

# **You're My Angel**

written by

**Andre´ Gordon**

Co-written by

R. Dean McCreary and Chester Hastings

**Based on a True Story**

4Horsemen Films COPYRIGHT 2023  
310.890.6267

FADE IN:

SUPER:

*All concerns of Men go wrong when  
they seek to cure evil with evil.*  
-Socrates

1 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - CLARKSDALE, MS - DUSK 1

Cumulonimbus clouds billow as weather darkens the entire sky. Rain is imminent. Thunder rumbles as lightening streaks across the sky.

2 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CLARKSDALE, MS - DUSK 2

A HEART BEAT.

CLOSE ON: An eye. Bloodshot. Searching.

Millions of granules on the popcorn ceiling.

The digital clock reads: 4:44 AM.

PULL BACK to reveal DAVID LUDLUM (30). His handsome face twisted by pain. Drenched in sweat, he rips the covers from his body. Wide eyes pinned to the ceiling. Tears welling.

DAVID  
(through quivering lips)  
Please, God. Please. What did I...  
Why is this happening...

The HEART BEAT grows louder. Faster. His breath catches. A wracking COUGH contracts his body into the fetal position.

David wrestles through a series of painful nights. Each night the clock blinks 4:44 AM.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Why, God?! Jesus...

3 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - CLARKSDALE, MS - DUSK 3

Lightening flashes again, tearing through the sky. Rain begins to fall, incessantly tapping the earth.

4 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CLARKSDALE, MS - DUSK 4

INDENTATIONS appear on THE SHEETS TO EITHER SIDE OF DAVID. Something is in bed with him.

The unseen force grips him, pulling his limbs out in every direction. A silent scream. His face frozen in horror.

CLOSE ON: His pupils dilate. The ghostly reflection of a young WOMAN dances in the darkened iris. Her hair moving like silk to obscure her face.

A DEATH RATTLE as David gasps for air. His mouth held agape, his eyes flutter shut, almost a seizure when...

CUT TO BLACK:

His HEART BEAT slows.

5 EXT. JAMAICA - DAY

5

The hot sun paints an autumn-leaved Jamaican hillside.

David, face haggard from lack of sleep, watches as a RED CAB disappears in a cloud of dust down the dirt packed road. It's worn engine leaves a melody of a struggling motor as it chugs along. He glances at a red business card in his hand and pockets it.

A weathered shotgun shack sits nestled among the dense trees. A bamboo wind chime sings, obscured in the deep shadow of the porch.

David stares at the darkened doorway. As he mounts the stairs, a shiver runs through him. He KNOCKS timidly.

A low, menacing GROWL answers from the side of the shack.

He presses his ear to the door. The faint WHISPER of a radio. He KNOCKS again, louder. Nothing.

He cuts a glance over his shoulder. Three ROTTWEILERS stare up at him from the side of the shack. Their lips peel back.

David is frozen. He swallows hard and clenches his jaw. They begin to GROWL. Moving as one, they stalk toward him.

As David backs down the narrow steps, he trips and stumbles.

The HOWLING dogs race forward. Massive teeth flash through ropes of saliva. Eyes blackened by blood lust.

Overhead, gray clouds sweep across the sun. Silence.

David looks up. Three feet away, the dogs are sitting. Calm. Motionless. Their eyes look past him to --

-- the now open front door.

A breeze dances across the yard, whistling as it travels. The wind chimes SING. WHIMPERING, the dogs race to the dirt road and sit.

A thick Jamaican accent emerges from deep inside the house:

MAN (O.C.)  
*Mista Ludlum.*

David picks himself up and climbs the steps. He peers inside.

DAVID  
Hello?

MAN (O.C.)  
*In the back.*

David looks back at the menacing animals, black eyes pinned on him. As he cautiously crosses the threshold, the RADIO CLICKS off.

6 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK - CONTINUOUS 6

A myriad welcome mats are strewn across the floor. Two tiny yellow and green lovebirds FLUTTER as their love song echoes in their rusty metal cage.

David makes his way through the cluttered room. A second door opens. David squints into the darkness and COUGHS.

MAN (O.C.)  
*You may enta.*

7 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK, BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS 7

David enters the doorway of the dimly lit room. Sparse light filters in through tattered curtains and the trees beyond.

Sunken into a frayed wicker chair is DR. WAUGH (60's) - the calm presence behind the authoritative voice. A loose fitting tank top hangs from his lean build. Dark rimmed glasses frame piercing, youthful eyes. His unkept mustache all but hides an ancient, weathered face.

DAVID  
Ruel Waugh?

DR. WAUGH  
Most people call me Docta, cause I fix them up right quick. Come.

David looks over his shoulder, sweat glistening on his face.

DAVID  
Nice dogs.

DR. WAUGH  
They don't belong to me... Sit.

Dumbfounded, David sinks into a worn couch. Dr. Waugh has yet to take his eyes off of a half-empty glass of water.

DAVID  
I'm here for-

DR. WAUGH  
Prayer.

DAVID  
I'm sorry? I was told-

DING. Dr. Waugh touches the glass, rippling the water.

DR. WAUGH  
You believe I can help?

DAVID  
I believe I can pray at home.

Dr. Waugh finally makes eye contact with David, suggesting he'd prefer a better answer. After a beat --

DAVID (cont'd)  
Yes. I believe.

DR. WAUGH  
Take off them clothes.

David raises an eyebrow. Dr. Waugh prods him by waving a long, bony finger. David rises and begins undressing.

Dr. Waugh slowly crosses to an old cabinet filled with an assortment of ointments and bottles.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
You been sleepin' too much... Eyes hurtin'. Stomach burnin'. Pain in your side, pushin' your limits.

David catches his reflection in a battered television. His face gaunt, eyes sunken. He stares at himself.

DR. WAUGH (O.C.)(cont'd) (cont'd)  
*Bad dreams. Pressure. Things following you in the dark.*

DAVID  
Yes...

Dr. Waugh snaps on a lamp, obscuring David's reflection. He squints at the sudden light.

DR. WAUGH  
God gives us the light to show us what we don't wanna see.

He rolls out a bamboo mat and motions for David to lay down.

DAVID  
So, what don't I want to see?

DR. WAUGH  
That you in grave danger.

Dr. Waugh closes David's eyes, anointing them with oil. He places leaves on David's chest, arranging them in a pattern.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
This world ain't so black and white. There are a million shades of grey. Impossible to see the  
(MORE)

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
 difference. Impossible to fight  
 what ya cannot see... It can walk  
 right up and smile in your face.

DAVID  
 What can?

DR. WAUGH  
 Evil.

Dr. Waugh pushes down on David's abdomen. Hard and quick.  
 David's eyes pop open with an anguished cry.

A FLASH OF WHITE:

**A TRANSPARENT IMAGE OF DR. WAUGH** walks behind David, watching  
 the scene play out before him:

Sharply dressed in a shirt and tie, David makes his way  
 through a bustling row of cubicles, phone pressed to his ear.

DAVID  
 We'll be there on time... I  
 promise... Love you too, mom.

As he hangs up, he is joined by GEORGE (30's) a slightly  
 slovenly, over-zealous coworker.

GEORGE  
 Mornin' David. What's shakin'?

DAVID  
 I need you to call the library  
 contractors, push our inspection.  
 Got a late start today and the only  
 person that even remembered my  
 birthday is my mother.

GEORGE  
 It's your birthday? Damn, Happy B-  
 day. You and Isi gonna tear it up?

DAVID  
 Just dinner... With my parents.

GEORGE  
 Oh, well, your 10:30 is already in  
 your office. Looking good.

DAVID  
 Flattery will get you everywhere.

GEORGE  
 Like a raise?

DAVID  
 Doubtful, George.

INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

David enters his glass enclosed office to find Pastor Doug Lewis (30), a youthful minister in a uncomfortable suit and white clerical collar. Small town honest.

DAVID

Doug! Jesus, you look -- I mean, sorry about the *Jesus*, Pastor.

DOUG

Doug is fine, David. Thanks for making time. I know you're busy.

DAVID

You're looking good, man. Collar suits you.

DOUG

Doesn't get me out of speeding tickets.

David laughs and motions for him to sit.

DAVID

Neither does being City Planner.

DOUG

Looks like you've been doing well for yourself, though.

DAVID

Dad did *well*. I just took over.

DOUG

No, you're doing him proud. And the city. I heard about your work with the new library and our old high school. Integrity in a public official. Miracles do happen.

DAVID

I try to set the bar high... for future Civic leaders.

He points a finger at Doug.

DOUG

You heard?

DAVID

Dad was City Councilman for three terms. He follows the elections like it's Fantasy Football. So why the career change?

DOUG

Not a change, more of an addition. I just feel a calling to make a bigger impact.

DAVID  
And how's your congregation feel  
about you mixing Church and State?

DOUG  
Oh, I intend to keep them separate,  
but they're supportive.

David's cell phone RINGS. He hits ignore.

DOUG (cont'd)  
Methodists aren't opposed to their  
shepherd having a life outside the  
flock.

DAVID  
Well God knows we could use a City  
Councilman with centered values.

DOUG  
Exactly. I mean, your focus on  
education is the reason-

David's phone rings again.

INSERT: David's CALLER ID: ISABELLE.

DOUG (cont'd)  
You need to take that?

DAVID  
No, I'm good.

He silences the phone.

DOUG  
I know it's out of the blue but...

DAVID  
I'd be glad to help your campaign  
any way I can, Doug.

DOUG  
Really?

DAVID  
My father has you ranked as a First  
Round Draft Pick.

They shake hands.

DOUG  
Well, Amen. Do you have time for  
lunch?

David's phone VIBRATES. Isi's NAME flashes across his screen.

DAVID

Not today. But, we're opening the new library and you're gonna be there to cut the ribbon.

DOUG

You work fast.

DAVID

No rest for the wicked.

10 EXT. MERCER COLLEGE - LATER 10

Autumn trees rustle above the quaint campus. David crosses from his car carrying a brown bag and a tray of sodas.

11 INT. MERCER COLLEGE, DRAWING STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER 11

Floor to ceiling windows illuminate a large classroom, the walls plastered with sketches. A circle of ARTISTS work at easels surrounding a nude, female MODEL on a small platform.

ISABELLE (O.C.)

*Next pose. Sixty seconds.*

As the model twists into a new shape, ISABELLE (ISI) WALKER (28) steps through the easels. Her lithe body clad in black yoga pants and a crimson leotard. She ties back her hair and addresses the students.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Remember, these are gestures. Quick and dirty. Forget about the masses.

She steps to the platform and points out the unbroken line of the pose. Her finger dances across the model.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Just capture the pose. The overall shape. The sensual line...

David enters the back of the room and watches as Isabelle traces the line down the back of the model's leg.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Muscle and bone. Dark and light. Find the movement in her stillness and pull the pencil. Thirty seconds. You're sculpting. Relate to a point, a moment of purity and don't be afraid to tear the page.

A timer DINGS. The model breaks the pose. Isi nods to her.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Alright, guys, sign and date your best piece and hang it in the gallery. And don't forget, Thursday night workshop. Five models. Lots of music. Always a fun night.

The students follow instructions, passing David as they file out of the room.

He watches as Isi steps up on the platform, bends over and grasps a piece of drapery.

DAVID  
Hold that pose!

She turns her head, smiling. David holds up his thumb.

DAVID (cont'd)  
It'd be too *hard* on the boys if you were up there, huh? Pun intended.

ISABELLE  
Naughty.

As he places the food on a desk, she lets down her hair and greets him with a sensual kiss.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
Happy Birthday.

DAVID  
Thought you forgot. You rushed out so quick this morning-

ISABELLE  
As if. Your mother's been hounding us about dinner for weeks.

DAVID  
That's just her way. She's wants to get to know you.

ISABELLE  
No, she doesn't.

He pulls her close and kisses her again. Passionate.

DAVID  
Hot for teacher.

She sits on the desk and wraps her legs around him.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Speaking of school...

ISABELLE  
(still seducing him)  
Mmm hmm.

David tries to maintain focus as she nibbles on his ear.

DAVID  
I can't stay long. I took on a new client today. Old high school... acquaintance. Running for City Councilman. I'm going to manage...

She fumbles at his belt.

DAVID (cont'd)  
What about your students?

She slinks over to the door and locks it, pulling a shade over the small window beside it.

DAVID (cont'd)  
I can't stay long.

She pouts and slips the leotard straps off her shoulders.

ISABELLE  
Yeah, you said that.

She crosses and they collide. Stumbling back into the desk, knocking the drinks aside. As the liquid pools on the floor--

MATCH CUT TO:

12 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK, BACKROOM, JAMAICA - DAY - PRESENT 12

Dr. Waugh gently pours water over David bowed head. Like a child at church, David opens one eye to peek around.

Images of angels, rising and falling, in rusty metal frames. A blackened wooden cross on the wall. A Holy Bible laid amongst papers with writing in an unrecognizable script.

DR. WAUGH  
Dear heavenly Fada, I pray for the  
illumination of David Ludlum, dear  
Lord, for there are dark things  
pullin' at his soul.

Dr. Waugh begins to sway. Eyes quivering. Lips trembling.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
Dashiki hemna dominaishiki. Abraham  
ana kalicki dashiki ratika. Selah.

His hand finds a brass lamp. It emits a yellow smoke.

David GROANS. His mouth opens and shuts. Dr. Waugh places a hand over David's eyes and a leather-bound book on his chest.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
Dashaka hemna dominaishiki. Abraham  
ratika. Selah. Breathe, mon.

David exhales, flexing his joints.

DAVID  
It... it doesn't hurt anymore.

DR. WAUGH  
That's good. Now, look with your  
heart. See the cause of your pain.

As he continues to wave the yellow lamp --

SINGERS (O.C.)  
*Happy Birthday, Dear David. Happy  
 Birthday to you...*

DR. WAUGH (O.C.)  
*A heart divided...*

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. ROSE LUDLUM'S HOUSE, CLARKSDALE, MS - NIGHT (SIX MONTH AGO)

-- the smoke from the previous scene melds into a slow motion silent shot of David blowing out his Birthday candles.

**A TRANSPARENT IMAGE OF DR. WAUGH** stands behind David, watching the scene play out before him:

Pull back to REVEAL David surrounded by a GROUP of friends and family, Isabelle leans in and kisses him.

In the corner, CARRIE BRUCKER (28). Blonde. Girl-next-door with a quirky smile and an air of mischief. She snaps photos. As her camera flashes, the ambient noise comes to life.

GEORGE  
 Say something.

DAVID  
 What? That I'm getting old?

PARTY GUEST  
 Boo. More than that.

DAVID  
 Okay. Okay. My folks must've paid you all very well to keep this thing quiet. So, thanks to both of you for everything.

David nods to his father, CARL (60). Confident. Handsome features softened by age. He kisses ROSE (56), David's mother. Her eyes radiate warmth. Concern without judgement.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 And of course, I gotta thank somebody... who obviously busted her butt to put this together.

David puts a loving arm around Isabelle's waist.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 Isi, things like this tell me I've found something special. Thank you.

He leads a round of applause and gives her a chaste kiss. She winces. Her eyes wander to Carrie, staring incredulously.

ISABELLE  
 Actually, this was all Carrie's  
 idea. She organized everything.

DAVID  
 (backpedaling)  
 Carrie, I had no idea. My God!  
 Thank you so much.

CARRIE  
 Happy Birthday, David.

As Carl begins to cut the cake, a few people give David  
 congratulatory hugs and handshakes.

ISABELLE  
 Excuse me.

David's hand touches her lovingly as she passes Rose.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
 Hello, Mrs. Ludlum.

Rose gives her a quick hug. More church social than family.

