

NEW COVENTRY

Written by

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EXT. NEW ENGLAND WOODS - DAY

A vast landscape sprawls as far as the eye can see -- VIOLENT GREY SKIES contrasted against MAPLE AND BIRCH TREES which have lost their leaves in preparation for winter.

The wind begins to howl -- a storm is on the horizon.

VILLAGE ELDER (V.O.)

Our struggle has been a costly one.
This insidious plague has consumed
many of our brothers and sisters.

EXT. SMALL FAMILY CEMETERY

Two RUDIMENTARY SHOVELS, the kind a farmer would fashion, lay scattered on the ground. The GRAVESTONES look relatively new, but the dates of death are all placed in the early 1800's.

A FRESHLY DUG GRAVE lays open in the center of the cemetery.

VILLAGE ELDER(V.O.)

We did not ask for this conflict,
but we endured none the less. This
task was burdensome, true, but also
righteous.

The wind blows a cluster of DEAD LEAVES into the gaping hole -
- daring us to follow them in, which we do.

A BASIC PINE COFFIN sits at the bottom of the grave -- its
LID RIPPED WIDE OPEN, revealing nothing but DIRT AND BLOOD.

VILLAGE ELDER(V.O.)

For our struggle is not against our
fellow man, but against the powers
of true darkness, which hopes to
extinguish the holy light we have
bestowed upon this land.

EXT. COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE - DAY

Small HAND-BUILT HOMES surround a CENTRAL COURTYARD where the village's population has gathered. They watch TWO MEN DISMEMBER A CORPSE, then toss its remains on a nearby PILE OF CORPSES that have met the same fate.

The men and women wear TRADITIONAL COLONIAL GRAB -- cloaks, wool coats, and breeches for the men, dresses and bonnets for the women. Their faces tell the story of a people who have been through hell.

The VILLAGE ELDER addresses the crowd, placing a face with the voice we've been hearing.

VILLAGE ELDER

It is a struggle against the spiritual forces of evil that have corrupted our very flesh and blood.

In the center of the village square is a LARGE WOODEN STAKE surrounded by a massive pile of firewood waiting to be burned.

VILLAGE ELDER (CONT'D)

Today is great day my brothers and sisters. Rejoice! For Almighty God has given us the strength to put an end to this evil.

He holds an ORNATE BOX covered with Christian religious symbols up towards the sky for everyone to see.

EXT. THE WOODS - RITUAL SITE - NIGHT

On top of a stone alter lays THE WRAITH. Tall, pale, bald, and grotesquely skinny -- he once was a man but not anymore. He's shirtless, his mouth gagged by a BLOODY CLOTH and hands tied with rope. His eyes are cold and dead. In the middle of his chest is large BLACK PARASITE -- thin tendrils extend from it, pumping the man's life force from his body.

Encircling the Wraith are SIX WITCHES in BLACK CLOAKS, their hoods drawn so we don't see their faces. They all WHISPER something in an unknown language.

POV - someone watches the ritual from afar, safe in the darkness of the woods.

The ritual continues, and the HEAD WITCH pulls the parasite from the mans body with her bare hands. He SCREAMS in agony. She raises it in the air for her sisters to see, and the parasite changes form to become a BLACK DISEMBODIED HEART -- still beating.

The VILLAGERS spring from out of the woods and quickly surround the Witches, pointing MUSKETS at them. The Witches bear SHARP ANIMALISTIC TEETH at them and hiss in anger. The men FIRE, and the witches fall to the ground.

The Village Elder picks up the Black Heart and places it in the Ornate Box.

EXT. COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The Witches are tied to the wooden stake in the center of the village -- still alive. The Elder approaches with a flaming torch.

VILLAGE ELDER (V.O.)

It is our burden to purge this land of any and all darkness. A mission bestowed upon us by almighty God himself.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

A YOUNG WITCH watches the scene from the safety of the woods. We stay on her as the bonfire is lit, her sisters SCREAM in pain. The light from the bonfire illuminates her face which we now see clearly -- a normal woman, but utterly gutted by what's happening. A single tear rolls down her face.

CUT TO BLACK:

MAIN TITLE: NEW COVENTRY**INT. CLASSROOM - DAY**

A typical modern classroom -- written on the whiteboard are the words "New Coventry's Dark History".

MS. AUTUMN (60's), a stylish woman dressed in a black blouse and long skirt, lectures in front of her class.

MS. AUTUMN

... So as you can see, our neighbors in Salem might get the notoriety, but the history of New Coventry may be even more insidious.

AMY (17) raises her hand. She has a rebellious vibe to her -- purple hair, all black clothes, black nail polish, a jean jacket with pins all over the chest.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Yes Amy?

AMY

Ms. Autumn, this actually happened? I always thought it was just a ghost story to scare little kids.

MS. AUTUMN

Well, some version of this happened. The myth has grown through the centuries.

AMY

But our ancestors betrayed a group of women... murdered them, because of some stupid superstition?

MS. AUTUMN

Indeed they did. The villagers had been stricken by disease, tuberculosis to be exact -- or as they called it *consumption*, and due to their lack of scientific understanding they believed their friends and family were becoming members of the Undead.

JOHNNY (18), slicked back black hair and a leather jacket, makes a wisecrack --

JOHNNY

(in a Vincent Price voice)
Spooooky!

The class giggles.

MS. AUTUMN

Exhuming the dead, removing their internal organs, dismembering them. Spooky enough for you Johnathan?

This shuts him up.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)

These Pagan women were just practicing their own beliefs...

AMY

And were burned alive for it.

Ms. Autumn smiles fondly at Amy's compassion.

MS. AUTUMN

Unfortunately early New England life was full of such events. Opposing belief systems were not tolerated. The dangers of ignorance is a lesson we can all be mindful of even today.

The SCHOOL BELL rings. The kids quickly pack up their books.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)
Have a great weekend everyone.

The class files out, but Amy stops at Ms. Autumn's desk.

AMY
Ms. Autumn, why don't people around here talk about this more? This town should be ashamed of itself, it's such bullshit.

MS. AUTUMN
Well, ignorance mostly... I'm glad this struck a chord with you Amy. Here, take this --

Ms. Autumn opens her desk drawer and hands amy a BOOK -- *New Coventry: When Superstition and Religious Persecution Collide* by Lilly Autumn.

AMY
Whoa, you wrote this?

MS. AUTUMN
As my dissertation, seems like a lifetime ago. There's a lot more in there than we walked about today.

AMY
So cool. Thank you!

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Amy and Johnny walk together through a sea of cars and kids eager to get off campus for the weekend.

JOHNNY
I like the new color.

She plays with her hair so she can see it, like she forgot what color it was this week.

AMY
Oh, thanks. My parents hate it. It's great.

They both smile at this. They approach Johnny's car -- a PRIUS covered in liberal bumper stickers -- "Proud Left-Wing Liberal Commie-Pinko Socialist on Board!", "Meat is Murder", etc.

Sitting on the hood is ABIGAIL (17) an African American girl with a similar style to Amy.

JOHNNY

What the fuck Abi? You're gonna scratch the paint.

ABIGAIL

(rolling her eyes)

Can you even see the paint through all those bumper stickers dude?

She hops off the hood and goes straight to Amy.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

And how was your day dear?

Amy wraps her arm around Abi, and Abi rests her head on Amy's shoulder -- they're together.

AMY

Oh you know, just another day in this glorified children's prison... Actually, Ms. Autumn had a really interesting lecture about the New Coventry Vampire Panic.

ABIGAIL

Oh really? Tell me everything!

Johnny opens the drivers side door and sits down with the door open.

JOHNNY

Can we please get the hell out of here?

AMY

Dude, you know I need to watch AJ today. Where is he anyway...

Three YOUNGER KIDS come tearing around the corner on BMX bikes. They come to a screeching halt next to Johnny's car.

AJ, (12) long hair, SLAYER T-Shirt, smaller and skinner than other kids his age leads the group with BEAVER (12), a nerdy kid with thick black-rimmed glasses, braces, and a RED SOX hat, and CHRIS (12), an African American kid wearing a CAMO JACKET.

BEAVER

Sup.

JOHNNY

Booger, right?

BEAVER

It's Beaver.

JOHNNY

Sure it is.

AMY

(to AJ)

Hey, you ready to go?

CHRIS

I thought we were going to play manhunt?

AJ

(nervously)

Yeah... Amy do you think it would be cool if I hung out with the guys today?

AMY

You know Mom will kill me if she finds out. You're my responsibility.

AJ

Come on, she's at work until seven, I'll be home long before then, and you know Dad doesn't give a shit.

ABIGAIL

Hey, AJ's right, they can take care of themselves... and we can go hang at the cliffs.

Amy likes the sound of this.

CHRIS

(to Abigail)

Since when are you cool?

ABIGAIL

Chris, just because I'm your older sister doesn't mean I can't be cool.

BEAVER

(ogling Abigail)

I think you're cool.

AMY

Watch it booger.

Beaver gives her a huge braces-filled smile.

AJ
Pleeeasssee.

ABIGAIL
Yeah Amy pleeeeeeaaase.

AMY
Ugh, fine. Just make sure you're home before dark or it's my ass.

AJ
You got it!

The boys tear out of there on their bikes.

JOHNNY
Let's do this!

The girls get in the car, Abi rides shotgun and Amy in the back. Johnny peels out of the parking lot like his Prius is a muscle car.

EXT. BEAVER'S HOUSE - DAY

A small SINGLE STORY COLONIAL STYLE HOUSE nestled up against a dense forest that's begun its transition to autumn. The house is typical for northern New England, but it hasn't had any kind of upkeep in decades.

The boys pull up front on their bikes.

BEAVER
I'll be right back.

INT. BEAVER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Beaver stands outside a bedroom door, cautiously making sure nobody is around.

Beaver opens the bedroom door --

INT. BEAVER'S HOUSE - TROY'S ROOM

Beaver enters his older brother's room like he's in an episode of Mission Impossible. The room is a museum of stuff a teenage boy might think is cool -- a PET SNAKE in a tank, LAVA LAMP, a GAMING COMPUTER with LED lights built in, a pile of FANGORIA magazines with a few PLAYBOYS mixed in.

Then he eyes the jack pot -- a wall with various TOY WEAPONS mounted all over it including a KITANA, PAINTBALL GUN, NINJA STARS, NUNCHUCKS, and at the top the ultimate prize -- an Elon Musk Boring-Company "NOT A FLAMETHROWER" (it's a flamethrower). Beaver is practically drooling at the sight.

He decides on the paintball gun and tosses it in his backpack. The sound of a door opening downstairs startles Beaver --

TROY (O.S.)

Beaver? You better not be in my fucking room!

Need to move fast! He sneaks out as covertly as possible.

INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

They cruise down a winding road with dense forest on both sides. Amy's lost in thought, staring out the window.

ABIGAIL

Hey, what's up?

AMY

Oh, nothing. Just thinking.

ABIGAIL

About?

AMY

My parents... or lack thereof. How fucking unfair it is to AJ and me.

JOHNNY

Fuck 'em.

AMY

Ha. Yeah, it's a little more complicated than that.

ABIGAIL

Hey, you'll be 18 in a couple months...

AMY

Yeah...

ABIGAIL

Your parents won't be able to do anything to make you stay then, we can all finally get the hell out of this rinkadink town.

JOHNNY

Yeah! We should all bounce the fuck out of here, go live the sweet life in Malibu or something.

