

HEIRLOOMS II

The Shadowlands

written by

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FADE IN:

SUPER: Three years ago...

1 BEGIN FLASHBACK: 1

2 INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL 2

An oversized crow swoops into the room through the open window. Its faded orange beak snatches the dark and worn down ring, SQWAUKS, and flies away.

Tiny cracks in the dirt surface as the rubble shifts. Rocks dislodge.

A hand appears.

Ashley.

END FLASHBACK.

**SUPER TITLE: HEIRLOOMS II**

3 INT. BACK OF HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY 3

Nervous energy carries NICK, 24, back and forth as he paces in the shop's rear room. His white knuckles grip a small, aged, and tattered ring box as he mouths a phrase over and over again.

NICK  
Will you marry me?

Dissatisfied with his proposal rehearsal, he takes a few steps and tries again.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Will you marry me?

The floor's CREAKING intensifies as the pacing starts to resemble an Olympic speedwalker.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Will you marry me?

A friendly beat RAPS the surface of the door.

Tap-tap-tap-tap tap, TAP TAP.

NAYA, 25, peeks her head into the room.

NAYA  
Are you talking to yourself?

Nick falls to the ground, scrambles to get up, slips, and falls again before popping onto his feet.

NICK  
I'm okay.

NAYA  
Debatable.

Nick hides his hands behind his back.

NAYA (CONT'D)  
You're acting funny.

NICK  
Ya, well, I was working on something, and I wanted to ask you about it.

NAYA  
Okay.

NICK  
Okay, what?

NAYA  
Ask me.

NICK  
Ask what?

NAYA  
The thing. Whatever it is you just said you were working on.

NICK  
Oh, you mean, ask you, like, now? Well. I would, but here's the thing, it's pretty busy up front, and-

NAYA  
Yeah, I know. That's why I came to find you. Your mom and dad are getting slammed with customers.

NICK  
Where's Dexter?

She shoots him a knowing look.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Still upset, huh?

NAYA  
Comes and goes, but pretty much  
every time the Grandfather clock  
chimes-

NICK  
He feels guilty... I know. He's  
beating himself up. To be fair, he  
didn't know.

NAYA  
You tell him that.

NICK  
Okay, I will.

Naya stands, unmoving, staring.

NAYA  
Well, what are you waiting for?  
Let's go.

NICK  
Oh! Absolutely. I'll be right out.  
Just gonna freshen up.

NAYA  
In here? You're weird.

Naya saunters into the room and kisses him on the lips.

NAYA (CONT'D)  
But I love that about you.

Nick is lost in the aftermath of the kiss.

NAYA (CONT'D)  
Just in case you forgot, we had a  
date after tonight's shift.

Naya backs away with a sly grin. Nick, eyes closed, is still  
kissing the air.

NAYA (CONT'D)  
You can tell me about your secret  
project then.

She turns and glides out of the room. Her silky sheet of hair  
waving behind her.

Nick fishes a picture out of his pocket. A YOUNG GRAMPY beams as a YOUNG GRAMMY flashes a diamond ring in a beautiful dress as she smiles through tears.

I DO! Printed on the back of the photo.

With renewed hope, Nick bounces out of the room.

5 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - BATHROOM - DAY 5

Dexter glares at himself in the antique mirror. The fresh, well-manicured look has been replaced by a tired, slightly unkept face with the makings of a five o'clock shadow.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

6 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY 6

A KNOCK at the door.

Dexter intrudes on the moment as he pokes his head in the hospital room. Sunflowers in an withered and chipped vase fill his hands.

Dexter sets down the sunflowers at Grampy's bedside.

DEXTER

I don't know what kind of scheme  
you have going on here, Ronald, but  
I will have that store.

GRANDPA RONALD

Over my dead body.

DEXTER

Promise?

Grampy COUGHS repeatedly.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Please, keep the flowers. They are  
from my employer. It's the least he  
could do.

END FLASHBACK.

7 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - BATHROOM - DAY 7

Dexter continues to stare at himself in the mirror. A Grandfather clock GONGS. Dexter jumps.

Tears ruining his vision. He wipes the sadness from his eyes as each GONG picks the scab of his memory.

8 EXT. ROAD - DAY

8

Ashley wanders the streets, dazed and confused. The VOICES of memories dance in her head.

NAYA (V.O.)  
I don't know about this anymore.

ASHLEY (V.O.)  
What are you, crazy? We finally  
have the upper hand.

Ashley swats at the voices in her head repeatedly as she walks.

NAYA (V.O.)  
Right, but this is getting extreme.  
We got shot at.

ASHLEY (V.O.)  
No, it's not. You're the one who  
said we deserved the silver spoon.  
Now, we have it.

ASHLEY  
SHUT UP!

Ashley looks around. She is alone. Ashley looks up at the blinking sign.

Heirlooms Antique Shop

9 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

9

MARIE, Nick's beautiful mother, auburn hair, with a smile that dazzles, 40s, swoops around the shop.

THOMAS, dark hair, kind eyes, antique-looking glasses, a broad chest, and Nick's dad, works a register.

JUANITA, 50s, Latina, with an artistic flair for organization, cleans with precision. Her granddaughter, ANITA, designs a poster for the shop on the computer.

Nick bursts into the shop, following Naya. He trips. Everyone LAUGHS.

10 EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP 10

Ashley stares at the scene inside the Heirlooms Antique shop from across the street. A large crow's talons touch down. It stands perched on a low-hanging branch in the background.

Ashley turns and regards the Thrift shop. The Crow CAWS as if on cue. Ashley spies a library a few doors down and heads toward the entrance.

11 INT. LIBRARY - DAY 11

Ashley, now dressed in hand-me-down, second-hand clothes and a thick layer of grime, sits slumped at a computer. She reads articles on Nick, Naya, Thomas and Marie. Images cycle through the screen.

Her vacant eyes reflect the screen's headlines.

**FAMILY REUNION, A PRESERVED LOVE.**

She sends several pages to print.

People stare as Ashley, dirty and covered in soot, in vintage clothing, leaves a trail of dust behind her.

12 INT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - DUSK 12

Dexter wrestles with his blanket as he tosses and turns. The blanket wins. His eyes creep open. He looks around the room, weary of his return to consciousness and the present moment.

A CAW erases whatever sleep remains in his eyes. Dexter shoots up searching for the source of the bird's call.

A crow sits outside his window, tilts its head. If he hadn't known any better, it seemed to smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT 13

Ashley sits in a dark, musty room in an abandoned house. Dust catches the moonlight through the broken and cracked walls. Dolls that once held color and joy lay broken around her. What was once the room of a little girl has now transformed into a headquarters for revenge.

Old cardboard, teeming with photocopies, stare Ashley in the face.

News clippings of Thomas, Marie, Grampy, Grammy, Dexter, Naya, and Nick are all arranged on a board, connected by red yarn.

A red X obscures Grampy's face.

Ashley circles Dexter's photo in crimson. The marker's tip SCREECHES as she marks his picture. A smile breaks her stoic, frozen expression.

14

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

14

Dexter frantically opens the storage closet, searching. Nick pops his head around the corner.

NICK

Hey, bro-

DEXTER

Did you just call me bro?

NICK

Well, yah-

DEXTER

What is this, Miami?

NICK

You're literally my brother.

Dexter turns to look at Nick. His face hits the light.

NICK (CONT'D)

Woah, you look... Amazing?

DEXTER

Thanks.

NICK

Everything okay?

Marie walks over, carrying pieces of furniture.

NICK (CONT'D)

Ooh, Mom-

Marie smiles.

MARIE

Mom... It never gets old. What's up?

NICK

Where's Dad?

MARIE  
Up front, why?

NICK  
I need the whole family to show up  
to dinner tomorrow.

DEXTER  
Why?

Nick holds out the ring box. He blows off the lint stuck in its grooves. Marie locks eyes with her son. After a pregnant pause, she grabs Nick and holds him close.

Dexter looks to Thomas. Thomas strides up to the pair, hugging, and Marie SOBBING.

THOMAS  
What'd I miss?

NICK  
Nothing, Dad. You're right on time.

The family embraces.

Dexter, distracted, looks at the closet, worry erasing the smile and the moment.

SMASH CUT TO:

15 INT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

15

Dexter's already disastrous room is littered with even more of his belongings. He shuffles to the fridge. He opens the door, only to find mustard and moldy bread. He takes another look in the kitchen cabinet. Empty. He slams it in frustration.

The glow of the clock reveal the dark circles that have made a home under his eyes.

2:47 AM.

Dexter crosses to the window and gazes out into the still night. A crow flies past. He shuffles over to the next window. He lifts up the pane. The crow looks at Dexter with interest. He blinks. The crow is gone. Dexter rubs his eyes only to have the crow appear again, but this time, it's right in front of his face. With a GASP, he falls backward.

The crow disappears.

Confused, he trudges to the bathroom and washes his face. His red-eyed, dark-circled reflection stares back at him.

GONG, GONG, GONG.

The church bell RINGS out.

DEXTER

Three o'clock in the morning... I  
just want to sleep.

A KNOCK at the door stops Dexter mid-thought. He looks back at his clock on the bathroom counter.

The half locket around on his nightstand catches his eye. It shimmers gold.

Another KNOCK.

Dexter steps with caution to the door. He grabs the only thing he can find, a spatula from the kitchen.

Armed with the kitchen utensil, he peeks through the peephole.

Nothing.

Relieved, he sets down the spatula and heads back to bed.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

Dexter grabs his plastic weapon, opens the door, and SCREAMS with authority.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Who's there?

TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK.

Dexter looks down to find a small Grandfather clock at his doorstep. The face is blacked out.

Horrified, Dexter SLAMS the door, runs to bed, and pulls the pillow over his head, melting into the darkness.

Nick's eyes are fixed on Naya as they sit at the diner eating breakfast.

Naya chows down her eggs, and Nick stews, sweating, playing with his food while mustering the courage to speak.

NAYA

Okay, I have to say something.

NICK

You do? What? What did I-

Naya sets down her fork for a moment and finishes chewing her food. She savors every bite.

NAYA

I can make a mean omelet.

NICK

You're definitely the meanest.

NAYA

What?

NICK

No, I mean, you're eggs are like so mean in a good way.

Her eyes fire lasers at him.

NICK (CONT'D)

Mean, like how you meant it.

NAYA

Oh yeah, then why aren't you eating?

Nick looks at his untouched breakfast plate.

NICK

I am.

He pokes his food. Naya fires him a look.

NICK (CONT'D)

Well, I'm not because I'm not hungry.

NAYA

You asked me to go to breakfast because you literally said you were hungry.

NICK

I was, but now I'm, uh, full.

NAYA  
Full of -

NICK  
Can I ask you a question?

NAYA  
Yeah, what's up?

NICK  
So, you've been a great girlfriend,  
and I like you a lot...

Naya throws a slice of toast at Nick's face.

NICK (CONT'D)  
OW!

NAYA  
Are you breaking up with me?

She throws the other piece.

Nick ducks.

NICK  
What? No! Are you crazy? The  
opposite-

NAYA  
Good, cause I like how things are.

NICK  
Oh, you do? Like, you wouldn't  
change anything?

NAYA  
Our life has been change for the  
last year or so. It's nice to enjoy  
things as they are.

NICK  
Yeah, but-

Nick's half of the locket shimmers around his neck.

NAYA  
You're shimmering.

NICK  
I'm what?

NAYA  
The locket...

The heirloom locket shimmers gold. Suddenly, the shimmer fades and turns black.

BLACK OUT:

17 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

17

SQUEAKING cuts through the darkness. A rocking chair sways. The Old Lady rocks back and forth. The Crow glides in through the window and lands on her shoulder. It CAWS to her.

