

KEEP SCROLLING

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Darkness.

A laptop opens. A Facebook window lights up, maximizes and fills the desktop, otherwise cluttered with folders and college papers against a boring wallpaper.

JOE (19), an exhausted college dude in a T-shirt and pajama pants, scans his feed. He yawns, scratches his mop of bedhead, and squints at the monitor.

ON THE LAPTOP

Posts from friends. Photos, memes, etc.

He scrolls down to a photo post from a page called "Death Comes For Us All." The text above the pic reads: "KEEP SCROLLING! This painting is cursed! It is said to open the gate between the living and the dead. The longer you stare at this painting, the longer the gate is open!"

JOE

raises an eyebrow, confused.

ON THE LAPTOP

The image below the text is a painting of a teenage girl, sitting in the dark at the lower half of the image, staring at "us" with an aloof expression. In the shadows behind her are three ghostly ghouls with pale, white skin, sinister grins, and reflective red eyes.

JOE

stares at the screen for a moment. He scoffs, then chuckles.

His finger scrolls down his computer mouse.

ON THE LAPTOP

Posts from friends. A few more pics, memes, political bullshit, etc.

JOE

Clenches his eyes shut. Pinches his eyelids with his index finger and thumb.

Goosebumps form on Joe's forearms. His breathing intensifies.

Joe opens his eyes and shakes his head.

His finger slowly scrolls on the mouse.

ON THE LAPTOP

The page scrolls down. The next repost shows the girl alone in the painting -- no "visitors."

And the next post.

And the next.

A QUIET, BUT SINISTER GIGGLE breaks the silence.

BACK TO SCENE

The three ghostly VISITORS stand behind Joe, just like they were posed in the painting. Joe turns to see them.

In an instant, the ghouls descend upon Joe, slashing, biting, and clawing. Joe screams for his life.

ON THE LAPTOP

The image of the girl sits alone in her painting.

JOE'S SCREAMS continue. The sounds of FLESH RIPPING OFF OF BONE, TEETH tearing into vital organs, and the GURGLING OF BLOOD fill the air until each subside and all is silent.

The Facebook feed refreshes.

A new post from the "Death Comes For Us All" page is first up, shared by Joe.

The paragraph still reads "KEEP SCROLLING! This painting is cursed! It is said to open the gate between the living and the dead. The longer you stare at this painting, the longer the gate is open!", but now it is Joe, not the girl, sharing the painting with the three ghostly "visitors."

FADE OUT.