AMY

I can't leave my family, even if they are completely fucked up. Somebody needs to be there for AJ.

ABIGAIL

You're not his parent.

AMY

Might as well be. My mom has to work so much since my dad is completely useless, and when they are home they're both either drunk or brawling with each other. Or both. It feels like I'm the only adult in the house.

Amy sinks in her seat. Abigail gives Amy a knowing, sympathetic look. Johnny locks eyes with Abigail in the mirror and nods.

JOHNNY

I know what'll cheer you up.

Johnny flips down the car's visor and a JOINT drops out of it, he catches it as it falls.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Almost forgot I had this.

Amy CHUCKLES.

AMY

Right.

Johnny raises his eyebrows and smiles at Amy. They all laugh.

AMY (CONT'D)

Alright, light it up.

JOHNNY

And once again we find a way to make living in boring town USA slightly more bearable.

Johnny lights the joint, takes a puff, and passes it Amy. She smiles and pulls a long hit from it, relaxing and forgetting all of her problems at home for the moment. Johnny cranks up the radio, blasting a punk rock song, and hits the gas.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - DAY

The boys ride their bikes off the road and into a small field containing the SEVERELY DECOMPOSED REMNANTS THE COLONIAL TOWN we saw earlier. They drop their bikes, and AJ starts running towards the woods ahead of his friends.

WZZZZZ -- the sound of something FLIES BY AJ'S HEAD, nearly turning him around.

AJ
What the hell?

SMACK -- a PAINTBALL hits AJ in the leg.

AJ (CONT'D)
Shit!

CHRIS
No way, you hit him! What a shot!

Beaver's holding his brother's paintball gun with a huge smile plastered across his face.

AJ
What the hell guys?

BEAVER
Check it out, I got Troy's
paintball gun!

AJ
Beaver, you took your brother's
paintball gun? He's gonna kill you!

BEAVER
Naw he'll never notice, he's too
busy with his new girlfriend
(in an overly dramatic
tone)
Nancy. He doesn't do anything cool
anymore.

CHRIS
You ok man?

AJ
Yeah, *thanks Chris*, that stings
though dude!

BEAVER
Ok, well you both know what I
brought, let's see your
contribution.

AJ pulls open his backpack.

AJ

I got binoculars for the hunter,
some water, a sling shot, and...

Beaver reaches into AJ's bag and grabs --

BEAVER

Firecrackers! Sweet.

AJ

What the hell dude? Those are mine.

BEAVER

They're ours, them's the rules.

CHRIS

He's right.

AJ

Fine, then give me the paintball
gun.

Beaver hands the firecrackers back to AJ.

BEAVER

Nice try. Chris what about you?

Chris takes off his backpack and pulls out a SMIRNOFF ICE.

CHRIS

Check it out, took it from my dad's
personal stash

BEAVER

Are you shitting me?

AJ

Your dad drinks Smirnoff Ice?

CHRIS

What's wrong Beaver? You're always
saying we should get our hands on
some alcohol.

Chris does air quotes with his hands.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

All the cool kids are doing it.

BEAVER

Wrong? Are you kidding me? You're a
legend!

CHRIS

This can be the prize for the winner.

Beaver's eyes light up. Chris places the drink down on a nearby stump, displaying like a prize on some kind of gameshow.

BEAVER

Oh you guys are so going down! That sweet sweet nectar of the gods is already mine and you don't even know it.

CHRIS

Remind me the last time you won Manhunt?

BEAVER

Shut up, dick. Let's do this.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The trio stands at the edge of the woods, looking off into the vast playground in front of them.

BEAVER

I'm hunting first.

CHRIS

Says who?

BEAVER

Says me.

Beaver grabs the binoculars from AJ. Chris is annoyed but doesn't protest.

CHRIS

Alright, set a timer for 20 minutes.

All the boys set timers on their SMART-WATCHES.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

If Beav doesn't find both of us in twenty minutes he loses. If he finds one of us before the time is up then they become part of the hunting party.

BEAVER

Yeah we know the rules man, let's do this. 60 second head start.

CHRIS

Alright alright. Ready?

AJ

Set.

BEAVER

Go.

They simultaneously hit start on their timers. AJ and Chris run off into the woods in different directions.

Beaver turns around and faces away from them, watching the seconds count down on the timer.

AJ flies through the forest, a huge smile smacked across his face. He ducks under branches and weaves between tree trunks, looking for the perfect hiding place.

Beaver holds steady, the anticipation killing him.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

(yelling)

You guys better move it, 30 seconds left!

Chris scrambles, there's nowhere obvious to hide -- he looks up at the trees around him and makes his decision. He quickly climbs up a tree -- one of the branches CRACKS.

CHRIS

Oh shit...

He manages to grasp onto another branch just before the first one fully breaks, and holds on for dear life.

BEAVER

Fifteen seconds!

AJ's still sprinting deep into the forest. A low GROUND FOG has formed, and the trees in this area look OLDER, JAGGED, AND DENSER, cutting out much of the sun light.

He keeps charging forward until he catches a glimpse of SOMEONE MOVING between the trees ahead of him. He stops in his tracks.

AJ

The hell?

He cautiously moves forward, and gets a better view of them -- they're wearing a BLACK HOODED CLOAK, their face obscured. AJ continues to follow until he reaches --

EXT. FOREST - WALL OF TREES - CONTINUOUS

The trees here have grown so close together that they nearly form a wall, but there is a small TUNNEL-LIKE OPENING.

AJ

Whoa.

The cloaked stranger CRAWLS into the tunnel.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Beaver's TIMER reaches 19:00 -- time to hunt.

BEAVER

Get ready, I'm coming for you!

EXT. FOREST - WALL OF TREES

AJ looks back towards the faint sound of Beaver's voice, then to the small opening. A whisper of a woman's voice echos through the tunnel --

WHISPER

AJ.

As he peers into the tunnel, it warps and rotates, MESMERIZING HIM. His eyes gloss over into a trance.

INT. TUNNEL OF TREES - CONTINUOUS

AJ crawls through into the tunnel, made of branches about twenty feet long, and just large enough for him to fit through on his hands and knees. The branches are jagged, like they're trying to reach out and grab him. He exits into --

EXT. FOREST RUINS - CONTINUOUS

In front of AJ are the STONE REMNANTS of an ancient structure -- a path leads to a central area with low cobblestone walls. In the center of the ruins is a stone cubed ALTAR, with thick plant roots growing all over it.

The stranger is nowhere to be seen, but their voice calls to AJ.

WHISPER

Come to me.

AJ is compelled towards the altar.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Beaver raises the toy binoculars up to his eyes and scans the area. At first he doesn't see anything...

BEAVER

Where are you?

Then he looks up, and sees Chris's feet dangling.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

Got you.

Beaver smiles, slings the paintball gun over his shoulder, and moves out to catch his prey.

EXT. FOREST RUINS - DAY

AJ approaches the altar, there's an ORNATE STONE SLAB on top that the plant roots have split in half.

He places his hands on top of the stone slab and peers down into the dark sarcophagus-like box.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Beaver circles around Chris with his paintball gun drawn.

POV - We see Chris dangling from below, the paintball gun raises into frame and points directly at him.

BEAVER

Your ass is grass!

SMACK! -- Chris is hit in the butt by a pink paintball.

CHRIS

Shit!

Chris writhes in pain, cracking the branches around him. The tree branch BREAKS and Chris falls backwards, screaming, and HITS THE GROUND with a thud.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(wincing in pain)

That was a dumb idea.

BEAVER
(laughing)
You ok?

CHRIS
Thanks a lot. Yeah, I think so.

BEAVER
Good, because I'm not losing and we
still need to find AJ.

Beaver checks the timer on his watch.

BEAVER (CONT'D)
Thirteen minutes left.

Chris rolls his eyes. Beaver starts walking away.

EXT. FOREST RUINS - DAY

Everything is DARK. Half of the stone slab on top of the altar slides to the side, revealing AJ as we're looking up at him from inside the altar.

He gives it another pull with all of his strength and it falls onto the ground, cracking into pieces.

AJ pulls out the same ORNATE BOX that the Village Elder put the heart in 300 years prior. It's tarnished by the centuries but still intact.

WHISPER
Open it.

The lock on the outside of the box is completely rusted. AJ quickly knocks it against the side of the altar, shattering the lock.

WHISPER (CONT'D)
Open it.

He lifts the lid, inside the box THE HEART continues to beat, dark black and full of blood exactly as it was 300 years ago.

AJ is wide eyed and terrified, but can't look away.

The VEINS and ARTERIES of the heart SPRING OUT OF THE BOX like dozens of tentacles -- attaching themselves to AJ and knocking him to the ground -- he SCREAMS.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The faint sound of AJ's scream rings through the woods.

CHRIS

You hear that? What was that?

Beaver's oblivious, checks his watch timer -- less than a minute left.

BEAVER

Huh? I dunno, probably a hawk or something. Damn it one minute!

Beaver starts running, searching. Chris follows, annoyed. They look everywhere they can but -- The TIMER RINGS.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

Shit balls!

CHRIS

AJ! Game's over you won!

No answer.

BEAVER

AJ where you at?!

Beaver speaks into the his watch.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

Yo AJ, you there? Game's over.

Nothing. Chris tries his cell phone --

CHRIS

No answer.

CHRIS & BEAVER

AJ!

CHRIS

You don't think he could have ended up in the old woods do you?

BEAVER

Not a chance in hell, he knows better than to go that far out... Wait, the booze! That asshole is totally back at home base drinking without us.

CHRIS

Damn it! Let's go.

EXT. FOREST RUINS - DUSK

AJ lays on the ground, still alive, but PARALYZED. The Heart pumps blood out of his body and into itself. His skin becoming a ghastly pale white.

A SINGLE TEAR runs down AJ's face.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - DUSK

Out of breath from running, they make it back but don't see AJ.

BEAVER

AJ! Where are you, you greedy bastard?

CHRIS

Beaver, look.

The Smirnoff Ice is still sitting on the log, untouched.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(panicked)

He didn't come back, and his bike is still here. He's still out there. Something's wrong.

BEAVER

Are you kidding me? He's fucking with us. You can come out AJ! Very funny!

CHRIS

What if he's hurt?

BEAVER

Shut up dude he's fine.

Chris looks back at the woods, worried. The sun descends behind the horizon.

CHRIS

You do what you want, but I'm calling for help.

EXT. THE CLIFFS - NIGHT

Johnny, Amy, and Abigail sit near the top of a cliff overlooking the small town below, drinking BEER.

Amy's head rests on Abigail's shoulder, she's reading the book Ms. Autumn gave her. Abigail is star gazing while Johnny amuses himself by throwing rocks off the cliff.

ABIGAIL

You ever think about what could be out there?

AMY

That's all I ever think about.

Abigail smiles, and half rolls her eyes.

ABIGAIL

I'm serious. Just look at it all, billions of galaxies and billions of stars in each of those galaxies.

JOHNNY

So, aliens?

ABIGAIL

Aliens are obvious. Even weirder than that. Like, if the universe is really infinite, then on one of those little dots in the sky there should be another me, another you, out there doing this exact same thing right now, looking back at us.

AMY

Jesus.

JOHNNY

He was an alien too you know.

Johnny tosses another rock off the cliff.

ABIGAIL

Could be!

AMY

Speaking of stars, did you know the pagans worshipped nature, and celestial events like equinoxes were super important to them?

JOHNNY

Still on the witches thing huh?

