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SF PERUSALS

Neighborhood 3: Requisition on Doom

by Jennifer Haley

A Samuel French Acting Edition



SAMUEL FRENCH
FOUNDED 1830

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ISBN 978-0-573-66323-9 Printed in U.S.A. #16130

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In addition the following credit *must* be given in all programs and publicity information distributed in association with this piece:

World premiere of *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* at
The Human Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville
New York premiere of *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*
presented at the Summer Play Festival in association with
The Public Theater

actors

actors theatre of louisville presents
32nd annual Humana Festival of New American Plays
made possible by a generous grant from The Humana Foundation

Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

by **Jennifer Haley**
directed by **Kip Fagan**

March **18 - 30, 2008**

THE CAST

steve, doug, tobias	**John Leonard Thompson***
leslie, vicki, barbara, joy	**Kate Hampton***
trevor, ryan, jared, zombiekllr14/blake	**Robin Lord Taylor***
makaela, kaitlyn, madison, chelsea	**Reyna de Courcy***
walkthroughs	**William McNulty***

There will be no intermission.

Presented by special arrangement with the Author

Scenic Designer	**Michael B. Raiford**
Costume Designer	**Jessica Ford**
Lighting Designer	**Brian J. Lilienthal**
Sound Designer	**Benjamin Marcum**
Properties Designer	**Doc Manning**
Fight Supervisor	**Lee Look**
Stage Manager	**Bethany Ford***
Production Assistant	**Sara Kmack**
Dramaturg	**Amy Wegener**
Casting	**Cindi Rush Casting**

Director underwritten by Tracy and Jonathan Blue

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers of the United States.

Developed with the assistance of New York University's hotINK International Festival of New Play Readings, Seven Devils Playwrights Conference, a project of id Theatre Company at the Alpine Playhouse in McCall, Idaho, and the Brown/Trinity Playwrights Repertory Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island.

The New York premiere of ***NEIGHBORHOOD 3: REQUISITION OF DOOM*** was presented at the Summer Play Festival in association with The Public Theater. The production was directed by Kerry Whigham with the following cast and crew:

FATHER TYPE . . . . . David Aaron Baker
MOTHER TYPE . . . . . Sally Wheeler
SON TYPE . . . . . Brian Gerard Murray
DAUGHTER TYPE . . . . . Reyna de Courcy

Set Designer: Sara Ossana
Lighting Designer: Kathleen Dobbins
Sound Designer: Joanna Lynne Staub
Costume Designer: Hollie Nadel
Fight Choreographer: Jacob Grigolia-Rosenbaum
Blood Specialist: Stephanie Cox-Williams
Assistant Director: Bradley Cherna
Stage Manager: Mei Ling Acevedo
Line Producer: Amanda Berkowitz

players/characters

father type - steve, doug, tobias
mother type - leslie, vicki, barbara, joy
son type - trevor, ryan, jared, zombiekllr14, blake
daughter type - makaela, kaitlyn, madison, chelsea

time/place

right now in the virtual reality
of a video game or suburbia

PRODUCTION NOTES

Most of the play should be staged abstractly, in the netherworld of a video game or modern day suburbia. Realistic elements may be added to Scene 9, so that we feel we are somewhere recognizable, comfortable, and may imagine, for a little while, that none of what's happened previously in the play is real.

A knowledge of MMORPGs, or Massive(ly) Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games, such as *World of Warcraft*, is helpful in understanding this play.

The language should be spoken as it appears on the page. However, the line breaks represent the briefest of pauses, should be emotionally motivated (not robotic), and sound almost natural. The walkthroughs may be voiceovers or spoken by the actors.

A note on casting: Although the use of four actors is intended to reinforce the notion of of the characters as similarly-styled avatars, larger groups wishing to perform this play may split the roles up between different actors.

For a look at production photos, or for more information about online role playing, avatars, and gamers gone wrong, visit http://www.jenniferhaley.com/neighborhood.html.

Some Scene Notes

1 kitchen
It is fun for the actress playing Makaela to use a whispery, gravelly monster voice on *i'm coming to get you for real.*

2 front yard
There may be a whiff of sexual attraction between Leslie and Steve.

4 pool
Doug is not a calculated sadist; his behavior arises from fear.

5 gameroom
Chelsea is on a Play Station or Xbox. When her team members' headsets go out, she can use her game controller to send text messages to them via the game. Jared logs into the game using a computer.

