

Don't Open Until ... Krampus!

written by

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It's very dark here except for the bright holiday lights. Through a large window on the front of a tiny cottage, we see a young man hanging ornaments on a brightly colored Christmas tree. The wind is blowing. There's a chance of snow. it's possibly flurrying. There's a strange mist lurking. Faint old timey Christmas music is heard from the house. Push closer to the window.

INT. SCENE 2 - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

1958 Rudolf the rednose reindeer plays silently on the TV. Random public domain instrumental Xmas music plays from the stereo. The room is decked out in Christmas KITCH top to bottom. The tree is the most colorful ever. LIGHTS, GARLAND, REINDEER are everywhere. Adam is putting the finishing touches on gifts and tweaking the decorations. Wearing a Xmas sweater singing Xmas carols. Drinking eggnog. There is a half eaten microwave dinner on the end table. There's a collection of animated Christmas characters, Santa, Mrs clause, an angel... Possibly a gas or electric fireplace. ~~There is a small fire burning in the wood stove.~~

A phone rings.

ADAM

"Hello"

STORE OWNER 1

"Calling to let you know we are closing immediately. The buyout happened much quicker than anyone expected. We have to let everyone go."

ADAM

"I know. We were told 2 weeks. After the holidays. What am I..."

STORE OWNER 1

"Yeah I'm sorry there's nothing I can do. It's wasn't my decision. For the record I liked your work. Don't bother coming in tomorrow. We will box up your things and mail them...Happy Holidays."

click Store Owner 1 hangs up the phone.

Adam is mentally exhausted lounging on the couch watching TV. He is flipping through the channels eating re-re-microwaved food. There is a loud knock at the door and he looks up, surprised. There's a cat or 2 or 3.

2 INT. SCENE 2 - FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

2

He opens the front door and there is no one. Nothing. A chilled breeze brings a mist and blows through the door. Adam is not dressed for such weather and closes the door.

Turning around he half stumbles because there is a large steamerchest in the center of the room. A scroll lay atop. The mist dissipates. He examines the trunk. It's defiantly locked. And there is ...no key. Spying the last known shipping lable. He thinks to himself. "Uncle blackwood? But hes been dead for 30 years?" He looks the scroll over.

THE SCROLL IS OLD AND SEALED WITH A GLOB OF RED WAX.

THERE IS A HORNED DEVIL FACE PRESSED INTO THE WAX.

He breaks the seal to read the scroll. * flash to krampus behind fire * It is written in elaborate calligraphy. (something ominous and poetic which I have forgotten but sent to the calligrapher to copy on parchment so it's all good)

He makes several attempts to open the trunk without success.

Frustrated, he gives up falls asleep on couch.

Some time has passed. The Christmas lights are mostly off. Adam is in a deep sleep. He is thrashing about as if having a nightmare. Sweating and panicky in his dream, tossing and Turning.

BRIEF FEVER DREAM

Lock opens with a loud pop and Adam wakes up from his dream.

He awakens to see that the trunk is not just unlocked but open. Inside the trunk is a pile of shaggy fur and sticking out are 2 curved horns. The room is again filled with a mist originating from inside the trunk.

Adam is confused but also in a mostly sleep walking state. He lifts the horns and we see a giant mask rise from the pile of fur. He puts the mask on his face and the eyes glow!!!

Krampus is coming!!

3 EXT. SCENE 3 - FOREST - NIGHT 3

Krampus is on the prowl. (red) POV view of forest. Snorting and trudging. Cracking branches. Falling trees.

4 EXT. SCENE 4 - RETAIL/RESIDENTIAL AREA - NIGHT 4

In the distance we see shoppers of all varieties gleefully rushing to and fro with their packages. The area is decorated for the season. This is a wealthy area. Instrumental Christmas music is heard from somewhere. A small black kettle hangs from a tripod. A bell rings and a few coins drop into the kettle.

The kettle is a kid's plastic Halloween pumpkin painted black. In the background a slightly drunk voice mumbles to the passersby when they drop money in it.

To the casual observer it's just another Salvation Army SANTA. Shoppers ignore him, putting in change or just hurrying by to finish their Christmas shopping.

A closer look reveals Santa's just guy in a red suit that's not put on very well. He's disheveled and swaying but trying hard to look straight when people walk by. He takes a swig from a flask when he thinks no one is looking.

