

"AUGGIE"

written by

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. NOHO PARK - NIGHT

1

A YOUNG WOMAN (20s) walks through the park at night. She looks behind her and sees a DARK FIGURE watching her.

She blinks. The Dark Figure is closer.

She turns and runs. She trips and falls. She turns around.

NEIGHBOR 1 (O.S.)

YOU BITCH!

REVEAL: This is a "horror tok" video. It pauses on the woman's horrified face.

A TEXT MESSAGE CHIMES with an incoming photo. A thumb opens the message. It's a photo of an adorable baby (HARLOW).

2 INT. NOHO DUPLEX - BEDROOM - NIGHT

2

Neighbors scream through the wall of JOEY and MARA's one-bedroom Noho apartment.

NEIGHBOR 2 (O.S.)

I didn't change the password.

Joey (they/them, nonbinary, impulsive but in a cute way) is the person scrolling on their phone.

Mara (she/her, woman of trans experience, anxious bookworm) highlights lines on a novel manuscript.

MARA

Joey, can you go tell them to be quiet? I need to focus.

Joey POUNDS the wall.

JOEY

Shut up. I was the one who changed your password.

The yelling stops. Mara SIGHS. That wasn't what she meant.

MARA

Thank you.

Joey shoves their phone in Mara's face.

JOEY MARA (CONT'D)
Look at how big baby Harlow is getting. She's so cute. I know. She's cute. but I need to work.--

JOEY (CONT'D)
Let's have a baby.

Mara sets her manuscript down.

MARA
You can't be serious. We couldn't even keep our goldfish alive.

JOEY
Hey, low blow. You know I still miss Mr. Bubbles.

MARA
Imagine Mr. Bubbles was a baby. Now imagine flushing that dead baby down a toilet.

JOEY
It is cheaper than a funeral plot.

MARA
See what I mean? You're not taking this seriously. Neither of us has time for a baby. You're so close to finishing your EP. You need to focus on that.

JOEY
I'm just so nog-blocked-- that's noggin blocked.

MARA
Yeah, I got it.

JOEY
This child could be my muse.

MARA
What about me? Harvey is finally considering publishing me.

JOEY
Mars, you've been saying that for the last 6 months.

MARA
Yeah, well you've been working at a grocery store for years. How do you expect to pay for a kid?

JOEY

Are you saying I'd be a bad parent?

MARA

I don't have time for this.

Mara carries her things out. Joey GRUNTS. They pull out their phone and start scrolling on petfinder.

3

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

3

Mara works at a dining table that doubles as her desk. Her workspace is tidy to match her detailed nature. She talks to her boss HARVEY (he/him, grey-haired, straight cis white guy, an "ally") on a Zoom call.

HARVEY

Mara, do you have that coverage for "The House of Many Closets"?

Mara holds up her annotated manuscript.

MARA

It's so good. It might be Jasper Nite's best work yet.

HARVEY

Give me the lowdown.

MARA

Imagine this: It's 4th of July weekend, 2005. A youth group full of closeted gay teens is staying in a lake house with a closet in every room, even the closets themselves. They have "Hollaback Girl" on loop. It's bananas. B-A-N-A-N-A-S. These teens are having the time of their lives... until one of them goes looking for a swimsuit in one of the closets, but never comes out. It forces the youth group to go inside and outside of the closet, metaphorically and literally.

HARVEY

So it's woke?

MARA

You could say that, yes.

HARVEY

See, this is why I love having you here. I want to be an ally.

MARA

And you're doing great.

(awkward laugh)

Speaking of allyship, have you had a chance to read my pages--

Joey swings the front door open.

JOEY

(little trumpet noise)

I have an announcement!

MARA

(to Harvey on Zoom)

Uh sorry, my partner just got home.

HARVEY

I gotta run anyway. Don't forget about our nonnegotiable pow-wow before the Jasper Nite meeting tomorrow.

MARA

Oh, okay. Have a nice night.

Mara logs off Zoom.

MARA (CONT'D)

What is so important?

JOEY

Drumroll please...

Mara SIGHS. She does a drumroll begrudgingly.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Meet Auggie!

Joey sends in AUGGIE (a small, scruffy, boy dog). Auggie wags his tail a million miles a second.

MARA

You didn't.

JOEY

Well, you said I'd be a terrible parent--

MARA
I didn't say that--

JOEY (CONT'D)
So I thought I'd try
parenting a dog first.