7 driveway
This is not a case of physical incest.

8 street
Look at the movement of AFK (away from keyboard) characters in World of Warcraft for zombiekllr14.

The Final House
This is an actual episode of CSI.

The violence should be very dramatic, unbelievable, and loud. Perhaps stupidly spurting blood, like in a video game.

One need not be a chamber to be haunted,
One need not be a house;
The brain has corridors surpassing
Material place.

–Emily Dickinson

1 walkthrough

the house you want is third from the left
as you face the cul de sac
all the houses look the same
be careful

move toward the house slowly
you will hear the sound of your
footsteps
in the street
do not walk too fast

as you approach the house
you will see on the sidewalk
a Claw Hammer

pick this up
you will need it later

like all other houses
this house will have a
flesh colored brick façade
and a welcome mat in front of the door

hint: if you kneel down and
take a closer look at this mat
you will see the word
'welcome' becomes
'help me'

enter the house
on your right is a set of
saloon doors
push through these
and enter
the kitchen

1 kitchen

MAKAELA. you want a coke

TREVOR. okay

MAKAELA. shit
we don't have any
my brother
inhaled them

TREVOR. that's okay

MAKAELA. so then i just have stupid stuff
like grape juice
want some
grape juice

TREVOR. okay

MAKAELA. only
he left like an inch
in the bottle

TREVOR. that's okay

MAKAELA. no it's not
i'm going to rip his balls off

TREVOR. i mean
i don't need grape juice

MAKAELA. well nobody needs grape juice
it'd just be nice
otherwise we've got milk
you want some
milk

TREVOR. no thanks

MAKAELA. it's Chocolate Milk

TREVOR. okay

MAKAELA. it's like we're
eleven
again

TREVOR. that's the last time i had it
when i was over here
my mom doesn't buy
Chocolate Milk

MAKAELA. your mom

TREVOR. what

MAKAELA. doesn't she sell
makeup
or something

TREVOR. vitamin shakes

MAKAELA. what are those

TREVOR. shakes with vitamins

MAKAELA. can you e lab or ate

TREVOR. it's like powder
you add water
you make a shake
you drink it two times a day

MAKAELA. does it taste good

TREVOR. no

MAKAELA. why do you take it

TREVOR. my mom says it gives you
everything you need

MAKAELA. does it work
are you getting
everything you need

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. i always see
a bunch of cars
in front of your place

TREVOR. she has meetings
at the house
she gives
demonstrations

MAKAELA. isn't it like a
pyramid scheme

TREVOR. what's that

MAKAELA. you know
you get a bunch of people
there are all these levels
everyone tries to get to the next
level
tries to get to the
top
like scientology
or the mafia

TREVOR. my mom
is not
in the mafia

MAKAELA. she doesn't know
you're here

TREVOR. she's gone
this afternoon

MAKAELA. it's the first time i've seen you
on the bus

TREVOR. she drives me

MAKAELA. i'm getting a car soon

TREVOR. what kind

MAKAELA. the brand new kind

TREVOR. but what make and model

MAKAELA. i don't know
tyler
my brother
just got a hummer
it's actually his second
hummer
he totaled the first one
almost killed someone
so my dad got him another

i want something that costs the same price
as two fucking hummers
like maybe a jag

TREVOR. you think your dad
will get you a jag

MAKAELA. maybe
if i act like a giant jerk
who's totally circling the drain
he'll buy one to try to
save me
otherwise
it'll probably be
a toyota

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. ...

TREVOR. still

MAKAELA. yeah
then i could drive you to school

TREVOR. my mom
drives me

MAKAELA. wouldn't you rather
i mean
it's high school

TREVOR. you don't have the car yet
so you can't drive me
so there's no point in discussing it

MAKAELA. no point in discussing it
okay dad

TREVOR. just
didn't you say your brother has an xbox

MAKAELA. ...

