



**SCRIPT BY MAURICE VAUGHAN**

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**The small-town house (it can open doors, shut windows, and use things such as extension cords, sofas, lamps, and pots)**

# RUNDOWN

## Picture **MONSTER HOUSE** as a live-action movie

Horror/Comedy feature script

**Sub-genres:** Contained Horror/Supernatural/Young Adult

**Logline:** After a disobedient teen and her mom move to a small town, the family and a neighbor try to escape from a living house that wants a daughter, wife, and live-in maid.

**Theme:** Obedience

**Short Synopsis:** A disobedient teenager named Julie and her mom, Andrea, move into a small-town house that's alive. Knowing it's alive, their new neighbor, Harriet, tells them they need to move out. The house introduces itself as Hank and says it wants Andrea and Julie to be its family; to replace its wife and daughter who died. They say no, so it locks them inside and says they're not leaving. It tells Harriet she will be the family's maid. Julie, Andrea, and Harriet try to escape, but the house prevents them from getting out. After Julie and Andrea find out about the house's main weakness, they injure it and escape.

**Why This Movie/Why Make it Now?:** I wrote this script because I wanted to write about teenage disobedience in a fun way. I also wanted to write something that was contained and low-budget. Why make this movie now? There are millions of disobedient teens around the world right now. This movie can change them (and they'll be entertained by it too).

**Comparables with Box Office Gross:** Monster House (\$141.9MM), The Amityville Horror (2005) (\$107.5MM), and Poltergeist (2015) (\$95.4MM)

**Pages:** 92

**Budget:** Low (\$3MM-\$5MM)

**Target Audience/Rating:** Teens, young adults, and adults/PG-13

**Locations:** Three houses

- Most of the script takes place at the main house (the small-town house)
- Most of the scenes in the script are interior

**Cast:** Thirteen characters and two non-speaking extras

- Seven major (Julie, Andrea, Harriet, Hank/House, Rose, Victoria, and Jack)
- Six minor (Cassidy, Bella, Cassidy's mom, kid Victoria, Andy, and Officer)
- Two non-speaking extras (male movers who help Julie and Andrea move)
- Most of the script focuses on four major characters (Julie, Andrea, Harriet, and Hank/House)

# CHARACTERS

## MAJOR CHARACTERS

**Julie House (age 16)** – Humorous, lively teen. Disobedient. Throughout the script, she notices things (she's sharp-eyed). Skilled painter. Loves her mom. Dreams are to go to college (art) and become a famous painter.

**Andrea House (age 38)** – Caring, fierce mom and leader-type. Single parent. Loves her daughter Julie. Skilled at being a leader, making plans, and cooking. Dream is to open a home bakery. She taps her lip when she thinks.

**Harriet Williams (age 40)** – Caring down south mom. Used to be disobedient like Julie. Country accent. Loves her son Andy. Uses a bodycam to record things outside for her son to see (since he has a weak immune system and stays inside most of the time). Used to be Hank's maid. Knows the house is alive.

**Hank Underwood/The House (age 40)** – Humorous family man and rich architect. Loved his wife (Rose) and his daughter (Victoria). Country accent. Built the house. Had random blackouts when he was alive. As the house, he can open doors, shut windows, and use things such as extension cords, sofas, lamps, and pots. The house also has blackouts.

**Rose Underwood (age 40)** – Hank's caring, always-positive wife. Country accent. Died in a car wreck.

**Victoria Underwood (age 16)** – Hank's caring, well-behaved daughter. Loved pink. Country accent. Her dream was to become an architect. Died in a car wreck.

**Jack Underwood (age 45)** – Jolly businessman and Hank's brother. Country accent.

## MINOR CHARACTERS

**Cassidy (age 16)** – Only speaks on the phone/shown in photos. Julie's best friend and troublemaker. Disobedient. Reason Julie is disobedient. Curly hair.

**Bella (age 16)** – Only shown in photos. Julie's friend and model. Girly.

**Cassidy's mom (age 38)** – Only speaks on the phone.

**Kid Victoria (age 8)** – Country accent. Bullied by kids.

**Andy Williams (age 10)** – Only shown in photo. Harriet's caring, brave son. Well-behaved. Loves nature. Weak immune system (stays inside most of the time). Country accent. His dream is to travel the world as a journalist.

