

TARGETED AND TRIGGERED

Written by

David Thompson

Targeted by malevolent spirits, a love-struck and insecure teens worse nightmare is realized when her boo since the sixth grade breaks up with her through a text. This unleashes her most passionate and fatal desires.

11466 Golden Street  
Adelanto CA 92301  
909-731-3013

FADE IN:

BLACK

OMINOUS MUSIC PLAYS (Epic Cinematic music)

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

The Milky Way Galaxy rises and appears to spins around earth and dissolves in the dawn.

The sun rises.

CAPTION:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Menacing dark clouds on the horizon.

Rock-strewn gully from the view of invisible ENTITIES. They rise above ground level and the desert floor stretches out in to the horizon.

TRACT HOMES - MORNING

A blood-red sun rises above shaded mountains. Dogs are barking. Birds are singing.

COMMUNITY ENTRANCE

Looking like it was created by a child, a quail is painted on the brick wall. "Quail Run" is written below.

Up the inclined street are identical wood-framed tract homes.

EXT. NIKKI'S HOME - DAY

The muffled sound of a love song plays.

EXT. NIKKI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Describe room.

Looking from outside through the window. A young woman finishes sliding

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

into a matching top and bottom set. She pulls her hair down. Then texts on her cell.

CELL

Hearts surrounds Brendon's contact. She carefully texts. (to speech)

"Mom just left for the mall. Getting ready. Come soon. I wanna spend all the time I can.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Reflected in a mirror

In front of the mirror Nikki delicately puts earrings on.

She finishes a an application of lipstick with a kiss.

EXT./INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Looking from the backyard into open windows, a peppy youngster of a woman, NIKKI 20s, wiggles and shakes corny dance moves from the kitchen to the dining room and back.

She freezes her moves, tips her pink rose-colored shades down to peek over her nose, and picks up her phone off the counter.

SNAPSHOT

Sound of a shutter snapping a selfie.

Cute selfie of Nikki.

KITCHEN

Dishes are piled in the sink; cereal, milk, orange juice, and a bowl of cereal sitting on the counter.

CELL PHONE:

Cutesy pink nails slide to tap out a message on a glitter cased cell phone to "Brendan My Boo." Hearts surround his name. Nikki trembles voice-to-text.

NIKKI (V.O.)

I, I was so afraid, but I should have known you'd forgive me after all the crap you've done.

Nikki sighs.

NIKKI (V.O.)

Besides, it was only a kiss. When are you going to get here?

Nikki ends call and returns to dancing.

SKY

Below are multiple views from the entities as they zoom over the desert floor, scrub brush, and Joshua trees.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

As if she heard something, Nikki stops dancing, taps the music off, freezes, then whips her head around. She looks up.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Flying up and above the desert, menacing dark clouds form on the horizon.

BELOW

On the desert floor, shrubland, littered with tumbleweeds and oddly shaped Joshua trees blaze past.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

Nikki stands frozen, then taps the music back on.

She returns to dancing.

Nikki does a number of silly, some awkward, some precise, dance moves.

She stops and looks at her cell.

CELL

Pink nails tap and swipe Twitter, TikTok, and Instagram.

NIKKI

She laughs and giggles at what she sees.

KITCHEN

She spoons up cereal and sips on orange juice. A notification DING echoes.

Looking closer,

CELL

New message from: "Brendan My Boo." Hearts surround his name. Nikki's eyes get big.

SERIES OF MESSAGES:

DING. I keep thinking about it.

DING. Like a hoe, you let him kiss you.

DING. No. We not good. Thought you were better than that.

You ain't--

The cell falls from her hands.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
What-the-Fuck!

Her speakers disconnect but the music keeps playing. She does a puzzled double-take at the disconnected speakers and swallows.

NIKKI  
Stop!

The music stops, she dashes to the sink, leans back, her eyes roll back showing on the whites. Grabbing the counter she pulls her hair to her side, folds over, throws up, snatches a paper towel, wipes her mouth, then staggers back to her phone.

CELL

Nikki speaks clear and loud. The text appears on the screen as she speaks.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
We've been together since the 6th  
grade.

She pokes the send button, then more text to speech.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
It was only a kiss, exclamation  
point! He kissed me, exclamation  
point.

She pokes the send button.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
You fucked those girls, exclamation  
point, exclamation point,  
exclamation point.

She smashes the send button with her knuckle.

NIKKI

While waiting, she continues to glance at her phone.

