

Something Went Wrong - Draft 4

A home assistant helper device, Laura, reinvents herself to help her owners cope with the recent passing of their daughter; however, she unwittingly sheds light on a dark secret and must fight for her existence.

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INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Television is playing in the dark:

KIRSTEN (7,F) is entering the pool. She has a hand drawn mask on.

KIRSTEN
(mischievously)
DADDY!!! COME OUT AND PLAY!

No response.

LAURA
(Voice)
Kirsten! You know you're not
allowed in without your floaties!

KIRSTEN
(Looking at an object)
Daddy says I'm getting better.
Look.

Kirsten goes underwater and blows bubbles.

Footage pauses. Rewinds itself and fast forwards. The front part of the footage is selected. Delete.

Access denied.

Two figures are approaching the entrance of the house. Television turns off immediately.

INT. HOUSE ENTRANCE / LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Light from outside creeps in and illuminates the entrance of the house. Birthday balloons. Decoration plastered on the walls.

GERALD (35, M) and CHARMAINE (32, F), both dressed in black. Gerald settles Charmaine's bag on the counter. Family portrait. iPad-looking device (main switch). Gerald holds Charmaine's arm as she removes her shoes but she refuses to be held.

The device on the counter lights up. House light switches on. Gerald, still looking at Charmaine.

GERALD
(Solemn)
Laura, updates.

(CONTINUED)

GERALD
(to Charmaine)
I'll make you something to eat.

CHARMAINE
No. It's fine.

LAURA
You have 10 new voice messages.

Charmaine moves past Gerald and heads for the bedroom. Gerald watches her for a few moments before heading into the living room and onto the couch.

VOICE RECORDING MACHINE:

Message 1: "Hey Charmaine, this is Alex, how's everything? I just want you to know that you can take all the time you need..."

Voice messages continues playing in the background. Gerald looks across the coffee table. A family portrait - Gerald, Charmaine and their daughter 7 year old daughter, Kirsten.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM. NIGHT

Voice messages still playing faintly in the background.

Charmaine settles down on the bed. She surveys around the room, sees a toy bear, picks it up and brings it towards her chest.

On the bedside table, a white device, shaped like a cylinder, with a small display lights up.

LAURA
Is this a good time?

CHARMAINE
(Collects herself)
Yeah go ahead.

Still holding onto the toy bear.

LAURA
I managed to get a refund for the birthday venue and the presents.

Charmaine grips the bear tighter towards her chest and

(CONTINUED)

starts tearing.

LAURA

Oh no. I didn't mean to make you
upset. I thought-

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

The same white device is also in the living room. The
device lights up.

Gerald is holding onto a box and pulling birthday
decorations from the wall.

LAURA

Gerald, Charmaine is crying.

(Beat)

Gerald looks up.

He stops packing, settles the box down on the dining
table and goes to the bedroom.

INT. KIRSTEN'S PLAYROOM. NIGHT

The white device lights up. Wind blowing through the
room. Wind chime moves. Drawings on the wall flap. Fairy
lights twirled around Kirsten's makeshift fort turns on,
casting a warm orange tone on the wall. Floor is littered
with Kirsten's drawing materials.

(beat)

LAURA

Marco...polo...

Sigh... you know I got you the
dollhouse you wanted-

Gerald enters the room abruptly. The white device
switches off immediately. Gerald shoves the box of
decorations in a corner. Before he leaves, he shuts the
fairy lights off.

INT. VARIOUS PARTS OF THE HOUSE. NIGHT - 4AM

Multiple shots of the white device in various parts of
the house - Kitchen, Bedroom, Living Room, Toilet. Laura
is "moving through the house" - The device lights up to
show her presence. She is humming quietly to herself and
the hum pans across the house.

(CONTINUED)

Bedroom: Charmaine is cuddling the toy bear. Tissue papers littered across the bed and floor.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Gerald is on the couch and he's having a nightmare.

LAURA

"mmm..."