ASHLEY  
I'm tired of waiting.

OLD LADY  
Death patiently waits for life to give up.

ASHLEY  
They deserve what's coming.

OLD LADY  
Your lust for blood clouds your judgment.

ASHLEY  
No more parables. What do I need?

OLD LADY  
Revenge lies in this infinite.

She gazes out the window.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)  
There is a ring. The ring holds the one who can make us whole.

ASHLEY  
Where is it?

OLD LADY  
The ring of shadows must be combined with the ring that holds the Shadow Man.

She holds it to the sky. The moon reflects off its dark surface.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)  
Once both are on the finger in the arrangement of the wedding band and ring, he will return and unleash revenge unlike anything ever seen.

ASHLEY

Who's he?

The Old Lady's darkened and decayed teeth peek through her thin and dry lips.

18

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

18

The shop buzzes with energy. Thomas screws in a lightbulb, and Marie hangs a new painting. Thomas waves to Juanita and Anita as they leave the store. Juanita's Nick walks into the room with sweat glistening off his forehead. Dexter scuttles past Nick with a stack of receipts.

NICK

You okay, Dex?

DEXTER

Yeah, I'm just gonna catch up on the bookkeeping. I'll be in the back office.

Dexter drags his feet out the door. Nick composes himself and calls out to his parents.

NICK

Mom, Dad?

Thomas stops his work and takes off his glasses. Marie answers over her shoulder while straightening the painting.

THOMAS

Yes, son?

MARIE

What's up, sweetie? By the way, does this look straight to you?

NICK

I need something from you.

THOMAS

Anything. You name it.

NICK

Okay, it's a good thing.

MARIE

Of course. What is it?

NICK

I never thought I would get a chance to ask you this.

He smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)

I really want your blessing. I'm going to ask Naya to uh, ya know, like, marry me.

Thomas beams. Marie starts to cry.

MARIE

Of course, we do! Congratulations, honey. We are so proud of you.

Thomas claps Nick on the back.

THOMAS

My son.

Nick pulls a picture out of his pocket.

NICK

Uh, yeah, so listen, there was something else, too.

THOMAS

Bigger than that?

MARIE

She's not pregnant, right?

NICK

What? No! I wanted to ask you something else.

Marie stops. She exchanges a look with Thomas.

MARIE

Sure, Nick, is everything alright?

NICK

Well, while you guys were, um, gone, Grampy-

The words catch in his throat. Thomas puts his hand on Nick's shoulder.

NICK (CONT'D)

Grampy was kinda like, well, he raised me. I loved him - love him, always will. The thing is, he didn't always tell me everything.

MARIE

Your Grampy was a private man, but that didn't make him love you any less.

NICK

Well, why didn't he ever talk about Grammy?

The question lands with weight. Silence fills the room. Thomas looks at his feet. Nick hands the picture to Marie.

Marie stares at the picture. Pools of emotion well in the corners of her eyes.

MARIE

Where did you-

NICK

It was in the album in his bottom drawer. He left this with a note.

Nick yanks out the ring box. He opens it.

MARIE

Mom's ring.

Nick unfolds a sheet of paper.

GRAMPY (VO)

Dear Nick. I'm not good with all this mushy stuff, so don't make me say this more than once. You're like a son to me. Heck, you're my grandson. One day, you're gonna meet a girl who makes the cream in your coffee taste like a scoop of ice cream. I did. Your Grammy made me feel like I'd never seen the stars before. When you meet that girl, and you want to make her a part of your heart forever, you'll want to ask her proper. When you do it, give her this. It was your Grammy's. Make sure the girl is special. I spent a lifetime trying to find what I thought were missing pieces. Sometimes, what we are looking for is right in front of our faces. Keep smilin, kid.

Mascara streaks color Marie's cheeks. She holds Nick's face in her hands.

MARIE  
Thank you.

NICK  
For what?

MARIE  
That gift.

NICK  
I don't understand.

MARIE  
I felt like he was here, like I had  
a chance to hear him one last time.

The Grandfather Clock GONGS.

MARIE (CONT'D)  
It was too painful for him to talk  
about her. You didn't see him how  
he was... Before.

NICK  
Before what?

MARIE  
Before she disappeared, he never  
talked about it. Dad was just never  
the same.

CAW.

The Crow appears again. Nick and Marie exchange a look. He runs outside to check it out. His heirloom locket shimmers and turns black.

19 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

19

Dexter types, hacking away at his computer.

TICK, TICK, TICK.

He stops typing as the TICKING intensifies.

TICK, TICK, TICK, TICK.

Dexter SLAPS his hands over his ears as the noise drives him to his feet and out the back door. Voices WHISPER in a symphony of madness as he bursts outside.

20 EXT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - BACK OFFICE - DAY 20

The NOISES in his head start to subside. Dexter, hands on his knees, steadies his heaving chest as he tries to catch his breath.

With eyes downcast, he sees something troubling. Another miniature clock is at the back door.

Dexter looks around to see if anyone was in the area. He searched for an explanation and a perpetrator.

No one.

Voices CALL from down the narrow passage. He takes a few steps down the alley.

Without warning, a hand reaches behind him. A cloth envelopes Dexter's mouth. He struggles, but not much.

Darkness closes in...

ASHLEY

Sleep.

Dexter's eyelids fold under sleep's weight.

BLACK OUT.

21 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY 21

Thomas, Marie, and Nick sit together in the shop. Thomas takes Marie's hand as they talk to Nick.

THOMAS

Nick, when we were, uh, gone... We thought about you, talked about you-

MARIE

We didn't know if we would ever be back for moments like today.

NICK

It's okay, Mom, not your fault.

MARIE

I know- we know. We just want you to know that we aren't going to miss any more moments.

NICK

Getting your blessing was huge. Are you kidding? Today was everything.

THOMAS

Son, we have a lot of time to make up for.

NICK

Let's start tonight. I need the whole family there tonight at the restaurant. I'm gonna ask Naya tonight.

MARIE

We'll be there. I promise.

Naya wanders into the room.

NAYA

Be where?

NICK

Dinner, um, tonight, can you go?

NAYA

Duh. Where at?

NICK

The restaurant. Where's Dexter?

NAYA

His hair hasn't been perfect. He probably left to go get it blown out and styled.

NICK

He didn't look great. Maybe he's taking a nap.

She kisses him.

NAYA

He'll be fine.

NICK

See you tonight?

NAYA

Duh.

She smiles as she leaves the shop.

Dexter lay flat on his back. He blinks several times as he tries to focus his eyes on what's in the sky.

Three moons hang in the dark sky. They look disorganized and oversized.

He jumps up and takes stock of his surroundings.

Darkness, as far as the eye can see. The black backdrop is interrupted by gigantic, poorly lit shadows. Heirlooms that once had life and color now stood as monuments to their past vibrancy, shadows of their former selves.

A blur races across the background. Dexter, nervous, takes refuge behind an oversized music box. A tune PLAYS. It drones on as if underwater. Dexter, back against the wall, slumps to the ground.

23

INT. WHAT THE CLUCK RESTAURANT - NIGHT

23

The family is gathered around the diner's table. Marie, Thomas, and Naya LAUGH and TALK about embarrassing stories from Nick's early baby days.

NAYA

So, wait, he used to just streak?

MARIE

He couldn't handle being in diapers. He would go "poopie doopie" as he called it, and then hop off the throne and take off.

THOMAS

I thought he'd be a running back.

Nick turns scarlet.

NICK

Can we not discuss my poopie doopie.

NAYA

Aww, I think it's cutie wootie.

MARIE

Not as cute as him with his binkibear.

NAYA

Noooo...

MARIE

Yes. Our sweet guy here had a cloth that he would just smell.

NAYA  
What? Whatdya mean? What did it  
smell like?

NICK  
It smelled like safety.

MARIE  
God knows what that thing actually  
reeked of.

NICK  
I'll be right back.

Nick idles.

NAYA  
Where ya going?

MARIE  
Poopie doopie?

NICK  
MOM!

Nick heads toward the bathroom.

NICK (CONT'D)  
And for the record, it's just  
number one.

The table bursts into LAUGHTER as Nick scurries to the  
bathroom. Doubts burrows its way in.

24 INT. WHAT THE CLUCK RESTAURANT BATHROOM - NIGHT

24

He finds the antique mirror.

NICK  
Breathe.

Nick slicks his hair a bit and exhales.

He leans against the wall, pulls out the ring box, and opens  
it.

NICK (CONT'D)  
I can do this.

He closes the ring box shut but thinks he sees a glimmer.  
Nick quickly opens it again. He examines it and holds it up  
to the light. The bulb reflects off the diamond, which  
glimmers in the light.

He exhales and SNAPS it shut.

25

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

25

Ashley stands, waiting. The Old Lady rocks. Ashley expectantly looks around the room. Nothing happens. Nothing appears.

ASHLEY

Well, where is he?

OLD LADY

Time opens us to learning our limitations.

ASHLEY

No more games. Where?

OLD LADY

The young man is trapped.

ASHLEY

Stop making me ask you questions.  
He isn't here. Where is he trapped?

Ashley falls to a seated position and CRIES as she rocks back and forth. The Old Lady holds out her palm. The dark ring that seemed to trap the Shadow Man appears in her hand.

OLD LADY

Four more trappings and the heirloom will wield unspeakable power and control.

ASHLEY

What do I need to do?

OLD LADY

With this control, you can trap Nick and Naya apart from one another forever. There lies the revenge you seek.

ASHLEY

Three more people and I break their hearts.

OLD LADY

Three more, and the circle will be complete.

ASHLEY

Naya is next.

OLD LADY

Patience.

ASHLEY

Tired of waiting.

The Old Lady breaks the middle support beam off the back of the rocking chair. It CRACKS as yanks it from its place. She leans on the staff. It supports her weight as she labors to the window. With each step, the staff CLACKS on the ground. Black dust shimmers from the wood.

OLD LADY

Your waiting will soon be over.

The Old Lady stares out through the broken glass of the window.

26 INT. WHAT THE CLUCK RESTAURANT - NIGHT 26

Nick is in the bathroom. He takes a deep breath and walks out, resolve spread across his face.

27 INT. WHAT THE CLUCK RESTAURANT - NIGHT 27

Thomas, Marie, and Naya are still LAUGHING and enjoying food around the table. Nick walks up, staring at Naya.

NAYA

Hey, babe, you okay?

NICK

Yeah, um. I just wanted to tell you all that even though you thoroughly embarrassed me, I am so grateful for family. A few years ago, life looked really different for me. I hated my life, only played video games, and had no friends. Now, I found my mom and dad, gained a brother, met the greatest girl in the world-

Nick puts his hand in his pocket and grabs the ring box.

MARIE

Wait, where is your brother?

NICK

He's not here yet?

THOMAS

He's always on time. A little late,  
okay, but this isn't like him.

A crow appears outside.

Nick, let's go of the box. The dark bird catches Nick's  
attention. At that moment, his locket shimmers and turns  
black. Nick struggles to catch his breath.

NAYA

Nick?

MARIE

Nick, are you alright?

Nick stumbles into the open.

28

EXT. WHAT THE CLUCK RESTAURANT - NIGHT

28

The crow, almost mocking him, stares. Nick backpedals.

NICK

Where's Dexter?

The bird CAWS, as if prodding him, and takes off!

Nick gives chase through the town. The bird flaps its wings,  
looking over its shoulder at Nick as it flies.

NICK (CONT'D)

STOP!

Naya, Marie, and Thomas try to follow him, but Nick  
disappears into the darkness of the Louisiana streets.