No response.

Snatching her cell up, Nikki paces between the kitchen and dining room. She glares at the phone in her hand.

NIKKI  
Should I have told him? Did I screw  
myself?

Slamming her cell HARD on the counter, Nikki opens a cabinet with medicines to rummage and retrieve a prescription.

Hands shaking, she shakes out a couple of pills, looks at the label:

LABEL

TAKE 1 PILL AS NECESSARY EVERY 6 HOURS FOR ANXIETY,

NIKKI

She sighs, plops them in her mouth, and washes them down with gulps of orange juice straight from the bottle.

Slamming the bottle down, she grabs the counter and braces herself, takes some deep breaths, picks her phone back up, and glares at it. She looks confused.

CELL

The phone prompts for the deletion of Brendan. "Are you sure you want to delete this contact?"

NIKKI

Even the phone is on my side. I don't believe this. No.

COMMUNITY ENTRANCE

Entities view of the "Quail Run" drawing as they fly towards and over it.

EXT. NIKKI'S BACK YARD - DAY (ENTITIES P.O.V.)

Watching from outside her home, the ENTITIES lower past her bedroom window to hover outside her patio door. A shrill voice speaks

ENTITY ONE (V.O.)

There she is.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP. Sounds like a heartbeat.

INT./EXT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

Inside, Nikki paces back and forth. She keeps looking at her cell phone then stops and peers out the patio door.

ENTITY TWO (V.O.)

Our merciless mission begins. Get into their heads!

Eerie laughing.

The entity's view moves toward the glass. Pulled by Nikki, the blinds shut in front of them.

DING! A notification tone sounds.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Nikki looks down at her cell.

ABOVE

The entities looking down on her.

PHONE

Nikki scrolls through a series of bubble messages.

Nikki:

"I love you."

"It was only a kiss. He kissed me."

Brendan:

"I can't get past this babe."

Nikki:

"It was a sneak attack. You know how men do."

DING! New Message appears: "I told you, this is not going to work."

She peers at her cell then begins to pace back and forth, breathing deeply, she is almost in tears.

ENTITY THREE (V.O.)

He never cared. Just used you and  
slept around. Stupid you forgave  
him and trusted him--

NIKKI

--Again and again. I still don't  
believe this crap! Breaking up with  
me, in a text. After what he's he  
put me through. Son-of-a-bitch.

She walks past plants, the closed patio curtains, and bookshelves. She spins around and starts again.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Hell of a freaking no! He cheated  
on me.

She stops, hyperventilates, texts a message:



CELL PHONE

"I didn't do anything. YOU need to take me back."

She pounds the SEND button.

"I will kill myself and it will be your fault."

"DING" Brendon replies:

"Do that. Play that game. You're a loser."

Frustrated and breathing heavy, Nikki taps contacts and selects Jewell.

A photo of a woman's nails manicured with shiny stones appears.

Nikki taps "Call."

JEWELL (BFF), 20s, answers. INTERCUT Nikki and Jewel's conversation.

JEWELL (V.O.)  
Hey girl! What's up?

NIKKI  
I told him.

JEWELL (V.O.)  
No!

NIKKI  
Yes. I know you told me not to--

JEWELL (V.O.)  
--That's what I said. And not to take him back -- years ago. Now he's gonna turn it around on you. I told you.

NIKKI  
I wanted to be honest.

JEWELL (V.O.)  
Good luck with that. Sorry, I gotta go.

Before she can reply, the cell displays "Call ended."

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

The drive-thru entrance to the classic budget hotel.

The curtains are drawn on room 111.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

The glow from a cell phone barely illuminates the silhouette of a woman huddled in the corner.

She cradles the phone in her hand.

CELL PHONE

On the screen, Jewell's stoned studded manicured fingers swipe through texts between Nikki and Brendan. A toilet flushes. The screen goes black.

INT./EXT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

ENTITY FOUR (V.O.)

(whispering)

You can not trust men. You can not trust anyone.

NIKKI

I thought he was different. Damn, I thought she was different. That she would be there for me. Isn't that what friends are for?

(beat)

I thought he might do this, this kind of crap. I should have never told him.

She angrily walks over to a hanging plant.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

Do you have something to say?

She punches the plant. It shakes and swings.

NIKKI (CONT'D)

I didn't think so.

Items on the bookshelf stare at her. Behind them are spiritual and psychological books.

SERIES OF SHOTS

A BIG BIRD toy with wheels.

