

The Gates
A StabMovies.com Short Film

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FADE IN:

EXT. OUTSIDE OF A CEMETERY - EVENING

We see a close up of WILLOW, 24, blonde, very attractive, leaning against Zoey's Car.

ZOEY, 26, vivacious, insanely curly hair, the boss, retrieves a BAG from the back, locks the car, joins Willow and begins to check her PHONE.

WILLOW
Nothing, yet?

ZOEY
(irritated)
No, not yet. I know Logan is going to be late but that doesn't explain why Holly and Jace aren't here yet.

WILLOW
I'm sure there is a good reason, Zo. Jace knows he's on thin ice and the word "late" isn't even in Holly's vocabulary.

ZOEY
That's true. (beat) I can't believe Logan is actually back.

WILLOW
I know! Our terrible trio hasn't been the same since he left.

We hear a car approaching behind Zoey and Willow.

HEADLIGHTS appear on the pavement and the approaching car parks.

LOGAN, 25, HOT but dorky, IT guy, pops out of the car and heads towards Zoey and Willow.

ZOEY
(quietly, to Willow)
Speak of the devil.

LOGAN
(hearing Zoey)
What devil would that be? Have you ladies been talking about me again?

(CONTINUED)

WILLOW
(playfully)
Who? Us? Of course we were talking
about you! You didn't think that
would change just because you moved
away, did you?

Logan hikes up his backpack on his shoulder and hugs Willow
and then Zoey while he laughs.

LOGAN
Well, Will...I'm glad nothing's
changed.

ZOEY
Well, I wouldn't say NOTHING has
changed, Logan. (beat) Hey, how was
Phoenix?

LOGAN
Ehh, Phoenix was okay I guess. Job
was fairly interesting but it
definitely wasn't enough to keep me
there. This is home to me. Plus, I
missed you both. (beat) So! I'm
assuming we're waiting for more
people. It's not just us tonight,
right?

WILLOW
No, we're waiting for two more.
(beat) And...it looks like they're
finally here.

We hear a car pull up and two car doors SLAM.

Zoey, Willow and Logan turn around and take notice of Jace
and Holly who are approaching at a nervous and hurried pace.

HOLLY
(frantically)
I am SO sorry! I couldn't get my
car to start, so Jace had to come
and pick me up. Don't blame him,
it's my fault we're late. I promise
we're ready to go, though!

WILLOW
Not a problem, Holly. I'd like you
to both meet Logan Mercer. He's a
long-time friend of Zo and I's. He
was our techie for years before he
moved. He just moved back into the
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WILLOW (cont'd)
area so we figured we'd have him
come along tonight.

Holly waves at Logan and blushes.

Jace tries to engage Logan in a ridiculous homeboy
handshake.

Logan looks at him as if he has two heads and eventually
drops his hand awkwardly and says...

JACE
Hi.

ZOEY
(glaring at Jace)
Okay then. (beat) Holly, brief us
on the location history, please.

HOLLY
Right! Of course! Iron Gates
Cemetery is thought to be founded
around the mid 1800's. Though the
cemetery contains many unmarked
graves, most of the few marked
graves you'll see are for a local
family named the Gilsons. There is
a ton of controversy surrounding
it's history. Some say the Iron
Gates Cemetery is the site of
several gruesome Native American
Battles. I was able to find proof
that these battles **DID** happen in
Nashua, NH. Nothing confirms that
they were fought *specifically*
HERE, though. Other people say the
cemetery is haunted by the ghost of
Joseph Gilson, who became mad with
grief after he and his wife,
Elizabeth, had several stillborn
children. I was able to confirm
that his children did indeed die as
infants. I also confirmed that he,
his wife and their children are
buried within those stone walls.
People have reported everything
from cases of electronic voice
phenomena, rapid changes in
temperature, apparitions,
disturbances in electro-magnetic
fields, and being pushed and
scratched. Most of the violent
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOLLY (cont'd)
activity is said to happen in the
South West sector of the cemetery,
which locals have dubbed "cold
corner."

Everyone, but Zoey, reacts to the news throughout her
briefing. Willow and Logan seem both excited and confident.

Jace rolls his eyes and has a general passive expression. He
thinks all of this seems fake.

