

I'm Afraid You've Got Ghosts

By Meghan Nichole Martin

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DEDICATION

To Janelle Meghan for being my friend, supporter, and creative accountability partner. Thank you for always pushing me to be the best and bravest version of myself at every one of our Creative Sundays (and all of the other days of the week as well).

STORY OF THE PLAY

When our darling couple finds their newly purchased house haunted, they call in an expert, Harper Davidson, Ghost Exterminator. Little do they know that Harper has plans to remove more than just ghosts from their house. She is attempting to rob their house in their absence when the real ghost of the house appears. Harper must face not only the supernatural, but her own conscience. This dark comedic ghost story explores the hilarity of the supernatural and the horrors of capitalism. It asks what makes a “perfect home,” and unpacks how loss attaches itself to people and their things. About 30-35 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The show premiered in the JESTival Festival at The Vino Theater in Brooklyn, NY on May 29th, 2025. It was directed by the playwright. Special thanks to: Kevin Gonzalez for being our safety, stunt, and skateboard coordinator. The original cast included:

HARPER: Hunter Corbett
AARON: Mark Stephen Kopas
ERIN: Rachel Kordell
KID: Audra Zook
GHOST: Saturday Lawson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 1 w, 3 flexible)

AARON and ERIN ANDERSON: The cutest gosh darn couple and soon-to-be parents. Catch them at the farmer's market every weekend.

HARPER: *(Hank if cast as male.)* A cynical thief with a quick wit and a vaping addiction. Moonlights as a ghost hunter when convenient.

KID: Don't let their youth fool you. They've got the sharpest eyes in the cul-de-sac and limited screen time. Strong believer in ghosts, Santa, and capitalism.

GHOST: A bit possessive (pun intended) and territorial. But, hey, maybe you would be too if people kept moving into your house just because you were dead.

* You may make pronoun changes to reflect your casting.

SET / TRANSITION NOTES

The living room of an upper-middle-class suburban home. It would look straight out of a *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine if not for the few cardboard boxes that still remained unpacked, indicating that this has been a recent move-in.

The living room takes up the majority of the stage with a small kitchen area in the upper corner. The transition from "living room to kitchen" can be done by spotlighting the kitchen area and bringing the lights up and down on it. The scene with the kid (the skateboard scene) can be done on the apron of the staging area with the lights down on the rest of the set. When the kid calls from their bedroom, you could use a Juliet balcony and/or they could "look down" from in a spotlight.

GOLDFISH

A puppet or other theatrical devices may be used but also it can be a normal prop.

GHOST EFFECT

This can be individual interpretation. The main SFX should be a rumbling noise and lights that either shift in color or flash. Productions could also utilize smoke machines or other supernatural stagings. A couple of specific tricks used in original production outside of rumbling/flashing lights were:

- A remote-control toy inside of a box to make it jolt "on its own."
- The reveal of the ghost consisted of Harper sitting on a couch with a blanket over it. The Ghost rose up from behind the couch under the blanket in a fun "sheet ghost effect" giving Harper a good jump scare before the actor took it off.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on the living room. ERIN sits on the couch in front of a lovely spread of lemonade. She is clearly showing as pregnant under her sundress. Her husband AARON is stationed at the window, watching their driveway. A goldfish swims happily in its tank.)

ERIN: Didn't she say she'd be here at 10?

AARON: She said around 10. *(Pause.)* Maybe ghost hunters work in four-hour windows? You know, like the internet guy. Or a plumber.

ERIN: Paranormal exterminator.

AARON: Hmm?

ERIN: The ad said that she said she was a paranormal exterminator. Not a ghost hunter.

AARON: Right.

ERIN: "Hunter" sounds so aggressive, don't you think?

AARON: "Exterminator" isn't un-aggressive.

(A pause as THEY both wait.)

AARON: *(Cont'd.)* She might have overslept. Probably a lot of late nights with a job like hers, don't you think?

ERIN: *(Nods in agreement. Then.)* You don't think it's a prank, do you?

AARON: *(Surprised.)* Do you think it's a prank?

ERIN: Well, I just mean... In the movies you find these people at a church? Or... I don't know... an eccentric shop where they sell crystals and...

AARON: Little fuzzy things you can't feed after midnight?

ERIN: Well, I know that sounds silly. But having a haunted house is already silly, isn't it? And finding a ghost whisperer on Craigslist somehow sounds even sillier.

AARON: *(Moving to sit next to ERIN on the couch.)* Hey. I know this is strange. I thought we agreed it was strange enough that we didn't want to bring it up to the HOA yet. Asking for local ghost hunter suggestions didn't seem like the best first impression to make in our new community?

(ERIN nods.)

AARON: *(Cont'd.)* But we can. I will! If you'd rather—

ERIN: *(Interrupting.)* No. No, I'm just being a Nervous Nellie.

This whole situation has been so much. The moving, the baby, trying to find maternity coverage at work... and then finding out this is a haunted house—

AARON: *(Interrupting.)* Our haunted home. *(HE takes HER hand in comfort.)* There's always going to be issues with a new house. Mold, ants, a broken step or two. This is just an... unusual pest. And we'll take care of it and make it perfect. For all three of us. *(AARON taps a finger against HER baby bump.)*

ERIN: I guess so.

AARON: I know so. And no stress! I'm going to take care of everything.

ERIN: I know you will.

(HE smiles before giving HER a peck on the lips. Followed by another. And another and another until he is showering her face with kisses as she giggles wildly, playfully fending him off. They are interrupted by SFX: a KNOCK at the door, laughter turning quickly to nervous giggles.)

ERIN: *(Cont'd.)* That's her.

AARON: I'll get it.

(HE gives HER a last peck on the cheek before hopping up to his feet. On his way, he almost trips over a moving box and has the nagging feeling that he should have cleaned more. He takes a deep breath, puts on a smile, and goes offstage to answer the door. Now alone, Erin is visibly more nervous. Cleaning and straightening the lemonade, she pours herself a glass and takes a shaky sip. Aaron enters with HARPER, a woman with Jnco jeans, a ball cap, and a mouthful of gum. Erin is clearly thrown but forces a polite smile.)

End of Freeview

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