A ceramic BUNNY.

A crystal bust of JESUS.

A crystal ANGEL.

LIVING ROOM

She looks at the bunny.

It glares back at her.

She looks into its eyes.

NIKKI

What are you freaking looking at?  
You think I'm stupid? Do you?

The high pitch voice of the Bunny shrieks.

BUNNY (V.O.)

You are stupid. Bunnies don't talk.  
Why don't you ask Jesus or the  
Angel?

Nikki looks from the plant to her cell.

NIKKI

Smartass!

PHONE

Nikki taps the contact for Mother. She selects VIDEO CALL.

The Bunny laughs.

BUNNY (V.O.)

Yeah. Call mommy.

The call connects.

NIKKI

Shut-the-fuck-up!

At an ATM, Annoyed and offended, MOTHER 40s, musters some concern.

MOTHER

Nikki? Are you okay, I'm shopping.

FADE OUT.

INT. KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - DAY

Nikki's cell stares up at her as she paces. INTERCUT MOTHER'S responses.

NIKKI

Mom, you're always doing some shopping. You should stay home sometime.

Her mom looks to the side. She hears whispers.

ENTITY (V.O.)

Your daughter thinks she is the parent.

Her mother frowns up.

MOTHER

Nik, are you okay?

Nikki shakes her head. Nikki's eyes frown.

NIKKI

Mom, I hate when you call me that. And you always call me that.

ENTITY (V.O.)

Your mother does not care what you think. She never wanted children.

Nikki sighs.

NIKKI

You should know how I am.

Nikki's mother smirks.

ENTITY (V.O.)

You are the parent. She is the child. Who is the boss here?

She looks back to Nikki.

MOTHER

You should know how I am. I am your mother. I'll be there later.

Examining Nikki's face on her cell, her mom squints.

MOTHER (CONT'D)  
Did you take your medication?

NIKKI  
That medication doesn't work for me.

MOTHER  
So you're the doctor?

NIKKI  
Maybe you should come home now.

MOTHER  
What are you talking about?

DING! New message. Nikki looks down. Hearts and Brendan.

"I'm sorry baby. I forgive you."

Nikki's eyes water up. She attempts a smile.

NIKKI  
I'm okay, boyfriend problems, see you later.

Her mother starts to speak.

Nikki ends the call and texts.

Nikki's Text reply with hearts. "Really babe? I knew you loved me. (Heart emoji)"

DING! New message.

FUCK NO YOU STUPID WHORE! OH, YOU ARE BLOCKED

Nikki gasps and looks up. Big Bird, Bunny, and the Angel have turned around, their backs to her. Jesus faces her.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
That's freaking better! Stay in your places!

She glares at crystal Jesus.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
What about you?

Expressionless, Crystal Jesus looks at her.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
Whatever.

Nikki presses the contact "Brendon". A VOICE MAIL RECORDING answers.

VOICE MAIL RECORDING (V.O.)  
I'm sorry but the person you have  
dialed has a voice mail that has  
not been set up--

Nikki grunts "GRRRRRRRR" then taps "end call."

She looks up at the PLANT.

The plant gently sways.

NIKKI  
What? You got something to say now?

The plant whispers.

PLANT (V.O.)  
No. Stupid.

Nikki confronts the plant. She intently stares at it.

NIKKI  
Hunh? What? Your life is over.

The plant abruptly stops swinging.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
That what I thought. Stay in your  
place. I'll get back to you later.

As soon as Nikki turns, the plant returns to swing.

SECONDS LATER

Nikki returns with scissors.

FLOOR

Sounds of scissors snipping, LOUD THUMPS as leaves and stems  
CRASH onto the hardwood floor.

ROOM

The plant is destroyed. All that remains is a few leaves.

NIKKI  
How ya' feeling now?

Nikki begins pacing back and forth again. THUMP. THUMP. THUMP. Like a heartbeat.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
 What am I supposed to do now? What  
 am I supposed to do?

LATER

Nikki slumps in a stuffed chair, her phone in her hands.  
 She reads the texts displayed on the phone.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
 I love you. It was only a kiss! He  
 kissed me, I didn't even kiss him  
 back!

DING. A new message appears: "Kissing is like sex with your  
 mouth. You're a cunt; a lip kissing, tongue licking hoe!"