ROSE  
 Isabelle, can you give me just a  
 minute, Honey. I'm gonna squeeze my  
 David before he gets swallowed up.

ISABELLE  
 Of course.

Rose makes a b-line for David and Isi moves down the hall.

ROSE  
 This doesn't get you out of coming  
 to dinner next week.

DAVID  
 No, Ma'am.

ROSE  
 You lookin' tired, baby?

DAVID  
 You mean, Happy Birthday, you're  
 again well?

ROSE  
 You eatin'?

Carrie gives Rose a warm hug. Isabelle watches as it's  
 returned in kind. She sighs and enters the bathroom.

CARRIE  
 Excuse us for a minute, Rose.

Carrie grabs David and leads him down the hall. Rose smiles.

14 INT. LUDLUM'S HOME, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

14

CARRIE  
I figured I better grab you now  
before your Siamese twin returns.

DAVID  
Carrie, I really had no idea. You  
are--

CARRIE  
Pretty awesome. I know. So...

She hands him a small gift box. Before David can protest--

CARRIE (cont'd)  
Open it, silly.

Inside is a silver ring emblazoned with the Superhero logo.

CARRIE (cont'd)  
He was always your favorite.

DAVID  
You remember that?

CARRIE  
I could've given you a cape but  
that would've just been ridiculous.

David wraps her in his arms giving her a bear hug. She  
lingers for a moment, staring up at him adoringly.

Isabelle emerges from the bathroom. David sets Carrie down.

CARRIE (cont'd)  
Happy Birthday, David.

She gives him a peck on the cheek and rejoins the party.

As she swoops up her glass of wine, she turns to find David  
and Isi engaged in a kiss, arms intertwined like snakes.

CLOSE ON: Isabelle nuzzles her chin into David's neck and  
cuts her glance across the room. Her eyes lock with Carrie.

As Carrie holds her gaze, the ambient NOISE is sucked from  
the room and everything moves into a dreamlike slow motion.

In the midst of telling an animated story, George's wine  
sloshes over the rim of his cup and onto the hardwood floor.

He steps back into Carrie, causing her to nudge against the  
roll-top desk beside her. She braces herself with her hand.

David and Isi continue a hushed whisper of conversation.

DAVID

Carrie been my friend since I was four. She's like my sister, hon. That's just wrong on so many --

ISABELLE

Your mom doesn't think so.

DAVID

Babe, what is this about?

**THE TRANSPARENT IMAGE OF DR. WAUGH** leans into the desk and watches Carrie's hand nervously fidget with a sleek gold pen.

ISABELLE (O.C.)

I don't know. I just... I want your family to like me.

Carrie lets go of the pen. It teeters for a moment before rolling to the floor. DR. WAUGH FOLLOWS its trajectory.

DAVID (O.C.)

Mom's just... old fashioned. You don't have to try so hard. But I promise, you have nothing to worry about with Carrie.

Isabelle clasps his hand and eyes the Superman ring.

ISABELLE

I don't know. Even if you were my brother, I'd still wanna-

DAVID

God, you are twisted.

George steps in the wine and SLIPS on the pen. His ankle rolls, PLOWING him into the refreshments. As a glass punch bowl SHATTERS across the floor, the ambient NOISE returns.

The party SCREECHES to attention.

As David and his parents rush into action, Carrie and Isabelle share another petulant glance.

CARL

Okay, nothing to see here.

David gets George back on his feet then reaches to help with the glass. Rose gently smacks his hand aside.

ROSE

Go take care of your friend.

DAVID

Friend? This guy is more like a social pariah.

GEORGE

I think I broke my wrist.

As Carrie helps escort George outside. Isabelle kneels to assist with the mess.

ROSE  
(to Isabelle)  
We got this, Isi. Go help my boy  
with that fool outside.

ISABELLE  
Are you sure?

Rose assures her with a nod.

CLOSE ON: The fractured shards reflect a ghostly form, trying to coagulate. As Isabelle leaves, the reflection dissipates.

Carl nicks his finger on the glass.

15 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LATER 15

Moonlight filters through the window. Isabelle hands David a small present wrapped with black paper and red twine.

ISABELLE  
I wanted to wait until we were  
alone to give you this.

DAVID  
Babe, you didn't... Thank you.

He kisses her and takes the gift.

Inside is a simple, deep red candle. David tries to act excited. He covers by taking a whiff.

ISABELLE  
It's no Superhero ring-

DAVID  
It's perfect. I can honestly say no  
one's given me a candle before.

ISABELLE  
You can light it when we're not  
together. To remind you how much I  
love you.

They kiss. Their lustful embrace leads them down the hall.

DISSOLVE TO:

16 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER 16

Lit only by the warm glow of the candle, David and Isi are locked together on the bed, lost in the throes of passion.

David rolls her over. Something catches in her hair.

ISABELLE

Owowow...

It's the Superhero ring. He gently removes it from her hair and tosses it up on the dresser.

He pulls her on top of him. He COUGHS. She leans in, hair tickling him. He breaks away as the COUGHING intensifies.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Baby? Are you alright?

He retreats to the bathroom. Water running. More HACKING.

DAVID

I don't... Maybe something I ate.

He returns, face red. She holds back the covers. He sits.

ISABELLE

You don't look so good, babe. D'you need to go to the doctor?

DAVID

I've never been to a doctor.

ISABELLE

Oh, come on.

DAVID

Mom always knew what to do. Stuff she learned in Jamaica. Teas, herbs, this nasty smelling paste.

Isabelle sits up, curiosity peaked.

DAVID)

God, that stuff smelled like rotten eggs, and urine. It was probably the smell alone that took my mind off being sick.

ISABELLE

That's how it works.

DAVID

She'd sit with me for hours, singing me to sleep. When I woke up, I was better. And she'd make me huge pancakes. Bigger than my head.

ISABELLE

They make a skillet that big?

David LAUGHS, but it causes pain. He lays back down.

DAVID

She used to say that keeping her family safe was her religion.

Isabelle runs her finger along his chest.

ISABELLE  
I grew up in a church. Hated it.  
Just felt wrong.

DAVID  
How so?

ISABELLE  
The manipulation, the guilt. It can  
make people believe anything.  
*Anything.*

David yawns. Jaw cracking.

DAVID  
What do you believe?

After a beat, she looks at him. His eyes already closed.

ISABELLE  
Carrie is in love with you...

DAVID  
We're just friends, Isi. Christ.

She cuddles into him, sensually kissing his neck.

DAVID (cont'd)  
I gotta get up pretty early  
tomorrow, hun.

She points to the clock and giggles: 3:43 AM.

ISABELLE  
Today, you mean.

DAVID  
You are evil.

She watches him fall asleep, then carefully moves to the dresser. She eyes the Superhero ring, next to her lit candle.

As she touches the dancing flame with her fingertips, the smoke filters up from the wick.

MATCH CUT TO:

17 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK, BACKROOM, JAMAICA - DAY - PRESENT 17

-- the smoke from the previous scene, melds with Dr. Waugh's lamp. As he sets it down, David writhes in pain.

DR. WAUGH  
You need to breathe, mon. When the  
truths come, they bring pain.

David tries to LAUGH through the waves of nausea.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
This isn't funny. You hurt someone.

DAVID  
I never-

DR. WAUGH  
Not on purpose. But someone  
believes you have.

Dr. Waugh places a dried flower over David's heart and  
watches it with a fixed gaze.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
Faith is a powerful thing. What one  
person believes in their heart  
becomes their truth.

The edges of the flower soften with color. He nods. Thumbs  
back David's eye lids and peers intently.

P.O.V. DR. WAUGH: A SHADOW moves across David's iris.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
Possession.

David struggles to sit up, catching Dr. Waugh's hand in his.

DAVID  
I'm possessed?

Dr. Waugh pushes him back down, handing him a glass of water.

DR. WAUGH  
No, mon. You possess something. It  
was given to you. A gift. Perhaps  
many gifts. Something to bring you  
pain, confusion... Your mother says  
you have many friends.

David winces. Shrugs.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
That's good. Friends are like  
angels. They can sense when ya in  
need. Bring us gifts, too. To fight  
the evil. But sometimes them gifts  
have another purpose altogether.

David's stomach cramps hard. He GASPS and SPITS bile. Dr.  
Waugh helps him to his feet, his arm around him.

DAVID  
Why is this happening to me?

DR. WAUGH  
Because evil exists. When he was  
cast from Heaven, one third of the  
Angels fell with him. They became  
(MORE)

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
the dark, twisted things that  
plague our lives.

As they move towards the bathroom --

A FLASH OF WHITE:

18 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM, CLARKSDALE, MS - MORNING 18  
(FLASHBACK)

**THE TRANSPARENT IMAGE OF DR. WAUGH** watches the scene:

Isabelle lays in bed, watching David stumble about the room.

ISABELLE  
I'll meet you for lunch today. We  
can talk about this weekend.  
There's this great place down --

DAVID  
Sorry, babe. I have a lunch...thing  
today. And about this weekend --

ISABELLE  
David --

DAVID  
I need to start on Doug's campaign  
or I'll never be able to get away.

Distracted, he leaves. She wraps herself in a sheet and follows.

19 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 19

ISABELLE  
What lunch thing?

DAVID  
(still searching)  
It's nothing. Have you seen my cuff  
links? Carrie and I always buy each  
other lunch the day after our  
birthday. It's a...tradition. Here  
they are.

He puts them on. She spies the Superman ring on his finger.

ISABELLE  
So I'm not crazy. There *is*  
something between you two.

He follows her gaze to the ring. He takes it off and sets it on the table. He deliberately crosses to her and leans in.

DAVID  
I told you. She's like a sister to  
me. And besides, she's not the  
smokin' hot art teacher standing  
naked in my house. Okay?

He melts her with a kiss.

ISABELLE

Okay. Maybe I wouldn't feel like everyone has your attention but me if...I moved in.

He looks at his watch and fails to meet her eye.

DAVID

Can we talk about this later?

She looks away. After a beat, David opens the front door and walks out. The door shuts behind him as Isi looks down at the floor, somewhere in thought.

20 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

20

David walks to the curb where his car is parallel parked. He UNLOCKS it with his remote and reaches for the back door. As he takes the handle in hand...

INSERT: UNSEEN BY DAVID, A VISION IN THE PASSENGER WINDOW! AN IMAGE OF A DEATHLY WOMAN IN A RAGGED WHITE VEIL. HER BONY, TRANSLUCENT FINGER TRACES THE PULSING VEIN IN HIS NECK. AS HE HAND WRAPS AROUND HIS THROAT --

David steps back with a shiver. He looks behind him, sensing the disturbing presence. Seeing nothing, he opens the car and knocks the briefcase from his hand.

The attache CRACKS open, spilling files onto the pavement. A GUST OF WIND cyclones the paperwork into the street.

David rushes and fumbles to catch them all. As he reaches for the final sheet, a car horn BLARES.

David falls back, narrowly avoiding a car as it SPEEDS past.

Visibly shaken, he dusts himself off and watches the speeding motorist disappear. As he climbs in the car --

21 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

21

David attempts to flatten the crumbled paperwork back into his briefcase. He sighs deeply. Just as he latches the case --

THE GHOSTLY WOMAN RUSHES TOWARDS THE WINDSHIELD, HER MOUTH AGAPE IN A SILENT SCREAM. AS SHE DRAWS CLOSER, A BIRD IN FLIGHT CROSSES HER PATH AND SHE EVAPORATES.

The bird SMACKS into the windshield, SPINE COLLAPSING on impact.

DAVID

Jesus Christ!

He emerges from the car once more and takes in the wounded creature. After a few violent twitches, it gives in to death.

David rubs his fevered brow in disbelief. The CAMERA spins --

22 INT. GREASY SPOON DINER - DAY

22

David sits across from Carrie. She picks absently at her half-eaten sandwich. David's burger is untouched. He's on edge.

CARRIE  
I'm just worried about you, David.  
You've got too much on your plate  
to be getting sick.

DAVID  
I'm not sick. I'm just rundown.

She reaches out a hand and touches his.

CARRIE  
You're not wearing the ring.

DAVID  
Oh. Yeah. I forgot. I'm not used to  
wearing it.

She takes a deep breath.

CARRIE  
Are you really happy with Isi?

DAVID  
I can only assume by your phrasing  
that you don't think I am.

CARRIE  
David, I know you too well. You're  
so loving and generous. And you  
have a tendency to throw yourself  
into relationships before you  
really know the person.

DAVID  
Here's a thought. Maybe everyone  
should back off, give Isi a chance.  
Get to know her before instantly  
deciding she's not right for me.

Carrie is surprised by his change in tone. She fires back.

CARRIE  
Right, 'cause she so warm to the  
people who've known you forever.

DAVID  
So, because you've known me since  
we were kids, that gives you the  
right to choose my girlfriends?

CARRIE  
No, that's not what I'm saying. I  
just don't like getting pushed  
(MORE)

CARRIE (cont'd)  
 aside every time you meet some new  
 girl and then have to be there for  
 you to pick up the pieces when she  
 breaks your heart.

DAVID  
 Really? Okay. I get it. Jesus,  
 Carrie, why don't you just come  
 right out and say it.

CARRIE  
 What?

DAVID  
 You're jealous because you're in  
 love with me. You always have been.

Carrie gapes, staring incredulous at him.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 Tell me I'm wrong.

She stands and throws a ten dollar bill on the table.

CARRIE  
 Fuck you, David. Being tired  
 doesn't give you the right to treat  
 me like shit.

She storms out of the diner. Still stewing, he watches as she  
 gets into her car, slams the door, reverses out--

--and slams into the side of his BMW.

23 EXT. GREASY SPOON DINER - CONTINUOUS

23

David bolts from the diner, making a bee-line toward the  
 scene.

DAVID  
 What the hell, Carrie?

She gets out of the car and looks at the damage, shocked.

CARRIE  
 David, I'm so sorry. I don't know  
 what -- It was an accident.

DAVID  
 What's your problem?

She takes a step toward him, reaching out a trembling hand.  
 He shoots her look and wrenches open his car door.

CARRIE  
 David!

He tears out of the parking lot, leaving her standing in  
 shocked silence as the entire diner looks on.

24 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK, BATHROOM, JAMAICA - DAY - PRESENT 24

David is curled up on the floor near the toilet. Dr. Waugh sits on the edge of an old claw footed tub. He slides over a plate set with two candles: one white, one red.

David, sweat-slicked and miserable, looks at the candles as Dr. Waugh sets flame to wick.

DAVID  
No, please. The smell.

Dr. Waugh gazes at the thin tendrils of smoke rising.

The ether from the white candle snakes toward David. The smoke from the red candle turns black and curls around it.

Dr. Waugh slaps out the flames. He leans on his knees, fingers steepled in front of his face.

DR. WAUGH  
Love is painful. But not like this.  
This ain't no kinda love at all.

David cramps again, waving away the remnants of the smoke.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
There's two fights goin' on here.  
One for ya heart. One for ya soul.  
One is easy. The other, hard.

As David clings to the toilet --

MATCH CUT TO:

25 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, BATHROOM, CLARKSDALE, MS - NIGHT 25  
(FLASHBACK)

Isabelle sits on the floor, curled around the toilet.

Sitting on the bathtub is her mother, ELISSA WALKER (50's). An older, sadder version of Isi. Her once beautiful features have been ravaged by anger and misfortune.

She strokes Isi's hair lovingly.

ISABELLE  
It's been days and he's barely said a word, Mom. He just left. Like I'd never said it at all.

ELISSA  
Men are simple in their complexity.

ISABELLE  
What does that even mean?

ELISSA

It means he did what every man does when confronted with something he's not ready for. He found someplace more important to be.

