun rises over the city of Manchester. A new day has begun.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Erika is waiting in the parking lot of the hotel.

A black SUV pulls up and Erika approaches it. The door swings open and Movie Joshua AKA DAYLEN, Movie Hannah AKA MIA and Movie Piper AKA EMILEE, step out of the car.

Erika speaks to the driver.

ERIKA

Do you mind waiting? We're going to need another ride. (beat) Thank you.

They each hug Erika.

EMILEE

Erika, so you good to see you!

ERIKA

You too, Emilee. Thank you all for coming. I know it was short notice.

DAYLEN

Mind telling us what we're doing here?

MIA

Daylen, we're not in character anymore. Lose the attitude.

DAYLEN

Eat me, Mia.

EMILEE

So, are we here to film something else? Is this the sequel?

ERIKA

This is not official business.

DAYLEN
So, we're not getting paid to be here?

ERIKA
No. I need your help.

MIA
You brought us to Murderville Manchester because you need our help? With what?

ERIKA
I came here because I wanted more information on what really happened, to the real Claire Matthews. But I can't seem to find any answers.

DAYLEN
So, you brought us here to help you sniff out clues, like some Scooby Doo shit?

ERIKA
I wouldn't put it like that, but yes.

MIA
We're not detectives, we're actors.

DAYLEN
Well, some of us are.

EMILEE
Playing Piper Belmont really gave me some insight on what it's like to be an investigative journalist. I'd love to help. Where do we start?

ERIKA
I already spoke with Rachel, so I say we go right to the other source.

MIA
And who's that.

DAYLEN
Joshua!

ERIKA

Correct.

DAYLEN

OK. Now I'm so in! I've wanted to meet him since we got the script. You know, do a real character study. I wonder what he thought of my performance?

MIA

Maybe I'll get to meet the real Hannah, too.

ERIKA

That's gonna be hard. She's dead.

MIA

What?

ERIKA

She was murdered. Along with a couple other people from the Stab reboot. Get in the car, I'll explain on the way.

Everyone looks shocked but they get in the car.

ERIKA

(to the driver)

34 Elm Street, please.

The car drives away.

CUT TO:

PODCAST SCREEN

JENNIFER

Welcome back to "Murders in Manchester." Explosive news on this episode as police have just released reports that Stab actress Sheri Lee was attacked last night in a parking garage and met her demise in a fiery blaze when her car was set aflame. Security camera footage, which was sent to me by a private source, reveals it was indeed someone in a Ghost Face costume that caused the explosion. Why would someone be targeting the

(MORE)

JENNIFER (cont'd)
 cast of the Stab franchise? Who's
 under the Ghost Face mask? All that
 and more will be revealed right
 here on "Murders in Manchester."
 See you in the next episode. Until
 then, lock your doors and don't
 answer your phone. Especially if
 you're a former cast member of the
 Stab films. Stay safe out there!

CUT TO:

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - DAY

The driveway is full of cars, the Stab reboot cast has reunited.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - DAY

Inside the house we find Joshua, Ashley, Nicole, Ethan and Corey. Everyone is chatting amongst themselves, when Joshua interrupts.

JOSHUA
 I brought you all here today
 because someone is killing the cast
 of the Stab reboot. You'll notice
 quite a few cast members as
 missing.

ETHAN
 Because they're dead!

ASHLEY
 Yeah, that was implied.

JOSHUA
 I know some of you think I killed
 them. Or I was somehow involved,
 but I wasn't.

NICOLE
 So why are we here?

JOSHUA
 Some of you might be next. If we
 can figure out who's killing the
 cast, we can stop them before they
 kill us.

COREY

Also, it's safer if you are all in a group. The killer is less likely to strike when he, or she, is outnumbered.

ETHAN

How do we even know the killer is actually after the cast? He killed Chris's girlfriend, too. She wasn't in the movie.

JOSHUA

Mark may have not been working alone. When he was trying to kill me, he told me he was making his own Stab movie.

ASHLEY

And the killer that called Rachel also said he was making his own movie!

NICOLE

Where is Rachel?

JOSHUA

We're still not speaking.

ETHAN

Understandable, after she branded you Norman Bates.

JOSHUA

Ashley, you work for Rachel now, was there anything else the killer said when he called?

ASHLEY

That's all she told me. She was really shaken up.

NICOLE

So who has been killed already?

ETHAN

Hannah and Mark, but Corey killed Mark.

COREY

In self defense!

ETHAN
That still makes you a killer.

COREY
I'm an officer of the law, it's different.

NICOLE
Is it?

JOSHUA
Can we not try to blame my cousin?
He saved my life.

COREY
Christopher and his girlfriend were the next victims.

NICOLE
You guys forgot the pizza guy! He was killed on Josh's porch, at least that's what the news said.

JOSHUA
Accurate.

ASHLEY
And Sheri was killed last night after Rachel fired her.

ETHAN
Why did Rachel fire her?

ASHLEY
Not really the topic at hand here.

ETHAN
Just thought it might be a relevant plot point.

ASHLEY
It's not.

JOSHUA
So, that only leaves us as the surviving cast members and possible targets.

ETHAN
And possible suspects. Wouldn't it make sense that someone from the movie was the killer?

NICOLE
OK. So who else is missing from the cast? Rachel, we know. Arianna is at my house.

ASHLEY
And clearly a 14 year old girl is not the killer.

COREY
We hope.

JOSHUA
Stephanie moved to California, so she's out.

ETHAN
Adam killed himself.

NICOLE
What about the guy who played the drug dealer? What was his name? Brandon?

JOSHUA
Brendon. He's in prison.

NICOLE
For what?

ASHLEY
Don't you watch the news? He was an actual drug dealer.

NICOLE
He was a creep. Someone should actually Stab him in the head.

COREY
Whoa, coming on a little strong with the Basic Instinct vibe.

ETHAN
You would be the perfect, unexpected killer, Nicole.

NICOLE
Please, I have 3 kids, 4 now, including Arianna. I don't have time to kill people.

COREY

What about the girl who played the news anchor?

