

Like Clockwork

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Based on a Tiktok by @price.c

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INT. REHAB CENTER KITCHEN - EVENING

HANNAH, a college-age smoker, flips on the lights to reveal a narrow galley kitchen.

UNKNOWN (V.O)

Welcome to Sunrise House Rehab Center.
Please enjoy your stay here.

The camera pans to a painting of the founder of Sunrise House, a short, grey-haired man. The nameplate of the painting says "CHESTER VANDORF." Hannah is leaning against the counter, lighting a new cigarette opposite the painting.

UNKNOWN (V.O)

Here at Sunrise House, we're here to help you with your problems, so no substance use.

Cut to Hannah taking a long drag as he says this.

UNKNOWN (V.O)

And as you may have seen Sunrise has it's very own beautiful garden! Just stay out of it at night and you'll be safe.

The garden is shown, desecrated and overgrown. The voiceover switches to Hannah as the camera switches from Hannah and the elements of the garden.

HANNAH (V.O)

Rule one: The clocktower should never ring. Cover your ears if it does.

Cut to a bronze statue of a Victorian woman, a clock built in around her feet.

HANNAH (V.O)

Rule two: The flowers will whisper.
Don't listen.

Cuts to a field of flowers, you hear faint high-pitch giggles and whispers.

HANNAH (V.O)

Rule Three: The tall grass watches.
don't look back at it.

Cut to the tall grass. There is a rustling in it and the glint of eyes

HANNAH (V.O)
 Rule Four: The bench may look
 inviting, but it's not. Don't sit
 down.

Cut to an old ornate bench. The lamppost light flickers above
 it and you can see a shadowy figure of a man.

HANNAH (V.O)
 And most importantly,

Cut back to Hannah as a loud ringing sounds. She turns her
 head to the sound of the clock, forgetting to cover her ears.

HANNAH (V.O)
 Don't break the rules.

Hannah steps out of the kitchen in a daze, the camera spins
 behind her back, and when it's facing her head again, shes in
 front of the garden's entrance.

EXT. ZEN GARDEN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

As she walks through the entryway, she feels a powerful
 shiver run up her spine, but she keeps walking.

HANNAH
 (muttering)
 Okay creepy ass garden, I'm here, now
 what do you want from me?

EXT. ZEN GARDEN, GRASSY AREA - NIGHT

The bell rings again in the distance and the grass waves in
 the breeze. Small, childish giggles ring from it.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE
 (echoing)
 Who's here? Don't lurk, you scoundrel.

HANNAH
 Hello? Who's there?

The voices begin to echo response in an older man's voice.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE
 (echoing)
 Eleanor! I've returned to the garden
 for you, my dear!

HANNAH

There's two of you? Where the hell are you hiding?

Hannah begins to walk further in the garden looking for the source. They switch back to ELEANOR's voice.

ELEANOR (V.O)

(echoing)

Oh, so you only can visit when it conveniences you, Chester?

HANNAH

Chester... Hey, wait, that's the old geezer running this joint.

A pair of eyes peer from the tall grass nearby. Hannah spots them and starts running over.

HANNAH

What the hell are you doing in that grass Chester? Get out of there.

The grass bends and a low growl emanates from it. Hannah jumps back, very startled. She hears the grass again and feels herself move forward almost subconsciously.

EXT. ZEN GARDEN, BENCH - NIGHT

She continues forward, deeper into the garden, and stops when she sees a young man concealed in shadows on a bench

HANNAH

Hey, which way out of here?

SAD MAN shushes her and points in front of him where two hazy figures materialize.

ELEANOR

(filled with anguish, almost wailing)

You can't leave me here Chester, you promised! You promised!

CHESTER

(voice calm and unwavering)

My dear, we will both be immortal! Its a simple price don't you think

HANNAH

Who are they?

SAD MAN

Lovers.

HANNAH

(scoffing)

They don't seem to be in love to me.

SAD MAN

Yes, love is a fickle thing isn't it?

He sighs happily, smiling eerily, and looks to Hannah for the first time. His eyes have long, black tears pouring down his cheeks.

SAD MAN (CONT.)

Isn't it poetic?

Hannah steps back, visibly startled.

HANNAH

Uh nice, now how do I get out of here?

Sad Man points to the center and Hannah sprints away.

EXT. ZEN GARDEN, CLOCK AREA - NIGHT

HANNAH

(heavy breathing)

Fuck my smoker's lungs, fuck this garden for making me run. I bet I can sue this place. Stupid Chester putting a-

ELEANOR (O.S)

Chester?

Hannah looks up, realizing she's in the center of the garden with the clock statue.

ELEANOR

Forgive us garden folk, my dear, it's been a long time since we've had a human stupid enough to walk in.

We see a pan of the woman's her victorian dress all covered in bronze and leaves, and her braided hair kept up by a beautiful flower pin.

HANNAH

Completely fine, now on the topic of an exit- Wait did you just call me

stupid?

ELEANOR

(giggling)

My, you're a fun one. Have you come to free me?

HANNAH

Free you..?

ELEANOR

Have you not listened to any of my clues at all?

HANNAH

Uh...

Eleanor does the equivalent of a facepalm for a statue.

ELEANOR

Chester had promised me he'd help make a garden connecting fae and mortals so we could be together. But instead, Chester trapped me here and has been feeding off my garden for immortality ever since. I need you to set me free, dear.

HANNAH

Oh god, that type of ex. For sure I free you

ELEANOR

If you follow these steps you can-

HANNAH

Hmm, let me trying something.

Hannah takes out her lighter and sets the vines ablaze. The bronze melts off showing Eleanor's dark skin and her purple dress.

ELEANOR

Thank you, my dear, I am forever in your debt. I'll grant any wish you want-

HANNAH

Just get me the hell out of here.

END