

# EVERY BABY-SITTER'S NIGHTMARE

*By Craig Sodaro*

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Carrie Carter, the 16-year-old girl next door, is hired by the Taylors to watch their three children, Kandy, Kevin, and Kelly, while the well-to-do parents attend a dinner party. Since the boy Carrie likes at school, "Fast Eddie," hasn't had the courage to ask her to the Spring Dance, Carrie thinks the job is a perfect thing to do on a lonely Saturday night.

She soon finds she's in for more than she bargained for! The children explain that the house is haunted by the ghost of a doctor murdered in the living room. To add to her growing fear, Kevin announces an "ax murderer" has just escaped from the county jail and is heading their way. When a dizzy aunt pays a surprise visit, Carrie finds this job is worth more than she's being paid. And when the kids knock out Mr. Taylor's boss thinking he is the ax murderer, Carrie knows she's in big trouble!

Carrie and the kids soon learn that the dad's boss has finally married his secretary and they are running away from his mother, the domineering owner of the cat food company where Mr. Taylor works. When she thunders onto the scene, the kids hide her son and his new bride. But they're not the only ones hiding at the Taylor house. The escaped convict and his partner make an appearance at the secluded house looking for a car and a change of clothes.

As paths cross and uncross, Carrie and the kids lay a trap for the convict, and in capturing him, bring about a hilarious climax that involves the appearance of the very ghost who is supposed to haunt the house!

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(7 m, 10 w)*

**CARRIE CARTER:** A quiet sixteen-year-old who doesn't know what she's getting into when she takes this baby-sitting job.

**KANDY TAYLOR:** 14, who feels she's way too old to have a baby-sitter in the house - but who's glad there IS one when the going gets rough.

**KEVIN TAYLOR:** 12, who preys on un-suspecting baby-sitters.

**KELLY TAYLOR:** 10, a girl who's a lot smarter than her years.

**CALVIN TAYLOR:** Early 40's, a man trapped in a life he really doesn't like although he loves his family very much.

**TIPPY TAYLOR:** Early 40's, a woman who hasn't yet discovered it's not things that are important, but people.

**CORDELIA WHIMSEY:** 65, sweet but forgetful aunt.

**MOTHER EAGLETON:** About 58, a woman who has always controlled everything and everyone - until tonight!

**EDGAR EAGLETON:** Early 30's, her son, a man who finally grows up.

**TRUDY EAGLETON:** Mid 20's, a gorgeous lady who has a lot more going for her than it first seems.

**CASH DEVAINE:** Mid 30's, a nervous bank robber who has more criminal ideas than ability to pull them off!

**LOUIE:** About 40, Cash's partner in crime who has more ability, but fewer ideas.

**EDDIE DELBERT:** 17, also known as Fast Eddie, wishes he lived back in 50's. Likes Carrie.

**TIM KOWALSKI:** 17, Eddie's best friend, who's got more common sense than Eddie can ever hope for.

**MARSHA SANTINI** and **SASSY DOBLER:** Both 16, friends of Carrie.

**STARK:** a woman police officer.

*Every Baby-sitter's Nightmare*

- 4 -

**SETTING**

The play takes place in the fashionable woodland home of Calvin and Tippy Taylor. A front door is USL with a hall closet next to it, SR. A picture window (*covered with curtains*) is USC, flanked by either plants or bookcases. USR is a screen and next to it is the fireplace which has a statue on the mantel. Wing entrance DSR leads to kitchen and basement while DSL entrance leads to the bedrooms. A couch dominates CS, with several comfortable chairs in attendance along with a table and lamp. A coffee table stretches at the feet of the couch. SL is a desk or table holding a phone with cord. The entire room gives one the feeling of never being used so as not to disturb the orderliness of the scene.

**PROPS**

**ACT I**

Tie for Calvin; werewolf mask for Kevin/Carrie; book and candle or flashlight for Kandy; nail file for Tippy; bag holding school books and yellow paper and purse with kleenex for Carrie; paper airplane; white paper on book shelves; starting pistol for Kevin; cup or glass; suitcases for Cordelia; guns and ropes for Louie and Cash; gag for Cash; magazine for Kandy; boyfriend picture and play dagger for Kevin; hat and coat in closet; cup; ninja sword.