MARA (CONT'D)
Joey, you didn't--

JOEY
And I knew you'd say "Joey, you
didn't think this through." So I
did. I scrolled on Petfinder all
night, I picked up poop bags before
work, and I even set aside some
money for Auggie's allowance.

Joey pulls out a plush dog toy that looks like a dollar bill.

JOEY (CONT'D)
Here ya go, Auggie. Don't spend it
all at once.

Auggie CHOMPS the toy.

JOEY (CONT'D)
Hey, I said not all at once.

Joey wrestles Auggie for it. Mara can't help but smile.

MARA
Okay, as long as you'll help.

Auggie runs away with the toy.

JOEY
We gotta get our son in some
financial classes.

Mara and Joey chase him.

4

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

4

Joey and Mara lie in bed again. Mara tries to sleep, but Joey
is still scrolling on their phone.

Auggie nibbles the blanket between them. He nips Mara's leg.

MARA
Ow, he bit me.

JOEY
Auggie didn't mean it. He's just
nibbling. All the fur parent forums
say it helps with anxiety.

MARA

You have to put him in the living room. I need to sleep.

Joey picks up Auggie.

JOEY

Sorry, bud. Mom has a very important meeting tomorrow with her favorite author...

(whisper)

...But if you get scared, you can sneak back into our bed.

Joey comes back, closes the door, then crawls into bed.

5

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

5

Mara opens her eyes to a dark room. Joey is asleep next to her. Auggie is nowhere to be found.

Mara's eyes dart around the room. She tries to move, but she can't. She is experiencing SLEEP PARALYSIS.

CREAAAAAAAAAK. The bedroom door inches open.

Little doggy feet PITTER PATTERN, PITTER PATTERN into the room.

The PITTER PATTERNING stops at the foot of the bed.

Silence. THEN --

A CANINE-LIKE MONSTER with BLACK HOLES FOR EYES jumps at Mara with a CARNIVOROUS SNARL.

END SLEEP PARALYSIS.

Mara jolts awake. The bedroom door is closed.

Joey SNORES next to Mara. Auggie is snuggled up with Joey. Mara glares at them.

6

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

6

Joey is dressed for work. They make Auggie breakfast.

JOEY

(singing)

GOOD MORNING AUGGIE,
YOU MAKE ME HAPPY.
LIKE A GOOD NAPPY,
YOU'RE THE BEST.

(MORE)

JOEY (CONT'D)
LITTLE AUGGIE,
BEST LITTLE DOGGY...
(to Auggie)
What rhymes with doggy?

Auggie wags his tail.

JOEY (CONT'D)
You're not a froggy, silly.
Joey sets Auggie's food down. Mara enters wearing a blazer.

JOEY (CONT'D)
(fire siren sounds)
Wee-whoo, wee-whoo. Someone call
the fire department. It's getting
smokin' hot in here.

MARA
(smiling)
Thank you. Oh good, you fed him.
(to Auggie)
Are your pronouns he/him? I don't
want to misgender you.

JOEY
They are. I asked him. Auggie did
say he wants to bring some
masculine energy into this house. I
don't agree with that one, but you
can't win 'em all.

Mara GIGGLES. Joey hands her a cup of coffee. Joey's phone
ALARM goes off.

JOEY (CONT'D)
Shit, I gotta go. Can you take
Auggie out?

MARA
(getting anxious)
I can't. I have the Jasper Nite
call, and Harvey wants to do one of
his pre-meeting meetings--

JOEY
That's fine. You can just take him
after. Love you.

Joey kisses Mara's cheek then steals Mara's cup of coffee on
their way out. Mara starts to make another cup.

Auggie WHINES by the door. Mara looks over. Auggie lifts his
leg. Before he can pee, Mara scoops him up--

MARA

No, no, don't you fucking dare--

7 EXT. DUPLEX - MORNING

7

Mara runs Auggie outside. She plops Auggie on some grass.

MARA

Come on, come on, go potty.

Auggie sits. He stares at Mara.

MARA (CONT'D)

Potty. Pee. Business. Do it.

He tilts his head.

MARA (CONT'D)

I can't deal with you right now.

Mara grabs Auggie and runs inside.

8 INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

8

Mara rushes in, drops Auggie on the floor, and races to her laptop. When Mara opens Zoom, Harvey is waiting for her.

MARA

I'm really sorry that I missed the
pow-wow--

HARVEY

Where were you?

