

ANT PROBLEM

Written by

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"A library security guard lets some friends investigate if the library is haunted only to find out it's more than true; it's an ant problem!"

FADE IN:

INT. BASEMENT HALL -- UNKNOWN

FOOTSTEPS.

A flashlight penetrates the darkness revealing the ancient brick walls full of cobwebs. SOMETHING CRAWLS ON THE FLOOR.

DEZ (24), the new security guard, continues forward trying to hide his terror. The flashlight shakes in his hand as A RAT SKITTERS ACROSS THE FLOOR. He tries to stay calm.

He makes his way further down the hallway. He passes his light over footprints leading to an ancient door. He reaches it. HEAVY BREATHING. HIS HEART BEGINS TO RACE.

HE OPENS IT.

DEZ

Oh my god-

He DROPS the flashlight.

INT. LIBRARY -- EARLIER

Golden light illuminates a stack of books behind a pristine oak desk. In long rows further back are bookshelves clean and full. Dez walks through one, WHISTLING.

When he reaches the desk, the LIBRARIAN (65) comes out of the restroom with her overstuffed purse. She smiles.

LIBRARIAN

Now remember Dez, no one in or out.

Dez tips his hat.

DEZ

Not a soul 'side from me, maam.

LIBRARIAN

Good... I don't want a repeat of last year-

DEZ

Won't happen with me.

LIBRARIAN

Good.

She goes to leave.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)
Happy Halloween, kid.

Dez waves to her as she DEPARTS into the night. He goes to the door and LOCKS IT. Then he makes sure it's lock.

DEZ
Easiest paying gig ever.

He strolls over to the front desk and plops onto it. He HUMS as he grabs one of the books on the stack.

DEZ (CONT'D)
And entertainment comes free.

He begins to read the book.

INT. LIBRARY -- AN HOUR LATER

Dez now lies on the desk reading another book. He turns the page... CREEK.

Dez jumps up. He listens... A WHIMPER.

Dez looks down one of the rows of books.

DEZ
Hello?

A THUD.

Dez bolts down the next aisle reaching for his night stick. He reaches a locked door to the basement. He puts his ear up against it...

A GHOSTLY VOICE
Dezzz.

Dez jumps back. A BIG KNOCK. CHUCKLES.

Dez whips around to find two ex-jocks IAN (22) and DANE (21) against the window with cheerleaders ROXXY (18) and FELICIA (18) giggling behind them. Dez shakes his head.

DEZ
Fuck, you guys scared the shit
outta me-

IAN
Wha? Didn't think we'd show?
(in Ghostly Voice)
Huh Dez...

DANE
Good one Ian.

He pats Ian on the back.

IAN
Ya gonna let us in or what Dez?

DEZ
Go around to the front.

Dez puts his nightstick away, noticing a trail of ANTS going under the door. Dez SIGHS.

INT. LIBRARY FRONT DESK -- MOMENTS LATER

Dez opens the door. Ian leads the others with a case of beer.

IAN
Step right in ladies, this is my
buddy Dez.

Roxy and Felicia giggle.

FELICIA
You weren't kidding Ian-

DANE
He never kids-

He pats Dez on the back as Dez locks up.

DEZ
Dane.

IAN
Dirty Dane and I wanted dates for
our little excursion.

DANE
More like haunting discovery.

Him and Ian LAUGH.

ROXXY
Oh stop trying to scare us-

IAN
(to Dez)
So where'd it happen?

Dez hands him the keys.

DEZ
You know where-

DANE
What you're not comin'?

DEZ
Nah I gotta stay here and-

Ian OPENS the pack of beer.

IAN
Yeah yeah, have a beer.

He hands Dez a beer then heads towards the basement door.

IAN (CONT'D)
(to the others)
C'mon bitches.

Dez OPENS his beer and takes a sip, watching them follow Ian.

ROXXY
Ian, how do you know him?

IAN
Old buddies. Actually, funny story-

DEZ
Ian!

Ian and the others whip around.

DEZ (CONT'D)
Remember the bet; if I'm right-

IAN
I know I know...

He takes out a bag of JOINTS.

IAN (CONT'D)
I came prepared.

ROXXY
But I thought those were for us-

IAN
Not all them Roxxy babe.

He puts them away and goes to the door. Dez watches Dane put his arm around Felicia and whisper. Then Ian OPENS the basement door and leads them down.

DEZ
 (to himself)
 If this place is actually haunted
 I'm fucked...

Felicia smirks at Dez and closes the door BEHIND her.

INT. LIBRARY -- TWO HOURS LATER

Dez SLAMS a book shut and checks his watch. Tapping his feet, he checks again. He plays with the watch on his rest.

DEZ
 God damn Ian...

He DROPS the book on the desk and walks over to the

PERIODICAL SECTION

And takes out the newest volume on a dusty shelf.

