

GHOSTMEN FOR HIRE

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**INT. HOUSE - DAY**

**RUEBEN'S** overbearing **PARENTS** approach his bedroom door.

MOM

Knock knock.

RUEBEN (O.S.)

Mom, just actually knock on the door! You don't have to say it. Ugh, just come in!

The parents enter Reuben's messy room.

DAD

Hey sport, whatcha up to?

**RUEBEN**, the angsty, deadbeat 30-year-old stays locked on playing his video games.

RUEBEN

Ugh, I'm tryna hit diamond predator on Apex!

DAD

Diamond what now?

Mom points to Reuben's computer monitor. On the screen a cute girl playing Apex on her Twitch stream.

MOM

Oh look hun, she's playing the same game as you.

RUEBEN

Yea, that's Molina. She's the 42nd best player in the world.

DAD

Nice, are you guys squadding up together?... Wow, she's a real beauty.

RUEBEN

Dad stop! That's my future wife you're talking about. And no, I'm just watching and modding her stream.

MOM

Wait? You're watching her play the same game, that you're currently playing... Why?

RUEBEN

Because mom! How else are you supposed to get good at a game if you don't watch people that's better than you.

DAD

Sooooo sport, how's the job hunt coming along?

RUEBEN

What job hunt? This is my job.

MOM

So, you didn't go to the interview your father setup for you this morning.

RUEBEN

Ugh, no duh. I've been pretty busy today.

Rueben sarcastically shakes his controller. His parents look concernedly at one another.

**FADE TO BLACK:**

**INT. GHOSTMEN FOR HIRE OFFICE - DAY**

Their motto, "We Scare Because We Care".

Ghosts zoom about the busy office space. We zoom in on **DINKY**, an irritable grouch drinking his morning coffee at his desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Dinky! You have a new request!

DINKY

Ugh alright! Keep your wig on Barbara.

A letter comes to Dinky's desk through the office vacuum tube system. Dinky reads the handwritten letter.

MOM (V.O.)

Dear GFH, We are in dire need of your help. Our son Reuben is the joy of our life. He's an absolute blessing to have around but we think it's time for him to grow up and leave the nest. But, we don't want to be cruel and just throw him out.

(MORE)

MOM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We just want him to leave on his "own" terms. We've tried all we can with him, so we were hoping that maybe you could give him a little scare as a bit of extra motivation to become that independent adult we know he can be.

DINKY

Sincerely, Concerned Parents. P.S, we think our Rueben maybe scared of centipedes... growing up!... and maybe... girls???

(chuckle)

Oh, this should be a hoot.

Dinky warps away.

**INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Ruben lays on the couch eating potato chips as he watches TV.

Dinky enters, warping through the TV. Rueben's startled.

Rueben throws a chip at Dinky, which goes through his body.

DINKY

Is that all you got kid.

RUEBEN

(frighten)

What do you want from me!

DINKY

I need you to get off your lazy butt. So I can get my paycheck.

RUEBEN

What?

DINKY

Look! Your parents are tired of you mooching off of them. They need you to get your own place so they can walk around here butt naked again.

RUEBEN

Eww! They said that?

DINKY

Ahh, metaphorically... So come on, pack up your things. Chop, chop!

RUEBEN

What, so you're gonna make me  
leave. Ha. I'm not going anywhere!

DINKY

Come on kid, don't make me do this.

Rueben and Dinky have an intense stare off. Without breaking eye contact, Rueben grabs the TV remote and flips through the TV channels. He watches the TV through Dinky's translucent body and continues eating his chips.

DINKY (CONT'D)

Alright, you asked for it.

Dinky uses his ghostly powers and transforms the inside of a room, adjacent to the living room.

To let Rueben see his future.

In the room, a 50-year-old Reuben playing video games. Current day Dinky and Rueben watch the interaction.

RUEBEN (50-YEAR-OLD)

Mom!....Mom, come here now!

Rueben's mom (a bit older) enters with a bowl of pretzels.

MOM

Hi dear, here's the pretzels you  
wanted.

