

**1 EXT. ROAD - NIGHT****1**

It is a dark and stormy night. MARIA—a nurse dressed in uniform who's just finished her shift—drives her car through the winding, dimly lit streets as the RADIO PLAYS.

The music is broken by an ANNOUNCEMENT. Maria turns the volume up and listens in.

## RADIO ANNOUNCER

We interrupt this broadcast to give you an important news announcement. There have been several reports in the area during the last hour of ominous, lifeless figures prowling through the streets. There has been no reported consistency between the appearances of the individuals, but all witnesses claim to have seen the strange bodies at or nearby graveyards. For your safety, we are encouraging that everyone stay indoors tonight, repeat: *stay indoors tonight.*

The MUSIC returns, but Maria turns off the radio and heightens her attention on the road, a little bothered by what she just heard.

THUNDER ROLLS in the distance.

**2 EXT. APARTMENT - NIGHT****2**

MARIA shuffles in from the rain to the door of her apartment. She unlocks it and hurries in.

**3 INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS****3**

As MARIA shuts the door behind her, lightning flashes with LOUD THUNDER, and her ROTARY PHONE begins to RING simultaneously. She is startled by the sudden explosion of noise.

She sets down her umbrella and hurries over to the phone and picks it up.

MARIA

Hello? Oh hey Jen.

As Maria talks, she takes off her rain coat and begins to heat up some LEFTOVERS for dinner in her MICROWAVE.

MARIA

Yeah, yeah, I'm coming to the dinner party tomorrow.  
Dessert? Sure, I'll make a cherry pie or something.

She jots down on a sticky note: "CHERRY PIE" She exits the kitchen and goes back to her living room.

MARIA

What'll I wear? Oh geez, Jen, I don't know, just one of my usual dresses I guess.  
A date? Why would I bring a date? Sure, but that doesn't mean I have to bring someone.  
Fine, I'll do my best.  
Okay.  
Okay.  
Alright, I'll let you go. Talk to you later. Yeah. Yeah, see you tomorrow. Bye bye.

She hangs up the phone. While the food continues to cook, she clicks on her TV.

A local news broadcast is on.

ANCHOR

Reports keep rolling in of more and more sightings of the strange ghouls who have been spotted near cemeteries. I must warn the public that if this truly is a dreaded zombie outbreak you've read about in comic books and seen in midnight movies, it is important to remember that any person killed by one of these ghouls will become one, no matter how it's done. Therefore, we consider it critical for all citizens to *stay indoors tonight*.

As the ANCHOR finishes their spiel Maria's eyes reflect an idea growing in her head. She glances over at the phone, remembering what Jen asked about her bringing a date.

She looks out the window to see lightning flash once again.

A smirk creeps onto her face. The microwave timer DINGS.

## 4 INT. JEN'S HOUSE - THE NEXT NIGHT

4

Maria's friend JEN—an outgoing and friendly woman—and her husband BOB—a slender yet strong African-American man with analytical eyes—are prepping for their dinner party.

JEN, in the kitchen, pulls a HAM out of the oven and sets it on the table. BOB enters from another room, holding a TIE.

BOB  
You like this tie?

JEN  
Eh, skip the tie.

He tosses it away. The two smile, embrace, and kiss. A timer DINGS.

BOB  
(giddy)  
Ooh, cheese tots are ready!

He rushes off to get them. Jen sighs.

JEN  
I don't know why you insisted on making those.

BOB  
Because they're great!

JEN  
Sure, but they certainly don't go with a ham.

BOB  
Maria's gonna love 'em.

JEN  
Speaking of Maria, did I tell you she's bringing a date tonight?

BOB  
Oh?

JEN  
At least I think she is. She sounded agreeable over the phone last night.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

BOB  
Sounds like we're about to find out.

Jen makes a playful face of intrigue, then strolls over to the front door. She opens it, to see MARIA there with a CHERRY PIE.

JEN  
Hi Maria! So glad to see you!

MARIA  
Hi Jen. Here's the cherry pie I promised.

She hands Jen the pie.

JEN  
Ooh, looks lovely!

After accepting the dessert, Jen notices Maria's date and assumes a look of genuine surprise.

