

SKELETON ROOMMATE

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

COURTNEY and ANDY sit on one of the finest couches an IKEA gift card can buy. RALPH is in a chair beside them.

Andy [29] wears workout clothes he has never worked out in. He's chubby, wears glasses, and sports depression scruff.

Courtney [29] is a fun mom without the kids. Her denim jacket is covered in pins and her purse is full of snacks.

Ralph [24] is a wannabe SoundCloud rapper without the ambition to wannabe anything. Basketball jersey (number 69, of course).

COURTNEY

I'd also like to bring up that lately I've been hearing a lot of what sounds like-- xylophone music? When I'm trying to sleep? I'm not pointing fingers at anyone but whoever's playing xylophone music at night, please keep it down.

RALPH

Yeah, and sometimes, like on the winter solstice for instance, I'll hear like a cursed wailing? Like wailing from someone who's cursed? Not sure if that's a movie someone's watching but if you could keep that down too.

ANDY

I think we can all pay attention to any wailing we might be doing, cursed or otherwise. Anyway, our first electric bill is way higher than at our old place. I know it's chilly right now, but before you turn up the heat just make sure you're wearing a sweater...

ANGLE ON JIM THE SKELETON [??], a cursed, undead skeleton sits across from them listening carefully. He has a friendly, somewhat high-pitched voice. He's always dramatic.

ANDY (CONT'D)

...or some skin, or a hoodie...

Jim jumps up defensively.

JIM THE SKELETON

Oh, so this is because I'm a skeleton!

COURTNEY

What?

RALPH

No.

ANDY

Definitely not.

JIM THE SKELETON

I knew it! You're all ganging up on me because I'm the only one of the roommates who's a spooky skeleton, and I'm sick of it!

COURTNEY

This is a house meeting. If you have any concerns of your own, please share them too!

JIM THE SKELETON

Fine, I will! Ralph needs to do his dishes! I can't cook anything.

ANDY

Cook? You don't eat food!

JIM THE SKELETON

How do you know?

COURTNEY

I've seen him. He puts it in his mouth and it falls out the chin hole.

RALPH

Is that why my burrito was on the floor? I thought the rats got it. I yelled at the rats for nothing!

JIM THE SKELETON

Just because I can't digest food doesn't mean I don't deserve to enjoy a nice meal. I can't believe you'd speak to me like this. I'm going to my room. Kiss my pubic bone, losers!

Jim the Skeleton gets up from his chair and exits the room.

ANDY

Having a skeleton for a roommate was a huge mistake.

FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. THE APARTMENT - DAY (ESTABLISHING)

An LA area apartment complex. Two stories of units face inward at a courtyard with a pool. Metal railings and staircases give the place a motel vibe.

INT. THE APARTMENT - BATHROOM

Andy is showering. The water sputters, stops, then starts again. His eyes bug out.

ANDY

COLD!

He tumbles through the shower curtain and onto the floor. He grabs his phone off the bathroom counter.

INT. SALAZAR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

SALAZAR [60], sits in a cluttered real estate office. Papers, books, scrolls, and stone tablets everywhere. He's bald and fat. He wears rings on every finger and has too many shirt buttons undone. A chain with a red crystal pendant mingles with his disgusting chest hair.

He picks up the ringing phone on his desk. He speaks with upbeat, slimeball charm.

SALAZAR

Andy, hello my friend! How are you and your brother and your wife settling in?

INTERCUT ANDY/SALAZAR

ANDY

She's not my wife yet. I'm too poor. But good mostly, except the hot water doesn't work.

SALAZAR

This can't be! I replaced the water heater myself right before you moved in.

ANDY

I don't know what to tell you, but I'm running the shower right now and it's freezing.

SALAZAR

This is very troubling. Well, it can't be the water heater. Have you considered maybe it's cold because it is what you deserve?

ANDY

Excuse me?

SALAZAR

Have you done something terrible? Perhaps a crime or a great personal failure?

ANDY

Why do you think that?

SALAZAR

I think nothing! I am just exploring possibilities. In life it is often the simplest explanation.

ANDY

The simplest explanation is the water heater is broken!

SALAZAR

On this we disagree. Now, is there anything else?

ANDY

Yes! You did not tell us there would be a cursed skeleton living here with us!

SALAZAR

My friend, you should have inspected the apartment before you signed the lease!

ANDY

You told us we couldn't because there were bees!

SALAZAR

And there were! There sure were.