**Police Officer** – Only speaks on the phone.

# FULL SYNOPSIS

At a small-town house that's alive, a face appears on a wall and watches nature. The house cries because it doesn't have a family to enjoy the beautiful summer day with.

A disobedient teen named Julie gets in trouble with the police while out with her best friend Cassidy – the reason Julie disobeys her mom. Scared that Julie will end up in prison or dead by hanging around Cassidy, Julie's mom, Andrea, decides to move. Jack sells Andrea the house, secretly knowing it's alive.

Julie and Andrea move in. Knowing it's alive, their new neighbor, Harriet, tells them they need to move out. Julie spots a face on a carpet. The house introduces itself as Hank and says it wants Andrea and Julie to be its family; to replace its wife and daughter who died. They say no, so it locks them inside and says they're not leaving. It tells Harriet she will be the family's maid.

Julie, Andrea, and Harriet try to escape, but the house prevents them from getting out. As they rest, Harriet tells Julie stories from her past when Harriet was disobedient, including the consequences of her disobedience.

Harriet records proof on her bodycam that the house is alive; a bodycam she wears to record nature for her sick son who doesn't go outside much.

Julie acts disobedient, which gets her hurt and puts Harriet in danger.

Andrea talks with Julie and Harriet about finding the house's weakness, which will allow them to hurt it and escape. They go to the locked basement where Julie finds a journal. She reads about how Hank's wife and daughter died, how the house became alive, Hank's plan to get a woman and a teenage girl to move in, and one of the house's weaknesses (random blackouts). Julie finds a body in an underground bedroom.

Julie tries to escape through a basement window, but the house knocks her out. After it captures everyone, it asks Julie and Andrea to be its family, but they refuse. It threatens to kill Harriet to change their minds. Andrea tells the house they will be its family under one condition: it has to let Harriet leave.

As the house is distracted, Andrea reads in the journal that the body belongs to Hank. She reads about the house's main weakness: if the body gets hurt, the house gets hurt.

Julie remembers Harriet's stories and the consequences. Julie tells Andrea she's done being disobedient. They hurry to the underground bedroom. Julie obeys Andrea as they hurt the body with weapons and fight off the house that's trying to stop them.

Julie lights the body on fire, which makes the house go berserk. Its doors and windows open and shut repeatedly, allowing Julie and Andrea to escape.



## **FULL SYNOPSIS**

Two months later, Julie and Andrea live in a new, small-town house. Thanks to interviews Julie, Andrea, and Harriet are doing, proof on Harriet's bodycam, the journal, and Jack's confession, the world knows the house was alive. The screen door of the new house shakes and slams like the house is alive. It turns out to be the wind.



**Julie House**

# A STORY, B STORY, SUBPLOT

**A Story/Main Story:** Julie, Andrea, and Harriet try to escape from the house.

**B Story:** Harriet tells Julie stories from her past when Harriet was disobedient, including the consequences of her disobedience.

**Subplot:** Harriet records proof on her bodycam that the house is alive.

## ACT STRUCTURE

**Opening (page 1):** At a small-town house that's alive, a face appears on a wall and watches nature. It becomes sad because it doesn't have a family to enjoy the beautiful summer day with, and it cries.

**Inciting Incident (page 16):** Andrea decides to buy the house that's alive.

**Act Two Starts (page 28):** Julie, Andrea, and Harriet try to escape from the house.

**Midpoint (page 49):** Andrea talks with Julie and Harriet about finding the house's weakness, which will allow them to hurt it and escape.

**All is Lost (page 68):** The house captures everyone.

**Act Three Starts (page 77):** After Julie tells Andrea she's done being disobedient, they hurry to the underground bedroom to hurt the body.

**Climax (page 81):** Julie obeys Andrea as they hurt the body with weapons and fight off the house that's trying to stop them.

**Epilogue (page 90):** Two months later, Julie and Andrea live in a new, small-town house.

**End (page 92):** The screen door shakes and slams like the house is alive. It turns out to be just the wind.



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Pictures throughout treatment from Canva.com

**Poster (on cover):** Poster made by Burhanaligfx (Fiverr.com). Teddy bear from Canva.com. Poster edited with Canva.com.