AMY

They weren't witches dude. This says their most import ritual was Mabon, the autumnal equinox. But every few hundred years an alignment of the planets would happen at the same time as the equinox, and they could commune directly with their god.

JOHNNY

I bet he was an alien too.

AMY

Ugh, men.

Abigail giggles at this. Amy gets a text, she looks at her phone - MOM: "Where are you?" Amy ignores it, looks annoyed.

ABIGAIL

What's up?

AMY

Just my Mom, I still have an hour before curfew, so she can wait.

Another text comes through.

AMY (CONT'D)

God Mom just leave me...

Amy reads the text -- "Where the hell are you? Tell me AJ is with you. Call me NOW"

AMY (CONT'D)

Shit!

ABIGAIL

What's up?

JOHNNY

You ok?

AMY

(to Abigail)

Have you talked to your brother at all tonight?

ABIGAIL

Chris? No, why?

AMY

AJ's not home yet. Damn it we're in deep shit.

Amy stands up and tries calling AJ. Her friends look on with concern.

AMY (CONT'D)
Come on pick up dude...

It goes to voicemail.

AMY (CONT'D)
Can you try Chris?

ABIGAIL
For sure.

Abigail calls Chris, she looks Amy in the eyes as it rings. He finally picks up --

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Chris! Are you with AJ?

Amy looks on in suspense...

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
What? Oh my God...

AMY
What? What is it?

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - NIGHT

RED AND BLUE LIGHTS flash -- a POLICE CAR is parked on the side of the road next to DONALD HANEY'S PICKUP TRUCK.

Johnny's Prius tears off the road and slams on the breaks. Amy jumps out of the back seat and runs towards a small group that's gathered --

DONALD HANEY (50's), wearing dirty construction worker's clothes, stands next to SHARON HANEY (late 40's), she used to be pretty but years of smoking and drinking have taken their toll, her mascara blurred and arms crossed.

They're speaking with two uniformed Cops -- OFFICER ALVARADO (30's) a Latino man with a thick mustache, looks like he was born to be a cop, and OFFICER HAWTHORNE (30's) a skinny white guy who looks like he got beaten up too many times in high school and decided to go into law enforcement.

Beaver and Chris stand quietly nearby.

AMY
Dad, where is he, did you find him?

DONALD HANEY
Where the hell were you?

SHARON HANEY
You were supposed to be watching
him! I can't believe this...

AMY
I...

OFFICER ALVARADO
Excuse me, sorry, you're Amy right?
Hi, I'm officer Alvarado, this is
Officer Hawthorne. If there's
anything you know that could help
us find your brother...

OFFICER HAWTHORNE
Any reason you think he may have
tried to run away?

SHARON HANEY
(begins to sob)
Oh God...

Amy's stunned by the question, she locks eyes with her father
who's look says "you better not say anything".

AMY
Run away? I... No of course not.

OFFICER ALVARADO
(glances at Donald)
You sure?

Johnny and Abigail walk up to Chris and Beaver.

BEAVER
(to Johnny)
Sup.

Johnny just gives him a look.

ABIGAIL
(to Chris)
You ok?

CHRIS
Yeah, just worried...

ABIGAIL
Come here.

She hugs her brother.

AMY

So what the hell are you doing to find AJ?

ABIGAIL

Oh shit.

Abigail lets go of Chris and turns towards the adults.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Is there anything we can do to help?

DONALD HANEY

Great the whole band of losers is here.

Johnny steps forward towards Donald like he's going to do something about this, but Amy gives him a look to stop. She turns her attention back to the Policemen.

OFFICER ALVARADO

Everybody calm down. We need to work together in an orderly fashion to find AJ.

AMY

What are we waiting for?

BEAVER

Yeah let's move it! We can help you find him. We know those woods like the back of our butts.

Beaver pulls a HEADLAMP out of his backpack and awkwardly places it on his head.

OFFICER HAWTHORNE

Right... good.

A PICKUP TRUCK pulls up to the scene, TWO BURLY LOOKING MEN exit.

DONALD HANEY

(to his friends)

Thanks for the assist here boys.

EDDIE (50s), tough looking guy, ex-military vibe, and JEFF (40s), dressed in camo with orange fluorescent patches -- typical deer hunting apparel. He holds an EMPTY SODA BOTTLE, and has a HAND GUN in a holster on his hip.

JEFF

Happy to oblige.

OFFICER ALVARADO
(referring to Jeff's gun)
You have a permit for that?

Jeff spits YELLOW SALIVA into his soda bottle.

JEFF
Yep.

OFFICER HAWTHORNE
Alright...

Officer Alvarado hands flashlights to those that need them.

DONALD HANEY
Let's move.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Everyone enters the woods with Beaver and Chris in the lead.

BEAVER
This is it.

OFFICER ALVARADO
What do you mean this is it?

CHRIS
This is where we were playing
Manhunt, this is where we split up.

JOHNNY
Great, looks exactly the same as
every other square inch of this
place.

AMY
Do you have any idea which
direction AJ went from here?

Beaver tentatively points deeper into the woods.

BEAVER
That way, I think.

DONALD HANEY
You think?

BEAVER
Well, I had my eyes closed. I was
the hunter and those are the rules.

JOHNNY

Perfect.

CHRIS

Well, I know I went that way.

Chris points in the opposite direction.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

And AJ definitely didn't go in the same direction as me.

Amy scans the woods back and forth with the flashlight, uncertainty gripping her, then the beam of the flashlight quickly passes over a WOMAN IN A BLACK CLOAK standing deeper in the woods -- watching them. It registers with Amy a split second after we see it, she swings the flashlight back to the same spot -- nothing there.

AMY

(shaken)

Did you guys see that?

OFFICER ALVARADO

See what?

ABIGAIL

You ok Amy?

Amy holds the flashlight on the spot where she saw the woman, waiting for her to appear again, but she never comes back.

AMY

What? Yeah, sorry... I think we should go this way.

OFFICER ALVARADO

Alright, fan out, but everyone keep moving in the same direction. Kids, you're with us.

BEAVER

10-4.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

JEFF and EDDIE pace together. The flashlights of the other pairs can faintly be seen off in the distance.

JEFF

You think we'll find the kid?

EDDIE

If he's smart enough to stay put,
wherever he is, then we might have
a chance.

JEFF

Just gotta hope he didn't press too
deep into these woods. Just less
then a mile from where we are now,
things change...

(spits)

The forest is older there, it was
never logged by the early settlers.

Jeff gives Eddie a look that says "we're not finding him".

Donald and Sharon walk together, but far enough away from the
others that they can't be seen through the dense woods.

DONALD HANEY

AJ!

SHARON HANEY

Baby it's mama!

DONALD HANEY

Just yell if you can hear us son!
He has to be able to hear us,
right?

SHARON HANEY

Maybe he doesn't want to be found.

Sharon looks at her husband with contempt.

DONALD HANEY

What's that supposed to mean?

SHARON HANEY

What do you think it means?

DONALD HANEY

You saying this is my fault?

Donald GRABS SHARON'S ARM tightly, they stop in their tracks.

DONALD HANEY (CONT'D)

Do not take that tone with me
bitch.

SHARON HANEY

All I have to do scream, and those two cops will come running this way, and I'll tell them all about you and why our son is gone.

Donald releases his grip.

DONALD HANEY

We'll continue this conversation later.

SHARON HANEY

Fuck you.

Sharon stops, trembling as her husband walks away. Peering into the darkness behind her, she considers turning back.

A TREE BRANCH CRACKS behind her. She swings her flashlight in the direction of the sound -- nothing there. Then another crack to her left -- nothing there either.

Something scurries along the forest bed, while making a quiet CLICKING noise almost like a bat. She's starting to freak out. Her husband disappears from sight behind a large tree.

SHARON HANEY (CONT'D)

Shit.

She begrudgingly runs to catch up to Donald.

JEFF and EDDIE continue their search, something moves quickly by them in the darkness -- the same sound that Sharon heard.

JEFF

You hear that?

EDDIE

Hear what?

JEFF

Shh, stop moving...

They hear it again.

JEFF (CONT'D)

That.

EDDIE

The fuck is that?

Jeff walks towards the sound, away from the group and their intended path. He stops at the top of a small incline.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing? We're supposed to keep walking that way.

He points in their original direction.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

With the rest of the group.

JEFF

What if it's the kid?

EDDIE

Shit.

Eddie follows Jeff down the hill, the lights of the rest of the group disappearing behind them.

JEFF

AJ that you?

They hear the sound again, right in front of them.

EDDIE

Kid, make some noise to let us know where you are.

They hear the clicking sound again -- it's CLOSE.

JEFF

He's right here!

They run towards the sound, Jeff in front and Eddie behind.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Keep making noise kid we're here to save you!

Suddenly Eddie is TACKLED TO THE GROUND by something leaping through the air at him.

Jeff continues to run, not noticing what happened to Eddie. He makes it to the bottom of the hill and scans around with his flashlight.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Kid where are you? AJ! Eddie you see anything?

No response.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Eddie?

Jeff turns around slowly to see Eddie laying on the ground,
BLOOD POURING FROM HIS NECK.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Jesus Mary and Joseph.

Jeff's shaky hands reach for the release strap on his gun
holster, adrenaline and fear have him fumbling with the gun.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Shit!

He has to look down at the holster to release it. He pulls
himself together, gripping the gun and raising it up to find
his target. The creature LEAPS at Jeff -- he FIRES.

Everyone stops in their tracks at the sound of the gun shot.

OFFICER ALVARADO

What the hell?

DONALD HANEY (O.S.)

(yelling from afar)

Who's shooting? What the hell is
happening?

OFFICER HAWTHORNE

(yelling back to everyone)

Everyone group up on us right now.

Everyone comes running through the woods to meet them, except
Jeff and Eddie.

AMY

What's happening?

ABIGAIL

Is everyone ok?

OFFICER ALVARADO

(yelling)

Jeff, Eddie, are you guys ok?

They wait for a response, but none comes.

OFFICER ALVARADO (CONT'D)

Alright, everybody stay close.

The group trades knowing glances. Both officers draw their
guns. They move purposefully, and reach the top of the
incline quickly. They begin to hear the creature's clicking
sound and some faint rustling of leaves down below them.

SHARON HANEY
What was that? You hear that?

OFFICER ALVARADO
Yeah...

OFFICER HAWTHORNE
Jeff, Eddie, can you hear us?
More of the creature's bat-like clicking.

DONALD HANEY
They might be hurt, we need to get
down there. Hang in there boys
we're coming for you!

They slowly move down the hill, everyone on edge. Officer Alvarado scans with his flashlight back and forth, the cone of light passes by Eddie on the ground, catching view of him with the CREATURE on top of his chest for the briefest moment -- small, the size of a CHILD.

OFFICER ALVARADO
There!

The image registers in his brain and he quickly swings the flashlight back towards Eddie's limp body on the ground -- but the creature is gone.

The group rushes to Eddie. When they reach him, he's pale as a ghost and not moving. A TRAIL OF BLOOD oozes from his neck.

DONALD HANEY
Eddie! We're here buddy.

BEAVER
Whoa, gnarly.

AMY
Shut it Beaver.

Officer Hawthorne bends over Eddie to check his vitals, the rest of the group watches on as Officer Alvarado stays frosty, scanning the woods with his pistol ready.

SHARON HANEY
Is he?

OFFICER HAWTHORNE
He's breathing... barely. Eddie can
you hear me?

No response, he's comatose with his eyes wide open.