JOSHUA

Liv. She was friends with Hannah, that's how she got the part. I don't know what happened to her, she never responded in the group thread.

ASHLEY

So, she just became suspect number 1. Well, number 2 if we still think it might be Nicole.

NICOLE

Ashley!

COREY

Rachel has motive, too. She's writing her next book.

ETHAN

But the killer called her...

NICOLE

Could be a diversion. Nobody witnessed that phone call.

JOSHUA

Rachel is not the killer.

COREY

The killer could be any one us. But based on the facts, wouldn't it make sense that the killer is a fan of the Stab movies?

ASHLEY

Especially if they are making their own movie.

JOSHUA

Their own fan film!

ETHAN

Who would want to do that? Fan films suck!

JOSHUA

Umm... hello?

ETHAN

No offense.

NICOLE

So, instead of trying to figure out who the killer is so we don't get killed, maybe we need to think about the rules of a fan film, so we can survive.

JOSHUA

Damn, you're good.

COREY

So what are the rules of a fan film?

Everyone looks at Joshua for answers.

JOSHUA

Oh, right, yeah, I guess I should know. Well, you always want to pay tribute to the original franchise, without copying them.

ETHAN

True. So many fan films just reenact scenes from the movies they are based on.

JOSHUA

And the twist at the end always has to be a huge shock. The killer has to have a motive that's believable but, again, that hasn't been done before.

ETHAN

And the death scenes have to be bigger. More elaborate. More gore!

ASHLEY

The killer seems to be hitting the target there, he literally blew up Sheri's car!

JOSHUA

But most important, the movie has to have a good story. If you're producing some low budget knock off, you have to give the fans a reason to keep watching.

ASHLEY

But those aren't rules to survive a fan film. Those are guidelines on how to make a good fan film.

JOSHUA

I guess there are no rules in a fan film... you don't know what's going to happen next because you have to keep the audience guessing.

ETHAN

Yeah, it seems like shock factor is the only rule.

NICOLE

I hate to be the one to do this, but is this meeting over? I gotta get home.

ETHAN

And I actually have to get back to work.

JOSHUA

We didn't accomplish much, but ya, meeting over, I guess. Everyone stay in touch. Be safe!

Corey leads the cast to the door and they exit.

As Ashley reaches the door, Josh stops her.

JOSHUA

Ashley, please tell Rachel to be careful. And that I'm here if she needs anything. And that I miss her.

ASHLEY

I will! You be safe, too!

They hug and Ashley exits.

JOSHUA

(to Corey)

Coffee?

COREY

Sure.

Joshua starts brewing coffee as the doorbell rings.

COREY
I got it.

Corey opens the door to find Erika, Daylen, Mia and Emilee.

COREY
Umm... Josh. You're gonna want to see this...

Joshua heads to the door and comes face to face with Daylen.

DAYLEN
O-M-G! It's you! I'm you! Do you recognize me? I played you.

JOSHUA
Yes, you did. I saw.

DAYLEN
What did you think of my performance?

JOSHUA
I thought it was misinformed and over the top, if you want the truth.

DAYLEN
God, you are such a bitch! I love it!

ERIKA
Hi. I'm Erika. Can we come in?

JOSHUA
I guess so.

They enter the house.

COREY
And now our suspect list just got longer.

ERIKA
We're not here to start trouble.

JOSHUA
What are you here for?

ERIKA
Answers.

DAYLEN

We want to hear your side of the story.

MIA

Erika tricked us into coming here.

EMILEE

I'm here voluntarily. I'd like answers, too. Any chance of me meeting the real Piper?

JOSHUA

Doubtful, she doesn't exist.

COREY

That's true.

EMILEE

What do you mean?

JOSHUA

I don't know if Rachel made it all up, or if someone gave her false information, but nothing from the movie you are in is true. The Stab reboot is a complete work of fiction.

ERIKA

I believe you.

MIA

I don't. And I'm not going to stick around here and listen to you lie to us. (beat) Erika, I'm sorry, but I'm not doing this. I called an Uber to take me back to the airport.

ERIKA

I understand.

MIA

Josh, I would say it was nice meeting you, but I think you're a serial killer. Emilee, we'll talk soon. Daylen... fuck you.

DAYLEN

Fuck you!

Mia leaves.

EMILEE

Josh, can you tell us more? Why do you think you're being framed? Did you upset anyone that would want revenge on you?

JOSHUA

I wish I had answers for you, but I don't.

COREY

And unfortunately, neither does the Manchester Police Department!

ERIKA

There has to be answers somewhere!

EMILEE

Erika, I'm not going to lie. This is already feeling like a dead end. We have no leads. No clues. No witnesses. I don't know what you think you're going to find here, but I don't think I can help.

ERIKA

So, you're going to leave, too?

EMILEE

I'm sorry! I have kids and a family. I want to help but it just seems pointless. Maybe I'll see you for the sequel! Stabbed in the Back Again! I'm gonna try to catch up with Mia and share her Uber. Nice meeting you all!

Emilee exits.

JOSHUA

Are we going to get down to business or did you guys just want a tour of my house?

DAYLEN

I'd love one! It looks so much like the set! They really did their research!

ERIKA

Daylen, are you gonna bolt, too?

DAYLEN

Hell no! (he looks at his phone)
Wait, hold that thought! I am going
to to take off for a few, but I'll
be right back! I just booked a
modeling gig and it's only 5
minutes away! Since I'm not getting
paid to be here, I found a way to
make this trip lucrative!

ERIKA

OK, text me when you're done and we
will meet back up.

DAYLEN

I will! Bye boo! Josh... it was an
honor meeting you! I look forward
to playing you again!

JOSHUA

Can't wait.

Daylen exits.

ERIKA

Fuck, now what?

JOSHUA

Coffee?

ERIKA

Yes, please!

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - DAY

We follow Daylen outside. He makes his way down the stairs
of Joshua's house, when his phone rings.

DAYLEN

Hello?

GHOST FACE

Hello, is this Daylen?

DAYLEN

The one and only.

GHOST FACE

It's Derek from Manchester Model
Management. So glad I got in touch
with you. Where are you right now?