29

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

29

Dexter carefully shuffles his feet around the shadowed world.  
NOISES fill the air. Wind, low HOWLING, and a WHISTLE that  
sounds like it was passing through broken glass, slice  
through the dark atmosphere. With each step, Dexter scans his  
surroundings, looking cautiously over his shoulder.

Something familiar catches his eye in the clearing.

Smoke seeps off a Globe. At least it was a globe. The sphere,  
once full of light, looks like a globe's carcass.

Dexter lays his hand on it. The shimmer never comes, only  
smoke. Upon touching the globe, his mind moves at light speed  
and connects to-

30 INT. WORLD SPINS NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

30

THELMA, a beautiful black woman, HUMS to herself, "All I Ever Wanted" as she puts makeup on and gets ready for her show.

Her humming is interrupted by the mind meld with Dexter. The Shadowland, Dexter's face, Ashley, the globe, and The Old Lady all flash in succession in her mind's eye. Her eyeliner falls from her hand. It CLACKS as it hits the ground.

She stops and tries to catch her breath. Lines of worry spread across her face.

Something is wrong.

Thelma stands and is drawn to the globe, sitting in her dressing room. She looks around the room as if to make sure no eyes are on her. With a couple of fingers, she gives it a SPIN.

It shimmers.

Gold dust billows around the room.

It CALLS to Nick.

31 EXT. LOUISIANA STREETS - NIGHT

31

Nick stops running. He feels the call as his heirloom locket shimmers.

NICK  
Thelma... Dexter?

With a look of questioning that turns to knowing, he turns and heads in the opposite direction.

32 INT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

32

Overturned furniture, trash, and clothes litter the apartment. The place is a wreck; it's disheveled and unkempt. This is not like Dexter.

Nick picks up a dirty spatula off the floor. As he does so, he hears a NOISE. He spins and turns toward Dexter's bedroom. Nick approaches the NOISE armed with plastic.

More SOUNDS from the room. He opens the hallway door. It CREAKS.

Nick turns the corner. A figure jumps out. Nick raises the spatula and SCREAMS.

NICK  
Aghhhhhhh!

THELMA  
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!

Thelma punches Nick in the face.

Nick stumbles backward and CRASHES to the ground, pulling down trinkets from the dresser next to him as he falls.

THELMA (CONT'D)  
Nick?!

NICK  
Ow!

He holds his nose while speaking in a nasal tone.

THELMA  
Oh my lanta, are you okay, Baby?

NICK  
I can't smell anything, which I guess is good by the looks of this place.

THELMA  
You can't sneak up on a sista with a spatula.

NICK  
We don't have a sister.

She looks at him, confused.

THELMA  
No, never mind. Did you feel it?

NICK  
A lot of strange stuff going on. Crows, the shimmer... The smoke.

THELMA  
Nick, if Dexter's missing, and things are smoking-

NICK  
You think Dex is missing?

Thelma motions to the disheveled mess of an apartment.

THELMA  
Well he ain't decoratin-

NICK  
Thelma, we need to find him.

Nick swallows.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Do you think he's back?

THELMA  
Somebody is.

Thelma extends her hand to help Nick up as we...

CUT TO:

33

INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - DAY

33

Thomas holds Marie's hand, who is now on the verge of tears. Naya, and Thelma catch up with one another in the corner, while Nick stares out the window. Nervous energy fills the antique shop.

MARIE  
This isn't good.

THOMAS  
Dexter is smart. I know he'll be fine.

MARIE  
What if he's not? We just got him back.

NAYA  
Thelma was just telling me what happened to her.

THELMA  
It was almost like that part of me, from the other side, was calling to me, like it was trying to come back.

NICK  
I've been seeing crows.

THELMA  
Like Brandon Li, or like the black scary birds.

NICK  
Fowl.

THELMA  
What's foul? Brandon Li?

NICK  
What are you talking about?

THELMA  
Li or bird.

NICK  
Caw.

THELMA  
Why didn't you just say bird?

Nick buries his face in his hands.

NICK  
We need to find him.

MARIE  
Seeing crows isn't good.

THOMAS  
Nick, let's think through how to do this. We don't know what we're up against.

NAYA  
I'm in.

She puts her hand on his shoulder.

NAYA (CONT'D)  
Whatever it is, wherever you're going, I'm in.

Thomas looks at Marie, who is visibly shaken.

THOMAS  
We'll find him, Babe.

MARIE  
It's not that-

NICK  
What is it, Mom?

MARIE  
It's just, the crow... The crow, many times, is a symbol of something dark.

THELMA  
You mean like-

MARIE  
Something evil, something like what  
got us trapped in the first place.

NAYA  
What are you saying?

THOMAS  
It isn't possible. The Shadow Man  
is gone. We saw it. He passed on.

MARIE  
Yeah, passed on to what?

NAYA  
Okay, what's the plan?

NICK  
We need to prepare. I beat him  
once, I can do it again. Let's go  
pack and meet back here at sundown.

Naya takes Nick's by the hand.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Thank you. You always have my back.

NAYA  
Be careful, okay? We pack and meet  
back here... No wandering.

NICK  
Cross my heart.

Nick does so. They kiss and get ready to leave.

34 INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

34

Ashley's revenge board looms large over The Old lady and  
Ashley.

The Crow CAWS. She looks at the bird knowingly.

ASHLEY  
I understand.

The Old lady smiles.

The dark ring from earlier now has one stone in it. It  
shimmers and goes black. Four more divots appear in the ring.

35 INT. NAYA'S APARTMENT - DAY

35

Zipper-compressed bags with clothes are neatly stacked on the bed as Naya packs.

A KNOCK at the door stops her in her tracks. A bag of golf clubs leans against the wall. She slowly reaches for the four iron, slides it out, and creeps toward the door.

She peers at the doorknob, concerned. Her hand inches toward the doorknob. She turns it and opens the door.

An antique-looking silver spoon sits on the doorstep.

Naya looks around. She sees nothing. Cautiously reaches down to pick up the heirloom. As soon as she touches it, she disappears.

36 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - SUNDOWN

36

The bell to the door at the antique shop DINGS. Nick walks in with a go bag.

Marie and Thomas wait inside the store. Gold rays rain down from the dreary sun as it sinks slowly out of view. Thelma marvels at the shop.

THELMA

This is the same shop?

NICK

Yeah, but kinda spruced up.

THELMA

Spruced? This thing is off the hook!

NICK

I'll show you around.

THELMA

You better.

Thelma WHISTLES as she looks at the shop. Marie and Thomas enter.

NICK

Where's Naya?

MARIE

What do you mean?

THOMAS

I thought she was with you...

NICK

No, well, yes, but we decided to pack separately and meet here to save time.

Marie abruptly shoots up.

MARIE

We need to find her, right now.

NICK

Mom, what's going on?

Marie looks at Thomas.

THOMAS

Let's go.

NICK

What do you know?

MARIE

Think, Nick. You know better than anyone.

NICK

But how? It's not possible. I saw him-

MARIE

What, Nick? Saw what?

NICK

I saw him disappear, die, whatever it was.

MARIE

When in the last three years has anything been what it seemed? You saw a pillow talk, a lamp transform into your mother. This is beyond us.

Nick paces.

THELMA

I'm telling you. I had a bad feelin...

NICK

If anything happens to her...

THOMAS

We need to go, now.

They race out the door.

37

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

37

Orbs of diffused light vacillate in and out of focus. Naya's eyes adjust to the oddity of the light above her as she wakes. Shadows swim about.

Three moons settle, diagonal in the sky.

SCRAPING sounds fill the air as something unknown scampers by in the shadows.

Naya scrambles to her feet. Carefully, she walks around the uncharted world.

A giant lamp, trunk, and throw pillow tower in the dim light.

Again, a shadow runs by in the background. Naya turns to look but sees nothing. RUSTLING ahead.

NAYA

Who's there?

No answer. The RUSTLING intensifies.

Someone jumps out, SCREAMING.

DEXTER

AHHHHH.

NAYA

Agghhhhhh!

Naya SHOUTS and karate chops the perpetrator in the throat.

DEXTER

You punched me!

Dexter labors to speak through his COUGHING.

NAYA

Actually, I chopped you. You snuck up on me.

DEXTER

I was happy to see you until you went Zena Warrior Princess on me.

NAYA  
Sorry, and good reference.

DEXTER  
Thanks, and, I'm sorry too.

NAYA  
Where are we?

DEXTER  
I wish I knew.

NAYA  
How long have you been here?

DEXTER  
I wish I knew.

NAYA  
How'd you get here?

DEXTER  
I wish I-

Dexter stops.

NAYA  
What is it?

DEXTER  
Wait, I think someone snuck up on me. You?

NAYA  
I touched something, and it sent me here.

DEXTER  
What, like a tunnel?

NAYA  
Time tunnel.

DEXTER  
What's that?

NAYA  
An object is spelled, left for the one who touches it to be transported to a specific place or time.

DEXTER  
But who would-



39

INT. NAYA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

39

Nick, Marie, Thelma, and Thomas creep up to Naya's apartment. Nick taps the door. It's open. They all look at each other knowingly.

The door swings and hits the door stop. Each of them eyes their surroundings.

THOMAS  
Everything looks perfect.

THELMA  
This girl is neat!

Thomas cleans his glasses with the tail of his shirt.

MARIE  
Clothes in a nice pile.

NICK  
She was getting ready.

He walks over to the clothes.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Nothing's been touched.

THELMA  
Nick, when I spun, *the globe*, I saw you. But everything around you was pretty dark.

NICK  
Like, Naya?

Thelma gives Thomas and Marie a knowing look.

THOMAS  
Did she say anything, Nick, anything at all?

NICK  
Other than that, we were going to pack and then meet up, no?

Marie EXHALES.

NICK (CONT'D)  
This doesn't make any sense.  
Everyone is disappearing.

MARIE

There's only one other time I have seen anything like this.

NICK

When?

Marie looks at Thomas.

THOMAS

No, it's okay. He needs to know.

NICK

What don't I know?

THOMAS

It's about that night.

MARIE

When Victor tried to force me to love him, he used some pretty dark magic. The thought of losing you all was too much for me.

THOMAS

We held onto each other for dear life.

MARIE

Grampy was behind, in the forest, when he heard the screams. But at the door, that's where Mom was. She—she disappeared.

Nick looks on, stunned.

NICK

So, you're saying that Grammy could be alive?

MARIE

Based on everything that's happened, I'm not sure, but I think it's safe to say we know who's behind all of this.

THOMAS

So, if we find—

NICK

When... When we find Naya.

THOMAS  
When we find Naya, we hopefully  
find-

NICK  
My grandma.

Marie rests her hand on his shoulder as we...

FADE TO:

40

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

40

The dark shadows swirled in the crevices of the world around them. Their surroundings seem to WHISPER. With shadows and smoke lurking, Naya and Dexter recount how they got there.

NAYA  
I can't believe you're here.

DEXTER  
I can.

NAYA  
What are you talking about?

DEXTER  
Isn't it obvious?

NAYA  
No.

DEXTER  
This-

Dexter motions to the world around him.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
I was sent here for what I did to  
Grampy.

Emotion fills his eyes.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
I deserve this. This shadow land is  
my karma. It's retribution.

NAYA  
So what about me? What did I do to  
deserve this? I touched an old  
silver spoon and woke up here.

DEXTER

I was lured out, but this is my destiny.

NAYA

Would you stop complaining?

DEXTER

Naya, do you have any idea what it's like? I was ruthless, mean, and careless. Because of me, he's gone... Grampy is gone.

NAYA

You've got to stop all of this.

DEXTER

Easy for you to say.

NAYA

You know, you're not the only one to mess up. I, uh, really hurt Nick, and I had to forgive myself.

Dexter looks away.

NAYA (CONT'D)

People who love you have forgiven you; you need to forgive yourself.