ROGER
What's wrong with him?

OFFICER HAWTHORNE
I have no idea.

Officer Hawthorne activates his shoulder-radio.

OFFICER HAWTHORNE (CONT'D)
Dispatch, we need an ambulance out
at the old town ruins ASAP, we have
a civilian down.

Officer Alvarado locates Jeff with his flashlight, close by.

OFFICER ALVARADO
There!

He rushes over to Jeff.

OFFICER ALVARADO (CONT'D)
(yelling back to
Hawthorne)
He's in the same condition as
Eddie.

DONALD HANEY
What the hell is happening? What
could have done this?

Officer Alvarado locates Jeff's gun on the ground and picks
it up, making sure the safety is on, then holsters it.

OFFICER ALVARADO
I don't know, but he was scared of
something.

They all realize what this means, and start scanning the
woods around them for a potential threat.

OFFICER ALVARADO (CONT'D)
We carry them out of the woods, the
ambulance should be there waiting
for us by the time we get back.

AMY
What about AJ?

DONALD HANEY
I'm not leaving without my son.

AJ (O.S.)
Amy?

Everyone swings around to the sound of AJ's voice.

AMY

AJ!

AJ is standing behind them, dazed, dirty, and ghostly pale.

SHARON HANEY

Oh my god.

Sharon and Amy both rush to AJ's side.

AJ

I... where are we?

Amy and Sharon look at each other, both concerned.

AMY

We're in the woods, you were playing Manhunt with the guys.

BEAVER

Looks like you won this round dude.

Chris nudges Beaver, not the right time.

AMY

You don't remember any of that?

AJ

No... I remember leaving school... my head hurts.

SHARON HANEY

It's ok, everything's going to be ok.

Sharon wipes dirt from AJ's face with her sleeve... is that BLOOD around his mouth? She wipes it clean.

OFFICER ALVARADO

Not to take away from the small miracle of finding AJ, but we have two men down that need immediate medical attention. If we don't move quickly your friends might not make it.

DONALD GREY

Shit, alright, we need to work together to get these guys out of here. Can one of you carry AJ?

JOHNNY
I got you little man.

Johnny picks up AJ, and the rest of the group works on picking up the downed men.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - NIGHT

An AMBULANCE is parked near the cars with its emergency lights on. A PARAMEDIC works on Eddie and Jeff, checking vitals, prepping the men for transport on gurneys, while another PARAMEDIC checks AJ.

PARAMEDIC #1
What happened to them?

OFFICER ALVARADO
Could be some kind of animal attack, not sure.

PARAMEDIC #1
I don't know of any animal around here that can paralyze a man.

The officers exchange a concerned look.

DONALD HANEY
Are they going to be ok?

PARAMEDIC #1
To be honest? No clue.

DONALD HANEY
Fucking great.

Sharon and Amy are with AJ as he gets looked over, he's fast asleep.

PARAMEDIC #2
Overall he seems ok, heart rate and breathing are good, his body temp is a little low but that's probably due to exposure. I'm sure some sleep will do him good. Keep an eye on him, but I don't see a reason you can't take him home.

SHARON HANEY
Oh thank God.

Amy hugs her mother.

The rest of the kids approach the scene.

DONALD HANEY
Let's get AJ in the truck.

Donald, Sharon and AJ load into the truck. The paramedics load Jeff and Eddie into the ambulance.

AMY
You guys good?

JOHNNY
I'll get everyone home.

ABIGAIL
Go be with AJ.

AMY
Thank you. Thank you all. I'll call you later!

Amy gets in the truck with her family, and everyone else loads up in Johnny's car. They all leave the scene.

At the edge of the woods, the CLOAKED WOMAN, illuminated only by the moonlight, stands watching them leave.

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Haney's pickup truck sits parked in their driveway.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AJ'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

AJ lays in bed, Sharon sits on the edge running her hand through his hair.

SHARON HANEY
Are you comfortable baby?

AJ
Uh huh.

SHARON HANEY
You have enough blankets? I can get you another blanket if you're not warm enough.

AJ
I'm ok.

SHARON HANEY
Ok. I'm so happy you're home, you have no idea how worried we were.

She leans down and kisses him on the forehead.

AJ
Thanks mom.

Donald enters the room.

DONALD HANEY
Just got off the phone with Eddie's
wife. She's saying they're both
stable and will be released
tonight.

SHARON HANEY
Oh thank God.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Amy leans against the wall outside of AJ's room, listening in through the cracked door.

DONALD HANEY (O.S.)
They wouldn't be in the hospital in
the first place it weren't for your
recklessness. I don't want you
hanging out in the woods with your
idiot friends anymore. You hear me
boy?

POV - Amy peers into the room through the cracked door.

SHARON HANEY
Jesus Christ Donald, do you have do
this right now? Can't you see he's
exhausted?

DONALD HANEY
He needs to understand the
consequences of what he did.

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Donald bursts through the door, startling Amy who presses her back against the hallway wall. Donald realizes she's been there listening in, pissing him off even more.

DONALD HANEY
Don't think for a second I'm done
with you either. This is on you as
much as it is on him.

He turns and heads for the kitchen. Amy takes a deep breath, then pokes her head into AJ's room.

AMY

Hey.

Sharon is sitting down next to AJ again.

AMY (CONT'D)

I just wanted to say goodnight to AJ. If you need anything tonight you can come wake me up ok?

AJ

Thanks Sis.

SHARON HANEY

Do you want me to stay with you while you fall asleep?

AJ

No, I'll be ok.

His looks says "Mom I'm way too old for that".

SHARON HANEY

Ok, sweet dreams baby.

Sharon makes sure he's tucked in, then gets up, shuts off the bedroom light, and exits the room.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Amy lays in bed, staring at the ceiling, taking in everything that happened. She takes a deep breath, then rolls onto her side, and closes her eyes.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AJ'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

AJ's alarm clock reads 3AM.

The house is quiet and dark, everyone sleeping.

AJ slowly sits up in his bed, as if he's rising out of it without using his muscles. He stands up, his expression completely blank, and moves across the floor so smoothly it looks like he's FLOATING.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

AJ continues down the dark hallway until he reaches --

**INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - DONALD AND SHARON'S ROOM -
CONTINUOUS**

Their door creeps open, and AJ moves into the room.

Donald and Sharon are both sleeping on their sides, facing away from each other, the large gap between them suggesting they didn't resolve anything before falling asleep. Neither are disturbed by AJ entering the room.

AJ is PERCHED ON THE FOOT OF THEIR BED FRAME, like a bird on a wire, looking down on them as they sleep. His eyes are completely WHITE, and he slowly opens his mouth revealing rows of sharp animalistic TEETH.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AMY'S ROOM - MORNING

A few rays of golden morning sun shine in through Amy's blinds. Birds chirp outside her bedroom window. She begrudgingly rolls over and opens her eyes.

She picks up her phone from her bedside table, the time reads 7:15AM. She lays in bed for another minute, scrolling through instagram -- nothing exciting, so she locks the phone again.

She gets out of bed, doesn't bother to change out of her pajama shorts and a MISFITS t-shirt that she cut the sleeves and bottom off of to make a crop top.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Amy makes coffee. The rest of the house is quiet.

She pours herself a cup. Sits at the dinner table, scrolls through her phone some more.

She sends a group text to Abigail and Johnny --

AMY (TEXT)
Anybody up yet?

Sips some more coffee. Johnny responds --

JOHNNY (TEXT)
Are you crazy?! Go back to bed!
{crying face emoji}

Amy smiles. She finishes her coffee and places the mug in the sink. She looks out the window -- the golden morning light making her feel like everything's going to be ok.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AJ'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Amy slowly opens AJ's door, trying not to wake him. The blinds are closed and the room is dark. She peaks in and sees him sleeping on his side with his back to her.

She quietly enters the room and sits on the edge of the bed, carefully placing her hand on his shoulder.

AMY

Morning little dude. How'd you sleep?

AJ doesn't move.

AMY (CONT'D)

AJ?

This time she pushes a little harder on his shoulder, trying to get him to roll over.

AJ lets out a low moan, then rolls onto his back -- his eyes are closed, and his mouth and chest are COVERED IN DRY BLOOD.

AMY (CONT'D)

(screaming)

What the fuck! AJ! Wake up!

She shakes him, trying to get him to wake up. The blanket falls away from him revealing the BLACK PARASITE attached to his shirtless chest.

AMY (CONT'D)

What the fuck?!

She stands up and backs away from him, terrified.

AMY (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Mom wake up! There's something wrong with AJ!

No response.

AMY (CONT'D)

Mom?

Amy rushes out of AJ's room.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - DONALD AND SHARON'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy bursts in through the door.

AMY

Did you hear me? There's something wrong with...

Then she sees them -- both of her parents lay in a massive POOL OF BLOOD. They've had their THROATS RIPPED OUT, like a wild predator does to its prey.

Amy SCREAMS.

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Amy bursts through the front door, still in her pajamas, running at full sprint.

She runs down the street in tears as fast as she can, until she can't run anymore. She bends over, hyperventilating.

Amy takes out her phone and dials Abigail. She cries deeply as it rings and rings. Then Abigail picks up.

ABIGAIL (O.S.)

Amy... What time is it?

Amy can't speak, she just cries into the phone.

ABIGAIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Amy? What's wrong? *What happened?*

INT. ABIGAIL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Amy sits on Abigail's bed with a blanket wrapped around her, arms around her knees like she's in an upright fetal position.

Abigail's on the phone.

ABIGAIL

I don't know... Just get over here... like right now. Ok, bye... Johnny's on his way.

Abigail sits down and wraps her arm around Amy.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Hey, it's ok, you're safe now... Can you tell me what happened? Did your Dad...

Amy begins crying again.

AMY

No...

ABIGAIL

Ok, did something happen to AJ?

AMY

Oh God...

ABIGAIL

Jesus Christ... ok. Do I need to call the police?

AMY

No! They will take him away for sure.

Abigail is surprised by Amy's sudden defensiveness.

ABIGAIL

Ok, no police.

Abigail's door swings open, Chris walks in.

CHRIS

Hey are you ok?

ABIGAIL

Dude do you know how to knock?

CHRIS

Sorry, I heard crying...

ABIGAIL

Get out!

AMY

No... it's ok, he should hear this...

ABIGAIL

You sure?

AMY

(to Chris)

Get Beaver over here too.

INT. ABIGAIL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Johnny and Beaver are standing in the bedroom now, listening to Amy as she tells them what happened.

AMY

There was so much blood...
everywhere. They're dead.

Amy begins crying again.

JOHNNY

Jesus fucking Christ.

AMY

I freaked, I didn't know what else
to do other than come here.

BEAVER

Wait, what about AJ?

AMY

He just... kept sleeping? I don't
know.

CHRIS

But the blood...

BEAVER

It wasn't his.

CHRIS

Oh shit...
(realizing what this
means)
Oh shit!

AMY

Guys there's something else,
something I don't even know how to
explain... There was something
attached to AJ, like some kind of
parasite. It was *alive*.

JOHNNY

What the fuck?

ABIGAIL

Amy... are you sure? You could just
be in shock...

AMY

I'm sure.

CHRIS

What do you think it was?

AMY

No fucking clue.

JOHNNY
So what do we do?

AMY
What?

JOHNNY
If AJ killed your parents, what are we going to do about him? Or their bodies?

AMY
Fuck. Fuck!