2 female shoppers hustle home with their packages. They are good friends by the looks of it.

BECKY

It's beginning to look a lot
like Christmas. *singing*

ANNETTE

Yes it has for the past 4 weeks.
When will it end!

Obviously bothered by Annette's lack of Christmas cheer. Becky put her packages down and is digging in her purse for a donation to the charity. This is the season of giving after all. We hear Santa's bells jingling...

SANTA

Hey bbaaaabiee! If you jingle my
bells. I'll promise you a white
Christmas! I've got something
special in my sack for you.

Santa takes a swig of whiskey.

BECKY

Gross. You should be taken away!

ANNETTE

gasp Never with the likes of
you! Let's get out of here!

5 INT. SCENE 5 - NEIGHBORHOOD PUB - NIGHT

5

It's a slow evening. Just a few regulars. The Owner and the barmaid are going about business. The barmaid is cleaning up and the owner has just dropped drink off where they both now stand observing the activities outside.

BAR OWNER

That creep is on the corner
again. He really brings down the
value of the neighborhood.

BARMAID

Yes he's always causing trouble.

BAR OWNER

This is nice neighborhood. I
wish the authorities would
involuntarily relocate him. At
least until after the holidays.
He seems to be less trouble
then.

BARMAID

Less trouble for you maybe.

6 EXT/INT. SCENE 6 - NEIGHBORHOOD PUB - NIGHT

6

A Father walks in. He shakes off the cold and with his tall hat under one arm, sits down at the end of the bar.

NICK

Hey, Father Matt! The usual?

FATHER

Words, words, words.

NICK

How was the Christmas Pageant?

FATHER

That cursed donkey tried to eat
the manger again and our Lord
and Savior kept spitting up on
his mother. Otherwise we
survived another year saints be
praised.

Barmaid slides a pint and a shot towards the Father.

FATHER (CONT'D)

You're an angel of Mercy.

Barmaid walks down to Mike.

BARMAID

How ya doing? Another round?

JOLLY

No thanks, I'm headed home soon.
I finally got that promotion and
I'm going to surprise the family
with a shopping spree tomorrow
after we visit the homeless
shelter.

Bar owner chats with Father about the Krampus stories and
gang of hoodlums in the neighborhood.

FATHER

Insert Later

BAR OWNER

Insert later

BARMAID

Insert Later

BAR OWNER

Insert later

Pan through the bar to see brothers, dressed as if they've
got some money, argue in a booth.

STORE OWNER 1

Argue with toy store owner 2

STORE OWNER 2

Argue with toy store owner 1

7 INT/EXT. SCENE 7 - NEIGHBORHOOD PUB - NIGHT 7

Jolly gets up, ready to leave. There's a huge tip on the bar.

Everyone says their goodnights.

As Jolly Goodness heads for the door a tall shadow crosses the window.

Maybe we see a horn. No one else sees it and Jolly Goodness is busy putting on his coat.

He opens the door, pulls up his hood, and walks out into the night.

Jolly exits the bar.

FADE OUT

8 EXT. SCENE 8 - OUTSIDE PUB - HOODLUMS HARASS JOLLY - NIGHT 8

Jolly is walking down street. We hear noises like a large animal with bell/chain sounds. Behind him, unseen is Krampus. In the shadows Krampus sniffs the air quietly and tilts his head. NOT THIS ONE.

Close by laughter and shouting is heard. The gang is not far away. We hear something breaking and more laughter. A bottle smashes or was it a car window.

They round the corner and hurriedly approach Jolly. They run past him aggressively on the sidewalk slamming into Jolly. almost knocking him over. One is wearing a brightly blinking Christmas wreath around his neck.

HOODLUM 1

Get out of the way old man.

HOODLUM 2

giggling

9 EXT. SCENE 9 - ALLEY - KRAMPUS KILL HOODLUMS - NIGHT 9

They turn down the next alley to continue their tirade of kicking trash cans.

Krampus pulls one by the wreath and the other back handed into brick wall and in shadows. 2nd drops into camera spitting blood in closeup.

10 INT/EXT SCENE 10 - CAR - NIGHT 10

MOM and her KIDS (3) drive back from shopping. Mom is tired, and kids are wound up in the back fighting.

Christmas music on the radio. Possible local radio broadcast.

KID 1
Dialogue

KID 2
Dialogue

KID 3
Dialogue

MOM
This is why we can't have nice things.