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. do you want a vicodin
my brother's a candy man

i know where he
keeps his stash

TREVOR. won't that
slow my reflexes

MAKAELA. haven't you
done it before

TREVOR. no

MAKAELA. you should ask mummy
for a sip of her
special shake

TREVOR. she doesn't make
special shakes

MAKAELA. she doesn't get
that many people over for
vitamins

TREVOR. look
i didn't come over here to
do drugs
or listen to you insult my mom
i thought we were playing
a game

MAKAELA. that's the only reason you came over
you barely said hello to me in four years

TREVOR. so i'm saying
it now

MAKAELA. yeah cuz i have
an xbox

TREVOR. i wanted to
it's just
you know

MAKAELA. what
your mom

TREVOR. no not my mom

MAKAELA. she stopped letting you out
cuz you got so cute

TREVOR. look shut up
makaela
i stopped coming over
cuz you're such a flippin know-it-all
i don't have to take this crap
i'm leaving

MAKAELA. we've got Neighborhood 3

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. ...

TREVOR. you've got Neighborhood 3

MAKAELA. it's tyler's
but i know where he
hides it

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. ...

TREVOR. okay
but my mom
doesn't stop me

MAKAELA. okay

TREVOR. okay

MAKAELA. i have to sneak into
his room

TREVOR. i'm dying to play Neighborhood 3

MAKAELA. ha
that sounds like something
out of a horror movie
like you're about to play this video game
and you think it's just a game
but actually it's real
but these teenagers don't know it
but the audience knows it
and this one kid's like
i'm dying to play
and it's like ooooo foreshadowing

TREVOR. i've been watching cody play

MAKAELA. so he's your contact

TREVOR. he's got all the walkthroughs
so you know what to look for
in the game

MAKAELA. bet cody doesn't have Chocolate Milk
bet that's why you came over here

TREVOR. he came on to me

MAKAELA. no
way
cody came on to you

TREVOR. i think so
he kept saying
how good I was with the joystick
and they're not even called joysticks
anymore

MAKAELA. i can't believe it
he's so hot
next time i see him
i'm gonna tell him
i'm pretty good
with a joystick

TREVOR. are you

MAKAELA. ...

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. i could be

TREVOR. well let's turn on the game
and find out

MAKAELA. wait
are you
what are you

TREVOR. the game
what are you

MAKAELA. nothing

i'll set it up and
you can play

TREVOR. you're not going to play

MAKAELA. nah

TREVOR. do some split screen with me

MAKAELA. no

TREVOR. why not

MAKAELA. this game's fucked up
it maps out
your own Neighborhood
how creepy is that

TREVOR. are you kidding
it's sweet
it's the best use of satellite technology
i can think of

MAKAELA. oh now he's excited

TREVOR. how can you not think it's sweet

MAKAELA. there's no point to it

TREVOR. sure there is
you have to keep getting to the next
level
you have to get to the
top

MAKAELA. and then what

TREVOR. you're out
you're free
you've beat everything and nothing can
hurt you anymore

MAKAELA. my brother beats the shit
out of those things
he gets online
and plays with his friends
the sicker the game
they more they like it

he whacks those Zombies
to smithereens
and spends a little too much time with them
after they're dead

TREVOR. sometimes it's fun
to be sick
sometimes you need a place
to be sick

MAKAELA. that's not the only place
he's sick
you don't know much
about my brother

TREVOR. he plays
at cody's house

MAKAELA. what

TREVOR. tyler
he's almost almost at
the Last Chapter

MAKAELA. have you been
hanging out
with him

TREVOR. they won't let me
play the game
they keep calling me
a noob

MAKAELA. what else
do you do
with them

TREVOR. what do you
mean

MAKAELA. any of that other
sick shit
any of their missions

in the Neighborhood

TREVOR. missions

MAKAELA. maybe your mom
would want to know about this
would want to know about her
beautiful vitamin shake boy
what if i told
your mom

TREVOR. you say a fucking
word to my mom and i'll

MAKAELA. what
slice my titties off
like they do the girl Zombies
in the game

TREVOR. ...

MAKAELA. ...

TREVOR. you're nuts

MAKAELA. just leave

TREVOR. you're the one
who invited me

MAKAELA. i didn't know
you'd got so twisted

TREVOR. it's only
a game

MAKAELA. oh right trevor
don't tell me
you've never seen it

TREVOR. seen what

MAKAELA. one of those things
like
reach out

TREVOR. what things

MAKAELA. in the game

while you're hacking it
reach out with what's left of its
hand
and gurgle
i'm coming
to get you
for real

