

“A Midnight Dreary” script preview #3

(Actions: Derek tiptoes with silent steps to the door. Slowly he nears the knob, hand trembling with apprehension. When he finally touches it, he suddenly turns it and wrenches the door open wide, jumping back out of the way.)

Narrator: Throwing open the door and jumping back, I peered out into the darkness and rain... and saw... nothing? "That's weird," I thought. "There's nobody out here!"

(Actions: Derek straightens, puzzled. He gingerly walks to stand in the door, looking outside into the dark. He turns back toward the inside, one hand on his hip and scratching the back of his head with the other.)

Narrator: And I was right.. there was no body out there.. but suddenly, there was somebody.

(Actions: Suddenly from one side of the outside of the door a figure steps into view. The audience sees it first since Derek's back is turned toward it. Derek spins, and sees the Stranger standing there with wet hair, his yellow raincoat wet with rain. He is holding a tire iron on one hand, raised menacingly. He has a wild look in his eyes, and is breathing in and out loudly. Derek screams, and the Stranger takes a step forward. But Derek grabs his wrists, struggling with him. He manages to shove the Stranger back out of the open door, then jumps back in, slamming the door and locking it. With panic in his eyes, he leans back against it, looking for something to reinforce it with. He runs to the easy chair and pulls it over to put up against it.)

Narrator: Panic gripping my heart, I desperately began to pile up items to reinforce the door, all the while fearful thoughts whirling in my mind like debris picked up by a tornado. "Gotta find something else! Oh, Lord, I'm gonna die! Jesus, you said You'd be a "very present help in time of trouble! Where's your help when I need it? "

Narrator: At that moment my gaze fell on the Bible where I had abandoned it earlier.

(Actions: He considers it for a few seconds, then bends over to retrieve it.)

Narrator: "I guess it's right where I left it. Pushed aside for junk food."

(Actions: Derek opens it.)

Narrator: "Mom always told me when I was afraid, to read your Word out loud. I'd say this is a good time! "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."

(Actions: Derek sits down as he flips to another page.)

Narrator: "My mind wasn't exactly stayed on You tonight, Lord. 'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear has torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.'"

(Actions: He flips to another page.)

Narrator: Torment is right, I could see how far short I'd been falling. "And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report, if there be any virtue, think on these things"

(Actions: Derek slowly lowers the Bible and closes his eyes. He stays that way for several long

seconds. Then he wipes his eyes and looks up toward the ceiling.)

Narrator: Lord, I'm sorry I forgot the things You've said. I guess I was too busy filling my mind-and my heart-with junk food too. And I started to be filled with fear because of that. But I'm not afraid anymore. Thank you for your peace and love, and for showing me that I was trying to teach others a lesson I hadn't learned yet. And from now on I'll have pity on those who are afraid!

(Actions: Derek walks over to the easy chair and pulls it back to its former place beside the lamp and the end table. Then he goes to the door, unlocks it and looks out.)

Narrator: I can't believe I was such a big chicken.

(Actions: He picks up the sheet from where he had dropped it.)

Narrator: And what was I afraid of? A guy with bad lungs? A ghost? Yeah, a ghost!

(Actions: Derek throws the sheet over his head like a ghost, and begins to wave his arms under it and moan comically.)

Narrator: Wooooo! Boy, this is really scary, huh? Wooooo!

(Actions: He dances around comically, then heads off-stage.)

Narrator: Let's go haunt the house, Casper!

(Actions: Derek merrily runs off the stage, "Wooing" and waving his arms. Seconds later the front door opens halfway and the Stranger sticks his head in, peering around.)

Narrator: While I mocked myself by running around in the sheet, unbeknownst to me at the time, a drenched figure had opened the now-unlocked door. Gingerly he looks around, and calls out "Hello? Can I come in?"

(Actions: Not receiving an answer, the Stranger comes all the way in, closing the door behind him. He holds the tire iron in his hand as if for protection.)

Narrator: "I'm sorry if I startled you before, but I've had a blowout and my spare is flat. Can I use your phone?"

(Actions: The Stranger freezes as he hears a "Woooo" come from offstage. Just then Derek comes back in the room, oblivious to the Stranger. Derek is still "playing ghost" and is swaying and moaning. The Stranger stares for a second in shock, then silently, but clearly mouths the words: "A ghost!" The Stranger drops the tire iron and keels over in a faint. Derek, hearing him fall, quickly pulls the sheet off of his head and gapes at him in surprise.)

(Actions during the next part of the narrative: Derek cautiously kneels beside the Stranger to get a better look. He backs away, then spots the tire iron on the floor and picks it up. He holds it up and turns back toward the Stranger.)

Narrator: Stunned to see the body on the floor, I hurriedly knelt to check it out. My first thought was that it's The Breather. He looked dead... but I had seen too many movies, and knew you couldn't be sure with these psycho mass murderers. So, picking up the tire iron, I considered making sure.

(Actions: Derek lifts the tire iron up over the Stranger's head as if to club him with it, but he hesitates.)

Narrator: I... I just can't do it!

(Actions: Derek tosses the tire iron aside and kneels beside the Stranger again.)

Narrator: After all, Jesus said we were to love our enemies.