NIKKI (V.O.)  
 (wistfully)  
 Just a day ago, I was his little  
 pooh bear that could do nothing  
 wrong. You used to be my best  
 friend.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS

NIKKI AND BRENDON DANCING TO DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION

NIKKI AND BRENDON JUMPING AROUND IN ANOTHER GAME.

Another game, Nikki and Brendon maneuvering on the river,  
 they bump into each other, accidentally then intentionally.  
 The games plays in the background as they turn to each other  
 as if to kiss. He puts her hand around her back and pulls her  
 closer to kiss. She looks at him like he's crazy.

NIKKI  
 What are doing? You know we just  
 friends.

He pulls her closer,

BRENDON  
 Hey, you know we been friends a  
 long time?

She starts to turn away. He pulls her back. She barely  
 resists, then turns and looks him in the eyes.

NIKKI  
 I like you but you, you not right.  
 I seen the parade of girls.

BRENDON  
 (pleading)  
 Not like you, they just

NIKKI  
 --fuck buddies?!

BRENDON  
 Yeah. No. You know. I want  
 something real, and fun.

He takes her hands in his, brings them up, leans down, lowers  
 his head, kisses them, and gives her the innocent puppy look.

BRENDON (CONT'D)  
 Like us.

NIKKI  
 I'm gonna give you a chance--

He pulls her to him and holds her.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
 Only one.

Looking over her shoulder at him his eyes now look serious.  
 His expression puzzling.

BRENDON  
 Thank you baby, you won't regret  
 it.

BACK TO SCENE

Nikki jumps up to look at Jesus and the Angel.

NIKKI  
 That man kissed me. Was I really  
 that bad? Was it? I told him to  
 stop. Should I have slapped him?  
 Kicked him?



JESUS (V.O.)  
Your sins are forgiven.

NIKKI  
Did I sin? Are you saying that was  
a sin? Is he right, I'm a whore?

JESUS (V.O.)  
No, it was a kiss. Sometimes the  
one who gives the kiss is the  
guilty one.

NIKKI  
Then Brendan should forgive me,  
right? Right?

JESUS  
Forgive one another... I forgive  
you.

Nikki begins pacing again. Abruptly stopping, she points at  
the Angel like he is on trial.

NIKKI  
You! What do you have to say?

ANGEL  
To err is human; to forgive,  
divine.

Nikki shakes her head

NIKKI  
That's the best you got? Nothing  
original?

ANGEL  
The quote is timeless.

Nikki sighs a deep breath and returns to pacing.

NIKKI  
Freaking men don't forgive or  
forget crap. They want your  
forgiveness when they do shit but  
be damned if you can squeeze a drop  
of compassion out of them when it's  
your turn.

She stops and stares.

ENTITY (V.O.)  
(whispering)  
He made you his bitch.  
(MORE)

ENTITY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You're going to let him get away  
with this after all you've done for  
him?

NIKKI

He's not going to get away with  
this.

She reopens the curtains. The bright light illuminates her  
tear-streaked face.

A surreal glow envelops her.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A neon thundercloud with lightning below glows above Nikki's  
bed. Pictures and photos depicting skulls, death, and sadness  
adorn her wall.

Nikki sits on the edge of the bed. Her hands shake as she  
pours way too many pills from a prescription bottle into her  
palm. She shoves them into her mouth as if she did not do it  
quickly she would not do it at all. Popping open a can of  
soda, she guzzles them down.

Tears form in her eyes.

The skulls, death, and sad photos appear to stare at her from  
the walls.

Nikki plops back on her be and closes her eyes.

NIKKI

Lord have mercy on me.

FADE OUT.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

A beautiful California sunset.

LATER

A dim lamp light displays a pale Nikki sprawled on her back in bed. Her eyeballs roll back showing the white; she takes a deep breath, exhales, but does not inhale.

Her arm hangs over the edge of the bed.

In her other hand, next to her face, is her cell phone.

The last text sent FROM Nikki at 10:45 displays:

"I love you! I didn't mean to hurt you. You were my life."

DING. A new message appears from Brenden, received at 1100:

"I love you too. I am sorry, I just got angry. I just needed some time. Thinking about someone kissing your sweet lips made me crazy."

Her lips are dry, pale, and lifeless.

DING. A new message appears, received at 1101:

"I've been the whore. You've forgiven me so many times. Will you forgive me now?"

DING. New Message: "Hello?"

DING. New Message: "Hey baby, don't be like that."

DING. New Message: "You going to make me come over and beg???"

The time on her cell phone changes to the next minute.

EXT. MALL - DAY

Mother's sedan is parked in the lot.