ZOEY
Great report, Holly! Okay everyone!
Grab a flashlight and a piece of
equipment. We'll enter at the
cemetery gates and work right to
left. Those brave enough to
investigate "cold corner" will do
so last. If anyone picks up unusual
activity, let us know and we'll
come to verify it. If at any time
you become too frightened to
continue, let us know and someone
will accompany you out of the
cemetery. Remember, when you have
to speak, do it at a normal level.
It's difficult to differentiate a
whisper from an EVP on our
recorder.

Everyone murmurs their acknowledgments and they move toward
the cemetery. Willow and Zoey take the lead.

WILLOW
Everyone, be careful! The ground
isn't level in here.

Holly trips and falls.

Logan catches her, making them eye level with one another.

Holly blushes instantly and Logan smirks; intrigued.

LOGAN
(tenderly)
Whoops, careful! Are you okay?

JACE
(snickering)
Way to go, Lady Grace!

(CONTINUED)

HOLLY
(embarrassed)
Yeah, I'm fine. Sorry.

Jace passes everyone still shaking his head and snickering.

The group continues toward the baby Gilson graves.

Logan allows Holly in front of him so he can watch out for her.

Jace calls out from ahead...

JACE
Hey! I found the graves you were
talking about! (counting) Baby
Gilson... Baby Gilson... Baby
Gilson.

WILLOW
That's so creepy.

ZOEY
In that time period, if a baby was
stillborn, it wasn't named.

HOLLY
I think that's so sad. Poor
Elizabeth must have been so heart
broken.

JACE
Yeah, whatever. (beat) So anyways,
"the brain" said that dude Joseph
went all batshit crazy and is
haunting this place, right?

ZOEY
Jace her name is Holly, not "the
brain". Next time, can you try and
phrase your statements just a
LITTLE more appropriately? We are
recording... remember?

JACE
Fine, Boss Lady. My point is, if
he's a mentally unstable spirit,
wouldn't he have made his presence
known by now? I mean, we're
practically dancing on these
graves!

Jace begins to do a jig where he stands while laughing.

(CONTINUED)

Zoey begins to protest as we hear a loud rustle of leaves.

ZOEY

Jace, stop...

Everyone turns to that area as they just barely catch a glimpse of branches moving, as if something moved them.

HOLLY

(scared)

What was that?!?

ZOEY

(excitedly)

Did you get that on tape, Will?

WILLOW

(discouraged)

Damn it! No, I heard it but I didn't turn around fast enough.

JACE

Please! It was probably just a deer. We're in the middle of the woods, it's not rocket science.

LOGAN

Well Braveheart, if it's just a deer, why don't you take the camera over that wall with you and see for sure?

JACE

What a great idea. I'll prove to you that it was just a Bambi and not some crazy ghost back for revenge.

ZOEY

You haven't finished your training yet. You can't go alone.

WILLOW

(to Jace)

She's right. (to Zoey) I'll go with him, Zo.

JACE

Okay. But, let's get a move on it. We don't want to miss the TERRIFYING baby deer that lies behind the rock wall!

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN
(to Jace)
If you piss off the spirit of a colonial mad man, I'm gonna let him have you. (to Willow) Will, if you need us, just scream and I'll come and get you.

WILLOW
Thanks, but I'm sure we'll be just fine.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE CEMETARY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Zoey, Logan and Holly are continuing to work the area.

The flash of a digital CAMERA lights up the area and we see the FIGURE of someone in the corner of the screen, that the three do not notice.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEHIND THE STONE WALL - NIGHT

JACE is holding a RECORDER and WILLOW is holding a CAMERA.
He's kicking at leaves with her trailing behind him.

JACE
(calling out)
BAMBI, WHERE ARE YOU?!? (Laughing at himself) Have no fear! We come in peace!

WILLOW
You know, if you spent as much time being focused and mature as you did being a major pain in the ass, you'd be done training by now. You'd be an official member of the team already.

JACE
(smirking)
Now, why would I want to do a thing like that?

Willow pushes past Jace who is still laughing.
He frowns and shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

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8.

They continue their search but they still leave a few feet between them.

The shot moves to focus on Willow.

She begins to hear odd WHISPERING.

WILLOW
Jace, is that you?

She turns around to reveal Jace is no longer behind her.

WILLOW
(annoyed)
Jace, where did you go now? If Zoey finds out you wandered off again, she is going to be **UBER** pissed.