DEXTER

You'd make a great sister-in-law one day.

NAYA

One day, like a day far away from today.

DEXTER

What do you mean?

NAYA

I have no intention of getting married. I've seen how that story ends.

DEXTER

Yes, but-

NAYA

Look around, Dex. This world is messed up. I can't get married and one day bring a kid into this freak show. I'm keeping things simple.

DEXTER  
You call your life simple?

Something ahead RUSTLES. Shadows swoop by. Oversized objects shimmer faintly. Naya locks her stance, on guard. Dexter stops talking for a moment and cowers.

Naya motions for him to stay still as she walks from their refuge and into the darkness.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
Naya?

No answer.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
Naya?!

Nothing.

Then, a hand grabs Dexter's mouth from behind him. Dexter SCREAMS into its palm.

Naya, hearing the muffled PLEA, SHOUTS back.

NAYA  
Dexter? Hang on, I'm coming!

She runs back to where Dexter was just standing to find nothing. In an instant, Naya crumples to the ground.

A figure looms over her. Silver hair, wild, catches the shards of light. A WOMAN, 70s, looks down at Naya and Dexter.

GRAMMY  
What happened to my Ronald?

DEXTER  
Your Ronald? Wait... Grammy?

NAYA  
You clocked me!

A CAW, louder than a foghorn, ROARS.

The earth shakes. A crow, larger than a small building, emerges from obscurity. Grammy looks up at the giant bird and then back at Naya and Dexter. Naya, tries to shake the cobwebs loose.

GRAMMY  
RUN!

The Crow CAWS again. Everything rumbles.

Dexter and Naya take off.

Grammy heads in the opposite direction.

The Crow lumbers after the pair. Each step rattles the earth beneath their feet as enormous talons slam into the ground. Billows of shadow dust rise and fall from the impact of its claws.

In the clearing, several oversized items stand ominously.

The Crow closes in.

NAYA  
Which way?

DEXTER  
Away from that!

They make a hard turn and hide behind the handle of an oversized spoon.

More ROARING.

They climb up the handle of the spoon. Black dusk with bits of shimmer fall.

NAYA  
Dex, you're going up the spoon, we need to go the other way.

DEXTER  
The monster is the other way.

The giant crow emerges in front of them. Dexter turns around.

NAYA  
Slide!

DEXTER  
What?

NAYA  
Slide... Slide down the handle.

She crosses her arms, lays out and slides down the handle toward the bowl of the spoon. Dexter follows suit.

As fast as the winds, they zoom down the handle and into the bowl. Their momentum keeps them from stopping.

NAYA (CONT'D)

Hang on! We're not going to be able to stop. The edge of the spoon is going to shoot us somewhereerr-

The pair fly into the air, SCREAMING as they soar.

A soft surface breaks their fall. Dexter pats down his body, LAUGHING in disbelief.

DEXTER

We're alive!

Naya pops to her feet.

NAYA

Let's go.

The ground sinks.

DEXTER

It's an oversized pillow.

NAYA

We have to make it to the other side.

They pair trudges forward. The pillow shimmers faintly but seems to be on guard.

FOGHORN CAW.

The two look back. They start to run but the pillow's surface doesn't cooperate. Naya hops off the pillow but Dexter trips.

A vine like rope grabs a hold of Naya, holding her in place. The tassels move as if they have a mind of their own.

The Crow towers over a fallen Dexter. Its giant beak opens, threatening to bring its sharp point down, pecking him to death. One inch before the beak impales him, Dexter is yanked out of the way.

A lasso is around his ankles, dragging him out of harm's path.

NAYA (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Dexter SCREAMS, his voice trailing off.

DEXTER

I don't know!

Naya bites the tassel. It SHRIEKS. She kicks up dirt to create cover and runs after them...

A hand undoes the lasso. Naya meets up with them. Dexter turns over. Naya's hands are on her knees. Grammy checks on Dexter.

VOICE

You okay?

Dexter stops COUGHING in time to get a good look at the face standing over him.

DEXTER

It... It can't be.

The face smiles back at him.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

How are you-

He passes out.

41 INT. THOMAS'S CAR - NIGHT

41

Thomas drives, Marie rides shotgun, while Nick and Thelma sit in the center back seat.

NICK

Where are we going?

MARIE

We need to explain.

NICK

That's why I asked, Where are we going?

THOMAS

Nick, it's time we fill you in. When your mom and I were in the main room, and you before we were turned into antique pieces-

NICK

Yeah-

MARIE

Mom was right out back...

42 BEGIN FLASHBACK:

42

43 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE STORE 43

Scarlet red flashes of glistening bright light fill the store. Magical incantations rise from a MURMUR to SHOUTS.

More red lights.

Grammy lumbers with a pail of water toward the house.

A SHRIEK.

Terrified SCREAMS rip through the commotion as the sounds of fear ring into the air.

A silence deep as the night ascends on the antique store.

The walls shake, almost as if they, too, are afraid when the front door SLAMS. FOOTSTEPS race away and dance off into the darkness.

The red lights have stopped. The screams have stopped. The silence is deafening.

An engagement ring sits in the pail of water. Overturned, the pail spills into the soft, trampled earth.

END FLASHBACK.

44 INT. THOMAS'S CAR - NIGHT 44

Thomas looks at Nick through the rearview window. Concern lines Thomas's face as he struggles to find words.

THOMAS

Son-

MARIE

Your Grammy's alive.

Nick recovers.

NICK

If she disappeared that night, what did she get trapped in?

MARIE

Dad never told us. We don't know.

Nick reaches into his pocket. He feels the ring box. Marie swerves hard.

NICK

Okay, but what does this have to do with anything?

THOMAS

The Old Lady, Nick. The Old Lady and Victor. This has to be them.

NICK

So, where are we headed?

Nick SHOUTS over the sound of the road, wind, and night around them.

MARIE

We need to go to the beginning.

Nick swallows hard.

NICK

Where are you going specifically?

MARIE

The shop, of course.

THELMA

Oh hell nah. If we go back there, ya'll know who's gonna get messed up first.

Thelma raises her hand high in the air.

MARIE

That's just in the movies-

THELMA

Always US.

NICK

No, stop-

THOMAS

Son, we need to go where-

NICK

STOP!

Thomas hits the brakes.

NICK (CONT'D)

You guys are thinking of where it began. We need to go to where we thought it ended.

MARIE  
What are you saying?

NICK  
It's not the shop. It's the old  
house. We gotta go where we trapped  
him.

They each look at one another, knowing in their eyes.

THOMAS  
You're right.

Thomas sighs.

MARIE  
Thomas?

Thomas turns to Nick, who shakes his head ever so slightly.

THOMAS  
I trust Nick's instincts.

MARIE  
Here we go.

The tires PEEL OUT as they skid into the darkness. A crow  
lands on a nearby branch. It CAWS as they speed away.

Moments later, the car, full of hope and fear, approaches the  
old house.

45 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

45

The car door SLAMS. Their feet touch the ground as they exit  
the vehicle. Nick's toes touch the ground as if testing the  
earth for its surety.

NICK  
Follow me.

THOMAS  
Are you sure about this?

THELMA  
I'm not.

NICK  
No.

Marie and Thomas lock eyes.

NICK (CONT'D)

This way.

They walk.

As they travel, a crow lands on a wire about them. Then another.

MARIE

Are you guys seeing this?

Two more crows land. They CAW.

THELMA

I know ya'll see that.

THOMAS

Don't make eye contact.

NICK

I don't like what's happening here.

Black objects start to filter into their space. Ten more crows land. With each crow's landing, Nick's muscles tighten.

THOMAS

Just keep walking, slowly.

Twenty more crows amass. The black of night is broken up by the moon's reflection in the crows' eyes.

One crow CAWS with authority. The rest of the crows rise up into a standing pose.

NICK

Did you guys see that?

THELMA

Lord Jesus, they talkin about me.

MARIE

Are they communicating?

The lead crow CAWS twice. The wings of each crow start to flutter. A chaotic, muffled DRUMMING from the wings filters out the night's perceived peace. The DRUMMING reaches a fever pitch.

CAW, CAW, CAW.

Everything stops.

The crows stop. Nick, Thomas, and Marie stop.

THOMAS  
I think we're okay...

A piercing, shrieking WAIL spills from the lead crow.

With the suddenness of lightning, the crows attack.

NICK  
RUN!

A symphony of CAWING fills the air as the trio takes off.  
Nick, Thomas, and Marie tear down the street.

Hundreds of crows form as one. As they crows swarm together,  
they take the shape of one massive herd. Swiftly, the swarm  
takes action to ambush the group.

The SCREECHING swarm forces Nick, Thomas, Thelma and Marie to  
make several turns onto varying streets. It runs them into a  
clearing and onto a path.

Nick looks ahead.

NICK (CONT'D)  
No way, the house on the hill.

The flock multiplies again and forces them to run right into  
the old house where Nick and Naya once captured the Shadow  
Man.

Like a hurricane, the flock floods the house. Crows are  
everywhere. Thomas YELLS.

THOMAS  
Son, take my hand.

NICK  
I can't!

The trio cover their ears, waiting for the deafening NOISE  
and trauma of the fowl freight train to pass.

Red light blinds them.

When the flock stampede finishes flying through, only Thelma,  
Marie and Nick remain. Thomas is gone.

VOICE  
We've been expecting you.

The VOICE chills the air.

The remaining three clump together, bracing for what happens  
next.

46

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

46

Three moons move toward alignment, but have a bit of space to go before their resting position.

Stunned, Dexter sits up, staring at the silver-haired woman.

DEXTER  
Is it really you?

GRAMMY  
No, it's the Easter Bunny.

Dexter leaps up and hugs her.

DEXTER  
I'm so sorry.

GRAMMY  
You're gettin snot on me.

NAYA  
I like her.

GRAMMY  
Is this your girlfriend? Let me get a look at you.

DEXTER  
Eww. No. That's Nick's girl.

NAYA  
I'm not an object.

GRAMMY  
Ugh, a feminist. They still have those nowadays?

NAYA  
I am not-

Grammy holds up a hand in protest.

GRAMMY  
Not now. How did you get here, and how are we gettin out? I've got a date.

DEXTER  
Grammy-

GRAMMY

Ron has always been loyal. I just know he waited for me. I need to get my hair fixed before I see him.

DEXTER

Grammy, I need to tell you somethi-

GRAMMY

What? Did he remarry? I'll kill him-

DEXTER

Too late.

Grammy stops in her tracks.

GRAMMY

What did you say?

DEXTER

I'm sorry.

GRAMMY

That can't be.

DEXTER

Leave me behind. I deserve it.

NAYA

Grammy, if it's okay, I can call you that... Dexter didn't kill him. He just had misguided friendships and feels responsible for-

GRAMMY

So it's true? He's gone?

Naya and Dexter look at Grammy, eyes fighting back emotion.

NAYA

It wasn't Dexter. It was the people who put us here.

The truth forces Grammy to sit.

GRAMMY

That night, when everythin happened, I saw flashes of red light and heard the screams. I felt myself fallin into nothin. I woke up here. Thought I was in hell. Now you tellin me Ronny's gone... This is worse.

NAYA

We need to get out of here and stop the ones who did this.

Grammy rises and crosses to Dexter.

GRAMMY

I don't know what happened, but I know when I got sent here, you were no higher than a grasshopper. You said this is Nick's girl. That means my other grandson is out there, too, and that means he's gonna need our help. So snap out of it, and let's get home.

DEXTER

But I've made so many mistakes.

GRAMMY

That's life, kiddo. It's harder than a silver filling; the moments after the mistakes we make almost crush us to death. Pick up your chin. We gotta dust off and hit back.

