

UNSEEN MALICE

Film Festival Version

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FADE IN:

INT. ABBY'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Grown Abby, now 26, sits in her apartment's makeshift office working on her laptop. There are several pictures tacked up to the corkboard with colored pushpins.

Abby quits hammering on her laptop and stares at one in particular. It is the night picture at Tolomato Cemetery.

CUT TO:

INT. RENTED HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Abby pulls out the pushpin and takes the photo down. Holding it close with one hand, she sighs. With her other hand, she plays with the ring she wears as a necklace on a simple black nylon cord.

ABBY

Mom, Dad - I really miss you guys.  
I wish you were here now.

LITTLE ABBY (V.O.)

I had one more picture left, Daddy.  
I think I got a good one.

Abby looks on in silence for a moment when LAUREN (her roommate) walks in.

LAUREN

What are you doing? Staring at that  
old picture again?

Abby jumps and gasps.

ABBY

Yeah. You scared the hell out of  
me. What are you doing home, anyway?  
I thought you had to work.

LAUREN

Yeah, I got off at 4. Abby, when  
are you going to put this behind  
you? You're a good-looking girl,  
but you're not going to be young  
forever. You need to stop this moping  
around and go have a good time.

ABBY

Lauren, this is the last picture I  
took with my parents around. What  
do you want me to do, just forget  
about them?

LAUREN

No, I don't want you to forget about them. I just want you to enjoy yourself. You know that's what they would have wanted for you.

ABBY

I know, but I miss them so much, and this week is the anniversary of their deaths.

LAUREN

The anniversary? Abby, honey, it's been 17 years. It's about time to move on.

Lauren walks toward the kitchen.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

And right now, I'm moving on to the kitchen and getting a drink.

ABBY

Oh; your day was that good, huh?

LAUREN

Something like that, yeah.

Abby follows Lauren into the kitchen, still clutching the picture.

Lauren sets down the empty glass and takes the picture from Abby's hands. As she does, she speaks.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

You know what, give me this picture. I'm just going to get rid of it for you. Time to lay this ghost to rest.

ABBY

NO! Give me that back!

LAUREN

Are you going to put it away and try to act like a grown-ass woman?

ABBY

I'm going to do what I'm going to do. Now give me that back.

Abby snatches the picture from Lauren's hands.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Besides, if I let you have the picture, I'll never figure out what this thing is on it.

Lauren approaches and looks at the picture over Abby's shoulder.

LAUREN  
What thing?

Abby points to the orb in the corner.

ABBY  
This thing. I got some kind of light source or something.

LAUREN  
(pauses, then almost  
sarcastically)  
Honey, that is an orb or something.  
You got a ghost on your picture.

ABBY  
Oh, great. I've got an admirer.

LAUREN  
Don't you be bringing no damned ghost up in here. This place is small enough as it is. If I wanted to live with an evil spirit, I would have just moved in with Mark, instead of dumping his sorry ass.

Beat. Lauren turns to go back to making herself a drink.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to return to making my drink. And stop playing with that ring around your neck!

CUT TO:

INT. RENTED HOUSE -- DAY

Lauren gets out of bed and goes in the kitchen to make herself a cup of coffee. On the counter, she sees a note.

P.O.V LAUREN -- CONTINUOUS

The letter is laying on the kitchen counter next to the coffee maker.

ABBY (V.O.)  
Lauren, I told you that I had been having nightmares lately. Well I have decided to get out of town for a few days. I need the break from everything. Last night I booked a room in St. Augustine, FL. Something is drawing me back to that place.  
(MORE)

ABBY (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 I'll be back in a few days - hopefully  
 with some closure and some rest.  
 Call my cell if you need me. See  
 you Tuesday. Love ya, Abby!

CUT TO:

EXT. ABBY'S CAR -- DAY

Abby is driving down the road, somewhere in Florida. She is jamming out to a song on the radio, and generally enjoying the trip.

CUT TO:

INT. BED AND BREAKFAST -- AFTERNOON

Abby walks up to the counter.

DESK CLERK  
 Hi. Can I help you?

ABBY  
 Yeah. My name is Abby Mendes, and I  
 have a reservation.

Desk Clerk searches for a moment and finds the reservation.

DESK CLERK  
 Here you go. I found it. You'll be  
 with us for 4 nights, right?

ABBY  
 Yes, ma'am.

DESK CLERK  
 (as she's getting  
 Abby's key)  
 Have you stayed with us before?

ABBY  
 Once, a long time ago when I was a  
 little girl. I came with my parents.

DESK CLERK  
 Well, I'm glad you decided to stay  
 with us gain.  
 (handing Abby the key)  
 If there's anything we can do for  
 you while you're here, just let us  
 know.

ABBY  
 Thanks.

CUT TO:

INT. ABBY'S HOTEL ROOM -- LATER

Abby has brought in all her stuff. Now she's setting up a camera on a tripod, facing the writing desk where her laptop is already set up.

An overwhelming sense of tiredness creeps up on her as she sets up. She shakes her head repeatedly to keep herself awake.

Finally, the setup is done, and she can wait no longer. She kicks off her shoes and lays down on the bed without even turning it down.

CUT TO:

INT. ABBY'S HOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Abby wakes up on the bed, still fully dressed. She is here to investigate the strange happenings, so she decides to investigate. First, she needs a shower to wake herself up.

Abby gets undressed, and then realizes she doesn't have her necklace on. She flashes back to her bedroom in her apartment, and the necklace is on her dresser. In the shower, she lets the water run over her face.

That's when the trouble begins.

We really need to storyboard what happens to Abby in the hotel room that leads to her ultimate demise.

Additional scenes...

ALTERNATE TO THE DESK CLERK SCENE...

CUT TO:

INT. ABBY'S HOTEL ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Abby has arrived and finished setting up her equipment in the room. She decides to call Lauren and let her know of her safe arrival.

There is no answer, so Abby leaves Lauren a voicemail.

BEEP>>

ABBY

Lauren, hi. It's Abby. I wanted to let you know that I made it to St. Augustine ok, and I got checked into my hotel. Everything's alright. St. Augustine is just like I remember. I'm going to go by the cemeteries sometime while I'm here and see if I can't see if I can find what's chasing me. If you need to reach me, I've got my cell on me, and otherwise, I'll be home in a few days. Bye.