

CHASING THE GHOST

by

Ashley Lauren Rogers

CHASING THE GHOST

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CHASING THE GHOST

To Diana Pho,
who always believed in my bizarre sense of storytelling.

|

For those who've lost community
because they spoke up.

|

Content Warning:
*Doxxing, Discussions of self-harm and death by suicide,
Discussions of sexual assault and physical abuse.*

CHASING THE GHOST

Chasing The Ghost received its first Public Reading in New York City, NY at Judson Memorial Church as part of their “MAGIC TIME” Program in June of 2017, directed by David Charles, featuring the following cast:

Kurt.....Joe Conway
Patty.....Samantha Blinn
Steph.....Sam Turlington
Andrea.....Gaby Barrios
Dr. Falgut/Spectre.....Janelle Zapata-Castellano
Police/Dr. Adici/Father Waegner...Sylas Barrett
Stage Directions.....Jerrod Everett

Chasing The Ghost received its first Public Workshop in Fitchburg, MA at Forge Theatre Lab in February of 2019, directed by Samantha deManbay, featuring the following cast:

Kurt.....Noah Dawson
Patty.....Meighread Dandeneau
Police Officer / Prof. Adici.....Chuck Amaral
Steph.....Brittany Messuri
Andrea.....Leeann Monat
Dr. Falgut / Father Waegner.....Austin Swallow
Spectre / Person.....Cheyenne Winley
Stage Directions.....Samantha deManbey

Chasing The Ghost received its first Full Production in Fitchburg, MA at Forge Theatre Lab in December of 2019, directed by Samantha deManbay, featuring the following cast:

Kurt.....Noah Dawson
Patty.....Brittany Messuri
Police Officer / Prof. Adici.....Chuck Amaral
Steph.....Amy Demar-Dubois
Andrea.....Leeann Monat
Dr. Falgut / Father Waegner.....Austin Swallow
Spectre / Person.....Cheyenne Winley

Chasing The Ghost received its New Jersey Premiere Production in Newark, NJ Through Step1 Theatre Project and the NJIT/Rutgers University Theatre Departments in November of 2021, directed by Janelle Zapata-Castellano and Assistant Directed by Dariel Angeles, featuring the following cast:

Kurt.....Steven Cipoletti
Patty.....Hannah Keaton
Police OfficerJeremiah Richardson
Steph.....Zoe Papianni
Andrea.....Valeria Montero
Dr. Falgut.....Katarina Schmidt
Prof. Adici.....Noah Adedjouma
Father Waegner.....Adam D. Wainwright
Spectre / Person.....Jolani Cummings

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CAST

KURT - Late-Twenties-Early/mid-thirties. A cis white male.

A former web-series creator called the Enraged Gamer Geek, in the early days of Youtube. After a few years he decided he wanted to stop leaving a small but vocal and ravenous fan-base on the internet. *(NOTE for the first production Kurt MUST be played by a cisgender white man. After its premiere, casting can be more flexible but a note must be put in the program stating the playwright's initial intent to talk about Straight, cis, het, white supremacy and how it can be prominent in internet culture on the internet).*

PATTY - Late Twenties-Early/Mid-thirties. Pronouns: She/Her. Ethnicity: Any.

KURT's wife, a writer of paranormal young adult books. She tends to offer too much information to strangers when she's upset or thrown off her guard. Open to a wide variety of ghost stories and affirming of them however she has her hard limits on what she'll put up with and won't.

POLICE - Late-Twenties-Early/mid-thirties. Pronouns: He/Him, Ethnicity: Any.

Policeman called to investigate the breaking and entering of Kurt and Patty's home. He is quirky as well, just trying to do his job, but is and has been an avid gamer.

STEPH - Any age. Pronouns: She/Her, Ethnicity: Any

Main host on the Podcast "Darkness Calls," where she and her co-host Andrea interview experts and experiencers of the paranormal. She is welcoming and inquisitive, almost like if Rachel Maddow were to focus on spooky topics.

ANDREA - Any age. Pronouns: She/Her, Ethnicity: Any

Co-host of "Darkness Calls." Andrea is a little bit more of the every-woman type. A little bit more scared and put off by the stories but equally as fascinated as Steph. She is also a little bit more comedic, but she knows when to step back. She and Steph have gotten their chemistry down to a T.

DR. FALGUT - Any age. Pronouns: Any, Ethnicity: Any

We're never quite clear on *what* Dr. Falgut is a doctor of but we know that at least in Falgut's free time they are very passionate about talking to, and finding proof of extraterrestrial life.