The WHISPERS start up again and Willow turns frantically to try and follow the direction they're coming from.

WILLOW
(scared)
JACE, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!.....Jace?

The shot rushes towards Willow as if something is barreling towards her. We then

CUT TO:

EXT. INSIDE THE GRAVEYARD AGAIN - NIGHT

Zoey, Logan and Holly have moved onto a grave with a hole cut straight through it.

We see Jace walking toward their right.

HOLLY
Hey, Jace. Did you and Willow find anything?

ZOEY
Wait, where is Will?

JACE
I don't know. She was too slow; she couldn't keep up. So, I moved on without her.

LOGAN
(angry)
You left her in the woods by herself? Tell me, are you mentally
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN (cont'd)
challenged or are you really just
that much of an asshole?

JACE
Relax, bro. She's a big girl, she
can take care of herself.

We hear a terrified SCREAM coming from the woods. It's
Willow.

Logan, Zoey and Jace dart concerned looks at each other.
EVERYONE'S SCARED.

Holly starts having a visible meltdown.

HOLLY
(hysterically)
Oh My God! I can't do this! I have
to get out of here! Please don't
make me stay here! I want to go
now!

LOGAN
Fine. Jace, think you can handle
taking Holly to the car and this
time staying with her? Go to the
car, lock yourselves in and don't
move until we come and get you.

JACE
(apologetically)
Logan, man, I'm so sorry. I
shouldn't have left Willow. I'm so
sorry.

LOGAN
There's no time, Jace. Zoey and I
will go get Willow. Just take Holly
and go!

We see Jace gently escort Holly out of the shot, moving in
the direction of the cemetery gates.

Logan and Zoey run toward "cold corner" shouting out for
Willow.

They reach the corner wall and Logan turns abruptly to face
Zoey.

LOGAN
Zo, I know you're not going to like
this but, I need you to stay here.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN (cont'd)
If something happens to me while
I'm in there, I'll yell to you. If
you hear me, I need you to go to
Jace and Holly, get in the car, and
get the hell out of here.

ZOEY
No way! I'll stay out here if you
need me to but if you're not back
soon, I'm coming in after you. I am
NOT leaving without you.

Logan grunts in frustration, turns reluctantly and darts
into the woods shouting for Willow.

LOGAN
WILLOW!! WILL!! WILLOOOOOOW?

CUT TO:

INT. JACE'S CAR - NIGHT

Holly and Jace are in the car.

JDuds/Fizzy Bubble is pumping through the speakers and Jace
is bouncing to the music.

Holly looks irritated and still frightened.

HOLLY
Can you turn that off? We're not
going to be able to hear them with
you blasting that noise.

JACE
(sighing)
Whatever, Sister Christian. And
I'll have you know, it's not
"noise," it's a classic. (Under his
breath) Great, I'm stuck with
someone who has never heard the
song "Yummies."

A figure is moving towards the car in the street.

HOLLY
Is that Willow?

As it moves closer we see that it is Willow...

Something is off but they can't quite place it.

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Jace rolls down the window as Willow approaches the driver's side.

JACE
Hey, Willow, are you okay?

WILLOW
(eerily, and very disjointed)
No! No! No! They need help, please
help them!

JACE
(taken aback)
Yeah, no problem, Willow. We'll
come help.

Jace looks puzzled and Holly is clearly uneasy but, they both get out of the car.

Willow did not wait for them to follow her and is already vanishing into the cemetery.

JACE
Hey! Wait up, Will!

CUT TO:

EXT. IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Logan is looking for Willow.

He begins to hear children giggling.

He shouts out...

LOGAN
(angered)
Whoever you are, you're **not** funny!
Where is Will?!

The giggles turn into frantic whispers.

LOGAN
(now distressed)
What is that?! What do you want?!

It appears as if Logan is pushed...hard. But, no one is there.

He falls to the ground quickly and hits his head on a rock.

Blood begins to seep from his head. He's a goner.

(CONTINUED)

86 Logan Mercer.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER SPOT IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

Jace and Holly finally catch up to Willow, her back is towards them.

HOLLY
Willow, why didn't you wait for us?

WILLOW
(whispering manically)
They need help. Please help them.
They need our help. Please do something.

JACE
Who needs help, Willow? Zoey and Logan? Show us where they are so we can help them!

Willow turns around abruptly.