Andy seethes impotently.

ANDY

Whatever, jerk! You'd better not try to keep our security deposit. Have a good day!

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Ralph and Courtney sit on the couch waiting. Jim calls to them from his room.

JIM THE SKELETON

Are you ready? Can I come out?

RALPH

Yeah, dude!

COURTNEY

Come on out!

JIM THE SKELETON

Alright. I'm just nervous because I haven't worn clothes in awhile. You guys aren't gonna roast me are you?

RALPH

We'd never do that.

Jim struts beaming into the kitchen wearing a Confederate soldier's coat. He poses and twirls like a supermodel.

RALPH

Oh my god.

COURTNEY

Take that off! Gross!

Jim is crushed.

JIM THE SKELETON

I knew you guys were setting me up!

COURTNEY

No, it's just... When you were alive, you didn't...

(whispers)

...fight for The South did you?

JIM THE SKELETON

What? No, I was a skeleton way before then. I got this cool coat because it was on sale. Skeletons don't have a lot of human money and it was super cheap because everyone stopped wearing them all at once in 1865 for some reason.

COURTNEY

For a really good reason!

Jim takes the coat off and sets it on the table.

JIM THE SKELETON

I'll take your word for it. I don't really follow human stuff anymore.

Ralph snatches the coat.

RALPH

I'm gonna put this in the neighbor's trash can in case the rats knock ours over again. Those rats! Always up to something.

COURTNEY

You're too fun to wear something grey and boring. How about some color? Andy has a coat I think you'll like. He can't wear it anymore because he got too...

She mimes a big stomach with her hands.

INT. THE APARTMENT - ANDY & COURTNEY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andy listens through the walls. He lays on the bed eating a chocolate bunny. There is a calendar on the wall behind him. It's December. He bangs his fist on the wall and yells.

ANDY

Hey! Got too what?

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Courtney whips around and heads down the hallway towards their room, romantically baby talking.

COURTNEY

...he got too handsome! Andy has a big handsome tum tum now cause he got too many emotions, but it's ok because we ALL love him!

She drops the voice.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Wow, these walls are really thin.

RALPH

Maybe that's why the place was so cheap.

Ralph looks at Jim.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Wait, no. It's probably cheap because of the cursed skeleton who came with the apartment.

INT. THE APARTMENT - ANDY & COURTNEY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Courtney bursts into the room, kisses Andy on the forehead, and starts digging through their closet throwing things.

COURTNEY

I need your coat!

ANDY

No, not my cool coat!

COURTNEY

Sorry, I love you!

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Courtney returns carrying a big puffy ski jacket.

COURTNEY

Here you go, Jim the Skeleton. Your new coat.

RALPH

I thought he wanted us to call him Skeleton Jim?

JIM THE SKELETON

I'm still deciding. It's too stressful!

He takes the jacket and puts it on. His torso becomes a big ridiculous puffy ball. He looks great.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

Do I look... beautiful?

COURTNEY

Of course you look beautiful!

RALPH

Bro, put some pants on!

COURTNEY

He wasn't wearing pants before.

RALPH

Yeah but now that he has a shirt it seems worse somehow.

JIM THE SKELETON

Can I wear... jeans?

He is shaking in excitement at the mere thought of jeans.

RALPH

Gotta get the man some jeans.

INT. THE APARTMENT - ANDY & COURTNEY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Courtney walks in the room. Andy is now eating a marshmallow peep. She looks at a giant cardboard box with shipping labels on it full of Easter candy on the ground next to him.

COURTNEY

Why are you eating Easter candy in the middle of winter?

ANDY

It was super cheap online from Australia. They just had Easter over there cause they're in the southern hemisphere.

COURTNEY

That's not true. I think you bought really old gross candy.

ANDY

Well, it does taste bad and make me feel sick.

He looks at the candy and slowly takes another bite.

COURTNEY

Babe, give me that.

She takes the marshmallow peep out of his hand and sits on the bed next to him.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

You can have all the treats you want, but not if they make you sick. I want you to feel good and be happy!

ANDY

I don't wanna feel good and be happy!

COURTNEY

We'll work on this later. Don't freak out, but I need your jeans.

ANDY

No! Not my cool jeans! I'll fit back into them someday. I swear!

COURTNEY

I know you will. But right now, Jim needs them. We'll get you some new cool jeans.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Courtney walks back out holding a cool pair of faded skinny jeans with the knees torn out.