DAYLEN
Ummm... (he looks on his phone) 34
Elm Street. Where are you?

GHOST FACE
Closer than you think.

DAYLEN
Oh, how non specific.

GHOST FACE
If you turn to your left, you'll
see a small alley. We're right on
the other side of that alley.

DAYLEN
Perfect!

Daylen makes his way toward the alley.

GHOST FACE
Question for you Daylen.

DAYLEN
Shoot.

GHOST FACE
Do you like scary movies?

DAYLEN
Love them!

GHOST FACE
Would you like to be in one?

DAYLEN
I've already done a couple, but I
wouldn't say no to doing another.

Daylen enters the alley.

GHOST FACE
Perfect! Let's start right now.

DAYLEN
I'm going to need more details than
that!

GHOST FACE leaps out in front of Daylen.

Daylen freezes in his tracks.

DAYLEN
What's going on?

GHOST FACE advances toward Daylen and shows off his knife.

DAYLEN
Uh... shouldn't there be like..
cameras... and a crew?

GHOST FACE points to a camera on the side of the building.

Daylen looks up at it.

DAYLEN
Oh, super low budget, I see.

Daylen looks back to GHOST FACE, who is now right in front of him, just in time to see him raise his knife in the air.

With one quick swing, GHOST FACE slashes Daylen's throat.

Blood erupts from Daylen's neck.

He turns to run back to the house, but it's too late. He drops to the ground and blood pools around him.

86 Daylen.

CUT TO:

PODCAST SCREEN

JENNIFER
Welcome to episode four of "Murders in Manchester." Today's update is a crazy one. It seems as if Joshua Patrick Dudley has gathered the cast of the Stab films at his home for a private meeting. News cameras caught footage of several Stab stars crossing the police barricade into his home and exiting a couple of hours later. But here's where the story gets even crazier! After the Stab stars left, guess who showed up?! Cast members of the Lifetime movie "Stabbed in the Back!" I'll keep you posted on any further developments.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF MANCHESTER - DAY

The same black SUV from outside the hotel drives through the city of Manchester.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Inside the car, we find Mia and Emilee, and the same Uber driver from before.

MIA

Ugh. Daylen is such a prick.

EMILEE

Yeah, but we knew that already.

MIA

And I still can't believe Erika dragged us all the way out here for nothing!

EMILEE

I'm not going to lie, I'm still curious about whether or not she's right. You heard what Josh said. What if there is no real Claire Matthews?

MIA

Who cares? We're actresses. We get paid to play fictional characters all the time. How is this time any different?

EMILEE

I guess you're right.

MIA

(to driver)

How much longer until we get to the airport?

DRIVER

About 5 minutes.

MIA

(to Emilee)

Feels like we've been driving for hours.

The car slows down and the driver starts to pull over.

DRIVER

Uh oh. I'm sorry ladies, but I'm gonna need to pull over. I think we got a flat tire.

MIA

Great! Just great! I swear if we miss our flight...

EMILEE

Just breathe, girl! Everything will be fine.

DRIVER

I'll change it as quickly as possible.

The driver hops out of the car and makes his way around back toward the trunk.

He opens the trunk and digs around for a tire iron and jack.

The girls watch as he makes his way from the trunk to the side of the car, leaving the trunk open.

MIA

There's only 20 minutes until we have to get on the plane. We're never gonna make it.

There's a loud crash outside the car.

Both girls jump.

EMILEE

What the heck was that?

MIA

I have no clue.

Mia leans to look out her window to see if she can see the driver, but he's nowhere to be found.

MIA

Bigger problem... the driver isn't there anymore.

EMILEE

What do you mean?

MIA

He's just gone! There's no one out there!

EMILEE
Maybe he went to get help?

Mia looks out the window again and notices their surroundings.

MIA
Where the fuck are we? We're, like,
in the woods.

EMILEE
We can't be that far from the
airport. Should we just walk?

MIA
In these heels? No way.

EMILEE
OK. I'll get us a different Uber.
(She looks at her phone) Or.. I
would if I had service. Seriously,
where are we?

Mia takes out her phone and checks to see if she has service.

MIA
He could have at least closed the
trunk, he's letting all the heat
in.

Mia doesn't look up from her phone.

EMILEE
I'll turn up the AC.

Emilee leans forward and reaches into the front seat.

As she does, we see GHOST FACE slowly climbing in the trunk behind her and Mia.

Emilee adjusts the AC higher and then leans back to sit down.

GHOST FACE is right behind her.

In one quick motion, GHOST FACE reaches forward, grabs Emilee by the head and snaps her neck.

She goes limp, her head twisted to the side. 86 Emilee.

Mia screams.

GHOST FACE grabs Mia by the neck with one hand and starts to choke her.

Mia tries to pull his hand from her throat but fails.

She slides down the seat, still in his grip, and manages to kick the killer in the face.

GHOST FACE stumbles back.

Mia opens the door and leaps out of the car.

She looks around but there's no where to go, so she takes off running into the woods.

GHOST FACE emerges from the trunk behind her and chases after her.

They run through the woods, deeper and deeper into the trees.

Mia looks back and doesn't see GHOST FACE behind her, so she pauses.

She's winded. Very winded.

She starts to choke, she can't breathe.

She pulls an inhaler from her pocket and lifts it to her mouth.

GHOST FACE appears and smacks the inhaler from her hands.

Mia instantly drops to her knees, still choking, and crawls around on the leaf covered ground, searching for her inhaler.

It's too much. She really can't breathe, she's almost blue in the face. She collapses onto her back.

GHOST FACE stands above her. He raises his knife in the air but pauses, watching as she suffocates.

He lowers the knife back to his side.

Mia's finger tips finally connect with her missing inhaler, but it's too late.

Her eyes roll back in her head and she's out. 86 Mia.

GHOST FACE stares at her for a moment, then disappears into the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOTEL - EVENING

The sun has begun to set.

INT. RACHEL'S HOTEL - EVENING

Rachel is packing her bags when Ashley enters.

ASHLEY
I'm back. What are you doing?

RACHEL
Getting the fuck out of here. How
did the meeting go?

