

House H(a)unting

a
TILTED TEAXAS FILM
production...

BLACK SCREEN

FADE IN

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD (HOUSTON, TX) - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Two-story Homes of various styles; Brick, Modern and Victorian sit in front of well manicured lawns.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

We focus on a HOME that has a SIGN on it's front yard.

CLOSE UP: "FOR SALE SIGN"

A Photo of a Real-Estate Agent MRS.MARY, 50's and Caucasian, poses confidently with the Motto: "ANY HOME CAN BE SOLD"!

Two vehicles sit parked on the property.

An SUV with "Family Decals" and "Baby on Board" sign showing on the back, and a Cadillac Sedan with a "Real-Estate Decal" matching the For Sale Sign on the front lawn.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT DOOR

All is calm and quiet when suddenly...

A frightened family of four, the "MENDOZA'S", rush out.

The Mother (Alysia 30's), is pregnant and lags behind as her young Son (Junior 10-12 YRS), is terrified soaking wet in his clothes.

The Father (DAVID 40's), attends to his Son and Daughter (Haley 7-9 YRS) who follows.

MRS MARY 50's, short-bulky with a southern accent, chases after the Family trying to plead things over.

MRS. MARY

Please, the children are fine! There's nothing to be afraid of. These things happen in homes all the time... well, how do we know this isn't your child just acting out for attention?

Alysia turns around and slaps Mrs. Mary across the face.

Mrs. Mary grabs at her cheek in shock.

ALYSIA
Look at my son!

EXT/INT. SUV

Junior sits and inhales his Asthma Pump trying to calm down.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

Alysia continues to berate Mrs. Mary.

ALYSIA
You knew... you knew this whole time,
and you let us in?

MRS. MARY
Well.. I never...

ALYSIA
Same here... you should warn people
next time.

DAVID (O.S.)
Babe, c'mon lets go!

INT. EMPTY HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - BEDROOM #2

GHOST POV: Looks at the scenario below from the bedroom window, and eerily makes it way out the home towards the front door.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

Alysia turns and leaves for her Family awaiting in the SUV.

Mrs. Mary still stunned, turns to rage and looks towards her Sedan parked in the driveway.

INT. CAR (CADILLAC SEDAN)

CLOSE UP: "CLOSED GLOVE COMPARTMENT"

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

Mrs. Mary walks towards her Sedan.

Alysia reaches her Family in the SUV.

GHOST POV: Exits out the Home and pushes the unaware Mrs. Mary, who yelps as she falls to the ground on top of her Real-Estate Sign.

EXT/INT. SUV

Alysia turns around and sees Mary on the ground.

DAVID
Did she just fall?

ALYSIA
Serves the bitch right.

A strong burst of WIND suddenly passes by that rocks the SUV.

ALYSIA
Did you feel that?

DAVID
Just a lil cold breeze. C'mon, lets
get out of here.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

Mrs. Mary confused, picks herself up and gazes at the Mendoza Family SUV as it leaves... she gives off a frightened gasp.

She looks towards the House and then back at the leaving SUV and suddenly, her frightened look turns to a smile. She then waves good-bye to the leaving Family.

Mrs. Mary picks up her fallen SIGN.

EXT. UPSCALE NEIGHBORHOOD (HOUSTON, TX / SKY VIEW)

Mrs. Mary sticks her SIGN back in the ground as the Mendoza's SUV drives down the street.

FADE TO BLACK**TITLE CARD: "EARLIER THAT DAY"****FADE IN:****EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - DAY (SKY VIEW)**

An Hispanic Family of four, the MENDOZA's, get happily into their Family SUV.

INT. SUV (MENDOZA FAMILY) - DAY

David (Dad) 40's, tall and rugged, starts the vehicle and adjusts the rearview mirror putting on his seatbelt.

Alysia (Mom) 30's, short and 5 months pregnant, sits on the front passenger side and adjusts the A.C.

HALEY 7-9 yrs, energetic and holding a Barbie Doll and Cell Phone, has trouble clicking in her seatbelt.

JUNIOR 10-12 yrs, tall-lanky with asthma, reaches over and helps his sister get clicked in.

ALYSIA

Oh my God, it's already getting hot in here.

