

DEATH CAPS (VER 2)

by

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Address
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1 EXT. RICHARD'S GRAVE - DAY 1

JUNIE BAKER (late 50s) sits near RICHARD BAKER's grave on a chilly fall day and cries. She wears black clothes to mourn her husband, hands filled with used tissues.

2 EXT. RICHARD'S GRAVE - NIGHT 2

She still sits at Richard's grave, gazing into the distance. She notices a GRAVEYARD STAFF MEMBER standing a short distance away tapping at his watch. She gives Richard's gravestone a caress, sniffles, then leaves.

3 INT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

Junie lays in a king-size bed by herself, reading a book. The bed is so large that it makes her look small and frail in comparison, an indent in the mattress where he used to be. She shivers and glances over to what was once Richard's side of the bed, melancholy in her eyes.

After a moment, she sighs and gets up.

4 INT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM CLOSET - CONTINUOUS 4

She turns on the light in the master bedroom's walk-in closet. Inside, she rummages around, half of it empty where Richard's clothes used to be. Finally, she finds a blanket on the top shelf and pulls it down. As it comes loose from its place on the shelf, another item falls, dropping at her feet.

She picks up the item. It's Richard's old leather field journal, worn out from years of use. Junie gives it a rueful smile and brings it back with her to bed along with the blanket.

5 INT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 5

Junie climbs back into bed with the blanket around her shoulders, sitting up against the headboard and opening the journal.

RICHARD (V.O.)
Professor Richard Baker,
mycologist, Penn. State University.

Junie turns the page and reads the first entry.

RICHARD (V.O.)

Many things have drawn me to the study of mushrooms, but what fascinates me endlessly is that they never truly die.

Junie ponders her husband's written words. She looks at her alarm clock, which reads midnight, and closes the journal, placing it on her nightstand. She turns off the light and falls asleep.

6 EXT. RICHARD'S GRAVE - DAY

6

Junie revisits Richard's grave. She places a bouquet of flowers near the gravestone and notices a beautiful bunch of mushrooms have grown around the gravestone. Instead of brushing them away, she smiles sadly.

JUNIE

Is that you, Richard?

Junie hesitates, but pulls out a napkin from her purse and picks the mushrooms from his grave. She leaves.

7 EXT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, YARD - DAY

7

Junie uses some old keys to open the door to the greenhouse out in her yard. The door reads "mycology lab".

8 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

8

The dust and white cloths covering everything make it clear the greenhouse hasn't been used in quite some time. It's dark and musty, and the dirty windows obscure the light.

She consults a scientific text on how to plant mushrooms from a dusty shelf and drags a bag of soil from a nearby closet, dumping it into a large rectangular tub.

She plants the mushrooms from the napkin into some fresh dirt. She wipes some sweat from her brow, streaking dirt on her face. The mushrooms are now planted and ready to grow. She gives them a small smile.

JUNIE

Welcome home.

9 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - DAY

9

Junie enters the greenhouse. To her dismay, she finds the mushrooms wilting and begins to tear up. Before she cries, she quickly wipes her tears away and pulls out Richard's field journal.

She flips through the pages, many of them containing sketches, and finds one that matches the unique appearance of the mushrooms in the tub. Relieved, she reads the page.

RICHARD (V.O.)

The fascinating mushroom species *Mortem vescor* is as about unique as they come. This fungus feeds on animal flesh and requires it to survive. Without proper nutrients, it's sure to wither.

At first, Junie is shocked. She steals a glance at the mushrooms. Seeing them in their miserable state hurts, her expression pained. She looks back at the field journal and nods.

JUNIE

Don't worry, darling. I'll get you what you need.

10 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - LATER

10

Junie returns with a grocery bag filled with different meats. She places the meat in the dirt near the mushrooms.

11 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - DAY

11

She peeks into the greenhouse, only to smell the stench of rotted meat. Many of the mushrooms have dried up completely, with a few still surviving. The ones that remain are withered and on the verge of death.

She gasps and runs out of the greenhouse, crying.

12 INT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER

12

Junie's eyes are red and puffy as she sits in front of the computer. The shades are drawn, and the only light in the room is from the computer screen.

She searches the *Mortem vescor* and how to make them grow. A reputable, academic website appears. She clicks it and reads that the mushrooms feed best on human flesh.

Once again, she is shocked, but Richard's field journal catches her eye. She puts her hand on it, determined.

JUNIE

I won't fail you. I promise.

13 EXT. RICHARD'S GRAVE - NIGHT 13

Junie sinks a shovel into the dirt of Richard's grave.

14 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - NIGHT 14

Junie uses all her strength to drag an object in a large black bag. She heaves it inside and barely lifts it into the mushroom tub, trembling as her frail body is pushed to its limits. She collapses down onto a chair, exhausted. Her face and clothes are covered with dirt.

After a moment of rest, she opens the bag to reveal a human body in decay. She touches its rotting cheek tenderly and tears up.

15 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - DAY 15

Junie checks on the mushrooms again. To her relief, they're feeding on Richard's body, which is now in an advanced state of decay, and beginning to come back. She is overjoyed.

JUNIE

Thank goodness. I thought I'd lost you.

She smiles and wipes away a tear rolling down her cheek. She gazes at the mushrooms for a while, then her attention turns toward the rest of the greenhouse. It's still in a dusty, worn state.

With renewed energy, she picks up a nearby broom and begins to clean. Junie sweeps the place out, cleans the windows, and pulls the white sheets off of the equipment. The greenhouse looks much brighter, the sun shining onto her grinning face.

She looks at the mushrooms and turns to the page of Richard's sketch of them. They don't look healthy, their pale color not matching the vivid drawing.

16 INT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER 16

Junie sits at the computer again, this time with the curtains open and light streaming into her room.

Like last time, she searches for how to make the *Mortem vescor* grow, but this time, she clicks on a dodgy-looking forum site.

On the site, she reads an anonymous user's post claiming they have spent all their lives researching the *Mortem vescor*. Her eyebrows raise when she reads that the mushrooms thrive best when dining on live human flesh.

At first, she shakes her head in disbelief but then notices how many upvotes the post has. It must be true.

RICHARD (V.O.)
There's nothing quite like giving
everything you have to make
something grow.

Junie grabs a photo of the two of them together from her desk and gazes at it.

17 INT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 17

Junie has been lost in thought for quite some time. She stands and takes one last meaningful look at the photo before walking out the door.

18 INT. RICHARD'S GREENHOUSE - CONTINUOUS 18

Junie enters the greenhouse and shuts the door behind her, walking up to the bin.

JUNIE
Don't worry, dear. I'm coming.

Gradually, she lays down next to her husband in the bin, on the same side she used to lay with him in her bed and closes her eyes. She plucks one of the mushrooms from the dirt and places it in her mouth.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. JUNIE'S HOUSE, YARD - DAY 19

The sun shines down onto the yard in a spotless blue sky. Masses of beautiful, brightly-colored mushrooms have burst out of the windows and roof. The greenhouse overflows with the mushrooms, which imbues it with new life.