ASHLEY
Honestly, it was basically just a
recap. You didn't miss anything.
Why are you packing?

RACHEL
I can't be here. I can't do this,
anymore. You should be packing,
too.

ASHLEY
But the press tour isn't over.

RACHEL
Cancel it! I'm done! We're going to
die if we stay here, don't you get
that?

ASHLEY
I see where you're coming from, but
I'm sure we can find a way to make
it work. We'll hire security!

Rachel stops packing and looks at Ashley.

RACHEL
There's something I have to tell
you.

ASHLEY
OK. Look of doom over there. What
is it?

RACHEL
This.

Rachel pulls a letter from her suitcase and hands it to
Ashley.

Ashley reads it.

ASHLEY

Ms. Arnold. I'm writing to inform you that Joshua Dudley stole the idea for the Stab reboot from my real life. My name is Claire Matthews. I lived through the events of that movie and I don't appreciate what Mr. Dudley did. I'm asking you to please make him stop. Or I will.

RACHEL

That's it. That's all the proof I've had this whole time.

ASHLEY

Well, it is pretty convincing.

RACHEL

I didn't even do any research! I just started writing my book right after I read that letter. I knew it could be a lie, but it just made sense, so I ran with it.

ASHLEY

I think you're missing the bigger picture.

RACHEL

What?

ASHLEY

She says if you don't stop him, she will. The real Claire Matthews is the killer!

RACHEL

THERE IS NO REAL CLAIRE MATTHEWS! I spent the whole day searching for proof on the internet! She doesn't exist!

ASHLEY

Well, whoever wrote this letter is probably the killer.

RACHEL

No shit, and now that I know that Claire isn't real, the killer is going to find me and kill me! Hence the packing!

ASHLEY
Where are you going to go?

RACHEL
I don't know. But pack your shit
and meet me in the lobby in 10
minutes. We're out of here.

ASHLEY
OK.

Ashley hesitates for a moment, but smiles at Rachel and exits.

Rachel looks stressed as she continues packing.

CUT TO:

EXT. NICOLE LINTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The moon has risen in the night sky over Nicole's house.

INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nicole's phone rings.

She answers it as she yells to the girls who are making noise.

NICOLE
Enough, Sierra and Arianna! I told
you to go to bed.

GHOST FACE
But it's a slumber party! We want
to stay up late!

NICOLE
Who is this?

GHOST FACE
Have you ever seen Slumber Party
Massacre?

NICOLE
Who the fuck is this?

GHOST FACE
Let's play a game. Answer right,
I'll let your daughter live. Answer
wrong, and you all die.

NICOLE
Stay away from my kids!

GHOST FACE
Or you'll do what?

NICOLE
Didn't you see the Stab reboot? To
quote my character from that movie
"you're fucking with the wrong
girl."

GHOST FACE
I distinctly remember you not
surviving that scene.

NICOLE
Well, this isn't a movie. Try me. I
dare you.

GHOST FACE
First, we're going to play my game.

NICOLE
Actually, we're not.

CLICK. Nicole hangs up the phone.

She crosses to the stairs and yells up to the girls.

NICOLE
Girls, is everything OK in there?

ARIANNA
Yes!

NICOLE
GO TO BED!

GHOST FACE appears behind Nicole.

Nicole turns, startled to see the killer, but ready to
fight.

NICOLE
Big mistake, asshole.

Nicole runs at GHOST FACE.

She throws a punch but GHOST FACE catches her fist and sinks
a knife into her side.

She winces with pain.

She locks eyes with the killer and her rage surges,
She punches GHOST FACE right in the nose, sending him
stumbling backward.
She lands two more punches, GHOST FACE drops to his knees.
Nicole reaches out and grabs the killer's head, a solid
headbutt knocks GHOST FACE back to the ground.
She runs toward the bedrooms and yells to the girls.

NICOLE
GIRLS! LOCK YOUR DOOR AND CALL THE
POLICE!

Arianna emerges from Sierra's room.

SIERRA
Nicole, what's wrong? Sierra is
calling the police.

GHOST FACE lunges at Nicole and tackles her to the floor.
Arianna screams.

Nicole and GHOST FACE struggle until he is on top of her,
holding her down.

GHOST FACE starts to choke Nicole.

Arianna leaps onto GHOST FACE, knocking them both over.

Arianna gets up and starts kicking GHOST FACE.

ARIANNA
YOU KILLED MY MOTHER! I HATE YOU!

Nicole gathers her strength, wraps her arms around Arianna
and leads them away from the killer toward the door.

NICOLE
Come with me! Sierra, get out here!
We need to leave!

They reach Nicole's door and turn back, yelling to Nicole's
daughter.

ARIANNA
We totally kicked his ass!

Nicole hugs Arianna.

NICOLE
I'm proud of you. Your mother would
have been proud too. SIERRA LETS
GO!

CUT TO:

EXT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Back to Joshua's.

Corey searches the exterior of Joshua's house with a flash
light.

He checks every corner, dark alley and under every car.

Some sort of jump scare, like the classic cat knocking over
a trashcan, and then we move inside.

INT. JOSHUA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joshua and Erika are sitting and talking.

ERIKA
I really am sorry, Josh. I had no
idea.

JOSHUA
I will say, your performance in the
movie was great. You were the best
actress in the cast.

ERIKA
Thank you, but now I regret every
second of being in that movie.
(looks at phone) Oh, wow, it's
getting late. I should probably go.
I've taken up enough of your time.

JOSHUA
Surprisingly, it was a pleasure. No
problem at all. And hey, if you
ever want to be in a ghetto YouTube
movie, maybe I'll start making them
again someday.

ERIKA
I'll keep that in mind.

Corey enters.

COREY
Perimeter sweep checked out. Looks clear.

JOSHUA
No sign of Ghost Face?

COREY
Not yet.

ERIKA
Well, I was just leaving. Thank you again for your hospitality.

COREY
I'll walk you to your car.

ERIKA
Oh, crap. I have to call an Uber. Spaced it.

Erika takes out her phone and starts setting up an Uber ride.

Joshua's phone rings.

JOSHUA
Hello?