COURTNEY

Here you go!

She hands them to Jim.

JIM THE SKELETON

Thanks!

He puts on the jeans. He can't believe it.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)
Wow! I'm wearing jeans!

He does a happy skeleton dance.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)
I've never worn jeans before! This
rules!

Andy walks into the room behind Courtney.

ANDY
Why does he need my jeans? Do you
have a date or something?

Jim stops dancing. He's crestfallen.

JIM THE SKELETON
No, I haven't had a date in... I
can't even remember. I've been a
skeleton for so long.

RALPH
How long?

He thinks about it, then snuffles.

JIM THE SKELETON
I don't remember, ok?

He starts completely freaking out.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)
Oh no! It must have been a really
long time!

Jim runs out of the room crying.

ANDY
Jim the Skeleton! Jim the Skeleton!
Wait!

A door slams.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Ah, shoot.

Courtney puts her hand on Andy's shoulder.

COURTNEY
You should go talk to him. I'll
come too, cause you're not good
with words or feelings.

ANDY
It's true. I'm not.

Courtney and Andy leave the room. Ralph opens a window and
lights a joint. He looks out the window at an apartment

across the courtyard.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

RALPH'S POV

He gazes absent-mindedly from one room to the next. Someone is sitting on the couch watching TV.

He looks closer. It's a DEAD BODY. It used to be an old lady, now shriveled into a mummified husk. The eyes are missing. The teeth protrude in a ghoulish grin. The remote rests in her bony hand.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

RALPH

Ooh that seems bad.

FADE OUT.

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. THE APARTMENT - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Courtney and Andy stand outside of Jim's room. The doorway looks like it belongs in a castle. It's fitted within a stone arch bookended by lit torches on the wall.

Andy looks at the torches while they listen to Jim crying.

ANDY

We should make sure the smoke detectors work.

Courtney grabs the heavy iron loop door handle and knocks.

COURTNEY

Skeleton Jim? Jim the Skeleton?

Jim stops crying.

JIM THE SKELETON (O.S.)

My friends have come to check on me! I need to get it together.

A hollow bonking sound.

JIM THE SKELETON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I forgot that slapping myself doesn't work with my spooky bone hands! I'm so bad at being a skeleton, after all this time!

He opens the door. He stands there sheepishly.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

Hi, guys.

They follow him into the room.

INT. THE APARTMENT - JIM'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The dungeon-esque room is made of stone blocks. No windows. Flickering torches. Cavernous dripping sounds. No furniture except for a magical looking chest. A tunnel leads somewhere. The layout of the room couldn't possibly fit inside this apartment.

COURTNEY

Cool room!

JIM THE SKELETON

I hate it! My old roommates never invited me out, so the curse kept me in here for basically the whole lease.

ANDY

That was an option?

Courtney stomps on Andy's foot.

COURTNEY

So the curse follows vampire rules.

JIM THE SKELETON

There are so many rules.

ANDY

No bed? I thought you'd at least have a coffin or something.

Jim the Skeleton laughs.

JIM THE SKELETON

Oh! I sleep like this.

He freezes in place and falls forward, arms glued to his sides. He hits the ground with the sound of clattering bowling pins. His bones fly everywhere.

Andy is impressed. Courtney is horrified.

The bones glow, then move back to the pile of clothes. They reassemble into Jim's skeleton body.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

Pretty cool huh?

He grabs where his stomach would be.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

It hurts so much.

ANDY

I'm sorry for what I said out there.

JIM THE SKELETON

It's ok. This happens every couple hundred years. It dawns on me all at once that I'm a skeleton, and I'm cursed to live in this apartment forever, and I'll never experience true love's first kiss.

COURTNEY

Ooh, is that how you lift the curse? Like in Shrek?

JIM THE SKELETON

No. Nothing lifts the curse.

COURTNEY

Have you tried?

ANDY

He's probably tried countless times.

JIM THE SKELETON

I tried at least three or four times before I gave up.

COURTNEY

Do you want us to help you try?

JIM THE SKELETON

It's ok. I've accepted my fate as a skeleton. It's just nice to have some friends for once.

COURTNEY

Well, you officially have a standing invitation to leave your room. Whenever you want.

Jim is ecstatic.

JIM THE SKELETON

Really?

Andy is not.

ANDY

Really?

COURTNEY

Really.

JIM THE SKELETON

Skeleton group hug!

Jim wraps his arms around them.

