

OVER BLACK:

INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH

JUICE WRLD (V.O.)
SOMETIMES ARE CONSCIOUS AND OUR
EMOTIONS IN DIFFERENT PLACES. KNOW
THAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING
YOU PUT YOU'RE MIND TO, JUST WORK-
HARD, GIVE IT YOU'RE ALL. THAT MY
MESSAGE TO THE YOUTH.

INTERCUT WITH:

JESSIE MURPH (V.O.)
"THE THINGS I'M DOING TODAY WILL
LEAD ME WHERE I WANT TO BE
TOMORROW. "I reside up in a musical
household territory , so music was
always around. Ever since I was
really little, music was always my
passion. It's always been something
I have committing of doing and it
always lifts me up even in my
darkest days."

JUICE WRLD & JESSIE MURPH
(V.O.)
MUSIC DOESN'T COME FROM YOUR HEART,
IT COMES FROM YOUR SOUL...

DARKNESS EXPEDITION UNVEILS A CHILLING TALE OF SUPERNATURAL
REVENGE AND PERSONAL REDEMPTION/BASED ON SUBCONSCIOUS
REVEALATIONS.

SMASH CUT TO:

FADE IN:

INT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME - JESSIE BEDROOM - DAY - RAINING

Rain patters against the window as JESSIE MURPHY, 17, a
pretty dark-haired girl, sits cross-legged on her bed, idly
strumming her guitar.

The SOUND OF SHOUTING FROM THE LIVING ROOM makes her head
whip up, annoyance flickering across her face. She sighs,
putting aside her instrument reluctantly.

CUT TO:

INT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessie hurries in to find her father ERICK, 30s, squared off against her brother RYAN, 18, who is clearly drunk and belligerent.

ERICK
(yelling)
Ryan, why are you doing this to yourself?!

RYAN
(slurring, defiant)
'Cause ever since Selina broke up with me, I haven't been the same!

JESSIE
(trying to calm the situation)
But Ryan, this isn't the way. You need to get help.

RYAN
(erupting in a drunken rage)
I don't need fuckin' help! I need my damn pills!

Ryan SHOVES past Jessie, making for the front door. She tries to grab his arm but he THROWS HER TO THE FLOOR with startling force. Erick moves to intervene but Ryan is already out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - RYAN'S CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Ryan's car TEARS down the rain-slick street, FISHTAILING wildly as he blows through a stop sign. Up ahead, the HEADLIGHTS OF AN ONCOMING TRUCK BLAZE THROUGH THE DOWNPOUR.

Ryan has only a split-second to REGISTER THE TRUCK before his car SMASHES HEAD-ON into a roadside tree with HORRIFIC FORCE.

The crumpled vehicle bounces back into the street, settling in a shower of glass and debris. In the stillness after, only the PATTERN OF RAIN on twisted metal can be heard.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME - JESSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Four hours later, Jessie numbly flicks on the TV, searching for a distraction from her grief. But the NEWS REPORT stops her cold:

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
...a tragic incident tonight, as a young man lost his life crashing his Honda into a tree on Greenway Boulevard. Police suspect alcohol was a factor...

Jessie GASPS, the remote falling from her hands as she collapses to the floor, SOBBING. Erick rushes in and pulls his devastated daughter into a tight embrace.

FADE OUT

TITLE CARD: DARKNESS EXPEDITION

MONTHS LATER

EXT. AUBURN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - MORNING

Erick's car idles at the curb as Jessie stares anxiously out the window at the impressive campus buildings looming ahead.

JESSIE
(hesitant)
Dad, are you sure about this? A fresh start...?

ERICK
(reassuring smile)
You need this, kiddo.

ERICK (CONT'D)
Just focus on your studies and putting the past behind you, okay?

He gives her hand an encouraging squeeze as she unbuckles seatbelt with a deep, steadying breath.

ERICK (CONT'D)
Good luck, Jess. I'm proud of you.

Jessie returns his smile gratefully before shouldering her

bag and heading onto the busy campus.

CUT TO:

INT. AUBURN UNIVERSITY - HALLWAY - LATER

The hallway bustles with students as Jessie consults a campus map, looking frazzled trying to find her first class.

Further ahead, a TALL, HANDSOME STUDENT WITH A STYLISH FADE HAIRCUT catches her eye. Impulsively, she approaches him.

JESSIE

(formal humorous)

Excuse me hi, good morning. Do you know where Mr. Wilson's class is, by any chance? Sorry if I - startled you.

BRADLEY

(charming smile)

No biggie.

(smiles)

Actually, I'm heading there myself, I'm Bradley.

JESSIE

(relieved)

Jessica, but you can call me Jessie.

They shake hands, an undeniable spark of chemistry between them as they head off down the hallway together.

DISSOLVE TO:

Bradley exits a building, checking his phone when A SPORTY RED MUSTANG rolls up and HONKS, His buddy CALVIN leans across from the driver's seat.

CALVIN

Let's go man! We're gonna be late for Mitch's party!

BRADLEY

(Shaking his head wryly)

Can't tonight, I've got homework to crush.

As Calvin peels out, Bradley glances back to where Jessie is emerging from the same building. Their eyes meet and they exchange friendly waves before heading their separate ways.

DISSOLVE TO:

CALVIN
(taking a corner a bit too fast)
(MORE)

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Yo Bradley, who was that fine girl you were chatting up earlier?

BRADLEY
(nonchalantly shrug)
Just the new student, Jessica. She seems pretty cool.

CALVIN
(wiggling his eyebrows)
Well you know what they say about southern girls, my man...

Bradley just chuckles, shaking his head at his buddy's antics.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Bradley is texting on his phone as he walks through the grocery store aisles, grabbing items for breakfast.

BRADLEY
(texting)
Mom, I'm getting breakfast groceries for tomorrow.

His phone rings with a Skype video call from Jessie.

JESSIE (V.O.)
Hey Bradley, what are you up to?

Bradley answers the call, holding the phone up as he continues shopping.

BRADLEY
(Into phone)
Nothing, I'm just buying groceries for tomorrow. You?

JESSIE (V.O)
Just little stressful, dude I
really need a break, just putting
my mind on paper, you know.

BRADLEY
(impressed)
Wait, you right music? No wonder
you're very intelligent, okay
superstar.

JESSIE
(flirting)
Ok humor guy, says the expert of
reading a girls mind.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Hey I just this a back-up plan B,
my family its out of place -
relationship-wise.

BRADLEY
Tell me about it, I can relate.
Lets cut to the chase what type of
music you like to write?

JESSIE
(Contestanting him)
I will let you guess, take it as a
mind of riddles, pretty boy.

BRADLEY
Alright, um Pop, Rap, Rock, I'll
take that back...Country?

JESSIE
Okay it took you a short-term to
find the answer. Expert. Hey um I
need to tell you something --

Jessica dad ERICK threw something with glass towards the wall
with a mental velocity breakdown.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Um, Bradley I gotta go, I'll see
you tomorrow at school.

BRADLEY
Okay, good night.

Jessie hangs up with worriedess. Bradley continues shopping.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MURPHY FAMILY HOME - POOL YARD - CONTINUOUS

Erick staring at the water with his toes in the water with a cigarette faded by the demise of RYAN - Jessie feeling guilty of the situation.

ERICK
(high, irritated)
Jessie, I can't do this right now.

JESSIE
(standing in the background)
Ryan wouldn't wanted this for us,
we can't avoid the problem forever,
you taught me that.

ERICK
So what you suggesting, we leave
like that just..dust scattered in
the wind.

JESSIE
(advice spoken)
No, because everything in life it's
either a lesson or involvement of
growth, for the longest I been
running away from my problems, but
that ends now. I'll leave you alone
to come to your senses.

Jessie walks away. She enters her room to draw herself being on stage with the crowd in front of her dazzling in a sense of purpose, and coming up with a name for her artistic creativity...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. VIERA FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Bradley writing about the history of his surroundings and the strange horrible news of RYAN MURPHY passing --

--His mom **MADISON VIERA** (45) BLONDE, light brown hispanic individual enters his room.

BRADLEY
(heartattack of surprising)
Mom you scared me, can you please
knock next time.

MADISON
Sorry honey, if I startled you -
Dinner's ready.

BRADLEY

Ok I'll be down there in few
mintues.

Bradley continues writing - explicit second a red ball hits his bedroom window. He checked it out. Face expression of confusion and he sees the rolling RED BALL fall in a trail.

EXT. APARTMENTS DOWN ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Bradley follows the trail of the ball, he saw a poster of his trauma returned marked in RED "HELLO RAT"

- He sees a shadow of someone from a distance with glowing green emerald eyes...

BRADLEY

What the --

.

He hears someone skating in the same sidewalk as him. He eyes popped as a coincidence.

JESSIE

(smiles)

Hey you. What are you doing out-
here by yourself?

BRADLEY

(lying)

Just enjoying the night view to
reduce stress you know.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

JESSIE

I just moved in next-door to be
closer to the campus zipcode. Dude
trust me I didn't mean to creep you
out honestly man.

BRADLEY

(humor)

I guess strange coincidences huh?
Well honestly you look like a
rockstar with those skates.

JESSIE

(smiles, confort)

Dude I gotta give you that one.

(MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Good sense of humor, I bet no one
has told you that.

BRADLEY
Yeah, like I'm type of isloated
type of guy.

JESSIE
(genuine)
Auh, do you need a hug?

BRADLEY
(guard up)
I'm good, honestly Jessie, but uh-
thank you.

JESSIE
(offering)
Come'on, scary cat you scared of a
girl.

They hug each-other and gazing eachother in the eyes with an
inturrupted kiss. Jessie phone rings.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(On phone)
Sorry I gotta take this. Hey dad,
I'm just skating I'll be home by 10
o'clock. I'm just with a colleuge
friend.

BRADLEY
Your dad, sounds like my parents.

JESSIE
(patting in his chest)
Tell me about it. Come'on I wanna
show you something.

