

CHASING THE GHOST

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Present day. KURT and PATTY are in their house bedroom. A Policeman (POLICE) is there. KURT is very shook up, PATTY is as well but she hides it with humor. A nervous almost can't stop talking humor.

POLICE

Is there anyone who would have reason to harm you? Either of you?

PATTY

Uh, no, no of course not.

KURT

No. Not that I'm aware of.

POLICE

So, just to make sure I have this correct... someone broke into your house-

PATTY

Yes.

POLICE

Can you walk me through the night?

KURT

We already told you-

POLICE

Just trying to make sure I have the story straight sir.

PATTY

We were getting ready to go to bed, I put on my pajamas, Kurt put his on, I brushed my teeth, Kurt didn't-

POLICE

MAYBE just the pertinent information Ma'am.

PATTY

Sorry just trying to be thorough. You have to be thorough with... these... Yeah. So we go to bed. We fall asleep, and then late at night Kurt wakes up screaming- wait no-

KURT

I was screaming.

Not at first-

PATTY

KURT's eyes go wide.

PATTY (cont.)

You did scream but you laughed first.

KURT

Patty stop-

PATTY

He laughed *then* he screamed-

KURT

No!

POLICE

OK. Just to go over it... There's no sign of forced entry, you mentioned that the door was still locked when you woke up?

KURT

Yeah that's-

PATTY

That's correct.

POLICE

How did the individual get out?

PATTY

He went through the window-

KURT

Patty-

POLICE

You mean that he opened the window and crawled through Ma'am?

KURT

She didn't see-

PATTY

But you said he went through the window-

POLICE

Theeee *open* window ma'am?

PATTY

He wouldn't have had time to open it-

POLICE

I'm sorry are you saying he crashed through the closed window-?

PATTY

I didn't see it Kurt-

KURT

Look- yeah- I saw it but I didn't get a good look- It was very unsettling, it looked as if... He must've run through the house-

POLICE

And locked the door on his way out?

KURT

Could you please take this seriously? My house was violated.

POLICE

I apologize sir. I assure you I am taking this seriously... I'm just trying to understand, and make sure I'm not mishearing your accounts. Why don't you describe him?

KURT

I wasn't thinking... right... I was terrified. I... imagined a lot of things-

POLICE

So you weren't able to get a good look at him.

KURT

I know what I *think* I saw... But it was dark and I didn't really see it.

POLICE

What did you *think* you saw sir?

KURT

Nothing-

POLICE

Distinguishing feature? Clothing? Anything that might be able to help us identify him?

KURT

Look, just a man who broke into my house, walked into my room, and then ran away-

POLICE

So you saw a man who somehow got into your home, walked around your house, and then fled your home without unlocking any of your doors or windows.

KURT

Yeah, yes.

POLICE

They entered your room.

PATTY

Yes.

POLICE

They didn't take anything.

KURT

No.

PATTY

I don't think it was their intent to take anything.

POLICE

Why do you say that ma'am?

PATTY

It's... Look- I Kurt we should-

POLICE

All due respect ma'am if you or your husband saw-

KURT

I didn't see anything- Patty-

POLICE

Sir we're just trying to get an idea of the person-

It assaulted my husband!

PATTY

PATTY!

KURT

I'm sorry Kurt but... you were assaulted!

PATTY

Were you assaulted S-

POLICE

No! Of course not! I would've said something-

KURT

He was! It came in-

PATTY

Patty!

KURT

Sir, I can appreciate how hard this must be-

POLICE

It's not har-

KURT

He tickled my husband's feet!

PATTY

He... what ma'am?

POLICE

Nothing my wife is just upset-

KURT

You're damn right I'm upset! Someone attacked my husband!

PATTY

No one attacked me-

KURT

POLICE

Are you saying that no one broke in-

KURT

Of course they did but no one assaulted me!

POLICE

But did they tickle-

KURT

No!

PATTY

You can tell him honey. He was laughing because his feet were being tickled by a pervert in the shadows! So he laughed until he realized he was being tickled by a ghost-

POLICE

Tickled by a ghost ma'am?

PATTY

I mean... not literally... But We can't rule out the possibility... Look I've been listening to this Podcast, "Darkness Calls," and they talk all the time about the appearance of shadow people who-

KURT

Officer... we just got back from a funeral... I think it's affecting my wife- I know it's affecting me... I was not tickled by a ghost. A depraved pervert broke into my house... to... to... to do god knows what... but he must've gotten scared when I woke up and he fled.

POLICE

Through the locked door.

KURT

I probably did lock it after I got up... It was very upsetting!

A long uncomfortable silence.

POLICE

Allllll right Sir. I'll write this up when I get back to the station- if anything else comes up, or if you remember anything just, uh, give the station a call.

PATTY

Thank you officer.

POLICE

Ma'am. Actually... before I go sir... have we met before?

KURT

Wh- I dunno maybe I've been around in the neighborhood a long time.

POLICE

Something... Something about your voice is familiar,.. You do radio or something-

KURT

No no, I'm a software engineer- I don't do radio-

POLICE

Oh crap I know now, you're that uh Angry-uh-

KURT

That's another guy I was the Enraged Gamer Geek-

POLICE

The Enraged Gamer Geek! Oh damn, I'm sorry I just I used to watch your youtube channel back in the early days you were a content pioneer! I remember watching your review of Zelda 2 and- I apologize miss but he's very creative with his language-

PATTY

Look who has a fan-

POLICE

Whatever happened to your channel? It was really good, I mean these days you could probably make a killing on Twitch or-

KURT

I took it down a while ago- look officer I've got a long morning I gotta-

POLICE

No I completely understand- if you need anything you have my number but seriously you should do more.

KURT

May-maybe man.

POLICE leaves. PATTY sighs in relief.

KURT

Why did you have to tell him that?!

PATTY

You got tickled by a pervert! It was important-

KURT

Not that! A ghost? A GHOST?! Why the fuck would you tell an officer of the law I was assaulted by a ghost-

PATTY

I didn't say you WERE tickled by a ghost but, I mean, it's not like it's not a possibility- Plus that's how you described him! He was in and out of here like a ghost!

KURT

I was being hyperbolic! We don't know it was a ghost!

PATTY

You're absolutely right I heard on my Darkness Calls Podcast that Shadow People might actually be-

KURT

This was a real thing that really happened!

PATTY

I'm sure the officer understood- it was an important detail-

KURT

What was important was that someone broke into our house-

PATTY

Suppose there's a serial tickler. Someone going around the neighborhood tickling people in their sleep. Isn't it important to give them accurate information-

KURT

It wasn't your information to give.

PATTY walks over and puts her arm around him.

PATTY

This isn't your fault.

KURT

I know it isn't.

PATTY

I just want you to know that-

KURT

I *do* know that why *would* it be my fault, it's not like I took out an ad on craigslist asking strange men to tickle my feet.

PATTY

Strange ghosts-

KURT

I was. Not. Tickled. By. A. Ghost!

KURT walks away. He finds a piece of paper.

KURT cont.

The fuck?

PATTY

What's that?

KURT

It's a... it's a note... It says.. "If"... "Not"...

PATTY

"If not" what?

KURT

I don't know. Did you write-

PATTY

No... Maybe the ghost tickler-

KURT

We're not calling him that.

PATTY

Maybe he left it! Maybe it's his calling card. His depraved, perverted, little calling card.

KURT

If... not.

PATTY

Like he just faaaaaades his way into peoples' houses-

KURT

He's not a ghost-

PATTY

Hyperbolically fades into people's houses and does his sick little tickle game...

KURT

If not?

PATTY

You're gonna be ok babe.

KURT

If not.