

HER RED READING

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INT. CAFE - DAY

MASON CRAIG, 28, short hair, wears a pair of glasses sips his coffee while watching a female customer who is engrossed in reading a book.

MASON (V.O.)

I like this cafe very much. It's quiet and the coffee is excellent. But, the best thing is women here like reading. I do think when a woman's engrossed in reading, she's very charming.

Mason turns to a woman reading a book. She closes the book and gets up from the chair. She turns to Mason.

WOMAN

(smiling)

Bye, Mason.

MASON

Bye. She is beautiful when reading.

Mason turns to another woman reading a book.

MASON (V.O.)

She's more beautiful while reading. Emily is the most beautiful of all.

INT. CAFE - FLASHBACK

Mason eats his cheese cake and sips his coffee but his focus is on a woman reading. The woman is EMILY HINES, 27, with long and straight hair, gentle, who sits alone. Mason rises and moves up to her.

MASON

Hi, Emily.

She looks up.

EMILY

Hi, Mason.

MASON

May I?

EMILY

Of course.

Mason sits down.

MASON

Thank you for your help. I'm new to this company and this city.

EMILY
(smiling)
You need help. Let me know.

MASON
That's very kind of you. You like
reading?

EMILY
I'm crazy about it.

MASON
I like reading...

INT. CAFE - PRESENT

Mason sips his coffee.

MASON (V.O.)
After that, we've been dating.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emily sits at a desk reading a book: *The Study Of Ghosts* by Maxwell Jennings. She turns pages. Suddenly, she feels a bit uncomfortable. After a while, she feels sleepy and is brought into a room.

INT. ROOM - LATER

The door is opened and Emily enters. It is dim and full of smoke. She moves forward and sees MAXWELL JENNINGS, 45, sitting at a desk writing. Emily is happy to see him.

EMILY (V.O.)
I'm thrilled to see my idol, Maxwell
Jennings. I've read all of his
books on *The Study Of Ghosts*.

She walks up to him.

EMILY
Mr. Jennings.

No response.

EMILY
Mr. Jennings, I like your books very
much.

No response. She moves closer to him.

EMILY
Mr. Jennings, I'm your reader.

He turns to her. His face has no eyes, no nose, no ears and no mouth. Emily takes a few steps back.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - SAME

Emily wakes up. She looks around. Nothing happens. She is stunned as she sees the book on The Study Of Ghost turn out to be red. Emily rubs her eyes and the book returns to its original color.

EMILY (V.O.)

What happened. That's not a dream.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Emily sits alone reading. As usual, Mason watches her reading.

MASON (V.O.)

Her reading is amazing. I can't control. Have to keep on watching her.

A moment later, Maxwell Jennings enters. He sits down and orders coffee and sandwich. Emily is not aware of him. It has been silent and the silence is interrupted by a female customer who goes to ask Maxwell for his autograph. Emily turns to him. She is surprised. However, she chooses to keep on reading. Mason keeps watching her and ignores his coffee and hamburger.

Suddenly, Emily closes the book: The Study Of Ghosts. His eyes turn to Maxwell. She gets up and glares at Maxwell. Mason looks confused. Emily clenches her fist and walks up to Maxwell. Mason is bewildered and goes to pull Emily's arm.

MASON

Emily, are you all right?

EMILY

What're you talking about?

MASON

Are you all right? You looked strange.

EMILY

I looked strange?

Mason nods.

EMILY

What happened?

MASON

You were angry as seeing the man.

He points at Maxwell.

EMILY
Why? He's my idol.

MASON
I don't know.

INT. PARK - AFTERNOON

Mason and Emily sit on a bench eating their sandwiches.

MASON
You look upset. What's wrong with you?

She shakes her head.

MASON
I'm your boyfriend. You'd be honest with me. Emily, let me know.

EMILY
Don't know how to tell you. Very strange. I've been suffering from the unusual experience since I read the book.

MASON
What book?

Emily takes it out of her handbag and hands it to Mason, who takes it.

MASON
The Study Of Ghosts.

EMILY
I've had unusual experience in seeing Maxwell Jennings for many times.

MASON
He's your idol. You've wanted to see him, which has lingered in your mind and as a result you had those unusual experience. Actually, those were dreams.

Emily shakes her head.

EMILY
I don't think so.

MASON
I think you need a vacation. I know you've had lots of workloads recently.

EMILY

I don't need. What I need is the reason.

MASON

I suggest you stop reading the book.

EMILY

I won't. I'll keep reading it in hopes of finding out the reason.

Emily glances at her watch.

EMILY

Time to work.

They start to walk.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Emily sits alone reading the book: The Study Of Ghosts. Mason watches her.

MASON (V.O.)