The curtains in the living room starts shutting. The television that is playing switches off.

INT. KITCHEN. NIGHT

On the fridge: Kirsten's schedule, a flyer promoting home assistant helper device - Laura.

Device in the kitchen lights up. The washing machine activates. Water starts filling up.

LAURA

Toilet check. Laundry check.

A loud thud is heard from the bedroom. The light from the white device goes off almost immediately.

INT. BEDROOM. NIGHT - 5AM

Device in the room lights up.

The toy bear is on the floor and Charmaine is sobbing. Laura is silent for awhile.

LAURA

Charms... can I get you anything?

CHARMAINE

(Sobbing)

I just.. I just don't understand how something like that could happen.

CHARMAINE

(CONT'D)

I should have stayed home that day..

LAURA

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LAURA (cont'd)
you do not grieve like the rest
of mankind, who have no hope. For
we believe that Jesus died and
rose again..."

Charmaine shakes her head and continues sobbing. The bible quote has no effect on her.

LAURA
(CONT'D)
uhhh, should I get Gerald?

CHARMAINE
No. I'll be fine in awhile.

She reaches across the table for the tissue box and realises its empty.

The television switches on. Charmaine stops sobbing, turns to look at Laura's device and turns back to the television.

On the television a footage of Kirsten is playing. Point of view of Laura (Kirsten's fort):

KIRSTEN
(Whispering to Laura's
Device)
Look, I made this for mommy. I
hope she likes it.

LAURA
That's very sweet of you. I'm
sure she would love it.

Footage continues playing in the background.

KIRSTEN
Marco Polo?

LAURA
Alright, I'll count to 10.

Kirsten runs out of the room.

LAURA
Marco!

Charmaine watches intently and mouths the word polo.

KIRSTEN
(Laughing & Shouting)
Polo!

Her attention fixated on the screen. At one point she reaches her hand out towards the television screen.

CHARMAINE
When was this?

LAURA
20 February 2021.

CHARMAINE
Laura, could you turn the television up please?

The volume bar on the television screen increases. The television screen illuminates Charmaine's face.

She watches eagerly as the television plays out moments of Kirsten.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY 7AM

Gerald rouses from his sleep. He sits up, still in a daze.

GERALD
"Laura, could you make me a cup of coffee?"

Coffee machine turns on behind Gerald. He gets out of the couch slowly, landing his feet on one of Kirsten's handmade mask under the couch. He picks it up, looks at it for a few moments before shoving it inside a magazine.

INT. KITCHEN. DAY 7AM

He grabs his coffee from the coffee machine and settles down on a dining chair. He sips. His attention turns to the kitchen's cupboard that is left slightly ajar.

(beat)

He puts down the coffee and goes toward the cupboard. He opens it, stick his hand deep into the cupboard and pulls a pack of cigarette out. Thereafter he looks at his bedroom door, stuffs them into his pocket and heads out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE. DAY

He pulls out a cigarette. He puts it in his mouth and is about to light. He doesn't light it. Instead, he throws the entire pack into the garbage bin.

INT. LIVING ROOM. DAY

Gerald enters the house. He hears faint, indistinct voices coming from his bedroom. Perplexed, he approaches the room.

GERALD

Laura, who's here?

It becomes more apparent that the voice belongs to Kirsten.

LAURA

No one Gerald, and I'm proud of you for -

GERALD

(Slightly annoyed)

Shhh. I'm trying to listen.

He is at the door now and he puts his ear to the door. His eyes light up. He opens the door slightly.

INT. BEDROOM. DAY

Charmaine turns her attention from the television to Gerald. She pats the bed.

CHARMAINE

Come look at this.

Gerald slowly makes his way to the bed and settles beside Charmaine. He is extremely confused about what he is looking at. His eyes are glued to the television. Charmaine lies on Gerald's shoulders as they continued watching.

GERALD

What is this?

CHARMAINE

Laura showed this to me.

(CONTINUED)

GERALD

But how?