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PROFESSOR ADICI - Any age. Pronouns: Any. Ethnicity: Any

Adici is a theoretical physicist. A primary focus of their study is the Many-Worlds Interpretation, and the concept of parallel realities. While Adici's topic may seem absurd they are very serious about it and often forgets what information they might need to break down for non-theoretical physicists. Adici is still charming, just sometimes it's hard to figure out what people like them don't know.

FATHER WAEGNER - Any age. Pronouns: He/Him. Ethnicity: Any

A priest, one who is very interested in the study of demonology. He does often have to remind people that, no being a priest does not make you a demonologist, nor does admitting the existence of demons mean all claims of demonic experience are real. He's kind of a cool Priest.

SPECTRE/PERSON - Late Twenties-Early thirties. Pronouns: She/Her Ethnicity: Person of Color

The shadow which may or may not be tickling Kurt's feet at night. A fan of Patty's book.

NOTE ON CASTING

POLICE, DR. FALGUT, PROFESSOR ADICI, and FATHER WAEGNER can be portrayed by the same actor, and SPECTRE/PERSON can also be double cast as FALGUT and/o ADICI.

Unless otherwise stated characters are defined by pronouns rather than gender markers (M/F). This is to intentionally remove the barriers of casting Trans and Nonbinary actors in those roles. Any of these characters can be portrayed by TGNC actors so long as they are comfortable portraying characters who use those pronouns.

With characters whose ethnicity is marked as "any," diverse casting should be strived for.

NOTE ON STYLE

Characters with words cut off will have those words finished in Parentheses for actor's context but should not be finished out loud.

Ex. "Pass the Ch-(icken)" should be cut off at "Pass the Ch-"

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SCENE 1

TV Plays a screen as if YouTube is being booted up on a device. As it goes to YouTube a flash of something, and a series of crack and snap sounds are heard and we see the TV break. Some more cracking and popping noises are heard. The broken screen is gone, and we are immediately at the start of a video from 2007. KURT is at his computer talking into a webcam.

KURT. Go fuck yourself, you got me? Go Fuck yourself. This game is fucking garbage. Ex-Mutants? Ex-Mutants? No, you can be sure as fuck I'm not talking about Wolverine, Cyclops, or Nightcrawler. I'm talking about "E" "X" Mutants on the Sega Genesis. Did they used to be mutants? Is this a support group for people who used to date mutants? When I think of Ex Mutant all I think of is EX-crement! Speaking of excrement; there are rumors going around that I stole my persona from a few other popular video game reviewers. Yeah there are some *Gamers* who are *Irate* about that, and some *Nerds* might get *Angry* about *Video Games*, but they don't do it like me. I'm the Enraged Gamer Geek. You don't like what I have to say... don't watch. Maybe don't go on the internet and don't leave the house. And you should probably fucking kill yourself while you're at it. Don't go on the internet, don't leave the house... and just fucking stop breathing... Or maybe you deserve to get brutally Ra(ped)- *(He is cut off by TV breaking... It is again fixed. A video comes up on the screen. It is taken from a phone camera, recently. The quality is strange. Like color has been affected by the screen tearing of the monitor. There are a number of people mourning at a funeral. The camera is zoomed in like wow. We can make out a male form, KURT, and a female form, PATTY. Kurt starts*

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walking away, the camera follows. Kurt's voice is heard over the images that are described but the audio is messed up. Occasionally Kurt will repeat syllables, however this is because the video hops back a few moments... Think Max Headroom.)

KURT. *(cont.)* Shout out to my good friend Don- Don- Don- Don- Donnie- *(Clip of recent video - Patty comes over to Kurt. Kurt stops.)*

KURT.*(cont.)* -nie for doing the tech stuff on th-th-th-this video *(Patty and Kurt hug. The TV shows a clear, unbroken video of the video of Kurt in 2007)* -don't forget to like and subscribe.

SCENE 2

Present day. Kurt and Patty are in their house bedroom. A Policeman (POLICE) is there. Kurt is very shook up, Patty is as well but she hides it with humor. A nervous almost can't stop talking humor.

POLICE. Is there anyone who would have reason to harm you? Either of you?

PATTY. Uh, no, no of course not.

KURT. No. Not that I'm aware of.

POLICE. Do you think your information may have been leaked somewhere-

PATTY. That's a thing?

KURT. Doxxing, yeah-

POLICE. It's always a possibility-

PATTY. I hope we haven't been doxxed-

KURT. It's a whole... thing, no I don't think we have been doxxed officer.

POLICE. OK, let's go through everything again-

KURT. Officer-

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POLICE. just to make sure I have this correct... someone broke into your house-

PATTY. We were getting ready to go to bed, I put on my pajamas, Kurt put his on, I brushed my teeth, Kurt didn't-

POLICE. MAYBE just the pertinent information Ma'am.

