

LOURDES

Written by

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Based on the real-life story told by Uzma Kang

FADE IN:

OVER BLACK: A DOOR CREAKS.

INT. ARYA HOME - LAKSHMI'S BEDROOM - PRE-DAWN

OVER: DAY 1 - OCTOBER 21ST

LAKSHMI ARYA, (16, Goth, jet black hair, preternaturally self-absorbed) asleep, drooling, rouses. She peels her eyes open and rolls over. Her bedroom door is ajar. A soft light pours in from the hallway illuminating her Halloween decorations.

Lakshmi SNORTS and collapses back asleep.

INT. ARYA HOME - LAKSHMI'S BEDROOM - DAWN

The shower RUSHES from the bathroom off her room, waking Lakshmi. Again. She checks her phone. 5:00AM

LAKSHMI
Mother fucker.

She GROANS and pulls her pillow over her head.

EXT./INT. ARYA HOME - FRONT DOOR - DUSK

OVER: DAY 10 - HALLOWEEN

Halloween decorations adorn the front of the house. On the step is a pumpkin with a horrified expression carved into it and a knife jammed into its ear.

Lakshmi steps past it and BANGS on the front door. Incongruously, *water* is pouring out from underneath it.

LAKSHMI
Goddammit! Open the door, Lourdes!

Through the window of the door a very small woman, LOURDES, (Latina, 60s) presses her face against the glass and waggles her finger at Lakshmi.

LOURDES
No! No, no, no!

LAKSHMI
C'mon, please? Please?

Lourdes disappears from the window. Lakshmi turns to the driveway. Her brother ARNAV, Arnie, (17, tightly-wound) and her father, ABHAY (40's, harried) hurry from the family car.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

(calling)

Daddeeeee! The door's locked and she won't open it!

(to herself)

This is so stupid. WTF?

Arnie bounds up the walk and shoves her.

ARNIE

Move, dummy!

LAKSHMI

Do you have Dad's keys?

ARNIE

Of course I have Dad's keys, what'm'I stupid? Move!

Lakshmi shoves him back.

LAKSHMI

You move! Give me the keys.

ARNIE

Knock it off! Move!

LAKSHMI

Don't talk to me like that!

They splashing around in the water, Lakshmi refuses to give ground and Arnie tries to box her out, pushing her with his ass basketball-style so he can get the key in the door.

ARNIE

Knock it off, loser!

From inside Lourdes is howling.

LOURDES (O.S.)

No! Noooooo! No!

Arnie bursts in the door and bolts up the stairs following the flow of water.

INT. ARYA HOME - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Lakshmi, pulls out her phone and then plugs herself in. She follows Arnie in and up the stairs.

Wedge between the wall and the open front door, unnoticed, Lourdes is wild-eyed and nearly panting.

LOURDES

No...

INT. ARYA HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

OVER: DAY 8 - OCTOBER 29

Arnie sits at the breakfast table eating cereal out of a mixing bowl and reading the back of the cereal box.

Lakshmi shuffles in dressed for school but barely awake.

ARNIE

Finally.

LAKSHMI

Stick it, nerd.

ARNIE

Hurry up and eat, we're gonna be late. Again.

LAKSHMI

(mocking him)

"We're gonna be late." Lighten up.

Lakshmi trundles over to the fridge and gets out an apple. She reaches for the knife block but all the knives are gone.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

Huh.

Every single knife in the dish rack, all shiny and clean. She chooses one and cuts up her apple.

Lourdes blows into the kitchen, arms full of laundry. She sees the kids watching her and starts. She ducks her head and scampers out.

ARNIE

(calling after her)

Morning, Lourdes!

LOURDES (O.S.)

Sí, sí!

ARNIE

(to Lakshmi)

There she goes. How long's she been up?

LAKSHMI

Since she woke me up taking a shower at five fucking o'clock. Again. Every morning.

ARNIE

She's a great worker. This house has never been cleaner. Mom had to *tell* her to stop working last night. *Tell her*. You could learn a thing or two from her.

Lakshmi gives him a look of death and flips him off.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

Charming.

LAKSHMI

I'll be in the car, dickhead.

Lakshmi takes her apple and heads out.

INT. ARYA HOME - FOYER - SAME

Lakshmi heads to the front door but stops at a potted plant. She reaches her hand into it and pulls out a carving knife.

LAKSHMI

(to herself)

Moron.

She replaces the knife in the plant and heads out the door.

INT. ARYA HOME - LAKSHMI'S BEDROOM - DAY

OVER: DAY 6 - OCTOBER 27

Lakshmi lounges on her bed, earbuds in, scrolling through Twitter. Her head bounces to the BEAT of her music.