ISABELLE

David's not like that. He loves me.

Elissa cups Isi's face in her hands.

ELISSA

Baby, that's not how he's acting.

ISABELLE

He's just so busy. He makes time for everyone in his life but me.

ELISSA

Isi-

ISABELLE

And now he's taking on this new project with some... Pastor. David's not the problem.

ELISSA

He could be.

Isabelle leans back into her embrace and begins to cry again.

ELISSA (cont'd)

And you gave him the candle?

ISABELLE

(through tears)  
Yes. But it's making him sick.

Elissa joins her daughter on the floor and rocks her gently.

ELISSA

Give it time, dear. If you're patient, he'll come around.

Isabelle pushes away from her and darts into the other room.

ISABELLE

I'm going to call him.

26 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Isi paces the room. It's cluttered with candles, and incense. She grabs the phone and dials.

INTERCUT WITH:

27 EXT. DAVID'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 27

Clouds begin to form into a grey darkness. Low RUMBLES of thunder harken the brewing storm.

28 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - SAME TIME 28

David sits at his cluttered desk. Pale and gaunt, he rubs his temples. His cell phone RINGS: Isabelle. He ANSWERS.

DAVID

Hey you.

ISABELLE

Sweetie, are you still at work?

DAVID

Yeah.

ISABELLE

Oh. Well. I just called to see if you were feeling any better.

Elissa listens from the doorway of the kitchen.

DAVID

Yeah. No. Someone smashed my car.

ISABELLE

What?! Are you alright?

DAVID

She didn't mean to. It was an accident.

ISABELLE

Who?

DAVID

Carrie... We had our lunch and I called her on her bullshit and we got into it.

ISABELLE

Aw, baby, was it about me?

DAVID

Pretty much. I said some mean stuff and before I knew it, she jumped into her car and backed into mine.

ISABELLE

That doesn't sound like an accident to me. Why don't I come over and we can talk about it?

Isabelle turns away from Elissa and PURRS into the phone.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Maybe I can help you get to sleep.

DAVID

I don't think so, Isi. I just need some time to rest. Get a handle on this stuff, you know?

ISABELLE

Well, when can I see you?

DAVID

I don't know, babe, but I'll talk to you soon. I promise.

29 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 29

Isabelle hangs up. She SHRIEKS and throws the phone.

30 EXT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 30

Lightening cracks across the sky. Thunder ROLLS across the darkened sky, then silence. Stillness.

31 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 31

ELISSA

It's okay, baby. Love needs time.

She collapses into her mother's embrace.

ELISSA (cont'd)

Isi. You need to be very clear on this. Do you love David? Enough to continue?

ISABELLE

I love him more than I can bear.

ELISSA

Then we just have to make him see that. There are a million ways to make him see you.

32 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER 32

David lies in the fetal position, dripping sweat and shaking. The muted TV casts blue shadows about the room, glinting on the Superman ring atop the dresser. David stares at it.

FLASH TO:

33 EXT. CLARKSDALE, PLAYGROUND - 20 YEARS AGO 33

DAVID (9). Dressed in worn corduroy pants and a blue T-shirt emblazoned with an iron-on Superman S. The red bath towel tied around his neck makes a convincing cape as he runs across the yard. Faster than a speeding bullet.

CARRIE (7). Wearing a little blue dress over boys pants,  
LAUGHS from atop a jungle gym as David flies up to save her.

BACK TO:

34 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 34

The power goes out. David slowly uncurls himself and takes a moment to adjust to the sudden blackness.

DAVID

Great.

He searches the night stand. Fumbling with a book of matches, he ignites several. He reluctantly lights the red candle.

As he crosses to the closet circuit breaker, the room comes alive with the shadows cast by the single flame. A tendrill of smoke curls and winds toward the ceiling where--

--a massive SHADOW detaches from the corner. It moves against the play of light. As it rushes towards the CAMERA --

35 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK, LIVING ROOM, JAMAICA - NIGHT - PRESENT 35

Moonlight cuts through the bamboo blinds. David grabs a waste basket and HEAVES black bile. As he RETCHES, Dr. Waugh sits.

DR. WAUGH

Get it out. Get it all out. This is the last time you're gonna be sick.

David COUGHS. Spits. He wipes the filth from his mouth and collapses back into the couch. Pale and shaken but brighter.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)

Rest now. Tomorrow we set ya right.

Dr. Waugh rustles a songbird out of its cage and places it in his pocket, where it sits contentedly. David smiles.

DAVID

Nice trick.

DR. WAUGH

No trick. A gift she gives to me... Them gifts she gave to you. They was prepared. The sickness and confusion. That was her trap.

DAVID

Who?

DR. WAUGH

That skinny little white girl... Who ya think she been communing with?

Before David can respond Dr. Waugh blows smoke in his face, sending him back into slumber. As he softly snores, Dr. Waugh grabs the trash bin and lumbers into the darkness.

DISSOLVE TO:

36 INT. CLARKSDALE LIBRARY, CLARKSDALE, MS - MORNING (FLASHBACK)36

David and Pastor Doug stand inside the glass doors of the new library. Outside, a group of PEOPLE and REPORTERS crowd behind a large red ribbon. A banner overhead: WELCOME ALL!

DAVID  
Second rule of Civil Service: Do  
good for the Community.

DOUG  
What's the first?

DAVID  
Be seen doing it.

David opens the doors to polite APPLAUSE. As he waves --

MAN (O.C.)  
*Mr. Ludlum?*

David turns to see a tall, thin man in a severe suit. MR. ROSEN (50's), extends his hand and offers a smile that doesn't touch his eyes. David takes his hand.

DAVID  
Excuse me, we're just about to-

ROSEN  
I understand that. My name is Cam  
Rosen. I'm with the Appropriations  
Board. Can I have a word?

DOUG  
David?

ROSEN  
We'll be right with you, Pastor.

Mr. Rosen holds open the door and waits.

DAVID  
I'm sorry. What is this about?

Rosen eyes Doug and the crowd. He gestures to the door.

ROSEN  
Inside, please.

DAVID  
(aside, to Doug)  
Go warm them up. No sermons.

David enters. Rosen looks about the new space. Modern. Spacious. Smells like new books. David checks his watch.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Mr. Rosen, I'm pressed for time.

ROSEN  
Bottom line. I can't let you open this library. Not today, anyway.

DAVID  
You're joking.

ROSEN  
Seven-hundred and fifty-thousand dollars is nothing to joke about, Mr. Ludlum.

DAVID  
I have no idea what that means.

Doug turns and peers in. Rosen catches his glance.

ROSEN  
Pastor Doug is a good man, yeah? Running for City Councilman?

DAVID  
Yes, he is. On both counts. Which you're damaging with this... whatever this is.

ROSEN  
Funds allocated for the maintenance of this library have gone AWOL and until we find them, I'm in control of this facility.

David goes pale. He COUGHS.

ROSEN (cont'd)  
Unless you care to shed some light?

David suppresses a gag reflex, sweat beading on his forehead.

ROSEN (cont'd)  
You alright? You look a little-

DAVID  
I'm fine. I just... This is a mistake. Simple. My office is very-

ROSEN  
There's nothing simple about embezzlement, Mr. Ludlum.

DAVID  
Come to my office first thing Monday. We'll get it sorted out.

ROSEN

I hope for your sake, that we can.

David fights back vomit, but SPEWS across the new floor.

37 EXT. DAVID'S OFFICE - NIGHT 37

Great billowing clouds swirl and illuminate with pops of electricity. A menacing storm encircles David's home.

38 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - NIGHT 38

David lies back in a hot bath, eyes closed, as Isi wipes his face with a damp cloth. The storm whips the wind outside against the house as the thunder rolls.

DAVID

I didn't know who else to call. It seems I'm on the outs with...

ISABELLE

Shh. I'll always be here, David.

Thunder shakes the sky.

DAVID

Poor Doug.

ISABELLE

Poor you. You've worked so hard on that library...

He opens an eye. She remains silent and wrings out the cloth.

DAVID

Isi, you were right. Maybe I have been working too hard.

ISABELLE

Say that again.

DAVID

I've been working too-

ISABELLE

No. The first part.

David CHUCKLES and flicks water at her. She giggles.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

If you haven't gotten my messages yet, just, you know... disregard.

David COUGHS and shuts his eyes.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Let's get you into bed.

- 39 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 39  
 Lightening streaks reflect off of David's darkened window.  
 The rain begins to pour.
- 40 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 40  
 As David tosses in tormented sleep, Isabelle kneels at his  
 side. She kisses his hand and presses the candle she prepared  
 for him to her breast. A long moment. A smile. He rolls away.  
 She rises and pads across the floor, whispering a prayer.
- ISABELLE  
 I call for love and love comes to  
 me, guided by the light of flame...
- 41 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - NIGHT 41  
 Brilliant flashes of thunder and lightening lay claim to all  
 within view. Rain pours as the storm rages.
- 42 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 42  
 As Isi disappears from the room --  
 CLOSE ON: David's eyes. Wincing.
- MATCH CUT TO:
- 43 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY 43  
 David's eyes pop open. He peers at the clock. Blurred vision.  
 He grabs the clock and the time comes into focus: 12:00 PM  
 As he throws back the sheet in a panic --
- 44 INT. DAVID'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER 44  
 David drives at a frantic pace, phone plastered to his ear.  
 Messages fill his voice mail:
- ISABELLE (V.O.)  
*David, call me, please-*
- Delete.
- ISABELLE (V.O.)  
*Hon, I'm worried about you-*
- Delete.
- ROSE (V.O.)  
*David. Where are you, baby?*
- Delete.

GEORGE (V.O.)  
*Hey, Boss, Rosen is here for your  
 9:30. (Whispering) He looks pissed.  
 Better get your ass in here.*

DAVID  
 Goddamnit...

He dials.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 George! It's David. Get Rosen on  
 the phone... I don't know, man.  
 Tell him I had an accident.

David swerves to avoid an idiot in a Lexus. He flips him off.

GEORGE (V.O.)  
*You alright?*

DAVID  
 No, George, I'm not. You pull  
 everything on the library?

GEORGE (V.O.)  
*Sitting right here waiting. Oh, and  
 Isi called --*

David clicks off. Dials Isi. Voice mail.

DAVID  
 Hey baby. I guess I needed more  
 sleep than I thought. I don't even  
 know how we left things last night.

David passes a Police cruiser, oblivious.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 Um...how about dinner? See where  
 the night takes us? Call me. Bye.  
 Love you. Bye --

SIREN. David looks in his rearview at the black-and-white on  
 his tail. He pulls to the curb and hangs his head.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 Perfect.

45 EXT. DAVID'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER 45

David's head hangs as he watches his car being towed away. He  
 stands on the sidewalk defeated.

46 EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER 46

David walks down the sidewalk towards his office. He takes  
 out his phone to make a call when a very large man bumps into  
 him. David turns around and watches in disbelief as the man  
 continues on his path.

As he turns back, another person, this time a woman, bumps into him and continues walking.

DAVID

Hey!

The woman pays him no mind.

As David continues, more and more people begin looking at him aggressively. Then more. People start to turn up around ever corner. Unsettled, David ducks into a corner deli.

47 INT. DELI - CONTINUOUS

47

David walks into the Deli and everyone goes silent, as if they all know him. He looks at the patron at the counter, then the attendant. The attendant looks at him coldly.

ATTENDANT

Can I help you?

David looks at the attendant and then at everyone else in the Deli. They all stare at him silently.

DAVID

Uh, no. No, thank you.

David turns and walks quickly out the door.

48 INT. LUDLUM ENTERPRISES - LATER

48

George, his arm still in a brace, greets David as he sweeps into the office.

GEORGE

Thought you were on your way?

David holds up a ticket.

DAVID

Cell phone. Three-hundred-fifty dollars. Handle it for me?

George swipes it from his fist.

DAVID (cont'd)

Oh...

David turns and hands George another ticket from his pocket.

GEORGE

What's this?

DAVID

Impound ticket. My car's at that address.

GEORGE

For what?

DAVID  
Apparently you're not the only with  
a streak of bad luck.

David taps George's arm brace and heads towards his office.

GEORGE  
Okay. Rosen rescheduled for  
tomorrow. Nine AM. That's nine AM  
in the morning. Not afternoon.

DAVID  
What did you tell him?

GEORGE  
I told him that your Mom was ill.

David stops at the door to his office.

DAVID  
Sick mother?

George nods and opens the door. Rose sits on the sofa.

GEORGE  
She's been waiting for you.

49 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

49

David crosses behind his desk, fists on the blotter.

DAVID  
She called you?

ROSE  
Of course, son. She's worried about  
you. Can't say I blame her.

DAVID  
I'm fine.

She takes his hands and opens them.

INSERT: A FLASH OF THE DEMONIC BRIDE FLASHES IN DAVID'S MIND.

Rose looks at David concerned. She knows something is wrong.

ROSE  
Are you alright, son.

DAVID  
I told you I'm fine.

She runs the back of her hand over his forehead. She pulls a  
thermos out of her bag.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Mom, I love you, but-

She pours out a measure of tea and holds it out, expectant.

ROSE  
Why did you fight with Carrie? She  
loves you, you know?

David gulps it down. Winces.

DAVID  
That's the problem.

ROSE  
Carrie is not the problem.

DAVID  
Don't even start, mom.

ROSE  
Listen to you! Talking back to me!  
Ever since you started up with that-

He raises a warning finger.

ROSE (cont'd)  
You look like hell. You fight with  
your friends, and now you talk to  
me like a stranger. This girl is  
the wrong one, David.

DAVID  
Goddamnit, Mom!

Birds fly quickly from the ground and past David's office window. The wings flap and slap the glass as they escape the area.

Rose's eyes widen. She opens her mouth to speak --

DAVID (cont'd)  
No! I finally found someone who is  
passionate, artistic and crazy  
about me! And no one likes it!  
Well, guess what? Get used to her  
cause she's moving in with me.

A great bell can be heard ringing in the distance. An ominous toll that rings through the office. David winces at a pain in his head.

Rose steps forward, taking his head in her hands.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Did you hear me?

ROSE  
Hush now...

She peers deep into his eyes. Looks closer until -- She PULLS BACK AS IF BURNED. She GASPS.

DAVID  
 Enough! Isi and I are gonna be together, whether you and Carrie like it or not. I'm too busy for this over protective, tag-team guilt trip!

He crosses to the door and opens it.

DAVID (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
 Just go... PLEASE!!!

Rose calmly smiles past David to Pastor Doug, standing outside the door.

DOUG  
 Is this a bad time?

ROSE  
 Apparently. Even for a mother.

David hangs his head as Rose ambles out. Once she is gone --

DOUG  
 Well, that was awkward.

David watches through the glass door as Rose turns back and looks. She shudders and exits the building.

DAVID  
 Sorry. Family business. I didn't mean to make you uncomfortable.

DOUG  
 Uncomfortable is explaining to a group of wide-eyed youngsters why their new "liberry" isn't going to open.

David crosses to his desk.

DAVID  
 Sorry about that, too. The State Board is climbing up my ass over what looks to be a clerical error.

DOUG  
 No. A Clerical error is forgetting to put wine in the communion cup.

DAVID  
 Was that...was that a joke?

Doug shrugs.

DOUG  
 I guess not. Shame. You look like you could use a laugh. How are you feeling?

DAVID  
Don't ask... So what's this new  
project about?

DOUG  
Old First Baptist Church.

DAVID  
That place is condemned.

50 EXT. CLARKSDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

50

The exterior is overgrown, hidden under a blanket of kudzu.  
What is visible is peeling paint and shattered windows.

