

Synopsis: Claim Denied

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Claim Denied is a paranormal horror story set in modern times on the north coast of Ohio with backdrops in a medieval setting. Benjamin Johnson is a workaholic insurance adjuster who survives the tribulations of daily strife through his fantasies. Fragments of these fantasies manifest along a bloody path of torture and murder. The climax occurs when Benny comes face to face with the psychological horror that his own mind has unleashed.

The story opens during a predawn morning at the office when an apparition appearing in an unlit restroom mirror confronts Benny through the voice of a claimant. He warns an office associate, Trudy Perkins, to stay away from the restrooms. This phantom figure is validated when the client, Francis F Murphy, accuses him of planting an audio-video recording, using his voice. Benny attempts to check on Ms. Murphy at her establishment, but is greeted by a host of police and emergency responders. After returning from a business trip he is again greeted by a civil commotion, this time at his office. Another associate, Helen Jones, was found in a restroom, beaten and tortured, the apparent victim of a psychotic attack.

Benny teams with a detective, Susan Baker, and her personal aide, Sergeant Paul Denning, to investigate the eerie and similar supernatural occurrences, a common element the evidence left behind at restroom mirrors. They eventually find Trudy missing from her apartment. Baker also goes missing. Benny and the sergeant discover that the mirror in Trudy's apartment is some sort of portal and they step through to rescue the women.

The story then takes us back to medieval times and our phantom, Lord Lawrence, who has spread a reign of silent terror through his explorations into the occult, hypnosis and torture practiced in his asylum. He becomes obsessed with Lady Catelin, who seeks shelter at his castle. Lawrence believes that his faithful servant, Aldred, although under the command of hypnosis, has somehow betrayed him and captured her heart. Himself haunted by visions of a holy man he had murdered at the age of thirteen, Lawrence becomes victim to a curse of eternal solitude, void of flesh and soul. He executes Catelin and Aldred, and seeks to claim a darker soul, reclaim Catelin and rid himself of Aldred, both reborn as the imposters Trudy and Benny.

A confrontation occurs between the three would be saviors and the phantom, protected by its powerful pendant. What happens next is a deadly struggle with fantasy and reality. Can Benny and friends defeat the phantom and free Trudy? Will phantom Lord Lawrence free himself from this ancient curse and claim Catelin? Who is it that will live happily forever after?

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