2 walkthrough

drink the
Chocolate Milk
to replenish your
Sugar Rush

exit the house and
advance down the street
slowly
remember
all action
must appear
unhurried
the goal
during the daytime
is to blend in

two blocks down
on your right
look for the house
with a Garden Gnome
in the front yard

use your Hammer
to break the Gnome
inside you will find a
Pink Post-it Note
with three numbers on it

add this to your inventory
and proceed
up the sidewalk

2 front door

STEVE. hi there
hi

LESLIE. yes

STEVE. i'm sorry i
accidentally kicked
your Garden Gnome

LESLIE. oh

STEVE. it's just
his head
i've got some
superglue

LESLIE. no that's

STEVE. you might want to keep him
out back
i don't think Garden Gnomes are
acceptable
to the Neighborhood Association

LESLIE. are you with
the Neighborhood Association

STEVE. no i

LESLIE. oh i
thought you were a
representative
come to give me another
warning

STEVE. no i'm
from down the street
i'm

LESLIE. of course
halloween

STEVE. halloween
yes

i was in
the gorilla suit
until

LESLIE. yes
i remember

STEVE. i sometimes get
carried away at
block parties

LESLIE. well this one was
unseasonably warm

STEVE ...

LESLIE. ...

STEVE. steve

LESLIE. leslie

STEVE. you have
twins
right
both of them
were there
the wolfman and
cinderella

LESLIE. the hunchback and
tinkerbell

STEVE. tinkerbell
oh right
my daughter was
freddy krueger

LESLIE. with
the hat

STEVE. yes

LESLIE. oh i didn't know
that was a
girl

STEVE. sometimes neither do we

LESLIE. …

STEVE. uh so
i'm home from the office
early today
i went in the house
and couldn't find my daughter
chelsea
my wife is
taking a break from
the family
so i'm kind of
holding down the fort ha ha
and
well
um

LESLIE. i'm sorry
but

STEVE. yeah
it's hard

LESLIE. no
we're having
a party
for my husband
when he gets home
i'm making
buffalo wings

STEVE. a party
oh
that's nice
that's really nice
well i won't
take up your time
i just um
let me ask you real quick
have you heard about these
online video games
the kids are playing

LESLIE. …

LESLIE. why do you
ask

STEVE. my only daughter
chelsea
is hooked on one
Neighborhood
something
i don't know
but when i say
hooked
i guess i'm
putting it mildly
she basically plays this
every waking moment
from the time she gets home from school
to the time she goes to bed
if she goes to bed
we bought her a
high speed gaming computer
for christmas
we thought that would make her
happy
we didn't know
we'd never see her again
she gets online
and plays this character
with other people online
playing characters
some of them
are her friends
but some of them
for all i know
could be pedophiles
they conspire for hours
on that instant message
and conference calls
they run around a Neighborhood

that looks very much like
ours
butchering Zombies
who look a whole lot like
us
but let's see
what am i worried about

i'm worried that
she's not making real friends in the
real world
the way she looks
no one at school will
talk to her
when i was a kid
i made bombs out of firecrackers
and my folks thought i was
possessed
and of course they were
overreacting
and
i've threatened to
remove the computer
but i don't know if it is the computer
or if it's

i'm a
corporate manager
i manage people at all levels
and when they're not up to task i just
fire them
but you know
you can't fire your only kid
even when she comes out of her room
looking like some kind of
monster

LESLIE. ...

STEVE. i'm sorry
of course
your party

LESLIE. no let me
come outside
my daughter
madison
plays this game

STEVE. really

LESLIE. i can't get her to
come to dinner
we used to think it was
anorexia
until i figured out i had to
set the food down
right in front of her

STEVE. that's what i do
i pick chelsea up
a burger
everyday
on my way home from work

LESLIE. i circle back
for the dirty dishes
she screams when i
make her stop for half a minute
to clean drippings
out of the keyboard

STEVE. her mom and i were dating
by her age
but she's never mentioned
a single boy

LESLIE. i'd be terrified to see
what kind of date
she'd bring home

STEVE. she won't allow me
in her room

LESLIE. she calls me
leslie
she won't call me
mom

STEVE. what about taking
the computer away

LESLIE. she'd just go to
someone else's house

STEVE. that's what i thought
i'd be in our house
alone

LESLIE. we'd never see her
we want to see her
it's hard enough
with her father

STEVE. it's his
birthday

LESLIE. no
no
not that kind of
party
he's a judge
a federal judge
he has to decide
right and wrong all the time
it's really quite stressful
i'm hoping it will
end soon
i hear her talking to
the other players
something about
the Last Chapter
they're almost at
the Last Chapter
doesn't that sound
promising

STEVE. i thought
your daughter was
tinkerbell

LESLIE. it was dark

at the block party
you didn't notice
the hoofprints
on her chest
she went as
tinkerbell bride of satan

STEVE ...

