

# ECHO OF GUILT

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FADE IN:

**EXT. RESIDENTIAL ESTATE - DUSK**

A large, isolated manor overlooking the black, churning waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

**SUPER: CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS - DECEMBER, 2039**

Lightning streaks across the sky. Clouds darken as they roll towards the shore. A storm is brewing.

**INT. RESIDENTIAL ESTATE - DUSK**

Expensively furnished. The old manor been completely remodeled and has every technological gadget imaginable:

AT THE FRONT DOOR - smart locks and motion sensors.

ON EACH WINDOW - steel, remote-controlled security shutters.

IN THE KITCHEN - smart appliances.

**LIVING ROOM**

On one wall, a high-tech control panel with sensors and settings for everything in the house that's monitored and controlled electronically.

On the opposite wall, a twelve-foot wide TV screen, so thin it appears if it is part of the wall itself. A football game is in progress.

Next to the TV on a small table, an AMAZON ECHO CYLINDER.

A large, leather reclining sofa faces the TV. Slumped on that sofa is DREW JONES (45), with a beer in one hand and a TV remote in the other.

The blue light ringing the top of the Echo Cylinder illuminates, then --

A three-foot-tall ALEXA HOLOGRAM materializes. It appears as a nondescript woman with a blue hue.

Drew pauses and mutes the TV.

DREW

The fuck...? Alexa, power down.

The Alexa Hologram fades back into the Echo Cylinder like a genie returning to its bottle.

Drew points his remote at the TV. Just as he's about to resume his show, the blue light illuminates again and the Alexa Hologram reappears.

DREW  
What the fuck?

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Massachusetts reinstated the death penalty in the year two-thousand thirty-eight.

DREW  
Damn it... I didn't ask you any --

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Qualification for the death penalty requires the existence of special circumstances.

DREW  
Who the fuck are you talking to?

An iridescence ghostly shape moves slowly behind the sofa. This is MELANIE JONES (deceased). She faces the Alexa Hologram.

The Ghost of Melanie turns and faces the Alexa Hologram.

NOTE: When the Ghost of Melanie speaks, we can hear it - Drew cannot. He's totally unaware.

MELANIE THE GHOST  
What are special circumstances?

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Special circumstances include murder for financial gain, murder of a witness, lying in wait --

DREW  
Alexa, who are you talking to!?

An ominous pause.

MELANIE THE GHOST  
Alexa, provide my bio.

ALEXA HOLGORAM  
Melanie Jones. Born December first, two-thousand and one. Presumed dead, July tenth, two-thousand and thirty-nine.

ALEXA HOLGORAM (CONT'D)

Cause of death, undetermined.  
Victim's body - not discovered.

A stunned Drew whips his head around the room. He can't see what we see - The Ghost of Melanie facing the Alexa Hologram.

DREW

That's impossible!

MELANIE THE GHOST

Alexa, analyze cause of death.  
Ignore all requests to power down.

ALEXA HOLOGRAM

Initiating death investigation.  
Sound analysis application opened.  
Date assessed, July tenth, two  
thousand and thirty-nine.

DREW

Stop!

ALEXA HOLOGRAM

Detected words on date specified,  
three-hundred and twenty-two. Voice  
pattern analysis initiated.

DREW

I said fucking stop!

ALEXA HOLOGRAM

Sound patterns detected: Male  
voice, ninety-six percent anger.  
Female voice, eighty-three percent  
fear.

DREW

Alexa, power down.

ALEXA HOLOGRAM

Power down voice command no longer  
enabled.

Drew stands.

MELANIE THE GHOST

Alexa, play back sounds just prior  
to death.

ALEXA HOLOGRAM

Sample sound playback initiated.

DAVID (V.O.)  
(thru the Alexa Speaker)  
I'll fucking kill you, you  
miserable cunt!

MELANIE (V.O.)  
No... no... no!

DREW (V.O.)  
You won't get a fucking dime from  
me!

Then from the speaker a sickening WHACK is heard. Then --  
The THUMP of a body hitting the floor.

MELANIE (V.O.)  
(whimpering)  
Please, no... I --

WHACK - WHACK - something hitting skin. Then -  
HEAVY PANTING - from an exhausted male.

DREW  
That was recorded...?

MELANIE THE GHOST  
Alexa, state cause of death.

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Death assessment initiated...  
(a beat)  
Cause of death, homicide. Sound  
analysis indicates a blunt  
instrument.

Drew looks towards the Fireplace. His focus lands on a black  
iron fireplace poker.

The Ghost of Melanie approaches the TV.

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Perpetrator of the offense, Drew  
Jones, born October, second,  
nineteen, ninety-five.

DREW  
That's fucking enough.

As Drew starts towards the Alexa Hologram, The Ghost of  
Melanie moves between them.

Drew feels a sudden and deep chill - stops in his tracks.

MELANIE THE GHOST  
Alexa, render verdict.

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Verdict reached. Guilty.

DREW  
Fuck off!

MELANIE THE GHOST  
Alexa, determine sentence.

ALEXA HOLGORAM  
Case assessment in progress.  
(a beat)  
Special circumstances apply.  
Sentence is death.

MELANIE THE GHOST  
Alexa, carry out sentence.

ALEXA HOLGORAM  
Checking available methods.  
(a beat)  
Method is fire.

DREW  
Fuck you.

ALEXA HOLGORAM  
Initiating fuel source.

CUT TO:

FIREPLACE - Burner pilot light extinguished.

FURNACE - Burner pilot light extinguished.

KITCHEN - Stove lights are extinguished.

**BACK IN LIVING ROOM**

Drew sniffs - he can start to smell the gas.

DREW  
You don't think I can't just walk  
out of here? You're as dumb as she -

ALEXA HOLOGRAM  
Initiating containment measures.

CUT TO:

FRONT DOOR - The smart locks on the doors CLICK shut.

WINDOWS - stainless steel security shutters close concealing  
the windows.

REAR DOOR - The smart locks on the doors CLICK shut.

**BACK IN LIVING ROOM**

Drew's eyes widen in panic. He bolts towards the --

**FRONT DOOR**

In full panic tries to open it - no luck.

He goes to the nearest window - pounds on the steel shutters.

**LIVING ROOM**

Drew bolts back in.

DREW

Stop!

ALEXA HOLOGRAM

Imposing sentence.

A socket near the television SPARKS.

**EXT. RESIDENTIAL ESTATE - NIGHT**

Rain pounds down - the storm's arrived.

DREW (O.S.)

No!!!

A window illuminates with a flame, then --

BOOM! The house explodes sending remnants into the night air.

The Ghost of Melanie emerges from the flames, strolls towards the ocean.

FADE OUT