

DEAD AWKWARD

A Comedy Short

Written by

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INT. SETH'S ROOM- NIGHT

SETH (20) lies asleep in bed. There's a scratch at the door. A creak of a floorboard. The door swings open. A shadow moves across the wall.

SETH

Hello?

Nothing for a moment. A voice from the darkness.

GEORGE

It's because we're thinking about it.

SETH

For pissing out loud.

GEORGE

We're making it stronger.

GEORGE (20) turns on the bedside lamp and sits on the end of the bed. He's wearing binoculars around his neck and holding an old library book; *Domestic Ghosts and Spirits*.

SETH

Last week, I asked you if you ate my cheese.

GEORGE

It survives off psychology and fear and emotion.

SETH

Because you have cheese on toast every Thursday and it was Thursday.

GEORGE

It was-

SETH

You told me it was the ghost.

GEORGE

That was a lie- that was- I had that cheese, but this one is real.

SETH

You have thirty seconds.

GEORGE

Every morning I notice my paperclip jar is on the other side of my desk. I put it on the right and it ends up on the left. How?

SETH

I don't know. Are you looking at it through a mirror?

GEORGE

No, it's a thing.

SETH

A thing.

GEORGE

A ghost thing.

SETH

Why would they move it?

GEORGE

To get attention?

SETH

You'd know all about that.

Seth turns off the lamp. George turns it back on and flips to a page in the middle of the book.

GEORGE

The book says the best way to weaken it is to ignore it.

SETH

You don't get course books, but you'll read that?

GEORGE

Because it thrives on us being scared.

Seth takes the book and drops it on the floor.

SETH

What do I have to do?

GEORGE

Nothing at all.

SETH

Nothing?

GEORGE

Yeah. It's best if we act like it's not there.

SETH

Get out.

Seth turns off the lamp.

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

Seth is listening to his headphones and frying some bacon. The smoke alarm screeches, he pulls out the headphones, takes the bacon off the hob and waves a magazine in front of the sensor until it stops.

When the house is quiet again, he notices the sound of the radio in the LIVING ROOM. White noise.

INT. LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Seth tiptoes towards the radio and turns it off. A loud thump from the HALLWAY.

INT. HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Seth finds the *Domestic Ghosts and Spirits* book on the ground.

SETH

George?

Seth runs upstairs.

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM- CONTINUOUS

George is gone. Seth opens the door and trudges through a pile of clothes and papers. He notices a tripod and camera pointing at the unmade bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM- DUSK

George enters, wearing his work polo and apron. Seth sits in the middle of the room with an empty chair in front of him.

SETH

Take a seat, George.

GEORGE

Seth-

SETH

Just take a seat.

George sits so the two men are facing each other. George moves his chair back slightly.

SETH (CONT'D)

This is because I love you.

GEORGE

Is this how desperate we are now?
Are we doing this?

SETH

We have some stuff to talk about.

GEORGE

I'm all right with it, but I'm
being the husband.

SETH

This is an intervention.

GEORGE

A what?

SETH

I know you've had some money
problems before and you've got your
job now, which is great, but if
you're in some kind of trouble,
you'll have to tell me before it
goes too far.

GEORGE

Have we had a gas leak?

SETH

I found your camera.

GEORGE

My camera.

SETH

Set up to film your bed.

GEORGE

Right.

SETH

I know what you're doing, but it
really isn't the best way to raise
money, George.

GEORGE

What am I doing, exactly?

SETH

I don't know the specifics
obviously, without seeing it myself-

GEORGE

Seth-

SETH

Which I have no intention of doing.
I know it seems fun now, but if
something like this gets out,
you'll never be able to get a job
or get a girlfriend or anything.

GEORGE
Are you done?

Seth nods.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
I'm not filming myself having sex.

SETH
I know that, George.

GEORGE
I'm not filming myself wanking
either.

SETH
Really?

GEORGE
It's for the ghost.

Seth lowers his head.

SETH
What?

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM- DUSK

George and Seth sit on George's bed. George is showing Seth the footage from the camera on his computer.

GEORGE
It's like Paranormal Activity. I
film my room at night and the
camera catches the ghost moving my
paperclip jar.

SETH
You don't need that many
paperclips. Not enough to warrant a
jar.

The night-vision footage shows George asleep in bed.

GEORGE
The problem is, I film myself for
eight hours and I don't have time
to watch all of it back.

SETH
I kind of wish you were wanking
now.

George looks at him.

SETH (CONT'D)
Not 'now'.
(points to screen)
Last night.