BEAVER
I say we go back over there, together. If AJ's dangerous then we should get him under control before he hurts anyone else. You said he was sleeping right?

AMY
Yeah, it's like he couldn't wake up.

BEAVER
Maybe we can use that to our advantage. Restrain him while he's sleeping, then maybe we can get some answers?

CHRIS
Beaver that's --

AMY
Not a terrible idea.

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Johnny's car pulls into the driveway with everyone in it.

JOHNNY
So whats the plan here? I have some rope in my trunk, think that'll work?

AMY
Yeah... maybe.

BEAVER
Ok so where do you want me? I can flank through the back door, or...

AMY

You guys all stay outside and keep an eye out. Johnny and I will take care of AJ.

BEAVER

But...

Chris nudges Beaver -- "shut up". Amy and Johnny give each other a look that says "ready as I'll ever be", and exit.

Johnny opens the trunk, there's a spool of rock climbing rope along with empty beer cans and other junk, as well as a baseball bat. He grabs the rope, begins to reach for the bat.

AMY

No, no way.

JOHNNY

We need to protect ourselves. After what he did to your parents...

AMY

Absolutely not, we are not harming my brother.

Reluctantly, Johnny leaves the bat and closes the trunk.

ABIGAIL

Please be careful.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Johnny and Amy cautiously enter the house. The blinds are drawn throughout -- nice and dark.

AMY

AJ?

They wait a moment by the front door -- no response.

JOHNNY

Where was he when you left?

AMY

His bedroom.

Amy and Johnny move slowly down the hallway.

AMY (CONT'D)

AJ, it's just me ok?

They stop outside AJ's room, his door is closed.

AMY (CONT'D)
(whispering to Johnny)
You ready?

Johnny nods. Amy grasps the door latch, slowly turning it -- the door hinges creak as they move into the room.

They approach AJ's bed, his sheets bunched up in the shape of his body. They move closer, ready to grab him, but once they're close enough they realize the bed is EMPTY.

AMY (CONT'D)
Shit.

JOHNNY
He has to be here somewhere right?

ABOVE them, something moves. AJ is upside down HANGING FROM THE CEILING in the corner of the room. His eyes are open, but they're completely white. His physical features have begun to change -- his hair is falling out, and he's skinnier, his bone structure more jagged. His shirt is off and the parasite is completely visible.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
What the fuck.

AMY
Oh my god. AJ.

JOHNNY
What the hell is going on? How is this even possible?

AMY
How the fuck should I know? AJ, can you hear me?

He's still for a moment, then shifts positions -- Amy and Johnny both jump backwards.

JOHNNY
Christ!

AJ doesn't attack, it's like he's just finding a more comfortable position to sleep in.

AMY
We need to get him down.

JOHNNY
You're fucking with me right?

Her look says no. Amy and Johnny climb on top of AJ's dresser so they can reach him.

AMY

On three we pull him down ok?
One... two... three.

They grasp AJ as best they can, and pull him from the ceiling -- once his hands and feet are free of contact he free falls into their arms -- then WAKES UP. They all fall to the floor. AJ begins thrashing back and forth, hissing at them and gnashing his teeth.

AMY (CONT'D)

Hold him down!

JOHNNY

I'm trying!

AJ's teeth barely miss Johnny's neck. He manages to flip AJ over and hold AJ's hands behind his back.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Grab the rope.

Amy scrambles. She finds it near the bed and lunges for it.

AMY

Got it!

She moves quickly and wraps it around AJ's hands. Johnny takes over and hog-ties AJ's hands and feet together so he can't move. Amy and Johnny both fall back onto the ground, catching their breath. AJ stops struggling.

AMY (CONT'D)

Holy shit. Where'd you learn how to do that?

JOHNNY

My old man, used to take me hunting when I was a kid.

AMY

Hunting? You?

JOHNNY

Yeah... couldn't really stomach it, probably where the whole vegan thing started... He still hasn't let me hear the end of it.

AMY

Shit, I'm sorry.

JOHNNY

Fuck him... What do we do with AJ?

AMY

Let's move him to the bed.

They get up and pick up AJ, placing him down in bed. AJ opens his mouth bearing his teeth and hisses.

JOHNNY

Jesus Christ... Now what?

AMY

He can't hurt anyone now. We can focus on finding whatever started all of this...

Donald Haney quietly enters the room behind them. He's still covered in blood and his neck wound hasn't healed.

Donald GRABS JOHNNY from behind.

JOHNNY

Oh fuck!

Amy spins around to see her father attacking Johnny.

AMY

Dad? Oh shit!

Johnny struggles, narrowly avoiding being bitten. The fight moves quickly, Johnny trying his best to wrestle away from Donald's grasp. They both go crashing through the BEDROOM WINDOW --

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Abigail, Chris, and Beaver watch as Johnny and Donald land hard on the ground outside of AJ's bedroom -- in BROAD DAYLIGHT. Donald's body goes LIMP.

BEAVER

Holy fuckballs!

ABIGAIL

Johnny!

They run to help Johnny, Amy appears at the window.

AMY

What happened? Are you ok?

Johnny rolls Donald's limp body off of him and sits up.

JOHNNY

Yeah, I'm good. He just stopped.

Beaver stands over Donald's body, looking at him.

BEAVER

Holy fucking hell.

Beaver pushes Donald's body with his foot -- no response.

ABIGAIL

Amy what the hell is happening?

Amy begins screaming from inside the house -- the group turns to see her mother pulling Amy back into the house.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Amy!

Johnny jumps up.

JOHNNY

We need to get in there!

Johnny runs to the window followed by the rest of the group, he tries to climb in through the window but SLICES HIS HAND open on the broken glass.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Fuck!

They see Amy being pulled into the hallway then lose sight of her.

ABIGAIL

The front door!

They move quickly into the house.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy's managed to get away from her mother, she's holding a LAMP trying to defend herself.

AMY

Please... Mom it's me. You have to still be in there somewhere.

ABIGAIL

Amy!

Sharon spins around, lunging at Abigail. Abigail tries moving out of the way, but Sharon scratches her arm deeply.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Shit!

Johnny grabs Sharon's arm trying to subdue her, but Sharon throws him across the room into a wall.

AMY

Mom!

Sharon spins around to face Amy.

AMY (CONT'D)

That's right, I'm the one you want,
come and get me.

CHRIS

We need to do something!

Beaver scans the room, looking for anything that could help. He sees AJ's backpack sitting on a table and runs for it.

Sharon closes in on Amy, backing her into a corner.

AMY

Whatever you're gonna do, do it
fast!

Beaver rips open AJ's backpack pulling out the FIRECRACKERS.

BEAVER

Lighter!

JOHNNY

Beav, think fast!

Johnny throws his Zippo to Beaver. He catches it, flips open the top and lights the firecrackers in one smooth motion.

Sharon lunges for Amy, but Beaver tosses the firecrackers at Sharon's feet and they begin exploding all around her. She hisses and recoils at the flames.

BEAVER

Move now!

Amy drops the lamp and they run for the front door. The firecrackers stop, Sharon chases after them furiously.

Everyone flies out of the front door into the sunlight. Sharon is forced to stop at the edge of the doorway. Once they're out of reach she quickly calms down and stands still, staring at them with no emotion.

AMY
Is everyone OK?

ABIGAIL
I think so...

She looks at the scratch on her arm, wipes the blood on her jeans.

JOHNNY
All good. Nice one in there Beaver.

Amy stares back at her mother, standing ominously in the doorway. She moves closer to get a better look, the doorway acting like an invisible barrier.

AMY
Mom? Can you hear me?

She's totally unresponsive.

ABIGAIL
Guys what the fuck is going on?

CHRIS
This is insane... impossible.

Amy analyzes, thinking hard about everything they've seen.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. AUTUMN
They believed their friends and family were becoming members of the Undead.

BACK TO:

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Amy's putting it all together.

AMY
No fucking way...

Amy rushes to the car, searching through the backseat in a frenzy.

AMY (CONT'D)
I think I know what's happening.

She finds the book Ms. Autumn gave her. She exits the car and starts flipping through pages.

AMY (CONT'D)

Remember Ms. Autumn's lecture about the Vampire Panic?

CHRIS

Vampire panic?

AMY

Something did really happen here, hundreds years ago.

In the book there's an ILLUSTRATION of a group of puritan settlers examining a body.

The rest of the group exchanges worried looks.

AMY (CONT'D)

Shortly after the first settlers arrived here, they started getting sick, like weirdly sick. It began with one villager who went missing in the woods near their village, the same village that used be on the edge of the woods where we lost AJ. He returned after a few days, but something was wrong with him.

INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Eddie lays in bed, pale as a ghost, twitching violently.

INTERCUT THE HANEY'S HOUSE/EDDIE'S HOUSE

AMY

The doctors didn't know what it was, he wasted away until he died.

Eddie slowly sits up out of bed, his eyes have gone completely white.

AMY (CONT'D)

The night after they buried him, his family was found, massacred.

Eddie's on top of his wife, RIPPING OUT HER THROAT with his teeth.

AMY (CONT'D)

Night after night, the same thing would happen to other families in the village.

Eddie stands over his dead wife, her body begins twitching.

AMY (CONT'D)

That's when they started digging up bodies looking for answers.

Amy turns the page, there's an illustration of the settlers digging up graves on one page, and on the next is another illustration of a dismembered body laying on a table.

AMY (CONT'D)

The bodies weren't decomposing. They even had fresh blood coursing through their veins. The townspeople were convinced that they were being plagued by...

BEAVER

Fucking vampires!

Eddie's wife rises, blood still pouring from her neck wound.

END INTERCUTTING

JOHNNY

Oh this is just fucking wonderful.

ABIGAIL

Guys what are we saying? Vampires aren't real.

AMY

Tell that to my dead mother who's standing in the doorway...

Amy begins to sob again. Abigail comes to her side.

ABIGAIL

I'm sorry. I just...

Amy wipes tears from her eyes.

AMY

It's ok... I know you didn't mean anything.

JOHNNY

Ok so if your parents are vampires,
why didn't your dad burst into
flames when the sun hit him?

BEAVER

Stakes, crucifixes, holy water...
there's no reason to think any of
it would work.

CHRIS

What are you talking about?
Everyone knows that's how to kill a
vampire.

BEAVER

All of that stuff was made up by
Hollywood. In the real mythology
from way back in the day vampires,
zombies, whatever -- they're all
just members of the undead. The one
thing they definitely do is try and
eat you.

JOHNNY

Fantastic.

BEAVER

That's why the villagers
dismembered and burned them. Only
way to be sure.

ABIGAIL

How do you know all of this Beaver?

BEAVER

I've been stealing my brother's
Fangoria magazines since I was
five.

JOHNNY

Right... Well at least we know the
sun immobilizes them.

They look at Donald's body on the ground. Amy unexpectedly
wells with anger and sadness all at once.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Shit, I'm sorry Amy... Hold on.

Abigail comes to Amy's side, hoping to comfort her. Johnny
heads to his trunk and gets a MOVING BLANKET. He lays it over
Donald's body.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You shouldn't have to look at this.

Amy gathers herself, wiping tears away, and turns away from the sight.

AMY

Thank you. We need to deal with him somehow...

Behind her Donald RISES TO HIS FEET with the blanket on top of him, like a kid dressed as a ghost for Halloween.

ABIGAIL

Amy look out!

Johnny rushes past her, spinning her around. Johnny grabs Donald and pushes him back into the house, right into Sharon and both of the vampires fall to the floor. Johnny quickly shuts the door on them, trapping them in the house.