MARA

It was an emergency. My partner
brought home a dog--

A zoom window shows "jasper.nite" connecting to audio.

HARVEY

You can explain yourself later.
Just back me up with Nite.

JASPER NITE (they/them, nonbinary, full of queer pride)
appears on-screen.

JASPER

Oh, am I late?

Harvey is suddenly very charismatic.

HARVEY

Not at all! My assistant and I were just talking about how excited we are to meet the Jasper Nite.

JASPER

That's so nice. What's your name?

HARVEY

(a bit annoyed)

Harvey? Of Harvey Carter Publishing.

JASPER

(laughing it off)

Oh, I know. I mean your assistant.

MARA

Me? I'm Mara.

JASPER

I'm glad you're here, Mara.

Jasper and Mara share an understanding smile.

MARA

I'm a huge fan--

HARVEY

We're all fans of your work. Especially "The House of Many Closets." It's so relatable.

JASPER

Wow, really? I was worried it might be a little... niche for you. If you don't mind me asking, what was your favorite part?

HARVEY

The-- uh, closet.

JASPER

Which closet?

HARVEY

Oh, it's tough to pick. Mara, which one was I talking about earlier?

Mara's laptop screen goes BLACK. She frantically hits her keyboard. Nothing happens.

MARA

No, no, this can't be happening.

Mara checks her charger. It's plugged in. She follows the cord down to her power strip... it's covered in pee.

Mara turns to find Auggie hiding in his dog bed. Auggie guilts Mara with his big, black, puppy dog eyes. He thumps his tail as though he's apologizing.

9

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

9

Mara types on a new laptop at the table. Auggie YIPS at her. Mara is at the end of her rope.

MARA

Oh my god. Shut up.

Joey bursts in with groceries. They drop the bags on the same table where Mara works. Mara gives Joey an annoyed look, but Joey doesn't seem to notice.

JOEY

The chef is in the kitchen!

Joey kisses Auggie then Mara (in that order).

JOEY (CONT'D)

Awwwww, did you buy Auggie his own laptop? We'll have to set a cap on screen time.

MARA

No. He's an emotional terrorist.

JOEY

(baby voice to Auggie)

Did you get flagged at TSA?

MARA

He ruined my Jasper Nite meeting.
He peed on my power strip. My laptop short-circuited.

JOEY

Shit, what'd you tell Harvey?

MARA

I had to lie. I told him I got my period.

JOEY

He didn't even question--

MARA

No, he was too scared to say anything.

Joey LAUGHS so hard they cry.

JOEY

I can't breathe.

MARA

It's not funny.

Joey can't catch their breath.

MARA (CONT'D)

It's not!

Mara can't help but LAUGH too. Auggie YIPS with excitement.

10

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

10

Mara, Auggie, and Joey sleep in bed together. Auggie is wedged between Mara and Joey. Their bedroom door is closed.

Mara's eyes open in the dark. She is PARALYZED again.

The door FLINGS open.

Large, THUDDING footsteps approach the bed.

A MONSTROUS CANINE SHADOW looms along the wall.

Its footsteps slow. THUD. THUD. THUD. They stop at the foot of the bed.

A HARSH GROWL pierces the room.

An arm reaches out of the shadows onto the bed. Then another. The canine monster with black eye sockets slowly rises up.

It crawls on top of Mara's chest. Its weight pushes out all the air from Mara's lungs. She WHEEZES.

The monster leans in. Its black eye sockets GLOW YELLOW.

The monster licks Mara's neck before sinking its teeth into her throat. Mara tries to cry, but blood is the only thing that comes out.

11 INT. LIVING ROOM - 7 WEEKS LATER

11

Mara works at the table. Her once tidy workspace is cluttered with empty coffee cups, half-written notes, and dirty plates. Mara's physical appearance has deteriorated. Her hair is messy. Her eyes are red from lack of sleep.

She stares blankly at Harvey on Zoom.

HARVEY

Mara, did you hear me?

Mara shakes herself back to reality.

MARA

I'm sorry, could you repeat that?

HARVEY

You're missing meetings. You're forgetting coverage. I can't keep having this conversation.

Auggie BARKS at the front door. Mara tries to ignore him.

MARA

I'll step it up. I promise.

Mara sniffs the air. She looks over. There's dog poop at the door. Auggie trots away from it.