INT. SEDAN - DAY

Mother's finger shakes when she taps the icon for Nikki.

The phone goes to voice mail.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
Hey, it's me. Do what you know to do!

MOTHER (V.O.)  
Damn teenagers. Sometimes I wish that girl was never born!

Nikki's heartbeat softly s-l-o-w-l-y thumps.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In a fog, Nikki talks to the bust of Jesus.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
You said I was Forgiven? Really?

A bright light fills the space in front of her

JESUS (V.O.)  
For every one that asketh  
receiveth; and he that seeketh  
findeth; and to him that knocketh  
it shall be opened.

ENTITY (V.O.)  
(whispering)  
Do not listen to Him. You are  
hopeless, helpless, and pitiful. No-  
one loves you. Not your mom. Not  
your boyfriend. No one.  
(beat)  
You don't even love you.

Tears run down Nikki's cheeks. She speaks in a weak whisper.

The thump of her heartbeat slows further.

NIKKI (V.O.)  
They don't have to care. They don't  
have to love. I do.

MONTAGE - NIKKI HELPING OTHERS

Each scene evaporates before her as she reaches out to help.

--Nikki hands a breakfast meal to a homeless person.

--Nikki digs for a dollar giving it to a man at the curb.

--Nikki carries groceries in to the kitchen.

--Nikki pulls a woman back from the curb before a car hits her.

Without Nikki

--The man at the the curb rubs his stomach.

--The homeless man counts pennies in his hand.

--Her mother struggles with groceries.

--The woman steps out in front of the car.

Nikki softly whispers.

NIKKI

Oh my God, I won't be able to love  
again.

(beat)

I want to live.

The thump of her heartbeat stops.

BLACK

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

She lay on her bed, below her hand the empty pill bottle.

EXT. NIKKI'S HOME - BACKYARD (ENTITIES P.O.V.)

Looking at Nikki's second-floor window. The entities speak

ENTITIES (V.O.)

Onto the next tragedy,  
disappointment, setback, or  
rejection.

The view of her window retreats and they travel between the  
homes away from Nikki's house and past "Quail Run."

ENTITIES (V.O.)

There are thousands more like her  
needing only a push over the edge  
from those they call their loved  
ones, friends, and us.

Hideous laughter fades.

BLACK

NIKKI (V.O.)  
(screaming)  
I want to live.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nikki's body twitches.

The POUNDING of Nikki's heart returns.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nikki gasps a deep breath and sits up, eyes wide open.

Mouth agape, she looks around, astonished.

Her heartbeat softens to a normal pace. The THUMPING fades out.

She cups her hand over her mouth, bounces up, and dashes out of her room. The sounds of her throwing up are heard, the toilet flushes, then water is heard running.

Dashing back to her bedroom, she glances down at the text messages from Brendan. She shakes her head.

Hands shaking, she presses hard and shuts down the phone. She sits, stretches, and opens the blinds. Sunlight floods in on Nikki, her eyes bright and wide, hopeful.

NIKKI  
I choose life! And all the crap and  
crappy people it throws at me.

She looks up.

NIKKI (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

Nikki looks at her wall. Unnoticed before, in the amid of the negativity on her wall,

She leans in to read a torn piece of paper pinned to the wall scribbled in her handwriting.

NOTE:

NIKKI (V.O.)  
 ...on the contrary, it is rather  
 for you to forgive and to comfort,  
 lest by over abundant sorrow such a  
 one may be swallowed up; wherefore,  
 I call upon you to confirm love...  
 (2 Corinthians 2:7-8)

INT. NIKKI'S BEDROOM - DAY

The old photos of death and doom have been replaced by motivational quotes. The cloud and thunder neon art is now a cute neon cat and neon art spelling out "hello love."

Nikki peers at a web page on her laptop. Her facing glowing, she types.

LAPTOP

Displayed on the screen is a suicide prevention website:  
 suicidepreventionlifeline.org states:

NIKKI (V.O.)  
 Everybody has a role to play in  
 preventing suicide, and the  
 Lifeline has lots of ways you can  
 take part. With your help, we can  
 spread awareness about suicide  
 prevention and mental health, and  
 save lives.

NIKKI'S FACE

She takes a big breath and

LAPTOP

Her finger clicks on "VOLUNTEER." She nods her head as if to say "finished."  
 SERIES OF SHOTS

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

PLANTING PLANTS

WATERING PLANTS