THUD

A little bit of dust drops from the ceiling onto her phone (the only way she'd notice).

She takes out her ear buds.

THUD THUD.

She stares at the ceiling. More THUDDING. She gets up and goes to the hallway.

INT. ARYA HOME - HALLWAY ATTIC ACCESS - DAY

Lakshmi stares up the staircase into the black void of the attic.

LAKSHMI
(calling up)
Lourdes?

The thudding stops. Nothing.

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)
(louder)
Lourdes? Are you up there?

Lourdes's head pops out.

LOURDES
¿Sí? I am here.

LAKSHMI
What are you doing?

LOURDES
I am here.

LAKSHMI
(slowly like to a child)
What. Are. You. Doing?

LOURDES
I will come down.

Lourdes's head disappears. Lakshmi waits. Lourdes's head reappears. She looks disappointed when she sees Lakshmi's still there. Her head disappears again.

Lourdes reappears and descends the stairs. She's carrying two of the family's decorative swords. And a bucket of water.

She gets to the bottom and nods to Lakshmi, clearly stressed.

LOURDES (CONT'D)
Ok, thank you. I go. It's fine.
Everything is ok.

Lourdes takes the swords and the bucket of water downstairs.

INT. ARYA HOME - LAKSHMI'S BEDROOM - DAY

OVER: DAY 3 - OCTOBER 24

Lourdes's RAUCOUS LAUGHTER is heard coming from the bathroom, off screen. It stops.

Lakshmi cruises into her room and chucks her backpack on her bed.

LAUGHTER again. Lakshmi smiles and crosses to the bathroom.

INT./EXT. ARYA HOME - LAKSHMI'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lakshmi peeks around the open door.

Lourdes is standing stock still staring at herself in the mirror. Alone. There's nothing funny happening. The laughter is not raucous. It's manical.

Lakshmi grimaces, backs up slowly and disappears.

INT. ARYA HOME - FOYER - DAY

OVER: DAY 10 - HALLOWEEN

Lakshmi reappears at the upstairs landing. The water has stopped. Her father, Abhay, rushes in.

LAKSHMI

Daddy, I--

Lourdes steps from behind the door. She whips the butcher's knife over her head!

LAKSHMI (CONT'D)

She's got a knife!

Lourdes lunges for Abhay who instinctively jumps away. He grabs at her, trying to secure her flailing arm. Lakshmi bolts down the stairs and grabs for Lourdes's other arm. She's incredibly strong for such a tiny, old woman!

Abhay is able to wrench the knife from Lourdes but she launches Lakshmi against the wall!

LOURDES

No!

With her arms now free Lourdes grabs the knife blade, slicing her hand open. Blood flies everywhere.

Arnie resurfaces, clueless.

ARNIE

Got the water off! It-- What the hell is going on!? Who's blood is that?! Dad, stop!

ABHAY

Call the police! Hurry!

LOURDES

(in Spanish)

Give it back! It's mine! She's not safe! Demons! Devil! I'll kill you all!

Arnie calls the cops.

ARNIE

(into his phone)

Please! Hurry! My dad! So much blood! Yes! 2416 Palm Grove St. Yes! Hurry!

Abhay throws the knife to the floor in Lakshmi's direction.

ABHAY

Get rid of it!

Lakshmi disappears with it into another room.

Lourdes is flailing and screaming but Abhay finally has control of her arms.

Lakshmi runs back in the room with a purple, sparkly jumprope. Her father looks up at her.

LAKSHMI

What? It's all I could find!

ABHAY

Get over here.

EXT. ARYA HOME - NIGHT

The lights from cop cars and ambulances illuminate confused TRICK OR TREATERS. This is either terrifying or the best haunted house ever.

Arnie, Abhay, and Lakshmi, covered in blood and profoundly shaken, are broken off giving their accounts to POLICE OFFICERS.

EMTS roll Lourdes by, strapped to a gurney. Her hand is heavily bandaged. She's sedated, straining against the straps, and mumbling about demons and God.

LOURDES' POV

As she's being loaded into the ambulance Lourdes' vision goes in and out.

It comes into focus: Lourdes sees the family talking to the cops. They blur out.

They come back into focus but THEY'RE ALL DEMONS! ALL TALONS AND FANGS AND EVIL!

LOURDES

Nooooo... Dios mio! Lo siento, lo siento. Lo intenté, lo intenté...

Are these her delusions or does she, and only she, see them for how they really are?

The ABHAY DEMON, turns and meets Lourdes' stare. He smiles at her and winks.

Lourdes MOANS LOUDLY.

They load her into an ambulance and slam the door on her protestations.

FADE TO BLACK.