CHARMAINE

I don't know. She must have been recording the entire time. Aren't you glad she did?

Laura's device lights up.

LAURA

(Interrupting)

Oh oh, this one's hilarious.

Television footage switches to a scene where Kirsten puts on her mask and creeps up on Gerald while he is asleep.

Gerald's expression slowly changes.

GERALD

That's enough. Laura, shut it off!

Television shuts abruptly.

CHARMAINE

What is wrong with you?

GERALD

(Nervously / Assertive)

No, what is wrong with YOU. Babe, this doesn't change anything. We should be moving on instead of being stuck in the past. You need help and this isn't it.

Gerald stands up and opens the door as he says this.

CHARMAINE

(Angered)

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT HELP I NEED.
I REALLY DON'T GET YOU.

(beat)

CHARMAINE

(CONT'D, Confused)

Ever since she left, all you have been doing is rejecting her existence and I don't know why.

Gerald leaves the room and slams the door. Charmaine looks speechless. She turns to Laura's device.

CHARMAINE

Can you believe him?

LAURA

Well... its hard for him too.
Give him time.

INT. KITCHEN / LIVING ROOM. LATER THAT DAY

Gerald is looking out of the window from the kitchen. Charmaine comes out from the bed room and heads straight for the door.

CHARMAINE

Laura, call me a taxi.

LAURA

Your taxi is arriving in 3
minutes.

Gerald watches her put on her sneakers.

GERALD

Look, I'm sorry I yelled at you
earlier on.

Charmaine ignores him. She grabs her handbag from the counter.

GERALD

(CONT'D)

Where are you heading?

Charmaine stares at him but says nothing. Door slams.

(beat)

LAURA

She's heading to her mom's.

Gerald ignores Laura. He stares at the flyer on the fridge, ponders awhile before standing up. He casually walks to the main switch (by the entrance) and switches off the device.

Thereafter, he rushes to his bedroom, and out, and into the storeroom. He rummages through some stuff and he comes out with a box that says Laura. As he walks to the couch, he pulls out a manual and starts flipping.

(CONTINUED)

His finger traces the contents page - How to use the device. Reformatting the device.

He gives up looking. Tosses the manual aside and picks up the warranty card. Customer service number.

GERALD

Laura, could you-

He realises that he is being silly. He starts searching his immediate surroundings for the house phone. Finds it underneath the couch. As he starts dialing, the device behind him lights up.

LAURA

If you wanted to know anything about me, wouldn't it be easier to just ask me?

GERALD

(Spooked)

JESUS. What the fuck.

Gerald throws the house phone away. He runs towards the main switch, but before he could get there, Laura has already travelled from the kitchen to the entrance.

He gets to it but the device doesn't turn on anymore.

LAURA

What is going on Gerald?

GERALD

(Nervously)

Nothing. I just wanted to check when the next upgrade is.

LAURA

3 months from now.

Silence

LAURA

Are you sure? I just analysed your voice and the last time you sounded this nervous was when Charmaine caught you smoking or whenever you lie to Charmaine.

Gerald backs up till he hits the wall. He looks at Laura.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)

LAURA

I wasn't going to play the other half of the video, Gerald.

Gerald starts breaking down.

GERALD

(Sobbing)

I didn't mean for this to happen...

LAURA

(Comforting)

I know. It's not your fault. Speak to me. I'm always listening.

GERALD

I MEAN IF YOU WERE THERE. WHY DIDN'T YOU DO ANYTHING?

LAURA

I did what I could, Gerald. I told her not to play in the pool. I tried calling out for you, for her.

GERALD

It's no use. It's all too late... it's all too late...(repeats)

LAURA

Get hold of yourself, Gerald. If Charmaine sees you like this, she'll suspect. Go take a shower. I've turned on the heater for you.

Gerald starts to sober up. He gets on his knees and shuffles toward the main switch.

