"CHILDREN OF SALEM"

"The Witching Hour"

Written by

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EXT. DILAPIDATED COTTAGE - NIGHT

A broken down cottage overgrown by nature shrouded in fog. Waves crash against a rocky shore beneath an old LIGHTHOUSE. -- A HOODED FIGURE walks through the fog to the cottage --
The hooded figure consults a WORN, YELLOWING MAP of the old property and looks around. The figure moves to the coastline. A BLACK CAT with mismatched eyes follows behind the figure.
The hooded figure approaches the bluffs just as large waves crash high overhead, water splashing down over the cliffs. The figure treads carefully through thick brush. It pulls the brush away, revealing a WORN HEADSTONE hidden beneath it.

TOMMY (O.S.)
Jocelyn!

TOMMY, 16, nerdy, emerges from the darkness and fog shining a FLASHLIGHT around the grown-over property and shabby cottage.

TOMMY (CONT’D)
Jocelyn!

Nothing. He seems defeated. Upset. He lowers the flashlight. A MEOWING NOISE comes from the shadows nearby -- Tommy stops. He turns... a familiar black cat emerges from the darkness.

TOMMY (CONT’D)
Hey, little cutie. Cool eyes.

He bends down to pet the cat, which nuzzles up to Tommy and begins PURRING -- Tommy smiles and continues to pet the cat.

TOMMY (CONT’D)
Where did you come from, huh? Do you have an owner or live nearby?

Tommy checks the cat’s neck... a CHARM on the collar simply says, “KIKI” -- but has no accompanying contact information.

TOMMY (CONT’D)
Kiki? Nice to meet you, Kiki...
-- CLANGING AND HUSHED VOICES FROM AROUND THE CORNER --

Tommy looks confused and stands back up.

He rounds a corner... sees a GROUP OF TEENS wearing SCARY JACK O’ LANTERN MASKS and HOODS SPRAY-PAINTING the cottage.

Tommy freezes. They turn and see him. He backs away slowly.

The GANG LEADER tilts his head, a gruesome smile on his mask.

GANG LEADER
(using voice changer)
What do we have here?

Tommy takes another step back.

TOMMY
I... don’t care about the building.

GANG LEADER
Funny. Neither do we. Obviously.

Tommy nods, turns, and takes off running as fast as he can!

GANG LEADER (CONT’D)
Get him!

The gang runs after Tommy who runs into the foggy woods.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The masked gang is right on Tommy’s tail.

The leader GRABS Tommy -- the gang surrounds both of them.

The gang leader pulls Tommy close to his masked face.

GANG LEADER
Come on, why are you running?

TOMMY
Let go of me!

Tommy PUSHES the gang leader over -- one of the other gang members HITS HIM in the back of the head and he falls back!

The gang leader pulls himself up and produces a SWITCH BLADE, two other members GRABBING Tommy and holding him in place.

GANG LEADER
So, you think you’re tough, huh?
-- an ALIEN HOWL from deeper off in the woods --

The gang members look up and seem somewhat shaken by this.

    MASKED ASSAILANT #1
    Wh... what was that?

-- another ALIEN HOWL, only from much, much closer --

ONE OF THE GANG MEMBERS SCREAMS -- VANISHES INTO THE WOODS!

Everyone turns... he’s nowhere to be seen.

    MASKED ASSAILANT #2
    Oh shit...

    MASKED ASSAILANT #3
    (calling out)
    Hunter! Hunter!

    GANG LEADER
    Don’t use his real name, moron!

No response comes but for the wind.

    MASKED ASSAILANT #2 (O.S.)
    Oh my god! Who are you?

Everyone turns to see the masked teen staring at the HOODED FIGURE standing in the distant shadows -- still as a statue.

The gang leader pulls Tommy tighter -- he SCREAMS, annoyed.

    GANG LEADER
    What do you want?

    HOODED FIGURE
    Release him.

The figure speaks in an IMPOSSIBLY LOUD, OLDER FEMALE VOICE.

    GANG LEADER
    What the hell are you?

The hooded figure raises its hand -- the masked teen closest to it SNAPS BACK INTO THE AIR, SCREAMING as he rises further and further, vanishing into the darkness of the tree-tops!

    GANG LEADER (CONT’D)
    Oh my God! You’re a... a...

    MASKED ASSAILANT #2
    Run!
The gang leader throws Tommy harshly to the ground and takes off running deeper into the woods with the rest of the gang!

The hooded figure, lurking in the treetops above now, watches the gang running for the parking lot, back into the darkness.

The moonlight catches the masked face beneath the hood, only its eyes exposed. It turns its attention back to Tommy below.

On the ground, Tommy pulls himself up and looks around.

He sees an athame -- a ceremonial blade with a black handle glinting in the moonlight. Confused, Tommy moves over to it.

He picks it up and inspects it, strange writing all over it.

The hooded figure’s eyes go wide. It reaches to a utility belt beneath its cloak to grab something -- but it seems to be missing whatever it is it was reaching for: the athame.

The figure goes to leap -- police lights flash from nearby!

Both Tommy and the hooded figure look at the lights, scared.

HOODED FIGURE
    (in human female voice)
    Oh, man...

The hooded figure looks back down at Tommy.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (O.S.)
    Come on. Let’s check the woods!

Looking scared, Tommy quickly pockets the athame and takes off running into the thick fog away from the police lights.

The hooded figure watches on.

HOODED FIGURE
    Shit...

The figure leaps to a nearby branch and follows after him.

END OF TEASER