

MORTICIA THE MORTITIAN

Mystery/Dark Comedy

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1. EXT. SMALL COBBLED HOUSE NEXT TO A GREAT PASTURE FILLED WITH TOMBSTONES.

2. INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT.

We find our protagonist, Morticia Fine asleep on her bed. A quiet scratch is heard at the door. She rustles a bit as the noise intensifies, adding layers of whispers. She opens her eyes to see nothing in the room. The noise persists. She slowly gets out of bed and heads toward the door. She turns the doorknob and a bright white light blinds her before she can see what is standing in the way. It's a dead corpse.

CORPSE

Excuse me, could you move a little?

Morticia wakes up in her basement with her head on the belly of a dead corpse.

CORPSE

Hey, lady. That's where I was stabbed so shove off to the left or something.

Morticia lifts her head and moves to the other side.

CORPSE

Thanks.

Cut to: Outside of church as Morticia walks by.

3. EXT. CHURCH. DAY.

Morticia walks up the sidewalk toward her entrance of the church, admiring the crowd of children playing baseball.

As she gets closer she sees a ball get quite close to breaking a glass and sees Pastor Lionel come out to confront the kids.

LIONEL DESANTOS

Children you must be careful, this is very expensive glass. We cannot let these break, okay? They don't come by too often and they're very hard to replace. Just like you!

Morticia enters the Church she works at. Pastor Lionel greets her before she sets up in the operating room.

LIONEL DESANTOS

Goodmorning Morticia, a nice and early surprise today?

MORTICIA FINE

Yeah I couldn't sleep too well last night. Kept waking up so I figured I'd come in and get the last body done for the week.

LIONEL DESANTOS

Hm sorry to hear. Yes we've got one left huh. Have you seen the newest installation?

MORTICIA FINE

Ah no, more stained glass huh?

LIONEL DESANTOS

Of course, nothing like a colorful start to the sermon hm? Did you know my brother handcrafts these in his shop?

MORTICIA FINE

Oh I didn't know you had a brother. Well, at least one of you is using your hands.

LIONEL DESANTOS

(looks confused)

MORTICIA FINE

Just a joke, Pastor.

LIONEL DESANTOS

Oh Morticia, you've got the same sense of humor your mother had.

Morticia feigns a chuckle and continues to set up the body as Pastor Lionel exits.

MORTICIA FINE

Alright buddy. What's goin on?

Morticia sits besides the body and closes her eyes.

RICHY THE CORPSE

So I'll meet you at 7, right?

MORTICIA FINE

Hello? Richy?

RICHY THE CORPSE

Hello? Daisy? Where am I? What the hell.

MORTICIA FINE

My name is Morticia, I'm a mortician. I'm sorry to tell you this Richy but you were hit by a bus last night and you passed away.

RICHY THE CORPSE

What? I was what? I'm...what?

MORTICIA FINE

I know this is confusing, I'm here to help guide you out of your body. Richy I'm here to tell you that your soul is alive, you're speaking to me and I'm alive. This is my job, Richy.

RICHY THE CORPSE

(confused and worried but open to listening)

Okay.

MORTICIA FINE

Okay great. So this part's going to be kind of difficult. I need you to try your hardest to remember the moments just before you were hit.

RICHY THE CORPSE

I...I can't remember much.

MORTICIA FINE

That's okay Richy I've done this thousands of times it always seems impossible at first. Just try to remember the things you did that day.

RICHY THE CORPSE

I was with Daisy. We were at the park and then planned to have dinner and then... I just, I can't remember anything else.

MORTICIA FINE

That's okay Richy, was Daisy your wife?

Just then, Richy's torso shoots straight up.

MORTICIA FINE

I'll take that as a yes.

Morticia takes some notes.

RICHY THE CORPSE

I'm feeling...odd.

MORTICIA FINE

Hm. Odd? You are dead. So.

Morticia looks up from her notes.

MORTICIA FINE

Alright Richy, I'm guessing the reason you're trapped is because you didn't get to see Daisy that night. Sorta cute, but isn't that annoying? You look forward to something special like a dinner date and bam you're killed by a bus and your soul is trapped in your body. Ah well, we'll get you outta there in no time.

Morticia leaves the body with the pastor and exits the church to finish the job.

Cut to: Daisy waiting for the bus, looking sad.