**ACT II**

Black garbage bag with "ice" for Kevin; catsup packet for Tim and Eddie; candles; mallet for Kelly; numchukas (or ball bat) for Kevin; perfume spray for Kandy; plunger for Aunt Cordelia; umbrella in closet; statue on mantle; nintendo wires; men's shoes; old dress, wig, shot gun for Carrie; handcuffs for Stark; money for Tippy.

**SPECIAL EFFECTS**

Thunder, doorbell, gun shot, door knock and door pounding, blood-curdling scream, wind through the trees, eerie music, lights up and down, and electric fan offstage left to create breeze for Carrie's appearance.

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: It is 7 pm and only a few dim lights from outside light the room. Distant THUNDER is heard. After a moment, a shoeless, half-dressed CALVIN, carrying his tie, enters looking around the room. He bumps into the coffee table at CS. THUNDER.)*

CALVIN: Ouch!

TIPPY: *(Calling from off SL.)* Calvin! Did you find those candles yet?

CALVIN: No, but the coffee table found my shin!

TIPPY: Well, hurry up! I can't put my mascara on in the dark!

CALVIN: I think they're in the closet.

*(CALVIN moves to closet, opens door. KEVIN jumps out wearing werewolf mask.)*

KEVIN: Arrrgggggg!

CALVIN: Ahhhhhh! *(HE passes out on the couch.)*

KEVIN: *(Sheepishly removing mask and stashing it under HIS shirt)* Dad? Dad?

KANDY: *(Enters with lit candle or flashlight from the kitchen, reading a book.)* How can ANYONE enjoy Dickens with you making so much noise, mighty mouth!

KEVIN: Look, bookworm, this isn't time for dumb jokes. Get that candle over here.

KANDY: *(Saunters over.)* Name one good reason why I should.

KEVIN: *(Feigning horror.)* I think somebody killed Dad!

KANDY: Oh, my gosh!

TIPPY: *(Enters SL, filing HER nails.)* Calvin, I need some light!

KEVIN: Dad's lights are out, Ma.

TIPPY: Calvin?!

KANDY: *(Head on HIS chest.)* It's all right, Mom...he's still breathing.

*Every Baby-sitter's Nightmare*

- 6 -

TIPPY: What happened? Calvin? Wake up! We have to be at the Berkshire's dinner party in a half an hour and you know in this Saturday night traffic we HAVE to leave in ten minutes! Kevin, do you know what happened to your father?

KEVIN: Gosh, Mom, I haven't the foggiest. I came in here and he was just like that.

KANDY: I heard a scream!

KEVIN: I'll bet it was something he ate for dinner.

TIPPY: He hasn't eaten dinner.

KEVIN: Then lunch!

*(CALVIN moans.)*

TIPPY: Calvin? You need to get up! You KNOW how Sandra HATES people to miss the hot hors d'oeuvres!

CALVIN: Oh...Tippy, is it really you?

TIPPY: Of course it is! And don't touch or you'll mess my face.  
*(The LIGHTS come on.)* Oh, good! Now, I can get my mascara on. IF we can have five minutes of uninterrupted electricity.

KANDY: It's the storm.

CALVIN: I don't believe what I saw!

TIPPY: Tell me on the way to the Berkshires, darling. Oh, and the new girl should be here in a minute or two.

KEVIN: What new girl?

TIPPY: The sitter!

CALVIN: I saw a werewolf!

KANDY: I don't need a sitter!

KEVIN: Me neither!

KANDY: You need a warden!

TIPPY: I won't argue about this again, children.

KANDY: I am NOT a child.

CALVIN: *(Bewildered.)* It came from the closet!

KEVIN: *(Emphatically.)* I'm not a child either!

KANDY: *(Sarcastically.)* Whoever said you were? Child implies human intelligence.

TIPPY: *(HER hand to her head.)* Stop it, you, two! You're having a sitter and that's that.

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