

Friends Like Us

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Friends Like Us

Genre: Drama

Length: Approx 20 mins

Synopsis: A Halloween party takes a disastrous turn.

Cast:

Chad

Becky

Izzy

Jack

ACT I

Scene 1

At Rise: apartment living room adorned with tacky Halloween decorations.

CHAD (dressed as a skeleton) is busy setting the table (four chairs set at each side-centre stage) with a Ouija Board/Glass in the middle. He adjusts it so that the angle sits "just so."

Enter BECKY dressed as a zombie nurse. She is carrying a bowl of crisps and sets them alongside a row of drinks on a small table located next to the sofa (left centre).

BECKY

What time did you tell them again?

CHAD

You don't "tell" Jack a time, he arrives whenever he feels like it, it's one of his many quirks.

BECKY

But you told him eight, right?

CHAD

Yes.

BECKY

It's almost nine.

CHAD

So they will be here in a minute. Or not. What's the hurry? The night is still young!

BECKY

I just don't like waiting. I want a drink and the blood is starting to itch.

BECKY scratches the dried blood on her throat.

CHAD

Then get a drink! We've plenty. I'll join you. Toss me a can.

BECKY

I can't . . . it's rude . . . I'll wait.

CHAD indicates he still wants a drink.

CHAD

I won't. Beer me.

BECKY tosses him a can.

BECKY

Try and save some for our guests . . . should they ever show.

CHAD opens his can.

CHAD

Cheers.

CHAD takes a sip of his can and eyes the Ouija Board. BECKY notices and follows his gaze.

BECKY

I'm telling you now, IZZY won't be happy with the night you've got planned.

CHAD

Why not?

BECKY picks up the Ouija Board and scrutinizes it.

BECKY

She's not into Halloween—she doesn't approve. She's deeply religious; I did warn you about getting one.

CHAD snatches it from her.

CHAD

She'll come around when she hears the history behind this particular board.

BECKY

I kinda doubt that . . . but humour me.

CHAD

This isn't just any talking board . . .

BECKY

Here we go . . .

CHAD

This board came from an old, mental asylum that specialized in the treatment of violently disturbed orphans . . .

BECKY

(sarcastic)
Did it now?

CHAD

One of whom escaped on Halloween, fifty years to the day. This lunatic, this madman, not content with a mere escape, set the place alight and burnt it to the ground.

BECKY

Of course he did . . .

CHAD

The only survivor of that night . . .

CHAD pauses and gazes at the Ouija Board

CHAD

. . . was this very board.

beat

BECKY

That's the best you can do?

CHAD

What do you mean? That is an awesome back-story!

BECKY

I think Stephen King can rest easy. So, where did you really get it from? Amazon?

CHAD

(sheepishly)
Yeah. Do you think it looks a bit too new?

BECKY

Does that matter?

CHAD

No. I suppose not. I mean, it's just for fun—I don't expect it to actually work.

BECKY

If ever there was a time, tonight would be it! Anyway, I hope you don't expect me to play along with this charade? IZZY is beside herself with worry over Jack. Tonight was supposed to be a laid-back affair, one where they could possibly reconnect. How are they going to do that with you playing Derek Acorah?

CHAD

Relax! This is just to break the tension! Once the drinks are flowing I'm sure they will be fine. They can have their relationship breakthrough, but don't deny me a laugh or two, first? I've been planning this for weeks!

BECKY

(sighs)
Fine.

BECKY checks her phone.

BECKY

Fuck it—I'm having a drink.

The doorbell rings.

BECKY

Finally!

CHAD

Showtime!

BECKY moves to exit stage left

CHAD

Hang on!

BECKY pauses while CHAD resets the Ouija Board. The doorbell chimes insistently.

CHAD

How's that?

BECKY

Fine! It looks fine—can I get the door now?

CHAD nods without taking his eyes off the board.

BECKY opens the door

Enter Jack and IZZY. They appear to be dressed normally.

CHAD

Where the hell are your costumes? I told you I wanted you to make an effort!

JACK

And a pleasant evening to you, too.

BECKY

Ignore him. He's just hyped up on sugar. Honestly, I've never known such a big kid.

Jack nods to BECKY.

JACK

We did come in costume, didn't we darling?

IZZY

Yes. I'm Wendy Torrance y'know—played by Shelley Duvall in The Shining. See?

IZZY pulls a "silent scream" type face.

JACK

And I'm Paul Sheldon. Misery.

CHAD

How's that then?

Jack rolls his jeans up to reveal a cast around his ankle.

JACK

That do for you?

CHAD

That looks convincing?

IZZY

Yeah, unfortunately it's the real thing.

JACK

Car accident. I hit a tree a couple of weeks back.

BECKY

My God! Are you OK? CHAD, why didn't you tell me?

CHAD

He's fine! He's standing in front of you now, isn't he?

JACK

Aside from the foot and the written off Merc . . . yeah.

BECKY

Oh, how awful!

IZZY

He's been milking it for all its worth.

