It is with great sadness that we send Barbara Hershey in her role as the tortured Carla Moran in *The Entity* – to the locker room to clean up and clear out. She fought valiantly, both in this battle and against the power-hungry ghost. However, that means that Dee Wallace as Donna Trenton in *Cujo* – triumphantly moves into the semi-final rounds. We wish her luck, and urge her to get a tetanus shot before returning to the ring in the near future (from the rabid dog, not Hershey). Final vote tally? Wallace: 31 Hershey: 18

And with the end of that fun bout, we bring you the 8th preliminary battle in the competition. That means we’re halfway through the prelims, folks! And I bet you’re itching to see who has yet to enter the ring! Consider yourselves lucky, as we welcome another two ladies to the battlefield, in a bout I like to call, “Freddy vs. Jason: The Flip Side”.

Lisa Wilcox is Alice Johnson in *A Nightmare on Elm Street 4: The Dream* Master and *A Nightmare on Elm Street 5: The Dream Child*. She’s quite a different character in each of the films – a mousy doormat in *The Dream Master* and a confident and determined mother-to-be in *The Dream Child*. So, I decided to focus on *The Dream Master*. Of the two films, it’s my favorite. And while Alice is more confident in *The Dream Child*, her journey is greater in the fourth installment.

My recent viewing of *The Dream Master* filled me with nostalgia and joy. It was the first of the *Nightmare* films which I saw in a theatre as a kid. But I digress.

As far as small moments, Ms. Wilcox has a lot of them. Of particular note is her brief scene with her father (Nicholas Mele) following her brother Rick’s (Andras Jones – a contestant in my Horror Hunks of the ‘80s competition) funeral. She rushes to get out of the house to meet Dan (Danny Hassel – one of the top five in that same Horror Hunks of the ‘80s competition) so that they can go to Debbie’s house to formulate a plan to defeat Freddy. But her father won’t let her go. He stops her at the door and pleads with her to stay with him. He tells Alice that he knows what she’s going through, to which Alice replies, “Everybody thinks they do, but they don’t”. It’s a shot of the two of them from outside the back door of their house. Wilcox’s blue eyes say it all. There’s a determination there. You also see sadness and pity for her father. She can’t even face him. When he turns her around, she avoids eye contact completely. Her final slink away from him and out of his arms is heart-breaking. She looks once in his eyes, pushes away and mumbles something – obeying his wishes. Despite the dire danger she and her friends are in, she lets his needs come first. She stays – at least for the moment. And this moment from Wilcox perfectly captures Alice’s state of mind. She’s got a job to do, but she’s still stalled by all of her old ways and the enabling of her father’s drunkenness.

Just prior to this sequence is the actual funeral for Rick. When he comes out of his coffin in one of Alice’s many daydreams, she looks at him with sadness and regret. But something has changed. As the tears flow, she knows that she can no longer let her mind wander in such ways. She has to focus and she has to let him go. With a tiny whisper of, “No more daydreams”, Alice has officially moved into battle mode. It’s another soft and effective moment for Wilcox. She lets us see exactly what Alice is thinking and with those sniffles and tears, Wilcox makes us hurt along with Alice.

There are lots of good stand-out moments for Wilcox, but a personal fave is early on when her father returns home from “a ten hour workday” and complains about the vittles Alice has provided. Another one of her daydreams and she grits her teeth, storms over to dad and smashes his sad little plate of salad on the table before intensely admonishing him, “Yeah, I can think. I can think of how sick I am of watching you drink your life away and taking it out on me.” It’s a classic moment for Wilcox and certainly one of her most memorable moments as Alice from either of her *Nightmare* installments.

As far as big moments, and why we totally love Wilcox and Alice – well, it’s clear that we’ll have to give a shout-out to the final church battle with Freddy. Alice has Rick’s slick way with martial arts, and drops a beating on Freddy. It’s a whole range of emotions in the climax. Wilcox gives us doubt, triumph, anger, power and relief. It’s not just the awesome physicality Wilcox brings to Alice – as I said above, it’s the journey. Just look at her in the beginning and look at her as she takes those steps through the church doors – Freddy vanquished… at least for the moment.