4. EXT. BUSTOP. DAY

Daisy sits at the bus stop not planning on getting on. Morticia arrives and sits next to her.

MORTICIA FINE

Hi. Are you Daisy?

DAISY

Yes. Hello.

MORTICIA FINE

My name is Morticia Fine, I'm a Mortician with the church.

DAISY

Oh, hello.

MORTICIA FINE

I'm actually a bit more than a Mortician though. I basically assist spirits in need of some escape. Usually they've been killed or died in a tragic and untimely way. Like your husband, Richy? Yes?

DAISY

(looks perplexed)

Yes, Richy...Richy died last night.

MORTICIA FINE

And I'm so sorry to hear that. But I've just spoken to Richy and his soul is a bit unwell. I think he needs to know that you're safe. What we usually do is act out a mock of whatever it is that person remembers they're supposed to do.

(MORE)

MORTICIA FINE (CONT'D)

The soul attaches to these trivial things as a way to remind itself it exists, but now we've gotta train it to think of itself like a soul. So, we gotta get you that dinner with Richy. Go to wherever it is you guys planned on going, exactly at the time you two planned on being there. Then, act as if you're eating with Richy, and that should rest his soul enough that he'll understand where to go after that.

DAISY

(still perplexed, even
moreso now)

I...This is crazy. How can I?

MORTICIA FINE

Don't worry Daisy. I'll be here to make sure it all works out.

Cut to: Daisy and Morticia setting up the dinner.

5. INT. EMPTY RESTAURANT. EVENING.

Morticia sets up the table and adds a remnent that Daisy brought of Richy on one of the two empty chairs. Daisy walks in a sits down, setting off the ploy.

MORTICIA FINE

Okay Daisy now we just need you to visualize Richy in front of you. Imagine you two are enjoying that meal.

DAISY

Okay. What'll happen if it works?

MORTICIA FINE

We'll see in a minute.

Daisy closes her eyes and takes a long breath.

A few moments go by.

Daisy peaks out of her left eye.

DAISY

Anything?

MORTICIA FINE

Hm nothing yet. Give it a second. Try to really get Richy's image into that chair.

Daisy takes a longer breath this time.

The chair across from her shakes a bit as Morticia watches. Slowly, a thick mist appears in front of Daisy.

RICHY THE SPIRIT

Hello?

Morticia's eyebrows raise as she leans in to see the thick mist.

MORTICIA FINE

Richy, it's Morticia and Daisy.

RICHY THE SPIRIT

Who? Where am I?

DAISY

Richy! Oh Richy! How are you here!?

Morticia is concerned.

RICHY THE CORPSE

I don't know. I can't see anything.
Who is that? Mom?

DAISY

Richy it's me, it's Daisy!

RICHY THE CORPSE

Daisy? I don't know. I don't know.
Get me out, now!

The table starts shaking and Daisy is forced to get up. Morticia and Daisy step back as the table is circled into a whirlwind and finally dropped.

DAISY

What happened to him? Where did he go! Morticia you said it would work but now he's gone and he sounded so scared. What's happening?

MORTICIA FINE

I don't know. Usually these things work out pretty easily. I just spoke to him this morning and he seemed to be alright. Hm.

Cut to: Morticia walks into the church.

Int: Church. Night.

Morticia walks in and examines Richy's body. She sees no signs of foulplay or anything that would explain what just happened. Confused, Morticia takes a moment to think in the Church. The moonlight is shone through the glass as Morticia sits alone, contemplating.

As she sits, Morticia begins to hear a faint whisper. She gets up to investigate and it leads her to a room full of stained glass. The whisper is now mixed with other voices.

Morticia looks around as the whispers slowly quiet until they're gone completely. Then, as Morticia looks up at the biggest piece of stained glass she hears

V.O.
MORTICIA WATCHOUT!

Thwak.

Lights out for Morticia.

Cut to: Daisy walking along to the church.

Int: Church. Morning.

Daisy carefully opens the door to the church as she calls out.

DAISY
Hello! Miss Fine! Morticia! I'd
like to see if we can try again!
Helloooo.

Daisy doesn't get any answer so she continues walking through the church. As she goes through the back cooridoors she finds Morticia's operating room. Daisy opens the door and finds Richy's body lying on the table and gasps.