Dexter looks up at her, eyes searching for forgiveness.

GRAMMY (CONT'D)

Now, you just tell me who to punch in the mouth, and I'll give em a lick your Grampy would be proud of.

They embrace. Grammy releases a tear on the other side of Dexter's hug.

A caw ECHOES in the distance. Naya looks over the dark horizon.

NAYA

Sorry to interrupt the Hallmark moment, but we almost got eaten by a giant crow after running into building-sized furniture in a world resembling an episode of Stranger Things. I think we should keep moving.

GRAMMY

This way.

She leads them off.

47

INT. DARK HOUSE ON THE HILL - NIGHT

47

Silence fills the air as the aftermath of the crow attack subsides. Nick shoots up. He looks around. ECHOES of the crow's cries RING in his head. He swats to clear the ringing. Remembering what may be lost snaps him into the present.

NICK

Dad?

Nick SHOUTS.

MARIE

Thomas?

CALLS Marie. They look around but see nothing.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Honey?!

Marie spins, frantic.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Thomas, where are you?

The house's emptiness is unsettling. Nick's emotions well, his anxiety builds like a volcano ready to burst.

NICK

Dad? Dad, please...

He starts to TALK to himself.

NICK (CONT'D)

Not again. I can't lose you again.

A chill washes over the air.

VOICE

Yes, again.

Nick sees a shadow at the edge of the room, standing in a doorway. He takes off after it.

MARIE

Nick, no!

Nick ignores his mother. The rage consuming him spills through his eyes as he runs toward the mystery voice, vengeance in each step. Marie trails. She reaches for her son.

The Voice WHISPERS.

VOICE

Yes, Nick, your father is lost.  
Everyone you love dies.

Enraged, Nick rips at top speed toward the voice in the shadows, tears of fury blinding him.

48 EXT. HOUSE ON A HILL - MOMENT LATER

48

Nick explodes through the back door. Nothing in sight. He searches for any sign of his father. Nothing. Thelma and Marie finally catch up, breath escaping them.

MARIE

Nick, where's your father?

NICK

I don't know.

MARIE

This can't be happening.

Thelma looks around. A chill washes over her as the hairs on her arm stand.

An evil laugh ECHOES into the night.

MARIE (CONT'D)

Thomas, please. He can't be gone.

The laugh BELLOWS again.

Marie CRIES.

Nick sees his father's glasses. His mother steps to pick up the glasses after eying them on the floor. Carefully, she extends her hand to pick them up. As her hand touches them, she disappears.

NICK

The red light...

49 INT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

49

Two more dark, dark, shimmering stones appear in the divots within the dark ring. Two red lines strike through Thomas's face. Ashley stares, joy filling her.

There is another picture next to Thomas. Ashley's face twists into an ugly grin. The dirt on her cheeks clear a path as a lone tear of joy rolls down her cheek. Ashley crosses out Marie's face.

ASHLEY

Almost there.

The Old Lady stares out the window, the moonlight bathing her withered features.

OLD LADY

Time ticks toward an inescapable destiny. When the three moons align, the ring must be worn by magic's new bride. The Divots are almost in place.

ASHLEY

One last piece.

OLD LADY

Not one, but crucial. For you, your journey ends with revenge. For me, it ends in renewal.

ASHLEY

My blood debt is almost paid. I will soon have peace.

OLD LADY

Do not deceive yourself. This is not a mission born out of peace. This is bigger than you, silly girl.

ASHLEY

Me, silly? You're pining after a man who is trapped in a shadow because he loved someone else.

OLD LADY

Watch yourself.

ASHLEY

He didn't choose you; he would rather be trapped in smoke than you. He loves her. He is coming back for her.

The Old Lady slams her staff on the floor. Darkness shimmers from it. She strides back to her rocking chair, stabbing the ground with the staff with every step.

OLD LADY

This chair has been in our family for generations. It's more than a chair. It's an heirloom, a throne.

She smashes the ground with the staff. Ashley flies back into the wall.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

It is a throne, and I, its queen. I hope for you to reign one day, but you fancy yourself with childish games. You have no patience.

The Old Lady holds the staff parallel to the ground at eye level.

Ashley SCREAMS as the dark shimmer seems to pierce her soul.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

I will bring him back. When I do, he will see my devotion and make me his bride.

She fingers the dark ring in her left hand, pulls her piercing gaze away from Ashley, and returns her eyes to the moonlight.

The Old Lady gently lays the staff on her lap. Ashley crumples.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

Rise.

Ashley struggles to stand. The Old Lady throws the staff at Ashley's feet.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

Take this. Allow it to be the tool of our victory.

Ashley reaches for the staff. Its dark shimmers bleed into her fingers as her eyes begin to darken.

50

EXT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

50

Thelma follows after Nick. With each step, she looks around for the next sign of danger. Nick continues to move without care.

THELMA

Nick, we have to stop for a minute.

Nick keeps moving.

THELMA (CONT'D)

We need to come up with a plan.

He continues on, ignoring her.

THELMA (CONT'D)

Nick, STOP!

Nick seethes. His chest heaving. He grabs his head as if in pain.

THELMA (CONT'D)

I know-

NICK

No, you don't.

THELMA

I loved her too.

NICK

She was my mom.

THELMA

You don't think I'm hurting, Nick? Don't you think I wanna bust that boogey man in his face to pay him back? I spent years trapped inside a globe with no family, no hope, and no escape. My world spun around me, literally.

Tears ruin her vision.

THELMA (CONT'D)

Your mother was a mother to all of us down there. She was the light. She was the glue, and I promise you, I will stand with you on this quest through evil Narnia or wherever we're going, but we have got to come up with a strategy.

Nick takes this in.

NICK

I'm sorry. It's just-

Thelma embraces him.

THELMA

I know.

She breaks away and straightens up.

THELMA (CONT'D)

Look, baby. Look where we are.  
Ashley's revenge brought us here.  
You can't let it ruin you.

NICK

Someone's gotta pay for this.

THELMA

Don't you have anything worth  
fighting for, living for... Loving  
for?

Nick rifles through his pocket and takes out the ring box.

NICK

I do, but it's been taken from me.  
Now, I'm going to take it all back.

51

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

51

Grammy leads Naya and Dexter through the underworld. A torn antique lazy boy, resembling a mountain, stands before them.

DEXTER

Is that a mountain?

GRAMMY

Lazy boy.

DEXTER

How do we get over it?

Naya starts maneuvering up the colossal lazy boy. Grammy points at Naya.

GRAMMY

Climb.

Frays and threads hang from the lazy boy's base. Grammy grabs hold of two vine-like threads and pulls herself up. She wings from one thread to a brass button in the lazy boy.

GRAMMY (CONT'D)

Come on, slow pokes.

Naya, impressed, follows suit. She pulls herself up a vine thread, army style. Dexter looks up, staring at the bottom of Naya's feet.

DEXTER

Hey, what about me?

Naya shouts down at him.

NAYA

You can wait there for the next  
weird monster to come get us.

Dexter climbs up so fast that he passes Naya. Grammy waits for them and jumps from button to button. Naya and Dexter follow suit. The trio makes their way to the edge of the cushion and climbs up.

DEXTER

This looks like a football field.

GRAMMY

We gotta keep moving and get to the  
trunk.

NAYA

Is that it over that ridge?

Naya struts over to the edge.

BOOM, BOOM, BOOM.

DEXTER

You guys feel that?

The dirt, dust, and lint under their feet jumps. The rhythm of the floor's vibration signals trouble. Grammy wobbles up to the edge of the lazy boy where Naya stands.

A crow's enormous head slowly breaks the plain of the lazy boy. Dark hollow marbles for eyes glower back at them. The head continues to rise.

CAW.

The giant crow HOWLS. The trio stumbles to their backsides, scramble, and run for their lives.

A rip in the lazy boy lay ahead of them.

GRAMMY

Follow me!

Dexter, Naya, and Grammy take off, running feverishly toward the tear in the fabric. Dexter sprints directly into the rip.

Grammy holds a finger over her mouth. Dexter holds his breath, not daring to breathe.

Naya signals Grammy to the objects lying around inside the rip. A giant penny, a safety pin, and lint surround them. Naya mimes picking up the huge penny to Dexter and pretends to use it as a shield. Dexter looks back at her, confused, and starts dancing like a caveman, but as if asking a question.

She rolls her eyes and begins to lift one side of the penny by herself. Understanding, Dexter helps.

WHAM

The crow's beak skewers the lazy boy, coming inches from them.

WHAM

Dexter and Naya grab the giant penny and use it as a shield.

WHAM

The crow's beak SLAMS into the lazy boy, over and over again, barely missing them. The oversized penny becomes harder to hold with each strike. The Giant Crow spears its beak again. As it does, Grammy rolls, grabs the giant safety pin, and spears it through the beak, pinning the crow to the lazy boy.

Wasting no time, they run out of the rip and back to the clearing. The Trunk, now in view, is a welcome sight.

Gold shimmers from inside the keyhole, shining like a lighthouse.

53

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

53

The cold, hard ground rests under Thomas. He opens his eyes, but nearsightedness reminds him of his limitations. Thomas's hands reach for anything familiar in an unfamiliar world.

He wanders.

THOMAS

Can anyone hear me?

Silence.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Hello?

A RUSTLING up ahead.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Oh, thank God. Marie, is that you?  
I can't see a thing. I can't find  
me gla-

More RUSTLING.

Someone, or something, stands in the shadows. A long, withered, and scaly finger extends toward Thomas. The dust beneath Thomas's feet swirls.

The RUSTLING ahead morphs into a low-pitched hiss. Shadows fly in from every direction. A Figure steps into the triple moon's light. Red slits for eyes broke through the shadows. He was unmistakable. It was him. It was The Shadow Man.

SHADOW MAN

Soon.

The Shadow Man was back.

54

EXT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

54

Nick and Thelma stop to look around. The night sky seemed to grow darker.

THELMA

Where are we?

NICK

Not sure.

THELMA

Well, when you go all Forrest Gump on me and take off running into the woods after a witch.

NICK

I know-

THELMA

That's some white people stuff. All this.

She motions with her hands.

THELMA (CONT'D)

Witches and running into dark trees.

NICK

We need a plan.

THELMA

You know I gotchu.

NICK

There's something that Ashley wants. We need to figure out what it is, draw her out and-

Nick clenches his jaw.

THELMA

It's okay, you don't have to say it.

NICK

We need to stop her.

THELMA

Can you stop her?

NICK

Done it before, will do it again. She took them from me.

THELMA

Don't do this out of hate. Find something in you that gives you a spark. Work from there, Nick.

NICK

Naya gave me my spark, and now she's lost forever.

Nick's countenance grew darker.

The SOUND of wood THUMPING the ground ECHOES in the distance. Nick and Thelma share a look, preparation. The leaves around them quiver.

Trees camouflage Ashley's body but not her intentions. She breaks through the clearing.

Nick's pendant shimmers. Ashley grips the staff that punished her earlier. Her face shimmers black as the moon reflects its light off her face. Her eyes darken again.

She strikes the ground. Everything slows down.

Nick and Thelma fly backward into the air. Their bodies lose the battle to gravity and smack into the surface. They regain their senses. Ashley reloads by raising the staff in the air again.

She smiles.

ASHLEY

Welcome home.

Ashley rams the staff into the ground again. The pair sails back once more. Now at the edge of a bluff.

Nick's pendant shimmers. It rises off his chest, shooting shimmers at Ashley. The gold dust engulfs her. She SCREAMS, the goodness chipping away at her essence.

THELMA

Yah! Take that, you crazy-

Ashley's staff shimmers black. It floats into her hand. Her grungy fingers clasp the weapon. Ashley's eyes darken. She brings the staff above her head. The golden shimmers fade. With one swift movement, she strikes the ground. Nick reels as his feet lift off the ground, sailing. He lands inches from the bluff's edge.

