

TALES OF THE DAMNED:

Episode 7 - "ATTRITION"

by
Christiaan Laan

Revisions by
Christiaan Laan

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Conflict Scripts
ChristiaanLaan@gmail.com
778-839-2921

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"ATTRITION"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The faint glow of city lights creeps through the curtains.
Metal SCRATCHES on metal from outside the kitchen door.

ROBBER (O.S.)

Hurry up!

The door unlocks and the knob turns. It is slowly pushed in.
Three shadows almost six feet tall appear in the door frame.

A flashlight is FLICKED on. The beam of light is bright and
narrow with barely any fall off.

ROBBER

Come on.

The first TWO ROBBERS enter, GUNS in their right hand,
flashlights in their left. The third, KEVIN(21), enters. HE
holds a HUNTING KNIFE in his left and a flashlight in his
right.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

The beams of light spot back and forth across the steps and
to the second floor. The three teenagers walk up.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door brushes open, a light CREAK just before it stops.
The robbers enter, their lights low to the floor.

One beam of light catches the corner of, what appears to be, a neatly made bed.

Another beam spots back across the floor to a black box in the corner of the room. It slowly goes up to a handle, then to a silver, numerical dial.

The two robbers walk over to the safe. One provides the light, the other puts his ear to the dial and turns it. Kevin remains by the door. He looks nervous.

ROBBER

Almost got it.

There is a RUSTLING from the bed, blankets pulled up.

ROBBER 2

(too loud)

I thought you said nobody would be home!

Kevin's flashlight shoots across the bed to the headboard. An old couple is there. The eyes of the OLD LADY squint open.

OLD LADY

Who's there?

The two at the safe both leap up to their feet, guns extended. Multiple GUN SHOTS go off.

Kevin drops his flashlight. It flickers and goes out.

KEVIN

What the hell did you do that for?
We are so fucked!

The other two go back to the safe and open it. The one that opened the combination pulls a sack out of his pocket.

KEVIN

I thought the guns weren't
loaded... Real bullets... Dead...
The hell we going to do?

The safe is shut and the other two robbers come up to Kevin.

ROBBER 2

Pick up your flashlight and let's
go.

The two brush passed Kevin and go out of the room. Their
FOOTSTEPS linger down the stairwell.

Kevin picks up his flashlight and hits it a few times. It
comes back on.

He nervously raises the light to the bed. He freezes by the
headboard again. The old couple are dead, multiple shots to
the chests and one through the head of the old lady.

ROBBER (O.S.)

Kevin! Let's go!

Kevin runs out of the room.

MANDRAKE (V.O.)

Damned: If something seems to good
to be true, it usually is. That is
when time ends and judgement will
be passed.

MAIN TITLE

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CLUB - NIGHT (3 MONTHS LATER)

Heavy BASS TECHNO music. The BARTENDER pulls down the tap, beer flows into a pint sized glass. He fills another and places them on the bar in front of KEVIN(21).

Kevin has a clean cut goatee and spiked hair. He is casually dressed in slacks and a baggy button up shirt.

BARTENDER

Eight dollars.

Kevin flops a ten on the bar.

KEVIN

Keep the change.

He picks up the pints and walks to a tall table near the dance floor.

INT. CLUB - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Seated at the table is STACY(21). She is slender, long black hair, dressed in semi-Gothic attire.

KEVIN

(as he sits)

Happy birthday, Stacy.

Kevin hands Stacy her glass. She takes hold of it midway across the table.

Their glasses HIT together and they both take a drink. Kevin puts his glass down and gets up.

KEVIN

I'll be right back.

He steps up to her and gives her a kiss. He looks around a moment until he sees some pay phones in a corner. A male/female bathroom sign hangs from the ceiling above them barely lit.

INT. CLUB - DANCE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Kevin cuts through the dance floor, Stacy looking after him.

Young, scantily dressed women, dance all over the floor. All kinds of young adults, Goth, hippies, punks, etc., are on the dance floor and seated around it.

Kevin is stopped a few times on his way. He pushes through and almost knocks DAVE(22) over.

Dave is Caucasian, shaved head, taller than Kevin. He is wearing all black with a chain around his neck.

DAVE

What the fuck?!

Dave looks at Kevin.

DAVE

Kevin? Long time man. What's wrong? Forgot how to pick up the phone?

Kevin ignores him and continues on. Dave follows.