DAISY
Oh my poor Richy.
(sobs)

Daisy sobs onto Richy's chest for a moment.

RICHY THE SPIRIT
(faint)
Daisy.

Daisy lifts her head in surprise.

DAISY
Richy? Where are you Richy!

Daisy follows the voice. She enters a room the voice seems to be coming from and finds Morticia knocked out and tied up. She rushes over to help.

DAISY
Morticia! Miss Fine! Wake up!

After a few moments Morticia comes to.

MORTICIA FINE
 Ah. What the hell? Daisy? I feel
 like I got hit by a bus.

Beat.

MORTICIA FINE
 Hm. Sorry.

DAISY
 What happened?

MORTICIA FINE
 I don't know. I was just in here
 and then out of nowhere everything
 went black? I could've sworn this
 room was speaking to me before it
 happened.

DAISY
 Yeah I heard that too.

MORTICIA FINE
 You heard something?

DAISY
 Yeah it sounded like Richy so I
 came to this room.

MORTICIA FINE
 Huh. That's interesting. We aren't
 hearing anything now though? Right?

DAISY
 Nope, nothing now.

Just then, Pastor Lionel walks in.

LIONEL DESANTOS
 Ladies, to what do we owe the
 pleasure so early in the morning?
 You enjoying the brand new glass?

MORTICIA FINE
 Enjoying it just fine Pastor. Thank
 you. Just getting some last words
 in.

LIONEL DESANTOS
 Alright then, remember we've got to
 take that last one by noon today.

Pastor Lionel exits.

Morticia takes a second to think.

MORTICIA FINE
 Hm.

Cut to: Morticia and Daisy are tracking Pastor Lionel after handing off Richy's body.

Ext: Church area. Noon.

Morticia watches as Pastor Lionel and the handler unload Richy's body into a hearse. Then, before the handler leaves, Morticia catches Pastor Lionel paying him off a handsome load.

MORTICIA FINE

Hm. Well that's not normal.

DAISY

(anxious and paranoid)

What isn't? Oooh this is making me nervous.

MORTICIA FINE

Don't worry Daisy. Seems like the Pastor can only mess with the dead. Lord knows he tries with us living.

The two continue to follow the hearse as they get into Daisy's car.

Pastor Lionel drives only a short distance before he stops and pulls into a small cottage. Daisy and Morticia park a way away and sneak up to the window to see what's going on.

As they're walking up to the window, Daisy steps in glass.

DAISY

Ah shoot! Watch out there's glass.

Morticia examines the shard.

MORTICIA FINE

It's stained glass, but it's clear. Hm. You okay? Sorry, shoulda told you to get boots like these.

Morticia points to her large black army boots.

DAISY

I don't know if those would go with this.

Morticia gets to the window and sees what is happening to Richy's body.

Pastor Lionel is manning a machine that seems to suck out all of the color in a soul such that it stains the glass.

As the two watch, Richy's body slowly loses its color as the glass on the opposite end begins to percolate.

MORTICIA FINE

Huh. Brother my ass.

DAISY

What is he doing to Richy? Richy!

Daisy rushes in to try and stop Pastor Lionel. But as quickly as she barges in, Pastor Lionel's trap sets off and grabs her by the foot to hang her upside down. As soon as this happens, Morticia runs in to help Daisy. Pastor Lionel sees this coming and quickly manages to maneuver the machine to blind Morticia for a moment before he once again knocks her out along with Daisy.

Cut to: Church

6. INT. CHURCH. MORNING.

LIONEL DESANTOS

Ah ladies. You know this isn't what I wanted right? I mean you just can't go snooping around other people's business. Morticia it's been so long, I can't believe you would betray the trust we had. Well it had to happen at some point didn't it. And you even brought a friend. Well, we could always use more pretty glass now couldn't we?

Morticia is half awake, tied up and laying in the pew. Hearing Pastor Lionel and also trying to figure out what's going on.

She can slightly hear that whispering but it's more directed now; though she can't make out what it's saying.

LIONEL DESANTOS

The best part is, you two can be center stage! We'll put you both right next to each other so you can have nice long chats about our sermons. Oh, speaking of which I have to go prepare for today's special one!

Just as Lionel exits, Morticia hears that voice that was calling to her earlier in the Church.

V.O.

Morticia. The glass.