LESLIE. ...

STEVE. i came home
and found her gone
i looked on
her computer
this game is
quite sophisticated
it uses global positioning
to map out the Neighborhood
there's a key for points of
Zombie infiltration
several houses
including mine
and yours
are red

LESLIE. ...

STEVE. i want
to talk
to madison

LESLIE. she's on her
game

STEVE. she may know
where chelsea is

LESLIE. i can't
disturb her

STEVE. we don't know what they're
really up to

LESLIE. tonight is already
very hard

STEVE. i don't know anymore
what's serious
what if this is
serious

LESLIE. i know serious
i know serious
you think i don't know
serious

STEVE. no i

LESLIE. they're making me do this tonight
his friends from work
this wasn't my idea
everyone coming over
to tell him he's drinking
it's so stupid
he knows he's drinking
he'll think this is
my idea and then
i don't know
i don't know
i don't know anything anymore

STEVE. i'm sorry

i guess
this is not a good night
here's your
Gnome

LESLIE. ...

STEVE ...

LESLIE. i liked
the Gnome
everyone else in the family
hated him
but
he was always so cheerful
on the front lawn
i'd sit down next to him

and put my hands
on his cheeks
when it's warm out
they're warm
when it's cold out
they're cold
the logic
is so appealing
when it's warm out and turns cold
his cheeks are still warm
so you have a history
but only a recent history
just the past hour
instead of the crushing history
of your lifetime
or your country
or hominids

STEVE. i'm sorry i
kicked him
i've got some
superglue

LESLIE. ...

STEVE ...

LESLIE. no

STEVE. no

LESLIE. i think
his time
is up

3 walkthrough

enter the house
you will find yourself in a
living room
with white walls and a
white carpet

turn to your left
proceed up the stairs
and enter the
bedroom

across the room
is a closet
warning: do not enter
this closet
unless you picked up the
Weed Wacker
in Chapter Four

instead
on the nightstand
you will see the
Glass of Red Wine

drink this

when you exit the bedroom
and go back down the stairs
you will notice a pool of
blood
on the carpet

you have just moved through
a secret wormhole
in the Neighborhood
you are now in a house
on the opposite side
of the subdivision

3 living room

VICKI. did you get what you were
looking for

KAITLYN. yes thank you for letting me in
his room

VICKI. hopefully he won't find out
we were in
his room
unless he has some
hidden camera

KAITLYN. i don't remember
a camera

VICKI. i'm kidding
although i wouldn't be surprised
he's always been into
gadgets

KAITLYN. yeah

VICKI. i don't know what he has in there
he keeps it such a big
secret
but we've always pledged
to protect his
privacy

KAITLYN. uh huh

VICKI. well this will be
our
little secret

KAITLYN. um
i should be going
but thank you again
mrs. prichard

VICKI. vicki
it's still vicki
and it's no problem

i'm glad you found
what you were looking for
it's so good so good to see you again

KAITLYN. it's good to see you
too

VICKI. we really miss you
around here

KAITLYN. yeah
me too

VICKI. my husband and i
thought you were really
good for him

KAITLYN. thanks
but i should

VICKI. do you want to sit down
for a minute

KAITLYN. oh

VICKI. i could get you a coke
or even a Glass of Wine
i'm having a Glass of Wine
only if you think
your mom wouldn't mind

KAITLYN. no she lets me
have Wine sometimes
it's just i

VICKI. i don't expect
tyler home
anytime soon

KAITLYN. okay
i guess i could
for a minute

VICKI. great
great
sit down
let me get you

a glass
did you notice
we reupholstered the loveseat

KAITLYN. it looks nice

VICKI. thank you
it was not cheap

KAITLYN. no it looks
nice

VICKI. i went back and forth on the material
i just couldn't decide between
stripes or oriental
it doesn't seem like a big decision
but it affects the whole room
these things that seem so small
have such enormous consequences
here you go

KAITLYN. thank you

VICKI. so
kaitlyn
how's school

KAITLYN. fine

VICKI. what electives
are you taking

KAITLYN. graphic design

VICKI. really
on the computer

KAITLYN. oh yeah

VICKI. wow
they teach you such
great things now
how are the grades
still good

KAITLYN. i guess

VICKI. you know

even though
we got him that hummer
tyler's grades took a downturn
when you two split up

KAITLYN. oh
i'm sorry

VICKI. no
no
it's not your fault
i just think he was
upset

KAITLYN. ...