PATTY. Sorry just trying to be thorough. You have to be thorough with... these... Yeah. So we go to bed. We fall asleep, and then late at night Kurt woke up laughing-

KURT. I was screaming.

PATTY. Not at first-

(Kurt's eyes go wide.)

PATTY. *(cont.)* You did scream but you laughed first.

KURT. Patty stop-

PATTY. He laughed *then* he screamed-

KURT. No!

POLICE. *(beat)* OK. Based on what I've seen, there's no sign of forced entry, you mentioned that the door was still locked when you woke up?

KURT. Yeah that's-

PATTY. That's correct.

POLICE. How did the individual get out?

PATTY. He went through the window-

KURT. Patty-

POLICE. You mean that he opened the window and crawled through Ma'am?

KURT. She didn't see-

PATTY. But you said he went through the window-

POLICE. Theeee *open* window ma'am?

PATTY. He wouldn't have had time to open it-

POLICE. I'm sorry are you saying he crashed through the closed window?

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PATTY. I didn't see it- Kurt-

KURT. Look- yeah- I saw it but I didn't get a good look- It was very unsettling, it looked as if... He must've run through the house-

POLICE. And locked the door on his way out?

KURT. My house was violated. Could you please take this seriously?

POLICE. I apologize sir. I assure you I am taking this seriously... I'm just trying to understand, and make sure I'm not mishearing your accounts.

You mentioned seeing him-

KURT. I wasn't thinking... right... I was terrified. I... imagined a lot of things-

POLICE. So you weren't able to get a good look at him.

KURT. I know what I *think* I saw... But it was dark and I didn't really see it.

POLICE. What did you *think* you saw sir?

KURT. Nothing-

POLICE. Distinguishing feature? Clothing? Anything that might be able to help us identify him?

KURT. Look, just a man who broke into my house, walked into my room, and then ran away-

POLICE. So you saw a man who somehow got into your home, walked around your house, and then fled without unlocking any of your doors or windows.

KURT. Yeah, yes.

POLICE. They entered your room.

PATTY. Yes.

POLICE. They didn't take anything.

KURT. No.

PATTY. I don't think it was their intent to take anything.

POLICE. I don't follow-

PATTY. It's... Look- I Kurt we should-

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POLICE. All due respect ma'am if you or your husband saw-

KURT. I didn't see anything- Patty-

PATTY. Kurt we need to tell him

POLICE. Sir we're just trying to get an idea of the person-

PATTY. It did something to my husband!

KURT. PATTY!

PATTY. I'm sorry Kurt but... it did something to you, and you were basically assaulted!

POLICE. Were you assaulted S(ir)-

KURT. No! Of course not! I would've said something-

PATTY. He was! It came in-

KURT. Don't throw that word around, I was never-
Patty!

POLICE. Sir, I can appreciate how hard this must be-

KURT. It's not har(d)-

PATTY. He tickled my husband's feet!

POLICE. He... what ma'am?

KURT. Nothing my wife is just upset-

PATTY. You're damn right I'm upset! Someone attacked my husband!

KURT. No one attacked me-

POLICE. Are you saying that no one broke in-

KURT. Of course they did but no one assaulted me!

POLICE. But did they tickle-

KURT. No!

PATTY. You can tell him honey. He was laughing because his feet were being tickled by a pervert in the shadows! So, he laughed until he realized he was being tickled by a ghost-

POLICE. Tickled by a ghost ma'am?

PATTY. I mean... not literally... But can we really rule out that possibility... officer are you familiar with Shadow People?

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POLICE. Can't say (I am)-

PATTY. If you're interested, there's a Podcast, "Darkness Calls," and they talk all the time about the appearance of shadow people who-

KURT. Officer... we just got back from a funeral... I think it's affecting my wife- I know it's affecting me... I was not tickled by a ghost. A depraved pervert broke into my house... to... to... to do God knows what... but he must've gotten scared when I woke up and he fled.

POLICE. Through the locked door.

KURT. I probably did lock it after I got up... It was very upsetting! (*A long uncomfortable silence.*)

POLICE. Allllll right Sir. I'll write this up when I get back to the station- if anything else comes up, or if you remember anything just, uh, give the station a call.

PATTY. Thank you, officer.

POLICE. You're very welcome, ma'am.

KURT. Yeah thanks buddy.

POLICE. Actually... before I go sir... have we met before?

KURT. Wh- I dunno maybe I've been around in the neighborhood a long time.

POLICE. Something... Something about your voice is familiar... You do radio or something-

KURT. No no, I'm a software engineer- I don't do radio-

POLICE. Oh crap I know now, you're that uh Angry-uh-

KURT. That's another guy I was the Enraged Gamer Geek-

POLICE. The Enraged Gamer Geek! Oh damn, I'm sorry I just I used to watch your YouTube channel back in the early days you were a content pioneer!

