SURPRISE PARTY

Everyone loves a party with a theme… But what if the theme was true crime? And you didn't know it was a party?

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INT. BASEMENT - DUSK

A dark, grimy basement is bathed in the cold light of a single bulb hanging from the rafters. The shadows are deep, it is difficult to see much beyond the harsh light illuminating one circle of chipped cement floor. Directly under the light is a woman.

MELISSA, 20, sits in a chair, unconscious. Her hands are tied behind her, a blindfold over her eyes. She shifts in her chair as she wakes. She whips her head around attempting to knock the blindfold off her head.

A shadow passes across the camera.

MELISSA
Hello? Who's there? Why are you doing this?

A voice echos through the room

TINA (O.S.)
Isn't this what you wanted Melissa?

MELISSA
Why the hell would I want this? What are you gonna do to me?

Melissa strains to wiggle the blindfold off her face to no avail.

TINA (O.S.)
Oh Melissa. We all crave the thrill of being hunted don't we?

MELISSA
Um no we don't you sick psychopath.

TINA (O.S.)
Oh please.

A hand reaches out from the shadows and pulls the blindfold off of Melissa's head. she looks around frantically, blinded by the light.

TINA (O.S.)
I know how much you enjoy learning about serial killers… Now you can experience the real thing.

MELISSA
That's clearly not the same.

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Melissa feels that her bonds are loosely tied and starts wiggling them looser.

MELISSA(CONT'D)
Who are you?

The shadow flashes across her left, remaining in the darkness.

TINA (O.S.)
Oh Melissa. I am your friend.

Melissa gets the rope off her arms but holds her hands behind the chair, still, bracing herself.

MELISSA
Who are you? Show yourself!

A person in a mask slowly emerges from the shadows

TINA
I, Melissa, am your worst-

Melissa springs up and punches Tina in the face. She yelps and pull the mask off to reveal a wiry young woman, the same age as Melissa.

TINA (CONT'D)
Ow what'd you do that for!

Melissa looks shocked and angry.

MELISSA
Tina? What the hell are you doing?

Tina is holding her nose, which has started bleeding.

TINA
You said you wanted a surprise birthday party with a theme!

MELISSA
Is the theme trauma?

TINA
No way that's stupid! You love all those true crime and mystery shows, I thought you'd like it!

MELISSA
Yeah no I don't enjoy being kidnapped. And how did you knock me out?

Tina kicks a bottle of chloroform into the shadows.

TINA
Unimportant. I just bwanted to surprise you for your birthday!

MELISSA
Tina my birthday is in September.

TINA
And?

MELISSA
It's April.

Melissa is slowly filling with rage as Tina grows more and more sheepish.

TINA
Oh. That explains why your family was so confused.

MELISSA
My what?

Tina's eyes widen.

TINA
Nothing. Your nothing. What family? Who said family. I didn't say family.

A muffled yell comes from the next room over.

MELISSA
You kidnapped my family? What is wrong with you?

TINA
Me? What's wrong with you! You're the one who wanted the surprise party!

MELISSA
A surprise does not equate kidnapping me and my family Tina!

TINA
I was trying to be a good friend. Sue me. Well actually please don't sue me.

MELISSA
Get out.

TINA
Hey I’m the one that should be upset, your grandma bit me.

Tina rolls up her sleeve to show a horrific bite mark.

TINA (CONT'D)
Time to put that lady in a home if you ask me. Or stop letting her buy dentures at spirit halloween because I swear to god that woman has canines the size of-

MELISSA
GET OUT.

Tina finally gets the hint and ascends the stairs.

TINA
Fine! I’m going!

Melissa notices the bottle on the floor, picks it up.

TINA (O.S.)
But your grandma better not have rabies!

Melissa brings the bottle closer to her nose in curiosity.

TINA (CONT'D)
And don’t sniff that!

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