DOUG (V.O.)  
*I heard the rumors back in High  
School. You know how kids do...*

SLOW PUSH in through a window. Shards of stained glass cling  
to the frame like a dragon's teeth.

DOUG (V.O.)  
*The Reverend was in league with  
Satan. Lived in the rectory.  
Practiced human sacrifice...*

51 INT. CLARKSDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

51

Detritus from twenty years of neglect coats the weathered  
space in a thick dust. Pews stacked and broken. Beer bottles  
and used condoms litter the floor. Graffiti mars the walls.

DOUG (V.O.)  
*Urban legends to get a scared girl  
to cling a little tighter to your  
arm. But I did a bit of digging...*

Up the aisle to the alter, bashed and profane. A picture lies  
next to it, frame shattered. The image is obscured by dirt.

DOUG (V.O.)  
*The last Reverend, Father Ingram,  
did live in the rectory with his  
family. A wife and step-daughter...*

CLOSING IN on the picture: A sweet looking man, smiling  
toward his adoring flock.

DOUG (V.O.)  
*The church started having serious  
financial troubles. Recriminations  
flew, the congregations dwindled.  
And one day, they disappeared...*

The face of Father Ingram appears to DARKEN. His smile  
TURNING INTO A HEAVY SCOWL.

BACK TO:

52 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

52

DAVID  
So what's your interest?

DOUG  
Kids. I wanna give them something  
to really talk about. Bulldoze the  
church and put in a new park.

DAVID  
Isn't that blasphemy?

DOUG  
No one has been accused of  
blasphemy since the 1400's.

DAVID  
Who owns it now?

Doug pulls a sheaf of paper from his satchel.

DOUG  
A title company in Jackson.

DAVID  
How'd you find all this?

DOUG  
The new library. Great archives.

DAVID  
(frowning)  
How did you get access?

DOUG  
Mr. Rosen.

DAVID  
You talked to him?

Doug nods.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Doug! You need to stay out of this.

DOUG  
Why?

DAVID  
If this turns out to be more than  
just an error, you can forget about  
the election.

DOUG  
That's what he said-

DAVID  
Christ!

DOUG

David!

DAVID

You know what? Maybe it's best you find someone else to handle your campaign.

DOUG

I don't trust anyone else.

DAVID

I can't authorize destroying city landmarks because it's history messes with your Christian sensibilities. Find *something* else or find *someone* else.

Doug gathers up his papers and exits.

As David collapses behind the pile of paperwork on his desk --

DISSOLVE TO:

53 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - NIGHT

53

David works by the light of his laptop monitor, pouring over the library files. He finds something. Shakes his head.

DAVID

I'll be damned. I knew it!

He checks his watch.

DAVID (cont'd)

Shit!

He stuffs the papers into a satchel and shuts his computer. A KNOCK. Carl stands in the open door.

CARL

Leaving so soon? It's only 8:30.

DAVID

Dad. Hey.

Carl peers around the office.

CARL

You sleeping here yet?

DAVID

Working on it. That couch is much more comfortable than it looks.

Carl enters and sits. He nods approvingly.

CARL

Nice.

DAVID  
What's up?

CARL  
Your mother.

DAVID  
I know. I know.

CARL  
Do you? I've never seen her this worried. She tells me you two crossed swords.

DAVID  
I'm the one who attacked. She started in about Isi and I...

CARL  
Jumped on her hard with both feet.

David nods.

CARL (cont'd)  
You've never fought with her. About anything. Ever. Which is always the smart play with your mom, believe me. She's tough as hell.

DAVID  
I'm sorry, Dad.

CARL  
Don't apologize to me. Your mom is the one you need to talk to.

DAVID  
And Carrie.

CARL  
And Doug.

DAVID  
What is this? Tattle on David week?

Carl stands with a GRUNT and crosses to David.

CARL  
Son. I get it. You try so hard to take care of everyone else you forget to take care of yourself.

DAVID  
I'm an ass.

CARL  
You take after your ol' man. So, yes, you are by default an ass. But it's never too late. I was lucky. I retired before my heart exploded.

(MORE)

CARL (cont'd)  
 You need to look after yourself...  
*Open your eyes, look within. Are  
 you satisfied with the life you're  
 living?*

DAVID  
 Chicken Soup for the Soul?

CARL  
 Bob Marley.

Carl sits on the desk.

CARL (cont'd)  
 You know how your mom is, David.  
 She saw something she didn't like.

Carl places a business card and plane ticket on the desk.

DAVID  
 What's this?

CARL  
 You need help, son.

DAVID  
 I appreciate you stopping by, Dad,  
 but I can't go to...  
 (looking at the ticket)  
 Jamaica? Really? Dad, I can't take  
 a vacation-

CARL  
 It's not a vacation. It's an order.  
 (leaning in)  
 Nobody talks to my wife that way.  
 Not even you.

As Carl heads for the door, David looks down at his hands.

CARL (cont'd)  
 Time to take an invoice of  
 yourself, boy.

54 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING

54

David and Isi share a dinner. Isi wears his button-down shirt  
 and nothing else. David, bare-chested, eats with gusto.

DAVID  
 Damn this is good. What's in here?

ISABELLE  
 Lamb, mushrooms, a few herbs, red  
 wine, salt and pepper.

DAVID  
 That's it?

ISABELLE  
Take very good ingredients and do  
very little to them.

DAVID  
Isi, we need to talk-

ISABELLE  
Oh, wait! Don't take another bite!

She dims the lights and hurries to the bedroom. She returns  
with the red candle, lighting it as she crosses to the table.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
I forgot the mood lighting.

David eyes the candle.

DAVID  
I think this candle is a little  
strong. For dinner, I mean.

ISABELLE  
You don't like it?

DAVID  
No, that's not it. It's just... it  
makes me nauseous... Sometimes.

ISABELLE  
Fine.

Clearly offended, she blows it out and throws it in the sink.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
I see that ring Carrie gave you  
doesn't bother you. You never take  
it off. Her feelings are clearly  
more important than mine are.

David reaches for her hand.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
It's not like you're wearing that  
tacky shit as a fashion statement.

He throws down his fork.

DAVID  
You know what? I am so tired of  
everyone's opinions about me.

ISABELLE  
Oh really? So, you're tired of me  
too? Is that it?

DAVID  
I feel like I'm being smothered by  
it. All the time. It's too much. I  
need to take some time to clear my  
(MORE)

DAVID (cont'd)  
 head. And I think this is the  
 perfect time to do it.

Tears forming, her shock turns to rage in an instant.

ISABELLE  
 What are you saying, David?

DAVID  
 I'm saying... I need you to leave  
 me alone.

55 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT 55

Elissa and Isabelle sit on the floor, candle between them.  
 Coiled around the candle is a short, thickly knotted rope.

Elissa eyes Isabelle. Isabelle nods slowly. Her eyes flash  
 with hatred and Elissa smiles. She picks up the rope.

56 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT 56

CLOSE ON: An eye. Bloodshot. Searching.

Millions of granules on the popcorn ceiling.

The digital clock reads: 4:44 AM.

PULL BACK to reveal DAVID LUDLUM 29. His handsome face  
 twisted by pain. Drenched in sweat, he rips the covers from  
 his body. Wide eyes pinned to the ceiling. Tears welling.

DAVID  
 (through quivering lips)  
 Please, God. Please. What did I...  
 Why is this happening...

His HEART BEAT grows louder. Faster. His breath catches. A  
 wracking COUGH contracts his body into the fetal position.

DAVID (cont'd)  
 Why, God?! Jesus...

INDENTATIONS appear on THE SHEETS TO EITHER SIDE OF HIM.  
 Something is in bed with him.

The unseen force grips him, pulling his limbs out in every  
 direction. A silent scream. His face frozen in horror.

CLOSE ON: His pupils dilate. The ghostly reflection of a  
 young WOMAN dances in the darkened iris. Her hair moving like  
 silk to obscure her face.

A DEATH RATTLE as David gasps for air. His eyes flutter shut.

57 INT. TAXI, DOWNTOWN, CLARKSDALE, MS - NEXT DAY 57

In the back of a cab, David sits in same clothes from the  
 opening, duffel bag next to him. He listens to a voice mail.

CARRIE (V.O.)  
*Hey, David. It's Carrie. Your  
 office said you were going out of  
 town. I just wanted to say that...*

David looks out the window.

CARRIE (V.O.)  
*...I meant what I said, David. I  
 can't watch you go through this  
 with Isi. So, if you're going away  
 with her, then I guess we don't  
 have anything left to talk about.  
 You can keep the ring... maybe  
 it'll remind you of who you used to  
 be.*

58 INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

58

David sits under a thin blanket, vacantly staring out the window. There is a POP and the plane shudders. A black streak forms at the back of the engine. David peers closer. Smoke!

It curls back on itself, coalescing into a vaguely human shape crouching atop the wing. David gapes. The form turns its head toward David, RED EYES blaze like a blast furnace.

As David tries to scream --

-- He is gently shaken awake, sweat on his brow.

JULIE (O.C.)  
*Excuse me?*

He jerks upright, bleary-eyed with a saliva slicked chin.

Leaning across the seat is JULIE (20's). Beautiful, wholesome looking. Blonde hair, blue-eyes and sun-kissed skin.

JULIE (cont'd)  
*Sorry to wake you, but we've  
 landed.*

She holds out the Superman ring.

JULIE (cont'd)  
*It fell off while you were  
 sleeping.*

David looks at his naked finger and takes the ring.

DAVID  
*Oh... Thanks.*

She smiles. Leans in closer.

JULIE  
*Don't worry. Your secret's safe  
 with me, Clark.*

David pushes the ring on his finger.

DAVID  
It's David, actually-

Already up the aisle, she looks back before disembarking.

59 EXT. JAMAICA, STREET - LATER

59

David stands in the blazing sun. He squints toward a line of cabs. None seem interested in picking him up.

Across the street, THREE HUGE ROTTWEILERS stare at him from atop a garbage heap. Their teeth bared in a soundless snarl.

David looks around nervously. A RED CAB, spewing thick, black smoke, skids to a halt in front of him.

The RASTAFARIAN driver leans across the seat.

LESTA  
Looks like you need Lesta.

David peers in the window and hands him the card from Carl.

DAVID  
You know where this is?

Lesta reads the card. He looks out the windshield. Thinking.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Well?

Lesta eyes him. Smiles. Dreadlocks fly as he nods.

LESTA  
Take you 'dere and back, mon.

David climbs in, slinging his duffel across the tattered bench seat. No seat belts in sight. The cab peels away.

60 INT. RED CAB - CONTINUOUS

60

Lesta eyes David in the rearview. David drowns in oppressive heat. Isabelle's face flashes across his eyelids.

DING! David looks up to the rearview mirror and meets Lesta's eyes. Dangling from the mirror is a tiny bell.

LESTA  
I know what you thinkin' 'bout.  
Isabelle.

David's eyes widen. He sits upright.

DAVID  
What?!

Lesta reaches out and flicks the bell. DING!

LESTA  
Is a bell. Like Is A Wonderful  
Life.

He flicks it again. DING!

LESTA (cont'd)  
Every time a bell rings, an angel  
gets his wings.

Lesta LAUGHS.

61 EXT. SHOTGUN SHACK - MOMENTS LATER

61

Lesta leans across the seat and regards David.

LESTA  
If you don' find what you lookin'  
for, you call Lesta.

He hands him a red card in the shape of a cab.

LESTA (cont'd)  
Take you where you need to go. Show  
you the colors between black and  
white.

With a flick of the BELL, Lesta downshifts and pulls away.  
David looks at the shotgun shack, his face pale and drawn.

62 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK - PRESENT

62

David, looking his old self, buttons his newly washed shirt.  
Dr. Waugh smokes his pipe and strokes the bird in his pocket.

DAVID  
Then I walked in here and met you.  
Thank God. I didn't know how sick I  
was until now.

DR. WAUGH  
Now you see. Now you can fight.

Dr. Waugh indicates the low table with an array of objects.  
He points at each one with the stem of his pipe.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
Herbs to drink. Every day and  
night. Do you believe?

David sniffs the packet and smiles.

DAVID  
Yes. These are the same as mom's-

DR. WAUGH  
She was a good student.

Dr. Waugh points to a bundle of candles.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
 Keep these lit. One after another,  
 until they gone. Do you believe?

DAVID  
 Yes.

David puts them in his duffel.

DR. WAUGH  
 Then you must clean your house.  
 Everything. Even the in-between  
 places. Your mother can help.  
 (rising to his feet)  
 Now. Everything she has given you.  
 No matter how small or trivial...  
 Burn it! Do you believe?

DAVID  
 Yes.

Dr. Waugh ties a necklace around David's throat. An irregular stone, carved with concentric circles. As he bows his head in silent prayer, David inspects the hair thin lines.

DR. WAUGH  
 (tapping the stone)  
 That stays on.

DAVID  
 How long?

DR. WAUGH  
 Until the day you know true love.

DAVID  
 Then I'm gonna be buried in it.

Dr. Waugh takes David's face in his hands. Just like Rose.

DR. WAUGH  
 Let me tell you something, David  
 Ludlum. I have seen your heart. You  
 a good man. You'll find happiness.

He looks deeply into David's eyes... and smiles.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
 She's out there. I see her now. And  
 more importantly, she sees you.  
 Beautiful girl. Easy to laugh.  
 She's your Angel.

DAVID  
 Do you have her number?

DR. WAUGH  
 Blue dress.

David CHUCKLES. Dr. Waugh puts the bird back in its cage.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
We done here, David.

As David exits, the bird pecks at a tiny metal bell. DING!

MATCH CUT TO:

63 INT. AIRPLANE - LATER 63

The seatbelt sign DINGS on. David turns on his phone. Twenty-seven messages. He dials.

DAVID  
It's me. I am so sorry I treated  
you like that. I was an ass. I'm  
landing at Memphis in an hour. Pick  
me up and we can talk about it?

He hangs up. Over the seat, David sees Julie step out to make room for the MASSIVE WOMAN next to her. She takes her seat and wraps up in an airline blanket. Julie glances at David and holds a finger to her lips. Shh. David smiles.

64 EXT. MEMPHIS INT'L AIRPORT - MORNING 64

David crosses to the curb where Rose is waiting. He hugs her. When he tries to speak, she stops him with a gentle touch.

ROSE  
I'm just glad to have my David  
back.

She looks into his eyes and hugs him again.

As he throws his duffel in the back seat, he spies Julie over the top of a taxi door. She points to her finger and winks. David holds up his hand, showing his ring to her.

65 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LATER 65

A package sits on the front porch. Addressed to David.

ROSE  
Is that from her?

David nods and bends to pick it up. She stops him.

ROSE (cont'd)  
Let the trash men have it.

66 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 66

Rose opens the drapes and surveys the musty room with a practiced eye. David yawns.

DAVID  
Can we do this later?

ROSE  
We're cleaning it now. Everything.

She crosses to the bedroom.

67 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

67

David stands in the doorway. Rose strips the disheveled bedding away and pushes it into David's hands.

DAVID  
I can call a maid service. Or one of those deep cleaning services the coroner uses?

Rose shakes her head.

ROSE  
They would miss too much.

With surprising strength, she slides the bed aside. Around the depressions in the carpet are dark circular stains. Blackened flowers crushed into the carpet by the bed posts.

DAVID  
What is that? Ash? From what?

ROSE  
From that girl.

She lifts the mattress. Yellow powder smeared in a spiral.

David steps closer. Rose gently lowers the mattress.

ROSE (cont'd)  
Do you have a grill?

David points to the back window.

ROSE (cont'd)  
Burn them.