Thelma tumbles through the air, but she doesn't land by Nick. Nothing hits the ground next to him. She soars over the cliff's edge, plunging into the darkness.

55

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

55

The shadows rise as Thomas's stomach drops. The two face off, ready for each other's next move. A voice like steel chains dragging through rocks slithers out of the Shadow Man's mouth.

SHADOW MAN

They say time waits for no man, but  
it has waited patiently for me.

THOMAS

Victor?

SHADOW MAN

Victor is dead. I am what remains.  
His weakness was my gift. The  
shadows have no weakness, no  
remorse. They can be held by  
nothing.

The shadows seem to dance at this.

THOMAS  
What do you want?

SHADOW MAN  
What I want, you stole from me, and  
I will now steal from you.

THOMAS  
Are you crazy? I was locked away,  
trapped in furniture for years.

SHADOW MAN  
WITH HER.

The Shadow Man SCREECHES.

SHADOW MAN (CONT'D)  
You were with her. Her destiny, my  
destiny, was Marie, and even in an  
altered form, you found a way to  
take her from me. You were with her  
while I had no company but the  
shadows.

With each passing moment, his temper and the shadows rise.  
The

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

56 INT. HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE SHOP - NIGHT

56

A young Victor's arms flail. He POUNDS the table as he  
implores a beautiful auburn-haired woman, MARIE, to listen.

A beautiful locket hangs from her neck.

VICTOR  
Don't you understand? I can give  
you everything you've ever wanted.

MARIE  
I have everything I need.

VICTOR  
How do you know you're not missing  
something more?

MARIE

Victor, love is just that. It's something you know. I can't explain it, but I don't need to wonder.

VICTOR

Well, I feel love, too. And I know you will eventually understand. Love is all I ever wanted.

MUSIC CUE: "All I Ever Wanted."

Victor serenades Marie with a heartfelt song professing his love to her. As before, he leaps onto the table.

His black hair covers one of his eyes. The other eye looks mad. As his song builds, he takes the chain and holds it to the stars once more. It begins to glow.

She is startled. Her gasp brings him back to the present moment.

MARIE

Victor, I care about you. You're a good friend, but you know that I'm married, I have a family. I'm happy.

VICTOR

What about me? What about my happiness?

MARIE

Thomas will be home soon.

VICTOR

Leave him. Give me a chance.

MARIE

Are you crazy? Where is this coming from? I'd never leave Thomas.

VICTOR

I deserve this!

Silence.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

I deserve what I want.

MARIE

You're not yourself-

Marie steps toward the back right side of the room,  
protective.

VICTOR

I've never been more me. All I need  
is you!

MARIE

I love Thomas till death do us  
part.

VICTOR

LOVE ME.

MARIE

Never.

VICTOR

We'll see.

Victor grips the chain. He holds it up to her he begins to  
CHANT.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Dominus sileo me vestri...

The chain begins to glow red. Light shines out of it and  
towards Marie.

END FLASHBACK.

57

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

57

The Shadow Man/Victor, now full of remembered rage, strides  
toward Thomas.

THOMAS

No matter what you do to me, she'll  
never love you.

SHADOW MAN

That may be true, but the one thing  
I can do is wipe you from existence  
with your knowledge that I will  
destroy something you may hold even  
more dear than Marie...

A shadow forms. Its gray light makes it look almost like a  
television. The image is clear.

THOMAS

Nick.

Thomas balls his fist, ready to do his best.

They charge each other.

In a flash, Marie burst from the shadows. She tackles Thomas, moving him out of the line of confrontation. Marie grabs him by the hand and runs him into the shadowed brush of the forest.

58

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT - THE BRUSH/FOREST

58

Marie and Thomas crouch in the forest oddity. The brush was made a massive antique brushes and several bristles.

THOMAS

You're alive!

MARIE

Obviously.

He kisses her face.

MARIE (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

She smiles at him, but it is short-lived.

THOMAS

We have a problem.

MARIE

Well, first, you almost had a major problem. Were you charging Victor? What were you thinking?

THOMAS

First of all, he was charging me. He started it. Second of all, that thing isn't Victor. It's a monster, and he's going after Nick. I won't let that happen.

Smoke billows into the air high above them. The pair looks up to see the lamp from the shop, but it's the size of a small apartment building. Its bulb is gray and steaming.

MARIE

This doesn't feel right.

THOMAS

Relax. If we don't move, whatever it is won't know we are here.

The smoke slithers down toward Thomas and Marie, almost hissing with every inch it takes. It floats around the two, tickling their noses, daring Thomas to make a sound. Thomas SLAPS his hand over his mouth, stifling his pending cough. Marie follows suit, but is too late. The fumes win.

Marie COUGHS.

On cue, the lamp BURSTS with life. It bends down toward the earth. Its bulb flashes on, but not with light.

Streams of fire jet from the bulb down toward them. The brush catches. The blaze, contagious to its surroundings, chases Thomas and Marie out into the open. Thomas looks back as they run for their lives.

MARIE

There's a field ahead.

The lamp stops its pursuit. All goes quiet.

59

EXT. SHADOWLAND - FIELD - NIGHT

59

Thomas and Marie stop to catch their breath. The massive field's stillness unsettles them. The brush behind them smoldering but the fire has disappeared.

MARIE

What is this place?

THOMAS

Messed up is what this place is.

MARIE

We need to figure out a way back home.

THOMAS

First, we need to stay alive. If another thing comes to life or catches on fire or turns into a gremlin, I'm gonna scream.

The ground quivers beneath them.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Do you feel that?

More quivering.

MARIE

You had to say something?

They slowly sink.

THOMAS  
What's happening?

MARIE  
Are we in quicksand?

The ground shimmers darkly. Large vine-like tentacles approach. Marie tries to run. Her feet are stuck.

THOMAS  
Don't run. Don't move.

MARIE  
Uh, Honey, the vines are coming.

The rope-like vines keep persist in their approach.

THOMAS  
It's a pillow.

MARIE  
What are you saying?

Marie sinks further as she SHOUTS.

MARIE (CONT'D)  
Thomas, a little help?

Thomas fights off the tassels from The Pillow. Marie is now at her chest.

MARIE (CONT'D)  
Honey???

Thomas wrestles the tassels. He fishes off his belt, slings it at the tassels. It catches. He pulls himself up.

Marie is at her neck.

Thomas wraps the buckle around her hand and stabs the tassels.

The Pillow seems to WAIL. The moment gives Marie a glimmer of hope. The pillow releases her for a brief window, giving Marie her chance.

Thomas flings the belt at Marie. She clasps her hands around it.

MARIE (CONT'D)  
PULL!

He yanks back, heaving her toward him and out of harm's way. They collapse in relief.

BOOM

Fire SCREAMS as it rains down. Marie and Thomas scramble from the blaze's touch. The flames find a home on The Pillow's surface. It catches.

Its engulfed tentacles flail. Embers fly and catch the base of the lamp, which erupts in its own flame. The lamp, on fire, engulfed in flames, stumbles out into the forest.

DISSOLVE TO:

60

EXT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

60

Nick's back lay against the earth. His face scrunches as the pain from the fall floods his body. His eyelids struggle to lift as they open.

The three moons look like six as they dance in tiny circles. He blinks. The doubles reset. Still three, but they are close to overlapping.

The pain from being thrown by Ashley is replaced by the pain of realizing what happened to Thelma.

NICK

Thelma?

Nick tries to speak. The wind not yet back in his lungs. He turns over and crawls to the bluff's edge.

NICK (CONT'D)

Thelma??

His voice slowly returns.

NICK (CONT'D)

Thelma, please!

He looks over the edge. Darkness swallows everything below the bluff.

Emotion rolls down his cheeks as guilt floods in. Nick looks at the three moons and SCREAMS. His anguish fills the night sky.

61 INT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT 61

Ashley saunters into the house. The Old lady sits inside, waiting, reading a book.

TAP

TAP

TAP

Ashley slides the staff down the door after KNOCKING with it.

OLD LADY

Come.

The darkness shimmers around Ashley like a wave at the beach.

A book, tattered, wrinkled, weathered, sits in front of her. \*

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

This book started our journey.  
Victor came to me years ago. I  
warned him that he must be ready.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

62 INT. NIGHT WITCH'S HOUSE 62

A young man, VICTOR, 20s, sits nervously in a chair across from an elderly WITCH. His foot TAPS nervously.

Tap, tap, tap tap, tap.

Tap, tap, tap tap, tap.

The wind blows the stray branches at the window. They hit the window with a TAP.

A woodpecker TAPS on a tree.

The entire world around him seems to unify with the rhythm and the beat.

The TAPPING grows as he breaks into song.

MUSIC CUE: "The Beat of Her Heart."

As he finishes the song, he is startled by the room's "decorations."

The spooky room is lined with shelves of jars. Shrunken heads, bones, skulls, and other ominous-looking ingredients tread in the unknown liquid.

The scents of sea moss, mildew, and wet wood fill the room.

A book, tattered, wrinkled, weathered, sits in front of her. She closes it as she finishes MUTTERING to herself.

\*  
\*

Her wrinkled and worn fingers obscure an object.

WITCH

Are you sure, young one? Love spells spell doom if not used correctly.

VICTOR

I don't care. I just need her to love me... Forever!

WITCH

Careful...

Victor throws more money on the table. The money begins to move.

The music SWELLS as the melody infuses life into the coins, jars, and furniture. Everything is dancing.

VICTOR

I gave you your money, lady. What do you want, more? Here. Now, gimme my spell.

Victor throws a few more coins at the witch.

She glares.

WITCH

So be it.

Her scaly hand opens.

A chain.

The tarnished piece swings in the air. She speaks as if in a trance.

The music builds.

WITCH (CONT'D)

Dominus sileo me vestri pectus est mei...

The chain glows.

A deep red pulses and fades like a beating heart.

END FLASHBACK.

63

INT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

63

The Old Lady/Witch, cradles the book. Ashley's eyes fixate on it.

ASHLEY

The witch was you?

OLD LADY

This holds more power than you  
could ever imagine.

Her old hand strokes the book.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

And the boy?

ASHLEY

Defeated.

OLD LADY

Are you sure?

ASHLEY

I broke his spirit. What else is  
there? Now he is alone.

Ashley's eyes lock on the book once again.

OLD LADY

We shall see. Now we bring him  
back.

ASHLEY

I've done everything you've asked-

OLD LADY

There is a time and place for  
everything under the sun. Our world  
is governed by rules, all of which  
are in this book. With it is our  
destiny.

ASHLEY

That can give me anything I want?

OLD LADY

Careful.

ASHLEY

Of what?

OLD LADY

Timing. The time must be right. The three moons are not yet aligned. When will you learn the lesson of patience, young one?

A glint in Ashley's eye.

ASHLEY

Before, you used the staff to teach me a lesson. I wasn't sure what it was at the time, but now, I think I know.

OLD LADY

Good. To learn is to know. To know is power.

Ashley begins to TAP the staff on the floor.

ASHLEY

You said it would give me all I seek. It would strengthen me?

The darkness shimmers across Ashley's face.

OLD LADY

What are you asking, child?

ASHLEY

I'm not asking, I'm realizing. I now know the power I have... I've always had.

OLD LADY

We are almost at our moment.

ASHLEY

I'm tired of waiting. I'm tired of asking. These two heirlooms can give me my revenge, yet you'd have me wait.

Ashley TAPS harder.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

You'd have me suffer.

She TAPS harder still.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

You'd have me bend the knee to you.  
I'm done with your games and your  
rules.

The Old Lady holds up her hand.