BRADLEY
But it's late I gotta -- .

JESSIE
(pulling his arm gently)
Trust me it will be fun.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. NASHVILLE RIVER - NIGHT

A Foggy lake with a high-top dock with Christmas lights with a fairest well ride track with outdoors speakers.

BRADLEY

(amazed)

What is this place?

JESSIE

(logical memory)

This was childhood place to get away from everything, I call it the MURPHY SANCTUARY, It's was abandon for 20 years after something polluted the area.

(MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Right after a group of teenagers explored the area and they weren't seen or heard again.

BRADLEY

That's scary but hey that's life we can't let fear control us. So what brought you to Tennessee.

JESSIE

Well after I suffered a death of a family member, I departed from Memphis, I need a fresh start so when I heard about AUBURN college my dream college but I had doubts of being accepted I miss so many days of High-school my GPA was affected.

BRADLEY

Trauma can really impact a person but through adversity that were strength of resilience and not letting anything stand in your way towards your dreams. But yeah I can relate.

JESSIE

(curious)

What's your story? I'm curious honestly because I never met someone like with a good sense of humor and so reserved with their thoughts and anti-social.

BRADLEY

Well, my family separated, lived with a single-parent which is my mom and after what happened to a close-love one framed for murder my life changed, how life can shape the course of history.

JESSIE

Who was he if you don't mind me asking?

BRADLEY

(figertive language)

Let's just say he was my guardian angel. In a way of unforgivness of the things I did.

(nods his head-down)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Just feel guilty and irresponsible the sake of others.

JESSIE

(lift his chin up)

Hey look at me. We are going to survive this, you said it yourself, when we confront adversity that when we make the decisions of how to inturpet it and chaneling our pain into our greatest strength.

(touches his face)

To be honest since I met you, I know we been through alot of sh*t but hey we are still standing in a HOLY GROUND".

.

They locked themselves in a chance of something greater than pain is to fall in love, with a sense of life's second chances as their journey begins with an EXPEDITION"

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MUSIC CUE: "HAZE" UNREALEASED BY JUICE WRLD"

NOTE: THIS COVER THE ENTIRE SCENE.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. NASHVILLE RIVER - FARRIS WHEEL - CONTINUOUS

Jessie and Bradley kissing and slowly getting sensual of curing their pain and sorrow into something very beautiful like meeting their other-half in the beginning of their story...

Beyond the shadows awaits them into the events to come with pertigoius balance of the aspects of life itself. A figure standing watching them with mortality of terror.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. AUBURN UNIVERSITY - HALLWAY - MORNING

Jessie is walking briskly down the hall, heading to class. She passes Jacob, Ryan's best friend.

JACOB

Hey Jessie, is that you?

Jessie stops, turning to face him.

JESSIE

Yeah, how have you been?

JACOB

Good, I'm surprised you moved here to this school.

(MORE)

Your eyes are beautiful. I'd like to take you out on a date sometime.

JESSIE

(taken aback)

Sorry I have a boyfriend. I have to get to class.

JACOB

I insist. I'm not taking no for an answer.

JESSIE

(Firm)

Let me go!

From a distance, Bradley sees the confrontation. He rushes over.

BRADLEY

(standing up for Jessie)

Hey! Let her go.

JACOB
(taunting)
What are you gonna do, tough guy?

Bradley punches Jacob in the face. Three security guards rush in to break up the fight. Jacob's girlfriend, Selena, walks by and witnesses the scene.

JESSIE
(to Selena)
What are you doing here? And why the hell did your boyfriend compliment my eyes?

SELENA
Because you reminded him of your brother.

JESSIE
Why are you telling me this like you care?

SELENA
(regretful)
Because I regret cheating on him, and I take full responsibility for his suicide.

Jessie is stunned into silence for a moment.

JESSIE
I want to know why you cheated on him, because he loved you to death.

SELENA
(resigned)
Because of my personality, I felt like the relationship wasn't going to last long.

JESSIE
(disgusted)
Really? That's all you have to say? I'm out of here.

Jessie storms off down the hallway, leaving Selena behind.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PARK - THE BENCH - AFTERNOON

Jessie and Bradley are sitting on a park bench, having an intimate conversation.

JESSIE
Thanks for meeting me.

BRADLEY
Yeah, I want to apologize for--

JESSIE
--trust me, it's not your fault.

But thanks for standing up for me.

BRADLEY
I did what any other man could've
done.

They gaze into each other's eyes, leaning in closer. Just as they're about to kiss, Bradley's phone rings, interrupting the moment.

JESSIE
Shit, we can't have a moment to
ourselves.

BRADLEY
(disappointed)
Sorry, I gotta take this.

JESSIE
It's fine.

Bradley answers the call.

BRADLEY
(into phone)
Hello?

PRIVATE CALLER
Hey, Brad or I should correct
myself hero of the story.
Converstion going pretty well with
a new lover.

BRADLEY
(irritated)
Who the hell is this? Fuck off!

Jessie looks worried feeling something off. Her caring nature calm Bradley down from overwhelming emotions.

JESSIE
Babe you can talk to me, what's
wrong.

BRADLEY

Um, yesterday at the dock, something was watching us and this thing is been after me for while.

JESSIE

(worried)

What are you talking about? I-don't understand.

BRADLEY

The teenagers that disappeared that night was my ex-girlfriend and a group of friends from high school. They went on a expedition to that river and never came back.

JESSIE

(Scared)

What the hell.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Wait my brother died near that river we were on yesterday. I know it might seem personal but I don't think this is a coincidence.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NASHVILLE FOREST - ROAD - LATER

Bradley and Jessie are walking in the road holding hands for support.

BRADLEY

Hey, this is therapeutic mentally.

JESSIE

Yeah, I'm getting the hang of it.

(beat)

But tell me more about this trauma connected to you now. Maybe if we talk about it will help little bit.

BRADLEY

Everything started when...

INT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK/ FRONT ENTERNECE - FLASHBACK

The night was cold with a group of 4 teenagers breaking an enitery with equipment of camping.

CAROLINA HERANDEZ(15) Blonde hair and Green eyes/**TYRONE RICHESON** (15) african- american teen gangster with a strong protective fiercely nature/ **MEGAN HERANDEZ** (15) blonde hair and blue aqua eyes.

Sister of Carolina (known as the geinus of intellectual of sloving mystery. With fire torches holding alongside of them with their fourth memember which is **UNKNOWN Hidden character** (15) with intellectual of ildlogy the origin of the path of darkness.

CAROLINA
Is this the place?

TYRONE
Hell yeah it is, damn man I wish I could live on instagram for this shit but no reception.

MEGAN
Come'on guys lets focus on what we are looking for.

TYRONE
Yo!, I think I might found something.

Tryone finds an abandoned bridge with a awful smell of swamp pollution with the bridge with broken branches with unsteady balance -

MEGAN
(cautious)
Ty be careful, please do go speedwalking.

They find black and white butterflies moths with colorful majestic cocoons with a collection leading to the restricted part of the area, where sinister below the layer awaits them.

CAROLINA
These butterflies smells like cookies and cream. Guys whats that light.

The forest starts making noise of owls trying to alert them of danger straight ahead.

TYRONE
(pulls out a gun)
I don't care imma man, I ain't scared of sh*t.

A big white humid fog circulating around them. The energy shifted from exploring to a haunted puzzle game. The fog gets stronger and they divided them 4 but mystery fourth member stays silent the truth is covered in a track of the UNKNOWN.

TYRONE (CONT'D)
Hey come'on stop fooling around
assholes.

A sound of snakes crawling from the trees and the ground starts making noise and the terror of the danger begins...

TYRONE (CONT'D)
(loads his gun)
Who's there.
(fearful)
Come'on shit-bag.

A snakes crawls in Tyrone left leg tries to bite him and he drops his Glock-19 and someone whispers echoes.

UNKNOWN (O.C.)
(echoes, voice-changer)
Hello Tyrone, you brought my family
here. You came here to find me now
be careful what you wish for "DUM
BOY"!

The figure kills Tyrone with his Glock-19/ Carolina and Megan in their own trails with procaution finding what behind the terror.

MEGAN
Carolina were's Ty?

CAROLINA
That's bozo playing hide and seek
with us.

Megan Phone rings. THE CALL TITLED "UNKNOWN CALLER"

MEGAN
Hello.

UNKNOWN (O.C.)
(Over the phone)
Hey Ms.Herandez enjoying the game.

MEGAN
Who is this?

UNKNOWN
Well, too unlucky for Ty, he can't
speak because he's dead.

A variety of arrows flashing back and fourth leaving Megan ducking in the ground in the grass and a figure walking cracking the branches while playing jesters to controlling the fear.

MEGAN
Who's are you.

UNKNOWN
(voice changer)
"The shadow of accopulipse"
HAHHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!!!!

The figure shoots Megan's head leaving her dead. Carolina framed for murder with a police case that was left unresolved.

END OF FLASHBACK.

BACK TO:

EXT. NASHVILLE FOREST ROAD - CONTINUOUS

BRADLEY
So that was the story.

JESSIE
Did the police ever found the guy?

BRADLEY
No, never heard or seen again until yesterday.

JESSIE
(conspiracy theory)
Don't worry we will find the answers of that night, their something you're not telling me isn't it.

BRADLEY
I was in Memphis when that happened I was escorted out by my mom of the neighborhood when I was 12 to protect my identity envolved in the friendships associated with them.

JESSIE
I'm so sorry, you had to go through that, no kid deserves to carry that weight of trauma in their childhood.

BRADLEY
(relization)
Yeah but I deult with lot of
struggles but ever since draw about
it, it helps transcript my inner
demons into something authentic.

JESSIE
(Idealistic)
Speaking of coping mechanisms I may
have something you might like.

BRADLEY
What is it?

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. MURPHY SANCTUARY - CHILDHOOD MUSIC STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

JESSIE
Well for starters I like to write
music and sing.