JOHNNY

Holy fuck. The sun definitely doesn't kill them...

CHRIS

Just makes them dormant...

AMY

Jesus Christ, we need to find a way to stop this before the sun goes down... There has to be an answer in here.

Amy furiously flips through pages of the text book, landing on another illustration depicting the exact scene that we saw earlier -- the six witches burning at the stake, and a villager holding the BOX.

AMY (CONT'D)

(talking about the box)

This has to be important somehow... how do we... Ms. Autumn!

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

School is out for the day, but Ms. Autumn is sitting at her desk grading papers.

KNOCK KNOCK - Amy is standing at her doorway.

AMY

Ms. Autumn?

MS. AUTUMN

Hello, Amy.

AMY

Do you have a few minutes?

MS. AUTUMN

Of course, come in.

Amy enters, standing nervously in front of Ms. Autumn's desk, holding her book.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)

How are you? I heard about everything that's been going on, is your brother ok?

AMY

Oh, uh, yeah thanks for asking... AJ is... home, it's all that matters.

MS. AUTUMN

Wonderful to hear... So...

AMY

Yeah, sorry, I... can I ask you some more questions about your last lecture... about the Vampire Panic?

MS. AUTUMN

Of course, how have you been liking the book so far?

AMY

Um, it's enlightening to say the least. So the women, the ones that the villagers killed... who were they exactly?

MS. AUTUMN

They were a small coven of pagans, free-thinking women that worshiped nature as their religion. Legend says they communed with an ancient forest god, who granted them knowledge and vitality.

Amy processes this for a moment, then opens the book and places it on Ms. Autumn's desk, pointing at the illustration of the box.

AMY

Do you have any idea what this might be?

MS. AUTUMN

Well well, you are quite observant aren't you? The story goes that the first villager to be infected, the one that spread the plague, had been cursed by the pagans.

AMY

Cursed?

MS. AUTUMN

Yes, they used the heart of their god to draw out his life force, and the life force of everyone in the village. They planned to use it for a sacred ritual. But before they could finish, the villagers ambushed them. They took the heart and placed it in this box, surrounded by Christian relics, and hid it away from the world, somewhere deep in the woods.

AMY

So when they placed it in the box the plague ended?

MS. AUTUMN

Indeed. Of course, this is all just superstitious myth that's been twisted over the centuries to paint the pagans as the perpetrators of evil.

BEAVER (O.S.)

She was right!

Ms. Autumn and Amy look towards the open door to see the rest of the group listening in from the hallway.

AMY

Thank you Ms. Autumn, really appreciate your help here!

Amy picks up the text book and quickly exits the room.

MS. AUTUMN

(smiling)

Any time.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

Amy and her friends move with purpose.

AMY

You guys catch all of that?

ABIGAIL

Find the ancient box, remove the forest god's heart from your brother's chest, lock it away in the box, and stop the undead from destroying the world. Easy enough.

BEAVER

Yeah but where the hell is this box?

AMY

She just said "deep in the woods". Do you think she meant the old forest?

CHRIS

Shit I hope not, that part of the woods is haunted, everybody knows that.

ABIGAIL

Sounds like the perfect place to hide something away from the world.

AMY

Have you guys ever been back there?

BEAVER

Are you kidding me? How dumb do we look? Don't answer that.

AMY

Damnit. Alright, but that's where we're going.

They reach Johnny's parked car, get in and start driving.

INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

ABIGAIL

The sun is down in a couple of hours, we don't have much time to figure this out before your parents can go wherever they want...

CHRIS

Holy shit... Amy, what about your dad's friends... Jeff and Eddie, they were attacked in the woods...

AMY

Fuck, you're right, how did we miss that?

JOHNNY

This town is going to be one big buffet.

ABIGAIL

There's not enough time to find the box and get back here before sunset. If Jeff and Eddie are Vampires too, we need to do something to contain them.

AMY

Goddamn it.

BEAVER

I say we split up, two teams. One goes for the box, the other works on containment.

ABIGAIL

That's not the worst idea.

AMY

This doesn't feel right... we're way stronger as a group.

ABIGAIL

Maybe, but I don't think we have another choice... Amy, you and Johnny should go find the box, I'll take Chris and Beaver to handle the others.

Amy is visibly frustrated, but doesn't see another way out of this.

AMY

I hate this...

EXT. ABIGAIL'S HOUSE - DAY

Johnny's car stops out front. Abigail, Chris, and Beaver get out.

AMY

Wait.

Amy hops out too. She grabs Abigail's hand.

ABIGAIL

(searching Amy's eyes)

Hey, what's going on?

AMY

Just... please be safe. I can't lose you too.

Abigail pulls Amy close for a long hug.

ABIGAIL

We can do this. We have to.

AMY

Containment only, no heroics ok?

ABIGAIL

That's the plan.

JOHNNY

(from the car)

Amy... We need to move.

AMY

Right...

Amy and abigail let go of each other. Concern and determination painted across both of their faces.

ABIGAIL

I'll see you soon.

Amy gets in the car and they take off. Abigail turns to Beaver and Chris --

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Let's do this.

INT. ABIGAIL'S HOUSE - GARAGE

BEGIN MONTAGE:

Abigail, Chris, and Beaver prepare however they can in a Sam Raimi style montage full of snap zooms and whip pans--

- Chris grabs a HAMMER AND NAILS, tosses them in a backpack.

- Beaver picks up a CHAINSAW, but Abigail makes him put it back.
- Abigail finds a few old CHAIN BIKE LOCKS.
- Beaver finds a huge pair of HEDGE CLIPPERS, Abigail shuts him down again.
- They put on black ZIP-UP HOODIES like they're covert uniforms.
- They each get on their bikes, kicking up the kick stands, and hit the road.

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - LATE AFTERNOON

Johnny's car tears off of the road coming to a screeching stop. Amy and Johnny exit. He pops the trunk.

JOHNNY

The baseball bat a go this time?

AMY

Absolutely. You got flashlights back here too?

JOHNNY

You know it.

He hands her one and grabs one for himself.

EXT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

They're moving quickly, racing the sun. They come to a clearing and Amy stops --

AMY

This is where I saw...

JOHNNY

Saw what?

Amy hesitates for a moment.

AMY

Please don't think I'm crazy, but when we were searching for AJ I saw a woman wearing a black cloak standing right here...

JOHNNY

You mean like a --

AMY

A witch.

JOHNNY

That probably the least crazy thing I've heard all day. So what do you think it means?

AMY

I think it means we're heading in the right direction.

EXT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Beaver, Abigail, and Chris are huddled together, trying to peak through a side window. The inside of the house is dark, and their vision is obscured by the blinds.

They whisper to each other.

BEAVER

Can you see anything? I can't see anything.

ABIGAIL

Doesn't look like anybody's home.

CHRIS

Maybe they're ok. Maybe they just went out for the day?

ABIGAIL

Only one way to be sure.

Abigail leaves the boys.

BEAVER

Where are you going?

Abigail stands at the front door, takes a deep breath, and RINGS THE DOORBELL.

CHRIS

Abi are you crazy?

ABIGAIL

You said it yourself, looks like nobody is home.

The front door has a small DECORATIVE GLASS INSERT at eye level, Abigail tries to peer in -- but the view is distorted by the shape of the glass.

BEAVER
What's the deal?

ABIGAIL
Totally dead in there.

Abigail turns away from the door to face the boys.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
We must have missed them.

The front door SWINGS OPEN and Abigail is grabbed at the ankles by an unseen assailant, causing her to SLAM FACE FIRST on the ground. She's PULLED into the house at lightning speed.

CHRIS
Abi!

Chris and Beaver look at each other for a moment, Beaver raises the HAMMER, they nod to each other and RUSH INTO THE HOUSE.

EXT. OLD WOODS - LATE AFTERNOON

Amy and Johnny are deep into the old woods. An ominous fog hangs low in the trees, the light seems muted here, everything is dark and grey.

Johnny's eyes dart back and forth, he looks behind them and up into the trees -- anxiety gripping him.

AMY
You ok man?

JOHNNY
It feels like someone's eyes are on us...

AMY
Yeah... I know what you mean.

JOHNNY
Fuck. Now I see why they say this place is haunted.

Ahead of them, a TINY FAINT LIGHT appears floating in the air, then another, and another until they're all around.

AMY
Oh my God.

JOHNNY

What?

AMY

The lights, you don't see them?

JOHNNY

What lights? You feeling ok?

When Johnny looks ahead to the same scene nothing is there. For Amy, this place feels magical.

AMY

Like little lightning bugs... And the air, it's like it's buzzing.

Amy raises her arm, the hairs on the back of her hand are standing on end. Johnny does the same but nothing happens to him.

AMY (CONT'D)

This just keeps getting weirder.

JOHNNY

Great. At least weird means we're going the right way.

AMY

Right...

They push through some thick brush and come upon the WALL OF TREES.

AMY (CONT'D)

What...

JOHNNY

The fuck.

INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Chris and Beaver rush in to find Abigail on the ground with Eddie on top of her -- he's covered in dry blood and Abigail is screaming for her life.

BEAVER

Hey fang-banger, heads up!

Eddie turns to face Beaver just as he swings the sharp side of the hammer down into Eddie's skull -- BLOOD SPLATTERS all over both Chris and Beaver. Eddie falls to the side.

CHRIS

Oh nasty.

ABIGAIL

Holy shit, that was close.

BEAVER

So much for surveillance only. That was pretty cool though!

Eddie REANIMATES -- the hammer still lodged in his head, and picks Beaver up with him as he gets off the ground. He HISSES inches from Beaver's face -- BLOOD AND GOO dripping from his mouth.

Beaver SCREAMS like a little girl.

Abigail and Chris both grab Beaver, trying to pull him from the vampire's grasp, and a grotesque game of tug and war ensues.

ABIGAIL

Let go of him!

CHRIS

Abi, behind him!

Mounted on the wall is a TEN-POINT BUCK'S HEAD.

ABIGAIL

Oh shit. On three. One, two...

CHRIS & ABIGAIL

Three!

They push as hard as they can and IMPALE EDDIE on the buck's antlers -- he drops Beaver. Eddie writhes and hisses, but can't get down.

CHRIS

Beaver you alright?

BEAVER

(checking himself)

Yeah... I think so.

Abigail watches Eddie as he squirms.

ABIGAIL

Guess you were right about stakes not working either... What are we going to do guys?

EDDIE'S WIFE (40's) comes running down the stairs -- wearing a robe, covered in blood, totally a VAMPIRE.

BEAVER

Run!

They book it for the front door, slamming it in her face.

CHRIS

(breathing heavily)

Way to close...

ABIGAIL

Beaver give me the bike chains.

Beaver takes off his backpack and pulls them out. Abigail wraps the chains through the door handle and attaches it to a railing on the stairs leading up to the front door.

BEAVER

You think that's gonna hold?

Eddie's Wife smashes into the door and it FLIES OPEN, breaking the chains. She's only stopped by the lingering sunlight.

ABIGAIL

We're so fucked.

CHRIS

You said it... Ok, so for once in his life Beaver is right...

BEAVER

(boasting)

Yeah I am.

CHRIS

Sunlight doesn't work...

ABIGAIL

Piercing the heart doesn't work...

CHRIS

So how do we kill these things?

BEAVER

The same way the early settlers did it.

CHRIS

What?

BEAVER
Burn the remains.