JACK

Hey! I'm walking wounded.

CHAD

Pfft! whatever. If you went trick or treating dressed like that you'd get nothing.

JACK

(snappy)

But we aren't going to go trick or treating because we aren't ten anymore, are we CHAD?

CHAD

(dejected)

No. I guess we aren't.

Beat

(awkward silence)

BECKY

Well, I love your costumes! And don't just stand there—come on in, grab a drink and a seat.

BECKY hugs IZZY as Jack moves towards CHAD.

BECKY

It's really good to see you. How are you?

IZZY glances towards Jack to make sure he is out of earshot. Jack is talking to CHAD over by the drinks.

IZZY

I don't know. OK, I guess.

BECKY

Any change with him?

IZZY shakes her head.

IZZY

No.

BECKY

I know it's not easy, but have you thought about telling him outright?

IZZY

I can't.

BECKY

Why?

IZZY

I'm not ready. I don't understand it all myself. You get that, right?

BECKY

I guess.

IZZY shrugs.

IZZY

Thank you.

BECKY

Oh, hun.

BECKY hugs IZZY.

JACK

So, what's the plan? Beers and a film?

CHAD

Yeah, yeah, we'll get to that. I've plans before then, mate. Big plans.

Jack opens a can of beer.

JACK

Why do I not like the sound of that?

CHAD

You will. It'll be fun. You see. So, how are things with you and your lady?

JACK

Really? You want to go into that now? I thought tonight was going to be "fun?"

CHAD

It will be. I'm just asking as a mate. BECKY thinks you are knobbin' someone else.

JACK

(scoffs)

Does she? Chance would be a fine thing. Likely IZZY gave her that idea.

CHAD

You know how they get when they talk.

JACK

You set her straight?

CHAD

C'mon, mate. I don't get involved, you know that. I'm just asking how you are man to man. You've been outta sorts of late. Anything you wanna voice?

JACK

Not really. It's just work, y'know?

CHAD

No, it's not. Don't bullshit me, man. Level with me. It might help to offload.

JACK

Jeez . . . when did you become so caring?

CHAD

I don't. Not really. Be an ass then. Fuck you and your problems.

Jack laughs

JACK

OK. I'll level. IZZY is being full on . . . like settle down, have a family, two point four kids and all that bollox, full on.

CHAD

And you aren't keen?

JACK

Would you be?

CHAD

Fuck no!

JACK

I've so much more I want to do with my life before all of that.

CHAD

You mean there's many more to fuck before you are ready to settle?

JACK

Well . . . yeah. Why the rush into a commitment like marriage?

CHAD/Jack take a sip of their drinks.

CHAD

I get that.

BECKY

So, listen. Don't freak out or anything, but CHAD has got something lined up tonight you might not approve of.

IZZY

Oh, you do surprise me.

BECKY steers IZZY towards the table.

BECKY

I thought it better to warn you now, and you don't have to take part in it if you don't want to.

BECKY nods towards the Ouija Board.

IZZY

You are kidding, right?

BECKY

Sorry. If I'd have known I'd have talked him out of it.

IZZY

I can't believe . . . after what I . . .

CHAD

Bex! Why'd you have to spoil the big surprise?

BECKY

I was merely warning IZZY what you had in mind.

Jack puts down his drink and picks up the board.

JACK

What is it? A board game or something? You should have said you were having a games night, I'd have dug out my old Monopoly set.

CHAD snatches the board from Jack and gingerly places it back onto the table.

CHAD

You need to be careful with that, for this is a portal into another realm.

IZZY

It's evil is what it is.

BECKY

IZZY, come on now.

JACK

What?

IZZY

You shouldn't be messing around with things like that. You've no idea what you are meddling with. Jack, we are going.

BECKY

Don't be silly, Izz. It's not like it's going to work or anything!

CHAD

What do you mean? Of course it will! Tonight's the night when the divide between our world and theirs is at its narrowest. Even a complete novice like you could contact the dead on Halloween.

JACK

You want to contact the dead? That's your idea of fun?

BECKY

Oh, and you're some kind of expert now? You are just spouting what you read online!

CHAD

Only because I understand it. IZZY, you don't have to be involved, but trust me, I know what I'm doing.

IZZY

No, you don't.

JACK

We are staying. You heard him—you don't have to take part. Besides, you have been harping on about tonight for weeks, saying it is important for us to go out and spend some time together. Well, here we are.

IZZY

I know I did, but I didn't know CHAD was going to attempt something like this!

JACK

Like what? Nothing's going to happen. I've seen this shit in films—it's all fake. Besides, I've got a drink now. I'm staying.

IZZY

I'll call myself a taxi.

JACK

Fine. Do that.

BECKY

Izz!

IZZY sits on the sofa and takes out her phone. She begins to dial.

CHAD

Let her go if she wants to. She'd just kill the mood anyway.

BECKY

CHAD! Shut up!

JACK

(whispers)
She won't really go. Watch.