NICOLE
Josh, it's Nicole.

JOSHUA
Yeah, saw that on the caller ID.

NICOLE
I just got attacked. I'm on my way to the hospital with Sierra and Arianna.

JOSHUA
Where are the rest of your kids?

NICOLE
At their grandmother's, but that's not the main idea of this phone call. Did you hear what I said? I just got stabbed by Ghost Face!

JOSHUA
I'm glad you're OK!

NICOLE
Not OK! Got stabbed! Jesus....

JOSHUA
How can I help?

NICOLE
Is your cousin with you?

JOSHUA
Yeah, why?

NICOLE
Tell him to send cops to the
hospital to protect the girls while
I'm in surgery.

JOSHUA
Surgery?

NICOLE
HOLY FUCK, JOSH! YES! I GOT STABBED
SO I'M GOING TO NEED SURGERY! JUST
DO WHAT I SAY GOD DAMN IT!

Click. Nicole hangs up on Joshua.

JOSHUA
Corey, Nicole just got attacked by
Ghost Face. She's on her way to the
hospital and she wants you to send
police officers there to protect
her kids.

COREY
I'll call it in.

Corey takes out his phone and steps out onto the porch.

ERIKA
Is everything alright? Is Nicole
going to be OK?

JOSHUA
It sounded like it, but we have a
bigger problem. Her house is only 2
minutes from here. Which means the
killer is close by.

ERIKA
Do you think he's going to come
here next?

JOSHUA
Honestly, I doubt it. But you
should stay here, inside, just in
case.

ERIKA
How will we know if the killer is
coming here? Shouldn't we all
leave?

JOSHUA
The killer usually calls first.
We're surrounded by cops. Don't
panic.

Joshua's phone rings.

JOSHUA
OK. Maybe panic a little.

ERIKA
Answer it.

He does.

JOSHUA
Hello?

GHOST FACE
Hello, Joshua. We meet again.

JOSHUA
Yup, it's the killer. I'll put him
on speaker. (he does) (to phone)
You know, the last Ghost Face
killer that fucked with me got his
brains blown out.

ERIKA
Jesus!

GHOST FACE
I guess I'll have to make sure I'm
more careful than Mark.

ERIKA
Should we get your cousin?

Joshua nods yes.

JOSHUA
Anyway, Mr. Ghost Face, or Miss
Ghost Face, what are your pronouns?
(MORE)

JOSHUA (cont'd)
Am I doing this right? I'm gonna
let you go.

GHOST FACE
I don't think so.

Erika rushes to the door but there's no sign of Corey.
She panics.

ERIKA
Your cousin is gone!

Joshua shrugs his shoulders like "who knows."

JOSHUA
Lock the door.

She does and then rushes to Joshua's side.

ERIKA
(to Ghost Face)
What do you want?

JOSHUA
(to Erika)
Oh, right. You haven't done this
before. Don't antagonize him or
give him a reason to keep talking.
They all want the same thing. To
play a game.

GHOST FACE
That's right. You know your stuff.
Maybe you'll do well.

JOSHUA
This is pointless. There's no way
you're getting in here. My whole
neighborhood is swarming with cops.

GHOST FACE
Not right now... do you know what
time it is?

Joshua looks at his phone.

JOSHUA
10 o'clock.

GHOST FACE
Shift change.

JOSHUA
Shit.

ERIKA
Shit!

JOSHUA
Well, let's be honest, I'm not too worried about you. Nicole just escaped from you and I'm assuming she kicked your ass.

GHOST FACE
I'm focused on you right now. It's time to reopen some old wounds.

JOSHUA
Blah blah blah. So do it already.

ERIKA
Ummm... probably a bad idea to dare a serial killer to kill you...

JOSHUA
That's what I thought, pussy.

CLICK. Joshua hangs up.

JUMP SCARE. Corey reappears on the other side of the door and tries to open it but it's locked.

COREY
Hey, let me in!

GHOST FACE appears behind him.

Erika screams.

JOSHUA
Behind you!

It's too late.

GHOST FACE raises his knife in the air and stabs Corey repeatedly in the back.

Corey turns to fight, but GHOST FACE is quicker and grabs him by the head and starts slamming Corey's face into the glass sliding door.

Blood erupts from Corey's mouth as he slides down the door slowly.

Corey tries to raise his gun at GHOST FACE, but GHOST FACE grabs his hand and aims the gun toward Corey's head.

BANG! The gun goes off and blows Corey's brains out.

Corey collapses into a pile on the balcony. 86 Corey.

GHOST FACE starts to try to gain entry to the house.

He bangs on the glass door and tries to pull it open.

Joshua runs to the door and closes the curtains.

ERIKA
What the hell are you doing?

JOSHUA
Trust me.

ERIKA
OK.

Joshua leads her down the stairs to the second exit.

He sticks his head out of the door and looks around.

JOSHUA
We're gonna make a run for it. My
car is the black jeep over there,
when I say go, run as fast as you
can to it.

ERIKA
Got it.

JOSHUA
Ready?

ERIKA
I think so.

JOSHUA
GO!

They run out of the door and crash into Ethan.

Joshua and Erika scream.

ETHAN
Calm down! It's just me!

JOSHUA
What are you doing here?

Ethan shows Joshua the bag he's carrying.

ETHAN
I just got off of work. Thought
you'd be game for round 2!

JOSHUA
Now isn't great time.

Erika and Joshua keep looking around for the killer.

ETHAN
(to Erika)
Holy shit! I know you! You're the
girl that played Claire Matthews!
What are you doing here?

JOSHUA
Ethan, how long have you been here?

ETHAN
I just got here. PS where are all
the cops?

ERIKA
(to Joshua)
You think it's him?

ETHAN
Think what's me?

JOSHUA
(to Erika)
Let's go.

Joshua and Erika run toward Joshua's car.

ETHAN
(calling after them)
What the fuck? What's going on?
Hello?

Joshua and Erika get into his car and pull away.

Ethan watches, disappointed, as they leave him behind.

ETHAN
This is what I get for being nice.

Ethan sighs.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

Joshua and Erika race down the road.