VICKI. i mean
you were the one
to break up
with him

KAITLYN. sort of

VICKI. that's what
he said

KAITLYN. we weren't
hanging out much
anyway

VICKI. but
when he wasn't on
his computer
i thought he was
with you

KAITLYN. i mean
sometimes

VICKI. almost every night of the week

KAITLYN. no

VICKI. well where could he
have been

KAITLYN. probably
with his friends

VICKI. you mean the olson boys

KAITLYN. he's not really
friends with them

VICKI. those are his
best friends

KAITLYN. …

VICKI. …

KAITLYN. …

VICKI. it was strange to see his room
i haven't seen it in months
we bought that bed
when he was five years old
one morning i went in
and his feet were poking
off the end
and they were

hairy

i said it was time
for a new bed
but that was when
he sealed off the room
and like i said
i want to give him
a place of his own
to be himself
isn't that good
i'm not the kind of parent
to read her son's diary
if boys really keep diaries
maybe he has a
what is it called
a blog
even if it was online
i wouldn't read it
not that i'm too savvy
with the internet

he's playing that
game now
that takes up
all his time
when he's not out with his
friends
or whoever
he goes out with
i'm just trying to
something's different
do you think
gosh
do you think it's
drugs

KAITLYN. maybe that's
part of it

VICKI. he has those
red eyes
but that's just marijuana
right

KAITLYN. not like
that kind of
red

VICKI. you mean
something harder
something like
it was on dateline
oxycontin

KAITLYN. maybe not even
drugs

VICKI. he has a great imagination
he gets into trouble
with the Neighborhood Association
but so would a saint
i mean
who cares about the stupid golf course
it was strange

to see those posters
on his walls
but all the boys
have posters like that
with skeletons
and Zombies
and blood
right

VICKI. ...

KAITLYN. ...

KAITLYN. i think you should go through his room

VICKI. ...

KAITLYN. ...

VICKI. what do you think
i might find

KAITLYN. do you remember
that Cat

VICKI. what Cat

KAITLYN. the hendersons
Cat

VICKI. wasn't it
hit by a car

KAITLYN. you didn't hear
how they found it

VICKI. how did they
find it

KAITLYN. it was
still alive
even though

VICKI. stop

i don't know what
this has to do with
my son
we give him

everything
he needs
this Wine is
too sweet
it's making me
sick
i suppose i do need to let you
get home
i'm so glad you
stopped by
say hello
to your mother
for me
i see her in the
grocery store
all the time
and we keep making plans to
get together
but we just can't seem to
get together
you only live a few blocks over
so i don't know
what it is
but tell her i really will
call her
and we really will
get together

KAITLYN. okay
thanks for the
Wine
and letting me
in

VICKI. of course
of course
come back if you need
anything else

what was it
that you needed

KAITLYN. sorry

VICKI. from his
room

KAITLYN. just something
of mine
he took

VICKI. something
like
what

KAITLYN. it's
private

VICKI. oh

KAITLYN. i mean

VICKI. no that's
okay
of course i
respect that

KAITLYN. ...

KAITLYN. did you know
this house
is the mirror opposite
of mine

VICKI. ...

KAITLYN. if you divide the Neighborhood
along the line of the sewage ditch
and fold it in half
my room
would be right on top of
his room
so we'd see each other
through the ceiling
which is kind of how
we got together
when i needed to escape
my mom

i could lie in bed
and look through the ceiling
down at him in his bed
looking up through the ceiling
and we just sort of
knew each other

he started playing
that game
it uploads floorplans
from the Neighborhood Association
he showed me a map
of the subdivision
and the wormhole
between our rooms
there are wormholes
all over
the Neighborhood
he said
one of them connects
your imagination
in the game
to what happens
in life
for real
it's not just
the Cat
vicki
i think you should go through his room

VICKI. his father's
a real estate agent
i quit my job
to be home for him

KAITLYN. if you don't
look at something
it can kind of
blow up
don't you want to know what's in his