BRADLEY
What gave you inspiration?

JESSIE
Well Lil BABY. Dude's a beast and
when my mom was around I always
liked to play instruments in my
lowest moments and in my life
experiences shaped the type of
music I put-out to the world, gave
me a chance of sharing my stories
lyrically.

BRADLEY
Have you promote your music online
or photo-shoot or creating covers
of your art.

JESSIE
(impressed)
Okay, I see you know a few things.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(nodding)
So what made you come back to
nashville?

BRADLEY
(somber)
Well I know what it's like to feel
(MORE)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
in a pitch of darkness. In my
experience, my parents had an
altercation and I was separated
from my TWIN brother because of the
thing haunted my family that night.

JESSIE
(concerned)
Oh my god! Are you okay?

BRADLEY
Yeah, but he far away from me.

JESSIE
What's his name?

BRADLEY
Brandon. He's known as one of the
most dangerous criminals in
Tennessee.

Jessie takes Bradley's hands in hers with compassion.

JESSIE
I feel like we're on the same page
of a book. But sometimes the future
is uncertain, weather is or isn't
unfinished business.

BRADLEY
The same goes for you too.

Jessie gently touches Bradley's face, prompting him to gaze
into her eyes. The tension builds as their faces draw closer,
and they share their second kiss.

Jessie turn on the switch of her music-studio from her
childhood with a microphone starts singing a song from her
work development called "PRAY"

MUSIC CUE: "PRAY" BY JESSIE MURPH

NOTE: JESSIE CHARACTER SINGS THE SONG WITH ENTIRE SCENE

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. JESSIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Jessie and Bradley lie entangled in bed, caught up in a
passionate embrace, kissing deeply. Their movements are
sensual as they make love for the first time.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JESSIE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

The harsh blare of an alarm jolts them awake. Jessie angrily swats it off the nightstand, sending it crashing to the floor.

JESSIE
(shaking Bradley)
Bradley, wake up.

Bradley stirs, yawning as he slowly rouses from sleep.21.

BRADLEY
(groggy)
Yeah?

JESSIE
Do you realize what time it is?

Bradley's eyes widen as realization dawns.

BRADLEY
Oh my god, my mom is gonna kill me.

He leaps out of bed and hastily gets dressed while Jessie watches with amusement.

FADE TO:

EXT. BRADLEY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

Bradley's mother, MADISON, waits impatiently, arms crossed as Bradley rushes up the front walk.

MADISON
(upset)
Where were you all night?

BRADLEY
(defensive)
Mom, I'm old enough to not be arguing about things without an explanation.

MADISON
As long as you live under my roof, you owe me answers.

BRADLEY
(arguing)
Okay, fine!
(MORE)

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
I was at my girlfriend's house,
okay? You happy?

Madison takes a deep, calming breath.

MADISON
Okay, you're right, honey. You're
old enough. But what's the one
Thing I always tell you? You are
responsible for what you say and
what you do.

BRADLEY
(resolute)
I wanted to tell you that I'm going
out of town because of my past
trauma with Brandon.

MADISON
(surprised)
If that's what you want to do, then
that's your decision.

Bradley nods and goes inside to pack his things. Moments
later, he emerges with a suitcase as Jessie waits for him in
her idling car.

BRADLEY
(to Madison)
Mom, I promise I'll be okay.

MADISON
(hugging him)
Okay, stay safe out there.

BRADLEY
Bye, Mom.

MADISON
Bye, honey.

Bradley loads his suitcase into Jessie's trunk, then gets
into the passenger seat. They drive off, leaving Madison
watching from the porch as they depart.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPER: 10 YEARS LATER

INT. TENNESSEE - NEW HOME - DAY

The cozy family home is filled with the aroma of a home-
cooked breakfast.

JESSIE (O.S.)
(calling out)
Honey, breakfast is ready!

Jessie stands at the kitchen counter, placing food onto plates as BRADLEY and their teenage son **BRYCE** (15) enter.

BRYCE
(taking a seat)
Mom, this breakfast is delicious.

BRADLEY
(leaning in to kiss
Jessie)
Good morning, babe.

BRYCE
Dad, do you know by any chance
where I left my phone?

BRADLEY
I think you left it in the garage.

BRYCE
Okay, thank you.

Bryce heads off toward the garage.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW HOME - GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Bryce rummages through boxes, searching for his missing phone. Underneath some clutter, he spots a red envelope on the floor and picks it up curiously.

BRYCE (O.S.)
(reading the note)
"What the hell is this? I know your
father very well, and he has a past
that he never told you about
before. And I know his secret.
"If you want to come and find me,
here's the address"

INT. NEW HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Bryce walks back in, holding a note. Bradley looks up expectantly.

BRADLEY
Did you find it?

BRYCE

Not exactly... I found this instead.

Bryce holds out a red envelope. Bradley freezes, his expression darkening with recognition. He quickly takes it from Bryce's hand.

BRADLEY

(tense)

Um... I'll be right back.

Bradley heads straight for the stairs, envelope clutched tightly.

BRYCE

(worried)

Dad, are you okay?

BRADLEY

(quickly, raising his voice slightly)

Yeah. I just need to take care of something.

Jessie moves to comfort Bryce as Bradley disappears upstairs.

BRYCE

(concerned)

Mom... what was that? Why did he look so freaked out?

JESSIE

(staying calm)

Sometimes your dad holds on to things he shouldn't. He's still working through a lot.

BRYCE

But I didn't mean to find anything. It was just on the floor.

JESSIE

I know, sweetie. It's not your fault. He's just... carrying something heavy. We'll talk to him when he's ready.

.FADE TO:

INT. MENTAL ASYLUM - LATER

*A long, flickering corridor. Bryce walks cautiously, holding the note and glancing nervously at the numbered cell doors. He stops at **Cell 54**—its window dark.*

BRYCE
(calling)
Hello? You asked me to come. My
parents don't know I'm here.

A low chuckle echoes from within.

BRANDON (O.C.)
Hello, Bryce. I figured you'd come.
You're curious—just like I was
once.

Bryce peers into the darkness, trying to make out a figure.

BRYCE
Who... who are you?

BRANDON
Let's just say—I'm your father's
biggest regret.

BRYCE
(frustrated)
Cut the crap. I came for answers.
Show me your face.

A click echoes. A dim overhead light flickers on, revealing BRANDON—his face hauntingly identical to Bradley's.

The walls behind him are covered in disturbing drawings—scenes of Bradley's life, Jessie, Bryce... and one name scratched over and over: CAROLINA.

BRYCE (CONT'D)
(staggered)
Oh my god... You look exactly like
my dad.

BRANDON
(smiling)
That's because we're brothers.
Twins, technically.
(leans forward)
But he'd rather erase me than
acknowledge the truth.

BRYCE
Why has he never told me?

BRANDON

Because after what happened with Carolina—your father didn't want the world thinking he was unstable. And locking me away? That was easier than facing what really happened.

BRYCE

(confused)

Who is Carolina?

BRANDON

His first love... more importantly stolen love one. And the reason everything fell apart.

A beat. Bryce stares, struggling to process.

BRYCE

So... all this time, he lied to me?

BRANDON

No, Bryce. He protected you—from me.

A POLICE OFFICER approaches the cell.

POLICE OFFICER

Alright, Brandon. That's enough. Back away from the glass.

BRANDON

(to Bryce)

We'll talk again. There's more to this story than your father will ever admit.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bradley stands by the dresser, the red envelope still clutched in his hand. Jessie watches him, arms crossed, her eyes brimming with frustration and heartbreak.

BRADLEY

(softly, guilt-ridden)

I know I've messed up... I know it's been over ten years, but I still carry the guilt. I can't shake it. I hate how it still owns me.

JESSIE

(sighs, voice cracking)
Bradley, I've stood by you. I've loved you through the darkness. But I can't keep loving someone who refuses to love himself.

BRADLEY

(pleading)
I'm trying, Jessie. I swear I'm trying.

JESSIE

(frustrated)
Trying isn't enough anymore. We've been through hell—and I stayed, hoping you'd come back to me, to us. But all you do is drown in the past. And I'm tired. I'm so damn tired.

BRADLEY

(angry, confused)
So what, you're kicking me out now?

JESSIE

(cutting him off, voice raised)
I'm saying I need space. I need peace. You should go. Pack a bag. Stay with Calvin or whoever... just not here. Not right now.

Bradley stands frozen, absorbing the blow. He slowly nods, his voice barely above a whisper.

BRADLEY

Okay. If that's what you want... then I'll go.

Jessie turns away, fighting tears. Bradley quietly grabs a duffel bag from the closet.

FADE OUT.

INT. THE BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Bradley drinking sip after sip repetitively to manage the pain/
a surprise guest encounters him.

BAR TENDER

Hey, man are you going to keep
paying for the 14 shots. I can't
letting it slide.

Carolina's return of being discharged from Juvenile emerged
with strange coincidences of revelation of the past events.

CAROLINA

Make that two please.

BRADLEY

Carolina, what are you doing here?.

CAROLINA

This was our old spot, remember
before all the bullsh*t we went
through. I just got out last week.
What's sup with you.

BRADLEY

(shows her a photo frame
of BRANDON)
I just into an argument with my
wife about him.

CAROLINA

Have you heard from him?

BRADLEY

Rumors say he hasn't spoke and turn
very autistic ever since that
night.

CAROLINA

Strange being back where everything
started, now that I'm out the
future is uncertain.

BRADLEY

It felt like it happened yesterday,
sometimes when you run from fear
it's catches up to you.

Carolina has a small gliderly gray crystal of a small picture
frame of Her and Megan hugging eachother.

CAROLINA

(holding his arm)
Come'on I'll drive you home. Hey,
watch it.

BRADLEY
 (small note of address)
 Alright take me to this hotel.

CUT TO BLACK.

Carolina and Bradley wonders off/ Brandon in his cell drawing the event that took place in the everglades -- a group of inmates masculating him , teasing him of his quiet nature.28.