ERIKA
Do you think he was the killer?

JOSHUA
I don't know! You can't trust anyone in situations like this. But if he's not the killer, we just left him all alone where the killer was.

ERIKA
Oh man. (beat) Well, what now?

JOSHUA
We need to go somewhere the killer won't look for us. Ahh, we didn't check the backseat!

They both look back and discover it empty.

Joshua's phone rings.

JOSHUA
Oh shit, not again.

He looks at the caller ID. It's Rachel.

JOSHUA
Holy shit, I don't believe it.

ERIKA
Who is it?

JOSHUA
(answering)
Hello?

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

Rachel and Ashley are also speeding along.

RACHEL
Hey, long time no talk.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Ya. (beat) How are you?

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
Oh you know, same old same old.
Trying to escape town before a
psychotic serial killer turns me
into mincemeat, how about you?

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Same actually. We just got
attacked.

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
Who's we?

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Me and the leading lady from your
Lifetime movie. Which, side note,
we need to talk about.

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
Yeah, yeah, yeah. I was wrong.
We'll deal with that later. For
now, I have a plan.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Let's hear it.

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
Well, we were talking.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Who's your we?

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
I'm with Ashley.

ASHLEY
Hi Josh!

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Hi! Rachel, you know I hate when
you put me on speaker phone.

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
Driving here, don't really have a
choice. We're going to send you a
pin, meet us there.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
OK! See you there! I miss you!

INT. RACHEL'S CAR - NIGHT

RACHEL
I miss you, too. But again, we'll
talk about that later. See you
soon.

Rachel hangs up.

INT. JOSHUA'S CAR - NIGHT

JOSHUA
Wow, didn't expect that.

ERIKA
Where are we going?

JOSHUA
To meet Rachel, here.

Joshua shows Erika his phone.

ERIKA
Well, I know exactly where that is.
(beat) Are you sure we can trust
Rachel?

JOSHUA
No, but it's better than my plan to
just drive until we reached Canada.

ERIKA
OK. Let's do this.

They speed off into the night.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRODUCTION STUDIO - NIGHT

Rachel and Ashley sit waiting in Rachel's car.

Joshua's car comes screeching into the parking lot and parks
next to Rachel.

Joshua, Erika, Rachel and Ashley exit their vehicles.

Ashley is carrying two large duffel bags.

JOSHUA
Hi.

RACHEL
Hi.

They hug.

JOSHUA
I've been waiting for that.

RACHEL
I'm sorry about what happened.

JOSHUA
I'm sorry I didn't try harder.

ASHLEY
This is so sweet, but do you think
we could save the touching reunion
moment until we're inside? These
bags are heavy.

JOSHUA
Valid.

They start making their way to the door.

ERIKA
Are you sure this is a good idea?

RACHEL
No, but it's the only one we've
got.

ERIKA
Shouldn't we call the police?

ASHLEY
That's not how this works. You have
to let the end of the movie play
out before the cops come.

RACHEL
Plus, if there is already a police
presence here, the killer won't
come for us.

They stop when they reach the door.

Rachel and Ashley pass out flashlights to everyone.

JOSHUA
Wait, that's the big plan? Lure the
killer to us?

ERIKA
I'm gonna side with Josh on this
one, sounds a little crazy.

ASHLEY
That's the whole point. At the
meeting we said the only rule of a
fan film is shock value. This
should be shocking.

RACHEL
Take control of the ending of the
movie. Something none of the main
characters ever get to do in the
Stab movies.

JOSHUA
What's in the bags?

ASHLEY
Party favors. Come on.

They enter the studio.

INT. PRODUCTION STUDIO - NIGHT

The four make their way inside the studio, flashlights
glowing in the dark.

They climb a flight of stairs which leads them to a set.

Almost an exact replica of Joshua's apartment. Same wall
colors, layout and most of the same furniture. Some art on
the wall and the curtains are different and some of the
furniture is different or missing.

Ashley turns on the lights.

JOSHUA
Holy shit. It's almost an exact
replica. How on earth...?

RACHEL
I did it all from memory.
Impressed?

JOSHUA
Impressed with a side of creeped
out.

ASHLEY
We used the blueprints of your
house to make sure it was as close
to reality as possible.

Joshua looks around the apartment set. He pulls open the
curtains to the balcony to reveal a green screen.

JOSHUA
Well, that's different. There's
usually a door there.

RACHEL
Movie magic.

ERIKA
Rachel, why is this set still
standing? Don't they usually tear
the sets down after production
ends?

RACHEL
This is the only one left that they
have to take down, but they decided
to keep it so it would be ready for
the sequel.

ERIKA
So what's the plan? What do we do?

ASHLEY
Have you ever seen home alone?

ERIKA
Who hasn't?

ASHLEY
We're going to Home Alone the
entire set. There's only two
entrances, the one we came through
and the one through what should be
Joshua's office.

She points to a door across the set.

RACHEL
If we lay out enough traps, we
should be able to stop the killer
dead in their tracks.

Ashley opens one of the duffel bags and pulls out various weapons and props.

ASHLEY
Let's get to work.

HOME ALONE SET UP MONTAGE

The four work together to booby trap the apartment set. Hanging paint cans on ropes from the rafters above the stairs they entered through.

They setup a gun, rigged to a wire, that will go off when the office door is opened.

They move furniture to ensure a clear fighting space.

Various weapons are placed around the set.

You get the idea.

INT. PRODUCTION STUDIO - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Each of the four has a different position around the house.

Ashley is hiding behind a half wall, with a rope in her hand, rigged to the paint cans above the stairs.

Erika is in the loft with a pile of bricks laid in front of her.

Rachel is in the kitchen with a collection of knives laid on the counter in front of her, and the remote control to a fog machine in her hands.

Joshua is behind the sofa with a chainsaw.

RACHEL
Everybody good?

JOSHUA
Yes.

ERIKA
I guess.

ASHLEY
Still alive, so yes.

ERIKA
Are we sure the killer is going to
know to look for us here?

ASHLEY
We kind of just assumed he would...

RACHEL
Ya, I guess we could've thought
that part through more.