OLD LADY

Careful...

Ashley holds the staff in the air, regarding it.

ASHLEY

No, darkness isn't careful.  
Darkness is consuming.

She SLAMS the staff to the floor. The Old Lady SOARS back into the wall. The book falls to the ground. Its pages flap in the wind that now swirls in the house.

Ashley, with the Old Lady pinned to the wall, SHOUTS as she thrusts the staff to the ground with all her might.

The Old Lady slowly disappears, HURLING curses at Ashley before the book sucks her in, trapping her in its pages.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Careful.

Ashley glides over to the wall. The Old Lady's cloak lies on the floor, the book before it, closed. She picks up the book, opens it, and her eyes open, darkening as she smiles.

CUT TO:

64

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

64

Dexter's pendant shimmers. The Trunk, just down the clearing, continues to emit light.

GRAMMY

That trunk has been spitting like a  
laser light show for a couple years  
now.

NAYA

Why haven't you gone there yet?

DEXTER

Um, do the giant animals and monsters have anything to do with it?

GRAMMY

Yup. Not that I couldn't handle it myself but I couldn't quite handle it myself. Getting by these giant critters.

NAYA

Was that a compliment?

GRAMMY

Shut it. Let's keep moving.

The trio walks up to the oversized trunk.

65

EXT. SHADOWLAND - TRUNK - NIGHT

65

They look up. The light shines from the key hole over and over. Shimmers glow as the only light in the Shadowland.

GRAMMY

Can't believe we're here.

DEXTER

I can't believe we're alive.

NAYA

So, why are we here exactly?

GRAMMY

I dunno, but my bones have been tellin me that this is where we're supposed to be. Well, that and the flashin gold light in a creepy underworld full of darkness and monster furniture was a good sign.

NAYA

Good point.

DEXTER

Anyone have ideas how to up to that light?

Naya and Grammy start climbing. Dexter, exasperated drops his head.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
 Shucks, I knew we were gonna have  
 to climb again.

He grabs a hold of a loose piece of wood hanging from the antique but massive trunk and begins to climb.

His pendant shimmers gold. It holds solid gold for the first time in a while.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
 Guys?

He shouts up to the women.

NAYA  
 Keep climbing, Dex. We gotta keep  
 moving.

They climb on.

66

INT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

66

Nick trudges down a path leading to the old house on a hill. Dirt and dried tears smear his face. His bloodshot eyes focus on the house. His knuckles quake as they turn from flesh colored to white. His fists balled, looking for a place to exact their revenge.

With each step, his chest rises and falls, the anger welling like a volcano ready to explode.

The house is now a few feet away.

The door CREAKS as it opens, stopping Nick in his tracks. Ashley emerges from the darkness. Half her face obscured in shadows, the other rippling with dark shimmering waves. She grasps her hand around the staff.

ASHLEY  
 You shouldn't have come, especially  
 not alone, but then again, you  
 didn't have a choice, did you?

Nick YELLS as he takes off toward her.

Ashley raises her staff above her head and brings it toward the earth.

WHAM.

The world spins end over end. He flies again through the air, waiting for the earth to strike him. He lands against a tree and slides down its bark.

Ashley, now standing over Nick, smiles as the darkness fills her eyes.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Nick.

Nick's pendant shimmers gold.

POP

Gold, everywhere.

Nick disappears.

67 EXT. SHADOWLAND - TRUNK - NIGHT

67

Dexter's pendant shimmers gold.

DEXTER

What's happening?

GRAMMY

We need to get through the keyhole.

Grammy moves aside on the trunk, allowing Dexter and Naya to go through first.

Naya climbs in, followed by Dexter. The keyhole blasts gold. The light's intensity is now blinding. Grammy makes her way in, Gold everywhere.

Naya and Dexter stand facing the light. Grammy strides toward them. Everyone stares in disbelief. Dexter's pendant shimmers. It flies off his chest and finds a home with its equal.

Nick, lying on the floor, pendant now off his neck, connects with Dexter's. An old man stands over Nick's body.

GRAMMY (CONT'D)

Ronald...

A Grandfather clock's pendulum sways back and forth, swinging gold light with each motion. A wide-eyed Grampy looks up, his eyes stuck in disbelief.

69 EXT. HOUSE ON A HILL - NIGHT

69

Ashley searches the ground before her for Nick. Only the HOWLING of the wind accompanies her. Confusion and frustration line her face.

She charges back into the house, grabs the dark book and opens it. She scours the pages until she her eyes stop and fix on a page.

She grabs the staff and looks up. She MUTTERS to herself.

POP

Ashley disappears.

70 EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

70

POP

Ashley wakes up in the shadows. Blinking gold light catches Ashley's eye from a distance. She looks up and sees the light ahead from the trunk. Ashley glides toward the Trunk, dragging the staff behind her.

71 INT. SHADOWLAND - TRUNK - NIGHT

71

Both pendants shimmer as they lock together, fused in partnership. After a moment, they brighten, separate, and return to Nick and Dexter.

Everyone stands in awe.

Grammy steps to Grampy, takes his face in her hands. Their eyes lock.

GRAMMY

You're late.

GRAMPY

From where I sit, you're the late one.

He wipes a tear from her cheek. The embrace is decades in the making. Their arms lock around one another as the questions start to fly.

GRAMMY

I knew you were alive. I felt it.

GRAMPY

No, that's your arthritis.

The couple shares a laugh.

GRAMPY (CONT'D)  
You've been down here all this  
time, and-

GRAMMY  
Gettin to you was downright  
impossible, but I knew the light  
meant somethin. I could feel it  
clearer than gout.

Grampy walks to Dexter. Dexter shrinks in his presence, as  
his head droops, eyes staring at the floor.

DEXTER  
How did... Where.. What ha-

GRAMPY  
Eyes up, son.

DEXTER  
I'm so sorry-

Grampy holds a hand up, interrupting Dexter's apology.

GRAMPY  
It wasn't you. It was him all  
along.

Dexter's eyes meet his.

GRAMPY (CONT'D)  
Remember when you came to see me?  
You brought me a sunflower in a  
pot.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

A KNOCK at the door.

Dexter intrudes on the moment as he pokes his head in the  
hospital room. Sunflowers fill his hands.

DEXTER  
Flowers for the patient! How's the  
old tiger holding up?

GRANDPA RONALD  
I'm in bed, not the grave.

NICHOLAS  
You serious right now?

DEXTER  
As a heart attack.

END FLASHBACK.

GRAMPY  
Funny thing. I was actually feelin  
better that night. Right as rain.  
That there sunflower in the pot you  
gave me was dying. I grabbed it to  
give that dry thing a drink of  
water. As soon as I touched it, I  
ended up here. Been here every  
since.

Nick sits up.

NICK  
But the nurses said you died. You  
flatlined. You were crashing.

Dexter turns away from the light.

DEXTER  
It's my fault. I tried to tell you  
all. When I came back the next day  
to get him to sign over the shop,  
the room was empty. He wasn't  
there. The nurses came back in,  
asked me where he was. I told them  
he didn't make it.

He looks at Nick.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
I forged some paperwork to try to  
get the shop. I told them he was  
gone. I signed as Nick.

Dexter buries his face in his hands. Shame covering his eyes.

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
Everyone assumed he was dead, and I  
couldn't bring myself to tell you  
all the truth. You guys accepted me  
as one of your own.

NAYA  
That's why you've looked so-

GRAMPY

Like crap? You look like crap, son.

DEXTER

I'm sorry, Grampy. I didn't know who you were to me. Victor used some magic book on anyone who asked questions at the hospital. He made everyone believe you were gone. It's been killing me.

GRAMPY

Everybody falls, but the strong ones get up and kick life back.

Grampy extends his hand to Nick. Nick clasps his hands around his Grampy's.

GRAMPY (CONT'D)

I've been keepin an eye on you, youngin. You're losin your way. Lettin this whole bit rile you up and outta sense.

NICK

I thought I lost you... All of you.

GRAMPY

I left the ring behind as a piece of me that represented what I held most dear.

Grammy nestles into Grampy's arms, resting as if it were her own bed.

NICK

Yeah, I found it in the Grandfather clock.

NAYA

Is that why we keep seeing grandfather clocks everywhere? And what ring? What are you talking about?

Nick feels inside his pants pocket. A box-shaped lump rested on his upper thigh. He gently fishes it out, clasped in his fist.

NICK

For most of my life, I thought I had no one. Then, out of nowhere, I had a family. I had a girl who liked me for me.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

I actually started dreaming again, planning for good things to happen to me. And then, in an instant, I lost everything.

Marie and Thomas exchange a knowing look.

NICK (CONT'D)

All I wanted to do was hurt the people responsible.

Nick steps to Naya.

NICK (CONT'D)

Naya, this ring, it was for you. A family heirloom for the most special person in my life to symbolize you joining our family.

Naya looks on in disbelief. Nick drops down to one knee. He opens the box. The ring shimmers gold. Nick and Dexter's pendant shimmers gold.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

The trunk shakes as if it's breaking the Richter scale. Nick topples over. The ring falls from its box. Marie grabs Thomas. Dexter loses his footing. Naya rolls to a nearby wall and grabs hold. The ring rolls.

A voice shouts from below.

ASHLEY

Nick!

GRAMMY

I'm fixin to whoop her -

Naya shoots up to attention. She WHISPERS to herself.

NAYA

Ashley.

Nick scrambles and grasps for the ring. It rolls. Naya runs.

NAYA (CONT'D)

I'm going down there.

GRAMPY  
Not alone yer not.

Naya jumps out of the trunk toward her cousin.

NICK  
Naya.

Nick runs and flails himself out of the trunk, grasping for air. His hands make contact. A pull chord meets his hands. He holds on for dear life and slides down to its base. It's warm and charred. He slides down the rough metal. Naya is already on the ground below, squaring off with Ashley.

In his eye line, the three moons are almost overlapping. If it was even possible, the sky seemed to grow darker.

Grammy, Grampy and Dexter hang at the top of the chain, trying to make their way down.

Nick swings his body weight, gathering momentum and flies to the ground. As he swings, he pulls the chain. Orange and yellow light erupts.

The charred, gigantic, antique lamp from earlier ignites, and it seemed angry. The place where the bulb would have perched was a ball of fire.

Nick lands by Naya.

NAYA  
Did you pull actually the chord  
before you jumped?

NICK  
What? I needed some torque to get  
to you.

WOOSH. Fire drenches the ground beside them. Ashley opens the Dark Book.

ASHLEY  
Cousin, I owe you.

She slams the staff on the ground, the book open at her feet. Naya tumbles through the air and collides with the earth. Fire crawling toward her.

Grampy, Grammy and Dexter make their way into view.

NICK  
Grampy, Grammy, go check on Naya.

They run toward her.

WHAM

The staff hits the ground. Dust and fire dirty the air. The older couple sail.

Ashley smiles as fire burns a ring around her, Dexter, and Nick.

ASHLEY

You did this. You and Naya owe me a debt, and the bill always comes due.

Shadows swirl. Everyone's teeth CHATTER. A HISS cuts through the chaos.

The Shadow Man steps through the fire. Dexter WINCES.

SHADOW MAN

The time is nigh for my return to the world above. You have done well, young soldier.

Ashley's gaze is unmoved from Nick.

SHADOW MAN (CONT'D)

Dexter. I could not have done this with your assistance in my humble beginnings.

Dexter turns his face in shame.

NICK

Hey, fog machine, don't talk to my brother.

Ashley SLAMS the staff, turns it sideways. Nick crumbles.

ASHLEY

Let me, master. I destroyed the Old Lady. I brought them here. Let me finish the task.