She cocks her head to the side and stares at Jace so intently it's absolutely terrifying.

Jace drops suddenly to his knees and begins gasping for air and clawing at his throat as if someone is choking him.

Holly stares in shock.

Before she can move Jace stops struggling, goes limp and falls flat on the ground. 86 Jace Dawson.

Holly scrambles to meet Jace on the floor and begins to listen for breathing, or a heartbeat.

Willow turns and dashes away leaving Holly behind.

HOLLY
No, no, no, no. Don't die on me,
Jace. Please stay with me.

We see a figure come up behind Holly.

She feels it's presence and tries to scramble out of the way.

She doesn't make it far before she's flipped over by an invisible force and begins choking.

(CONTINUED)

She tries to scurry backwards but the choking gets worse and she begins to cough.

Alarmed, she puts her hand to her mouth and pulls them back to reveal blood all over her fingers.

She continues to choke and cough, wide-eyed, until her body goes still.

She lays there, eyes open, face stuck in fear, covered in blood. Say goodbye to Holly Larson.

CUT TO:

EXT. COLD CORNER - NIGHT

Zoey's standing alone and fidgeting nervously. It's been a while and she's worried about Logan and Willow. She's deciding whether or not to go in.

All of a sudden she hears Willow's terrifying scream once more.

She runs towards the opening but, before she gets behind the wall...

Willow appears.

She is walking strangely, with tears in her eyes.

ZOEY
OH MY GOD, Will. Are you okay?

Willow stops and looks at her still very sad, with tears in her eyes but she does not answer.

Zoey crosses to close the gap between them.

She hugs her and begins to shake her.

ZOEY
(frantically)
I was so worried! Why were you screaming? Where is Logan? What happened, Will? TALK TO ME!

Willow blinks back tears and begins shaking her head back and forth like she is shaking off a nightmare.

WILLOW
(crazily)
They're all dead! I couldn't do anything to help them!

(CONTINUED)

ZOEY

Who, Will? Who couldn't you help?
Who is dead?

WILLOW

(still crazily)

All three of them! I couldn't save
them! I tried, but I couldn't.
They're all dead!

Zoey's hands cover her face and she chokes out a cry.

She steadies herself and tries to wipe the tears from her eyes.

ZOEY

Okay. Will, we have to get out of
here. Come on, come with me. The
police station is down the road,
We'll go there and get help.

Willow nods slowly and Zoey grabs her hand.

They walk out of the cemetery and Zoey helps a catatonic Willow into the car.

She walks around the other side, gets in, and drives off.

CUT TO:

INT. ZOEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Zoey is nervously tapping the steering wheel when Willow begins her frantic whisperING again.

WILLOW

Why didn't you help them? I
couldn't save them. **WE** should have
saved them. **You** should have done
something. They're all dead. My
poor babies.

Zoey thought she was talking about Logan, Jace, and holly but as Willow's last line is whispered she becomes confused and STOPS THE CAR.

ZOEY

(carefully)

Will, what do you mean "your poor
babies"?

No answer, Willow just keeps whispering, this time inaudibly.

(CONTINUED)

ZOEY
WILLOW, STOP IT! YOU'RE SCARING ME!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Willow stops whispering and turns slowly and eerily to face Zoey.

She stares intently at Zoey. She looks angry and possessed.

Zoey is obviously becoming more scared but does not turn to look.

She keeps her hands on the steering wheel.

WILLOW
STOP CALLING ME THAT. MY NAME IS
NOT WILLOW!

ZOEY
(nervously)
I've known you my whole life,
Willow Fray. What do you mean
you're name isn't Willow?

She FINALLY turns to see the terrifying look on Willow's face.

ZOEY
(bewildered)
Willow?

WILLOW
MY NAME IS NOT WILLOW!! I AM
ELIZABETH GILSON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Zoey gasps loudly and tries to reach for the car door handle to free herself.

She almost gets to it but looks back, second guessing herself, just in time to see Willow/Elizabeth Gilson LUNGE at her.

Zoey SCREAMS! Her scream is immediately cut off and all is silent.

Willow slips gracefully out of the car and walks away calmly.

She leaves the shot and only the car is left, still on, with its passenger door open.

We close in through the driver's side window, a view of Zoey's lifeless body slumped over, Willow walking away in the background.

(CONTINUED)

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Then we...

The End.

FADE TO BLACK.