Joshua's phone rings.

JOSHUA
Something tells me he knows.
(answers on speaker phone) Hello?

GHOST FACE
Hello, Joshua. Welcome to your home
away from home.

JOSHUA
How do you know where I am?

GHOST FACE
I was at your house... I followed
you.

JOSHUA
That checks out. Didn't even think
about that. So... horror movie
trivia now?

GHOST FACE
We're moving on. The more important
question is, how to kill four birds
with one stone?

JOSHUA
Why would you think there's four of
us?

GHOST FACE
You're really not as smart as
you're portrayed in the movies, are
you? I followed you. I saw all four
of you.

JOSHUA
Ohhh, right, right. So, what now?

GHOST FACE

Act three. Time for the big reveal.

The door to the office swings open and out steps...

ETHAN!

BANG! The rigged gun goes off and shoots Ethan in the chest. He goes down.

The gunshot startles everyone.

Erika starts tossing bricks down, all of them missing their target.

Ashley ducks for cover.

Rachel sets off the fog machine, then grabs one of the knives and runs toward the office door.

Joshua rips on the chainsaw and runs toward Ethan.

JOSHUA

It's Ethan!

ASHLEY

Called it! Rachel, you owe me 5 bucks!

Erika makes her way down from the loft and Ashley comes out from behind the half wall.

Joshua puts his chainsaw down and kneels next to Ethan.

RACHEL

Thank God the gunshot got him, we all got a little trigger happy.

ETHAN

It.... it's not me. I'm not the killer.

JOSHUA

What? Then why are you here?

ETHAN

I... followed... you. Wanted to know why... you didn't want to hang with me.

RACHEL

Oh no!

JOSHUA

Ethan! I'm so sorry! We didn't know!

ETHAN

I never... would have hurt... you.

Ethan's eyes roll back in his head and he goes still.

ASHLEY

If he's not the killer, than who is?

GHOST FACE

I am.

BANG! A gunshot rings through the air and Ashley goes down.

GHOST FACE emerges from the office door, gun in one hand, knife in the other.

GHOST FACE

Sorry, Ashley. Your character isn't vital the the rest of the plot. And neither is yours.

GHOST FACE turns the gun toward Erika.

Erika leaps over the kitchen island.

GHOST FACE fires.

The bullet connects with Erika and she goes down behind the island.

GHOST FACE

It's you two I need.

GHOST FACE tosses the gun aside and raises his knife in the air.

Joshua and Rachel back away from the killer, huddled together.

GHOST FACE inches closer to them.

RACHEL

Who are you?

JOSHUA

Why are you doing this?

GHOST FACE
Did I really stump the king and
queen of Stab? You haven't figured
it out yet?

Joshua eyes his chainsaw, contemplating if he can get to it
before GHOST FACE gets to him.

GHOST FACE kicks the chainsaw away.

GHOST FACE
Don't even think about it.

Rachel hides the knife she's been holding behind her back.

GHOST FACE
Any final guesses on my true
identity?

JOSHUA
Liv! The News Anchor from the Stab
reboot. (to Rachel) She didn't
respond to any of my messages and
no one has heard from her.

RACHEL
Solid.

GHOST FACE
Wrong.

RACHEL
Stephanie! (to Joshua) She claims
she moved to California... but did
she?

JOSHUA
Oooh, I like the way you think!

GHOST FACE
Wrong, again.

JOSHUA
Well, there's nobody important
left.

GHOST FACE
Fuck you!

GHOST FACE removes his mask and reveals... A RANDOM FAN.

RANDOM FAN
Surprise fuckers!

RACHEL
(to Joshua)
Who the fuck is that?

JOSHUA
No clue.

RANDOM FAN
You don't even recognize your
biggest fan? You've been responding
to comments from me for years!

JOSHUA
If you're our biggest fan, why are
you trying to kill us?

RANDOM FAN
You and your piece of shit Stab
movies, that's why! You think you
can just change storylines that
were already established in the
Scream movies. Stab 5 was supposed
to have time travel!

RACHEL
Oh yeah, well Josh wrote that
before Scream 4 came out! So we
didn't know about the whole time
travel thing.

JOSHUA
Yeah, which sucks, because SOOOO
many people complain about it to
us. Comment after comment after
comment--

RANDOM FAN
SHUT THE FUCK UP! WHAT IS WRONG
WITH YOU TWO? THIS IS MY MONOLOGUE!

JOSHUA
Sorry... carry on.

RANDOM FAN
Fan films are a gift to the Scream
community. And you got lucky, you
gained a huge following after the
release of Scream 4 because fans
wanted to see more of Stab. You
took advantage of the fans and did
(MORE)

RANDOM FAN (cont'd)
whatever you wanted with your scripts! Sarah Campbell... who the fuck is Sarah Campbell? And then, to top it all off, you made yourselves the stars! How fuckin egotistical are you?

JOSHUA
Well, in our defense, Stab 4 came out before Scream 4 and already had millions of views before Scream 4 premiered. We made these movies for the fans... you can't fault us for the fact that we gained a following for making what people wanted to see. And as far as us being the stars... our lead girls kept quitting. We had to fill the slot somehow.

RACHEL
And in my defense... Josh writes the movies, not me. I just give valuable input and moral support while he's writing!

RANDOM FAN
Well, your Stab movies end here. I'll be taking over the franchise and doing it properly. Starting with a movie about how you killed all your cast members and tried to kill me.

JOSHUA
Wait... that's not cannon either. You're gonna Mary Sue yourself into the main role? How is that any different than what I did?

RANDOM FAN
After the first movie, the proper Stab time line will be established! I have to finish off your bullshit storyline so I don't lose your fan base.

RACHEL
Yeah, OK. That's actually pretty intelligent. Except for one little minor detail.

RANDOM FAN
What's that?

Rachel lunges at Random Fan and raises her knife in the air.

She swings it down and it bends as it connects with his body.

She holds it up in the air, confused. She wiggles it back and forth and discovers its a rubber knife.

Random Fan cracks up laughing.

RACHEL
Oh shit! I grabbed one of the prop knives!

