The Crazed Arachnid

by

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Only dim roof lamps fill the CONFINED BEDROOM. A PSYCHIATRIC WORKER named WALLY (Male, 32) places MEDICATION PILLS and a GLASS OF WATER on an end table close to a PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT named SCREECHING JIMMY (Male, 50).

WALLY

Alright, old man, take your meds.

Screeching Jimmy pushes the medication pills and water away and begins to SCREECH. Wally grabs the medication pills and shoves them into Screeching Jimmy's MOUTH.

SCREECHING JIMMY

You're God damn crazy-!

Wally grabs the glass of water and forcibly shoves it into Screeching Jimmy's mouth. Screeching Jimmy chokes as he swallows the pills and water. The screeching stops.

Screeching Jimmy begins to shake in his bed as sounds of HISSING and RATTLING fill the room. He turns to Wally.

SCREECHING JIMMY

Can you close the iron door outside?

Wally happily leaves and slams the door on his way out.

INT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Wally walks three doors past SCREECHING JIMMY'S DOOR. He glances at the OPEN IRON DOOR to his right. Beyond the iron door lies a dark ENTRANCEWAY with STAIRS leading down.

Wally hears CHATTERS and RATTLING from the entranceway. He scratches his head and walks down the stairs.

INT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Wally leans on the STAIRCASE ENTRANCE and briefly catches his breath. The BASEMENT is filled with PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS and WORKERS eating FRIED FROGS and drinking RED

LIQUID, and HOODED PEOPLE playing the DRUMS and TAMBOURINES near three COFFIN-SHAPED CASES.

Wally approaches a PSYCHIATRIC WORKER.

WALLY

Hey, what are you all doing here?

PSYCHIATRIC WORKER

Oh, Wally. We're just waiting for the ceremony to start.

WALLY

Ceremony? For what?

PSYCHIATRIC WORKER

For the Arachnid Queen.

Wally lightly shakes his head and squints his eyes.

WALLY

I don't think I heard you right. Could you repeat that?

PSYCHIATRIC WORKER

Sure. It's for the-

Only HISSING emerges from the Psychiatric Worker's mouth. Wally clutches his head.

WALLY

Hold on. I'm feeling a bit dazed.

Wally walks away and accidently bumps into a HOODED PERSON, which forces the Hooded Person to drop his TAMBOURINE. The Hooded Person quickly picks up his tambourine.

HOODED PERSON

You almost ruined the prelude!

Wally watches the Hooded Person squash two SPIDERS on his tambourine, but the Hooded Person continues playing. Wally becomes scared and prepares to head back to the stairs, but MICHEAL (Male, 44), his BOSS, approaches him.

MICHEAL

Wally! It's nice to see you here.

WALLY

What? Are you hosting all of this?

Micheal nods his head.

MICHEAL

I apologize for being abrupt. But since you're here, you must now attend these weekly gatherings.

WALLY

No way! I'm not like these crazy people.

MICHEAL

I will not tolerate this disrespect from you, Wally. This is a part of your job.

(beat)

Please, look around and think about these people.

Wally watches the hooded people playing their instruments more intensely, the three coffin-shaped cases rocking harder, and a BURLY MAN throwing a HUMAN-SIZED BAG through a TRASH CHUTE. Wally nervously shakes Micheal's hand.

MICHEAL (CONT'D)

I'm glad you understand.

INT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - BASEMENT - NIGHT - ONE WEEK LATER

Wally sits amongst a CROWD, each member holding a GOBLET filled with RED LIQUID. Wally clutches his HEAD.

MICHEAL (O.S.)

Thank you for attending. The ward has made great sacrifices for this to happen.

Wally begins to hear HISSING.

MICHEAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Of course, for us to do this again, the Arachnid Queen requires more sacrifices.

Wally's BODY briefly shakes.

MICHEAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Please, refresh yourselves.

Every AUDIENCE MEMBER drinks from their goblet. Wally prepares to pour his drink on the floor, but an OLD PATIENT stops him.