I like watching Emily reading but this time is different. I'm worried about her safety. I gave up on sitting next to her in order to look what it'll happen. Try to find out the reason to help her. If my guess's right, Maxwell Jennings's a regular here.

Mason turns to watch Maxwell, who sits alone, eating his sandwich.

Emily is reading the book. She turns pages. Mason keeps on staring at her and he forgets to eat his hamburger and drink his coffee. A moment later, Emily's body starts to shake. Her face looks pale. Her hands are trembling seriously. Emily glares at Maxwell. She rises and takes a knife on the table walking toward Maxwell.

She starts to dash to Maxwell and Mason runs to stop her in time. She struggles.

EMILY

Let me go.

She slaps Mason in the face. All customers look at them. Mason splashes a glass of water on her face. Emily stops struggling.

EMILY

What happened? Why'd you splash water on me?

MASON

Emily, listen, burn the book. You're in danger. Burn it. I've a lighter.

Emily nods. She starts going back to her table. Suddenly, all of the tables and chairs are shaking, making some customers fall off their chairs. The lights on the top are on and off. Some BURST. Some customers get hurt. A woman SCREAMS. She points at the walls. Blood is running down.

A man runs toward the door. He tripped up. He looks around.

MAN

Someone pushed me down.

Blood is running down both of his hands. Suddenly, all of the knives and forks on the tables go up flying in the air. All customers are scared and some cry.

Emily goes to read the book. She is brought into her house.

INT. EMILY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Emily stands in the middle. She looks around. It is silent. A moment later, she hears something moving. She looks down at the coffee table. The book: The Study Of Ghost is on it. The cover opens itself and three pages are torn off themselves, flying in the air. Emily is shocked. The three pages are flying around and all of a sudden, they turn out to be red.

A page flies and crashes into the wall. Dozens skulls appear on the wall. Emily swallows hard. One of the skulls whose hand tries to grasp at Emily, who moves away in time.

A page flies. Suddenly, it BURSTS, making green liquid splash on Emily who runs away but some green liquid hits her arm and neck, causing some red dots on them. Emily feels in pain. She looks helpless.

A page flies. It turns out to be a huge red mouth. Emily's eyes and mouth go wide. The huge red mouth moves to bite Emily. She turn around, running up the stairs to her bedroom.

INT. EMILY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Emily enters and closes the door. Emily takes a few steps back as seeing the green liquid moving in from the bottom of the doorway. The green liquid is getting more and more.

She hears cracking sound. She scans. The dozens skulls appear on the wall again. Three skulls and three hands

come out. They don't try to grasp at Emily, who is confused.

EMILY (V.O.)

They didn't grasp at me. Why?

She scans and spots a Bible on the desk. She moves up to it. She opens and reads it. Moments later, the green liquid vanishes. She turns to the skulls and all of them feel in pain and disappear. Emily is relieved. She glances around.

EMILY

Where are you, red mouth?

She holds the Bible and opens the door and goes down the stairs.

INT. EMILY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Emily looks around.

EMILY

Come out, Red mouth.

She moves around.

EMILY

I'm stupid.

She reads the verses of the Bible. She spots the book: The Study Of Ghosts on the coffee table shaking. Something is coming out. It is a red mouth. The red mouth flies in the air and becomes a huge red mouth trying to bite Emily. She goes backwards. The two face each other without doing anything. After a while, Emily moves closer to the huge red mouth and reads the verses. The huge red mouth is getting smaller. She read louder and the red mouth is getting smaller. Emily keeps reading louder and as a result, the red mouth turns out to be ash.

INT. CAFE - SAME

Emily is brought back. All customers are safe. Some injured customers are waiting for ambulance. The waiters and some customers clean up.

Mason runs to hug Emily.

MASON

You all right?

EMILY

All right. The ghosts died.

MASON

You did a great job.

Maxwell walks toward Emily.

MAXWELL

Mason told me everything about it.
You're so brave. You saved our
lives. Thanks a lot, Emily.

EMILY smiles.

EMILY

You're welcome. The real hero is
Mason. Without him, I couldn't stand
here.

MAXWELL

You two're amazing.

Mason smiles.

MASON

Why'd they try to kill you, Maxwell?

MAXWELL

I think my books offend them.

MASON

I don't understand why the ghosts
didn't attack you directly. They
made use of Emily.

MAXWELL

I'm a famous expert in studying
ghosts. They didn't know how much
power I have. They didn't want to
take the risk. To be honest, I don't
know if I could fight against them.
They never thought a brave and
clever woman could get rid of them.

MASON

I see. Let's take a photo.

EMILY/MAXWELL

Good idea.

Mason takes out his cellphone from his jean pocket.