RUEBEN (50-YEAR-OLD)

God dang mom! I asked for chips,  
not pretzels!

Rueben slaps the bowl out of her hand.

MOM

I'm so sorry about that hon, I'll  
clean that up.

Mom cleans up the mess.

DINKY

Is this what you want your future  
to be like?

RUEBEN

That wouldn't be my future, if she  
didn't forget my chips.

Dinky slaps Rueben.

DINKY

Son, you're 33. Buy your own damn chips.

Dinky transforms the room again.

A sad 70-year-old Rueben, stands by his elderly father on his deathbed. On the bedside table a happy picture of Rueben and his parents during a younger birthday celebration. Current day Dinky and Rueben watch the interaction.

Dad coughs heavily.

RUEBEN (70-YEAR-OLD)

Hey dad, take it easy.

DAD

Oh son, I've been taking it easy my whole life. There's so much stuff I wish I could've done over and so many things I wish I had gotten to experience. Like maybe you having a couple of grandkids I could've spoiled.

(chuckles)

But, I guess it wasn't meant to be huh... Son, I wish we didn't enable you so much when you were growing up. From a young age we saw so much potential in you, but it was never truly fulfilled.

RUEBEN (70-YEAR-OLD)

(sniffles)

Oh dad, I'm so sorry.

DAD

Rueben, one last thing--

Dad coughs heavily again. His heart monitor goes haywire.

RUEBEN (70-YEAR-OLD)

Dad. Dad!

Dad flatlines.

Dinky transforms the room back into its original state. With just him and Rueben.

Rueben's deep in thought.

RUEBEN (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh, they blame themselves  
for the way that I am now... I killed  
my parents.

DINKY

Exactly-- wait no! Hold up, that's  
what you got from all of that?

RUEBEN

Yea. My inability to reach diamond  
predator on Apex killed my parents.

DINKY

No! You dumb dong, your inability  
to get a real job kills your  
parents!

RUEBEN

Oh, well how do I do that?

Dinky makes a clean suit appear on the coffee table.

Rueben looks awkwardly at Dinky.

**FADE TO BLACK:**

**MONTAGE: RUEBEN ON A REAL WORLD JOB HUNT**

-- Rueben's in a fancy office for a job interview with a  
fortune 500 CEO. Rueben gets denied.

-- Rueben's at a construction site for a job interview with a  
contractor. Rueben gets denied. A dump truck drives by and  
unloads gravel, getting Rueben's suit dirty.

-- Rueben's at the zoo for a job interview with a zookeeper.  
Rueben gets denied. A monkey runs by and rips Rueben's tie.

-- Rueben's at a pizzeria for a job interview. He gets  
rejected again. The pizzeria manager gets up from the table.

Rueben stays seated, deep in thought. He looks into the  
kitchen and sees an elderly man making pizza. The elderly man  
starts to cough and grips his chest tightly. The man flops  
face first into the pizza. Rueben's uneasy.

**EXT. RUEBEN'S HOME - EVENING**

A distraught Rueben walks up his driveway and enters his home  
where his parents and Dinky eagerly await him.

MOM  
So, how did it go?

DAD  
Yea, are you moving out soon?

Mom elbows Dad in the gut.

RUEBEN  
Guys, I really wanna say thank you.  
Thanks for opening up my eyes to a  
world of possibilities and I truly  
learned a lot from today... And I  
just wanted to say that—

DINKY  
Did you get the job or not kid!

RUEBEN  
Oh no, not at all. They're not even  
hiring people with master's  
degrees, what makes you think they  
would hire me lol.

Rueben's parents are puzzled.

RUEBEN (CONT'D)  
But that means I'll have more time  
to take care of you guys until the  
day you croak. I really wanna enjoy  
every moment we have together. I'm  
never leaving you guys.

Rueben hugs his parents.

RUEBEN (CONT'D)  
Thanks Dinky!

Dinky facepalms.

Rueben picks up his empty chip bowl and shakes it at his  
parents with a cheeky smile. They're displeased. They turn  
their displeasure towards Dinky. Dinky warps away.