ABIGAIL
So we just need to ask all of the
vampires very nicely to get
together and jump on a big
bonfire... Simple.

BEAVER
Wait! I got it... Yes!

Beaver runs to his bike and hops on.

CHRIS
Where are you going?

BEAVER
We're losing sunlight fast... I
have a plan, just trust me!

Beaver starts peddling as hard as he can away from the scene. Chris and Abigail give each other a worried look, but get on their bikes and follow. The sun begins to dip behind the horizon.

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - TWILIGHT

The last bit of daylight disappears, and Donald RE-ANIMATES, getting up off the ground as if nothing happened. Sharon leaves the house and joins him.

INT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - AJ'S BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

AJ, still tied up, seems dormant for the moment -- then as the light leaves the room he begins shifting and struggling with the rope bindings. Getting stronger by the second, AJ SNAPS THE ROPE. He rises, and we see that his transformation is complete - he looks exactly like the WRAITH the witches were sacrificing hundreds of years earlier.

EXT. THE HANEY'S HOUSE - TWILIGHT

AJ Exits the house and joins his parents, together they walk off into their neighborhood -- hungry and looking for prey.

EXT. JEFF'S HOUSE - TWILIGHT

The front door of Jeff's house flies open. His next-door neighbor is just getting home from work.

The neighbor walks up their driveway shuffling through mail. Jeff approaches, but he doesn't take notice.

Jeff's wife and two teenage children exit the front door -- covered in blood. They see the neighbor as well and start moving towards him.

Jeff is just a few feet away from his neighbor --

JEFF'S NEIGHBOR
(half paying attention)
Oh shit, hey Jeff, you startled me
buddy.

Jeff stands completely still, his family getting closer.

JEFF'S NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)
Everything alright?
(waves his hand in Jeff's
face)
Hello, Earth to Jeff!

He peers around Jeff, noticing the rest of the family, but it's too late --

JEFF'S NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)
Oh fuck.

All four of them attack the neighbor, mail flying in the air. They feed on him like wild animals.

EXT. FOREST - WALL OF TREES - TWILIGHT

Amy and Johnny stand in awe at the Wall of Trees.

AMY
How is this possible?

JOHNNY
The same way every other fucked up
thing we've seen is...

AMY & JOHNNY
Witches.

Amy approaches the tunnel, crouches next to it, and peers into the darkness.

JOHNNY
Where do you think that goes?

AMY

Somewhere we shouldn't be...
Somewhere we have to go.

JOHNNY

Let me go first.

AMY

Is this some lame attempt at being
macho?

JOHNNY

Who knows what's waiting for us on
the other side of this... Vamps...
Something worse? At least if I go
first, whatever it is, it might not
like the taste of me. I am Vegan
after all.

AMY

(rolling her eyes)
Oh my god. Fine. Go.

Johnny gives her a big smile and crawls into the tunnel.

INT. TUNNEL OF TREES

Amy follows Johnny through the cramped space, crawling on
their hands and knees -- their flashlights the only source of
light.

AMY

Can you see anything? How far does
this go?

JOHNNY

I can't tell...

They keep moving for what seems like an eternity, the
claustrophobic space seeming to close in around them, until --

JOHNNY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I see something up ahead!

The end is in sight.

EXT. FOREST RUINS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They emerge into the old ruins, shocked by the sight. Amy
sees the same glow-bugs all around.

AMY
Whoa, what is this place?

JOHNNY
Fuck if I know...

They walk towards the altar.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
But its old.

AMY
Yeah... definitely not something
the European settlers built...

As they approach the altar, they finally see what they came all this way for -- the BOX sits on ground where AJ dropped it.

AMY (CONT'D)
Holy shit, is that it?

JOHNNY
Looks like an ancient magical box
to me.

Amy rushes to pick it up. As she does, the glow-bugs DISAPPEAR.

AMY
Oh shit.

JOHNNY
What? What's wrong?

AMY
Remember the lightning bugs?

JOHNNY
Yeah.

AMY
They just vanished.

JOHNNY
Is that good or bad?

AMY
Let's move.

They turn towards the tunnel, and as they race towards it the trees forming the wall contort -- CLOSING THE TUNNEL on them.

JOHNNY
Fuck me. Now what?

Amy turns around, and what she sees terrifies her.

AMY
Johnny... please tell me you see
this.

Johnny turns around, and goes pale white.

JOHNNY
Mother-fuck. Yeah... I see them.

Standing in the ruins are the GHOSTS OF THE DEAD WITCHES.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW COVENTRY - NIGHT

The UNDEAD are terrorizing downtown, being led by AJ. They're attacking people on the streets without fear. Their NUMBERS GROW with each new person they feed on. The small town is being turned to hell on earth.

With each new victim, the PARASITE on AJ's chest beats faster, absorbing the new energy the other vampires are taking in.

EXT. BEAVER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Abigail and Chris sit outside on their bikes. Abigail's attempting to get ahold of Amy using her smart-watch walkie-talkie app.

ABIGAIL
Amy you there? Do you have the box?

She looks to Chris.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
(worried)
Still nothing...

CHRIS
They're probably just out of range
of a signal. I'm sure everything's
fine.

Abigail looks off into the distance, deeply concerned.

ABIGAIL
Please be ok...

Beaver comes running out of the front door carrying a large DUFFEL BAG.

BEAVER
Guys I got it! We're in business!

ABIGAIL
What is that?

BEAVER
The solution to all of our problems.

The front door of Beaver's house flies open -- his older brother TROY (18), a chubby and even more awkward older version of Beaver, comes running out.

TROY
Beaver! Get back here you little fuck nugget!

BEAVER
Oh shit it's Troy! Go go go!

Beaver scrambles to get on his bike. They tear out of there just before Troy reaches them. They peddle away as fast as they can and Troy tries to keep up on foot, but quickly starts sucking wind.

TROY
You're dead Beaver, you're so fucking dead!

Beaver smiles a huge braces-filled grin.

CHRIS
Alright where to?

ABIGAIL
Follow the screams.

EXT. FOREST RUINS - NIGHT

Amy and Johnny are backed up to the wall of trees, the ghosts of the witches approach.

JOHNNY
What do we do? They can't hurt us right?

AMY
I have no idea...

Then an eerie but familiar voice pierces the air.

HEAD WITCH (O.S.)

*Do not be frightened children of
New Coventry... my sisters will not
harm you, if you behave.*

The source of the voice emerges from the darkness behind the apparitions -- The HEAD WITCH. She wears the same black cloak as the ghosts, her hood drawn so we can't clearly see her face.

JOHNNY

Are you...?

HEAD WITCH

Flesh and blood? Oh yes, very much so.

AMY

Who are you?

A sly grin appears under her hood.

HEAD WITCH

Always the inquisitive one aren't you... I am the keeper of this wood, its daughter and protector. This has been my charge longer than you could imagine...

JOHNNY

What do you want with us?

HEAD WITCH

I could ask the same of you boy. You are the one trespassing in my home.

JOHNNY

Right... look we don't want any trouble... we were actually on our way out. If you just open your little tree tunnel thing we'll get out of your hair.

HEAD WITCH

And why ever would you want to do that? The celebration is about to begin.

JOHNNY

Celebration?

AMY
 (realizing as she says it)
Mabon... The equinox.

HEAD WITCH
 I've waited centuries for this
 night...

Johnny looks to Amy -- *centuries?*

The Head Witch raises her arms in the air and looks to the stars.

HEAD WITCH (CONT'D)
 The celestial order is nearly
 aligned. Tonight I will finally
 restore my sisters.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW COVENTRY - NIGHT

Abigail, Beaver, and Chris hide behind a bush and watch their town as it's being ransacked by a horde of Vampires. Pedestrians run and scream. The sounds of sirens echo in the distance. A group of vampires encircle a COP, he FIRES HIS GUN but it has no effect and they lunge on him -- ripping out his throat.

ABIGAIL
 Jesus Christ!

CHRIS
 There's too many of them, no way we
 can take them all on.

BEAVER
 Yes we can.

Beaver unzips the duffel bag, revealing the BORING COMPANY "NOT A FLAMETHROWER".

ABIGAIL
 You have a fucking flamethrower?

BEAVER
 Technically it's my brother's, and
 technically it's not a
 flamethrower.

ABIGAIL
 Sure looks like a flamethrower to
 me.

CHRIS

Man you've been holding out on us
big time.

BEAVER

You guys ever hear of a guy named
Elon Musk?

On the side of the flamethrower is a logo: The Boring
Company, Beaver points to it.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

He started his millionth business,
the Boring Company, and they needed
to raise funds so they came up with
this bad boy, the "Not a
Flamethrower".

AMY

What?

BEAVER

They couldn't sell flamethrowers
for legal reasons, so they found a
loophole and just named it "Not a
Flamethrower". Problem solved.

Abigail and Chris look at Beaver like he has three heads.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

Seriously, google it.

CHRIS

So it is a flamethrower.

BEAVER

Technically no, but yes.

CHRIS

Beav, I've said a lot of things
about you in the past... I take at
least half of them back.

BEAVER

Thanks?

ABIGAIL

Well what are we waiting for? Let's
go roast some blood suckers.

The three of them leap up from behind the bush. The group of
vampires are still feeding on the Cop.

BEAVER

Hey spawns of Satan, over here!

The vampires spin around lightning-quick, they bear their fangs and hiss at the sight of the kids, then quickly get up and start running towards them.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

Hey do you guys smell that?

ABIGAIL

Smell what? Fucking shoot them
Beaver!

The vampires are almost on top of them. Beaver pulls the trigger and ROASTS THE WHOLE GROUP. They quickly stop in their tracks and fall to the ground -- DEAD.

BEAVER

Barbecue.

Beaver blows smoke out of the end of the barrel.

CHRIS

(jumping with excitement)
That was fucking awesome!

ABIGAIL

Holy shit we might actually be able
to do this.

Then from around the corner a massive group of vampires appears, being led by AJ -- way too many for the trio to take on alone.

CHRIS

Oh shit.

AJ locks gazes with them, he shrieks and reaches out his arms towards the trio and the horde begins running at them.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Oh SHIT.

EXT. FOREST RUINS - NIGHT

The Head Witch approaches Amy and Johnny.

JOHNNY

(half whispering)
Amy we need to get out of here
right now.

AMY

I know...

HEAD WITCH

I can feel it, the time is nearly at hand... Amy, help me complete the ritual.

AMY

Help you?

HEAD WITCH

I know you feel the power of this place... You can be part of this, restore my sisters, and make this town atone for its sins.

JOHNNY

Are you insane?

HEAD WITCH

So rude.

The witch waves her hand, and the branches of a nearby tree REACH OUT like arms and wrap themselves around Johnny, closing on him like a fist.

JOHNNY

What the hell?!

AMY

Johnny!

Another branch wraps around his mouth like a gag. He struggles but can't move. Amy is terrified.

HEAD WITCH

As I was saying...

The witch removes her hood --

AMY

Ms. Autumn!?

MS. AUTUMN

I've always known there was something more to you Amy, that you could see how lost the world of men is. This can be our time.

AMY

I don't understand... how? Why?

MS. AUTUMN

Two hundred years ago my sisters were slaughtered by the ancestors of New Coventry... tonight I will finally have the power to bring them back.

Ms. Autumn turns away from Amy and begins walking towards a massive TREE STUMP covered with intricate carvings -- some kind of altar.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)

The vessel has collected enough energy...

AMY

The vessel?