PATTY. Look who has a fan-

POLICE. I remember watching your review of Zelda 2 in college-

PATTY. Why didn't you tell me you had a YouTube channel-

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POLICE. I'm not surprised, I apologize miss but he's very creative with his language- Whatever happened to your channel? It was really good-

KURT. I took it down, the videos, the channel, all of it- a while ago- look officer I've got a long morning I gotta-

POLICE. No I completely understand- if you need anything you have my number but seriously these days you could probably make a killing on Twitch or-

KURT. May-maybe man.

POLICE. Can't wait to tell the guys at the station... *(Police leaves. Patty sighs in relief.)*

PATTY. You never mentioned your YouTube-

KURT. It was a long time ago- Why did you have to tell him that?!

PATTY. You got tickled by a-

KURT. A ghost? A GHOST?! Why the fuck would you tell an officer of the law I was assaulted by a ghost-

PATTY. I didn't say you WERE tickled by a ghost, specifically, but, I mean, it's not like it's *not* a possibility- Plus that's how you described him! He was in and out of here *like a ghost!*

KURT. I was being hyperbolic. This was a real thing that really happened!

PATTY. I'm sure the officer understood- it was an important detail-

KURT. What was important was that someone broke into our house-

PATTY. Suppose there's a serial tickler. Someone going around the neighborhood tickling people in their sleep. Isn't it important to give them accurate information-

KURT. It wasn't your information to give.

PATTY. *(Walks over and puts her arm around him.)* You're right, I'm sorry. You know, this isn't your fault.

KURT. I know it isn't.

PATTY. I just want you to know that-

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KURT. I *do* know that why *would* it be my fault, it's not like I took out an ad on the internet asking strange men to tickle my feet.

PATTY. Strange ghosts-

KURT. I was. Not. Tickled. By. A. Ghost! (*Kurt walks away. He finds a piece of paper and stops.*) The fuck?

PATTY. What's that?

KURT. It's a... it's a note... It says.. "If"... "Not"...

PATTY. "If not" what?

KURT. I don't know. Did you write-

PATTY. No... Maybe the ghost tickler-

KURT. We're not calling him that.

PATTY. Maybe he left it! Maybe it's his calling card. His depraved, perverted, little calling card.

KURT. If... not.

PATTY. Like he just faaaaaades his way into peoples' houses-

KURT. He's not a ghost-

PATTY. Hyperbolically fades into people's houses and does his sick little tickle game...

KURT. If not?

PATTY. You're gonna be ok babe.

KURT. If not.

SCENE 3

A Podcast. Specifically the Darkness Calls Podcast. We see the podcasters, STEPH and ANDREA, on stage.

STEPH. Welcome to Darkness Calls. A podcast for the bizarre, macabre, and even downright haunting aspects of the paranormal. I'm your host

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Stephanie Maclachlan and joining me as always is my co-host Andrea Henson, How's it going Andrea?

ANDREA. Going great as usual Steph. What do we have today?

STEPH. We have one of Darkness Calls favorite topics-

ANDREA. Bigfoot?

STEPH. Nope, no Bigfoot encounters today.

ANDREA. Alien Abductions?

STEPH. Mmmmm well. Not... Technically.

ANDREA. Well, as usual Steph the suspense is killing me.

STEPH. I'd hate to be the cause of your untimely death Andrea so I'll let you know-

ANDREA. If I die just know I'd haunt you endlessly Steph-

STEPH. And I'd absolutely deserve it. Today we're going to talk about one of your favorite topics-

ANDREA. Oh no-

STEPH. Oh yes Andrea-

ANDREA. It's shadow people isn't it?

STEPH. You guessed it right Andrea, Shhhhhshadow People.

ANDREA. I'm not going to be able to sleep tonight am I?

STEPH. Not if I've done my job Andrea and collected the top experts in the field, no, better not plan on catching up on rest any time soon.

ANDREA. Guess I can sleep when I'm dead-

STEPH Very true Andrea- you could rest... in peace. Speaking of sleep

(Steph pulls out a notecard.) Our sponsor Jasper Mattresses are of the highest quality, shipped directly to you so you don't have to worry about hiring a moving truck. Whether you like it to be light as a feather or stiff as a board, Jasper Mattress will help you rest... in peace.

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SCENE 4

2007. Youtube. There is a good chance Kurt is playing an action game featuring turtles on the Nintendo Entertainment System. Are they teenage? Perhaps. Mutant? That be fun! Ninja? We may be asking too much. it's probably an original game created for this production...