The car slowly passes the Bar. Looking for a place to park.

Mom finds a place to park.

Everyone piles out of the car. Mom hands the kids bags to carry and saying mom stuff. The kids whine. Everyone is tired, hungry, and stressed.

There's a loud noise coming from a block away or so. The sound of something being smashed and some laughter.

Mom's head snaps up. She's wondering about that news report.

The kids don't hear it.

MOM (CONT'D)
Come on kids, let's get inside.

Hurry up.

From the other direction, a little closer, comes another sound. Not something you would hear in a city.

A low grumble or snort and a clanking sound. Both the kids and Mom hear that and freeze.

Mom hurries the kids to their HOUSE and the kids don't argue.

11 EXT. SCENE 11 - CORNER - DISTRACTED DAD - NIGHT 11

LITTLE GIRL

You don't look like Santa Claus.
(wrinkles her nose) You stink!

A distracted DAD, looking at his phone, chimes in.

DISTRACTED DAD

That's not a nice thing to say.
It's Christmas. You don't want
Santa to put you on the Naughty
List.

She gives "Santa" another dirty look then looks at dad.

LITTLE GIRL

He's NOT Santa. He's like Uncle
Charlie. Like when Mom said he
couldn't come over any more
cause he peed on the Christmas
tree and...

Dad's head snaps up. He remembers the incident.

He looks over at the Santa and sees him for what he is. A middle aged drunk guy pretending to be a charity Santa.

DISTRACTED DAD

Hey! What organization are you
with?

SANTA

Uhhhh, the (something made up
but funny).

DISTRACTED DAD

Dude? Is that a pumpkin?

Dad starts looking around for security. The little girl smiles at Santa with a big evil grin.

Santa mumbles something as he gathers the "kettle".

12 EXT. SCENE 12 - CORNER - SANTA STUMBLES OFF - NIGHT 12

Santa drunkenly stumbles off. He grabs the money, stuffs it in his pocket, and throws his kettle and tripod in a pile of trash then hurries off.

EXT. SCENE 13 - STREET - KRAMPUS GETS SANTA'S SCENT - NIGHT

Santa is in a hurry to leave the scene. He reaches in his santa jacket for another swig and pulls of beard.

Krampus claws the beard from out of frame snorts and growls and stomps forward.

13 EXT. SCENE 14 - STREET - SANTA STEAL FROM BUM - NIGHT 13

Homeless vet asleep on some blankets has a small cup with some change and a few dollar bills in it. Santa pilfers it with out interrupting the homeless guys sleep. Santa continues on. peeing on a bush. Alternating between happy Christmas carols and grumbles. Rounding a corner he has a weird sense something is following him.

Krampus comes along. Homeless guy wakens in a stooper see his money gone and sees the ... KRAMPUS!!!! He shrugs. his drunkenly blinks his eyes and krampus is gone.

over santa shoulder KRAMPUS REVEAL to camera!

Santa turns around and there is nothing there. He heads to the gate of the parking garage. Probably a nice place to finish his bottle and pass out for awhile.

As Santa fiddles with The gate we see krampus shadow pass the garage door.

14 EXT/INT. SCENE 15 - GARAGE - SANTA KILL - NIGHT 14

15 EXT. SCENE 16 - STREET- KRAMPUS DONATES SANTAS MONEY - NIGHT 15

Krampus claw drops bloody money in homeless dudes cup.

16 EXT. SCENE 17 - MIRACLE 34TH - NIGHT 16

Krampus runs reverse through Krampuslauf.

KRAMPUSLAUFER 1

Hey buddy! You're going in the
wrong direction!

17 EXT. SCENE 18 - PARKING LOT - NIGHT 17

Toy store owner 2 getting in car. Startled by Krampus.
Stumbles backwards.

18 EXT. SCENE 19 - FOREST - NIGHT 18

Elaborate death of Store Owner 2. Rips arm off.

19 EXT. SCENE 20 - FOREST - NIGHT 19

Krampus running in forest.

20 EXT. SCENE 21 - FOREST - MORNING 20

Aerial zoom in. Adam's eyes open. He is lying in the snow
and the suit is spread out around him. He sits up looking
confused.

ADAM

What the hell? Where am I?

He looks around and sees the fur and spatters of blood.
Realizes he's basically naked.

ADAM

What happened? Wait. Where are
my clothes?

(THE END)