They continue to watch the screen.

SETH (CONT'D)
How long have you been doing this
for?

GEORGE
Couple of weeks. Was that
something?

George rewinds and presses play. They watch again.

SETH
No.

Seth looks around the room.

SETH (CONT'D)
Smells like old milk in here.

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Seth lies on the sofa watching television. He turns it off and shuts his eyes for a moment. Something in the BATHROOM clatters on the ground. He opens his eyes.

INT. BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

Seth slowly opens the door and turns on the light.

EXT. HOUSE- NIGHT

George arrives home and finds Seth sitting on the front step holding a vacuum cleaner, tears running down his face.

SETH
Can we move?

George sits by him and places a hand on his shoulder.

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

The two enter, Seth still holding the vacuum.

A creak from behind. Seth spins around and turns on the vacuum.

There is nothing.

GEORGE
In the bathroom?

SETH
Yeah, on the mirror.

INT. BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

George creeps in and stares at the mirror.

GEORGE
Huh.

Seth enters.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
What does that look like to you?

SETH
It looks like it's going to cut our hearts out.

On the mirror, drawn in what looks like blood is a love heart.

GEORGE
It looks like we've made a friend.

INT. LIVING ROOM- LATER

A makeshift Ouija board sits between George and Seth. A couple of tea lights on the table for atmosphere.

George places a finger on the cursor. He looks to Seth, who does the same.

SETH
This is stupid.

GEORGE
You're stupid with your hoover.

SETH
Sorry I'm not a ghost nerd.

GEORGE
A hoover.

George shakes his head and looks to the ceiling.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Is anybody there?

A moment of nothing. The cursor moves to YES.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Good. What is your name?

The cursor moves again.

SETH
"Stacey". It's a girl ghost.

GEORGE
Hi Stacey. I'm George.

They wave at nothing.

SETH
Seth.

GEORGE
Why are you here? Why this house?

The tea lights flutter a little. A soft, whispered voice flows through the room.

STACEY (O.S.)
I lived here. I died here.

Seth and George look at each other.

SETH
What room?

GEORGE
Yeah, what room?

STACEY (O.S.)
The room you are in.

Seth grimaces.

SETH
Gross.

George kicks him under the table.

GEORGE
Is there anything we can do? To help you move on I mean?

No response.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Stacey?

STACEY (O.S.)
I've been watching you. For a year now.

SETH
Even in the shower?

STACEY (O.S.)
I was incomplete when I died. When
I lived.

GEORGE
So what can we do?

No response again. The cursor begins to move on its own. Seth and George watch as it spells out a question:

GEORGE (CONT'D)
"Will you go out with me?"

Beat.

SETH
I'm going to bed.

GEORGE
Seth.

SETH
Is Derren Brown in the cupboard?

GEORGE
What?

Seth goes to the cupboard under the stairs and opens the door.

SETH
It's a hidden camera thing. A
Derren Brown thing.

GEORGE
Derren Brown doesn't do pranks.
That's Jeremy Beadle.

The cursor moves to the "?" symbol.

The lights flicker above them.

SETH
Yeah, wait a minute Stacey.

GEORGE
Seth, sit down.

Seth begrudgingly takes a seat again.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Now, Stacey. Which one of us do you
want to go out with?

SETH
Fuck me.

GEORGE

Stacey. We won't be offended. We
just need to know.

The cursor moves to "S".

GEORGE (CONT'D)

S. E. T. H.

Seth rolls his eyes.

SETH

Goddamn.

GEORGE

Really thought it'd be me. I'm well
into magic and stuff.

STACEY (O.S.)

We were meant to be. I lie beside
you at night and I will for
eternity. Your hair like chestnut
and your eyes like a pool of ice
water.

SETH

Is this poetry?

STACEY (O.S.)

Do you like it?

Seth stands, looks George in the eye and moves to the door.

SETH

I'm going to bed.

He points to thin air.

SETH (CONT'D)

Don't follow me, Stacey.

George is left alone.

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM- NIGHT

Seth grabs the tripod and camera, clambering over the mess on
the floor. He storms back out.

INT. SETH'S ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Seth sets up the tripod and camera to face his bed. He lies
on top of the covers and stares at the ceiling.

INT. LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

George still at the Ouija board.

GEORGE

I'm kind of up for it if you want a
rebound.

Eliot Fallows is a comedy writer, mostly working on television, video game and web series scripts. Although he does not currently have any professional credits, Eliot has made a fort out of the piles of scripts in his room.