The latest battle saw two brave ladies moving beyond their fear in order to overcome their respective mazes, both of their mind and their physical being – to ultimately survive. But as they took to the ring to defend these hard-fought triumphs, one of them had to fall. I’m sad to say that Ms. Shelley Duvall, *The Shining*’s Wendy Torrance, will fight no more.

However, moving onto the semi-finals is disc jockey Stretch (Caroline Williams) of *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre Part 2*. We’ll see her soon, up against an as of yet unknown foe. She fought valiantly and in the end, her wit, determination and flexibility (ahem) paid off! See you soon, Ms. Williams!

Final votes – Williams: 72 Duvall: 38

But before we announce the contestants of our fifth battle, I do want to say thank you to Ms. Williams, who personally got involved in sharing this latest battle, along with her *TCM2* co-horts, Bill (Leatherface) Johnson and Bill (Chop-Top) Moseley! Meant the world to have you all out there supporting your favorite short-shorts wearing, BurkBurnett gal! We’ll expect to see you supporting her again when her number is called for the semi-finals!

We’ve got an odd pair-up for you in the next bout, folks! It’s the battle I like to call, “Mummy Babies & Ouija Boards”.

First to step into the ring is that red-headed hottie from all of those sexy Whitesnake videos, former Mrs. David Coverdale herself, Tawny Kitaen. In the 1986 horror hit, *Witchboard*, Tawny is Linda Brewster, a woman who doesn’t know when to quit. “Why yes, I will play the Ouija board by myself one more time.” Tsk, tsk, Linda.

Tawny was a charming Linda. Sure, she made questionable choices, both in her board games and in those 80s hairstyles, but nonetheless, we liked her.

Since we’ve set the precedent in other battles, let me chat with you a bit about Ms. Kitaen’s smaller, non-“screamy” moments. One of my personal favorites is when she awakens to find Brandon (Stephen Nichols), her beloved Jim (Todd Allen – a former contestant in my Horror Hunks of the 80s competition) and the odd, but talented medium Zarabeth (the amazing Kathleen Wilhoite) in her living room, in total séance set dressing and proper mood. It’s a little bitty moment when Linda says to Jim, “I can’t believe you did all this while I was asleep.” Jim replies with a non-vocal eyebrow lift and then Tawny gives us that gloriously dimpled smile in return. And that’s her little moment. It’s a real and true exchange between the couple.

Another great moment comes following Lloyd’s funeral. Lieutenant Dewhurst (Burke Byrnes) questions Jim about the “accident” which claimed Lloyd’s life. Jim is notably upset and frustrated. Pay close attention to what Kitaen is doing in this scene. She’s really listening, and her little reactions to the conversation are golden – particularly in a nice little look off to her left. She’s already formulating her theories on this “accident”, and Kitaen sells it nicely. As they watch Dewhurst leave, Jim assures her, “It was just an accident,” before walking off. Linda replies to no one, “The lieutenant’s not too sure about that…and neither am I.”

I think Kitaen has at least 100 other moments which are similar to the ones described above. Her fabulous smile is even present in one of the film’s best “boo” moments – as Linda makes her way through the hospital hallways in one of her many nightmares – she smiles at her own ridiculousness as she jumps back – frightened by her own reflection, only to then turn back around to face Malfeitor, who decapitates her. Who is smiling now, my lovely?

But the climax is where Kitaen has the most fun. By this point, Linda’s been completely possessed by Malfeitor, and his deadly sights are now set on Jim. Kitaen clearly enjoys being the villainess – complete with fiery-red hair (was it colored brighter for these scenes?), mocking Jim, threatening him with an axe. It’s a fun dichotomy – that lovely face, cherub cheeks and yummy dimples, opposite her cocky supernatural swagger. And her quick change-around when Jim’s “love” brings her back – followed by the immediate return to psycho behavior? Just fantastic! It’s a great scene, and Kitaen sells both personalities.

Kitaen’s a beauty and a legit scream queen for her role in this classic 80s flick, and worthy of your votes.

But before you press that button – read on.

Let me take a moment to explain a recent change to this battle. All of the battles have been laid out, and many of them have required a few revisits to these flicks to locate the ladies’ best moments.