The moon inches closer to overlap. The ring that once rested comfortably on the Old Lady, now sat in Ashley's hand.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

The ring, master. The divots are complete. The moon is almost locked, and you can return.

A tear rolls down Ashley's face.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

But I humbly ask you to let me  
destroy them.

Nick continues to struggle. Dexter tries to get to him but  
can't break through the shadows around Nick.

DEXTER

Hey, psycho. I'm literally right in  
front of you. Let me brother go.

The fire rages on behind them. No one in sight.

Shadow Man opens his mouth. An army of smaller shadows  
surround Nick. He drops to the ground, SCREAMING.

DEXTER (CONT'D)

Stop!

Dexter runs toward the Shadow Man. The Shadow Man opens his  
mouth and engulfs Dexter in shadows as well. Dexter HOWLS in  
pain. The brothers writhe on the ground.

The Moons LOCK with a CLINK. An antique mirror appears.  
Through it and entrance The Shop.

Nick's pendant starts to shimmer. He looks up, making eye  
contact with Dexter.

Dexter's pendant shimmers.

SHADOW MAN

Now that the moons have linked, and  
the promise of the ring has been  
fulfilled, I can return to the  
world. When I do, every knee shall  
bow. They will all love me. Ashley,  
I grant your request. Kill them  
all.

The Lamp of Fire stands guard as The Shadow Man strides  
toward the antique mirror.

Ashley raises her staff.

The shimmering pendants grow brighter.

BOOM

A bomb of gold shimmers blows the shadows from around them.  
Nick and Dexter's pendants collide together, forming a  
shimmer around the two.

Ashley sends black shimmers at Nick.

Nick fights back. His pendant shoots the same light that Dexter's does. Ashley blocks but the book flied.

DEXTER

We need to stop Victor.

Nick speaks with renewed strength.

NICK

No, Dex. It was always you. You're stronger than you think. You can stop him. The pendant. We're connected. Here's your chance to right everything you wanted to fix.

Dexter nods and tears off after the Shadow Man.

Nick, covered in shimmers looks where Naya and his family were, behind the fire and bolts toward them.

Ashley follows and makes a bead on Nick. She holds the staff above her head and floats over him, landing between the fire and his family. Ashley holds out the staff, MUTTERS something indistinguishable and opens her other hand.

The Dark Book, on fire zooms toward them, landing in Ashley's open hand. Her eyes wave darkness.

ASHLEY

You tried to bury me. I've had time to plan, grow stronger.

NICK

You don't have to do this.

The book floats. The fire has no affect on its pages.

ASHLEY

Nothing can stop me.

As the books pages turn, Nick's shimmers fade.

72

EXT. SHADOWLAND - ANTIQUE MIRROR - NIGHT

72

The Shadow Man walks with purpose toward the mirrored portal. Dexter, out of breath, shimmering, calls to him.

DEXTER

Victor.

SHADOW MAN

You dare address me? I was going to let you live.

(MORE)

SHADOW MAN (CONT'D)

You were a loyal subject. Through out all of my years, slowly aging, commanding so many idiots, you were the most capable of fools.

DEXTER

I can't let you go through there.

The Shadow man's laugh RATTLES.

SHADOW MAN

I have little time for this.

He looks at the moon. They were now moving out of alignment ever so slowly as they passed their course over each other.

Using the distraction, Dexter shoots golden shimmers at him with no affect. The Shadow Man orders an army of shadows at Dexter. They pin him to the ground. His shimmering fading with each passing moment.

SHADOW MAN (CONT'D)

And now, you join the league of shadows. Now, you die.

73

EXT. SHADOWLAND - NIGHT

73

Ashley stands over Nick. His shimmers almost faded completely. The fire's wall stood tall. The Fire Lamp ROARED on.

Shadows and fire surround everything. Nick closes his eyes.

ASHLEY

Yes. Close your eyes. You don't want to see me kill Naya.

She raises her staff one last time. Dark shimmers flow up and down her staff and into her arms.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Goodbye, Nick. Die knowing that your family is mine, and Victor will conquer the world.

The staff hurls toward the earth.

BOOM

Through the fire gold emerges.

THELMA

He's got the whole world...

BOOM

She fires gold from her hands. It collides Ashley's chest.  
The Dark Book closes.

THELMA (CONT'D)  
In his hands.

She shoots another rocket of gold.

THELMA (CONT'D)  
He's got the whole world...

BOOM

Thelma fires another golden ray from her surrounding golden  
body at Ashley.

THELMA (CONT'D)  
He's got the whole world-

Ashley lay before her, weak and disappearing.

ASHLEY  
I killed you! I saw you fly over  
the cliff.

Thelma looks down at Ashley.

THELMA  
He's got the whole world in his  
hands.

She sends a final golden blow to Ashley's face. Ashley  
disappears.

NICK  
Thelma, I thought you-

THELMA  
I get by with a little help from my  
friends.

The Giant Globe, now covered in Gold POUNDS through the fire.  
The fire extinguishes.

THELMA (CONT'D)  
Seems like all these big old  
heirlooms need is their former  
host. Fixed him right up! Now go  
help your brother.

Nick runs toward Dexter.

The massive globe and oversized lamp face off. The lamp shoots fire at The Globe. Its golden shimmers offering full protecting. The Globe spins, deflecting the fire back the lamp.

The fire, now covered in gold, flings back at the lamp. It catches. Slowly, the lamp dissolves. SCREAMING until its end.

74

EXT. SHADOWLAND - ANTIQUE MIRROR

74

Victor/ Shadow Man towers over Dexter. Dexter's shimmer is down to its last sparkle.

SHADOW MAN  
Farewell, former subject.

Thomas and Marie emerge from the brush.

MARIE  
Victor.

The Shadow Man stops dead in his tracks. The shadows release Dexter and hover around their master.

SHADOW MAN  
Still choosing poorly, I see.

He looks at Thomas. Thomas stands in front of Marie.

THOMAS  
Years ago, we sacrificed ourselves for love. It protected us. What makes you think we won't do it again.

SHADOW MAN  
I know you will, fools. But in my prison I have made some alterations.

He holds up the dark ring, its divots complete.

SHADOW MAN (CONT'D)  
This time, there will be no mistakes.

MARIE  
It doesn't have to be this way.

SHADOW MAN  
Step aside. You're blocking the path to my destiny.

MARIE

You and I both know I can't do  
that.

SHADOW MAN

So be it.

The ring gathers green and red lights from the sky. Just like twenty years ago, Thomas and Marie hold each other, preparing to protect each other until the end.

Shadow Man/ Victor slings his darkness at the Thomas and Marie. They brace for impact.

The engagement ring bursts into the path. It's Nick, hurling himself, led by the ring. It reflects the rays back at The Shadow Man. Upon contact, he flashes between Shadow Man and Victor.

The ring continues to shoot gold shimmers at him. Dexter and Nick's pendant connect in light once again and shoot golden shimmers at The Shadow Man.

Thelma arrives. She joins and delivers gold at The Shadow Man/ Victor.

He contorts and SCREAMS in anguish, the gold tormenting him.

Grammy, Grampy, and Naya arrive. They all look on, watching Victor/ Shadow Man's end.

POP

The Shadow Man disappears.

The ring CLINKS on the ground.

The quiet of the night echoes. Grammy looks up at the moon.

Nick and Dexter run to their parents. The embrace is strong. Grammy and Grampy join them.

GRAMMY

We gotta get going.

She looks at the moons. Naya steps to Nick.

NAYA

Are you okay?

NICK

Never been better...

She looks at the ring.

NAYA

Is that why you've been acting so weird?

NICK

According to you, I'm always weird.

She leans in to kiss him but is interrupted.

GRAMPY

I hate to break up this Hallmark moment, but those moons don't look good.

GRAMMY

He's right. Once those moons break apart again, we're stuck here for about...

She checks her watch.

GRAMMY (CONT'D)

Another hundred years.

Dexter walks to the antique mirror.

DEXTER

Well, let's not hang around!

Dexter motions the group through. Grampy leads Grammy by the hand.

GRAMPY

I've been waitin a few decades for this. I'm walkin out hand in hand with you, young lady.

Grammy smiles as they step through. The mirror shimmers.

Thelma steps forward, offers her forearm to Dexter. He bows, takes her arm and they walk through.

Shimmer

Thomas and Marie connect side by side and walk through.

Shimmer

Nick looks to Naya.

NICK

Whatdya say? Wanna get out of here?

Naya smiles.

NAYA

I do.

They cross the threshold. The mirror shimmers.

75 INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

75

The group, covered in dirt, soot, and tears, stare at the now solid antique mirror. Their reflections stare back at them. Their LAUGHTER carries us to...

DISSOLVE TO:

76 INT. ANTIQUE SHOP - ONE YEAR LATER

76

Nick tugs at his neck. His bow tie shifts as he tries to make room for his finger. Dexter leans over and cleans some dust off his tuxedo jacket.

Marie sits, head on Thomas's shoulder. She dabs her eyes and WHIMPERS a bit.

Dressed in an elegant purple dress with white accents, Thelma holds a matching purple and white bouquet of flowers. She beams out to Grampy and Grammy, dressed in 1970's style formal wear.

The familiar PASTOR gives Grampy a thumbs up.

PASTOR

I did your funeral, you know.

GRAMPY

I'm tougher to get rid of than a grass stain. Wouldn't miss this day for all the tea in China.

Dexter turns to Nick as they wait.

DEXTER

You nervous?

NICK

I could throw up, but other than that, all good.

DEXTER

Be happy, brother. You deserve this happiness.

NICK

I'm so glad you're here.

DEXTER

Me too.

NICK

And I'm glad you're back to doing your hair. You were scaring me there for a bit.

Dexter smooths his hair.

DEXTER

It's a gift... And a curse.

They LAUGH. Their moment was interrupted by the door at the end of the room opening. Grampy and Thomas stand and make their way to the top of the isle.

Nick's eyes lock in on the door as it opens. He fidgets with his fingers, waiting.

The music HITS. The Wedding March PLAYS. Nick's eyes widen. His lips separate as breath escapes from between them. The fidgeting stops. Nick's eyes fill with emotion. He swallows it down.

Sunlight shimmers through the window, crowning Naya's face. Her veil catches the light perfectly. Orb's of blue, clear like crystals, shine from her eyes.

With each step Nick's heart races a little bit faster. She reaches the altar and smiles at her fiancé.

NICK

The dress...

Naya, dressed in the same dress we saw in Grammy and Grampy's wedding photo, holds her wedding bouquet and fixes her eyes on Nick.

NAYA

Something borrowed. You like? I heard it was a family heirloom

NICK

Your eyes.

NAYA

Something blue.

She curtseys.

NICK

You are the most beautiful person I've ever seen.

NAYA

You're not so bad yourself.

Nick takes her hands.

NICK

Before you, the highlight of my day was the bag of Flaming Hot Cheetos I would eat while I played video games at night. I had nothing to live for, nothing to fight for. You have always believed in me, always given me a chance. You gave me something new. You didn't even run when objects in the shop started talking.

NAYA

I think I ran a little.

She smiles.

NICK

Regardless, you became my family when I thought I had none. All this talk about family and heirlooms... What I want to say it, I'm honored that we will be a family, forever.

The Pastor CLEARS his throat.

PASTOR

It appears you have said half your vows! Well, shall we begin?

The room erupts with LAUGHTER.

PASTOR (CONT'D)

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today...

The atmosphere's sounds fade. The music SWELLS. Nick takes out the engagement and wedding rings out of the tattered ring box. It shimmers as he places it on her finger. As they kiss, we zoom out.

A grandfather clock GONGS.

DISSOLVE TO:

The Dark Book in the Shadowlands opens.

Victor/ Shadow Man and The Witch/ Old Lady SCREAM.

FADE OUT.