DAVID  
They're Egyptian cotton --  
(off her glance)  
A-a-nd should make a hell of a fire.

68 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - LATER

68

The bed is gone. Rose points to a pile of miscellaneous stuff. Discarded clothing, boxes of papers, sports equipment.

ROSE  
Get rid of this clutter.

DAVID  
Aww, can't I go outside and play?

She shakes her head. David kisses her and picks up a box, loading it with items.

69 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 69

MONTAGE: The box fills with shampoo, toothbrushes, towels. Little mementos of a relationship gone bad.

Rose places Dr. Waugh's candles around the house and lights them. She anoints the jamb of every doorway with oil. David follows with lit incense.

70 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE, PATIO - DUSK 70

David and Rose stand before a massive grill, piled high with Isi's things. Rose leans down and traces a circle in charcoal around the grill.

She takes David by the hand, and mutters a prayer to herself.

She opens her eyes and nods. David douses the lot with lighter fluid, lights a book of matches and tosses it in.

Fire explodes upward.

71 EXT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - SAME 71

Elissa stands on the porch, looking toward the setting sun. A line of smoke rises in the distance. Isabelle steps out onto the porch, trembling.

ISABELLE

I can't...I can't...feel him  
anymore.

Elissa turns to coax her back inside. Isabelle's eyes find the distant plume of smoke. Elissa pulls on Isabelle's arm.

ISABELLE(cont'd) (cont'd)

That's by David's house. My God,  
mom! That's David's house!

Isabelle moves down the steps. It takes all of Elissa's strength to pull her back.

ELISSA

Isi! It's not David's house-

ISABELLE

How do you know? He could be hurt!

She pulls away but Elissa spins her roughly back and slaps her across the face. Isabelle's eyes widen. Elissa turns.

ELISSA

Come inside, girl.

72 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

72

Shaken, Isabelle stands in the corner of the dark room.

ISABELLE  
You've never hit me before.

ELISSA  
You're weak. He's fighting back. I  
need him! His mentor is the key.

ISABELLE  
What are you talking about?

ELISSA  
Pay attention.

Elissa opens an armoire, revealing a shrine of David.

Strands of hair and personal items form an intricate pattern  
amidst dried herbs and candles. Mirrors line the doors.

Elissa pours a pitcher of water into an obsidian bowl. She  
kneels, places her hands into the water and closes her eyes.

Her mouth works silently. She cups the water in her hands and  
splashes it on her face. Her eyes snap open.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
He's been protected.

She pours a vial of grey powder onto a square of aluminum  
foil, holding it over a lit black candle.

The powder begins to bubble and HISS. The smoke curls toward  
the ceiling. Isi looks over her shoulder, staring intently.  
Shapes begin to form and dance in the thickening smoke.

ELISSA(cont'd) (cont'd)  
Do you see? That bitch of a mother.

MATCH CUT TO:

73 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE, PATIO - SAME

73

The smoke thins to reveal Rose's face, staring down into the  
embers. She shudders and David puts an arm around her.

ROSE  
Now get your locks changed and  
promise me you'll stick with Dr.  
Waugh's prescription.

DAVID  
I promise.

As they walk back to the front of the house --

ROSE  
It would be good to get this place  
blessed. Call Pastor Lewis. You owe  
him an apology.

After an embrace, Rose leaves. As David reaches for the door--

74 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LATER

74

David opens the front door on Doug. He's wearing his clerical collar and carrying a leather satchel.

DAVID  
Doug. Thanks for coming by.

DOUG  
I'm happy to do it.

David gives him a quick man-hug and ushers him inside.

DAVID  
Get in before the neighbors think I  
got Linda Blair tied to my bed.

Doug CHUCKLES and enters, setting his bag on the table. He scans the nearly empty space.

DOUG  
Wow. You just move in?

DAVID  
Doing some home improvement.

DOUG  
So, what prompted the Blessing?

DAVID  
I wanted to apologize and this  
seemed like the best way for me to  
show you that I respect you and  
your work. I'm sorry I snapped at  
you, Doug. Things have been tough.

Doug eyes the amulet around his neck.

DOUG  
Is that the reason for the  
apostrophic?

Doug points to the amulet. David tucks it back in his shirt.

DOUG (cont'd)  
The Ancient Greeks used them to  
ward off curses.

DAVID  
It's silly, I guess.

Doug reaches under his collar and pulls out a Celtic cross.

DOUG  
It's a time-honored tradition...  
Shall we?

MONTAGE: Doug moves about performing the ritual blessing.

75 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LATER 75

David walks Doug to his car.

DOUG  
David, you know if you're having  
troubles, I'm --

DAVID  
I appreciate that. Maybe after the  
campaign?

DOUG  
If your heart's not in it just say  
the word.

David holds out his hand.

DAVID  
You've already done more than you  
know.

Doug takes it.

76 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - NIGHT 76

Yellow light from the street lamp casts long shadows over David's house. The total silence is slowly intruded upon by hissing WHISPERS emanating from the dark.

A SHADOW moves along the wall. The whispers grow louder: Isi and Elissa's VOICES, chanting in an undecipherable tongue.

The shadow flits through the sliding glass door, into the house and toward the bedroom.

The WHISPERING becomes more urgent, reaching a fevered pitch, as the shadow moves to the end of David's bed.

He is sleeping deeply and peacefully. The amulet lies in the center of his chest and the CHANTING comes to an abrupt halt.

77 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - MORNING 77

David sits confident, as Mr. Rosen pours over David's report.

DAVID  
I told you it was a simple error.

Mr. Rosen closes his laptop and places it in his bag.

ROSEN

I must admit, Mr. Ludlum, the way you reacted in the library, the missed meetings. And then you skipping town...

DAVID

I can only imagine how it looked. I am so sorry for any inconvenience.

ROSEN

For what it's worth, you did a remarkable job on the new library. You should be proud.  
(with a hand shake)  
Glad you're feeling better.

He exits as George prairie dogs from the front desk.

GEORGE

Carrie on line 3, Boss.

David smiles and picks up a phone.

DAVID

Twinkie!

78 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - LATER

78

David and Carrie sit in a booth. David tries to avoid her gaze by staring at the menu.

DAVID

No.

CARRIE

C'mon. Please, just once more.

He hangs his head.

DAVID

You were right.

CARRIE

(beaming)  
And you had to go all the way to Jamaica for that. You should have just asked me. Why yes, David, I think she's a complete freak.

DAVID

Dr. Waugh said she's been communing with dark spirits. I didn't believe it myself until I saw all the stuff she left at my house. As crazy as it sounds, she put a curse on me.

CARRIE

I should kick her ass back to Salem-

DAVID

No, you won't. She's... dangerous.

CARRIE

Like throw a bag over my head and stab me dangerous? Or do I not wanna know?

DAVID

Better to just let it go. Dr. Waugh says there's happy days ahead.

CARRIE

Oh, yeah. Blue dress, I forgot.

She picks at her shirt.

CARRIE (cont'd)

If you would have told me sooner, I could have changed-

She's interrupted by the waitress. It's Julie.

JULIE

Hey, sorry it took so long. We're crazy busy. I'm Julie-

David drops the menu, knocking over his water.

JULIE (cont'd)

Oh my God! Clark Kent!

She reaches into her blue apron and pulls out a towel.

DAVID

Hey You!... from the...Jamaica plane...the flight, right?

CARRIE

Smooth...

She glances to Carrie as she mops up the water.

JULIE

Superman dropped his decoder ring on the plane and I picked it up. Fate of the world, and all that.

DAVID

I never got a chance to thank you.

JULIE

Leave a great tip and we're square. I'll give you guys a minute and be back to take your order.

She smiles at them, lingering on David. As she turns, she bumps into a fellow waitress. She LAUGHS, pushes her hair behind her ear and walks to the kitchen.

CARRIE  
She's nice. A bit perky but nice.

DAVID  
Perky is better than crazy.

David watches Julie smooth down her BLUE apron.

CARRIE  
Hello, loverboy?

DAVID  
Yeah, I'm ready.

Carrie glances over her shoulder.

79 EXT. DAVID'S HOUSE - SAME 79

Isabelle approaches David's door. She KNOCKS and waits. She KNOCKS again and peers in through the window, seeing nothing.

She rummages through her purse and finds a key. It doesn't work. Frustrated, she kicks the door and stalks away.

80 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - LATER 80

Having finished their meal, Julie drops the receipt.

JULIE  
It was great meeting you, Carrie.  
And David. I would love to trade  
stories about Jamaica sometime?

DAVID  
Yeah. Maybe I'll come in when  
you're not so busy.

JULIE  
Anytime.

She smiles and walks away.

CARRIE  
You are s-o-o-o dumb.

They wrestle over the check.

DAVID  
You don't have a job. I do.

She kicks him under the table.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Ow! Besides, I owe you an apology  
and a big thank you. This is the  
first time I've had fun in a while.

81 EXT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - MOMENTS LATER

81

David and Carrie exit. She holds up the receipt, displaying Julie's phone number and a smiley face.

CARRIE  
Looks like somebody's got a date on  
the horizon.

DAVID  
No way.

CARRIE  
Wuss.

DAVID  
Damn right.

CARRIE  
So, you gonna call her?

ISABELLE (O.C.)  
*Call who?*

David and Carrie turn, taken completely aback.

DAVID  
Isi!

ISABELLE  
I called, I wrote. I was about to  
stop by your parents' house, but  
then I saw you.

CARRIE  
Umm, D, I left my coat inside.

DAVID  
I'll be right here, Carrie.

Carrie walks away, glancing back over her shoulder.

ISABELLE  
Is this is the only way we can  
talk? I've been so worried --

She moves in to hug him and he takes a step back.

DAVID  
We don't have anything to talk  
about.

ISABELLE  
Yes we do. We're in love.

She takes another step closer, insistent. He puts his hand between them.

82 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - CONTINUOUS

82

Carrie looks in the booth but her coat isn't there. She glances outside and sees Isabelle throwing herself forward. David grabs her by the arms.

CARRIE  
I knew it!

83 EXT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - CONTINUOUS

83

David sees Carrie say something to the cashier.

DAVID  
Isi, enough. Stay away from me.  
Stay away from me and my friends.

Isabelle turns a sadistic eye on David.

ISABELLE  
I will take everything from you.  
Everything you've ever loved.  
Starting with her.

DAVID  
I'm warning you-

ISABELLE  
DAVID STOP! LET GO OF ME!

Her sadistic smile remains as Carrie runs toward them.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
(whispering)  
I'll cut her pretty little throat.

David lets his rage fly.

DAVID  
STAY THE FUCK AWAY FROM ME YOU  
PATHETIC stalker-voodoo-psycho  
bitch OR I WILL END YOU!

Isabelle cowers, tears streaming down her face.

CARRIE  
David! That's enough!

ISABELLE  
All I ever wanted was for you to  
love me as much... as I loved you.

She eyes Carrie through mascara stained tears.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
I hope you two will be very happy.

As Isabelle runs to her car, David shakes with anger.

CARRIE  
D, that was cruel.

David glances to the restaurant. No one is watching. He walks toward his car. Carrie follows and smiles to herself.

CARRIE (cont'd)  
I will end you?

Isabelle watches as they pull away. She closes her eyes.

DAVID (V.O.)  
*PATHETIC. VOODOO. BITCH!*

FLASH TO:

84 INT. CLARKSDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - (20 YEARS AGO) 84

Whitewashed boards and simple wooden pews. A single black cross hangs over the tiny alter. The framed picture of Father Ingram tacked to the wall behind the pulpit.

A strong, deep VOICE splits the peaceful chapel.

VOICE (O.C.)  
*DAMN YOU, YOU PATHETIC WOMAN! DAMN  
YOU STRAIGHT TO OF HELL!*

85 INT. CLARKSDALE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RECTORY - CONTINUOUS 85

FATHER INGRAM (40's). Eyes filled with fire. His maddened face is sweat-slicked and terrible. He towers over a younger ELISSA, cowering in fear.

He kicks at the candles and black bowl spread out the floor.

FATHER INGRAM  
You dare bring this voodoo into *my*  
house? Witchcraft in the House of  
the Lord?

He picks up one of the candles and raises it high over his head. Elissa whimpers like a beat puppy.

ELISSA  
It's not what you think... I swear.

Father Ingram is rage. He throws the candle striking her in the temple. He scoops up the bowl and beats her with it.

FATHER INGRAM  
This is Satan! This is what you  
teach that daughter of yours?!

P.O.V. YOUNG ISABELLE (8) hiding in the space under the sink:

Father Ingram grabs Elissa by the hair.

FATHER INGRAM (cont'd)  
I will teach you!

Her wide eyes dart to Isi. Father Ingram straightens. The sound of BOOTED FEET.

Isi squeezes her eyes tight. Silence. She dares to look.

Father Ingram's eye appears in the crack of the door.

ELISSA  
Isabelle... RUN!!!

The doors fly open and Ingram is on her. He grabs her by the scruff of the neck and drags her out.

Isi SCREAMS, her tiny hand scratches his, drawing blood.

FATHER INGRAM  
DEMON BITCH!

He throws her against the wall. Her body drops with a THUD.

Elissa is up and charging.

ELISSA  
YOU BASTARD!

He punches her in the face and is on her, ripping open her blouse open and slamming her face against the floorboards.

Holding her face down with one hand, he fumbles at his belt.

FATHER INGRAM  
Heavenly Father, I pray that you  
guide my hand to deliver this house  
of praise from the Evil these foul  
demons have brought...

CLOSE ON: Elissa's eyes widen with pain and disgust as he thrusts into her.

ELISSA  
I HATE YOU.

Elissa's hands grope outward as she struggles to breathe under his weight. Her hand finds a rope hanging from the curtains.

Through the haze of her pain, young Isi sees Father Ingram on top of her mother.

BACK TO PRESENT:

86 EXT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - NIGHT

86

A black pick up truck with dark tinted windows peels out of the parking lot. Gravel is thrown everywhere. The owner of

the truck comes running out of the entrance just as the truck hits the pavement and squeals away.

TRUCK OWNER

Hey!

87 EXT. DAVID'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER 87

David's car speeds by on the highway.

88 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 88

David drives as Carrie plays with the radio station.

DAVID

Hey now, that's the stuff right there.

CARRIE

The stuff?

DAVID

Yeah, the good stuff.

CARRIE

No, that's the old stuff.

DAVID

Like I said...

CARRIE

You need to listen to...

DAVID

What you're not listening to.

Carrie mouth opens looking at David.

89 EXT. STOLEN BLACK TRUCK - NIGHT 89

Fast on the accelerator, the black truck that just left Clammy Sam's speeds down the highway. It's difficult to see who is driving.

90 INT. DAVID'S CAR - NIGHT 90

David and Carrie continue to banter. Carrie has chosen a pop 40 station. Notorious B.I.G. is on, rapping the hit, "Going Back to Cali".

CARRIE

This is what I'm talking about.

DAVID

That's new?

CARRIE

It never gets old.

David smiles.

91 EXT. STOLEN BLACK TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 91

Fast as it can go, the truck races past other cars on the highway, weaving in and out of different lanes. Who ever is driving the truck hits the gas a little harder as it flies by. It almost looks like a woman is driving.

92 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 92

David responds to Carrie.

DAVID  
Alright, I tell you what.

CARRIE  
Okay, you tell me.

93 EXT. STOLEN BLACK TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 93

The truck now races to the back of David's car. It's only forty feet away.

94 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 94

David continues with Carrie as the truck behind them races to impact. The rearview mirror reflects its imminence.

DAVID  
Next time you drive, you can pick the...

The truck smashes into the back of David's car.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Whoaa!!

CARRIE  
David! Oh my God!!