DEZ
 (reading title)
 The Herald Paper from twenty-
 thirteen to present.

He goes over to a table and chair and takes a seat. He opens the book and speeds through the first few pages.

DEZ (CONT'D)
 Where can it-

He stops on a page. He reads it, growing pale.

DEZ (CONT'D)
 Four dead found in library, no
 explanation... Four college
 students broke into Wilson Public
 library yesterday looking for some
 Halloween kicks. What they found
 was their demise as they were left
 butchered by...

He trails off, his mouth hanging open. He speed reads-

INSERT -- A PICTURE OF FOUR BLOODY CORPSES WITH THE CAPTION
 "WILD ANIMAL OR FOUL PLAY?"

DOOR CREEK. Dez perks up.

DEZ
Hello? Ian... Dane...

A COOL BREEZE hits him. He stands.

DEZ (CONT'D)
Guys?

Silence. Dez SHUTS the book.

DEZ (CONT'D)
God damn it Ian-

WHIMPER. Dez reaches for his nightstick.

DEZ (CONT'D)
What the fuck man.

He jogs down a row of books towards the OPEN BASEMENT DOOR.

DEZ (CONT'D)
I'm gonna kick your ass!

He charges towards the door. GIRLS' SCREAMS.

DEZ (CONT'D)
(whispers)
FUCK!

Dez stops cold. He grips his nightstick. He tiptoes fast towards the open door. Then he's frozen with terror.

DEZ (CONT'D)
(calling into the doorway)
Psst! Ian, you okay?

No answer. Dez steps inside.

DEZ (CONT'D)
Dane? Girls?

He takes another step and FALLS DOWN STAIRS.

INT. STAIRWAY TO BASEMENT -- CONTINUOUS

In darkness, Dez gets back up and takes out his flashlight. He grimaces as he massages his knee.

DEZ
What was that?

He scans the stairs to find his keys are what he tripped on. He picks them up. He feels something on them.

DEZ (CONT'D)

What-

He turns them over in his hands to find BLOOD.

DEZ (CONT'D)

Fuck-

He DROPS them in his scare. They fall through a gap between stairs ONTO THE FLOOR BELOW. Dez looks around.

DEZ (CONT'D)

IAN?

He starts to tremble as he makes his way down. A STEP CREEKS under his feet and he jumps the last three onto the floor.

DEZ (CONT'D)

God damn stairs.

He dusts himself off. He shines his light on the wall, finding a light switch. He goes over and CLICKS it. Nothing. He does it again. And again.

DEZ (CONT'D)

Shit.

He turns the light down an aisle of books full of dust and cobwebs. He steps forward, tilting the light higher up a book case against the back wall. He turns his head.

He passes the light over it to discover that the bookshelf is off the wall a smidgen... There's a secret passage. SCREAMS.

Dez sprints towards the door.

DEZ (CONT'D)

I'm coming-

A ROCKS FALLS NEXT TO HIM. Dez freezes, noticing it's sharp edge stuck in the ground. He looks up. Rows of these pointy rocks zigzag across the ceiling. One TWISTS.

DEZ (CONT'D)

Crap!

It FALLS in front of him. Dez BOLTS for the door, dodging TWO rocks on either side of him. He ducks past another ONE and then jumps at the bookshelf as the last ONES fall behind him.

DEZ (CONT'D)

Phew-

A PSYCHOTIC LAUGHTER BEHIND THE BOOKCASE.

Dez cowers against the bookcase, sliding towards its end. He reaches behind the case and without stepping away CREEPS it open. After a moment, he pokes his head inside.

He steps away from the bookcase. SOMETHING CRAWLS on the floor. He shines on the noise to find ANTS on the wall making the words "GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN." Dez SHRIEKS.

The ants skid away leaving no trace. Dez falls to one knee, PANTING. He rubs his head with his flashlight.

A GUY'S SCREAM.

Dez takes a deep breath, and DASHES behind the bookcase.

INT. BASEMENT HALL -- BACK AT THE BEGINNING

A RAT SKITTERS ACROSS THE FLOOR. He tries to stay calm.

He makes his way down the hallway. He passes his light over footprints leading to an ancient door. He reaches it. HEAVY BREATHING. HIS HEART BEGINS TO RACE.

HE OPENS IT.

DEZ

Oh my god-

He DROPS the flashlight and steps

INSIDE THE ROOM

To see a large candle in the center lighting up BLOOD made into a pentagram around it. At four of the points lie the mutilated corpses of IAN, ROXXY, FELICIA, and DANE.

Dez GAGS trying not to scream, falling to his knees. He can't bring himself to look at the horror in front of him. He kneels GASPING for air. Then he stumbles up.

DEZ

I'm sorry-so sorry.

He holds back from SOBBING. A SCRATCH AT THE WALL.

Startled, Dez whips around to the SOUNDS OF CRAWLING.

