



**DISCONNECTED**



**THE NUMBER YOU HAVE  
dialed is  
UNAVAILABLE!**

I lied in my bed talking to my best friend, Jenny, on the phone. "He's so cute," Jenny said with a high pitched squeal.

"I know! I think he might be the cutest boy in our class if not the whole school."

"I know!" Jenny replied. "I wish he would ask me out."

"He's not gonna ask *you* out, he's gonna ask *me* out," I joked.

Jenny's voice didn't respond.

"Jenny?"

Still no response.

I hung up the phone and called Jenny back. There was a strange tone followed by a voice "The number you have dialed has been disconnected. If you feel you have reached this message in error please hang up and dial again." The voice was totally dead; no tone or inflection, sending a shiver down my spine; though it sounded the same as it always had. I hung up the phone and prepared to dial again when the phone suddenly rang.

"Hello?" I spoke as I answered the phone.

"Hey, sorry about that," Jenny said sounding a bit exasperated. "This phone can be a bit stupid at times."

"It's fine," I responded.

"As I was saying, Mike is going to ask me out."

"Whatever," I said when there was a knock at my door. "Come in."

My dad peeked his head in through the ajar doorway. "Your mom and I are leaving, there's money on the table for dinner."

"Okay, thanks dad. Oh dad?"

"Yes," he responded peeking his head back into my room.

"Can Jenny come over while you and mom are out?"

"Sure sweetie." His head left and he closed the door.

"Hey my parents are going out to dinner for their anniversary, would you like to come over?"

"Sure!" she responded. "I'll grab a couple movies."

"Sounds good, don't forget to bring--" I heard a click from the other line. "Did she hang up?" I wondered as I dialed her number once again.

There was the same strange tone I heard earlier and the monotone voice began again. "The number you have dialed--"

"Yeah, yeah," I said as I prepared to hang up the phone.

"If you attempt to dial this number again, you will know the true meaning of fear," the voice replied in the same dead tone.

"W-w-what?" I enquired looking at the phone. There was a ringing tone and I heard "If you would like to make a call please hang up and try again." I hung up the call and set the phone down. I stared at it trying to figure out if I was being pranked by Jenny's brother. The phone suddenly rang, and I picked it up. "Hello?"

"Hey, why did you hang up on me?"

"I didn't your phone hung up on me."

"Whatever, what did you want me to bring?"

"Ummmm," I had to think, "bring a couple funny movies and bring your PJs we'll have a sleep over."

"Sounds like a plan. Okay, I gotta go tell my mom and then I'll be over."

"Alrighty," I replied and hung up the phone. I walked down stairs and found twenty bucks on the table; I pocketed it and headed into the living room to watch some television. I sat down watching some home shopping channel my mom had left on, seeing as how Melrose wasn't on, when the phone rang. I answered it only to hear some strange sound in the background. It sounded like the way an ironworks sounds in the movies. I listened intently as I heard what sounded like someone screaming in the background. I heard a click and the doorbell rang.

I jumped up off the couch and headed for the door. Upon opening it, I found Jenny standing there with a backpack slung over her shoulders. "Hey, what's up?" I said as Jenny walked in through the doorway.

"Not much," she replied dropping her backpack onto the couch.

"How many movies did you bring?"

"Three," she replied taking three VHS tapes out of her backpack.

"Cool, let's put one on." We rushed to the living room and popped one of the tapes into the VCR and fast forwarded through the previews of movies already released. "Hey, my parents left me some money, wanna order a pizza?"

"Yeah!"

"What kind?"

"Hawaiian!" Jenny shouted as I picked the cordless phone off of the receiver and dialed the pizza company. I put in the order and was told it'd be about twenty minutes. I hung up and sat down to watch the movie with Jenny. After about ten minutes Jenny turned to me. "Crap, I forgot to grab my tampons."

"Do you need some of mine?"

"No, I'd feel better if I had mine," she responded picking up the phone and dialing her house. She waited patiently and then had a confused look on her face. "What the hell?" She uttered. "Billy, stop playing around I need to use the phone." She stared at me as she handed me the phone.

