

DRAG ME TO HELL (2009) – “BEAT SHEET”

Beats by Matt Holloway

1. Opening sequence: a migrant couple brings their sick son, who's stolen a gypsy's necklace, to the beautiful house of a young Hispanic soothsayer (Sandina). She fails to expel the demon which torments him, and he's shortly dragged to hell through the marble floors of her home. She vows revenge.
2. Opening titles over ancient texts explaining the three-day curse of the Lamia.
3. Christine Brown in L.A. traffic – a fish out of water, practicing her diction with enunciation tapes. She parks in a creepy garage. She works at a bank, granting a home loan to a grateful young couple. She is vying for the Assistant Manager's position.
4. Her spineless boss, Jim Jacks, and the manipulative schemer Stu, who's also politicking for the A.M. job, send Christine out to get sandwiches – this even though she's got seniority over Stu!
5. On the Berkeley campus with her young professor boyfriend, Clay. She's the capable one in the relationship, fixing his printer, while he's the stable one. She brings him a gift, a rare coin that she's found at the bank, for his collection.
6. On her way out, Clay's mom calls on speakerphone. She's upper crust, blunt, rude about Christine's modest farm girl beginnings.
7. Stu continues to mess with her about his sandwich order, then gives Lakers' tickets to Mr. Jacks. He's slick, all right.
8. Christine has a customer – the unpleasant old Mrs. Ganush, whose house is on the verge of being repossessed. Christine takes the case to Mr. Jacks, who urges her to make the “tough call”. We're at her breaking point: she makes the tough call and denies Mrs. Ganush's extension. The old woman begs and Christine calls security, shaming her further.
9. Mr. Jacks praises her work on a big loan and sends it home with her to finish and present to the board tomorrow. She's top choice for the Assistant Manager's position.
10. Mrs. Ganush is waiting in the parking garage. They have an insane fight in Christine's car – slamming around the garage, pulling hair, staples in the old lady's eye,

false teeth everywhere, a ruler in the mouth, lots of great scares – and finally, a gypsy curse: “Lamia”. Says Ganush: “Soon it will be you who comes begging to me.”

11. Christine and Clay are out on the street later, talking about it – she insists on getting her fortune read.

12. Rham Jas – ally, seer, sage. He debates psychology with Clay, promptly sees Christine’s job, her lot in life, that something has been taken. A button – the very button Ganush used to curse Christine. He detects the curse, asks them to leave.

13. At home, alone, Christine is on the computer, cooking in the kitchen, shaken. She finds an old fat picture of herself in a cookbook – the Pork Queen.

14. The torment begins: sounds, rattling, winds, drapes, pots and pans, lights flashing, a demonic figure in the shadows suddenly attacks her, smacks her in the face!

15. Later, Clay’s at the house, thinks it’s Mrs. Ganush. Then an MD on a housecall diagnoses it as PTSD. Christine accepts this; Clay is perfect, proposing a trip to his parents’ cabin.

16. That night, in bed, she has violent, gruesome, ghoulish dream of Mrs. Ganush after a fly works its way into her mouth.

17. At the bank, the fly’s in her stomach. Annoying Stu keeps harassing her. She’s having auditory hallucinations when –

18. She gets a nosebleed that SPRAYS all over her boss, the customers, the bank. She leaves. Stu swipes the big loan paperwork off her desk.

19. At Ganush’s house: the old woman’s grand-daughter is contemptuous, lets Christine in anyway. In a grotesque basement funeral party, a gypsy wake, she realizes that Sylvia Ganush is dead. And not just dead – she stumbles onto the coffin and the body rolls onto her, spewing embalming fluid all over her face.

20. Back with Rham Jas, she learns further details about the Lamia. He suggests an animal sacrifice.

21. At home, she can’t do it to her sweet kitty – but then there’s further haunting. she’s stalked and tossed about the house, tossed about her bedroom like a rag doll.

22. She sacrifices kitty.

23. Clay comes over to bring her to dinner at his parents’ house. Mom is icy, Dad is distant. Christine has brought them a quaint harvest cake – a relic from the farm.

24. At dinner, Clay mentions again the coin that she found him. Christine reveals her ambitions and wiles at the bank, readily confesses about her alcoholic mother. This warms Mom, who confesses the same about her father – suddenly she and Christine are fast friends.!

25. All goes well at dinner until they try the cake. There's an eye in Chris' cake, which she stabs. Then she hears the Lamia's footsteps and more creepy sounds; she's struck with a coughing fit, which ends with a live fly popping out of her mouth. Now everyone is freaked out. When she snaps at the Lamia, "I hear you!" – it's time to go.

26. Christine confronts Rham Jas. He'll take her to a big time soothsayer for 10 large.

27. At the bank, she asks for an advance on the Assistant Manager's position but learns that her big deal was rejected – apparently sabotaged. The promotion is off: Stu's going to get it.

28. Back home she's attacked again while gathering up her stuff to hock. She makes it to the pawn shop but only gets \$3800.

29. Stacks of money on the table, she's gorging on ice cream, lamenting her fate. Clay shows up – he's paid Rham Jas. He doesn't believe in all that, but he believes in her.

30. The séance is held at the house from the opening sequence. Christine meets Sandina. The house was built upon a mystic gateway. A live goat is brought in. The séance fails. Sandina and her assistant are killed. Rham Jas tells her that she must give the cursed button away or else the Lamia will come for her that very night.

31. Driving with Clay, he nearly hits an old man, who shouts, "you'll rot in hell!" She drops the envelope with the button, there are papers all over the car.

32. In front of her house: "where's the envelope?" But she finds it and gets out. She's meeting Clay at the station at 7:30.

33. Drinking coffee at an all night diner, she considers who to give the button to. A snippy waitress? A drunk couple? A wheezing old man? Maybe – no, his doting wife appears.

34. She calls Stu, who confesses, pathetically, to his subterfuge. When he appears, in tears, just pitiful, she can't even give it to him.

35. Seeing Mrs. Ganush's obituary, she realizes who deserves the button. Rham Jas confirms it: "yes, you can give the curse to someone who has passed on!"

36. She goes to the cemetery and, after a nasty battle with the dead woman's filthy kerchief, digs up the dead gypsy's coffin. In pouring rain, nearly drowning in mud, she triumphantly stuffs the button and its envelope into the old woman's gaping mouth.

37. She's in the shower when a message plays from Mr. Jacks – he's learned the truth about Stu! She's gotten the promotion!

38. At the train station, giddy, she buys herself a new coat.

39. She meets Clay for the train – they kiss, celebrate their trip together.

40. But he's got a button – found it on the floor of his car. She's accidentally switched it for his coin! She stumbles, in shock, and falls onto the tracks. As Clay reaches for his lover's desperate hand, the ground opens underneath her and Christine Brown is dragged, kicking and screaming, in agony and torment, into the gaping maw of hell.

THE END