LIBRARIAN

Sorry for what?

Dez whips around to find the Librarian standing in the doorway carrying a tattered book and a lantern.

DEZ
You, you you.

LIBRARIAN
What? Your friends were the morons
who woke me from-

ANTS! Dez follows them with his light as they crawl up her leg. The librarian tries to bat them away.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)
Shit-

DEZ
What're you doing-

A GUST OF WIND. LIBRARIAN SCREAMS.

Ants EAT AWAY at her so fast she seems to be disappearing.

DEZ (CONT'D)
HOLD ON!

He steps forward in time to see the last of her fall to the ground in A PILE OF DUST covered in Ants.

DEZ (CONT'D)
NOOO!

The Ants TURN and scuttle towards him. Dez raises his flashlight. HISS.

Dez watches the Ants scurry off around him. He follows them with his flashlight. They move past the corpses and crawl up the legs of A WITCH IN A BLACK GOWN.

DEZ (CONT'D)
Who're you?

The Ants crawling up her leg cause her to grow larger.

WITCH
...Why're you sorry?

DEZ
What?

She straddles Ian.

WITCH
Before. When you walked in. You apologized. Why is that?

Dez trembles at the sight of the bloody pool around Ian be sucked up right underneath the Witch into her body.

WITCH (CONT'D)

Why ask forgiveness when it was not you who butchered him?

DEZ

Aahh... Cause... I...

Ian's corpse dries up and begins to turn to dust. Dez GULPS.

WITCH

Well!

Dez lets his arm fall to his side with the flashlight.

DEZ

Dumbass Ian has to make everything a fucking gamble... We were talking about the murder that happened here a year ago tonight-

The Witch stands, licking her lips, staring Dez down.

DEZ (CONT'D)

(avoiding her gaze)

I told him, I said I've been around the library to know it isn't haunted. He wanted to prove me wrong, but I told him what happened was a freak accident-

WITCH

Accident?

DEZ

I don't know, a coincidence.

The Witch steps towards him, letting her leg come through the dress. Dez shudders.

WITCH

Such as?

DEZ

A mad dog was found dead the morning after... I don't know maybe it got in and attacked them...

(MORE)

DEZ (CONT'D)

But Ian wanted to prove me wrong,
so he bet me his last bit of joints
against my favorite bong to prove
whether the library was haunted or
not-but I would take it all back
and tell him he's right if it-

WITCH

Meant he didn't have to die?

She slides up against Dez. Dez tries to hide his disgusted
fear of her. His breathing grows HEAVY.

WITCH (CONT'D)

Regret... tut tut tut.

She touches his face. Dez grimaces. He DROPS the flashlight.

WITCH (CONT'D)

Such sorrow. It reeks on you.

She SNIFFS him. Dez shuts his eyes. She leans in to whisper.

WITCH (CONT'D)

It all doesn't matter.

Dez turns to her. She gives a devilish smile.

WITCH (CONT'D)

You see-

She takes one of her long nails and STABS Dez in the side.

DEZ

Ooww-

He winces in pain as she covers his mouth.

WITCH

The old lady was getting too slow.
She nearly missed the ceremony last
year. I was so close to achieving
my corporeal form-

She TWISTS her finger. Dez cries out in her other hand.

WITCH (CONT'D)

But that cunt did her puny little
spell one second too soon!

She rips her finger OUT and lets go of Dez. He falls to the
GROUND cowering IN PAIN.

WITCH (CONT'D)

But she was too distracted to stop
me from taking her out this time-

Dez peeks up at the gloating Witch. He averts his eyes as she
begins to SHED HER SKIN. He notices the open door.

WITCH (CONT'D)

My keeper is dead, and I am free!

Patches of skin fall in front of Dez. He shuts his eyes and
reaches for his flashlight. He grabs it.

DEZ

Free to die bitch!

He TRIPS her with a swing of his flashlight.

WITCH

Aahh!

She FALLS to the floor. Dez gets a glimpse of the hideous
BEAST ANT she's turning into. He dodges a swing of her new
arm and sprints out of the room.

INT. BASEMENT HALL -- SAME

GROWLS OF FRUSTRATION echo from the ritual room. Dez keeps
running following the light of his flashlight.

WITCH (O.S.)

I'll kill you shit! Then I'll suck
you up with the rest of these!

THE FLOOR MOVES. Dez avoids a standing brick. MORE BRICKS
rise, trying to trip him. ONE SUCCEEDS.

WITCH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I GOTCHA NOW!

Dez attempts to get up, but a large ant foot JAMS him back
down. Another foot BREAKS the flashlight. Dez SCREAMS.

WITCH (CONT'D)

You can't run!

SCREAMS OF AGONY. The WITCH EATS Dez in the darkness. In the
course of seconds, the screams stop. The Witch BELCHES

FADE OUT.