MARIA  
And Jen, I'd like you to meet my date for the evening—

We see Maria's date, who is a ZOMBIE! HE MOANS in true zombie fashion.

LIGHTNING STRIKES behind him.

MARIA  
His name is Sheldon.

CUT TO:

**5 INT. JEN & BOB'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

**5**

JEN, BOB, MARIA, and SHELDON, who have now been joined by another couple (ALICE—a bubbly and blissfully ignorant woman—and THEO—an eccentric professor from the nearby university) all sit at the dinner table.

They all uncomfortably pick at the HAM Jen has prepared for the evening. Maria, however, is chowing down just fine. Sheldon does not eat what has been prepared, but instead is munching on what appear to be HUMAN ORGANS from a TUPPERWARE BOWL.

MARIA  
This ham is fantastic, Bob.

BOB  
(quietly uncomfortable)  
Thanks, Jen made it.

He stares at Sheldon for a while, trying to figure him out.

BOB

Say, Sheldon, you haven't got any  
cheese tots, would you like some?

MARIA

Oh no, that's okay, Bob. Sheldon has  
specific dietary needs.

He continues to munch on the guts.

ALICE

Oh, is he vegan?

He still munches on the guts.

THEO

Not hardly...

MARIA

Picked up his dinner from the  
hospital.

(catching herself)  
Cafeteria.

Bob tries to contemplate what he just heard.

JEN

So, Maria, how did you two meet?

MARIA

Oh...

She smiles and exchanges a glance with Sheldon.

MARIA

That's too long a story to tell  
right now!

BOB

(under his breath)  
Of course it is...

JEN

Have you known each other long?

MARIA

Not really.  
(excitedly)  
I guess you could say this is our  
first date!

ALICE

Aw, how sweet!

THEO

Well I gotta say, you two are just absolutely fascinating! I'd love to sit down and hear the whole story some time. You know, really pick your brai—

He catches himself as Sheldon looks over at him, albeit with the same vacant expression he always has.

THEO

(gulps; more quietly)  
You know, find out what makes you tick.

MARIA

Sure, anytime.

She sets down her silverware on her clean plate.

MARIA

Well, I am absolutely stuffed!  
Anybody for dessert?

BOB

(to Jen, quietly)  
What'd she bring for dessert again?

JEN

Cherry pie...

Sheldon continues to munch on the guts.

Bob sighs and slowly facepalms.

CUT TO:

**6 INT. JEN & BOB'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

**6**

THE GROUP has all sat down for a game of Couples Charades.  
THEO and ALICE are up.

*[[Allow for some ad-lib in the following moment.]]*

Alice is up doing seemingly disjointed, flowy movements. Theo is guessing a mile, a minute.

THEO

Skiing? Saint Peter's basilica?  
Rosemary's Baby? Leiji Matsumoto?  
Rio de Janero? *Animal House*?

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious  
Five?

BOB  
That's time!

ALICE  
No!

She hands him the piece of paper with the prompt.

THEO  
*The Shining?* Oh, come on, I could've  
gotten that so easily!

ALICE  
How many was that, Bob?

BOB  
You got...one.

They sit down, and MARIA and SHELDON step up: Sheldon to  
perform, Maria to guess.

BOB  
Ready, set...go!

Sheldon picks up a prompt, and does typical zombie shudders  
and moans.

MARIA  
Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein!*

He makes an indication to say that she got it correct. He  
picks up another prompt.

This continues: he picks up prompts, does typical zombie  
moves, she gets it right almost immediately.

MARIA  
Somnambulism!

(Again.)

MARIA  
Raymond Joseph Teller!

(Again.)

MARIA  
The Pope!

(Again.)

MARIA  
 Claire de Lune!

(Again.)

MARIA  
 Barn owl!

(Again.)

MARIA  
*Harry Potter and the Chamber of  
 Secrets!*

JEN  
 I can't believe I'm seeing this...

She stands up to go to the kitchen.

BOB  
 Time!

MARIA  
 Yes! How many was that?

BOB  
 You got...  
 (adds them up)  
 Seven. You got seven.

MARIA  
 Alright!

She jumps up and gives Sheldon a high-five.

His HAND flies across the room.

The room is shocked.