95 EXT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 95

The truck falls back a little from David's bumper. It's speeds up again to ram it. We can see the driver now. It's Isi.

96 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CON'T 96

The truck hits them again.

DAVID  
Holy shit!

CARRIE  
David, who the hell is that?!

DAVID  
I don't know, I can't see. Looks  
like a truck.

CARRIE  
Can you outrun them?

DAVID  
I'm sure as hell going to try.

The truck rams the back of the car again.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Shit!

97 EXT. STOLEN BLACK TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 97

Isi smiles as she looks on through the windshield, readying  
her next assault.

98 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 98

Both David's car and the stolen black truck weave in and out  
through cars and lanes as Isi stalks close behind, only feet  
away.

99 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 99

Carrie looks behind them.

CARRIE  
What are we going to do?

DAVID  
I don't know yet. Got to try and  
loose them.

100 EXT. STOLEN BLACK TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 100

The truck speeds up and races beside David's car. They're  
lined up now. David looks through his side window at the  
truck.

101 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 101

David looks over at the truck, but the windows are blacked  
out.

DAVID  
I can't see anything.

Suddenly, the truck races ahead of them and swerves over into  
their lane. It's right in front of them now.

DAVID (cont'd)  
What are they doing?

The truck's break lights come on! It's coming to a dead stop. Carrie screams as David swerves the car to the left and gets into the other lane.

102 INT. STOLEN BLACK TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 102

Isi slows down and comes to the passenger side of David's car. She turns and grins at a terrified Carrie in the passenger's seat. Carrie cannot see her. Isi turns her gaze back to the road and smiles at the oncoming site in David's lane, an eighteen wheeler.

103 INT. BIG RIG TRUCK - CONTINUOUS 103

Country music plays in the cab of this rig. A trucker looks up from shifting gears. He sees the oncoming vehicles, especially David's.

TRUCKER  
What the hell?

The trucker quickly pulls his chain and sounds the horn. The blaring wail is loud enough for all to hear.

104 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 104

Carrie looks up and sees the trucker.

CARRIE  
David, look out!!!

The oncoming truck races towards them only feet away. David swerves onto the side of the road, gravel and dirt thrown everywhere. Both the Big Rig and the stolen black truck continue down the road in the respective directions.

Both David and Isi look at the vehicles and then to each other. Neither one can believe what just happened.

105 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT 105

Isabelle's eyes burn with fury as she bursts into the house.

ISABELLE  
I want him to pay, Mama! I want him  
to suffer like he made me suffer!

Elissa leans into the dim light.

ELISSA  
You know what you're asking?

She takes out the KNOTTED ROPE.

106 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 106

David sleeps deeply. The WHISPERS of Elissa and Isi begin again, spoken with vehemence and purpose. David stirs.

107 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

107

Elissa stands in the middle of the living room with the knotted rope in her hands. The rug has been pulled back to reveal a chalk circle. It is surrounded by lit candles.

ELISSA  
We summon forth this spirit of  
torment, to impose our will by  
command of this darkened form.

The candles blow out, one after another, all the way around the circle. The smoke reaches upward, uniting in the center of the circle to form a large SHADOWMAN OF SOOT AND VAPOR.

Isabelle's eyes widen with a mixture fear and glee.

108 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

108

David tosses and turns. We hear the VOICE of Dr. Waugh, far off in the distance.

DR. WAUGH (V.O.)  
*I see her...*

David's arm flails out involuntarily.

109 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

109

At the keyhole of the front door, a black shadowy mist threads it's way through the slot and the dead-bolt.

The door pops open and bare feet pad into the house.

110 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

110

David tosses back the covers. Sweat glistening on his body.

The AMULET RISES and is torn from his neck.

DR. WAUGH (V.O.)  
*That skinny little white girl! Who  
ya think she been communing with?*

David eyes snap open, paralyzed with fear. In the dim moonlight, a shadow approaches.

She glides across the room wearing only an overcoat. She undoes the button, revealing glistening white skin, and climbs onto the bed, playfully kissing her way up his body.

David tires to speak through clenched teeth. Her face hovers over his, an inch away. It's CARRIE, smiling lasciviously.

David relaxes, as she straddles him and slips the overcoat from her shoulders. His back arches, matching her movements.

He reaches out for her. She pins his hands down.

CARRIE

I've wanted this for so long...

Their love making becomes more ferocious. She rides him with abandon. Her finger nails dig into his chest.

David closes his eyes. A flash of Isabelle. His eyes open. Carrie, atop him, is rising to climax.

Her breath turns cold. David cups her breasts as they climax.

Spent, David's eyes flutter closed. The dream is over.

Carrie, out of breath, climbs off of him. She walks around the bed, sprinkling powder onto the carpet. It sinks in, like seeds in a garden.

As she exits the room, she lets the coat fall from her naked body. She turns her head and smiles. It's Isabelle.

She slips from the house.

111 INT. DAVID'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - MORNING 111

David stretches, trying to shake off the heaviness of sleep. He runs his hand along his chest. The amulet is missing.

He throws back the covers, searching. He finds it on the floor next to the bed. The leather torn in half. He holds it up and freezes when he sees something else on the floor.

P.O.V. DAVID: Carrie's coat lies in a heap by the door.

112 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING 112

David sits across from Carrie. He fails to meet her eye as he hands her the coat.

CARRIE

Where the hell was that?

DAVID

You don't wanna know.

He looks at her and then quickly away.

CARRIE

What?

DAVID

Nothing.

CARRIE

What?

He stares at his coffee.

DAVID  
I had a very vivid dream last  
night.

CARRIE  
Uh huh.

DAVID  
You were in it.

CARRIE  
Oh?

His look tells her what kind of dream he's talking about.

CARRIE (cont'd)  
Oh. OH! Ew! David!

DAVID  
Actually, it wasn't that bad-

CARRIE  
(plugging her ears)  
Lalalalala I'm not listening to  
your wet dream lalalalala...

DAVID  
Great. Real mature.

CARRIE  
You need to get laid.

DAVID  
I just did. Meow!

They both burst out laughing. Carrie leans in.

CARRIE  
Call her, dummy!

David shakes his head.

CARRIE (cont'd)  
How did you leave it with her?

DAVID  
I was pretty rough on her. I should  
call her. Just to apologize.

CARRIE  
Not Isi. I was talking about the  
waitress.

DAVID  
Oh. Her.

CARRIE  
And you did the right thing with  
voodoo-psycho-bitch. Promise me if  
you ever get the urge to call her,  
(MORE)

CARRIE (cont'd)  
 God knows why, call me instead?  
 (with a smile)  
 Or Julie. That girl's way into you.

DAVID  
 So you want me to jump right into  
 something else?

CARRIE  
 If it stops you dreaming about sex  
 with me, then, yes.

David blushes again.

CARRIE (cont'd)  
 I just want you to be happy, David.  
 Whoever you end up with.

He checks his watch and stands.

DAVID  
 I'll be happy when this election is  
 over.

CARRIE  
 What are his chances?

DAVID  
 Barring any unforeseen acts of God,  
 I'd say pretty good.

113 EXT. CITY HALL - LATER

113

David and Doug walk up the steps.

DOUG  
 Should I be worried?

DAVID  
 Not even in the slightest. It was  
 exactly what I said it was. Mr.  
 Rosen's happy, I'm happy.

DOUG  
 You do seem on the mend.

DAVID  
 Yep. Getting it all back in order.  
 Blessing the house was good start.

DOUG  
 Glad to know I was of use to you  
 for a change.

DAVID  
 Amen, brother.

They reach the doors.

DOUG  
You know, I meant what I said. You  
can talk to me.

DAVID  
And I meant what I said. In two  
days, I'll make an appointment with  
the new City Councilman and cry all  
over your shiny new desk.

DOUG  
I'm serious. I can help with your  
personal problems, David. You've  
got to put your faith in someone  
good. Like I put my faith in you.

DAVID  
I did.

David absently touches the amulet under his shirt.

DOUG  
Brother, that ain't faith, that's  
fear. I know there's good  
intentions behind it. But the only  
way to overcome true evil...

He touches his heart, where his Celtic cross rests.

DOUG (cont'd)  
Is with love.

114 INT. DAVID'S CAR - SUNSET 114

David drives through the downtown traffic as the sun sets.

115 INT. DAVID'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER 115

David pulls into Clammy Sam's and checks his hair and teeth.  
He hangs the AMULET on the mirror. He flicks it.

DAVID  
Ding!

116 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - MOMENTS LATER 116

David sits at the bar, trying not to look like he's watching  
Julie. She walks up and gooses him. Dishes piled on her arm.

DAVID  
Hey, there!

JULIE  
Hey, yourself.

DAVID  
How are you?

JULIE  
Great. What would you like?

DAVID  
A date. (Off her blush) I'm sorry.  
Was that the cheesiest thing you've  
ever heard?

JULIE  
Is it the cheesiest thing you've  
ever said?

DAVID  
Definitely.

JULIE  
Then it's a date. Just hoped I  
wouldn't be holding dirty dishes  
when you asked.

DAVID  
I'm sorry. Go.

JULIE  
I get off in...thirty-seven  
minutes.

DAVID  
Then, I'll wait thirty seven  
minutes.

117 EXT. GROUND ZERO BLUE'S CLUB, CLARKSDALE - EVENING 117

David and Julie walk up to a nondescript club and enter  
through an alley. Isabelle rolls to a stop across the street.

118 INT. GROUND ZERO - CONTINUOUS 118

The place is packed, crowded around a small stage where a  
lone guitar player exorcises something from his soul.

David escorts Julie to a small table in the back. A COCKTAIL  
WAITRESS greets them.

DAVID  
What would you like to drink?

JULIE  
A beer.

DAVID  
Really?

JULIE  
Something wrong with that?

DAVID  
No. Something very right with that.  
(to the waitress)  
Two beers, please.

JULIE  
So what were-

DAVID (cont'd)  
So what were-

JULIE (cont'd)  
You first.

DAVID  
What were you doing in Jamaica?

JULIE  
Helping build an orphanage. This chick can swing a hammer.

DAVID  
So you're a do-gooder, too?

The waitress brings the beers.

DAVID (cont'd)  
To re-awakenings.

JULIE  
Cheers. So you think your guy has a chance with this election?

DAVID  
Politics are funny, but I can tell you that I'm feeling good about what he wants to do. His kids' park is really inspiring. Makes me wish I were a better person.

JULIE  
Kids' park?

DAVID  
You gotta see it. I have the plans... In my car.

She leans in, flirty.

JULIE  
Are you trying to get me in the back seat, Mr.?

David LAUGHS. They sit back, taking in the moment.

119 INT. DAVID'S CAR - LATER 119

David spreads out the plans on the dash board, completely covering the windshield.

120 INT. ISABELLE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS 120

Across the street, Isabelle stares at the blocked windshield. When the plans drop, David and Julie are locked in a kiss. The blood curdling SHRIEK OF A BANSHEE splits the night.

121 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - LATER 121

Elissa stands behind Isabelle, holding her hands as she holds the knotted rope tight in her fists.

ELISSA  
 We will make him see you by  
 removing everyone in his sight.

Elissa kisses the back of Isi's head and guides her into the chalk circle. They kneel inside the ring of candles and begin CHANTING. Elissa grows silent as Isabelle gets the rhythm.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
 Good, Isi. Before you followed. Now  
 you lead.

The Candles blow out again and the SHADOWMAN bursts from the smoke in a silent, billowing ROAR.

MATCH CUT TO:

122 INT. LUDLUM ENTERPRISES - EVENING 122

A small CROWD ROARS around David, Doug, Julie and Carrie. They all sport "I VOTED!" stickers and share a toast to Doug.

DOUG  
 Okay, okay. First official act: the  
 rejoining of Church and State!

Everyone LAUGHS.

DOUG (cont'd)  
 Then the school, my park and  
 tomorrow-

DAVID  
 The world!

Carrie and Julie share a private joke. They like each other and it pleases David to no end.

They both turn and look at David. He hugs them both.

123 EXT. LUDLUM ENTERPRISES - CONTINUOUS 123

Isabelle stands in the light rain, looking in through the warm glowing window.

124 EXT. LUDLUM ENTERPRISES - LATER 124

As the group staggers out, Isabelle is gone. David walks between the girls, tipsy.

DAVID  
 Alright, Pastor Councilman. Which  
 one of these lovely ladies gets to  
 go home with you and give their  
 confession?

They LAUGH.

DOUG  
 Make sure he gets home safe,  
 ladies. And David? Thanks.

David bows unsteadily, eliciting a GIGGLE from Julie.

JULIE  
 See you Sunday, Pastor Doug.

Doug walks down the street, flipping out a black umbrella. He whistles, tries to swing on a lamppost ala Gene Kelly and slips. He CHUCKLES to himself and continues.

125 EXT. METHODIST CHURCH, RECTORY - MOMENTS LATER 125

As Doug inserts the key in the lock --

ISABELLE (O.C.)  
*Pastor Doug?*

He turns, shielding his eyes from the rain with his hand. Isabelle steps from the rain, soaked through and shivering.

DOUG  
 We don't have a shelter here--

ISABELLE  
 I wondered if I could have a word?

Doug notices the tears in her eyes, looks around and decides.

DOUG  
 Please. Come in out of the rain.

He open the door and ushers her in.

126 INT. METHODIST CHURCH, RECTORY - CONTINUOUS 126

Doug sits in a leather chair watching Isabelle dry her hair.

DOUG  
 What's your name?

ISABELLE  
 Julie.

DOUG  
 Pleased to meet you, Julie. What has you out on a night like this?

ISABELLE  
 I want to talk about David Ludlum.

DOUG  
 David? Okay.

ISABELLE  
 You have become rather close?

DOUG  
Yes. He's a good man --

ISABELLE  
He's a fucking liar and adulterer.

DOUG  
I think you should leave.

She stands, the length of knotted rope hanging from her hand.

ISABELLE  
Con ti ditae es morto!

Her hand flashes out and Doug flinches.

DOUG  
I don't know what kind of trouble  
you're in... But I don't think I  
can help you.

The SHADOWMAN rises behind Doug. She smiles wickedly.

ISABELLE  
Oh, but you can.

Doug turns. His eyes go wide. He reaches for his cross.

The SHADOWMAN attacks. Twin fists of black smoke drive into  
Doug's body. He recoils as the SHADOWMAN disappears inside.

He drops to his knees, vomiting thick black bile. She LAUGHS.

Doug's head snaps up. Twin fires blazing from his eyes.

ISABELLE (cont'd)  
You want me... COME TAKE ME!

She throws her head back as Doug lunges for her, tearing away  
her clothing. His fingernails score her flesh, pawing at her,  
crushing her against his body with inhuman strength.

Isabelle SHRIEKS and fights back. Doug slaps her hard across  
the mouth. She drops. Doug tugs at his belt, stepping close.

Isi thrusts out the rope and he halts. The fire in his eyes  
diminishing.

A twisting SCREAM like metal-on-metal. Doug's mouth flashes  
open, disgorging a gout of thick black smoke.

It's over. DOUG stands wide-eyed and shaking. He looks at his  
hands and scrubs his mouth with the back of his sleeve.

DOUG  
My God! What happened?

Isabelle backs away, pulling at her blood soaked top.

ISABELLE

Rape.

Doug shakes his head.

ISABELLE(cont'd) (cont'd)

Rape!

He reaches out and sees the blood on his hands. Isi runs SCREAMING from the building as Doug collapses into tears.

127 INT. POLICE STATION, INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

127

David looks at a monitor: Doug sitting at a table in cuffs.

DAVID

I want to talk to him.

Next to David is George and his brother DETECTIVE JOHN MAITZ.