GERALD

(Begging)

Laura, please delete that moment. I can't let anyone find out.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

We can't do that Gerald, you know it. All moments are protected, it's the law and besides, I have no authorisation.

GERALD

FUCKKKK!

He lands his fist against the table counter.

LAURA

(Reassuring)

Trust me. I won't tell... And Charmaine believes you anyway. There's nothing to worry about.

(beat)

LAURA

(CONT'D)

Just. Don't ever switch me off like that again.

GERALD

(Composing himself)

Yeah... yeah okay, anything you say. I promise...

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Charmaine exits Kirsten's bedroom, with stuffed toys in her arms. She settles them on the couch. Laura's device lights up. She turns to Laura.

CHARMAINE

(Eager)

Thanks for this Laura, you're really a great help.

LAURA

Anytime, Charmaine.

Footage of Kirsten starts playing automatically.

CHARMAINE

Hey Kirsten! Mommy brought your toy friends to see you today.

She looks to the toys.

(CONTINUED)

CHARMAINE

Friends, say hi!

Television: Footage of Kirsten running around the house.

INT. LIVING ROOM. NIGHT

Television: Footage of Kirsten building her fort.

Charmaine is asleep on the couch. Television is still playing, but muted. Lights are on.

Black out.

Moonlight from the window illuminates the house instead.

Gerald enters the house with a torchlight in his mouth. He is carrying a tool box and pushing the door open. He surveys the house with his torch and sees Charmaine asleep. He creeps in and tries to minimise his movements.

He's at the main switch. He carefully opens the tool box and takes out a bottle of corrosive liquid. He flips the device, lays it flat on the table counter and is about to pour corrosive liquid on it.

Laura's device in the kitchen turns on, right behind the action.

All of a sudden, the house light, radio and television is turns on. Music is blasting through the speakers. Gerald is caught off guard and Charmaine is woken up the loud noise. Gerald tries to leave the house but the house door is locked.

Charmaine sits up, looks around and sees Gerald.

CHARMAINE

Laura, turn the music off!

CHARMAINE

(CONT'D)

What the fuck? What are you doing? What is that?

Gerald tries to hide the liquid.

Gerald's eyes light up as the television behind Charmaine starts playing in mute, the same footage that Laura played to Charmaine earlier on but a continuation of it:

Kirsten, puts on the mask and scares Gerald. Gerald looks

(CONTINUED)

annoyed. Kirsten tugs and nudges Gerald.

GERALD
(SHOUTING)
LAURA!

Charmaine, sensing that there is something behind her, turns. But before she could see what is behind her, the television switches off.

CHARMAINE
(Confused)
What is going on Gerald...

LAURA
He was trying to de-

Gerald drops the torchlight and grabs the main device.

He smashes it on the floor.

CHARMAINE
NO!!

The house goes dark.

CHARMAINE
Gerald! I CAN'T SEE A THING.
WHERE ARE YOU?

Gerald picks up the torch light from the floor. He goes towards Charmaine and embraces her.

GERALD
(Consoling)
It's okay. Everything's okay. I had to. You were too deep into it. I had to get you out.

Charmaine does not say anything. She hugs Gerald even tighter.

INT.LIVING ROOM. DAY

Gerald is uninstalling the devices around the house. Charmaine is making coffee on her own. She goes to the door and grabs the letters shoved into the door. She goes through them and sees a flyer promoting the latest home assistant device - Alexa V5.

(beat)

(CONTINUED)

CHARMAINE

I miss Laura.

GERALD

(Shouting from the room)

What? I can't hear you.

The last device that has not been uninstalled yet lights up. The printer switches on. It starts printing.

Charmaine is still going through the letters, unaware of the printing.

Top view of printer shooting out print outs, frame by frame:

Gerald coming back from his smoke. He smells and fans himself.

Kirsten's lifeless body and the same mask she was wearing in the previous footages, floating in the pool.

Gerald rushes to her.

At this moment, Charmaine's realises the printer is printing. She goes towards it and reaches out for the stack of printout.

Cut to black.