INT. CLUB - TABLE -CONTINUOUS

Stacy shakes her head with a smile and turns her eyes back onto the table. She takes another drink from her pint.

INT. CLUB - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kevin flushes the urinal and turns around. Dave is standing by the sinks. Nobody else is in the bathroom.

DAVE

You been avoiding us, Kevin?

Kevin pushes him aside and places his hands under the nozzle. The water triggers and pours.

KEVIN

I'm trying to forget that day Dave.
Whatever you and Jeremy choose to
do with the money, I don't care.
Just leave me alone.

Kevin pushes down on the soap dispenser built into the sink. Soap lands in his hands.

Dave pushes Kevin against the wall. Kevin bites into his lip from the force.

DAVE

Just stay quiet about it alright.

KEVIN

I was there Dave. Why should I tell
anyone?

Dave backs off.

DAVE

Who knows. Maybe strike a deal,
get you off the hook. You do have
the weaker heart of the three.

(turning around)

See ya 'round Kevin.

Kevin spits on the ground, a bit of blood mixed in it. He touches the back of his wrist to his lower lip. It softly bleeds.

INT. CLUB - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Stacy takes another sip from her beer and puts the glass down. She maneuvers in her seat to better watch the dance floor. Her back is now to the table.

MANDRAKE, in his trench coat and fedora, grazes her shoulder.

Stacy suddenly turns around. The man is gone. She turns back to the dance floor and sees Kevin making his way back.

He comes up and sits in his chair. Stacy looks at him and notices his lip.

STACY

Are you alright?

Kevin picks up his pint.

KEVIN

What? Oh, I'm fine.

Kevin brings the glass up to his lips. He takes a long drink and sits there, staring at Stacy. A strange smile forms on her face.

STACY

What?

KEVIN

(getting up)

You are beautiful, you know that?

He takes a step to be beside her. He still holds his beer and extends his other hand to her.

KEVIN

Would you care to dance?

Stacy jumps down from her chair to land in front of him.

STACY

Love to.

She takes his hand and grabs her beer with the other.

INT. CLUB - DANCE FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Kevin and Stacy find a spot in the crowd and begin to dance. They hold their beers up in the air steadily.

In the background MANDRAKE appears. He stands by the pay phones wearing a trench coat and fedora. He is tall and thin, his eyes hidden by the brim of his hat. He appears to be watching Kevin. Nobody notices him.

They continue to dance. Kevin looks towards Mandrake and continues to look at him.

STACY

What is it?

KEVIN

That man over there, doesn't he seem a little out of place to you?

STACY

What man?

KEVIN

The one by the phone, wearing the
fedora.

Stacy looks towards the phone.

STACY

What are you talking about?

Kevin turns back to her.

KEVIN

I must be seeing things.

As they continue to dance Mandrake turns to the closest pay
phone and picks up the receiver. He reaches in his coat and
pulls out a quarter. He deposits it in the phone.

Kevin takes a drink as Mandrake dials a number.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. KEVIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The phone RINGS. We still here the CLUB MUSIC softly.

KEVIN (V.O.)

You've reached Kevin and Stacy. We
aren't home or too busy elsewhere.
Leave one, we'll get back to ya.

The answering machine BEEPS.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. CLUB - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

The MUSIC is louder than before. The club seems to shake. Kevin and Stacy continue to dance. Kevin seems a little unstable.

Mandrake is talking into the phone now but no words can be heard. He is SILENT.

Kevin kicks back the last of his pint and gives a sour look on his face.

STACY

Kevin, you alright?!

Kevin staggers a bit and pulls Stacy off of the floor towards their table.

INT. CLUB - TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Kevin places his glass on the table and leans on it.

KEVIN'S P.O.V.

The club looks surrealistic, blurred. His head is wobbles.

STACY (O.S.)

What's wrong?

BACK TO SCENE

Stacy has her arm around Kevin. Her head beside his to the left.

KEVIN

I feel sick.

Stacy looks at his face.

STACY

You don't look so hot.

KEVIN

Help me outside.

Stacy helps Kevin up and supports him with her shoulder. He staggers.

STACY

Hold on to me.

Stacy slowly helps him towards the door.

INT. CLUB - PAY PHONE(MORE)CONTINUOUS

Mandrake hangs up the phone. He watches Kevin and Stacy leave the club.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

The club is located at the end of a short strip mall in the downtown sector. A small parking lot is out front. Kevin and Stacy come out of the main door.