Ms. Wilcox’s competitor is Trish Jarvis herself – aka Kimberly Beck in the fourth installment of the *Friday the 13th* franchise, *Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter.*

Early on, when we see the loveliness that is the Jarvis family, Beck has what we would like to call the “it” quality. Little moments which show how positive and upbeat Trish is. For instance, when all of the next-door neighbors are skinny-dipping and they invite her in, she flashes that gleaming smile, accompanied by an “I think I’m overdressed.” Or when she politely and flirtatiously offers Rob a ride, after he has fixed their car. She just beams when she smiles. And that, my friends, is a key to us immediately liking Trish. Beck is a likeable actress regardless of the role she plays. So, when Jason shows up with his trusty machete, and Trish has to step up the plate – we’re already there with her. It’s not to say that Trish is the best written character in the annals of cinema history – some of it’s on the page. But it’s Beck who is a natural – and her innate quality of kindness which comes across on-screen, cannot be taught.

But when the so-called shit *does* hit the fan, Beck proves beyond a doubt that she’s a legit scream queen (she’s in this competition, right?) What my most recent viewing cemented about Beck as Trish, is that when she screams, she’s fantastic, but when she scream-*yells*, she’s transcendent.

Take for example, her return to the Jarvis home – after having jumped from the second story window of the neighbor’s place. She is out of it (naturally) and realizes that Tommy did not follow her instructions to leave the house – he’s upstairs shaving his head for the big fight scene. Her garbled, exasperated, terrified and scratchy scream-yell of “Tommy, you were supposed to leave!” is classic. Add in her broken physicality from the fall/fight and her moist eyes, and you’ve got what I would consider to be Beck’s best moment as Trish.

One of my other fave moments from Beck finds her in the basement of the house next door. She’s gone there to investigate with Rob (E. Erich Anderson), and they’ve made their way to the dark and cob-webby basement (bad move). As you all know, Rob is attacked and killed by Jason. But frankly, neither the audience, nor our flustered Trish can 100% confirm (it’s darn dark after all) that Rob’s dead, only that he’s been brutally attacked. So as Rob screams at her to leave, she finally does so. But, she quickly changes her mind and goes back downstairs. Now, in horror film terms, that’s a given… and we’re all cursing her for making such a decision. The difference here is that Beck sells this ridiculous action. Her teeth gritted, her tears flowing – I think it’s fascinating that we get her inner struggle here. “Should I stay or should I go?”

And Trish is an ass-kicker, so Beck gets to be very physical in her role. A hammer to Jason’s neck. A television crushed over his head. A machete through his hand. Trish is no joke. And you know what makes it feasible? That aforementioned family connection. Beck makes us believe that she would go to battle to save her little brother. She’s a good person, and that’s why we care. Good job, Ms. Beck.

Also, rumor has it that there was a deleted scene (something I’d love to see) of Trish discovering her dead mother. I remember reading that Beck thought it was a terrific acting moment for her, and was sad to see that it didn’t make the final cut.

And how can we leave out Beck’s terrified and glorious reaction to the reveal of Jason’s face – once Trish has knocked the mask off with his own machete. You don’t get much more real than that, folks. Classic!

One final thought on Trish. We know what happened to Tommy in the long run – through two more sequels – but did anyone ever wonder what became of the older Jarvis sibling? This is partially to Beck’s credit as well, ‘cause we really do care enough to wish a good future on Trish Jarvis.

There you have it. The case has been made for our next two lucky contestants.

We all know what happens when Freddy and Jason are paired up in a battle royale, but what happens when two of those infamous ghouls’ strongest and worthiest adversaries face off against *each other*?

Only you voters can decide who moves onto the semi-final rounds. Will it be Kimberly Beck (kicking Jason’s butt and cracking some skulls) or will it be Lisa Wilcox (tearing Freddy apart – piece by soul-filled piece)?

Cast your votes now – right here on the site, over on our FB page, or with the good folks of Twitter “Ultimate Horror Lady” and then #LisaWilcox or #KimberlyBeck.