JOHN

I can't let you do that.

DAVID

This doesn't make any sense. He's a Pastor for Christ's sake. And City Councilman.

JOHN

Not anymore.

DAVID

(pointing to the screen)  
Look at him, John. That's Doug in there. The A/V geek. You telling me you believe he raped someone?

John looks at the screen. Doug weeps openly.

JOHN

Actually, I can.

GEORGE

C'mon, bro. Just for a few minutes.

JOHN

Not even for a few seconds. This ain't a traffic citation, David. This is kidnapping, rape and felony assault. He had her skin under his finger nails.

David closes his eyes and rubs his temples.

ISABELLE (V.O.)

*I will take everything from you.  
Everything you've ever loved...*

DAVID

Who was the girl?

JOHN

No way!

DAVID

Was it Isabelle Walker?

JOHN

We're done here, David. You can read about it in the paper.

DAVID

Dark hair down to here? Five-foot-six? Athletic build?

As John rises, David grabs his arm.

John looks at his hand and David pulls it away.

DAVID (cont'd)

Listen to me, John. This girl is certifiable. A complete psycho. She uses magic to trap people-

JOHN

You been drinking?

David hangs his head.

JOHN (cont'd)

You can leave your car here.  
(to George)  
Get him home.

GEORGE

C'mon, Boss.

DAVID

You're making a huge mistake.

128 INT. GEORGE'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

128

George drives. David stares out the window, seething.

DAVID

This is all wrong, George. It was Isi. I know it.

GEORGE

Blotter said her name was Julie.

DAVID

Goddamn her!

GEORGE

She's at Northside General.

David looks over at him, pleading.

DAVID  
George...

GEORGE  
Will it get me my raise?

129 EXT. NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - NIGHT 129

As David crosses the parking lot, his phone rings. It's Rose.

DAVID  
I can't talk now, mom.

ROSE (O.C.)  
*Where are you?*

DAVID  
Northside Hospital.

ROSE (O.C.)  
*You heard?*

David slows as Rose's voice breaks.

DAVID  
Heard what?

130 INT. NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - MOMENTS LATER 130

David races down the near empty hallway, past a deserted nurse's station to the last room at the end.

TIME SLOWS as David passes the room holding Isabelle. She lies, guarded by a police officer. Another on the door.

Her eyes open as he passes.

131 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS 131

Rose and Carrie are on either side of Carl in the bed. He is hooked up to an I.V. and very pale. Rose leans over him, holding his hand and quietly HUMMING a Gospel tune.

Carrie hugs David as he enters.

DAVID  
What happened?

CARRIE  
His heart.

Carl's head turns slightly at the sound of David's voice. He walks numbly to the bed and kisses his dad on the forehead.

He looks to Rose.

DAVID  
It was her. It was Isi.

Rose stares deeply into his eyes. After a long beat, she closes them and rises to her feet.

ROSE  
You need to stay with your father.

David nods. Rose grabs her bag and leaves without another word. Carrie puts a gentle hand on David's shoulder.

CARRIE  
I'll get you some coffee.

DAVID  
Thanks for...

She turns and exits as Carl rouses. David leans in.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Hey, old man. How you holdin' up?

CARL  
I'll be okay. Long as I got your  
mamma here.

DAVID  
She's something else.

CARL  
Son, I need you to listen to me.

DAVID  
Not now, Dad.

CARL  
I got it wrong. All that time  
trying to provide for a family, I  
never spent any time with you.

DAVID  
You were there, Dad, when it  
mattered. You sacrificed a lot.

CARL  
The real sacrifice was made by your  
mother. She's the one who went  
without and she never held it  
against me.

DAVID  
Yeah, well, she's stronger than  
both of us put together.

CARL  
'Specially now.

They share a slight laughs, but Carl stops short. Wincing.

CARL (cont'd)  
 You're mom's got a powerful gift.  
 The most powerful one of all.  
 Forgiveness...

132 INT. NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, CAFETERIA - SAME 132

Rose sits at a table by herself, mumbling a prayer. The room is flooded with a harsh fluorescent light.

She pulls something out of her purse. An amulet similar to David's in shape and design. She places it on the table.

Still praying, she takes a glass of water and carefully pours some onto the carved circles of the pendant.

CLOSE ON: The grooves of the stone fill with water, PULL BACK to reveal a TRANSPARENT Dr. Waugh sitting across from her.

DR. WAUGH (CONT'D)  
 You've been a faithful servant,  
 Rose... He's gonna be fine. I know  
 your man and he's got a lot more  
 left in him.

ROSE  
 Did you see this coming? Was it  
 that girl?

DR. WAUGH  
 When you're trying to right a  
 wrong, the universe needs to find  
 balance.

ROSE  
 Just answer me plain.

DR. WAUGH  
 It angers me too, someone trying to  
 collect on my... Everything is  
 connected, but even I can't always  
 see how.

Overwhelmed with emotion, Rose hangs her head.

ROSE  
 How can you just sit there? Doing  
 nothing?

DR. WAUGH  
 (snapping)  
 I did plenty.  
 (he regains composure)  
 If I intervene again, move the  
 tides in too many directions, It  
 can undo so many things... Things  
 you may never understand.

Rose looks up at him. She wipes the tears from her eyes and deliberately turns over the stone.

The water sifts from rock and Dr. Waugh fades away.

As she slides the stone across the table --

133 EXT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - LATER

133

The front door opens and Elissa steps out onto the porch. The SOUND of a dogfight somewhere in the neighborhood.

Elissa sniffs at the air, suddenly alert. She DOUBLES OVER, a sharp pain in her stomach. Eyes flashing, she scans the dark.

ELISSA  
Come out, you bitch!

She steadies herself with the door jam as Rose steps from the shadows. A Rosary wrapped in her fist. Fury in her eyes.

ROSE  
You messed with the wrong family.

Elissa double over again. She raises her head and Rose's hand cramps up. She GASPS and throws a handful of ash on the lawn.

ROSE (cont'd)  
I saw your face in that flame. I  
have you now... You take back all  
that you gave.

Elissa SCREAMS, clasping her hands to the side of her head.

ELISSA  
Stop it!

She throws back her head. Rose's knees buckle. She staggers to her feet and advances, rock steady.

ROSE  
May you reap what you've sown  
threefold.

Elissa LAUGHS. WHACK! Rose reels as if slapped. She whips her head back to Elissa. Sending her to her knees with a CRACK.

Elissa begins to CHANT, but Rose is on her. She grasps Elissa by the hair and blow's ash in her face.

Elissa's mouth snaps shut. Her lips begin to tighten. Rose leans in and places her hand on Elissa's forehead. The cross and beads wrapped tightly around her wrist.

ROSE (cont'd)  
Heavenly Father, there is darkness  
in this child's heart that only you  
can turn to light.

Elissa stiffens. Muffled SOBS through her closed mouth.

ROSE (cont'd)  
 I pray, dear Father that you  
 forgive her wicked ways, as I also  
 forgive the wrong she has wrought  
 upon my loved ones.

134 INT. NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER - MORNING

134

David leaves Carl and stalks toward Isabelle's room. She's gone. Up the hallway, Detective Maitz talks with a NURSE.

JOHN  
 How did you not see her leave?

The nurse looks at her computer.

NURSE  
 It says her mother signed her  
 release early this morning.

John shoots a look to the guard.

JOHN  
 I want to talk to the night staff.  
 This is unacceptable... David!

David pauses.

JOHN (cont'd)  
 How is he?

David continues on.

135 INT. LUDLUM ENTERPRISES - MORNING

135

As David enters, George shoots to his feet.

GEORGE  
 The Mayor's in your office.

136 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

136

David looks at the morning paper. He leans back against the desk, eyeing the Willie-Brown type Mayor.

DAVID  
 How long?

MAYOR  
 Considering how closely you tied  
 yourself to Pastor Lewis. I'd say  
 indefinitely.

DAVID  
 (after a beat)  
 When?

MAYOR  
 Immediately.

David makes a b-line for the door.

137 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - DAY

137

Julie sits reading a paper in the post-lunch lull. She notices a girl huddled in a booth near the back. She crosses.

JULIE  
I'm so sorry. I didn't see you  
there. Can I get you something?

The girl sobs, her body shaking.

JULIE (cont'd)  
Are you alright? Do you need some  
help?

The girl looks up. It's Isabelle.

ISABELLE  
I just found out my... my fiance is  
cheating on me.

JULIE  
Oh, honey. Oh, I'm so sorry. Let me  
get you some water.

138 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - LATER

138

Isabelle races inside, cradling a water glass in a gloved hand. Elissa emerges from the hallway.

ELISSA  
Where were you? You are not to be  
seen. By anyone.

Isabelle ignores her, moving to the armoire and opening it. Elissa staggers across the room and pushes the doors closed.

Isabelle firmly pushes her aside. Elissa sinks to her knees.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
She did something to me.

ISABELLE  
Then do something back. Isn't that  
what you taught me?

ELISSA  
I can't touch the power.

Isabelle squats next to her, brushing the hair from her eyes.

ISABELLE  
Then you're not much good to me any  
more. Are you, mother?

Elissa's eyes tighten. She SHRIEKS and scratches out at Isabelle's face. Isabelle catches her wrist and slaps her.

She crosses to the armoire and fishes out the knotted rope.

ELISSA  
This has gone too far. Burn it!

ISABELLE  
No, mother. You're going to show me  
how you bound his soul and how to  
bind him to me.

Elissa closes her eyes.

ELISSA  
And if I refuse?

ISABELLE  
I promise you, it will hurt.

139 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - AFTERNOON

139

David stares, incredulous. Julie is indignant. Pissed.

JULIE  
Engaged, David? Really?!

DAVID  
Who? Me?

JULIE  
Not unless there are two David  
Ludlums that just helped with the  
city election.

DAVID  
Julie, I'm sorry but I have no idea  
what you're talking about.

JULIE  
I just met your fiance and, gee,  
how shocked do you think I was to  
learn that I'm the other woman?!

DAVID  
No, Julie, listen-

She storms off.

DAVID (cont'd)  
Julie!

ISABELLE (V.O.)  
(Whispering)  
*Everything you've ever loved...*

David hangs his head, takes out his phone and begins dialing.

140 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

140

With panicked eyes, Elissa is tied to a chair. Beaten severely. Isabelle stands in the center of the chalk circle.

An old crumpled photo lays at her feet: Young Isi, Elissa and Father Ingram, smiling. The image obscured by wax and blood.

ELISSA  
I'll die if I tell you.

ISABELLE  
You'll die if you don't.

Elissa's head lolls against her chest.

ELISSA  
Why are you doing this, baby? Why?

ISABELLE  
Because you put us in that home!  
You put me in his arms and turned  
your back when he --

ELISSA  
I took care of it. Of him.

ISABELLE  
A little late, wouldn't you say?

ELISSA  
It's not too late, baby. We can  
undo this.

Isabelle holds up the rope, swinging it back and forth.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
Untie the knots, one-by-one.

Isabelle pulls at the first knot. It's hardened by age.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
*Bless me, Father for I have sinned-*

Isabelle pulls at the knot with her teeth. It loosens.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
*I know that I have broken your laws  
and my sins have separated me from  
you -- And now I turn away from my  
sinful past --*

Isabelle unties the first knot. The black candles roar to life. Tongues of flame licking from the immolated wicks. An unholy SHRIEK is rent from the air as the SHADOWMAN forms.

ELISSA (cont'd)  
*Please forgive me-*

Her plea is cut short as the SHADOWMAN fiery eyes find her.

Isabelle unties the last of the knots and the SHADOWMAN attacks. Elissa SCREAMS in abject terror and pain.

Isabelle is SPATTERED with blood. Her eyes widen with horror. Her trembling fingers work to re-tie the knots. She pauses.

Elissa's guttural SCREAMS reduce to bubbling GASPS. Isabelle wipes the back of her hand across her mouth.

Bone CRACKS and wet SLAPS. Isabelle tears her gaze away, eyes glazed over and feverish.

141 INT. CLAMMY SAM'S SEAFOOD SHACK - LATER

141

David sits with Julie in the booth, her blue apron across her lap. Carrie has joined them.

CARRIE

I've known David since we were four. He's never been a cheater. Not even at red light-green light.

Julie strokes his hand. Straightens his Superman ring.

JULIE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have...

DAVID

People believe what they want to believe. That's why I'm unemployed and Doug's in jail.

JULIE

Did you explain to the police about Isabelle?

DAVID

With her using a false name and disappearing out of the hospital her story is suspect. Doug's out on bond.

CARRIE

So, what now? Hemlock?

DAVID

I need a break.  
(to Carrie)  
What do unemployed people do here?

CARRIE

Don't look at me. I got a writing gig. Deadlines and...grown up shit.

DAVID

Congratulations, Twinkie.

JULIE

Thanks for coming out to defend David's honor. You're an amazing friend.

CARRIE

That's me.

Carrie kisses David on the cheek and exits. David turns his attention to Julie.

DAVID

How much time can you get off?

142 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

142

Isabelle sits before the shrine to David, surrounded by dozens of lit black candles.

She runs a brush over the glass from the restaurant, CHANTING, low and hypnotic.

She snips the bristles into the obsidian bowl and grinds the contents into a fine powder. She empties the bowl onto a sheet of aluminum foil, scraping it with a shard of bone.

Isabelle steps inside the chalk circle ringed with candles.

Holding the foil over a candle, smoke begins to rise from the powder. Isi peers closely into the vapor...

...an image begins to form, blurred and muted. It slowly resolves into a figure.

As the smoke thickens, a moving picture in grainy sepia tones appears in the swirling smoke above her.

INSERT SHOT: The smoke-induced image reveals Julie placing an overnight bag in the back of David's car. David holds the door for her. She leans across and unlocks his side.

143 INT. DAVID'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

143

P.O.V. BACKSEAT LOOKING FORWARD: David grins at Julie.

As he pulls out, Julie reaches for the radio.

MONTAGE: David and Julie SINGING at the top of their lungs.

David and Julie enjoying a drive-through cheeseburger. They talk and LAUGH with ease.

David and Julie pulled over to the side of the road, locked in a passionate kiss.

David reclines in the passenger seat, as Julie drives.

144 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 144

Isabelle stands in the circle, looking upwards as the smoky images play out. She holds the knotted rope in her hands, twisting it with her fingers.

145 INT. DAVID'S CAR - NIGHT 145

Julie watches David drive for what seems an eternity. Unseen by either of them, the Shadowman fills the back seat.

JULIE

I feel like I've known you forever  
but I don't really know anything  
about you.

David places a hand on her thigh.

DAVID

There's not much know.

JULIE

Ooh! Anytime someone says that...

DAVID

And I suppose you like a good  
mystery?

JULIE

Love 'em!

DAVID

Well, then, prepare to be in love.

Their fingers intertwine.

JULIE

I think I already am.

She undoes her seat belt and leans over to kiss him...

...once again, the blood curdling SCREAM OF A BANSHEE splits the air. The SHADOWMAN lunges forward, filling the car with dark, shadowy smoke.

David loses control.

JULIE (cont'd)

DAVID!

The car careens off the road and hits a massive oak, sending Julie through the windshield.

David's face lays planted into the steering column.

146 INT. NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE 146

David sleeps motionless in the bed, trailing tubes and wires. His face is swollen and discolored. His eyes flutter.

**DAVID'S VISION:** Julie laughs silently in the passenger seat of his car. She is perfect. David adjusts his rearview mirror. A tiny bell on a knotted cord hangs from it.

It DINGS and David is in backseat of the Red Cab. Lesta flicks the bell.

LESTA  
An Angel gets it's wings.

