

DANE DeHAAN

THE WEEKND

DON'T DISTURB THE NEIGHBORS.

TROUBLED



SAL & CO/MAVERICK

PRESENTS

"TROUBLED"

STARRING **DANE DEHAAN**

AND **THE WEEKND**

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TROUBLED

IT'S a mild, sunny, weekend day in October as children play football and ride their bicycles along the tree-lined suburban street. Dancing skeletons, smiling pumpkins, and other playful Halloween decorations belie a darkness that resides here.

A fairly typical, Lebanese-American family, the Azar's, scramble about preparing for their Saturday errands. Karim, the patriarch, is a hard-nosed, high school soccer coach struggling with the rigors of home and career. His coming-of-age teenagers, Rami and Maya, challenge him constantly as they deal with the angst of puberty. His wife, Nadia, a part-time realtor, has her hands full home-schooling their autistic son, Sami. As Karim hustles Rami and Sami out the door to their SUV, we are introduced to the neighbors.

The Bickford clan; Bickford, in his twenties, and Garret eighteen, are the "bad seeds" of the block. Whether it's dealing drugs or handing out beatings, the brothers are always at the center. Their sidekick, Ackerman, a mid-twenties ex-con, creates a fearsome threesome. Only their younger brother, known lovingly as Booger, has a semblance of a normal social life. He and Rami are good friends, to the chagrin of both families. Bickford eyes the Azar's with a predatory glare as their vehicle drives off. "Those haji's think they're better than we are."

The relationship between fathers and their teenage sons is challenging and Karim and Rami bicker constantly. The result of one such spat is a near accident with the sleazy Ackerman. A physical confrontation between Karim and Ackerman

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is caught on video setting into motion a lethal tide. As Bickford catches wind of the incident, a challenge is made: the Azar's must pay.

Unaware of the brewing storm, and against the expressed wishes of their families, Rami and Booger continue to "hang out." A chilling story about Booger's childhood reveals a sensitive side of Booger and the fiendish core of his brother Bickford.

The harassment starts with lascivious remarks from Garret about Maya which escalates into a bloody brawl with Rami. But it's the dismemberment of Maya's beloved dog that sends Karim enraged to the Bickford door. A frightening stand-off between Karim and Bickford sets the stage for Halloween night.

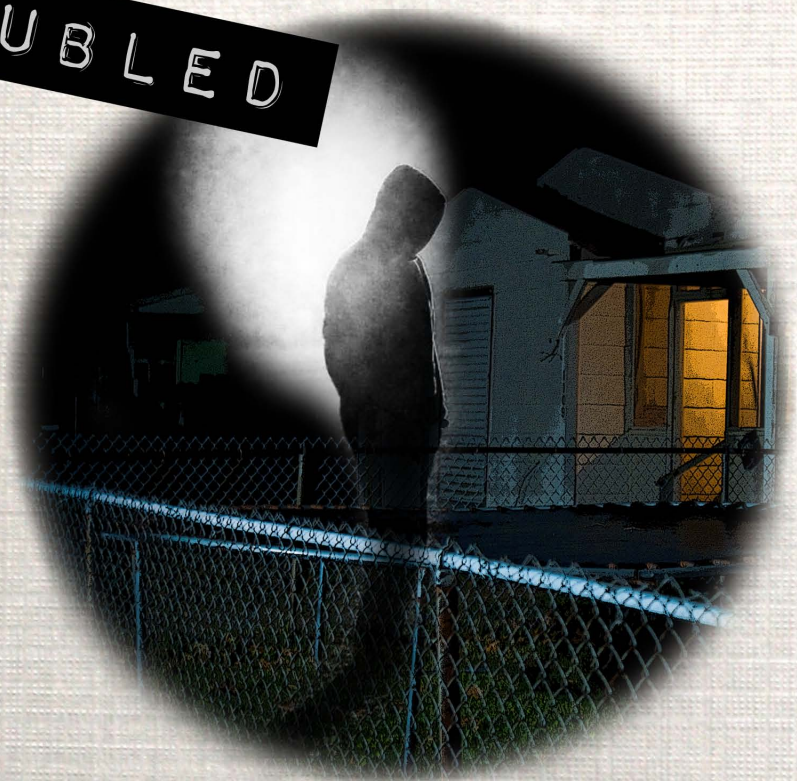
What starts as a joyous holiday for young Sami turns into a horrific nightmare when three sadistic, costumed men invade the Azar home. A torturous "game" of trivia begins

involving pruning shears and helpless victims. Karim, Nadia, and Rami suffer the brunt of the vicious attack. But fortunately for them, Sami emerges from hiding, answering several questions that waylay the brutality.

And as her family is assaulted by monstrous criminals, Maya writhes in a seedy love nest with an unexpected paramour – Ackerman. It's their return to the house that takes events in an even more deadly direction. Although admitting to his complicity, Ackerman wants no part of kidnapping, torture, and murder. "You were only supposed to scare them," cries Ackerman. "Oh... they're scared," responds the masked leader who reveals himself as Bickford. While trying to escape this insanity, Ackerman is pummeled to death by Bickford with a baseball bat. Murder now committed, there is no turning back. As Bickford orders Garret to have-his-way with Maya, Karim makes a final desperate attempt to escape. Ripping free his bloody hands,

he strikes out at Bickford with all his might. But, with no strength left, Bickford over-powers Karim, splattering his brains with a 9mm bullet. Rami, freed from his binds too late, can only watch in horror.

Back in control, Bickford begins a new game; a twist on Russian roulette with Rami and Booger. While in the back bedroom, Maya escapes her captor by thrusting a pair of scissors into his temple. Bickford prances in near orgasmic delight as Booger fires an empty chamber at his friend. But the tide changes again when Booger turns the gun on himself and ends his own tormented life. With his diabolical plot unraveling, Bickford points the 9mm at Rami. But before he can fire, Maya charges from the shadows driving the scissors into Bickford's back. In agony, Bickford wheels shooting Maya in the shoulder. Having no means to fight, Rami flees from the house.



In the tension filled climax, Rami is chased to the Bickford backyard where the fresh corpse of Mrs. Bickford is discovered, as well as the rotting remains of Bickford's stepfather. Out thinking Bickford, Rami gains the upper hand and beats him mercilessly. But when Rami holds the power of life and death, he opts to lower the weapon. As Bickford mocks his "weakness," Nadia arrives to end his miserable life with a magnum round to the forehead.

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