The sign above the door reads: DRAKE'S CASTLE

Stacy helps Kevin to sit on the curb of the sidewalk in front of the club. She pulls out a cell phone. She dials a number and puts the phone to her ear.

STACY

(on phone)

Hi, could I get a cab to Drake's Castle?

(pause)

That's correct.

(pause)

Going to Northwood Estates.

STACY(cont'd)

(pause)

Alright, thank you.

She hangs up and puts the phone back in her pocket. She sits on the curb next to Kevin and takes his hand.

KEVIN

Everything is all messed up... Do I really sound like this?

STACY

Sound like what?

Kevin droops his head and shakes it back and forth.

KEVIN

Never mind.

STACY

Did you take anything before we went out?

KEVIN

Nothing before we ate.

She tilts his head back up and turns it to her.

STACY

Maybe you shouldn't have any birthday cake then.

She kisses him.

STACY

You are going straight to bed.

A taxi pulls into the lot. A few people get out and enter the club. The DRIVER steps out and leans on the car.

DRIVER

Need a drive somewhere?

STACY

We have one coming, thanks.

The driver gets back in and drives away.

Another taxi pulls in from a different cab company.

Stacy helps Kevin to his feet and opens the door for him. He fumbles his way to the other side. Stacy gets in.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

She pushes Kevin upright and helps him with his seat belt.

TAXI DRIVER

Northwood Estates correct?

Stacy nods. She puts her seat belt on.

EXT. CLUB - CONTINUOUS

The taxi drives off.

Mandrake comes out from the club and watches it leave. His mouth crooks up on one side and he starts to walk in the direction the taxi left.

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTHWOOD ESTATES - NIGHT

The taxi pulls into the drop-off loop. It comes to a stop by the path to the main doors.

EXT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Stacy gets out of the cab and walks around to the drivers side. She helps Kevin out and supports him.

The driver rolls his window down.

TAXI DRIVER

That'll be \$12.50.

Stacy hands him a few dollar bills. The driver goes into his pouch for change.

STACY

Keep it. Thanks for the ride.

TAXI DRIVER

Thank you. Enjoy your evening.

The driver rolls up the window and drives off.

EXT. NORTHWOOD ESTATES - CONTINUOUS

Stacy helps Kevin to the entrance.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is nicely decorated and fairly spread out. The kitchen is to the one side of the door and the living room to the other.

A short hallway leads down past the kitchen with a bathroom on one side and the bedroom on the other.

The door opens. Stacy leads Kevin into the apartment. She closes and bolts the door behind them.

STACY

Come on, this way. We are almost there.

KEVIN

There is something I must...
confess to you...

STACY

It can wait until you are in bed.

They walk passed the kitchen counter into the hallway.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stacy flicks on the light just inside the door. A king sized bed is revealed in the middle of the room with night stands on either side. A closet lies in the near corner.

She walks Kevin over to the bed and lowers him down. She helps him lift his legs onto the bed.

Stacy turns off the light and walks around to the other side of the bed. She turns on the table light on her night stand and hops up on the bed.

Kevin looks at her.

STACY

What do you want to tell me?

KEVIN

I... I...

STACY

You?

Kevin turns away.

STACY

Don't be afraid. I love you, you
can tell me anything.

Kevin turns back to her.

KEVIN

I had a hand in a terrible thing,
Stacy. Three years ago, I went out
with my friends Jeremy and Dave.
You didn't really know me back
then.

STACY

A boys night out?

KEVIN

Well, it wasn't quite that. We
went to a house, an old couples
house. They were supposed to be
gone.

Stacy's face turns to worry.

KEVIN

We broke in and... and they shot
the old couple. I did nothing. I
ran away like them and did nothing.

Kevin breaks down into tears.

Stacy, shocked, instinctively pulls him closer and holds his head close to her breast.

KEVIN

They weren't supposed to be home.

Stacy rubs his back and tries to comfort him.

STACY

You were an accomplice, but you didn't kill anyone. It isn't so bad. Why not go to the police?

KEVIN

I can't, I just can't.

Stacy lays Kevin's head back down on the pillow. She kisses him on the forehead.

STACY

Get some rest.

She gets up and turns the table lamp off. She leaves the bedroom and closes the door most of the way.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The answering machine message light blinks. Stacy walks up to it and pushes play.

MANDRAKE (V.O.)