COURTNEY

Ooh, so bony!

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Ralph, now with binoculars, scans the other apartment. Courtney, Andy, and Jim come back into the room.

JIM THE SKELETON

I can leave my room whenever I want! Wow. I can't wait to use the bathroom!

COURTNEY

Do you go to the bathroom?

JIM THE SKELETON

I can't wait to find out!

RALPH

You guys gotta see this.

He hands Courtney the binoculars.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

COURTNEY'S POV (BINOCULARS)

The dead body is now sitting at the kitchen table, newspaper laid out in front of it.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

COURTNEY

Gross! It's a dead body.

RALPH

Don't be so sure. It's been moving from room to room.

ANDY

Why are you looking in other people's apartments and why do you own binoculars?

RALPH

I space out sometimes and the binoculars are for UFO's.

ANDY

You believe in that stuff?

RALPH

We live with a skeleton!

Courtney hands the binoculars to Andy.

ANDY

Should we call the police?

COURTNEY

Boring!

ANDY

It's a dead body though.

RALPH

You think she's been dead awhile?

JIM THE SKELETON

SHE???

Jim frantically grabs for the binoculars.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JIM'S POV (BINOCULARS)

The dead body glides slowly across the room.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

His jawbone hangs open. He grabs it and rips it out of place so it can fall to the ground dramatically. It immediately jumps back into place. He spins around, lovestruck.

JIM THE SKELETON
She's so voluptuous.

ANDY
You mean she has skin?

JIM THE SKELETON
She has skin in all the right places.

COURTNEY
Maybe you have a date tonight after all.

RALPH
Yeah, buddy! Go... clank some bone?

JIM THE SKELETON
I'll do it! I'm handsome, and I have interesting things to say! This is my big chance!

COURTNEY
Go ring the doorbell!

He hoots and hollers to the front door, opens it with gusto, and takes a step outside. He immediately bursts into flames. He screams in agony as his bones and clothing disintegrate.

COURTNEY
Skeleton Jim! Oh no!

RALPH
He's gone. It's all our fault.

ANDY
My jeans!

INT. THE APARTMENT - JIM'S ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Jim materializes hovering in the air on fire, coat and jeans intact. He's still screaming. He falls to the ground and smashes apart. His bones come to a rest and extinguish.

Courtney, Ralph, and Andy run into the room. Jim's bones reassemble.

JIM THE SKELETON
Forgot about the curse. Woops.

RALPH

Are you alright?

JIM THE SKELETON

I'm ok. It just hurt more than you can possibly imagine.

COURTNEY

So when you leave the apartment, you burn up, and instantaneously transport back to your room?

JIM THE SKELETON

Instantaneously? I just went to Hell for a whole year!

RALPH

What's Hell like?

JIM THE SKELETON

Hellish.

COURTNEY

So if we're going to help you meet that skelebabe and experience true love's first kiss, we're going to have to lift the curse.

JIM THE SKELETON

It probably isn't worth it.

COURTNEY

Of course it's worth it. We'll help you.

JIM THE SKELETON

You'd really do that?

RALPH

Definitely. That's what friends do!

JIM THE SKELETON

Wow, friendship! I can finally do one of these. Hands in!

Jim puts his hand in. The others follow suit.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

One! Two! Three! Skelebuddies!

RALPH/COURTNEY

Skelebuddies!

ANDY

Are we going to call someone about the dead body? What if she was murdered?

FADE OUT.

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. THE APARTMENT - KITCHEN - SAME DAY

Andy inspects a leak under the sink. Courtney pops in and out of the room, wafting burning sage around.

ANDY

It's bad enough when Ralph smokes pot in here.

COURTNEY

I'm cleansing our home of negative energy.

ANDY

Fine. Please don't get into astrology though.

She waves the sage in a circle around him.

COURTNEY

Sensing a lot of negative energy over here!

INT. SALAZAR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Salazar is putting golf balls into a mug on the carpet. A young secretary, LINDA, pokes her head in the door.

LINDA

Mr. Salazar, one of your tenants says there's no... floor?

SALAZAR

Not now. I'm about to get a call.

The phone rings as Salazar walks to his desk. He answers.

SALAZAR (CONT'D)

Andy. How unexpected. Hello!

INTERCUT ANDY/SALAZAR

ANDY

The kitchen sink is leaking.

SALAZAR

Why don't you tell me what this is really about?

ANDY

The sink?