"Hello?" I said in a shaky voice.

"I told you if you called again, I would show you the true meaning of fear," the dead tone voice spoke to me.

"Billy, let Jenny talk to your mom," I ordered.

There was a disturbing chuckle on the other end.

"Billy, knock it off," I replied.

CLICK! I looked at the phone in my hand before setting it back on the receiver.

"Sara, who was that?"

"I don't know," I responded.

DING-DONG! Jenny and I nearly jumped out of our skin. I ran to the door and looked out of the window. I saw a guy holding a pizza at the door. I sighed in relief as I opened the door. He was kinda cute so I flirted with him a bit and gave him the twenty. "Keep the change," I said trying to sound seductive. He smiled and headed back to his car. I brought the pizza to the dinner table. I was in the kitchen grabbing two plates when the phone rang. I dropped the plates on the floor, shattering them as I heard Jenny answer the phone.

"Hello?" I heard her say followed shortly by a high pitched scream. I ran to the living room to find the phone on the floor and Jenny screaming like a small girl who just had her little brother scare her.

I picked up the phone and listened to the voice speaking through the receiving end. "I'm going to sneak in through the backdoor and cut your head off and--" spoke a deep voiced boy.

"Billy, knock it off. It's not funny," I said back to him sternly.

"Oh hey Sara, I didn't know it was you," the prepubescent boy said trying to sound suave. "So, what are you up to?"

"Well," I said seductively. "I was just about to take a bath. You called while I was getting into the tub."

"Soooo...you're naked?"

"Uh huh," I said and could tell Jenny was about to laugh. "Well, not entirely I am wearing a robe."

"Oh really?"

"Yeah, I was hoping someone would come over and take a bath with me," I said trying not to bust out laughing.

"I could take a bath with you," he said rather excited.

"Oh yeah?" I snorted through my nose trying to refrain from laughing aloud.

"Yeah."

“Come on over stud,” I said busting out laughing. Jenny was laughing so hard she started to cry. “I’m just messing with you Billy,” I said putting the phone next to my ear again. “Billy?”

There was no response.

“Oh crap,” I said looking at Jenny who was wiping tears from her eyes.

“What?”

“I think your brother is coming over.”

“Are you serious?” Jenny enquired sounding a bit annoyed.

“Yeah.”

“Call him back and let him know it was a joke,” Jenny said as I dialed her number.

The tone came on. “Shit,” I said aloud not even meaning to let it slip. The tone ended just as I hung up the phone. DING-DONG! I panicked and ran towards the door. I looked outside to find no one at the door. Upon hearing the back gate opening I ran towards the sliding glass door and locked it.

I could tell something was out there staring at me. I flipped on the porch light to find nothing there. DING-DONG! The doorbell rang again. I heard banging upon the door. I slowly walked to the door and peeked out the window to see who was at the door. I saw Billy banging on the door.

Smiling happily to myself I ran back to Jenny. “It’s your brother, let him in and tell him I’m upstairs.” Jenny nodded. I ran upstairs and put on a robe over my T-shirt and shorts. I tied the robe shut and walked out into the hallway to find Billy standing at the bottom of the stairs with a huge smile across his face. “Hey,” I said in a seductive voice.

“Hey, can I join you?” He enquired.

‘Dang, boy doesn’t waste any time does he?’ I thought to myself.

“Sure,” I responded with a smile and raised my eyebrows. I began to walk to the bathroom and unfastened my robe. I turned around flashing my clothes to Billy sticking my tongue out at him.

“What the hell, Sara? I thought you were taking a bath,” he said sounding rather disappointed.

“What did you think was gonna happen?” I asked him.

“Well, I thought you were gonna be naked and I could see your...well you know,” he responded in a tone that was disappointed and shy simultaneously.

“Dream on,” I said taking the robe off and hanging it up. I went back downstairs to grab some more plates, I served Billy, Jenny and myself and we sat around watching some movies when the phone rang. I picked it up. “Hello?”