VICKI. no

he needs the right
to his own
privacy
and we give him
everything
he needs

4 walkthrough

before you are through
back away
from the Cat
do not let the mewing
deter you

leaving it
half alive
will boost your
Ruthless Ratings
which will help you
in future combat

continue down the street
casually
one block up
you will see a house
with a flagstone path
leading to
the back

take this path
to a wooden gate
use your Hammer
to smash the lock
enter the back yard
and proceed to
the pool

4 pool

DOUG. it's okay son
things die
Snickers had a
good life

RYAN. …

DOUG. we don't really know what happens
when something dies
Snickers could be with us
right here
right now
we could even say
hello Snickers
you were an awesome cat
i'm sorry you got hit by that
hummer
at least it happened fast
we should all hope to be
so lucky

RYAN. …

DOUG. as henry david thoreau said
i went to the woods
because i wished to live deliberately
to front only the
essential facts of life
and not
when i came to die
discover that i had not lived

RYAN. Snickers didn't go to the woods

DOUG. well he went into the bushes a lot

RYAN. …

DOUG. look
ryan
we've all been affected
by the death of Snickers

RYAN. …

DOUG. it reminds us of our own mortality
and i know that can be scary
as inderpal bahra said
we are afraid to live
but scared to die

RYAN. …

DOUG. death comes to everyone
think of it as something really democratic
like our country

RYAN. or as warren leblanc said
life is like a video game
everyone must die

DOUG. who is warren leblanc

RYAN. he got caught up in this game called man-hunt
and killed his fourteen-year-old friend
with a Claw Hammer

DOUG. …

RYAN. …

DOUG. that's not quite
what i mean
look
ryan
we need to do something about this
crying
everyone has had a
good cry over Snickers
now it's time to dry our eyes
lift the shades
and let in the sun
do you think you can do that

RYAN. …

DOUG. you're not a child anymore
part of growing up is realizing

there's a lot of pain in this world
and taking responsibility for your life
means you don't let it destroy you
and you don't let your behavior
increase the pain and fear
for everyone else

RYAN. …

DOUG. your mother wants to put you
on anti-depressants
do you want to be put
on anti-depressants

RYAN. um

DOUG. i didn't think so
we don't need drugs
to repair ourselves
the answer is within us
our personal power
is greater
than we realize
you've always been a good son
we depend on you to keep us in
good spirits
now
we've given you
a break on your chores
since Snickers passed
but i think reinstating them
will help take your mind off things
as henri matisse said
derive happiness in oneself
from a good day's work
so
ryan
you know the grind
clean the filters
skim the leaves
and replace the chlorine tablets
okay

RYAN. …

RYAN. i don't like
the Barracuda

DOUG. it helps us
keep the pool clean

RYAN. i don't like
the way it moves

DOUG. what are you
ten years old
it's not as though it's
alive

RYAN. maybe not the way we think of
life

DOUG. well i guess we have
two options here
we could turn it off
or
you could practice getting over
your fear of it
which would you rather do

RYAN. …

DOUG. which would be the
brave
thing to do

RYAN. …

DOUG. look

RYAN. i just don't want it going
while i'm cleaning the pool
is that so
fucking
hard

DOUG. …

RYAN. …

DOUG. is there something else
besides Snickers

RYAN. …

DOUG. …

RYAN. it's just
something
in the Neighborhood

DOUG. what

RYAN. i don't know
i don't think Snickers
was hit by a hummer

DOUG. your mom saw it
pulling around the block

RYAN. i just don't
the way Snickers looked
it just
didn't look
like a car
did that

DOUG. what did it
look like

RYAN. i've been playing this
game
at blake's house

DOUG. we have seen a bit
less of you

RYAN. and we
there's this part with this
Cat
and we
we
i didn't think
it was
real

DOUG. what was
real

RYAN. that
it would
Snickers
dad
listen
there's something
in the Neighborhood
something's
coming

DOUG. …

RYAN. …

DOUG. …

RYAN. …

DOUG. do you remember
what i was saying
about personal power
being a wonderful thing
well it works both ways
personal power
can do great damage
when it's negative
you're beginning
to remind me
of my sister
every morning
when she woke up
you'd hear this
wail
up above
this wail
would sound
and you'd think
here she comes
she'd appear
at the top of the stairs
with her pigtails all twisted
her mouth wide open and wet

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