OLD PATIENT

H...hey c...can I ha...have it?

Wally gives his goblet to the Old Patient and watches in horror as the Old Patient chugs down the drink. Wally quickly leaves his seat.

He approaches the trash chute and inspects it. He immediately covers his nose and mouth and nearly pukes.

INT. BASEMENT - PODIUM STAGE - NIGHT

Wally nervously stands behind Micheal on the PODIUM STAGE.

MICHEAL

Good evening, everyone! I would love to formally introduce Wally.

Micheal motions his hand towards Wally.

MICHEAL (CONT'D.)

He has been a wonderful addition to our society these past few weeks. I know that he shall make for a worthy sacrifice.

The AUDIENCE gives LOUD APPLAUSE, but Wally focuses on a COFFIN-SHAPED CASE. Two SPIDERS leap from the case and approach Wally. Wally is frightened and leaves the PODIUM.

EXT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL'S FRONT GATES - NIGHT

Wally, POLICE OFFICER #1 (Male, 32), and POLICE OFFICER #2 (Male, 25) stand in front of the GATES.

POLICE OFFICER #1 Anything else you want to tell us?

WALLY

Yes! My boss is planning to sacrifice me to the Arachnid Oueen!

Police Officer #2 softly chuckles. Police Officer #1 looks at Police Officer #2 with astonishment.

INT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - LOBBY - NIGHT

The Police Officers approach Micheal, who is behind the receptionist desk.

MICHEAL

What are the police doing here?

POLICE OFFICER #2

We were told that there have been some suspicious activities here.

MICHEAL

There has been no such thing-

Wally emerges and wags his finger at Micheal.

WALLY

You're a liar, and you know it! (beat)

Come. I will show you the truth.

INT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Wally and the Police Officers emerge from the STAIRCASE ENTRANCE. Wally points at a FOOD TABLE.

WALLY

Look at what they're eating.

The Police Officers approach the food table. Police Officer #1 takes a bite from a FRIED FROG and Police Officer #2 drinks RED LIQUID from a GOBLET.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Sir, I believe this is just punch.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Is it?

Police Officer #1 looks at the fried frog.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (CONT'D) I think this is just chicken.

Wally barges in.

WALLY

You shouldn't be eating those!

The Police Officers shrug their shoulders.

Wally and the Police Officers approach the TRASH CHUTE.

WALLY

Everything you need to know should be in there.

Police Officer #2 shoves his HEAD inside and immediately backs away while holding his NOSE and MOUTH.

POLICE OFFICER #2
It indeed smells bad, sir, but
it's no different from a dumpster.

INT. BASEMENT - PODIUM STAGE - NIGHT

The Police Officers inspect the COFFIN-SHAPED CASES. A HOODED PERSON approaches one of the cases and places his DRUM inside it. The Police Officers simply nod their head.

Micheal emerges from the PODIUM STEPS.

MICHEAL

Did you find anything, Officers?

POLICE OFFICER #2

Nope, you're in the clear.

Police Officer #1 looks at Wally.

POLICE OFFICER #1 However, he needs to be punished for filing a false police report.

Wally's EYES widen.

WALLY

What?! You're crazy. Didn't you see the blood and the frogs? What about the dead bodies?

Wally points at Micheal.

WALLY (CONT'D)

You should have been here to hear his speeches about the Arachnid Queen and sacrifices.

Micheal and the Police Officers simply look at each other.

MICHEAL

I think I know what to do.

INT. ARACHNE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - SCREECHING JIMMY AND WALLY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Micheal stands behind the DOORWAY while he looks at Wally, who is now in a PSYCHIATRIC PATIENT UNIFORM.

MICHEAL

I'm sorry, Wally. This is for your own good.

Micheal leaves and softly closes the DOOR on his way out.

WALLY

I'm not crazy! You're the crazy
one! You're all crazy!

Screeching Jimmy wakes up and begins to screech.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Come back here! I'm not afraid of your spiders anymore! Come back!

Wally and Screeching Jimmy fill the room with their SCREECHING and SHOUTING.

END