INT. MENTAL ASYLUM - SHOWER ROOM - NIGHT

Brandon taking a hot shower with steam of vapor while thinking his plan to escape getting self-justice on those who wronged and played with him in a psychological emotional level.

Group of inmates enter the shower-room trying to bully him- but Brandon is mistaken for being quiet converted into dangerous that the inmates themselves doesn't know what they envolved into.

IMMATE #1
 (laughs)
 Look at this doosh-bag, what mommy left you and never came back.

IMMATE #2
 (teasing him)
 He's getting in his feelings like a little baby when his mom knew he was a mistake.

BRANDON
 (laughing, death stare)
 Hello fellas, on the contary you don't know who you're messing with.

The inmates pulls out a shank and they group up in circles surrounding him while other close the shower room door perventing any guards from coming in.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
 (deep fearless tone)
 Now let's find out.

Immater #1 tries to stab Brandon but he twists his wrist and grabbing the shank slitting his throat - Immater #2 tries to punch-him in the face and Brandon's reflexes is uncontested with a brutal elbow force straight to the Immater nose breaking it against the wall fishing him stabbing him twice -

Immater #3 and along with Immater #4 big buff tried to giving Brandon a headlock - while Brandon was three steps ahead the situation with a taser in his pocket fishing the last two with a final electric blow in the eye balls.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
 (laughing evilly)
 Lights out fellas HAHAAHAHAHA
 AURGH!!!!

Brandon leaves the shower-room shut down the lights - Pulls the Fire-alarm as the guards breaks-in the shower room he takes advantage of the moment going back to his cell window melting it down in a fast-paced action.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
 Now the real fun begins.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. NEW HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

JESSIE is washing dishes when her phone rings. It's Bradley calling from the Burger Flakes Hotel.

JESSIE (V.O.)
 (declined call)
 I can't do this right now?

INT. BURGER FLAKES HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Bradley is alone in his hotel room, looking paranoid. He hears a KNOCK at the door and freezes.

BRADLEY (O.S.)
 (calls out)
 Hello!

He cautiously approaches the door, peering through the peephole. Seeing no one, he turns away, about to go back inside when--

The door BURSTS open, and BRANDON enters, SWINGING a glass bottle, CRACKING Bradley over the head. Bradley crumples to the floor, unconscious.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. DARK WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Bradley slowly comes to, groggy and disoriented. He's tied to a chair in a dimly lit basement. His head is pounding from the blow.

BRADLEY (O.S.)
(yelling)
Help! Help! Help!

The basement door CREAKS open, and Brandon emerges from the shadows, a sinister grin on his face.

BRANDON
Hey, Bradley.

BRADLEY
(shocked)
How the hell did you escape?

BRANDON
(nonchalant)
It doesn't matter anymore. What's important is that I'm here now, back in your life. I will finish what I started.

Bradley struggles against his restraints.

BRADLEY
I swear, if you lay a hand on my family, I will fucking kill you.

Brandon pulls out a syringe filled with a clear liquid and injects it into Bradley's neck.

BRANDON
Just be quiet.

Bradley's eyes go wide as the drug takes effect, leaving him groggy and compliant. Brandon digs into Bradley's pockets and retrieves his phone, dialing Jessie.

INT. NEW HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jessie jumps when her phone rings, Bradley's number flashing on the display.

JESSIE
(into phone)
Bradley, I told you-

.

BRANDON (V.O.)
-This is not Bradley.

JESSIE
(alarmed)
What did you do to him?

BRANDON (V.O.)
Nothing yet. Have you figured out
any clues in order to save him?

JESSIE
(confused)
What do you mean clues?

BRANDON (V.O.)
I mean the one your son found in
the garage.

JESSIE
(realizing)
What do you want with my son?

BRANDON (V.O.)
Come alone. No cops, or else he
dies.

The line goes dead. Jessie stares at the phone in stunned
silence.

INT. NEW HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JESSIE
I was wondering where you were.

BRYCE
I went to go visit that dad fear
the most.

JESSIE
Tell me you didn't do it. Why did
you visit him. Are you crazy.

BRYCE
(concerned)
Mom there things dad is keeping
from us and I'm your my parents and
I can't be prevented of knowing
something personal and that affects
he picking up the pieces that
happened so long ago. I'm your son
and you are his wife.

Jessie calls Bradley on SKYPE.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. DARK WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Brandon ends the call and turns his attention back to the drugged, semi-conscious Bradley.

BRANDON
(talking to himself)
Well, Bradley, what am I going to
do with you?

20 MINUTES LATER

EXT. DARK WAREHOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Jessie's car pulls up outside the abandoned warehouse. She unbuckles her seatbelt, her hand resting on the taser at her hip.

JESSIE
We're here.

BRYCE
I'm coming too.

JESSIE
No, it's too dangerous. Stay in the
car.

BRYCE
But Mom--

JESSIE
(firm)
No buts.

She gets out and closes the car door behind her.

INT. DARK WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jessie shines her flashlight, sweeping the beam across the dim interior as she searches for the basement access.

JESSIE (O.S.)
(paranoid)
Hello?

Her voice echoes eerily. Finally, she locates a door leading to the basement stairwell and cautiously descends.

INT. DARK WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

BRADLEY (O.S.)

Jessie!

JESSIE

Bradley! Oh my God, are you okay?

She rushes over and starts untying the ropes binding him to the chair.

BRADLEY

Yeah-yeah. Hurry up!

She works frantically, pulling at the knots. The ropes fall away.

JESSIE

Come on, we have to go-now.

BRADLEY

(hesitates)

Wait... he said there was a bomb.

If it's not here, then-where is it?

Realization hits Jessie like a truck.

JESSIE

Oh my God... Bryce!

FADE OUT.

EXT. DARK WAREHOUSE - FRONT ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Bryce sits nervously in the front seat of Jessie's idling car. He glances toward the warehouse.

CRASH!

A massive fist SMASHES through the rear window-glass rains down as **BRANDON** grabs Bryce from behind.

BRANDON

Say bye-bye, Bryce.

With a sadistic grin, Brandon presses a detonator.

BOOM!

The car ERUPTS in a fireball. Flames shoot into the night sky. The blast rocks the ground.

JESSIE (O.S.)
(screaming)
NO! NOOO!

Jessie and Bradley burst from the warehouse—just in time to see the burning wreckage. Jessie falls to her knees, gutted.

Brandon LAUGHS maniacally. He leaps onto a parked motorcycle and TEARS off into the distance.

BRADLEY
Quick—over there!

They jump on another bike. Bradley hits the throttle. The chase is on.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT - LATER

A blistering high-speed pursuit. The wind howls past. Traffic blurs. Headlights whip by. Jessie clutches Bradley tightly.

EXT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Brandon's motorcycle sputters—then DIES.

BRANDON
Damn it!

He kicks it aside and vanishes into the dark swamp, swallowed by reeds and shadows.

Moments later, Bradley and Jessie SKID to a stop. Jessie leaps off the bike, taser in hand.

BRADLEY
(pulling off helmet)
We're here... where it all started.

JESSIE
And where it ends.

She storms into the wetland, eyes burning.

EXT. EVERGLADES - DEEPER - CONTINUOUS

Jessie moves through tall reeds. Mosquitoes buzz. Frogs croak. The air is thick and alive.

She spots Brandon ahead, half-hidden in moonlight.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(shouting)
No place left to run!

Brandon slowly turns, bloodied but smiling.

BRANDON
(mocking)
Go on. Do it. Kill me.
Oh, that's right... you're not a
killer, are you?

Jessie's hand trembles. She raises the taser.

BRADLEY (O.S.)
Jessie—NO!

CRACK! Jessie SCREAMS and FIRES. Barbs embed in Brandon's chest. He convulses, drops to his knees, gasping.

JESSIE
JUST. STOP. TALKING!

CRACK! CRACK!

Two muffled sniper shots ring out from the brush.

One bullet WHIZZES past Brandon. The other—**THWUMP!**—hits Jessie in the shoulder.

She stumbles, CRYING OUT in pain, and collapses into Bradley's arms.

BRADLEY
Jessie! No—no no no!

Brandon, seizing the moment, disappears into the dense swamp.

Bradley presses on her wound, eyes scanning the dark wilderness.

Shadows move in the distance—quiet, quick, gone.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

A gray sky looms overhead. BRADLEY stands silently before BRYCE's freshly dug grave. The wind rustles the surrounding trees as he stares down, conflicted but composed — a flicker of peace in his eyes.

BRADLEY (V.O.)
(softly, to himself)
I can't believe you're really gone.
I'll promise you one thing — I'll
get justice.

A soft *CLICK* – footsteps on gravel – breaks the silence.

Bradley turns.

His mother, *MADISON*, approaches slowly. Her face is etched with grief, but there's clarity in her eyes. She stops beside him, looking not at the grave – but into the past.

MADISON

I saw everything that night... the
night Brandon lost himself.
It wasn't just the darkness – it
was what your father did.
Delvin's rage... the things he
said... it shattered Brandon before
anything else ever could.

Bradley lowers his gaze, the weight of old memories
returning.

MADISON (CONT'D)

You were too young to understand...
but now, maybe you're ready to know
what really happened.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - CONTINUOUS

Bradley stands beside *Madison*, absorbing her words. He
finally looks at her, searching.

BRADLEY

What really happened?

Madison hesitates. Her eyes mist over as the wind carries her
back into the past...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. VIERA FAMILY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Thunder rumbles outside. A YOUNGER *MADISON* and *DELVIN*
VIERA are mid-argument. Their voices clash over the sound of
rain hammering the windows.

In the hallway, 9-year-old *BRANDON* and 7-year-old *BRADLEY* sit
side by side, huddled in fear. They peek through the cracked
doorway, watching their parents explode.

DELVIN

He's my son too, *Madison*! You can't
keep pushing me out of this family!

MADISON

And what exactly are you going to do, Delvin? Take him and run away every time life gets hard?