Random Fan stabs Rachel in the chest.

JOSHUA
Nooooooo!!

Rachel looks at her wound, then Random Fan, then Joshua, then hits the ground.

RANDOM FAN
All fun and games until someone gets hurt! Time to get serious.

Random Fan closes in on Joshua. Joshua tries to back away from him.

JOSHUA
I'm sorry we laughed. I'm sorry we didn't do the Stab movies justice. We just wanted to make something for the fans, to spread the love of Scream and Stab.

RANDOM FAN
Then you should have done it right! Instead of releasing these low budget, amateur, uncreative wastes of time. You could have made something huge! Something that actually made a statement! I will give you some credit, the Stab reboot had a very poignant motive for the killers. A statement on the opioid crisis in America. Wow! That's deep! A little heavy for a Stab film, but it's never been done. So props for that. But the
(MORE)

RANDOM FAN (cont'd)
 best decision you ever made was to stop making the Stab movies. It took me a while to figure out a way to get you to give up. Sending Rachel that letter from the "real" Claire Matthews was a good start, but it didn't put the final nail in your coffin. Drove a nice wedge between you and your bestie, but it wasn't enough! So I had to go a step further. It wasn't easy to convince Mark to try to kill you. He took a lot of persuading. And I had to be careful, so I didn't implicate myself. How he didn't finish the job, I'll never know. He's basically the terminator in human form.

JOSHUA
 So, Mark couldn't kill me. But you think you can? You're barely half his size.

RANDOM FAN
 What I lack in stature, I make up for in psychosis. You're not getting out of here alive.

JOSHUA
 Maybe you're right. But maybe you underestimated me, too!

Joshua tugs on the rope connected the the paint cans and they come swinging down from the rafters.

One connects with Random Fan and knocks him to the ground.

Joshua runs toward the office exit, but Random Fan recovers quickly and leaps onto Joshua.

He knocks Joshua to the ground and climbs on top of him.

Random Fan punches Joshua across the face, Joshua returns the blow, knocking Random Fan off of him.

Joshua struggles to get up, Random Fan is still on top of his legs.

He wiggles his way almost free, but Random Fan flips him over and sinks the knife into his back.

JOSHUA
Fuuuuuuuuck! That wound was just
healing!

Random Fan flips Joshua onto his back and starts choking him.

RANDOM FAN
You're not going to ruin this
movie, too! I'm the director now!

Erika appears behind Random Fan and puts him in a choke hold.

She pulls him off of Joshua, who tries to regain his breath.

Random Fan rises to his feet, still in a headlock and spins around.

RANDOM FAN
You fuckin bitch!

He stabs Erika multiple times in the gut and then kicks her backwards into a wall.

She slides down the wall into a slump.

Just in time for Ashley to come running over, armed with a crowbar.

She swings and hits Random Fan in the back.

ASHLEY
Who's the bitch now?

She goes to swing again, but Random Fan catches the crowbar and knocks the other end of it into Ashley's skull. She goes down.

JOSHUA
You missed a vital rule of fan
films. Make sure all your victims
stay dead.

Random Fan picks Joshua up and slams him into a wall.

RANDOM FAN
Just fuckin die already!

Joshua pulls Random Fan closer to him and knees him in the balls.

Joshua tries to run but Random Fan grabs his ankle and knocks him back to the floor.

Random Fan raises his knife high above Joshua and slams the blade into his chest.

He raises the knife in the air for another Stab--

Rachel appears in front of him holding the chainsaw.

RACHEL
Hey, dickhead!

Random Fan looks up just in time to see Rachel start the chainsaw and slam it into his chest.

Random Fan screams.

Blood spurts everywhere, all over Joshua, all over Rachel, as she forces the chainsaw deeper into Random Fan's chest.

BANG! A gunshot rings through the air and blows Random Fan's brains out, covering Joshua in even more blood.

Random Fan collapses on top of Joshua.

JOSHUA
Oh God, not again! It got in my mouth!

Ethan Stands, holding a smoking gun.

ETHAN
You're welcome.

Joshua pushes Random Fan's body off of him.

JOSHUA
Thanks.

Ethan raises his shirt and reveals a bullet proof vest.

ETHAN
Can't be too careful when there's a serial killer on the loose.

Ashley begins to stir.

RACHEL
Well, that was a bloody ending.
Good thing they're not gonna need this set anymore.

JOSHUA
I don't know. Maybe we can use it...

RACHEL
No! No more Stab movies!

JOSHUA
Fine.

ASHLEY
Did I miss it? Did we win?

RACHEL
We won.

Erika sits up.

ERIKA
Can somebody call 911 now? Kinda
dying over here. Multiple stab
wounds.

RACHEL
Anyone know where our phones are? I
think I left mine in the car.

Joshua pulls his phone out of his pocket and raises it in
the air.

Rachel takes it and calls 911.

RACHEL
Yes, I need to report, well, lots
of murders. We need an ambulance.

ETHAN
Oh, guys, one more thing.

Ethan raises the gun and shoots Rachel in the head.

ETHAN
There is always...

He shoots Ashley in the chest.

ETHAN
TWO...

He shoots Erika in the head.

ETHAN
FUCKING KILLERS!

He shoots Joshua in the chest.

Ethan smiles.

ETHAN

Morons.

He picks up Rachel's phone and hangs up on 911.

He makes his way toward the stairs but freezes when he reaches it.

He turns and walks back over to Joshua's body and stares at it.

He raises the gun and fires two more shots into Joshua's chest and then one into his head.

ETHAN

Just in case.

Ethan exits down the stairs and we...

CUT TO BLACK.

PODCAST SCREEN

Final Podcast.

JENNIFER

Welcome back to "Murders in Manchester." This will be our final episode as the case has just been closed. It turns out that Joshua Patrick Dudley was innocent after all. The remaining stars of the Stab films reportedly teamed up to take down the Ghost Face killer, who turned out to be... an un-named, obsessive fan! Sadly, there were no survivors. It appears as if this real life horror movie has come to a mostly happy ending. That is, of course, unless someone is planning a sequel... Until then, this is Jennifer, signing off.

THE END.