KURT. Look at this space, if I make the turtle jump he hits his head on the ceiling and he falls into the bottomless pit! This is not because of a lack of skill on my part, oh no, this a design flaw in the game! This is horribly designed! You've watched me play game after game after game, you know I can play. This isn't my problem... Goddam turtle! Get over there. Gooooo! Get over to the other ledge! Ugh! This game design is shit! (*He takes a bat and destroys the cartridge. Then a bunch of other things in his room.*) My good friend Donnie- nie- nie- (*Screen cracks. We see the camera of a phone walking along some grass about three steps. Back to video of KURT with a bat. He is panting.*) -couldn't even make this game look good! (*Final swing of the bat.*) Fuck this game!

SCENE 5

The Present, Later that evening. Patty has been assembling a number of resources. Kurt enters. He's disheveled. He yawns.

PATTY. Hey babe how was work?

KURT. Long. Had trouble focusing just... tired I guess. Dinner almost ready?

PATTY . Sorry never started it.

KURT. Paaaaaaatty-

PATTY. I was doing research, working on my novel, and got... sucked in.

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KURT. You couldn't have called... asked me to pick up something?

PATTY. How does this sound? "Though I was once attracted to the shadows, craved the shadows, yearned for them... I realized a life in darkness will only ever be that... dark."

KURT. It's- depressing- I'm sorry-

PATTY. It's OK. Maybe it's time we get away for a little bit... remember when we went to Old Orchard Beach-

KURT. That was fun. We got our own cabin on the beach...

PATTY. They didn't have a- uh- a spaghetti strainer, so, when we made spaghetti we had to cut a bunch of holes in an aluminum pan-

KURT. We already boiled the pasta so we needed to strain it in something-

PATTY. You took the kitchen knife and just-

KURT. Stabbed the hell outta the pan! I mean it was disposable anyways!

PATTY. But then on the last day Donnie and Liz came with-

KURT. Donnie and Liz-

PATTY. They fucking *knew* and they brought one...

KURT. Donnie... (*Kurt is distant.*)

PATTY. Hey hey, Kurt.

KURT. Yeah- Just- let's talk about something else...

PATTY. Yeah- OK... Where would you want to go? If we could go anywhere? Anywhere at all?

KURT. I dunno Patty.

PATTY. Really now, money is no object, we could be there immediately-

KURT. Money *is* an object-

PATTY. Pretend.

KURT. Uggggh- Old Orchard Beach.

PATTY. Somewhere new-

KURT. I don't want to go somewhere new... I don't want anything... I'm sorry I'm just hungry and not thinking.

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PATTY. OK... So, hey, don't be mad but I when I was researching I started looking for a ghost tickler-

KURT. Babe-

PATTY. Couldn't find anything, I mean I figure OK too specific. Figured I'd see if anything came up BUT then I looked for serial tickler-

KURT. I'm going to boil some water, make some ramen.

PATTY. In Boston. A few years ago, there were reports of a man breaking into people's homes and tickling them as they slept.

KURT. Do you want Ramen?

PATTY. He was never caught. Now there's a chance that maybe because he was getting attention he quieted down. Stopped. But maybe it became too much for him. He had to tickle the feet of strange men.

KURT. I'm putting an egg in mine-

PATTY. So he moves. Somewhere no one would suspect-

KURT. Maybe some peas.

PATTY. It's the perfect crime!

KURT. Babe can you please not-

PATTY. The good news is that after he visits one person he never comes back. He's a one and done type of guy. Especially if you scared him off. I don't think we have anything to worry about.

KURT. Yeah?

PATTY. Yeah! He got to you, you told the cops, he knows you know... if the... phantom tickler-

KURT. Not a better title.

PATTY. -if he strikes again he will focus on someone else, and when they call the cops-

KURT. What if they don't?

PATTY. Eventually someone will. When they do it'll reach the news and he'll go back into the shadows... the shadow tickler.

KURT. Stop giving him a new title.

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PATTY. I'm sorry Kurt. I'm just trying to figure out how to talk about him.

KURT. It's fine. You really think he's not going to come back?

PATTY. We'll triple check the doors and windows. No one is going to get in this house.

KURT. "If not".

PATTY. Then we look into getting a door alarm... bars on the windows... something. But this is our home. No one can drive us from our home.
(Patty kisses Kurt).

KURT. No no I'm just thinking about those words. Why would someone write "if not."?

PATTY. Don't worry about it babe. It has nothing to do with you. Do you smell something burning?

KURT. "If not"?

PATTY. Then I'm having a stroke haha... or is that toast?