DELVIN

(furious)

Maybe that's exactly what I need to do! Brandon deserves better than this — than watching you fall apart every damn day!

MADISON

(voice breaking)

And what about Bradley?! He's just a boy!

DELVIN

Brandon needs me more. Bradley's... weak. He'll be fine with you.

The words hit like a knife.

YOUNG BRADLEY

(whispering to Brandon)

Don't go with him...

Brandon's eyes water, torn between the two people he loves. Delvin storms into the hallway, grabbing Brandon's small suitcase.

DELVIN (O.S.)

Let's go, Brandon. Now.

Brandon hesitates. Then, as if pulled by guilt and confusion, he follows.

Young Bradley watches in silence — a boy abandoned.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY (PRESENT)

Bradley's jaw clenches as he stares ahead, reliving the trauma.

BRADLEY

He chose Brandon... and left me behind.

MADISON

It broke us all. Brandon was never the same after that night. And neither were you.

Bradley nods slowly – a fire rekindled in his eyes.

BRADLEY

Then it's time to clean up this mess what that night started.

MADISON

I know I can't change what happened even you didnt grow up completely with Brandon, but Brandon is still out there. You need to stop him.

CAROLINA

Yeah, same for me.

MADISON

Carolina it's been a -

CAROLINA

-yea I know, can I have a minute with Brad?

MADISON

Yeah sure, honey take care okay

Kisses him in the forehead a signal of hope and resilience.

BRADLEY

(surprised)

Carolina, what are you--

CAROLINA

(interrupting)

I heard what happened. It's been--

BRADLEY

(nodding)

--it's been a while. I know.

CAROLINA

I'm sorry about Bryce, I know that feeling of sadness and sorrow i had that same face expression when my sister died.

An uneasy silence stretches between them.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

You might be asking what the reason for me being here.

BRADLEY

(cautious)

What is it?

CAROLINA
Because our story with Brandon has
to be told. And you know why? It's
because I know your secret.

Bradley tenses, a flicker of fear crossing his features.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)
What would your family think
keeping secrets about that night in
memphis.

BRADLEY
(pleading)
Please, Carolina, don't make my
relationship with my family get
split apart.

CAROLINA
(ominous)
Trust me, you can keep the secret
in the dark. Someday, it will
reveal itself in the light.

Bradley averts his gaze, exhaling a frustrated sigh.

BRADLEY
(dismissive)
Whatever, Carolina.

He turns and walks away, leaving Carolina staring
contemplatively at Brandon's grave.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. BRANDON'S MURDER TRIAL - LATER

The courtroom is silent as JUDGE MARK bangs his gavel,
calling the proceedings to order.

JUDGE MARK
Okay, everyone, please take a seat.
(to Bradley)
Bradley, are you ready to testify,
sir?

BRADLEY
(nodding)
Yes, your Honor.

Bradley takes the witness stand as the PROSECUTOR begins

questioning him.

PROSECUTOR

What is your relationship with
Brandon, sir?

BRADLEY

He is my long-lost twin.

PROSECUTOR

Why was Brandon trying to kill you?
37.

BRADLEY

(hesitant)

Because of...my past trauma with
him.

PROSECUTOR

You'll need to elaborate more for
us to understand.
The courtroom doors open, and CAROLINA strides in
confidently.

CAROLINA

If he doesn't tell you, I know I
will.

JUDGE MARK

(to Bradley)

Okay, Bradley, switch places with
this young lady.
Bradley steps down as Carolina takes the witness stand.

CAROLINA

I will answer the questions.

PROSECUTOR

What is your relationship with
Bradley?

CAROLINA

He's my ex-boyfriend, sir.

PROSECUTOR

Elaborate on why Brandon was trying
to kill Bradley.

CAROLINA

Because he had an admiration
towards me. His jealousy towards
Bradley became hatred.

PROSECUTOR

Okay. Anything else you would like
to add?

CAROLINA

(nodding)
The truth.

PROSECUTOR

Proceed.38.

CAROLINA

(taking a breath)
The main reason Brandon was trying
to kill my ex-boyfriend is because
Bradley is responsible for Ryan
Murphy's death.

Gasps ripple through the courtroom as Carolina produces an
audio tape.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

I brought the evidence in an audio
tape.

JUDGE MARK

May you play the tape for everyone
to hear?

CAROLINA

Yes, your Honor.

She presses play on the recorder. BRANDON'S distorted voice
fills the courtroom.

BRANDON (V.O.)

(through tape)
Hello, Jessie. If you're listening
to this, that means something went
wrong. Your boyfriend is
(MORE)

BRANDON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
responsible for your brother's
death.

The tape ends, leaving a deafening silence. Jessie, seated in the gallery, shoots Bradley a look of pure venom.

JESSIE
(shouting)
Bradley, how could you do this to
me?!

BRADLEY
(in tears)
Please, Jessie, I can explain.

JESSIE
(enraged)
There's nothing you can fucking
explain! Arrest him!

Two bailiffs apprehend Bradley, slapping handcuffs on his wrists as he pleads with Jessie.

BRADLEY
(begging)
Jessie, please, it was an accident.
You gotta believe me.

JESSIE
(yelling)
I hope you rot in prison!

Bradley is forcibly dragged from the courtroom as Jessie breaks down in Carolina's arms, the truth about her boyfriend's dark secret finally exposed.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. NEW HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessie lies motionless in bed, staring blankly at the ceiling as the weight of Bradley's betrayal crushes down on her.

Tears stream silently down her cheeks. Suddenly, she sits up, resolve hardening her features.

Jessie slides out of bed and makes her way to the bathroom, turning the shower on full blast.

INT. NEW HOME - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Steam fogs the mirrors as Jessie steps under the scalding spray, letting the water mask the sound of her anguished sobs. Her cries turn to screams as she vents her pain and rage.

After an indeterminate time, Jessie shuts off the water and exits the shower, wrapping a towel around herself. She catches a glimpse of her puffy, red-rimmed eyes in the mirror and looks away in disgust.

Seeking solace, Jessie retrieves a bottle of liquor from a cabinet and starts drinking straight from the bottle, desperate to numb her heartache.

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE: A MONTH LATER

INT. JESSIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - OLD BEDROOM - DAY

Jessie lies curled up in the fetal position on her childhood bed, the TV playing a rerun of SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS that she doesn't seem to be watching.

A soft KNOCK at the door causes her to stir slightly. It's her father, ERICK.

ERICK

(gently)

Sweetie, you haven't been outdoors
in a long time.

JESSIE

Dad, I don't feel like doing
anything.

ERICK

You've been saying that all month.
Come on, your friends from school
want to take you to the carnival.

He sits down beside her on the bed, putting a comforting hand on her shoulder.

ERICK (CONT'D)

Hey, look at me. Don't let that
bastard ruin your future because,
reality check, you're not going to
find something positive from it.

He pulls her into a tender embrace, and Jessie allows herself to relax into his arms, finding solace in her father's unconditional love.

JESSIE
(sniffling)
You're right, Dad. Ryan wouldn't have wanted this for me. Thank you so much for being realistic with me.

Erick smiles proudly as Jessie finally musters the will to get up and rejoin her friends, the first spark of life returning to her eyes.

EXT. THE AMUSEMENT PARK - NIGHT

Jessie and her best friend CLAIRE (20), a pretty girl with light brown hair, are strolling amongst the bright carnival games and rides, attempting to recapture some of their youthful spirit.

From across the way, a HANDSOME GUY catches Jessie's eye and starts walking towards them.⁴¹

HANDSOME GUY
Hey, excuse me. I saw you from a distance, and I think you're gorgeous.

JESSIE
(flustered)
Thank you.

HANDSOME GUY
What's your name? I'm Tristan, by the way.

JESSIE
I'm Jessica, but you can call me Jessie. Nice to meet you.

TRISTAN
Where are you from?

JESSIE
I'm from Alabama. You?

TRISTAN
Detroit.

An awkward pause stretches between them until Tristan flashes her a warm smile.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)
I like your smile.

JESSIE
(returning his grin)
Maybe we should get to know each other. You seem like a good vibe.

TRISTAN
Do you want to exchange numbers or something?

JESSIE
Yeah, I guess I'll see you later.

Tristan rejoins his friends as Jessie and Claire continue wandering the carnival.

CLARIE
Ooh, Jessie, who was that attractive guy you were talking to?

JESSIE
His name is Tristan, and I think he's kind of cute.

CLARIE
Is he into you?

JESSIE
Yes, I like his personality.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
He's different. I feel like life is giving me a second chance to find love.

Jessie's phone starts ringing with an UNKNOWN CALLER.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Hey, I'm gonna go to the bathroom to take this call.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AMUSEMENT PARK - PUBLIC RESTROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessie ducks into the restroom, answering her ringing phone cautiously.

JESSIE
(into phone)
Hello?

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
(voice distorted)
Hey Jess, miss me?

Jessie tenses, her grip tightening on the phone.

JESSIE
(into phone)
You're in prison. Bradley, if this
is you, just accept that you lost.

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
I never said I was Bradley.

JESSIE
(growing angry)
So it's not you, so who the hell is
this?

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
I would like to remain a private
caller. What did it feel like
killing Brandon?

Jessie's face contorts with a mix of rage and residual
trauma.

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
What silence is your unusual
response, murderous music girl.

JESSIE
(yelling into phone)
Whoever this is, go to hell!

She angrily ends the call and takes a moment to collect
herself before exiting the bathroom.

EXT. THE AMUSEMENT PARK - CONTINUOUS

Clarie grabbing elephant ears with large RED fruit-punch
slushy - Jessie looks upset trying to cool off her negative
emotions regarding killing Brandon wasn't mention in the
court-room.

CLARIE
Hey you okay?

JESSIE
Yeah just having an off day.

CLARIE
I got this maybe this will make you
feel better.

Jessie face expression transition to a smile while consuming
her favorite meal in the Amusement park.