(looks back at her two kids)

You guys excited to go look at these Houses?

HALEY

Yes Mommy yes! I want a room so big, it has a dance studio.

JUNIOR

And I just want a room with a desk so I can do my gaming and 3D Printing.

ALYSIA

Ay dios mío (Spanish: "Oh my God").

(turns to David smiling and touches her stomach)

You hear them two back there? Are you ready for this one?

David smiles.

JUNIOR

I even ranked the Schools in the area for each house we're looking at.

(opens a laptop with Spreadsheet)

I think I know the one we should get.

DAVID

Well, before we go off that home list we made together, I have a surprise!

Everyone looks at David as he begins to drive.

HALEY
(claps excitingly)
Ooh, what is it Daddy?

JUNIOR
Yeah?

HALEY
Are we eating ice-cream and pancakes
again with Mommy?

ALYSIA
(laughs rubbing her stomach)
No, and that wasn't me. That was the
Baby!

HALEY
Are we getting a puppy?

DAVID
No, well not yet anyways.

ALYSIA
Oh we are not getting a dog!

HALEY
Dad-dy, what's the surprise then?

ALYSIA
Did you already buy a house?

David smiles coyly driving in silence.

ALYSIA (CONTD)
David Mendoza, if you bought a House
or a Dog without Me knowing...
(winches and grabs her stomach)
Oh my God, see what you do to me!

David places his free hand on Alysia's stomach.

DAVID
You okay Babe?

ALYSIA
(playfully push David's hand away)
No you idiot, I think that was the
Baby just trying to kick you!

HALEY
Daddy you bought a house already?

JUNIOR

Dad did you?

DAVID

What? No, c'mon guys look. I just happened to find a house last minute on my own okay? But it's bigger! I'm talking way bigger than the other Houses we're gonna look at.

Alysia and kids get excited.

JUNIOR

But we didn't research the house? What if it's old, or what if the schools suck, or what if, what if someone...

HALEY

What if someone what?

Junior inhales from his asthma pump.

ALYSIA

(shivers)

I just got the chills.

DAVID

Guys trust me. With this House, we could be getting double the Home for the price of our money! All we're gonna do is check it out first, and I promise if we don't like it, we'll leave. Simple as that.

ALYSIA

Well is this house move-in ready? Because this Baby ain't gonna wait? I already told you, I don't want no Fixer-Upper.

DAVID

What, you don't think I got them Home Improvement skills?
(grunts imitating Tim Allen)
Argh-Arghhh-ARGHHHH...

ALYSIA

Oh please!

HALEY

Dad-dy, what are you doing?

DAVID
(adjusts rearview mirror)
And Junior, don't worry about anything
okay Mijo (Spanish: "Son").

Junior nods.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I'm sure the schools are fine, and the
Lady meeting us can answer any
questions we ask. She seemed nice.

ALYSIA
It's her job to be nice.

David places his free hand back on Alysia's stomach.

DAVID
Hey, from the pics I saw online, this
house is more than move-in ready.
Trust me, you're gonna love it.

Alysia smiles placing her hand back on top of his. The
children in the backseat gaze out their windows.

David removes his hand and puts on his sunglasses.

DAVID
C'mon guys, lets get pumped and
excited, we're house hunting!

David lets out a joyful howl making his Family smile, as he
turns up the radio and they drive down the road.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Mrs. Mary arrives in her Sedan and parks in the Drive way.

INT. CAR (CADILLAC SEDAN)

She shuts the engine off and opens the glove compartment
revealing both a BIBLE and GUN.

She grabs the Bible, puts it in her handbag and mutters a
quick Prayer kissing a Pendent Cross around her neck.

INT. EMPTY HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - BEDROOM #2

GHOST POV: Watches from the window as Mrs. Mary below exits
her vehicle.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - DRIVEWAY

Mrs. Mary gazes up at the House. All the windows stare back at her empty.

INT. EMPTY HOUSE - FOYER

Mrs. Mary enters slowly with her handbag and turns on the nearest light switch. She glances around.

MRS. MARY

Hello?

The House is silent, clean and completely empty of furniture.

- The LIVING ROOM.

- The KITCHEN.

- The SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY, all the Bedroom Doors are open except one that is closed.