SALAZAR

No, what is troubling you so? It is so easy to find problems with your surroundings when you are ignoring what lies within. Now, tell me your flaws, your demons!

ANDY

I don't have-- I mean, everyone has flaws, but--

SALAZAR

Before you change the world, you must first get your house in order!

ANDY

I live in your house! And it sucks!

SALAZAR

I feel if you reconcile with your past mistakes, the sink won't bother you as much.

ANDY

What does this have to do with all my past mistakes? It's a sink!

SALAZAR

Time is a flat circle!
(smiles to self)
I just made that up! That's pretty good.

ANDY

One of your apartments has a dead body in it.

SALAZAR

The skeleton is non-negotiable.

ANDY

No, the apartment across the courtyard. Someone died in there.

SALAZAR

You hallucinate with the grief of your own failures. I will not listen to these tall tales.
Goodbye.

He hangs up. Andy lays face down on the floor.

COURTNEY

Hey, what did we talk about? If you want to have sad time you have to do it in a place that doesn't hurt your body.

ANDY

I can't control where I have sad
time! It comes all at once.

She puts dish towels under Andy's face like a pillow.

COURTNEY

I'm setting a timer. When it goes
off you have to get up.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jim and Ralph sit crosslegged on the floor. A guided
meditation plays from Courtney's phone on the coffee table.

GUIDED MEDITATION (O.S.)

Feel each breath fill your lungs.
Focus on each muscle. Close your
eyes and feel the sun on your skin.

JIM THE SKELETON

I don't have any of that stuff.

Courtney enters and sets down the sage on an incense tray.

COURTNEY

Are you boys aligning your chakras?

JIM THE SKELETON

I think so!

Ralph is unresponsive. Courtney snaps her fingers. He gasps.

RALPH

Oh my gosh! I was there! Nirvana!

He claws at the air in panic.

RALPH (CONT'D)

Send me back!

COURTNEY

Aura check!

She helps Jim to his feet and examines him.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

All clean. Wait, if the curse is
lifted, won't you stop being a
skeleton?

JIM THE SKELETON

Nah, that's a whole other thing.

COURTNEY

Maybe that did it then. You ready?

JIM THE SKELETON

Ready!

EXT. THE APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jim opens the door and walks out onto the walkway. He immediately bursts into flames screaming.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ralph and Jim stand inside of an inflatable swimming pool wearing white church robes. Andy and Courtney watch from the couch wearing their Sunday best.

RALPH

I now baptize you, Jim the
Skeleton... what comes next?

Courtney reads off her phone.

COURTNEY

...in the name of the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ralph dunks Jim into the water, slips, and falls in with him. They splash around gasping for air. Courtney claps.

COURTNEY

Yay! You're baptized!

Jim shudders in horror.

JIM THE SKELETON

Sorry, that just reminded me of
that time I was trapped in a sunken
ship for two hundred years. All
good!

RALPH

Do you think it worked?

JIM THE SKELETON

Had to. The only way the curse
wouldn't be gone now is if it came
from the devil himself.

EXT. THE APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jim bursts into flames once again.

INT. THE APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

The four sit around the kitchen table brainstorming.

JIM THE SKELETON

Just so you guys know, every time I
go outside it hurts one hundred
times more than the last time.

RALPH

What if it's like that movie Holes with my boy Shia? You need to right the wrongs of your ancestors.

JIM THE SKELETON

I don't have any ancestors. I think I was one of the first guys.

RALPH

Ok, your own wrongs then. Who cursed you?

JIM THE SKELETON

It was Salazar...

Jim's eyes glow red and he speaks in Salazar's voice.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

...who is a good guy and who didn't do those things he's accused of.

Jim snaps out of it.

JIM THE SKELETON (CONT'D)

Sorry, I blacked out. Did I just say something?

COURTNEY

There's gotta be another way. Andy, you love horror movies. How do you lift a curse in those?

INT. THE APARTMENT - JIM'S ROOM - LATER

Ralph paints a pentagram on the ground. Jim watches.

RALPH

Should I go get my DJ stuff for this?

Andy hurries into the room with a baby goat in his arms. Courtney follows, concerned.

COURTNEY

Andy! I know you haven't been yourself recently but this is a little much.

Andy places the goat in the pentagram. Jim hands Andy a dagger out of his mysterious chest.

Ralph squints at his phone.

RALPH

Does anyone read Latin?

Everyone shakes their head.