FADE OUT

EXT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Tristan pulls Jessie into a warm embrace on her front porch.

TRISTAN
Hey.

JESSIE
Hey Tristan. Thanks for coming
over. I need to talk to someone
about my past trauma. It's about--

TRISTAN
(nodding)
--I know, it's about Brandon. I
heard it on the news.

JESSIE
(pained)
The pain he caused me, I can't let
it go.

Tristan takes Jessie's hands in his, his touch comforting.

TRISTAN
Hey, word of advice. The grass is
greener on the other side.

JESSIE
(sighing)
You're right. So what about you?
What made you come to Tennessee?

TRISTAN
(solemn)
Well, I've always been alone ever
since my parents passed away.

JESSIE
(sympathetic)
What happened? Never mind--

TRISTAN
(shaking his head)
It's okay, trust me.

TRISTAN (CONT'D)
They were going on an expedition,
studying the ancient demonic
creature the Leviathan, on a boat.
And they never returned, without a
trace.

Jessie squeezes his hand reassuringly.

JESSIE
It's like you said, it's not the
end of the world. Use that pain to
motivate yourself to do good
things.

They gaze into each other's eyes for a lingering moment
before coming together in a tender kiss, finding solace in
one another's shared pain.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. THE PENITENTIARY - JAIL CELL - NEXT DAY

Bradley sits hunched on his cot, furiously scribbling in a
small red journal. The sound of approaching FOOTSTEPS breaks
his concentration.

OFFICER
Bradley, you have a visitor.

Bradley looks up, surprised to see Jessie's father ERICK
standing on the other side of the bars, eyes burning with
barely contained fury.

BRADLEY
(Coolly)
Well, well, look who came to see
me.

ERICK
I want to look you in the eyes and
ask...why did you kill my son?

Bradley sets his journal aside, leaning back with an
unsettling calm.

BRADLEY
Well, it all started back in high
school...

INT. GEORGE WASHINGTON SENIOR HIGH - (FLASHBACK) - DAY

A TEENAGE BRADLEY walks down the busy high school hallway, heading towards his locker. Suddenly, the menacing figure of RYAN shoves him from behind.

RYAN
Hey newbie, you lost?

BRADLEY
(defiant)
No, I'm not. Fuck you.

Ryan's face twists with rage as he SLAMS his fist into Bradley's stomach. As Bradley doubles over, Ryan snatches his bookbag and sends its contents spilling across the floor.

Another STUDENT, SELENA, rushes over to help Bradley amid the taunting crowd.

SELENA
Hey, are you okay? Let me help you.
Don't listen to those assholes.

SELENA (CONT'D)
(offering her hand)
What's your name?

BRADLEY
(grimacing)
I'm Bradley.

SELENA
I'm Selena. Nice to meet you.
(glancing at Ryan)
You know them?

BRADLEY
The one who hit me, that was your boyfriend?

SELENA
(nodding sadly)
Yeah...I think I'm going to break up with him.

BRADLEY
(pensive)
I think I have a plan.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MENTAL ASYLUM - JAIL CELL - (FLASHBACK) - CONTINUOUS

Bradley stands outside the barred door of a shadowy cell, peering in at the dark, imposing figure of BRANDON sitting in the corner.

BRADLEY
I need your help.

Brandon lets out an unsettling CHUCKLE that seems to echo through the chamber.

BRANDON
(amused)
You came all the way here to ask
for help?

BRADLEY
(firm)
I'm being serious.

BRANDON
What's in it for me to help you?

Bradley pauses, steadying himself with a deep breath.

BRADLEY
We both know somewhere, deep down,
we are the same.

Brandon leans forward, intrigued, as the shadows play across his face.

BRANDON
Now I like this little attitude of
yours.
(sneering)
I want you to kill him. And I'll be
purposefully framed.

Bradley's expression is unreadable as he considers the proposition.

BRADLEY
(nodding slowly)
Alright...what do I do?

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. MEMPHIS - THE WOODS - ROADWAY - (FLASHBACK) - CONTINUOUS

A red truck barrels down the deserted roadway, BRADLEY white-knuckling the steering wheel. Up ahead, RYAN is walking alone.

BRADLEY
(muttering)
I got you where I want you.

Bradley LAYS ON THE HORN, the truck's airhorns blaring. Ryan spins around, eyes widening in terror as the truck bears down on him.

RYAN
No!

Bradley shows no mercy, PLOWING INTO RYAN at full speed. The sickening CRUNCH of metal on flesh echoes through the night as Ryan's body is violently CRUSHED against a tree trunk.

The truck grinds to a halt. Bradley emerges, a twisted smile spreading across his face as he surveys the gruesome scene.

BRADLEY
(Savoring the moment)
I finally killed you.

BACK TO:

INT. THE PENITENTIARY - JAIL CELL - PRESENT DAY

Bradley throws his head back, LAUGHING MANIACALLY at the haunting memory.

BRADLEY
(to Erick)
Yeah, that's what you call a
motive.

Erick stares at him in stunned revulsion, shaking his head slowly.

ERICK
You're mentally sick.

In a burst of rage, Erick SLAMS his fists against the cell bars separating them.

ERICK (CONT'D)
(yelling)
You are fucking lucky that this
(MORE)

ERICK (CONT'D)
 cell is in my way! I want to kill
 you so bad right now!

A GUARD rushes over to intervene.

OFFICER
 Alright Bradley, time is up.

Erick shoots Bradley one last hateful glare before turning and storming away. Bradley watches him leave, an unsettling smirk playing on his lips.

BRADLEY
 (calling after him)
 Trust me, fool. I will get my
 revenge.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ERICK'S CAR - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Erick gets into his car, visibly shaken. He takes a moment to collect himself before calling Jessie and leaving her a voicemail.

ERICK (INTO THE PHONE)
 Hey sweetie, I need to talk to you
 about something important. Whenever
 you can, please call me back.

Ten agonizing minutes later, Erick pulls into his driveway in front of the house. Erick's jaw drops in horror at the sight of his house, now a charred, smoldering ruin. His phone RINGS, shattering the eerie silence.

ERICK (CONT'D)
 (Into the phone)
 Hello?

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
 (Voice distorted)
 You like what I've done with the
 place?

ERICK
 (demanding)
 Who is this?!

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
 The dictator of the events that
 awaits this world MR.MURPHY.You
 shouldn't be stupid enough to cross
 me. I hope you learn your lesson.

The line goes dead as Erick stares at the burnt-out husk of his home, realization creeping in about the depths of evil he's up against.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TRISTAN'S CHILDHOOD HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jessie and Tristan step into the dilapidated living room of his childhood home, thick dust coating the old furniture.

Rats SKITTER across the floor as they make their way inside. Jessie spots a picture frame on a side table and picks it up, wiping away the grime to reveal the photo.

JESSIE
(studying the image)
This is your mom. She's pretty.

Tristan nods, tears welling up in his eyes as he fights back the emotion.

TRISTAN
(hoarse)
Yeah, she is.

JESSIE
(gently)
Is there a picture of your dad?

Tristan retrieves another framed photo, handing it to her.

TRISTAN
Yeah, right here.

JESSIE
(smiling sadly)
I can tell y'all were close.

CUT TO:

INT. TRISTAN'S CHILDHOOD HOME - PARENTS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessie wanders into the musty bedroom, scanning the remnants of Tristan's parents' lives. A DRIED RED ROSE catches her eye on the nightstand, jolting her back to a haunting memory of Bradley.

Tristan enters, seeing the pained look on her face.

TRISTAN
(knowingly)
I know it reminds you of him.

JESSIE
(distant)
Sometimes I feel like I'm in a
prison of my past. Some things have
made a huge mark in my life.

Sensing her discomfort, Tristan quietly backs out of the room, leaving Jessie alone with her swirling thoughts and memories.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Tristan? Tristan?

She hurries out of the bedroom, realizing with a start that she is now alone, stranded in the abandoned house.

CUT TO:

EXT. JESSIE'S PARENTS' HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - LATER

An Uber pulls up to the charred ruins of Jessie's family home. Jessie rushes out, scanning the debris until she spots her father Erick.

JESSIE
(embracing him)
Dad!

JESSIE (CONT'D)
What happened?

ERICK
(grim)
It was Bradley.

JESSIE
(shaking her head)
No, it's not him. Wait, you've been
getting phone calls too?

ERICK
Yeah. Who is this person calling
us?

JESSIE
(Pensive)
I think I have an idea. Let's go
for a drive.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. THE PENITENTIARY - JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Bradley reading his brotherhood Dairy firmly belong to
Brandon when their desire of something crucial in their
madness of darkness with drawings of them together/ a
surprise family member visitation arrives.

OFFICER
Bradley you've got a visitor.

BRADLEY
I told you I dont want--

MADISON
(eyes watery)
Son.

BRADLEY
Mom, you shouldn't be here? I can't
do this right now.

MADISON
(unresolved topic)
Why because what happened with your
brother.

BRADLEY
(unconfortablity)
For a long time I blame myself what
happened, maybe you should wander
off.

MADISON
(Thoughtful, introspective
perception)
I know many things as a parent I
could pervented things from
happening but Brandon and you were
unseperatable until the thing that
terrorized us that late Sunday
evening.

BRADLEY

(inner feelings)

What good does it make it to talk about because lets be real Brandon is dead only because I have a Mother irresponsible knowing you had leaverge of keeping me and Brandon united as safety procaution of a possessive father that caused the family split.

MADISON

(realization)

You're right I can't changed what happened but even if it's too late...but I could tell you one last thing you will always be my son no matter what happens if you tend to push me away that won't stop me from loving you and you're father had his own issues but it doesn't had anything to do with you.

(takes a deep breath)

I'm dismissed.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Erick's car pulls up to the abandoned warehouse deep in the Everglades swamplands.

ERICK

Wait, what is this place?

JESSIE

This is the place I shot Brandon.
It might have some clues.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Thick shadows engulf the warehouse interior as Jessie and Erick enter cautiously.