Originally, Ms. Kitaen’s fellow contestant for this battle was Lily Munster herself, Yvonne DeCarlo for the 1988 film, *American Gothic*. Now, I’ve always known that one of the other actresses in the film outshone practically everyone else in the cast. But due to name recognition, I chose to use Yvonne DeCarlo for this competition. However, with the recent viewing I just couldn’t do it. Yvonne’s fantastic and certainly a legend, but Janet Wright as Fanny in the film – gives an utterly amazing and sadly overlooked performance. She is deserving of a place in this competition.

I’m assuming there are only a handful of voters who will know this film, and thus Janet Wright’s awesome work (rest assured this is truly one of the most obscure contestants in the entire competition). So for the first time, we’re linking up to a short scene from one of the ladies’ films – with this scene out of *American Gothic*. It’s Fanny’s intro and immediately you’ll recognize what she brings to the table – a 40+ year old woman playing a woman who believes she’s about to turn 12.

So we’re welcoming to the ring, Ms. Wright. Her Fanny is the daughter in a small family of bible-beating backwoods folks who never left the confines of the 1920s, and they like it that way. Enter several stranded vacationers and you can imagine how these modern and careless youngsters’ fates play out in the hands of this freaky family.

There’s a scene in *American Gothic* which perfectly captures the beauty of Wright’s performance. Two of the characters are making fun of our dear Fanny, unaware that she is playing jacks just behind a nearby tree. Naturally, Fanny is saddened and the tears flow. When Cynthia (Sarah Torgov) sees her, she tries to comfort her, explaining that the other nasty woman didn’t know what she was saying. Fanny and Cynthia are immediate friends. And in this scene, Wright hits all the right notes. It’s quite a display.

Wright is equally as terrifying as she is loveable in this film (she is one of our five villains in the competition). She’s a maniac to be sure. But nothing’s creepier than when she watches an intimate moment between Cynthia and Jeff (Mark Erickson) through a hole in the wall. She turns away from the display, her chest heaving, her breath short and her eyes heavy. She looks to her brother Teddy (*Star Wars*’ Porkins himself – William Hootkins) with this sexual longing, to which he replies that Pa (the great Rod Steiger) got on him for that behavior before. Fanny doesn’t lose her frightening intensity as she mumbles, “I don’t want you. I want Jeff.” She then proceeds to go into the room where Cynthia and Jeff are holding one another – and stabs Jeff in the eye with the tip of a lance on the small statue of a knight atop his steed. It’s fast, it’s jarring and Fanny shows that she is just as f\*\*\*ed in the head as the rest of her family.

It’s Fanny’s final moment in the film which also gives us Wright’s very best. Cynthia has a relapse into her nervous condition (I won’t explain why – since you need to see the film) and kills Fanny. Two things here. One – Wright’s brilliant reaction to Cynthia’s attack is priceless. At this point, Fanny believes that Cynthia is her best friend, a new-found sister. What Wright shows us is clearly the shock of a child who can’t believe that her friend would hurt her. And it hurts us. And two – it’s the moment which your sympathies for Fanny are at their peak. Despite the fact that she’s a backwoods murderer who believes she’s 12 years old, you are sad to see her go. With her bright blue eyes and “innocent” smile – Wright makes you love Fanny. That’s quite a feat. And this is why she belongs in this competition.

So before you make your final vote (this will be a tough one), check both films out – don’t go on name recognition alone. Chances are you know Tawny’s Linda quite well. But don’t go just on that. As good as she is, Janet Wright is also worthy of your research and your votes.

(a fun side-note: The winner of my Horror Hunks of the 80s competition was Stephen Shellen of *The Stepfather.* He also makes an appearance in *American Gothic*.)

Once again, you’ve got Ms. Kitaen and her potential (and eventual) possess-ee in *Witchboard*, going against the little-known, but no less fantastic Janet Wright in *American Gothic*. You don’t get much further away in contestant opposites, but we’re here to have fun, aren’t we?

As always, cast your vote here, on our Facebook page or on Twitter with the words, “Ultimate Horror Lady” with your choice on this battle -- #tawnykitaen or #janetwright.

Stay tuned. Many more of your favorite names are still to come. The competition’s only just begun! See you in a few, voters.