ANDY

Whatever. Um. Satan. Hello! We gather here to sacrifice this baby goat that I stole from a Jamaican restaurant. I hope you like it.

The goat looks up at Andy with giant, shiny, ADORABLE eyes.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Uh, please lift the curse on our friend Jim so he can leave our house, possibly forever.

Andy looks away, knife trembling. The baby goat licks his hand and nuzzles its head against him, then climbs into his arms and licks his face. Andy rocks the goat gently.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You are my son.

He cuddles closer with the goat.

ANDY (CONT'D)

It's ok, Noodles. I won't let these people hurt you.

NOODLES

BAHHH.

Andy fights back tears as he flees the room.

RALPH

He's going through a bit of a spiral right now.

JIM THE SKELETON

I get it.

COURTNEY

Well, if we can't lift the curse, I guess our next move is invite the zombie lady over here to meet Jim. Maybe she isn't cursed the same way and she can leave her apartment.

RALPH

And then when they share true love's first kiss, Jim will be freed! Like Shrek.

ALL

Like Shrek!

INT. THE APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Andy stirs a pot of ramen. Noodles is nestled against his leg on the floor. Courtney, Ralph, and Jim enter.

ANDY

I'm making some noodles for Noodles. I hope he likes them because I already named him Noodles and it's too late to go back.

RALPH

We're going across the street.

ANDY

Can Noodles come?

COURTNEY

No.

ANDY

I'll stay here then.

COURTNEY

We're knocking on a stranger's door with a cursed, undead being inside. You have to come.

Andy considers.

ANDY

Jim, take care of my precious baby boy.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - DUSK

Andy, Courtney, and Ralph approach the front door of the apartment across the courtyard. Andy rings the doorbell. A fat middle aged guy with a mustache and tattoos, CARLOS, opens the door.

CARLOS

Hello?

ANDY

Oh. Um, can we talk to the lady of the house, if you know what I mean?

Andy winks awkwardly.

COURTNEY

Look, we know you have kind of a special situation going on over here. We have a similar arrangement back at our place.

Carlos's eyes light up.

CARLOS

Oh! Sure sure. Come in.

They follow him inside.

INT. OTHER APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A little old lady apartment. Family photos everywhere. The dead body sits in a chair facing the TV.

The three sit down on the couch. Carlos stands.

COURTNEY

Hello, ma'am. We were wondering if you were interested in having a romantic evening?

The dead body doesn't respond.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Ma'am?

No response. Andy and Ralph whisper.

ANDY

I don't think this is a curse. That's a straight up dead body.

RALPH

But she was moving around!

COURTNEY

Ma'am? Can you talk?

CARLOS

Of course she can talk. Can't you hear her?

He leans down and kisses the dead body on the forehead.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

She says you're very pretty!

COURTNEY

Thank you...

Andy whispers.

ANDY

I think this is a Norman Bates-Psycho thing.
(speaks up)
Sir? Is this your mother?

CARLOS

Mother? No, this is my fiancée! Well, we have an open relationship. You said you guys had a similar arrangement at your house? You're all poly and you wanted to come over here and bang?

Carlos takes off his shirt.

COURTNEY

That's not quite what we meant.

RALPH

But she was moving! I saw her move earlier. She was alive!

CARLOS

They wanna see your moves, babe.

Carlos picks the dead body up and hangs her on a meat hook from the ceiling. He moves her around on a rail system.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

You're so sexy, babe. Come on.
Let's dance for them.

He starts slow dancing with the body and singing Aerosmith's "Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" to himself. Everyone is aghast.

ANDY

Wow. Listen, we'd love to stay here and have a gangbang but wouldn't you know it, my son Noodles needs help with his homework...

Carlos pulls his pants down, revealing frilly underwear and a gun taped to his thigh.

CARLOS

You can't leave so soon!

He rips the gun off of his thigh and points it at them. The tape rips out his leg hair in clean patches.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

We were about to have a sensual, sensual evening.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JIM'S POV (BINOCULARS)

Carlos takes a step towards them waving the gun.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Jim watches the action with Ralph's binoculars.

JIM THE SKELETON

I knew this would happen.

Jim picks up an antique telephone. He dials.

INT. SALAZAR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Salazar answers the phone.

SALAZAR

Jim, my skeleton enemy. You have been trying to lift your curse. Naughty naughty!

INTERCUT JIM/SALAZAR

JIM THE SKELETON

Would you please stop cursing me?