When Mara looks back at Zoom, the shadowy canine monster from her night terrors stands behind Harvey. It stares at Mara with its yellow eyes. This time it's A LITTLE MORE HUMAN.

The monster bites into Harvey's neck. He doesn't react.

HARVEY

I want to believe you, but--

Mara SCREAMS.

HARVEY (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ, what did I say?

Mara blinks. Harvey is completely fine.

MARA

You just-- you had something-- are you okay?

HARVEY

(sigh)

I'm sorry, Mara.

(MORE)

HARVEY (CONT'D)

This isn't working out. I have to let you go. Please, take care of yourself.

Harvey logs off. Mara stares at herself on zoom. In the background of her zoom window, Auggie pulls books off Mara's bookshelf. He RIPS them to shreds. Mara turns.

MARA

You're a fucking demon!

Mara tears a book away from Auggie. She holds it above him, but stops herself. Auggie skitters away with his tail between his legs.

Mara looks at the book she's holding. It's a Jasper Nite novel, and Auggie has ripped it to shreds. She tries to read the torn pages on the couch.

12

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

12

Mara hasn't moved. She's still reading the torn book. Auggie SNORES nearby. His poop festers at the door.

Joey walks in, stepping directly into the poop.

JOEY

What the hell? This better be Auggie's shit.

MARA

Not everything is a joke all the time. Harvey fired me because you still haven't potty-trained that thing.

JOEY

I'll clean it up. Just calm down. Did you seriously get fired?

Joey scoops the poop and carries it out of the room.

13

INT. BEDROOM/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

13

Joey crosses through their bedroom to the bathroom. Mara follows, with Auggie not far behind.

MARA

Yeah, Joey. I seriously did. You don't know what it's like to be home with your project all day.

Joey FLUSHES the poop down the toilet.

JOEY

What's that supposed to mean?

MARA

Auggie is just another excuse
you're using to procrastinate from
finishing your EP, and now you're
dragging me down with you.

Mara walks away.

14

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

14

Joey and Auggie follow Mara back into the living room.

JOEY

Why are you always blaming me for
everything? This isn't my fault.

MARA

You got this dog, and now I'm
losing everything.

As the fight escalates, Auggie BARKS more and more.

JOEY

You're not. You have me. You have
Auggie. Work isn't everything.

MARA

That dog ruined my dream. I may
never get another publisher to even
think about reading my pages again.
You have to get rid of it.

JOEY

I'm not taking Auggie back. He was
going to be euthanized.

MARA

I don't care.

JOEY

How can you say that? He's our
family.

MARA

It's either me or the dog.

Auggie HOWLS.

MARA (CONT'D)
Shut him up!

Joey picks up Auggie, carries him into the bedroom, and SLAMS the bedroom door shut.

15 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

15

The bedroom door is closed. The living room curtains are open despite how dark it is outside. Mara can be seen typing on her laptop through the window.

Mara sits on the couch where she is lit only by a dim lamp. She is drinking so much coffee that her hands shake while she types "Prologue". That's all she's got.

The bedroom door SQUEAKS open. Mara looks up.

Yellow eyes stare from the doorway. The canine monster from her night terrors emerges. This time it seems HALF-CANINE, HALF-HUMAN.

As the monster gets closer, the light from the lamp reveals it's carrying Auggie's limp body.

Auggie WHIMPERS softly.

MARA
Joey?

The monster bites into Auggie. Mara GASPS.

It CHEWS Auggie's flesh.

The monster steps fully into the light of Mara's lamp. Its illuminated face looks like Mara.

MONSTER MARA smiles as it takes another bite into Auggie.

Mara blinks then suddenly--

She GASPS for air. She fell asleep on the couch.

Mara looks around. There is no monster. The bedroom door is closed just like Joey left it.

16 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

16

Mara tip-toes in the bedroom to find Joey and Auggie cuddling in bed. They are both SNORING.

Mara smiles. She climbs into bed. Mara spoons Joey until she falls asleep too.

17 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

17

Mara is freshly showered, dressed in workout gear, and bouncing around the kitchen. She HUMS while she prepares homemade acai bowls.

Joey wanders in with Auggie. Mara hands them a bowl.

MARA

Good morning. I made you a super apology bowl.

JOEY

Guilt berries. My favorite.
(noticing Mara's outfit)
Are you going somewhere?

MARA

I'm taking Auggie for a hike.

JOEY

Really? I'll come with you.

