

THE HORROR  
(2020 version)

by  
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ver 1.0

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EXT. AIRPORT - PICKUP SPOT - DAY

Elena, 26, walks with her luggage to the waiting area for Uber/Lyft. Her half sister Sophie, 30 rushes up to meet her.

SOPHIE

Ellie!

ELENA

Sophia! So good to see you! But please call me Elena, okay?

SOPHIE

Sure. Oh, and everyone here calls me Sophie, or just Soph.

ELENA

Well, I think Sophia has so much more class. "Sophia, goddess of wisdom."

SOPHIE

Whatever. Sophia, Sophie,  
(makes doofus face)  
Sophus!

ELENA

Um, yeah, so, shall we get an Uber?

SOPHIE

Got it covered. I came here with Lyft. Right over here.

Sophie leads Elena to a pretty old Ford Aspire, missing its right front fender. The driver, FREDDIE, 20-something, puts their luggage in the trunk, which creaks loudly when he opens it, and closes it with some difficulty. The sisters get in the back seat.

INT. CAR - DAY

SOPHIE

Yo, Freddie, meet my sister!

ELENA

*Half* sister.

SOPHIE

Ellie.

ELENA

Elena.

FREDDIE

Nice to meet you Elly-elena!

ELENA

So, there must be an age limit for your car, to drive Lyft?

FREDDIE

Yep, fifteen years.

SOPHIE

Freddie just made it. Right, Freddie?

FREDDIE

Well, technically, some parts are newer, but some parts are older, so yeah, it averages about fourteen, fifteen years. That fender was older, so it's cool I lost it last week.

SOPHIE

Freddie's riding a wave of good luck lately.

ELENA

I can see that.

SOPHIE

Oh, sis, come on, is that sarcasm? We said we'd be nice, remember? This is our grand adventure! Making our first film together!

ELENA

I'm sorry. It's just the New Yorker in me.

(to Freddie)

Nothing personal, Freddie.

FREDDIE

No worries. That kinda stuff doesn't bother me. It's like water off a duck's beak.

ELENA

(to herself)

"Back."

FREDDIE

Yeah, your sister tells me you're making a horror film, yeah?

ELENA

Yes, that's what we have the budget for:

(MORE)

ELENA (cont'd)  
(dismayed)  
Horror.

FREDDIE  
I love horror films!

ELENA  
We're doing horror because it's  
cheap, and easy to make, and easy to  
sell.

SOPHIE  
Horror films are awesome! I'm with  
Freddie on that.

FREDDIE  
Yo!

ELENA  
I wish I could have helped out more  
with the preproduction on this.

SOPHIE  
It's okay.

ELENA  
It's just that i just wrapped an Off-  
Broadway show.

SOPHIE  
I'm so proud of my little sister.

ELENA  
And I've got another one going up in  
less than two weeks. I'm the sole  
producer on that one, so we've only  
got 10 days to shoot this. You got  
that?

SOPHIE  
You're tearing it up in NY, and I'm  
tearing it up in LA. Woohoo!

ELENA  
It's a horror film; 10 days should be  
doable. I hope.

SOPHIE  
Oh, totally. I called in favors from  
some friends.

ELENA  
So the networking thing is working  
for you out here?

SOPHIE  
Oh, totally.

ELENA  
Good. Well, you've got the  
personality for it, I guess.

SOPHIE  
I got it covered. You can relax, El.

ELENA  
(tired)  
"Elena."

FREDDIE  
Elly-elena!

Elena leans her head against the window and drifts off to sleep.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

They arrive at the hotel. Freddie opens the trunk with a creak, and gets their luggage out. Again, it closes with some difficulty.

SOPHIE  
Thanks, Freddie!

ELENA  
Thanks, bye.

SOPHIE  
You're awesome!  
She gives Freddie a thumbs-up. He winks and smiles back. The sisters go to the motel office to get the keys.

INT. MOTEL - NIGHT

ELENA  
I am beat. They stuck me with  
cleaning up after the cast party last  
night. Got about an hour of sleep on  
the plane.

SOPHIE

Sis, you just get yourself a good night's sleep. No need to think about anything until morning.

ELENA

Yeah, thanks.

SOPHIE

This is gonna be so much fun!

ELENA

Yeah, I think so. G'night.

SOPHIE

Okay, well, I'm gonna shower. Sleep tight, see you in the morning.

ELENA

G'night.

Elena puts on a nightie and goes to bed. Sophia heads to the bathroom for a shower.

INT. MOTEL - MORNING

Elena wakes, slides out from under the covers, rubs her eyes. She starts doing yoga stretches, then suddenly hears the shower running. Sophie enters the room with a cup of coffee.

SOPHIE

Morning, sleepyhead!

ELENA

I thought you showered last night.  
Are you warming it up for me?

Before Sophie can answer, Freddie emerges from the bathroom with a towel around his waist.

ELENA (cont'd)

Ahhhh!

FREDDIE

(cheerfully)  
Elly-elena!

ELENA

Wha-! Freddie?!

Elena grabs the bedspread and tries to cover herself.

FREDDIE  
(chuckling)  
Sorry, didn't mean to startle you.

ELENA  
What the--. Sophia! What is he doing  
in our motel room?! You let a  
stranger sleep in our room?!

SOPHIE  
No, I wouldn't--

FREDDIE  
Whoa, Elly-Elena, be relax, man.

ELENA  
No! I will not "be relax," and my  
name is not "Elly-elena"! How could  
you let a stranger sleep in our--

SOPHIE  
No no no, he slept in his car. I'm  
just letting him take a shower.

FREDDIE  
Hey, I'm sorry.

Freddie goes into the bathroom and shuts the door.

ELENA  
What is this man even doing here? Why  
isn't he back in LA driving around  
Lyfting people?

SOPHIE  
I told you, Freddie loves horror  
films.

ELENA  
So?

SOPHIE  
So, he's part of our crew.

ELENA  
What?

SOPHIE  
He's seen like a hundred horror  
films.

ELENA

That doesn't qualify him to shoot one. He's got to go home. Now.

SOPHIE

Please, El, he drove us all the way up here for free. We got to talking on the way to the airport, and we have so much in common--

ELENA

Like that's a good thing?

SOPHIA

Please, El--

ELENA

Elena. Call me Elena.

SOPHIA

Elena, please, he gave up like over a hundred dollars fee to drive us here.

ELENA

(sighs)  
Geez, Sophia...

SOPHIA

Please, he's a really nice guy.

ELENA

He can watch. He can stay and watch. He can bring us coffee maybe, but that's it.

SOPHIA

Yeah, like a P.A. That's all I was gonna have him do. Thank you so much, Elena. You won't regret it.

Freddie emerges from the bathroom, dressed.

FREDDIE

So...are we good to go?

ELENA

Freddie...  
(restraining her  
anger)  
can you go get me some coffee?

FREDDIE

Sure thing, boss lady. I can find  
some in the lobby, prob'ly.

Freddie leaves the room. Elena drops the bedspread, tosses  
her head back, and sighs. Sophie smiles.