KITCHEN

Mrs. Mary sets her handbag on the counter and pulls out Crystal Rocks, a Prayer Candle and her Bible.

KITCHEN (MOMENTS LATER)

With the Candle lit and Crystals Rocks in formation on the counter top, Mrs. Mary grabs the Bible and makes her way towards the stairs.

STAIRS

Mrs. Mary turns on the light switch and looks towards the top of the stairs, sees nothing and slowly ascends.

SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY

Reaching the top of the stairs, Mrs. Mary turns on the nearest light and looks to her left and right.

She notices the lone closed Bedroom Door.

Mrs. Mary turns on the light in each room, then faces the closed Bedroom Door.

Clinging the Bible to her chest, Mrs. Mary slowly reaches for the door knob with her free hand. She touches the door knob when suddenly... her Cell Phone rings.

MRS. MARY
(into phone)
Mr. Mendoza, hello there
(pause)
Why nonsense, you're not early at all.
(backs away from the closed door)
Okay then, I'll see yaw in a few.

Mrs. Mary hangs up her phone, stares at the closed door, then makes her way back down the stairs.

STAIRS

Halfway down, Mrs. Mary stops and looks back towards the top.

MRS. MARY
I'm selling your House today!

SECOND FLOOR - HALLWAY

The closed Bedroom Door remains silent.

STAIRS

Mrs. Mary inhales a deep breath and continues down.

INT. SUV (MENDOZA FAMILY) - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

David looks at his GPS, as his Family stares at the beautiful Two-Story Homes outlining the streets.

HALEY
Dad-dy are we almost there?

DAVID
Any moment now princesa (Spanish:
Princess), Okay, I think this is it.

ALYSIA
Ah, que bonita (Spanish: How Pretty).
Ok, remember you two,
(looks back at Kids)
be on your best behavior and no
running or fighting.

EXT. EMPTY HOUSE - FRONT LAWN

The Mendoza's SUV parks in front of the Home.

INT. EMPTY HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - BEDROOM #2

GHOST POV: Watches as the Mendoza Family exits their SUV.

HALEY (O.S.)
I get to pick the first room!

INT. EMPTY HOUSE - FOYER

The Doorbell rings. Mrs. Mary goes to open the front door when suddenly, the SOUND of the closed bedroom upstairs creaks open and catches her attention.

She gazes up the stairs and hears footsteps running down the upstairs hallway followed by a Child's echoed laughter.

Mrs. Mary stares frozen. The Doorbell rings again snapping her back into reality. She inhales a deep breath, calms herself and lets the Mendoza Family in.

The Mendoza Family enter the Home in awe.

DAVID
(to Family)
Didn't I tell you guys?
(to Mrs. Mary)
Again Mrs. Mary, thanks for meeting us
on short notice like this.

MRS. MARY
Nonsense and my-my, what a lovely
Family we have here!

HALEY
I'm Haley, I'm eight!

MRS. MARY
Well ain't you just a doll.

DAVID
And this here is our son Junior.

JUNIOR
Hello.

Mrs. Mary suddenly tenses and her hand clinches the Cross Pendent around her neck.

David and Alysia slightly notice.

MRS. MARY

Such a common name after Father's for
such a handsome young man.

Junior just blinks in silence at Mrs. Mary.

MRS. MARY (CONT'D)

And this must be the lovely wife.

DAVID

Yes, Alysia or Mom as we call her.

ALYSIA

(to David)

Oh hush -

(to Mrs. Mary)

- It's a pleasure meeting you.

MRS. MARY

Adding a new addition I see. It must
be so easy for you.

ALYSIA

(glances towards Hugo and touches
her stomach)

Yes, only four more months to go.

MRS. MARY

A Boy or a Girl?

ALYSIA

We actually don't know yet. We want to
keep it a surprise.

MRS. MARY

My-my, how exciting that must be. I
have no children, but I'm good at
being an Auntie to my Nieces and
Nephews for the weekend. I'm far to
busy and impatient to be a 24/7 Mom.

Everyone stares at each other and smiles.

MRS. MARY (CONT'D)

So, shall we take a tour of your new
home?

JUNIOR

Dad, can we go check out upstairs?