MARIA  
 Oh...sorry about that, babe.

She runs and grabs it off the floor.

ALICE  
 Theo, it's getting late, don't you  
 think?

BOB  
 (stands)  
 Yes! Yes, it is getting late, and it  
 doesn't look like that rain's going  
 to let up any time soon, and I don't  
 want any of you getting in any



accidents, so none of us need to get any drunker—

JEN  
(refilling her wine glass)  
Speak for yourself...

BOB  
—so I'd say now'd be a good time to head home. Sorry folks, just looking out for you all.

Sheldon snaps his hand back into place.

MARIA  
Aw, what a shame! We've been having such a good time!

JEN  
(pushing them out the door)  
Yeah, well, all good things must come to an end, you kids drive safe, don't do anything I wouldn't do, I'll talk to you soon, bye bye!

**7 EXT. JEN & BOB'S FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS**

**7**

MARIA and SHELDON are out the door, and it slams behind them.

MARIA  
Wow. If I didn't know better, I'd say she just kicked us out.

They both smile, and Maria giggles.

CUT TO:

**8 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT**

**8**

MARIA is dropping SHELDON off for the night.

MARIA  
I had a really nice time tonight. Thanks for coming with me.

Sheldon smiles. He moans a little.

MARIA  
Oh... Well, tell the truth... I don't know if I'm looking for

someone to go on dates steady with.  
This was more of a one time thing.

A disappointed look fills his eyes.

MARIA

Aw, Sheldon... You're a really sweet  
guy, and it was fun bringing you to  
the dinner party, but surely you can  
see how...this...isn't gonna work.

He looks off to the side as the disappointment fills him up.

MARIA

Yeah?

He nods, head hung.

MARIA

I'll see you later then.

She gets in her CAR and drives away.

A still gloomy Sheldon looks around the old graveyard and  
decides to move on.

**9 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT**

**9**

SHELDON is wandering around town, disappointed and lonely.

He sees a COUPLE, loving on each as they're out for the  
night.

He sees a FLOWER SHOP, with a sign in its window that reads,  
"Win her heart!" and displays a pretty bouquet of flowers.

Inspired, he heads inside. He is promptly thrown back out  
into the street for his appearance. Once again, he is  
disappointed. But inspiration strikes again.

**10 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT**

**10**

SHELDON wanders around the cemetery, checking all the  
tombstones.

Eventually, he finds what he's looking for: a BOUQUET OF  
FLOWERS sitting by someone else's headstone. He picks it up  
and heads off.

**11 EXT. MARIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

**11**

SHELDON, waiting at Maria's door, rings her doorbell.

MARIA answers the door moments later, surprised to see him.

MARIA  
Sheldon, you're back. What are you  
doing here?

He extends the BOUQUET OF FLOWERS he stole.

MARIA  
Did you get these for me?

He nods. He then hands her a FOOT he stole from the graveyard  
as well.

MARIA  
Oh, thank you.

She admires the flowers.

MARIA  
Oh Sheldon, this is so sweet.

He smiles shyly.

MARIA  
If you went to all this trouble, you  
must really like me.

He nods. Romance fills the air, and the two gaze at each  
other, true feelings of attraction begin to appear in Maria.

CUT TO:

**12 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT**

**12**

SHELDON, who carries a BLANKET and a PICNIC BASKET, finds a  
suitably spacious spot on the ground.

He sets down the basket and spreads the blanket out on the  
ground. We hear a CAR DOOR SLAM, and he looks up.

We see MARIA in the distance, also carrying a FOOD CONTAINER,  
walking towards him from her car. She waves to him.

He waves back. He begins to unpack the contents of the picnic  
basket, which are HUMAN BODY PARTS.

Maria reaches him, and he stands back up and greets her with  
a kiss on the cheek.

They sit down together on the picnic blanket, and Maria looks over the spread Sheldon has put together for them.

Sheldon offers her a GUT to eat. She rejects it with her hand and pulls out a CELERY STICK and hands to him.

He reluctantly takes the celery and attempts to pick at it.

Maria is pleased, and laughs, embracing him.

They begin to eat, enjoying the company of each others presence.

The moon and stars are bright this night.

FADE OUT.

THE END