Happy birthday Stacy. I'm sure you know your boyfriends secret now.

Stacy is baffled.

MANDRAKE (V.O.)

The past will always catch up to the future and you can play a part in a happy ending.

A long SILENCE.

MANDRAKE (V.O.)

Sweet dreams.

The answering machine BEEPS.

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)

End of messages.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shadows of light trickle in through the blinds. Kevin stirs fitfully on the bed.

OLD LADY (V.O.)

Who's there?

GUNSHOTS. His eyes shoot open, bloodshot.

He sits up shakily. He gets out of bed and braces himself against the wall. Using the wall as a guide, he walks towards the door.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kevin walks shakily into the main room. He goes to the answering machine by the couch.

The message light isn't blinking. Kevin goes to the closet by the door and struggles to pull out a jacket. He puts on the jacket with great difficulty.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

The BOLT OPENING is heard. Stacy wakes up.

INT. ESTATE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The door opens. Kevin walks out into the hallway. He turns and goes half way down the hallway to the elevators.

He pushes the up arrow.

INT. APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

Stacy sees the door open. She walks to the doorway.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Kevin gets in the elevator and pushes the button for the top floor.

INT. ESTATE HALLWAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Stacy walks to the elevators and sees one heading up. She watches the numbers until it hits the last floor.

She pushes the up arrow.

INT. ESTATE HALLWAY - TOP FLOOR - NIGHT

Kevin gets off the elevator and walks towards a door at the end of the hall. The stairwell logo is on the wall just next to the door.

EXT. ESTATE ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Kevin stumbles out through the door on the roof. He looks around. He walks to the front edge of the estate overlooking the street below. The wind blows gently. His face relaxes. He takes a deep breath.

KEVIN'S P.O.V.

The void between him and the street below is cloudy and slowly becomes clear.

BACK TO SCENE

Kevin stumbles back from the edge.

JACKSON WRIGHT (O.S.)

Hello Kevin.

Kevin is startled. He turns around. The old couple, JACKSON and VIOLET stand there.

KEVIN

Mister and Misses Jackson.
You're... dead.

JACKSON WRIGHT

How could you Kevin?

Tears appear in his eyes.

VIOLET WRIGHT

We were such good friends to your
family.

JACKSON WRIGHT

We were like grand parents to you,
Kevin.

They advance on him. Kevin cautiously steps backwards. They reach their arms to him.

VIOLET WRIGHT

Come away from the edge, Kevin. We
don't want to harm you. We just
want you to do the right thing.

JACKSON WRIGHT

Tell the police, Kevin. Rid
yourself of this guilt.

Kevin steps back again. He is getting very close to the
edge.

VIOLET WRIGHT

You should be glad that your fate
will not be as terrible as your two
friends.

JACKSON WRIGHT

We don't blame you, Kevin.

VIOLET WRIGHT

(echoing)

We don't blame you, Kevin.

He reaches for his arms.

Kevin steps on the edge of the rooftop. Unable to keep his
balance, he falls. He doesn't cry out.

CUT TO BLACK:

Sound of body HITTING cement.

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTHWOOD ESTATES - NIGHT

Kevin's body lies on the path before the front door of the
estate. His face is shattered, blood running in all
directions.

EXT. ESTATE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Stacy comes out on the rooftop. She walks to the front edge and looks down.

She sees Kevin's body sprawled out way below. Her hand comes up to her mouth. Her other hand comes up to her face as she slowly sinks to her knees. She CRIES.

EXT. NORTHWOODE ESTATES - DAWN

Two police cars and a black sports utility vehicle are parked out front. (MORE)

Kevin's body is covered by a plastic sheet.

Stacy is standing with a police officer by one of the cars still crying.

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Mandrake stands looking on towards the scene from the other side of the street.

A female NEWS REPORTER is talking into a microphone with her CAMERAMAN.

Mandrake turns to walk down the street towards the rising sun. A surprising tear escapes his eye as the old couple materialize where he was standing. They watch the police work.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

(female voice)

A crime previously unsolved three months ago has finally come to a close.

NEWS REPORTER(cont'd)

Twenty-one year old, Kevin Price, jumped from his apartment rooftop early this morning after confessing his story to his fiance. The police have taken Dave Schneider and Jeremy Barnett into custody thanks to her testimony. The two of them were told to have been the shooters in the double homicide of Violet and Jackson Wright. Further details as they become available.

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

THE END