GET A CLUE

By

Jim Onji

(c) 2016
FADE IN:

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

An average suburban house painted white. The full moon is blood-red. A wolf howls in the distance.

    EUGENE (O.S.)
    Anyone up for a board game?

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

EUGENE BOWIE -- Forty, average, dressed like a 1950s sitcom dad -- stands up in the middle of the living room.

KYLE -- Fifteen, long hair, slacker, ripped jeans -- is stretched across the couch.

MADDIE -- Thirteen -- sits on the arm of the couch on the right side. She and Kyle look bored.

KATE -- Forty, pretty, dressed in a David Bowie T-shirt and jeans -- sits in a chair with a smile on her face.

    EUGENE
    Anybody?

    KATE
    What about... Monopoly?

    KYLE
    I’d rather have my teeth pulled.

    KATE
    What about Chutes and Ladders?

    KYLE
    Dammit, Mom, I’m fifteen!

    KATE
    Watch your mouth, young man!

Eugene goes into the closet.

    EUGENE
    How about...

Kyle rolls his eyes.
KYLE
Halo? Guitar Hero? Pong?

Eugene comes out of the closet with the classic Parker Brothers board game, Clue(do).

He leaves the closet door open.

Maddie’s face lights up.

MADDIE
I love Clue!

KYLE
Clue sucks.

EUGENE
Better than Monopoly; I always go to jail.

Kate gives Eugene a mock-sympathy hug.

Kyle huffs and rolls his eyes.

KYLE
Whatever.

EUGENE
Come on, Kyle, you used to love Clue.

KYLE
Clinton was still President.

EUGENE
You sure loved it last year at Jamal’s birthday party.

KYLE
That’s because his birthday party sucked. He told me Jay-Z and Snoop would be there. Instead, he had a clown. A clown! Clue was the only way to keep me from barfing.

Eugene takes the game out of the box and starts to set it up on the coffee table. An ominous crimson light flashes across the board.

EUGENE
And you actually believed him?
KYLE
A man can dream.

EUGENE
If he told you Abraham Lincoln would be there, would you believe him?

Eugene takes the character tokens out.

KYLE
The butler did it. I win. Can I play Xbox now?

MADDIE
That’s not how the game works.

KYLE
Shut up, Maddie.

KATE
Cool it, you two!

Eugene sets the last token on the coffee table -- the Miss Scarlet character.

EUGENE
Who does everybody wanna be?

KYLE
The only character I remember is Colonel Mustard.

He shrugs his shoulders and takes the Colonel Mustard token and sets it on the board. The token illuminates.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Two ominous footsteps approach the house.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Eugene turns to Maddie.

EUGENE
Maddie?

Maddie ponders, and then chooses Miss Scarlet. She puts the token on the board; it lights up.
EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Two more footsteps approach.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Eugene hugs Kate’s shoulders.

EUGENE
Kate?

She takes Mrs. White and sets the token on the board; the token glows.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Two more footsteps. A wolf howls in the distance.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
An ominous thunderclap. The wolf continues howling.
Eugene looks at the remaining tokens and ponders.

EUGENE
Since I’m your sugarplum...

Kyle rolls his eyes. Maddie giggles.

EUGENE
I’ll be...

He picks up...

EUGENE
...Professor Plum.

Eugene sets the final token on the board; it illuminates a reddish-purple.

EUGENE
Anyone remember the rules?

CLOCK
The time reads seven-thirty. Five minutes elapse.
INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Eugene sets the rule sheet down.

    EUGENE
    Everybody got that?

Everybody nods and hums.
Eugene grabs the pair of dice.

    EUGENE
    Each of us will roll the dice. Whoever rolls the highest number
    plays first.

    KATE
    I thought Miss Scarlet played first?

    EUGENE
    I used to think Han shot first. Things change, honey.

Eugene rolls.
"Three" on one die, "one" on the other. "Four."
He moves Professor Plum six places.

EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Six footsteps approach the house.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Eugene appears to be in discomfort. He grips his stomach.

    EUGENE
    Hold on, guys. Just a quick trip to the John.

He chuckles and runs upstairs.

    EUGENE
    Don’t play without me!

    KATE
    We won’t!

Kyle jumps up.
KYLE
I’m gonna go play Halo.

KATE
He’s not gonna be that long.

CLOCK
Twenty-three minutes pass. Eight o’clock.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT
Kyle sits on the couch, visibly bored. He yawns.

KYLE
What the hell’s taking him so long?