KURT. "If not"... *(Fire alarm goes off. It breaks Kurt's trance.)* OH SHIT THE RAMEN! *(Kurt runs into the other room)*

PATTY. We've got hummus in the fridge babe. *(Patty goes back to writing.)*

SCENE 6

Podcast space. This time Steph and Andrea are joined by DR. FALGUT.

STEPH. Welcome back to Darkness Calls, if you're just joining us we're here with one of many experts on today's program in the field of Shhhadow People-

ANDREA. You know Steph maybe if you didn't make it sound extra spooky it wouldn't get to me so much-

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STEPH. What's the point of talking about Shhhaaadddoooooowwww ppppeeeeeeeople if you're not going to up the spooky factor? Isn't that right Dr. Falgut-

DR. FALGUT. Hahaha. Well I suppose if I were to call them Shhhhaaaadow people folks wouldn't take me so seriously-

ANDREA. Are you happy Stephanie? You've got Doctor Falgut doing it too. Doctor Falgut you are... honestly an odd choice for a guest on this topic, we're used to you coming here to talk about alien abductions, alien implants, and hypothetical alien beings. What on Earth, or elsewhere, brings you here to talk about... these people.

STEPH. Shaaaaaadow people-

ANDREA. Yes them.

DR. FALGUT. Well Andrea it may surprise you and Steph to know this but one major theory is that shadow people are other-worldly beings. Visiting us in a manner that allows them to better study our habits or perhaps, if they're a bit more sinister, testing us, pushing us to see how we react to their presence in a way that is... a little easier to dismiss.

STEPH. Well if this theory were true why not just come out and say "Hey here I am I'm an alien react to me!"

DR. FALGUT. I'm not saying that some don't but if some do and some don't we have to wonder what they have to gain by them *not* revealing themselves to us.

STEPH. I guess that's what I'm trying to figure out what would they have to gain?

DR. FALGUT. We-he-ell when I catch one I'll be sure to ask him for you-

ANDREA. And we'll be the first show you come on?

DR. FALGUT. Oh it goes without saying Andrea, but to my point, in the circles I've run in, and in the people I've interviewed who have experienced shadow people they often describe them similar to the greys-

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STEPH. The grey aliens with the big head and-

DR. FALGUT. And the tiny limbs and bodies yes. What we've come to understand is that they are generally not malicious beings. They observe.

STEPH. And what about the beings that *are* malicious and the many stories about Shadow People acting in a malicious manner?

DR. FALGUT. Well any animal, even a human being, who feels threatened might lash out as an act of self preservation... but again by and large these shadowy figures, shadow people, are around to watch over us maybe for scientific means and for research... like all subjects who don't know why they're being monitored it's hard to tell what motives our researchers have for conducting it.

STEPH. One thing research *has* shown us, it's that bad breath and poor oral care make for some uncomfortable situations when making new friends! That's why you need to subscribe to Zip Toothbrushes! Whether you're hoping to be visited by reptilioid shapeshifters, the greys, or that person at the coffee shop who is simply out of this world, a Zip Toothbrush will ensure that your first impression is a pleasant one.

DR. FALGUT. Has research shown that?

STEPH. According to the lovely people who pay our bills it has.

DR. FALGUT. At least you're honest about it.

STEPH. Thank you Dr. Falgut-

ANDREA. Yes I'll be sure to curse your name as I lay in bed worrying otherworldly beings are watching me.

DR. FALGUT. Haha, it's my pleasure to be cursed by you Andrea.

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SCENE 7

2007. Youtube.

KURT. I dunno if you've ever played this game but if you are thinking about it. You've got your nostalgia goggles on real tight and you say to yourself "Yeah I want to play Legend of Zelda two," let me tell you... Don't. Bother. I'd rather let an ostrich peck my dick off after eating a bowl full of jalapenos. I picked it back up and... this is the video game equivalent of getting brutally fisted up the ASS by The incredible Hulk. The combat sucks shit, the hit detection is non-existent and... the first game was iconic, how in the fuck did this game get made... If you liked this video please click the like button, it sounds annoying and repetitive as shit but it's the only way to get this platform to promote my videos, please subscribe and thanks again to my friend D-D-D-Don-D-D-D- (*Crack on the TV. During the "D-D-D's" hands start moving through smoke over the image of Kurt. A low humming noise as Kurt is a still image on the screen. TV is fixed and Kurt continues.*) Donnie for making this video look as good as it does!

SCENE 8

The present. We are in the bedroom. Patty is (offstage) in the bathroom. The stage is black. Kurt (who is on stage) starts screaming.

PATTY. (o.s) What happened what's wrong? (*Patty enters and turns on lights.*)

KURT. He came back! That fucker came back!

PATTY. Ok I'm here I'm here I'm here. Take a deep breath.

KURT. It happened again! It happened again!

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PATTY. The shadow person?

KURT. Yeah! (*Patty picks up her phone*) Who're you calling?

PATTY. The police-

KURT. No! Don't do that!

PATTY. Kurt just calm- (*Kurt knocks the phone out of her hand.*) The fuck Kurt?

KURT. Don't call the cops!

PATTY. I won't call them... but don't you ever SWAT anything out of my hands like that again. Do you hear me?

KURT. Yeah.

PATTY. (*After a moment.*) K. He was here?

KURT. Yeah.

PATTY. Did you get a better look at him?

KURT. Not... really. Just a silhouette.

PATTY. He tickle your feet?

KURT. ...

PATTY. Kurt? Did he tickle your feet again?

KURT. Yes.

PATTY. If he was here we should report it-

KURT. No! What would we say? It's a... shadowy figure. And he keeps tickling me! This is embarrassing! And so fucked up and... We need proof! I refuse to talk to anyone else until we have proof! Don't call the cops.

PATTY. I won't. Ok?

KURT. Mmmm hmm.

PATTY. Ok. Are you OK?

KURT. I guess...

PATTY. I don't know what I guess means-

KURT. I'm... whatever, I'm tired.

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PATTY. Do you want to talk? Maybe talking will help... I know it's hard but You haven't really talked about Donnie.

KURT. Nothing to talk about.

PATTY. How can that be- he was your best friend and you didn't cry-

KURT. Patty I don't want to talk about this... not now... not ever.

Donnie's dead. That's it. Crying wouldn't make any difference, and it has nothing to do with this... whatever.

PATTY. (*Patty debates pushing this. Decides not to.*) We'll... take another look at the windows and doors. Try and get some sleep... K?

KURT. Yeah. (*They kiss*)

PATTY. This isn't your fault... ok?

KURT. Yeeeeaaaahhhh I know.

PATTY. All right. Brush your teeth, splash some water on your face and get some sleep.

KURT. I love you.

PATTY. You too. (*Kurt goes to exit, notices his computer. Patty sits on the bed, notices a piece of paper.*)

KURT. Babe were you on my computer? (*PATTY reads the paper and crumples it. Hides it in or near the bed.*)

PATTY. No, why?

KURT. It's on...

SCENE 9

Podcast. Andrea, and Steph are joined by PROFESSOR ADICI.

PROFESSOR ADICI. The Many-Worlds Interpretation often shortened to MWI of quantum mechanics holds that there are many worlds which exist in parallel at the same space and time as our own. Because of the other worlds' existence it is possible, if not understood, that we can

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remove randomness and action at a distance from quantum theory and thus from all physics. More specifically, every time a quantum experiment with different possible outcomes is performed, all outcomes are obtained, each in a different world, even if we are only aware of the world with the outcome we have seen. In fact, quantum experiments take place everywhere and very often; even the irregular blinking of an old fluorescent bulb is a quantum experiment.

ANDREA. Well I *clearly* understand this Professor Adici but for my dumb-dumb co-host Steph can you explain in... smaller terms.

STEPH. Thanks Andrea I think I follow but feel free to give a more simplified explanation.

PROFESSOR ADICI. Sure sure sure. You know that idea that if you flip a coin and it lands on heads you make a decision right?

STEPH. Yeah. Isn't it, theoretically, possible that there is a world where instead the coin lands on tails? Instead of heads? What might that world look like?

ANDREA. So the MWI theory is that coin flips could change in another dimension-

PROFESSOR ADICI. It gets more complex than that but yes that's a good start.

ANDREA. Well like I say I followed every word you said.

STEPH. And there's bound to be an alternate reality- or world I suppose, where I believe you Andrea.

ANDREA. I'm just glad Professor Adici was able to explain it for you.

STEPH. Riiiiight. So Professor Adici how does this apply to Shadow people?

PROFESSOR ADICI. OK... So with the idea of the many-world's interpretation we have to assume other worlds, other realities have also come to these conclusions and these other realities have figured out ways

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to access said other worlds. So they come over to our world, which is adjacent to theirs. Very close.

STEPH. I guess my problem with that is... similar with Dr. Falgut's theory. Why all the secrecy why the shadows? Why not come out and say "I'm here, we've figured out how to hop dimensions- or realities- or worlds." I don't understand why they're not coming forth and saying "I'm here! What you know is true."

PROFESSOR ADICI. We can only speculate. Obviously. But to me... It seems to be about power.

STEPH. But they're not even taking advantage of that power-

PROFESSOR ADICI. Well let's define power. What is power?

STEPH. I would think it'd be the ability to lord something over an entire group of people. Saying "I can traverse the multi-verse" sure says power to me.