SALAZAR

I cannot lift the curse, especially when it expires tomorrow.

JIM THE SKELETON

Tomorrow?!

SALAZAR

I am kidding! The curse never expires.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JIM'S POV (BINOCULARS)

Carlos has the three of them pressed into a corner. He pulls back the hammer of the gun. Andy is curled up on the floor.

BACK TO PHONE CALL

JIM THE SKELETON

Uncurse me so I can save my friends! If I don't, who will invite me out of my room?

SALAZAR

Well, I do need them to pay rent.

JIM THE SKELETON

Please!

SALAZAR

Fine. I will lift the curse for one minute, but in exchange, I get to curse you even more somehow.

EXT. OTHER APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

JIM'S POV (BINOCULARS)

Carlos has the gun in Andy's mouth. Andy is hysterical.

BACK TO PHONE CALL

JIM THE SKELETON

Alright! Fine!

SALAZAR

Very well.

Jim's body pulses with red magic energy.

JIM THE SKELETON

I'm free!

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Jim runs across the courtyard to the front door of the other apartment.

JIM THE SKELETON

Nobody look at me! I'm a skeleton!

INT. OTHER APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jim kicks the door in.

JIM THE SKELETON

Leave my friends alone!

Carlos spins around to look at him. He screams.

CARLOS

A dead guy! Gross!

Andy grabs a lamp and smashes it on Carlos's head. Carlos falls to the ground unconscious.

JIM THE SKELETON

I did it! Skeleton group hug!

Jim takes one step forward and bursts into flames. He screams even louder than before.

EXT. THE OTHER APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Andy stands with a POLICEMAN next to the front door. They watch two EMT's wheel Carlos out on a stretcher.

POLICEMAN

Guy breaks into an apartment, finds an old lady who died, and falls in love. It's a tale as old as time.

ANDY

Is he going to be ok?

POLICEMAN

Uh, no. You knocked him unconscious. He's gonna have a serious concussion. Maybe some brain hemorrhaging.

Carlos starts having a seizure. The EMT's pick up the pace.

POLICEMAN

Ooh, he's having a seizure. That's not good. Anyway, it was self

(MORE)

POLICEMAN (CONT'D)
defense so you're actually a hero
for doing that.

The policeman pats Andy on the back. He is scarred for life.

INT. THE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Courtney, Ralph, Jim, and Noodles hang out on the furniture.
Andy walks through the front door.

ANDY
Today we learned an important
lesson. If you see a dead body and
it's not Jim, it is not alive.

RALPH
Is that the only thing we learned?

ANDY
Jim, I owe you an apology. I've
been really mean to you ever since
we moved in. It's just, I've been
in an awful mood ever since I got
fired.

JIM THE SKELETON
You got fired?

ANDY
Yeah. I finally had my dream job,
and I blew it. Bad. Courtney and I
couldn't afford our nice apartment
anymore, so we had to move here
with Ralph. I feel like a huge
failure, and I was taking it out on
you.

JIM THE SKELETON
That's ok, pal.

ANDY
But hey, with you and Noodles
around, I have a feeling living
here is going to be a lot of fun.

Jim stands up and puts his bony hand in the middle. The
others place their hands on top.

JIM THE SKELETON
One! Two! Three! Skelebuddies!

ALL
Skelebuddies!

NOODLES
BAHHHH.

FADE OUT.

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. THE APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jim jumps up and down with excitement next to the toilet.

JIM THE SKELETON

Guys! Guys! Everybody come in here!

Courtney rushes in.

COURTNEY

Are you ok?

Jim gestures dramatically with a sweeping motion.

JIM THE SKELETON

I did it! I went to the bathroom.

ANGLE ON the toilet. It is full of white, glowing, translucent, ghostly poo. It looks like vanilla soft serve. Translucent ghost flies buzz around it.

JIM THE SKELETON

I knew I could do it and I did!

Courtney is confused but decides to roll with it.

COURTNEY

Very good, Jim!

JIM THE SKELETON

I did so good.

Andy and Ralph enter.

ANDY

What's wrong? Did the pipes burst?

COURTNEY

Jim used the potty and we're very proud of him.

RALPH

I'm gonna hurl.

EXT. THE APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Stars twinkle. The moon shines bright.

Andy screams, exasperated.

ANDY (O.S.)

It's not flushing! Aw, the plunger goes right through it!