KATE
Language! He’s probably just constipated, honey.

Eugene limps down the stairs.

KATE
What took you so long?

Eugene moans.

KATE
Honey?

Eugene takes another step and moans.

KATE
Eugene?

Eugene enters the living room. He makes his way to the coffee table.

KATE
Eugene?

Eugene collapses onto the board, dead. His back is bloody.

KATE
Eugene!

KYLE
It was Colonel Mustard in the bathroom with the plunger--

Maddie smacks him.
MADDIE
Have you no shame, Kyle?

KYLE
Dad, if you wanna learn how to make fake blood, look at Tom Savini.

Kyle laughs and he touches the blood. His laughter turns to horror. His eyes widen.

KYLE
Holy shit!

Kate and Maddie scream.

KATE
Who’s in the house? Who are you? Where are you?

Maddie turns toward Kyle suspiciously.

KYLE
What?

MADDIE
You’re the one who didn’t want to play a board game.

KYLE
Yeah. So?

MADDIE
Therefore, you’re my prime suspect.

KYLE
How could I have killed Dad when I was upstairs playing Halo?

Maddie stares at him with cold eyes.

MADDIE
How do we even know you were playing Halo?

Kyle takes the dice. He pushes Eugene’s corpse aside and rolls eight.
EXT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Eight footsteps approach.

INT. BOWIE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Kyle picks up a card.

KYLE
Did anyone else notice something strange about the board? Or the tokens? Did anyone else see them light up and shit?

Kate and Maddie draw blank faces.

KATE
No...?

KYLE
We have six possible suspects.

MADDIE
But how is that possible?

KYLE
Don’t you remember Jumanji?

MADDIE
I fell asleep.

KATE
Are you saying what I think you’re saying?

Kyle counts the suspects on his hands.

KYLE

MADDIE
So now we’re playing a real-life game of Clue?

Kyle nods and smiles smugly.

KYLE
Yep. We need to figure out whodunit. What we have here is an obvious stab wound.
KATE
To be fair, Kyle, it could also be a gunshot wound or a lead pipe.

KYLE
But we didn’t hear a gunshot, did we?

A gunshot fires from a distance. Everybody jumps.

KYLE
What was that?


KYLE
I guess that narrows it down.
Maddie, your turn.

Maddie reluctantly takes the dice and rolls. Three.

Three footsteps descend the stairs.

MADDIE
Wait, did you hear that?

KYLE
Six suspects. We know they did it in the bathroom with the gun.

KATE
We don’t know where--

KYLE
But we can assume they came in through the bathroom window.

MADDIE
That’s a Beatles song.

KYLE
Care to take a guess?

MADDIE
Mister Green in the bathroom with the revolver.

KATE
But there’s no bathroom in the game.
KYLE
This isn’t a game anymore.

Maddie moves Mr. Green and the revolver into the library.

KYLE
You’re up next, Mom.

KATE
I thought you said this wasn’t a game.

KYLE
It’s not.

Kate rolls the dice. Snake eyes.

Two footsteps descend the stairs.

KATE
It was...

The floor creaks. Everybody turns toward the stairs.

KATE
Colonel Mustard!

COLONEL MUSTARD stands before them, revolver in hand, laughing wickedly. He has a large, bushy, yellow handlebar mustache, yellow 18th-century clothes, and a monocle.

Kate glides her hand over the envelope containing the correct murder information.

Mustard tugs the trigger.

Kate begins to sweat and weep.

Mustard grins.

Kate picks up the envelope.

Mustard squeezes the trigger tighter.

Kate opens the envelope.

The gun cocks.

She takes out the cards revealing the truth. Her weeping turns into sobbing.
KATE
It was Colonel Mustard! In the library! With the revolver!

A loud whirring sound drowns out any other sounds.

Colonel Mustard, MISS SCARLET, PROFESSOR PLUM, MR. GREEN, MRS. PEACOCK, and MRS. WHITE get sucked back into the game.

COLONEL MUSTARD
Nooooooooo!

The game and tokens light up. The game sucks the characters back in, like a vacuum.

They’re gone. The whirring sound dies down. The glow dissipates until it’s completely gone.

Kate, Maddie, and Kyle uncover their ears.

Kyle picks up the Colonel Mustard token.

KYLE
Get a clue.

Eugene wakes up, no sign of blood.

Everybody jumps. Kate resumes sobbing. Kyle and Maddie begin to weep. They all hug Eugene.

Eugene yawns.

EUGENE
What did I miss?

FADE OUT.

THE END