

KNOCK

Written by

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INT. AN APARTMENT. HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Inside of a messy, one-bedroom flat, an overweight VIC(25) places a bowl of candy bars next to a carved pumpkin.

He almost reaches for one when a loud KNOCK startles him. Instead of trick-or-treaters at the door, he finds an unlabeled PACKAGE.

Curious, he opens the box, finding a hideous MASK inside. Something about the mask makes him feel uneasy, almost afraid. He puts it down quickly.

In a pile of dirty clothes he finds a book of matches, lights the pumpkin, dims the lights, and plops down on the couch to watch a horror movie.

As the light from the jack o'lantern bathes the mask in an eerie glow, his eyes wander towards it once more.

Unnerved, he tries to ignore it, but the sounds coming from the TV seem tied to mask itself: the creepier the music, the louder the screams, the more grotesque it seems to look.

Vic rises, frightened but determined: the mask has to go.

He opens the front door and drives a nail into the center of the mask, mounting it in a decorative fashion before slamming the door shut.

He barely hits the couch before a loud KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK rattles the door. Annoyed, he ignores it--at first.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. He opens the door. The hallway is empty.

Mystified and a little creeped out, Vic is about to re-enter the apartment when he notices the mask is gone. With no culprit in sight, he shakes his head and shuts the door.

Vic settles into the couch once more, this time finding his attention divided between the TV and the candy bowl. He tries to behave, but gives in, practically inhaling a candy bar. Then another and another.

THE COUCH. LATER

Vic lay snoring in front of the TV, surrounded by candy wrappers. A loud KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK at the door awakens him.

He glances at the bowl, but it's empty. Disgusted with himself, he begins to look for something to give the trick-or-treaters at the door.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. The banging is more intense this time. He digs through his pockets for change, and finding none, reaches into the cushions of his couch, where he digs out a few coins.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. Even louder.

He swings the door open, ready to give the kids a tongue-lashing, but the hallway is empty. He checks the stairwell, but no one is there. No longer confused or frightened, Vic is annoyed.

Back on the couch, he settles in once more, soon fighting to stay awake when he hears:

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

He decides to ignore it.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

Louder. He turns up the TV.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

The banging is so loud, he leaps to his feet and rips open the door, but, once again, the hallway is empty.

Boiling over with anger, Vic SLAMS the door shut and stands behind it, waiting to catch the culprit.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. He swings the door open, only to find an empty hallway.

Bewildered, he closes the door. He's about to walk away when:

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK! This time, so hard, it seems the door is coming off the hinges. But once again, the hallway is empty.

Furious, he SLAMS his door shut, locks it and heads for bed.

INT. VIC'S BEDROOM

A tiny room with a small closet and an equally small bed. Over the headboard hangs an autographed baseball bat.

Still angry, Vic shuts the bedroom door and crawls into bed. He calms down and begins drifting off to sleep when suddenly....

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK on his bedroom door!

He freezes in fear.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK, louder.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK even louder.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK! The bedroom door shakes violently, as if something is trying to force its way in! He covers his head with the sheets, almost paralyzed with fear when suddenly, the knocking stops.

Vic grabs the baseball bat and tiptoes towards the bedroom door. He puts his ear to it, but there is silence. Almost relieved, he turns towards the bed when...

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK!

Horrified, he stumbles backwards, crashing into the wall. The baseball bat tumbles onto his head. Vic grips the bat tightly, reaching for the bedroom door. He flings it open and finds...

Nothing.

He checks the front door and sees it is still locked, just as he left it. In a frenzy, Vic turns on every light in the house, searching every nook and cranny, finding nothing.

He triple-checks the front door, re-securing the lock. A look through the peephole lets him know the hallway is empty.

Returning to his bedroom, he locks the door, and, leaving the light on, crawls into bed, baseball bat at his side.

There is silence. Vic struggles to relax, but soon he is laying on his side, his eyelids growing heavy. As he closes his eyes, the light flickers and shuts off BY ITSELF.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK on his closet door! Frightened beyond belief, he sits up in bed, staring at the closet.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

His heart beats faster. Faster. Soon, we can't tell the difference between the KNOCKS and the BEATING of his heart. The closet door rattles, shaking almost off the hinges.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. KNOCK KNOCK--silence.

CRREEEEEEAK! The closet door slowly opens. Inside we see the dark outline of a shape. A face?

He tries to close his eyes when out of the darkness he sees....the mask(pg.1).

It begins to move slowly towards him. We can barely make out the shape of someone(or some THING)wearing it.

Numb with fear, Vic watches as the figure slithers out of the darkness. We can see the mask still has the nail(pg.2) embedded in it's head.

The Thing pauses and after a few tense moments, raises a gnarled hand towards the mask, pointing at the nail.

Vic drops the bat. Paralyzed with fear, his strength has left him.

The Thing reaches up it's clawed hand once more, removing the nail from it's own head. We see blood seeping out of the hole and onto the mask.

The Thing slowly points to the mask on it's face, clawing at it as if to demand that Vic pull it off. He shakes his head as if to say "No", but can't speak.

It points once more, almost demanding Vic remove the mask. He finds himself reaching towards it. His hands quivering, he pulls on it, slowly. Slowly. Slowly.

The mask slips off to reveal the exact same horrible face underneath, but it's not a mask!

Vic tries to scream, but can't.

INT. THE HALLWAY. LATER

A group of TRICK-OR-TREATERS bounces from door to door in search of candy. When they reach Vic's apartment, we see the mask is once more nailed to the front door. But there's something different. This time, it seems to be dripping blood.

The frightened kids approach slowly. One of them reaches out and tugs on the mask. It falls to the floor with a THUD, revealing Vic's severed head underneath.

THE END.