Morticia looks around and can't find out how to escape.

Daisy is laid below her feet and is slowly starting to wake up.

MORTICIA FINE
 (whispering)
 Daisy. Be silent. We have to figure
 out how to-

DAISY
 Ow! Did you just cut my hair!?

Morticia looks down and notices a shard of glass sticking out of the sole of her foot, that's grazed Daisy.

MORTICIA FINE
 Daisy! Move your hand up to my foot
 and use that glass to cut yourself
 free.

Daisy moves her hands up and cuts the rope enough to get untied. Then unties Morticia.

MORTICIA FINE
 I've got an idea.

Cut to: Pastor Lionel in the church.

7. INT. CHURCH. NOON.

Pastor Lionel comes back out to greet his captors but is surprised to see they are gone. He searches the entire church and comes up with nothing. Finally, he walks into the stained glass room and finds shards of glass on the floor and a single pane with a hole in it. He finds a baseball at his feet and rushes outside to confront the children.

Cut to: Outside the Church

8. EXT. CHURCH YARD. NOON.

As soon as he steps out, he's greeted by a small crowd of children, standing out amongst them are Daisy and Morticia.

MORTICIA FINE
 Release!

At once, the children cock back their arms and unleash a barrage of baseballs all directly impacting the stained glass around the church. As the panes break, a small mist begins to form above the church. The mist gathers and rains down directly over Pastor Lionel. Once it's gone, what's left is a black and white man with grey robes standing still.

Morticia gets closer to him.

MORTICIA FINE
 Pastor Lionel?

She touches his shoulder. He barely notices. She leaves him there and goes to check on the church.

Cut to: Morticia walking through the church.

9. INT./EXT CHURCH. NOON.

Morticia walks in and hears nothing but silence and birds chirping. She walks back into the stained glass room to find nothing but the sky shining down onto the bare floor. She steps on a piece of red glass and hears it whisper something.

Morticia takes it outside and walks up to Daisy.

MORTICIA FINE

I think this is for you.

DAISY

Hm? What is this?

Daisy grabs the shard and immediately Richy's spirit balloons out.

DAISY

Richy! Richy you're okay! Well, not really but I mean you're not a weird white blob!

RICHY THE SPIRIT

I know crazy right! I think that creepy pastor put us all in some can or something. It was crazy, I was locked in there with hundreds of others and then one second we're all flying out like a vacuum. But this nice old lady told me to stay back a second and now I get to see you!

DAISY

(speechless)

I don't know what to say, Richy! I miss you so much. Where will you go?

RICHY THE SPIRIT

I miss you too, love. I've got to go up! I'm not sure what's there but the lady told me to listen to Morticia and it'll be okay.

Morticia is silently listening.

DAISY

I don't want you to go Richy. I can't do this alone.

RICHY THE SPIRIT

You're not alone, Daisy. Keep that little shard of glass. Maybe I can come back or something! I think that lady said sometimes you can see what I'm up to if you look through it hard enough.

Richy begins to evaporate.

DAISY

Richy? Richy are you going! Come back, Richy!

Daisy sobs and stares at the glass. Morticia has a realization and goes back inside to the church.

Cut to: A few weeks later.

10. INT. CHURCH. MORNING.

Morticia is overlooking the final pane of regular glass to be placed on the church. Pastor Lionel sits dribbling drool down his chin in the pew. Daisy walks in with a bag of goodies and a necklace with the piece of glass as a pendant.

DAISY

The place is looking pretty nice!

MORTICIA FINE

Yeah I think it's coming together well.

The last pane gets placed and a construction worker comes to collect the cash.

DAISY

How about a muffin, Jayson?

The two go to unravel and eat the muffins in the kitchen as Morticia stands and looks around the church. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. As she opens them, her mother's face appears all along the glass amassing in one giant image that forms for just a few seconds before ascending and vanishing. Morticia considers this to be her mother's trapped soul finally departing.

Cut to: More time later.

11. EXT. NEW TOWN. DAY.

Morticia and Daisy take on the responsibilities of the church and continue to aid trapped souls in their quest for freedom.

One day, as the two of them are visiting a new town they happen upon a cathedral.

They decide to see what it looks like on the inside.

Upon walking up, Daisy's necklace begins illuminating and Morticia begins to hear voices coming from the stained glass.

Fin.