Amy looks at the box in her hands that once contained the heart.

AMY (CONT'D)

AJ.

Ms. Autumn raises her arms and exclaims --

MS. AUTUMN

Come to me my children, the hour is hand!

Her voice rings out across the forest.

EXT. DOWNTOWN NEW COVENTRY - NIGHT

Beaver is ready with the flamethrower, the mass of vampires charging at him.

BEAVER

There's no way I can get all of them, there's too many!

ABIGAIL

You have to try!

The Vampires suddenly stop in their tracks, all turning around in unison.

CHRIS

What the hell?

ABIGAIL

What are they doing?

They all begin moving away -- towards the woods.

BEAVER

Yeah that's right! Beat it, you know you can't mess with us!

ABIGAIL

I don't think they stopped because of us Beaver...

BEAVER

Oh. Well what then?

ABIGAIL

I don't know, but we should follow them...

EXT. FOREST RUINS - NIGHT

Johnny struggles to free himself, but the branches close even tighter around him. Amy treads lightly.

AMY

Ms. Autumn, please just let us go, we won't get in your way. I just want to get my brother back.

MS. AUTUMN

So noble, always thinking of him before yourself.

AMY

He's the only family have left...

MS. AUTUMN

And you'd do anything for him yes?

AMY

Of course.

MS. AUTUMN

Then we're the same Amy, all of this is for my family. For my sisters, to give them back the life which was once stolen from them. You understand don't you?

Amy looks into Ms. Autumn's eyes, they both well with emotion and connection.

AMY

Yes.

Johnny's expression turns to disbelief at Amy's words.

MS. AUTUMN

Help me finish the ritual, and I
will return AJ to you exactly as he
was before.

AMY

What? You can you really do that?

MS. AUTUMN

Of course I can.

AMY

What do I need to do?

EXT. THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - NIGHT

The hoard of vampires swiftly moves through the field and
into the woods. Abi, Beaver, and Chris roll into the field
behind them and drop their bikes.

BEAVER

Jesus they're fast.

CHRIS

Where the hell are they going?

ABIGAIL

Probably to wherever Amy and Johnny
are...

Abigail starts running towards the woods after the hoard.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Let's go!

EXT. FOREST RUINS - NIGHT

The tunnel through the wall of trees re-opens.

MS. AUTUMN

They're here.

The vampires begin pouring through the tunnel like a hoard of
vermin.

AMY

Oh my God...

The number of infected is a shock to Amy. They fill in the
ruins, circling around Ms. Autumn and the tree-altar.

Then AJ appears through the tunnel.

AMY (CONT'D)

AJ.

The parasite pulses with energy on his chest. Amy rushes to him, grabs his shoulders and looks him in the eyes.

AMY (CONT'D)

AJ can you hear me?

He stares at her blankly. Amy turns to Ms. Autumn --

AMY (CONT'D)

Help me fix him, please!

MS. AUTUMN

You can do that yourself. Come.

AJ walks away from Amy, approaching Ms. Autumn and the altar. Amy follows as if it's her only option. Ms. Autumn places her hand on AJ's head like he's her pet.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She moves her hand down to the parasite and RIPS it off of AJ's chest -- AJ collapses.

AMY

No!

Amy rushes to AJ's side, he's unconscious.

AMY (CONT'D)

You said you could save him!

MS. AUTUMN

Only you can do that.

She holds out the parasite to Amy, and as she does it reforms into the black beating HEART -- pulsing dark energy now surrounds it.

MS. AUTUMN (CONT'D)

Daughter of New Coventry, it is time, take this, place it on the altar, atone for the sins of your ancestors.

AMY

If I do this, AJ will be alright?

MS. AUTUMN

You have my word.

Amy struggles with the decision for a moment, she looks back to Johnny -- his eyes scream NO. She looks away in shame, knowing already what she's going to do.

The ghosts of the witches encircle the altar, raising their hands to the sky. The undead circle around them a few meters away like a protective barrier.

Abigail, Beaver, and Chris crawl through the end of the tunnel, only Johnny notices -- he struggles and tries to alert them.

BEAVER

(whispering)

What the actual fuck?

ABIGAIL

(to herself)

Amy...

Johnny struggles some more, finally getting their attention.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Oh my God, Johnny...

Beaver motions with his hands to move like he's a special ops soldier. They quietly sneak over to him.

CHRIS

(whispering)

How do we get him out of this?

Johnny struggles even harder, motioning with his eyes towards the altar, trying to get them to focus on what's happening with Amy.

ABIGAIL

Ms. Autumn?

CHRIS

Just when you thought this shit couldn't get any weirder.

Amy stands up, approaching Ms. Autumn.

MS. AUTUMN

It's time, Amy. Do it.

She thrusts the heart out towards Amy. Amy stares at it for a moment, then takes the heart into her own hands.

FLASH -- images from the past race through Amy's mind. The colonial village. The witches being ambushed in the woods. Their fiery death. The young Ms. Autumn watching in horror.

Amy struggles to catch her breath after seeing the visions.

AMY

Holy... shit... it was horrible.

MS. AUTUMN

Now you see.

Amy's reluctance fades away. She approaches the tree-altar. On top of the stump is a carved-out receptacle for the heart.

ABIGAIL

What is she... Amy no!

Amy spins around to see her friends.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You can't! Whatever she's told you it's a lie!

MS. AUTUMN

Don't listen to her Amy. Save my family. Save your brother.

AMY

I'm sorry Abi, I know you can't understand, but it's the only way.

Amy places the heart on the altar, and when she does it's like the earth itself stops to hold its breath. The heart SINKS INTO THE ALTER, becoming part of it. All of the inscriptions on the altar begin glowing, then VISIBLE ENERGY starts to flow out of the vampires and into the altar -- each vampire collapsing as the energy leaves their bodies, dead once again.

CHRIS

This is really bad isn't it?

BEAVER

It was nice knowing you guys.

The ground around them starts shaking.

AMY

(in shock)

What's happening?

MS. AUTUMN

The awakening... He's coming!

Ms. Autumn lets out a maniacal laugh. Energy from the altar POURS INTO THE GHOSTLY WITCHES, restoring them to flesh and blood. Then the energy begins pouring into Ms. Autumn -- she quickly de-ages into the same younger version of herself that watched from the woods hundreds of years ago.

Abigail moves quickly to Johnny and begins tearing at branches.

ABIGAIL

Help me get him down!

Beaver and Chris leap into action, and together they free Johnny. He falls to the ground but quickly gathers himself.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on?

JOHNNY

That bitch tricked Amy into helping her, now I think the world's going to end.

BEAVER

Perfect.

Amy rushes to AJ, he's still unconscious.

AMY

AJ wake up! Please...

She begins sobbing, but picks him up in her arms and walks to her friends.

AMY (CONT'D)

(pushing through tears)

I'm sorry... it was the only way... to bring AJ back.

MS. AUTUMN

Behold! The end of the age of men.

The altar EXPLODES along with the ground around it -- the same energy that left the vampire's bodies emanates from the now open pit.

ABIGAIL

What.

CHRIS

The.

A MASSIVE HAND made of tangled branches bursts from the pit.

JOHNNY

Fuck.

The hand digs at the ground in front of it, pulling itself further out of the pit below. Ms. Autumn and the other witches get on their knees and bow to the creature.

ABIGAIL

There has to be a way to stop this.

JOHNNY

How? It's a fucking god!

Beaver looks at the giant wooden hand, then down at the flamethrower in his hands, then back at the wooden hand. Lightbulb.

BEAVER

Hey, do you guys smell that?

CHRIS

What?

Beaver runs forward, **BLASTING** the god's hand and the witches with the full output of the flamethrower -- they scream in agony as they burn. The god's hand stops digging at the ground in front of it, and recoils back into the pit below.

BEAVER

Old fashioned barbecued witch.

Beaver turns back to face his friends with a huge smile on his face. They're all dumbfounded by Beaver's heroics.

BEAVER (CONT'D)

Yeah that's right, Beav-man saves the world. You can all thank me later.

The forest god's head emerges from the pit and lets out a **FURIOUS ROAR**. Everyone screams unison --

EVERYONE

Behind you!

Beaver spins around -- the giant god's roar blasts him with wind and mucus, knocking the glasses off of his face. Beaver trembles at the sight.

CHRIS

Shoot it Beaver!

Beaver snaps back to action and blasts the forest god in the face with the flamethrower, its wooden body igniting instantly. It falls back into the pit once and for all.

Chris, Abigail, and Johnny all rush to Beaver's side. Chris picks up Beaver's glasses and hand them to him.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

That was the coolest thing I've ever seen.

BEAVER

Really? I mean, I know!

CHRIS

Who knew gods could be so flammable.

Johnny grabs Beaver by the shoulders and shakes him joyfully.

JOHNNY

You son of a bitch, I could kiss you right now.

BEAVER

Please don't.

Abigail hugs him.

ABIGAIL

You saved us Beaver... You might have even just saved the world.

CHRIS

Hey let's try not to inflate his ego too much more.

The group approaches the open pit and stares down into it.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

So *that's* what a bottomless pit looks like.

ABIGAIL

It's all gone, the evil heart, that altar, the witches...

Behind them, the sound of sobbing --

AMY

(crying)

Please wake up AJ. Please don't let this all be for nothing...

The sense of triumph is completely lost.

ABIGAIL

Oh no...

They all rush to Amy's side, who's on her knees next to AJ's lifeless body.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Amy...

AMY

He won't wake up. What did I do?

Nobody has words, they look on helplessly, tears well in all of their eyes. Abigail kneels down next to Amy, gently placing her hand on Amy's back in some small attempt to comfort her.

AMY (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

ABIGAIL

This isn't your fault.

Amy looks into Abigail's eyes, tears running down her face.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

You hear me? This isn't your fault.

Amy breaks down completely, Abigail hugs her. The guys lean down as well and do their best to comfort her.

AJ (O.S.)

What's with the water works?

Everyone is shocked to hear AJ speak. Amy looks at him as if he's not real.

AMY

AJ? AJ!

She hugs her brother like she's never going to let him go. Happy tears spread through the group.

AJ

What happened?

AMY

You don't remember?

AJ

Remember what?

BEAVER

Dude, this evil demon parasite thing turned you into a vampire, and then the whole town turned into vampires, and there was this witch, and...

AJ looks at Beaver like he has three heads.

ABIGAIL

Ok, I think that's enough for now Beaver.

BEAVER

What?

AMY

(to AJ)

Do you think you can stand?

AJ

Yeah I think so.

Amy stands first, lending a hand to her brother who gets up on shaky feet. He looks around, taking in the scene, looking over the pile of now-dead vampires that were once the townspeople of New Coventry.

AJ (CONT'D)

Jesus...

JOHNNY

What now? Half the town is gone...

AJ

Wait, where are mom and dad?

A somber moment for everyone. They look to each other for the words to tell AJ.

AMY

It's just us now...

AJ stares at his sister blankly, trying to process this.

AJ

Did I?

AMY

No. None of this is on you.

Amy places her hands on AJ's shoulders.

AMY (CONT'D)
We'll be ok.

AJ nods, holding back tears.

AMY (CONT'D)
Whatever we do next, we'll do it
together.

Amy looks to her friends.

AMY (CONT'D)
All of us.

A shared sense of recognition comes to each of them.

ABIGAIL
Family...

CHRIS
Yeah... family.

JOHNNY
(nodding)
Family.

BEAVER
Oh barf.

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS.