

HAUNTED

Written by

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INT. SECRET SPACE BOOKSTORE NIGHT

ALISTER FOX, 26, arranges books on a book shelf while customers browse the aisles.

Alister stops and looks at the camera.

ALISTER FOX

Hi there. Welcome to The Secret Space Bookstore. I'm the owner of this little slice of heaven. My name is Alister Fox. Yeah I know trust me I know. I didn't choose it in fact I don't know who chose it but that will come up a couple episodes down the line.

Alister begins walking around his store.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

You're here because you want to know what kind of story this will be. Well I would like to tell you it is a sappy love story or cookie cutter sitcom. The truth is those are my favorite kinds of stories. But while this story may have sappy love, sitcom jokes that are more cringy than funny, and heartfelt moments this is in fact a horror story. Because for reasons unknown to me, since I was little I have had the ability to see what can be thought of as ghosts.

Alister stops and his eyes begin to glow green before he begins walking again. Customers begin to leave the shelves and head towards the front.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

Before your imagination goes wild and you start thinking of how cool it would be to see ghost let me tell you right now it sucks. Ghost at best bring headaches and sleepless nights and at worst they are things pulled straight from your worst nightmares.

Alister begins to move towards the front of the store where there is a line of customers waiting to buy their books from tired employees before the store closes.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

People often think because I can see ghosts that I am meant to help them finish their unfinished business or connect them with their lost loved ones. And to that I say you have seen way to many movies.

The last of the customers leave the store. The remaining employees pack up their things and leave as well. Alister walks up to the door and locks it.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

Ghosts are not what Hollywood makes them out to be. Most of the ones I have met can't even speak. And the ones that can are the most dangerous. I just want to run my cozy bookstore, live a normal life and die a normal death. But we don't always get what we want.

Alister's eyes glow green again.

EXT. THIRD PLACE COFFEE HOUSE MORNING

Alister walks up to the front of the coffee shop and looks back at the camera.

ALISTER FOX

This is Third Place where my sister/business partner/ best friend Amber works. She is-

What looks like the torn apart corpse of a man in his mid 40s dressed in an old fashioned suit and tie appears beside Alister.

SCREAMING LARRY

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

Alister stops and looks straight ahead. Larry stops screaming and moves on.

ALISTER FOX

That was a ghost.

Alister begins walking again and opens the door to the coffee shop.

INT. THIRD PLACE COFFEE HOUSE MORNING

ALISTER FOX

That was what I call a screamer
they are the most common type of
ghost and they are the closest
thing to people's modern
conceptions of ghosts. They are
what remains after a tragic death.
As you can see they're not much for
words.

AMBER, 25, walks up from the back carrying a box.

AMBER

How is my best bud doing?

ALISTER FOX

I'm fine.

AMBER

I was talking about Screaming
Larry.

Alister stops and looks at the camera.

ALISTER FOX

As I was trying to tell you Amber
is the only one who knows about my
abilities. Not even our parents
know.

Alister looks back at Amber and begins walking again.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

He is also fine. Not that much
changes with him.

Amber puts the box down and makes two cups of coffee. She
takes both cups and walks over to the counter and sits next
to Alister.

AMBER

How are you feeling about today?

ALISTER FOX

What do you mean?

AMBER

Today is the day for the books
signing. It's gonna suck.

ALISTER FOX

It will be fine I have done signings like this before.

AMBER

No you have done signings from normal horror writers these two are even worse than that.

ALISTER FOX

They can't be that bad.

AMBER

They are "professional ghost hunters" and their names are Courtney Seance and David Graves. How does that not scream suck.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah but their book is a New York Times best seller and they personally asked to do a signing at my store.

AMBER

Still they sound like pornstars from a Ghostbuster ripoff.

ALISTER FOX

Maybe they're god given names.

AMBER

Like Alister Fox.

ALISTER FOX

I should have taken your guys last name at least then I would be Alister Smith.

AMBER

Look I have to open the doors there is already a line of ghost nerds waiting for coffee so they are energized for the signing tonight.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah I should open the store. Will I see you tonight.

AMBER

Lets see you with a horde of ghost nerds, two fake ghost hunters, and more work than that nerdy assistant can handle. You can count me in.

ALISTER FOX

Thank you.

Alister leaves the coffee shop to reveal a line of people waiting to get in.

EXT. SECRET SPACE BOOKSTORE MORNING

Alister walks up to the front of his bookstore and turns to the line of people out front.

ALISTER FOX

Duncan are you out there?

DUNCAN

Yeah I am here. I can't get through.

Alister moves towards the crowd signaling people to move out of the way. DUNCAN HATFIELD, 16, a skinny high schooler wearing all black with chains on both sides of his pants.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Sorry people kept accusing me of cutting in line.

ALISTER FOX

Why are there so many people they signing isn't until tonight.

Duncan and Alister unlock the door to the bookstore and let the customers in.

DUNCAN

Die hard fans always show up early.

ALISTER FOX

Speaking of fans if you want to clock out early to get your book signed you can.

DUNCAN

I am not a fan.

ALISTER FOX

What? I see you reading books like that all the time.

DUNCAN

I read horror stories. Fiction not make believe non-fiction crap like ghost hunters.

ALISTER FOX
You don't believe in ghosts?

DUNCAN
I believe in what I can see. What about you?

ALISTER FOX
I also believe in what I can see. Could you make sure the display is ready for tonight.

DUNCAN
No problem. Still too scared to stock the horror section. You picked the wrong location to open a book store.

ALISTER FOX
I thought you didn't believe in ghosts.

Duncan disappears into the back of the store before he can answer. Alister begins filling out some paperwork when an elderly couple ARTHUR and GWEN GOLDSTEIN, 66 and 64, dressed in plain clothes walk up to him.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN
Alister can I talk to you.

ALISTER FOX
I am a little busy getting ready for tonight Arthur.

GWEN GOLDSTEIN
But I think he has it this time Ali.

ALISTER FOX
I'm sure he does but I am really bus-

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN
We were watching a true crime doc about a group of college kids that were brutally murdered while on spring break and it got me thinking.

Alister stops what he is doing and looks at Arthur.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN (CONT'D)

If Charles Baker was killing someone he would want a place where no one would interrupt him but he would want a place where he could come and go without being noticed in the middle of the night especially if he was moving a body. So thats why I was thinking that-

Alister stops working and looks at the camera.

ALISTER FOX

I should probably explain. You see the building where I opened my bookstore was once owned by Charles Baker. A devoted husband, father, and one of the most prolific serial killers in American history. You see Mr. Baker was in fact a wealthy tailor who owned a couple of high end shops. He made some of the finest suits in the world in this very shop. Some say he even made one for George Washington. But at night he used this very shop to lure, kill, and dispose of many of the clients he worked on. In fact some say many of the people that died here, including Mr. Baker, still haunt the building.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

Don't you think?

Alister looks back at Arthur and Gwen.

ALISTER FOX

What was that?

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

I was just saying that if Baker killed in this very store then he must have had a secret room where he murdered all those people. One hidden so that not even his employees would walk in on him.

GWEN GOLDSTEIN

Get to the point Arthur Ali is a very busy man.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

Have you ever run across something like that it wasn't uncommon at the time for a building to have hidden rooms built especially ones frequented by revolutionaries.

ALISTER FOX

I can't say that I have but I will let you know if I do.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

It would probably be-

ALISTER FOX

Are you guys coming to the book signing?

GWEN GOLDSTEIN

We wouldn't miss it. I am just worried we won't get a seat.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

The key is getting there early.

ALISTER FOX

Well I will make sure you guys get a seat.

ARTHUR GOLDSTEIN

Thank you very much.

Arthur walks away and Gwen moves closer to Alister.

GWEN GOLDSTEIN

About the seats.

ALISTER FOX

I will make sure they are in the front row I know how Arthur is with his hearing aid.

GWEN GOLDSTEIN

Thank you Ali.

Gwen walks away and Alister looks at the camera.

ALISTER FOX

I know, I know if you hate ghosts so much why open a store in a haunted building? First being an indie bookstore is hard so having a draw always helps.

(MORE)

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

And second just because something has a history doesn't make it haunted. In fact the closest ghost to this building is screaming Larry out on the street and he died in a car accident. You see when a person dies they-

DUNCAN

Hey Ali.

Alister looks away from the camera at Duncan.

ALISTER FOX

What's up?

DUNCAN

There is some weird lady browsing the aisles.

ALISTER FOX

What do you mean weird lady?

DUNCAN

She is wearing sunglasses, a hat and hoodie. She is also avoiding eye contact with everyone.

ALISTER FOX

I will check it out. Thank you.

Alister walks to the back of the store checking the aisles until he sees the woman Duncan described clutching a couple of books tightly.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

Can I help you with something?

The woman looks startled as she turns around and drops her sun glasses. Behind her is what looks to be some-kind of shadow moving independently.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Sorry I was just looking?

Alister stares at the shadow.

ALISTER FOX

Not a problem let me know if you need any help.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Actually do you have the new Rachel Love book.

Alister stops looking at the shadow and looks at the women.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN (CONT'D)

I know it isn't the kind of book
you might carry but-

ALISTER FOX

You mean Love at Heart Manor?

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Yeah you have it?

ALISTER FOX

Yeah we had to move it for an event
but I have a copy by the front
desk.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Oh thank god I have been looking
for that book but not many stores
carry that kind of book.

ALISTER FOX

It is her best work in my opinion.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Really? You like Rachel Love?

ALISTER FOX

Yeah is that so weird?

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

No it just a lot of people think
her books are trashy.

ALISTER FOX

Well if it makes you happy.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Anyway I should get going.

ALISTER FOX

Well I can check you out at the
front.

Alister and the women move towards the check out desk and
Alister begins to check her out.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

So I have to ask did you really
think the sunglasses and baseball
hat would work.

MYSTERIOUS WOMEN

Excuse me?

ALISTER FOX

Come on there is literally a giant cardboard cut out of you in the corner over there.

Alister points to a corner where there is a cut out of the women and another man with the words Courtney Seance and David Graves written across them.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)

And come on a hoodie over a baseball cap. Thats putting a hat on a hat. Almost literally.

COURTNEY SEANCE, 27, takes off her sun glasses.

COURTNEY SEANCE

Okay fine its me but please don't say anything. I wanted to check out your store before the signing because I never have time afterwards.

ALISTER FOX

Well for a fellow Rachel Love fan I can keep a secret.

COURTNEY SEANCE

Thank you.

Alister puts the books in a bag and Courtney takes the bag and leaves.

ALISTER FOX

Hey Duncan can you watch the front for a sec.

DUNCAN

Sure but what did the ghost lady want.

ALISTER FOX

Just some books. I am going next door for a second want anything.

DUNCAN

A coffee please.

ALISTER FOX

Two cream, two sugar.

DUNCAN

Thank you.

Alister exits the bookstore.

INT. THIRD PLACE COFFEE HOUSE MORNING

Alister walks into a busy crowd and walks off to the side office to find Amber going over some paperwork.

AMBER

What's up?

ALISTER FOX

I wanted to talk to you about the signing.

AMBER

Is something wrong?

ALISTER FOX

I just ran into Courtney Seance.

Some of the coffee house customers turn to Amber and Alister.

AMBER

Maybe we should move to the back.

Amber signals two of her employees to cover the front. Sam and Amber move into the back of the shop.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Did you see something?

ALISTER FOX

Yeah there is a shade following her around.

AMBER

Wait are you saying that Bangbusters are real ghost hunters.

ALISTER FOX

Bangbusters?

AMBER

What it is just as ridiculous as their names. Plus I don't feel like an idiot when I say it.

ALISTER FOX

Fair enough. But I don't think she knows about the Shade following her.

AMBER

That is amazing. The fake ghost hunter is actually surrounded by a ghost.

ALISTER FOX

It maybe nothing but Shades can be very dangerous.

AMBER

They're the weird shadow ones right.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah and if someone notices them they can act out violently so they are particularly dangerous to people who are attuned.

AMBER

I thought ghosts didn't haunt people.

ALISTER FOX

Shades are weird they can focus on a person but I've never seen them follow one before. It did seem to affect her.

AMBER

So if I feel anything at the signing just ignore it.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah they are had to spot anyway but I just wanted to make sure you knew.

AMBER

So what is she like? Was she just looking for some early attention?

ALISTER FOX

Shades don't have genders.

AMBER

Are you serious?

ALISTER FOX

What?

Amber looks at the camera and then back at Alister.

AMBER

I was talking about the super famous human women who was in your bookshop.

ALISTER FOX

She was just picking up some books. She didn't want to attract attention so she wore a disguise.

AMBER

Why a disguise? It would probably be a good PR stunt to have her pick up some other ghost books.

ALISTER FOX

She didn't get any horror books.

AMBER

Wait what does she read?

ALISTER FOX

Just regular books.

AMBER

Oh my god she reads those crappy romance novels.

ALISTER FOX

I never said that.

AMBER

Come on it is written all over your face. You only get squirrely when talking about those cheesy books.

ALISTER FOX

They are not cheesy. And yes she likes the same kind of stuff so what?

AMBER

You flirted.

ALISTER FOX

No we didn't.

AMBER

Holy crap you totally did. I bet as soon as she mentioned the book you totally went full nerd. Which author was it?

ALISTER FOX

It was Rachel Love. And actually I was pretty calm. I didn't want to go full nerd.

AMBER

So you do like her.

ALISTER FOX

I regret talking to you.

AMBER

What else is new. So are you going to ask her out?

Alister ignores the question and walk toward the door.

AMBER (SHOUTING) (CONT'D)

You could replace her costar. You have to think of a lame name though. How about Alister Ghostseer.

Alister looks back to glare at Amber who smiles back at him before he leaves the coffee shop.

INT. SECRET SPACE BASEMENT AFTERNOON

Alister descends the stairs into the basement with Duncan.

ALISTER FOX

The chairs are over here.

DUNCAN

How many do we need.

ALISTER FOX

Lets start with thirty and see how that looks.

DUNCAN

That definitely won't be enough.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah but it might be all we can fit some people will just have to stand.

Alister and Duncan head to the back of the room and start moving chairs.

DUNCAN

What exactly do you keep down here?

ALISTER FOX

Chairs mostly and a backlog of books.

DUNCAN

Why the posters?

ALISTER FOX

To cheer up the room.

DUNCAN

Cool.

Duncan takes his chairs up the stairs.

Alister puts his chairs down and picks up a piece of chalk laying next to one of the posters. He moves over to one of the posters and pulls it away from the wall revealing a rune drawn on the wall. Alister runs the chalk over the rune. After the rune is traced it and Alister's eyes glow green.

ALISTER FOX (SHOUTING)

Make sure to reserve to seats in the front.

DUNCAN

Why?

ALISTER FOX

Arthur Goldstein has trouble hearing.

DUNCAN

He keeps trying to get me search the store for a secret room.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah he has some weird ideas.

DUNCAN

I don't know it makes sense. He might be right.

ALISTER FOX

As long as he doesn't bother any customers we can let him look where he wants. Also don't let him behind the counter.

DUNCAN

Cool.

Alister brings the last of the chairs up stairs and shuts the light to the basement off.

INT. SECRET SPACE BOOKSTORE NIGHT

Amber walks into the bookstore carrying a two boxes moving between the chairs set up throughout the store.

AMBER

I brought the snacks.

ALISTER FOX

Awesome if you could set them up on that table over there that would be great.

AMBER

Where is everyone?

ALISTER FOX

Well I closed for a little bit so I could set up the chairs. Most people are lined up on the other side of the building. And Duncan is grabbing more books from the back for the display.

Amber begins setting an assortment of pastries and coffee up on a table while Alister is moving chairs around.

AMBER

When do the BangBusters show up?

ALISTER FOX

They will show up any minute to set up. Do you think this set up is better or should I put out more chairs?

AMBER

Are you nervous?

ALISTER FOX

Of course I am nervous. This could be huge for the bookstore. I mean you saw how many people came in today. I should try and make a good impression on the BangBusters.

AMBER

Why? Not only do you not like them but after tonight you will probably never see them again.

ALISTER FOX

Well that may not be true.

AMBER

What do you mean?

ALISTER FOX

You now how they have that show where they visit haunted places and try and talk to the ghosts?

AMBER

Yeah?

ALISTER FOX

Well the publicist said that if they like the place they might do an episode here.

AMBER

What? Why? What did you say?

ALISTER FOX

I said yes.

AMBER

I think Larry may have scrambled your brains.

ALISTER FOX

It boost sales I mean look at that crowd you can't tell me you wouldn't benefit either. We opened our shops next to each other to boost sales.

AMBER

Yeah but is it what you want? You don't like horror.

ALISTER FOX

But I like the people. I mean you saw how happy those people were.

AMBER

Hmmmm.

ALISTER FOX
Plus it is not like this place is
actually haunted.

AMBER
Fine but I want to meet these
people first.

ALISTER FOX
You aren't going to be weird are
you?

AMBER
Oh I am going to be super weird?
Why do you care?

ALISTER FOX
I may be working with these people.

AMBER
Those people or her?

ALISTER FOX
Stop.

Duncan comes up from the back.

DUNCAN
The ghost people are here?

AMBER
How would you feel about being in
one their episodes?

DUNCAN
Lame.

Amber looks towards Alister.

AMBER
Lame.

ALISTER FOX
Please stop.

Alister looks at Duncan.

ALISTER FOX (CONT'D)
Where are they?

DUNCAN
The crazy lady is coming in the
back.

AMBER
Wait is she crazy?

ALISTER FOX
Not Courtney, I think he's talking
about their publicist. She is a
lot.

AMBER
How much is a lot?

ETHEL MURPHY, 44, a short waspy women walks in from the back
of the bookstore.

ETHEL MURPHY
Oh my god there you are. I was
waiting for like five minutes in
that horrid alley.

AMBER
No way.

DUNCAN
Way.

ALISTER FOX
Hello Miss Murphy.

ETHEL MURPHY
You know Foxy just because your
bookstore is haunted doesn't mean
you shouldn't clean up the place.

ALISTER FOX
I assure you my store is clean.

ETHEL MURPHY
Are you kidding things are packed
to the ceilings and what is that
musk.

AMBER
You mean the books?

ETHEL MURPHY
Yesss, why do you need so many.
Can't you get rid of some of the
old ones. And some of these
sections I mean who cares about
history or the classics. People
want new and modern.

Duncan and Amber look at Alister in disbelief.

ALISTER FOX
Would like some coffee or a snack?

AMBER
I brought decaf.

ETHEL MURPHY
No thank you just run me through the layout.

ALISTER FOX
Sure, where are your clients?

ETHEL MURPHY
Oh, we are going to have them come in through the front door give the fans a little taste before the main course.

ALISTER FOX
Of course, well we set it up so that they both have a podium to talk about their new book then can answer a few questions and we can move onto the book signing at this table.

ETHEL MURPHY
We are going to skip most of that?

ALISTER FOX
Excuse me?

ETHEL MURPHY
Well we're in a haunted building so we might as well have them talk to the spirits. Then if we have time we can answer some questions and then do the signing.

AMBER
What if they can't contact a ghost?

ETHEL MURPHY
Please dear you are about to be in the presence of honest to goodness mediums. Leave the ghost business to the people in the business.

A commotion outside draws everyone's attention. They all leave the bookstore.

EXT. SECRET SPACE BOOKSTORE NIGHT

The crowd moves closer to the store as two people get out of a car. JOHNNY GRAVES, 30, and Courtney Seance get out of the car.

Courtney goes up to the fans and greets the fans while Johnny walks straight pass them and directly up to his publicist.

Alister looks at Courtney and sees the shade following her around.

ETHEL MURPHY

Well lets get started then.

INT. SECRET SPACE BOOKSTORE NIGHT

Courtney and Johnny both stand at a podium talking to a packed crowd.

COURTNEY SEANCE

-and that is why I think it is important to be responsible when communicating with the other side. It is more about understanding the feelings that bind the living and the dead rather than reciting specific messages. I think we can answer some questions now.

JOHNNY GRAVES

Actually Court I think they want a demonstration. I mean how often do you get a pair of mediums in a supposedly haunted bookstore.

Amber and Alister stand in the back of the store and roll their eyes. The crowd cheers.

COURTNEY SEANCE

I don't know if that is such a good idea. We should do more research. In case the spirits hold any ill will.

JOHNNY GRAVES

Don't worry everyone Court can be a little overcautious sometimes but as our viewers know spirits can't hurt us.

The crowd cheers again.

JOHNNY GRAVES (CONT'D)
Come on Court you don't want to
disappoint the fans.

COURTNEY SEANCE
Alright as long as it is okay with
the owner.

ALISTER FOX
It should be-

JOHNNY GRAVES
Oh he doesn't mind. I bet it would
put his mind at ease if we can talk
to them.

ETHEL MURPHY
I think the restless spirits would
appreciate a little human
connection.

COURTNEY SEANCE
Alright lets do it.

Courtney and Johnny both stand up, close their eyes, and hold
hands.

ALISTER FOX
Seems a little much.

AMBER
Why do you care.

ETHEL MURPHY
Alight everyone you know the deal
silence they must connect focus on
their connection.

JOHNNY GRAVES
Oh spirits of the departed-

COURTNEY SEANCE
Hear our words-

JOHNNY GRAVES
We hear, we see you, we feel you-

COURTNEY SEANCE
Make your presence known and show
us what binds you to this plane.

JOHNNY GRAVES
Wait I think I feel something. Yes
there is a spirit amongst us.

AMBER

Huh I don't feel anything. What about you?

ALISTER FOX

Wow I can't believe that Johnny is wrong. I don't see any ghosts. Do you believe that?

Amber and Alister booth laugh silently.

COURTNEY SEANCE

Oh ghosts hear our call.

As Courtney speaks the shade moves closer to her.

COURTNEY SEANCE (CONT'D)

I feel its presence.

The shade begins to react violently and focuses its attention on Courtney.

AMBER

This feels weird.

ALISTER FOX

Oh shit!

AMBER

What is it?

ALISTER FOX

I think Courtney might in tune.

AMBER

Wait seriously she is actually feeling the shades presence. That's wild.

ALISTER FOX

No that is very bad. Shades can be extremely violent and very evil. We need to stop that thing.

AMBER

I'm sure it will be fine. If she was that tuned then it would have attacked her already.

COURTNEY SEANCE

I said let us hear your call spirit.

The lights begin to flicker and things begin to move on their own. The shade begins to grow in size and Courtney Seance begins to have trouble breathing.

Alister's eyes begin glowing green

A hooded figure in the crowd's eyes begin glowing red.

JOHNNY GRAVES

It must be the spirit of the
killer. Don't worry folks we are
trained for this.

AMBER

I have a feeling Mr.B-list pornstar
doesn't know what to do. Please
tell me you do.

ALISTER FOX

Do you have a mirror?

AMBER

What?

ALISTER FOX

In your purse do you have like a
hand mirror?

AMBER

The fuck are you talking about.

Alister quickly looks around.

AMBER (CONT'D)

I don't even carry a purse. Where
would I keep it?

ALISTER FOX

Look I need a mirror or a
reflective surface.

AMBER

Can you use your phone screen?

ALISTER FOX

That should work.

Alister pulls out his phone and begins to draw on the screen.

AMBER

You thought of hand mirror before
you thought of phone screen.

ALISTER FOX

Shut up I have to concentrate.

AMBER

Well you better hurry I have a bad feeling.

The shade continues to grow in size.

Alister finishes drawing a rune on his phone and points it at the spirit and begins chanting. Both his eyes and the rune glow green.

Everyone is focused on Courtney Seance except for the hooded figure. They look back, eyes still glowing red, at Alister and Amber.

The shade begins shrinking in size, the lights stop flickering, and things stop moving around.

Courtney Seance breathes normally while Alister slumps over out of breath.

ETHEL MURPHY

In all my years never have I seen such a powerful connection. Please give it up for Seance and Graves. The medium duo that is changing the way we understand the afterlife.

The crowd goes wild.

ETHEL MURPHY (CONT'D)

Unfortunately we will have to cut the signing short to give these two heroes some rest. But this won't be last you see of us. We have decided to shoot an epis-

JOHNNY GRAVES

Actually Ethel I think they will see a lot of us because we have decided to do a multi-part mini series about the tragedies that occurred in this very store. And hopefully we can help some ghosts find closure.

ETHEL MURPHY

We have?

JOHNNY GRAVES

Of course we have I could feel the energy when we first walked through the door. And I am sure the owner wants real mediums helping any lost souls.

Alister stands up disoriented and catches his breath.

ALISTER FOX

What did he say?

ETHEL MURPHY

Of course he does. He even reached out to me before the signing to talk about doing multiple episodes. Didn't you mister Fox?

ALISTER FOX

What did she say?

AMBER

I think Allie is just a little shook after the crazy events that just transpired.

JOHNNY GRAVES

Well not everyone can handle talking to real ghosts.

AMBER

Yeah some people are just dense to the whole situation.

Courtney Seance gets stands up even more confused than Alister.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Is she okay?

ETHEL MURPHY

She is fine we just have to clear out some of these people. She is reacting to their energies.

Amber and Ethel start moving the crowd out of the store.

Duncan holds open the door as the crowd moves onto the street most of them glued to their phones posting about what happened.