There was the same ironworks sound and screaming in the background. I turned around and found both of them watching the movie.

“What do you want?”

There was a chuckling on the other end followed shortly after by a CLICK! The doorbell rang and I jumped. Billy and Jenny turned back to look at me.

“It’s him again, isn’t it?” Jenny enquired.

I nodded and swallowed deep. The doorbell rang again.

“Who is it?” Billy asked finishing his pizza. “I’ll go kick his ass for you ladies,” he said trying to sound brave. He charged towards the front door and swung the door open. “Hey dickweed,” he shouted out the door, “leave the girls alone or I’ll kick your--”

“My what?” I heard a voice enquire of him from the shadows.

“A--” Billy was lifted off the doorstep and disappeared into the darkness. I ran over and slammed the door shut only to hear a banging on the door immediately after. I locked it as the banging continued and the phone began to ring.

Jenny ran over to the phone and picked it up. “What did you do with my brother?” she enquired of the phone. “Leave us alone!” She screamed. “Billy? Billy! It’s your sister. Just hang tight okay? We’ll help you. Billy?” I ran over as the pounding on the door began to cease. I took the phone from Jenny and listened.

I could hear the dead chuckling as Billy screamed at the top of his lungs in the background. “Put on channel one,” the dead tone voice spoke to me.

“Idiot, there is no channel one,” I replied.

“Put it on,” he repeated. I turned the TV on and flipped down to channel two. “One more,” he said. I flipped down one more and instead of going to the highest channel it went to channel one. There was Billy tied up in some sort of boiler room and a dark figure standing over him. “That’s a good girl,” the dead voice spoke to me as the dark figure on the television waved. I stared in disgust as the figure grabbed a corkscrew and began drilling it into Billy’s stomach.

I could tell he was screaming in pain even though I couldn’t hear him. “Stop! Stop you’re going to kill him!” I screamed as I watched Billy scream in terror. The figure on the television set down the corkscrew and picked up a drill. He drilled across Billy’s stomach from the side and flipped the apparatus Billy was strapped to upright, causing Billy’s intestines to spill out onto the ground. He coughed up blood as the figure went behind, grabbed his hair, and slit his throat.

I threw up onto the floor as the television screen went dark. Jenny stared in utter terror or shock at the portrayal of her brother’s murder. The dead tone laughter became louder and louder. The sound of broken glass raced to greet us downstairs. CLICK! The voice was gone again. I rushed upstairs and found the window in my parents’ room shattered to pieces on the floor. The sound of more glass shattering came from downstairs.

I rushed down the steps as quickly as I could to find the sliding glass door had been shattered. My pulse was racing as I stared at the door. The power went out in the entire house and I was left standing there alone. I felt a hand caress my breast and run down my body. I attempted to scream but felt like my throat was full of cotton. A dead chuckle emerged from behind me. “Try not to scream,” it said, I knew it was the voice from the phone. The hands released me.

“Sara?” Jenny called out for me.

“Jenny, he’s in here.”

“I don’t want to play this game anymore, Sara.”

There was a chuckle. “You should have thought of that before you called my number.”

“I didn’t call your number. I called my number.”

“You told me it was disconnected,” I shouted at him.

There was more chuckling. I heard Jenny scream.

“Get your damn hands off of me,” she cried out. I tried to run towards her but fell forward and smacked my head on the table.

My eyes slowly opened and I found my house set back to the way it was before. Jenny and Billy were no longer at my house. I picked up the phone and hesitantly dialed Jenny’s number. There was the tone. “I’m sorry the number you have dialed has been disconnected...permanently,” the dead tone spoke.

“No, no, no.” I screamed as loud as possible trying to wake myself up from my nightmare.

The chuckling continued and it never stopped. Not even as the house grew dim and the darkness surrounded me. He just kept laughing. I wonder what kind of joke he thought this was. I guess I’ll find out soon enough.