



Released in 2007 as “Cold Blood Canyon,” a title that alludes to Beverly Hills’ Coldwater Canyon, at least, “**Paranormal Apparition: Revenge From Beyond the Grave**” benefits not all from the subsequent change. (Isn’t “Paranormal Apparition” redundant, anyway?) When the Myers are searching for a house in the hills of Beverly, their agent shows them a dwelling whose price tag is, at once, too good to be true and too low to pass up. When pressed, the agent admits, as is required by California law, that a headline-making murder was committed there several years earlier. Perspective buyers haven’t exactly been lining up to survey the house, “even though the victim was a celebrity.” The ghosts don’t waste any time before making themselves known to teenage daughter, Danielle (Lulu Brud), who would prefer to live anywhere else in L.A. Because her parents can’t see or hear the ghosts, they’re in no hurry to reconsider their investment. Worse, yet, they decide to split for Palm Springs, leaving Danielle to fend for herself for the weekend. The ghost of a worm-faced woman does appear to her boyfriend, who, less than gallantly, splits before she can even take off her bra. Haunted-house movies have been produced using the same template for decades, even as audiences ask the same question, “Why don’t they just leave?” Alec Tuckman neatly dodges the issue by adding a reasonably credible backstory for the ghosts, while also giving Danielle the backbone to confront them on her own. Once that happens, “Paranormal Apparition” is able to stake new claims of its own.

– Gary Dretzka

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