COURTNEY SEANCE

I think I should sit down.

ETHEL MURPHY

We have so much to go over my dear.
Why don't we go back to the studio
to fine tune some of the details.

JOHNNY GRAVES

That sounds like a good idea.

Ethel motions to Amber and Alister.

ETHEL MURPHY

We'll be in touch.

Johnny and Ethel lead Courtney out of the bookstore.

AMBER

What the hell just happened?

ALISTER FOX

I don't know.

AMBER

What do you mean you don't know?

ALISTER FOX

I've never seen anything like that
before.

AMBER

Like what all I saw was some lights
flickering and this feeling of
dread overtake me.

Duncan walks back in.

DUNCAN

Did you guys set the lights to
flicker?

AMBER

Well act-

ALISTER FOX

Yeah it was part of the deal for
the signing.

DUNCAN

Lame. Where do you want me to start
cleaning up?

ALISTER FOX

Why don't you go home for the night
we can deal with this tomorrow.

DUNCAN

You sure?

ALISTER FOX

Yeah I am tired. Its been a long day.

DUNCAN

Sweet.

Duncan grabs his bag and clocks out.

AMBER

Why don't you tell Duncan? He's a cool kid and it might be good to work with someone who knows.

ALISTER FOX

You know how hard it is to get people to believe me. Plus he isn't interested in that kind of thing.

AMBER

I guess.

ALISTER FOX

Plus you and I have more pressing matters to discuss. We have to check the books.

AMBER

To the ghost cave!

ALISTER FOX

Please don't call it that.

Alister and Amber walk behind the counter and press a couple of hidden switches.

The wall behind the counter opens up to reveal a staircase.

Alister and Amber walk down.

INT. GHOST CAVE NIGHT

Alister and Amber walk down the stairs.

AMBER

To the Murder Dungeon!

Alister and Amber walk into a room filled with old books, charts, and runes painted on the walls.

ALISTER FOX
That's even worse.

AMBER
Well what do you want to call it?

ALISTER FOX
I prefer not to think about it.

AMBER
I think with the a women's touch
you could have a very nice former
murder lair.

Amber gets distracted by some of the books.

Alister stops and looks at the camera.

ALISTER FOX
I bet you guys are real excited to
see that I have a secret lair full
of ghost stuff. Well it's more of a
necessity than anything. You see
while I try to ignore ghosts the
fact that I'm one of the only ones
who can see them means they don't
ignore me. Ghost are like animals
they might be dumb but they
occasionally have good instincts.
Because of this I have gathered a
wealth of information on them to
help keep them out of my life. For
example these runes are based on
old wives tales and legends mixed
in with a little trial and error to
see what works. More importantly I
have cataloged the different kinds
of ghost I know about so that I
know how to best avoid them.

AMBER
What are we doing down here anyway?

Alister looks back at Amber.

ALISTER FOX
I'm trying to make sense of what
happened.

AMBER
Alright then start from the
beginning.

ALISTER FOX

Well when the Bang Busters started the-

AMBER

No didn't you say Courtney had the shade following her earlier in the day as well? Do shades usually do that?

ALISTER FOX

None that I've seen. They usually hang around mirrors. They're like wells of negative energy.

AMBER

So first weird thing is that the shade was following Courtney. Next at the signing it started growing. Anything else weird.

ALISTER FOX

Yeah the way Courtney acted around it was weird.

AMBER

You mean aside from the spontaneous growth when they did their weird ritual.

ALISTER FOX

When I first saw it I could tell that Courtney was attune to it but it didn't attack her. Shades can be very violent when noticed. The negative emotion take over and they attack.

AMBER

Maybe there are different kind of attunes. I mean I only became attuned because I grew up around someone who can actually see ghost. That ability made me more sensitive ghostly presences. If she is a natural she may not be as strong as me.

ALISTER FOX

No its weird she could tell there was something around her but it didn't seem to notice her.

AMBER

Maybe she used some kind of rune.

ALISTER FOX

That mean she knows a lot about
real ghosts.

AMBER

Well if she does I'm sure we will
find out not like she's going
anywhere.

ALISTER FOX

Oh the series. Do you think I can
get out of that?

AMBER

You totally can. It will be a huge
PR nightmare that could sink your
business but you could. At least
you will have your ghost pals.

ALISTER FOX

Hmmmmmm.

THE END