MARA

No, stay home and rest. Today's your only day off. Maybe you can take a good nap?

JOEY

Napping is my love language.

MARA

I know. I'm really sorry about last night. I'm going to make an effort to fix this. I love our family.

Mara kisses Joey. Joey lifts up Auggie.

JOEY

(speaking as Auggie)
We love you too, Mommy.

Mara smiles.

18 EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

18

Mara and Auggie trek along a well-trodden hiking trail. Happy Birds CHIRP in nearby trees. Some PASSING HIKERS play loud music from a portable speaker. Mara forces a smile.

PASSING HIKER

Cute dog.

MARA

Yeah.

The music dies down as the hikers get farther away.

Once they are alone, Mara guides Auggie down an unmaintained trail. Bushes and debris block their path. Auggie stops to sniff one of the bushes, but Mara yanks him away.

Nature grows EERILY LOUD. Twigs SNAP. Rocks SCUTTLE. A nearby CROW CAWS.

Auggie stops. He WHIMPERS. Auggie tries to turn back, but he bumps into Mara's legs. She towers over him.

Mara looks chillingly similar to Monster Mara.

19 EXT. HIKING TRAIL - LATER 19

Mara returns to the main hiking trail. Blood drips from her mouth down her shirt. Auggie is nowhere to be found.

20 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 20

Mara walks inside. She hasn't changed since the hike.

JOEY (O.S.)

Hey, Mars. How was your hike?

Mara turns to see Auggie cuddled with Joey on the couch.

MARA

How-- How is Auggie here?

JOEY

He's been here with me all day. You wanted some alone time, remember?

MARA

I-- I never said that.

JOEY

You got some blood on you.

Mara looks at her shirt. It's more than just "some blood."

JOEY (CONT'D)

How about you take a shower? You're really shaken up.

Joey guides Mara to the bathroom where the shower is already running. They help Mara get undressed.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Take your time. I'll make you some dinner.

Joey kisses Mara on the forehead. The kiss lingers just a little too long.

21 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

21

Mara goes through the motions of showering.

Red, soapy water drains away from her. She robotically scrubs blood from around her mouth.

She washes her hands. It seems Mara is finally clean... until she notices blood locked under her nails.

Mara runs her nails under the water, but the blood doesn't budge. Her lip quivers.

Mara breaks out WAILING. She collapses against the shower wall.

She slides down to the floor. She cradles herself as the water runs over her. Mara SOBS into her knees.

22 INT. BATHROOM - LATER

22

Mara stands in front of the mirror. Her hair is wet from the shower. Her eyes are vacant. She is completely dissociated.

23 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

23

Mara steps out of the bathroom to find Auggie patiently waiting for her.

On the other side of the room, the bedroom door CREAKS OPEN.

Joey CALLS from the other room. Their voice is different than before. It's distorted, gravelly, and monster-like:

MONSTER JOEY (O.S.)

Your dinner's ready.

Auggie chases the voice. Mara follows him.

24 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

24

Fine dining candlesticks light the room. FOREBODING CLASSICAL MUSIC plays from a vinyl record player.

A MONSTER VERSION OF JOEY sleeps on top of their dining room table. Their skin is roasted like a Thanksgiving turkey. Artistically arranged vegetables surround Joey.

Auggie eats something off Monster Joey's stomach. The monster talks in its sleep.

MONSTER JOEY

I made something new. Come, try it.

Auggie jumps off the table with an intestine. There is a hole in Monster Joey's stomach where Auggie ripped through vital organs.

Mara crawls on top of Monster Joey.

Auggie brings her a fork. Mara raises her fork over the monster...

...Until Joey wakes up. They are not a monster at all.

Joey is not on the dining room table. They are sleeping on the couch. Mara doesn't even have a fork. She's just a person looming over Joey... With GLOWING YELLOW EYES.

JOEY

(half-asleep)

Sorry, Mars, I fell asleep. I can make something--

Mara bites Joey's cheek.

JOEY (CONT'D)

(screaming)

What the fuck?

Mara BARKS RABIDLY. She bites into Joey's neck -- RIPS out their vocal chords.

Joey tries to cry, but it comes out as pained WHEEZING.

Mara GROWLS. She claws through Joey's skin to find their heart. Mara rips it out with one swift movement. Joey's WHEEZING stops abruptly.

Mara DEVOURS Joey's heart.

FADE TO BLACK.