JESSIE

Is there a light switch?

Erick feels along the wall until his fingers find the switch, bathing the space in harsh fluorescent light.

ERICK
There, I got it. Whoa.

Their eyes are immediately drawn to a large corkboard covered in photos, maps, and diagrams - a TARGET CHART detailing a list of victims (Kaley Dickson, Carrison Willams, Anna Glomez, Delvin Viera.

JESSIE
Wait a second? Viera that sounds familiar isn't that Bradley and Brandon father.

A loud slamming noise coming from the front entrance. The indoors speaker turns on with a green lazer-light.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Dad what was that?

ERICK
I don't know give me that metal stick on that table. I will check it out. Stay here.

EXT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - FRONT ENTERNCE - CONTINUOUS

Erick walks slowly while the speaker is bleeding out echos noise with a sound a fork against a plate with a the light twitching. A gun-shot to the leg hits Erick.

ERICK
Aurgh fuck!. Shit help!. You fuking a*hole!

The figure emerged as Tristan with a settling alter-motive.

TRISTAN
(Furious, Gun Aimed)
Where's your daughter?

ERICK
Why you wanna know that shit-bag.

TRISTAN
Because she killed my bff...
Brandon! I was the one who burned your house and NOW WHERE IS SHE!?

Tristan had a quick intuition leaving erick bleeding in the wet-grassland.

BACK TO:

INT. EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK - WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JESSIE

Wait, what is this?

She uncovers a tape recorder marked "BRANDON" puts into CD recorder. Jessie presses play, and BRANDON'S gravelly voice crackles through the speakers.

BRANDON (V.O.)

(on tape)

Hello, Tristan. If you're watching this, then I must be dead. I want you to finish what I started. Let my killing spree live on in my name.

Jessie and Erick exchange a horrified look.

JESSIE

(shaking her head)

Oh my god, it can't be true...

Tristian appearance in the background in the dark lifts into a confrontation.

TRISTAN

So you finally figured it out.

JESSIE

(relizing with emsympethy)

Yeah, I figured it out.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

So what's your motive? Bradley had one.

TRISTAN

Well, after you killed Brandon in cold blood, We knew what I had to do to avenge his death.

JESSIE

Who we you and Bradley?

TRISTAN

(Smirks)

Well that depends on the person you're asking. But anyways you have concerns or maybe recurring events haunting you.

JESSIE

What about your family? That was
all a lie too?

TRISTAN

(dismissive)

You could say that. All I had to do
was get you to trust me, just like
he did.

(beat)

Full disclosure? I never loved
you. But anyway, any last words?

JESSIE

(resigned)

Stop talking and get it over with.

Suddenly, another FIGURE emerges from the darkness behind
Tristan. Three GUNSHOTS ring out, the bullets SLAMMING into
Tristan's back. He crumples to the ground, unmoving.

MYSTERY MAN

(lowering his gun)

Are you okay?

JESSIE

(Wary)

Who are you why did you help me.

JAMES

My name is James. I'm one of
Bradley's friends. Quickly your dad
he needs help he's bleeding.

They quickly ran into the outdoor of the yells of erick of
blood covered on his hands.

JESSIE

Dad I'm here.

JAMES

Shit there no signal but I'm
familiar with this zip code come'on
I have a car.

James unlocks the doors of the vehicle carrying erick putting
in the backseat. Turns on the car going with full velocity
in roadway.

INT. JAMES CAR - CONTINUOUS

JESSIE
(Confused)
Bradley never mentioned you.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
What's your story with him?

JAMES
Well, that's because we
haven't talked in so long.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I knew him from a mental
hospital.

ERICK
(skeptical)
And why should we believe anything
that comes out of your mouth?

JAMES
(speaking truthfully)
Man' I just saved your lives
now you come up with that attitude
that very unmannerable dude.

JESSIE
Dad, please.

They arrived to the hospital emergency area full of police cars around the area with flashing red and blue lights - Jessie taps James car window to catch the officers attention.

OFFICER
Good evening mam how can we help
you.

JESSIE
My dad he's bleeding we need help
to the hospital.

OFFICER
(talking on radio)
Ok got it. Dispatch officer Cury
come back. I need immediate
assistance on emergency area.

The officers and nurses pulls up with a medical green bed and they pull and carry erick out of the car.

JESSIE
(hug him)
Dad, you'll be okay.

ERICK
(grabs her arm)
Jessie wait. Tristan drop this from
his pocket.
(theroically)
This address is a location go with
James, promise me something.

JESSIE
Yeah anything.

ERICK
(Courageous advice)
Show him no mercy, remember what we
talked about when adversity hits
that were strength manifests.

JESSIE
(Nods her head)
I will.
(firm)
Bye dad.

Jessie departed with James to go find more clues from the
past and present events connected.

INT. JAMES CAR - ROADWAY - CONTINUOUS

JAMES
I see you're trying to catch a
psychopath.

JESSIE
(nodding slowly)
Something doesn't feel right

JAMES
Why do you say that?

JESSIE
The caller said "I have my spies,"
That means he wasn't working
alone.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(to James)
Do you know of any place that was
personal to Bradley or Brandon?

JAMES
(considering)
Maybe...there is one place I know.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. BRADLEY & BRANDON'S ABANDON CHILDHOOD PARTY - NIGHT

A gathering of hooded figures stands in a clearing, engaged in an eerie ritual. At the head of the group is AURORA, a wild-haired woman draped in occult robes.

AURORA
(raising her arms)
Welcome, my children! Today we will
be honoring and remembering the one
true master in the demonic tribe -
Brandon!

Across the way, Jessie, and James peer out from their idling car, lights off to avoid detection.

JESSIE
(Whispering)
What are they doing?

ERICK
It looks like they're doing some
kind of witchcraft.

Suddenly, a group of MYSTERIOUS NINJAS descends upon the gathering, weapons drawn. Aurora's coven SCATTERS in panic as the ninjas launch their attack.

JAMES
(urgently)
Hey, get down!

Amid the chaos, the LEADER OF THE NINJAS, wearing a hockey mask, approaches the terrified Aurora.

AURORA
(cowering)
Who are you? What do you want?

The Hockey Masked Woman responds by PULLING A GUN and firing a single shot, dropping Aurora where she stands.

JESSIE
Let's get out of here.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: 6 WEEKS LATER

INT. ALABAMA NASHVILLE FESTIVAL - LATER

Jessie paces nervously as Erick tries to calm her pre-show jitters.

ERICK
Sweetie, this is your first time
performing.

JESSIE
(Anxious)
I know Dad, it's making me anxious.

The sound of the ANNOUNCER'S voice booms over the
loudspeakers.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Tonight we have a special guest
performing "Pray". The one and
only...Jessie Murphy!

MUSIC: "PRAY" BY JESSIE MURPHY LIVE PERFORMANCE

NOTE: THIS SONG COVERS THE ENTIRE SCENE.

As Jessie's soaring vocals fill the venue, we INTERCUT
between her powerful stage presence and footage of the past
events - the ritual, the ninja attack, etc. - culminating in
a BLACKOUT as the song reaches its climax.

INT. ALABAMA NASHVILLE FESTIVAL - BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

The house lights come up to thunderous applause as Jessie,
drained, returns backstage to her dressing room.

JESSIE
(breathless)
Um Dad, I'm gonna head to the
restroom real quick.

ERICK
Okay.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ALABAMA NASHVILLE FESTIVAL - RESTROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessie splashes some water on her face, trying to gather herself after her high-energy performance. Her phone RINGS, startling her. She answers cautiously.

JESSIE
(into phone)
Hello?

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
(digitally distorted)
What do you want, asshole?

JESSIE
(demanding)
Who is this really?

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.)
The answer to that question is at
the front door of the restroom,
inside.

Confused, Jessie exits the restroom to find an ENVELOPE taped to the door. She opens it to reveal a PHOTOGRAPH of BRANDON and his ex-girlfriend Carolina.

UNKNOWN CALLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Now you know. Meet me by Brandon's
house at the bridge near the lake.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BRIDGE - MIDNIGHT

Jessie arrives at the desolate bridge, looking around apprehensively.

JESSIE
(calling out)
I'm here! I'm here! No more hiding
behind the mask!

The Hockey Masked Woman emerges from the shadows, slowly REMOVING HER MASK to reveal her identity.

CAROLINA
(LAUGHING evilly)
Surprise, Jessie.

JESSIE
(stunned)
It can't be...But I--

CAROLINA

Yeah, you must be mind-blown.

JESSIE

But how? And why?

CAROLINA

(sneering)

Do you know how it feels to be in pain and anger about losing a loved one that you really cared about?

JESSIE

(Nodding slowly)

Yes, I know. But the difference between you and me is that I can control my anger.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

What is your motive? You clearly put Bradley in his place, in prison.

CAROLINA

(theory)

Well I was convinced but with that matter, it's a personal story. Unluckly for you that night in memphis was the worst moment in you're life and I know it.

JESSIE

I heard this sh*t before but no matter what happens you won't get away with it, I know it's Brandon legacy had something to do with it.

CAROLINA

(Giggling with intellect)

Your looking in the wrong places Jessie, Brandon was just a piece of the puzzle. The tormenter will soon arrives and this world will burn into ashes.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

Well, for starters, I paid Tristan to come to Tennessee, to be my spy in an unrealistic relationship with you.

JESSIE

(outraged)

You did what--?!

CAROLINA

It was my best intention to be close to you and get reports on what was going on in your life.

(mocking)

What's wrong, having trust issues right now?

JESSIE

You're not the first person to tell me that.

CAROLINA

Well, the thing is, me and Brandon, we dated once. And he showed me that I can become someone else.

(beat)

Also, I could tell you why Bradley killed your brother.

Jessie tenses at this revelation.

JESSIE

Wait...you know?

CAROLINA

Me and Brandon, we never kept secrets from each other.

JESSIE

Tell me the truth.