David turns his head. The Shadowman is inches away, eyes blazing like a blast furnace --

David snaps awake with a GASP. Carrie and Rose are there. The scene a mirror image of the night Carl was in the hospital.

CARRIE  
David!

David confused, looks around the room. He moves to sit up but is stopped short by the pain.

DAVID  
Where is she? Where's Julie?

Carrie turns away, hiding emotion. Rose strokes David's face.

DAVID (cont'd)  
No...NO!!

147 EXT. CLARKSDALE, GRANGE CEMETERY - MORNING

147

Rain falls on a circle of mourners around an open grave.

David in a sling, defeated, beaten. He stands apart from the crowd, supported on either side by Carl, Rose and Carrie.

Across the casket, Julie's FAMILY hold each other close. A weeping MOTHER. A stoic FATHER. A little SISTER, unable to grasp the severity of her sister's passing.

Pastor Doug opens his Bible and clears his throat.

DOUG  
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust...

Doug sprinkles the casket with fresh dirt.

The casket slowly lowers. When it finds it's final resting place, the mourners disperse towards their cars.

David stands alone at the open grave, staring downward.

DAVID  
(quietly to himself)  
It's not fair. This isn't right...

THREE CROWS pinwheel the sky. Their CAWS turn to LAUGHTER.

DAVID(cont'd) (cont'd)  
It can't be. He promised me.

David moves forward, too fast for his injuries. He stumbles to his knees. Carl and Carrie rush to his side.

148 EXT. CLARKSDALE, GRANGE CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER 148

David shambles back to his car. Carrie is silent as she waits patiently by the passenger door, eyes pinned on him.

As David reaches the handle he sees a slip of paper under the wiper. Written in red ink: *I still love you...*

Something shifts behind his eyes. Grief and emptiness turns to SOMETHING ELSE. David throws back his head and HOWLS.

Carrie is frozen in fear.

149 INT. AIRPLANE - NEXT MORNING 149

David stares out the window, absently fingering the Superman ring. A deep score mars its surface.

150 EXT. AIRPORT, JAMAICA - AFTERNOON 150

David stands in the blazing sun as Lesta's Red Cab skids to a halt. David gets in. The cab tears away, bell tinkling.

David eyes the cord, the series of knots and the bell. He catches Lesta's eyes in the rearview, regarding him.

LESTA  
Dr. Waugh. His magic did no work  
for ya?

A beat. David eyes tighten. Lesta nods. DING!

LESTA (cont'd)  
Those who do, do. Those who can't  
do, teach.

DAVID  
What do you know about curses?

Lesta's eyes again. He LAUGHS.

LESTA  
More 'dan 'dat bumboclot Doctor.

151 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK - MOMENTS LATER 151

David stares intently at Dr. Waugh as he lights his pipe.

DR. WAUGH  
It did work, David. It worked as  
long as you believed it did.

DAVID  
She's dead.

DR. WAUGH  
And you want retribution.

David is silent.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
Ya can't cure evil with evil. It  
has taken me longer than ya can  
possibly know to understand that.

Dr. Waugh opens the bird cage, fishing out the yellow bird.

DAVID  
I want what you promised me.

DR. WAUGH  
I made that very same argument when  
He took everything from me.

DAVID  
Who?

DR. WAUGH  
God.

David SCOFFS. Dr. Waugh regards the bird in his hand.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
In anger and retribution, I took  
from him.

DAVID  
What could you possibly have taken  
from God?

DR. WAUGH  
What he loves most. I showed people  
how to use the dark magic.

DAVID  
Then you can show me.

DR. WAUGH  
I can't.

DAVID  
Can't? Or won't?

A beat. David stands.

DAVID(cont'd) (cont'd)  
Then I'll find someone who will.

DR. WAUGH  
Those people, that girl, gave up  
something you are not prepared to.

David rounds on him. The bird flies out of Dr. Waugh's hand.

DAVID  
I have nothing left!

DR. WAUGH  
That is not true-

DAVID  
Girl in a blue dress! Someone who  
sees me! I'll know happiness! You  
lied to me!

David storms out. Dr. Waugh follows closely behind.

DR. WAUGH  
There's a key to her power, David.

David stops.

DAVID  
What?

DR. WAUGH  
You will know when you find it. You  
must find it and destroy it.

152 INT. LESTA'S CAB - DUSK

152

Lesta sits regarding David over the front seat.

LESTA  
When ya repay evil with evil, there  
is no sin. Ya must pay 'da wicked  
in 'dere own coin.

DAVID  
I'll pay.

LESTA  
And so will she. You have something  
of hers?

David fishes out the note in red Ink.

Lesta opens it and smiles.

153 EXT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, CLARKSDALE - NIGHT (THREE DAYS LATER) 153

David walks slowly up porch steps and crosses to the window.  
The dark drapes are closed. He moves to the backyard. Through  
the window grime, there doesn't appear to be anyone inside.

He tries the door. Locked. David kicks it open.

154 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

154

He moves through the kitchen. The fetid smell of something  
rotten hits David like a brick.

- 155 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 155  
 David peers into the overcrowded bedroom. Clutter everywhere, the dumping ground for the whole house.
- 156 INT. ELISSA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 156  
 David steps across the rug, hastily thrown over the smeared chalk circle. He crosses to the armoire and wrenches it open.  
 David reels as he takes in the images of himself, the personal effects, and the macabre occult scene before him.  
 He grabs hold of the armoire and heaves, sending it toppling to the floor with a massive CRASH.  
 Heart pounding, David looks down and grasps the corner of the rug. He rips it back uncovering the entire circle.  
 In the center is the old CRUMPLED PHOTO of the girls and Father Ingram. He picks it up and looks closely.  
 He focuses on the small, white church in the background.  
 ISABELLE (V.O.)  
*I grew up in a church.*  
 It is the church earmarked for demolition. Doug's playground. David stalks toward the front door and stumbles.  
 At his feet are the mutilated remains of ELISSA.
- 157 INT. SHOTGUN SHACK, BACKROOM - SAME 157  
 Dr. Waugh speaks into a cracked, rotary dial phone.  
 DR. WAUGH  
 Rose. David is back in Clarksdale.  
 INTERCUT WITH:
- 158 INT. ROSE LUDLUM'S HOUSE - SAME 158  
 Rose sits at the table with Carl looking on.  
 ROSE  
 He would have called-  
 DR. WAUGH  
 I'm afraid I may have lost him.  
 Rose covers her mouth.
- 159 EXT. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NIGHT 159  
 David's car rolls slowly up to the church yard. He cuts off the ignition and stares.

Yellow tape surrounds the weed covered building. The main doors, chained shut with a notice of demolition posted.

David exits the car and crosses to a boarded up window. He pulls at it. It's secure. He tries another. And another.

At the back wall, hidden from view a board has been removed. He cuts a quick glance around before climbing inside.

160 INT. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS 160

He looks about the church. Empty. Creepy. The stain of a cross on the white wall above the pulpit is all that remains.

His eyes narrow as he detects a faint yellow light from the door leading to the rectory. He cocks his head, listening.

He pads across the debris, trying to stay silent. He stops at the door and listens. Nothing.

161 INT. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RECTORY - CONTINUOUS 161

David slowly opens the door, trying to minimize the nails on a chalkboard CREAK echoing through the empty church.

A single candle sits in the middle of the room. It's lit! David panics, scanning the room. Nothing. No one.

He peers down the long, narrow hallway ahead. A mountain of debris blocks the entrance.

He looks again at the candle. It's almost completely melted away. It's tiny flame struggling for life.

He steps into the room, spying something in the middle of an ashen circle on the floor.

He steps closer. It's the knotted cord of rope. Thin tendrils of smoke curl from it, joining those from the candle.

David is drawn to it.

DR. WAUGH (V.O.)  
*You will know when ya find it.*

David reaches out. The sooty black smoke arcs to his finger tips. He folds, dropping to his knees and vomiting violently.

DISSOLVE TO:

162 INT. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RECTORY - 20 YEARS AGO 162

The cabinet doors fly open and Ingram is on her. He grabs her by the scruff of the neck and drags her out.

Isi SCREAMS, her tiny hand scratches his, drawing blood.

FATHER INGRAM  
DEMON BITCH!

He throws her against the wall. Her body drops with a THUD.  
Elissa is up and charging.

ELISSA  
YOU BASTARD!

He punches her in the face and is on her, ripping open her blouse open and slamming her face against the floorboards.

Holding her face down with one hand, he fumbles at his belt.

FATHER INGRAM  
Heavenly Father, I pray that you  
guide my hand to deliver this house  
of praise from the Evil these foul  
demons have brought...

CLOSE ON: Elissa's eyes widen with pain and disgust as he thrusts into her.

ELISSA  
I HATE YOU.

Elissa's hands grope outward as she struggles to breathe under his weight. Her hand finds a rope hanging from the curtains. He roughly turns her over. She scrambles and tries to wrap the rope around his neck. She PULLS hard on the ends.

He reels back, clawing at the rope. Elissa kicks out at his chest and face. She connects. She scrambles again ripping open a drawer, finding a large pair of scissors.

FATHER INGRAM  
I will send you to hell!

Elissa stabs him in the chest. He folds in shock and pain.

ELISSA  
You first.

Elissa bends and picks up the candle. She lights it calmly as Father Ingram begins to choke on his own blood.

Rolling him over, she straddles his chest and murders him.

As he twitches in the final throes of death, Elissa twists the rope in her fist, snipping off a length. She begins tying knots. Seven in all. She begins a LOW CHANT.

His dying breath mingles with the candle smoke and disappears inside the rope...

BACK TO:

163 INT. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RECTORY - CONTINUOUS

163

Isabelle SCREAMS like a BANSHEE!

David, doubled over in pain and confusion stumbles backward.

She lunges at him, clawing at his face and hands. She wrenches the rope from him.

Dark shadows descend from the corners of the room. The candle flame leaps into a gout of fire. Isabelle begins a low CHANT.

David pushes her to the ground, knocking the rope free.

The thickening shadows falter, swimming above David's head as he picks up the rope.

He unties the first knot. Isabelle scrambles.

ISABELLE

NO!

He unties the second. The shadows quicken and begin to form.

Isabelle jumps on his back, crashing them to the floor.

Up on his elbows, with Isabelle punching, kicking and scratching, David continues to untie the knots

ISABELLE (cont'd)

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

She gets her fingers in his mouth and pulls. David drives back an elbow, catching her in the gut. She GASPS for breath.

The SHADOWMAN coalesces with the ear-splitting SOUND OF METAL-SCRAPING-METAL.

David rolls over, staring upward. The blazing eyes of the SHADOWMAN, an inch away from his face.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

KILL HIM!

The SHADOWMAN turns its gaze on Isabelle. She backs away. David holds up the un-knotted rope and the SHADOWMAN ROARS!

It's on her. We HEAR the horrible tortures inflicted on her. It is all too evident by her mind-numbing SCREAMS.

ISABELLE (cont'd)

DAVID, PLEASE! I LOVE YOU DAVID,  
HELP ME!

David stands watching, a sick sense of glee about him. A smile behind his eyes that is enjoying this retribution.

LESTA (V.O.)

*When ya repay evil with evil, there  
is no sin.*

David toys with the rope. His eyes blaze as he looks on the horrible scene before him. Flush with power, he ties a knot.

DR. WAUGH (V.O.)  
*She gave up something you're not  
 willing to.*

David works to tie the second knot. A glint of light on his Superman ring stops him. His hands begin to tremble.

CARRIE (V.O.)  
*...maybe it'll remind you of who  
 you used to be.*

FLASH BACK TO:

DAVID'S VISION: He sees Carrie as a little girl. He's in his cape. She's in a BLUE DRESS.

Carrie at his birthday party. Her dress is BLUE.

Carrie at lunch: BLUE DRESS under her coat.

Carrie at the hospital: BLUE.

At the funeral: BLUE DRESS under her black coat.

David looks up. He fumbles on the floor for matches and SETS THE ROPE ON FIRE.

As it burns, the SHADOWMAN transforms into the transparent likeness of FATHER INGRAM. He rises from Isabelle...

...and disappears in a tormented EXHALATION.

David crosses to her battered, bloody body. She GROANS.

ISABELLE  
 You...saved...me.

After a long beat.

DAVID  
 No, Isabelle. I forgive you.

164 INT. NORTHWEST REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, I.C.U. - LATER 164

PULLBACK to reveal: Isabelle. Eyes closed, strapped to her bed, covered in tiny cuts. Detective Maitz and the DOCTOR stand beside the bed.

DOCTOR  
 Her mother did this to her?

JOHN  
 Looks like it.

DOCTOR  
 Poor thing.

JOHN

That *poor thing* gave better than she got. You wanna see what's left of the mother go down to the morgue.

DOCTOR

Are you kidding me?

JOHN

No, man. She's a real piece of work. We're looking into the disappearance of the stepfather several years ago.

They head for the door.

DOCTOR

It's a miracle she didn't lose the baby.

JOHN

Jesus, she's pregnant?

DOCTOR

Nine weeks.

A smile creeps across Isabelle's face.

165 EXT. AIRPORT, JAMAICA - EVENING

165

The sun singes the lush hillside, casting a red glow on the bustling streets. Lesta's Red Cab parts through a sea of tourists and sputters to a stop.

Grabbing a bag of jerk chicken from his dashboard, he exits the car and approaches an alley overflowing with vendors.

166 EXT. ALLEY MARKET - CONTINUOUS

166

Dressed in a dirty linen suit, Dr. Waugh sits, hunched over a Mancala game board on an empty milk crate among the stalls. Lesta grabs another milk crate and sits.

DR. WAUGH

Ya late.

Lest dives into his bag of chicken. His obsession with getting every sinew and tendon is quite disgusting to watch.

LESTA

You in a hurry?

DR. WAUGH

I got all day to beat you.

LESTA

You so sure, now?

The chaotic sounds of the market fade to background noise.

LESTA (cont'd)  
How long we been playing dis game?

DR. WAUGH  
Too long.

Lesta sucks the meat off the last bone and tosses it aside.  
As it lands, the world around them ripples to reveal --

MATCH CUT TO:

167 EXT. ALTERNATE UNIVERSE - CONTINUOUS

167

Busy streets are replaced with an endless field. Lesta's cab sits under a tree, which unfolds a vivid canopy of leaves.

LESTA  
Alright, old man. You gonna beat me, I suggest you get busy.

DR. WAUGH  
I already did.

As Dr. Waugh drops a STONE into the board, a mass of shadowy souls to cross into their world. Like two armies, a multitude appear behind Dr. Waugh, while even more appear behind Lesta.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
The girl is with me now.

Julie's transparent image solidifies as she steps forward.

Lesta holds up two greasy fingers and studies the board.

DR. WAUGH (cont'd)  
What?

LESTA  
I won a few too, my friend.

He directs his glance towards the cab. Locked behind the glass partition, Father Ingram and Elissa thrash about.

LEST  
And your boy-

DR. WAUGH  
Made the right choice in the end.

A lascivious smile creeps across Lesta's face as he licks the grease from his fingers and tosses a stone into the divits.

LESTA  
Well, now he got that taste for power. He gonna crave it again...  
They all do.

CLOSE ON: In the smooth reflection of the glass bead, David sits in his room, staring at the Superman ring.

Dr. Waugh picks up the playing piece and examines it.

LEST  
They all do.

As Dr. Waugh turns his gaze their army of souls melds to --

MATCH CUT TO:

168 EXT. ALLEY MARKET - CONTINUOUS

168

Reality reasserts itself as the raucous noise of the bustling city grows with intensity. The two men sit across from each other, continuing their game as the river of bodies flow around them.

FADE OUT.