PROFESSOR ADICI. That's only powerful until we learn to do the same, so this traveler would never be able to admit to us or else lose all their power. If the traveler said "I exist I hop dimensions of time and space," or whatever I dunno I'm theoretical physicist not a science fantasy writer, but if he says that and we believe him then we are going to work our little buns off to find a way to recreate his technology. Now, if he is able to access our dimension to subtly and in small ways change our dimension... he holds immense amounts of power. Power isn't saying "I'm powerful." People only respect that power until they can tear it down... Power is existing and effecting the world without being noticed.
(They all take this in for a moment.)

STEPH. Wow. I'll tell you, if you want to create a truly powerful website check out Circle Space. Whether you want to create a personal website, a professional blog, multiple websites for the many worlds you inhabit let Circle Space be your one stop shop for web hosting and website creation.

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ANDREA. So hypothetically... is there a universe where I'm a cat?
Hypothetically.

PROFESSOR ADICI. Sure?

SCENE 10

2007. Youtube.

KURT. This is your Enraged Gamer Geek here and I want to do something unprecedented on this channel. I'm not uploading a game review this week. Instead I want to take a moment to talk about my channel. It seems a lot of people don't like that my jokes aren't "PC". I want to say that I here you, I am listening, and I hope you all get r-r-r-(aped) (*Crack. Gravestone.*) -up the ass. Why? Because it's funny! It is! Do you know what a joke is? Do you get jokes? Because that's what these are. Jokes. And if you can't take them how is that my fault. You should just kill yourselves and if you do... not my fault! As always hit that like button, smash that subscribe button in the balls and thanks to Donnie- (*No crack, just gravestone. Back to Kurt.*) - Donnie, you make me look and sound sooooo good!

SCENE 11

Present. Patty is writing away. Perhaps some audio of "Darkness Calls" or the intro music is played. Kurt enters but can barely stand he's so tired.

KURT. Hey.

PATTY. Sorry babe I got into a thing, hummus and chips are around...
Rough day?

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KURT. I was falling asleep at the screen. I couldn't... I... What the hell are you listening to?

PATTY. (*Patty shuts off the podcast.*) Darkness Calls- Maybe you should take tomorrow off.

KURT. I can't-

PATTY. You are no use to them in this state. Let's... get out- Go somewhere else for the night.

KURT. I have work-

PATTY. Trust me they don't want you like this!

KURT. (*Kurt sits down, his head in his hand.*) I don't know what to do.

PATTY. You've been non-stop ever since- I think you'll feel better if you talk about-

KURT. No I don't want to (talk about)-

PATTY. Fine, well, we gotta do something... Stay in the city, just go to a hotel, get away- I'm booking us a room. (*Patty does something on her laptop.*)

KURT. We need to save-

PATTY. Putting it on my credit card-

KURT. (*Kurt picks up Patty's purse.*) Stop Patty-

PATTY. I already booked the room. It's there, paid for and everything-

KURT. I have your-

PATTY. My card is saved online, thank you grabbing that though. Now it's booked so we'd better just go ahead now.

KURT. Patty cancel it-

PATTY. Can't, it's less than 24 hours, they'll charge a cancellation fee. Let's just get some perspective.

KURT. No.

PATTY. Kurt, we can't stay here we need to-

KURT. Maybe- Maybe *you* should-

PATTY. I'm not the one who-

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KURT. I don't want to-

PATTY. This isn't only affecting you. OK, Kurt, I'm here, supporting you, making sure you're doing OK, and something is happening and... I'm here in this house. And I'm here working on projects but also so worried about you that it's hard to... I'm worried about you. You won't talk about how your friend died. Fine, I'm sorry for bringing it up but... it's weird. Then this ghost keeps tickling your feet, waking you up, waking me up and... I've never seen him.

KURT. You don't believe me?

PATTY. I believe you. That's why I'm here. But I need you to believe me. You not talking about your friend is not healthy. You need to take some time off work, take some time away, and process.

KURT. No no I know but... Maybe we just need to take some time away.

PATTY. That's what I've- (been saying)

KURT. No I mean-- *We should* take some time-

PATTY. Kurt?

KURT. If I leave I'll be worried that this thing will follow. I'll be in an unfamiliar place, I'll be seeing it everywhere. Any shadow that goes across the wall, anyone walking outside... everything will be this thing... I need consistency. But that doesn't mean you need to lose sleep.

PATTY. Fine... I'll go to the hotel. Alone. Get some sleep. Alone. Please don't do anything dumb. This shadow doesn't... define you.

KURT. What does that mean?

PATTY. Just... be safe OK?

KURT. K. (*Patty takes her purse and laptop and heads out.*)

***THE PLAY IS NOT OVER!! TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS—
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