CAROLINA

(Nodding)

Well, he killed him because your brother and his friends were bullying him every day at school.

JESSIE

What? It doesn't make sense.

CAROLINA

I know that he went to visit Brandon in prison and begged him to help kill your brother.

Jessie is stunned into silence, processing this horrific new information.

JESSIE

(quietly)

I didn't know that...

Carolina pulls out a GUN, leveling it at Jessie's head.

CAROLINA
I think our little talk is over.

JESSIE
(pleading)
Wait--

CAROLINA
What? Begging for mercy?

In a split-second decision, Jessie TURNS AND LEAPS off the bridge into the waters below. Carolina OPENS FIRE, the bullets kicking up spray around Jessie as she plunges into the depths.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)
(yelling in frustration)
No, no, no!

Erick's car SCREECHES onto the scene, SLAMMING INTO CAROLINA and sending her crumpling to the ground. Erick leaps out, frantic.

ERICK
(Shouting)
Jessie! Jessie!

James rushes over as Jessie EMERGES FROM THE WATER, soaking wet but alive.

JESSIE
Dad!

ERICK
(relieved)
Oh my god, you're soaked!

JESSIE
Yeah, I know. Is she...?

James checks Carolina's pulse, shaking his head grimly.

JAMES
Yeah, she's gone.

ERICK
(embracing Jessie)
Alright sweetie, let's get you home.

FADE OUT

INT. THE PENITENTIARY - JAIL CELL - MOMENTS LATER

Bradley sits slumped in the shadowy confines of his cell when an otherworldly WHISPER seems to emanate from the darkness.

BRADLEY
(looking around warily)
Who are you?

A cloaked DARK FIGURE materializes before him, its face obscured by the cowl.

DARK FIGURE
(rasping)
I'm a friend of a friend.

The figure produces a small box and extends it toward Bradley.

DARK FIGURE (CONT'D)
The Tormentor told me to give you
this.

As quickly as it appeared, the Dark Figure VANISHES, leaving Bradley alone with the mysterious package. He opens it cautiously, peering inside.

BRADLEY
(his eyes widening)
What is this?

Within the box is a archaic-looking INJECTOR, filled with a swirling PURPLE LIQUID that seems to glow with an unholy luminescence.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
(contemplating)
One way to find out.

He lifts the injector, PLUNGING the wicked needle into his own arm and depressing the plunger.

The foul concoction courses through his veins as Bradley THROWS HIS HEAD BACK, CACKLING MANIACALLY. His eyes burn an EERIE EMERALD GREEN.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)
(drunk on power)
I WILL RULE THIS WORLD!

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: 10 YEARS LATER

INT. MIAMI KENDALL - JESSIE'S NEW HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

The aroma of fresh breakfast hangs in the air as Jessie busies herself over the stove. Her teenage daughter AMY (14) sits at the kitchen counter, absorbed in her phone.

JESSIE
(calling out)
Honey, the food's ready!

Jessie's husband **DANIEL** (41), ruggedly handsome, enters and gives her an appreciative peck on the cheek.

DANIEL
Oh my god, it looks delicious.
Thank you, babe.

JESSIE
(apologetic)
Sorry, I can't eat with you guys. I
have to run to the pharmacy.

DANIEL
(nodding)
Okay, babe.

They share a tender kiss before Jessie heads for the door.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I'll take Amy to
school.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RIVERDALE CHARTER SCHOOL - LATER

Daniel's car idles outside the prestigious charter school as Amy gathers her things.

DANIEL
Okay Amy, have a good day at
school, alright?

AMY
(pecking his cheek)
Bye Dad.

FADE TO:

Amy takes her seat in the middle of the bustling classroom as her teacher, MR. GIBSON, calls for the students' attention.

MR. GIBSON
Okay class, partner up into groups
of four for the math challenge.

Amy shrinks in her seat as the other kids quickly pair off,
leaving her alone once again.

MR. GIBSON (CONT'D)
Amy, go join a group.
(scanning the room)
Anyone want Amy in their group?

After an awkward silence, a BOY named TROY finally raises his
hand.

TROY
She can be in my group.

MR. GIBSON
(relieved)
Thank you, Troy. I greatly
appreciate it.

Amy tentatively joins Troy and his friends at their cluster
of desks.

TROY
(smiling)
Hey, what's your name?

AMY
(shy)
I'm Amy. What's yours?

TROY
Troy. This is Chris, Jimmy, and
Jeremiah.

AMY
(waving)
Hi.

CHRIS
Where are you from?

AMY
Tennessee.

JIMMY
(intrigued)
I heard something happened over
there.
(realizing)
Wait, is your mom Jessie Murphy?

Chris playfully elbows Jimmy to shut him up.

CHRIS
(rolling his eyes)
Ignore him.

TROY
(shushing them)
Y'all stop playing, we're gonna get
in trouble.

MR. GIBSON
Okay class, let's start the
competition.
(calling out)
First question: What is the formula
for the area of a triangle?

Chris quickly raises his hand.

CHRIS
Base times height.

MR. GIBSON
(nodding)
That's correct. First point for
Table 4.
(next question)
Now, what is the formula for the
area of a square?

Chris's hand shoots up again, but Jimmy interjects mockingly
before he can answer.

JIMMY
The answer is Chris's big-ass
forehead!.

Chris SNAPS, whirling on Jimmy and SOCKING HIM WITH A VICIOUS
RIGHT HOOK. Pandemonium erupts in the classroom.

MR. GIBSON
(shouting)
Okay, break it up! Both of you, to
the principal's office right now!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RIVER DALE CHARTER SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -
CONTINUOUS

Mr. Norman, a stern-faced man in his 50s, glares at Chris and
Jimmy seated before his desk.

MR. NORMAN
So one of you tell me exactly what happened.

CHRIS
It was all his fault.

MR. NORMAN
Jimmy, is that true?

JIMMY
(Looks down guiltily)
Yeah, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have done that.

MR. NORMAN
(Turns to Chris)
Do you accept his apology?

CHRIS
(Shrugs)
Yes.

Mr. Norman shakes his head disapprovingly. Chris and Jimmy are suspended for 2 weeks.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GAS STATION - AFTERNOON

Amy, a high school freshman, browses the snack aisle, picking up chips and a soda.

AMY
(Approaching the counter)
Okay, how much is that in total?

EMPLOYEE
Five dollars and thirty cents.

Amy pays. As she exits, she nearly bumps into Troy, a classmate, outside.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

TROY
(Gives her a friendly smile)
Hey Amy.
(MORE)

TROY (CONT'D)
My condolences for the fight
between Chris and Jimmy. They
really didn't get along, to be
honest.

AMY
(Returning the smile)
Don't worry about it. You're a good
friend, Troy.

TROY
So I'll see you at school tomorrow?

AMY
Okay, bye.

They go to their separate ways.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

AMY
(Calling out as she
enters)
Mom, dad, I'm home!

Jessie, Amy's mother in her 40s, emerges from the kitchen,
drying a plate.

JESSIE
Hey honey. How was school?

AMY
(Drops her backpack)
It was a crazy day.

JESSIE
Why you say that?

AMY
Two kids got into a nasty fight.

JESSIE
(Concern crosses her
face briefly before she
brushes it off)
Don't worry, it happens at every
school.

A knock sounds at the front door.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(Puts down the plate)
I'll get that.

She opens the door to reveal Troy.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Hi. Who are you?

TROY
I'm Troy. Amy's friend from school.

JESSIE
Oh, okay, one second.

Jessie Calls out Amy. AMY Comes over.

AMY
Yeah?

JESSIE
Someone's here to see you.

AMY
(Surprised but pleased to
see Troy)
Hey Troy. What's up?

TROY
I wanted to know if you want to
come to Chris's birthday party?

AMY
(Looks to her mom)
Mom, what do you think?

JESSIE
(Smiles warmly)
Yeah sure. Have fun, you two.

Amy grabs her jacket and leaves with Troy.

FADE OUT

INT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

The backyard is festively decorated with colorful streamers and balloons. Guests mingle around tables laden with pizza, mac and cheese, steak and other food.

Amy and Troy arrive, drawing Chris's attention.

CHRIS
(Raises his cup to them)
Yo, Troy and Amy. I'm glad you made
it. Make yourself comfortable.

As they move to join the party, Jimmy and his crew of FRIENDS
burst through the gate.

JIMMY
(Grinning widely)
Yo Chris, it's been a minute!

CHRIS
(His smile falters)
What the hell are you doing here?

JIMMY
(Holds up his hands in a
placating gesture)
I came to have fun. Just relax and
vibe, man.

The other GUESTS eye Jimmy's crew warily as the tension
rises. But the party continues with people dancing and
splashing in the pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - POOL AREA - NIGHT

The party is in full swing, music thumping as guests dance
and splash in the pool.

JIMMY
(Raises his voice to be
heard over the noise)
Hey everyone! Anyone that beats me
in an arm-wrestle gets eight
hundred dollars cash!

The crowd murmurs with interest as Jimmy slams a wad of cash
onto a table.

CHRIS
(Steps forward
confidently)
I'll take you on for that
challenge.

TROY
(Grabs Chris's arm,
concerned)
(MORE)

TROY (CONT'D)
Chris, you don't have to do this,
man.

CHRIS
(Shrugs off Troy's hand)
It's my party.
(Flexes his bicep)
I got this, trust me.

Chris and Jimmy face off, gripping hands over the table.
Their muscles strain as the arm-wrestle begins.

JIMMY
(Through gritted teeth)
Ready to lose, pretty boy?

CHRIS
Not at my own party, loser.

Jimmy starts to gain the upper hand, forcing Chris's arm down
inch by inch. Suddenly, a GUNSHOT rings out, shattering the
night.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
(Leaps to his feet, face
drained of color)
Everyone get out! Leave now!

Screams and pandemonium as the guests scramble to flee. Chris
rushes out of the backyard.

EXT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Chris skids to a halt, horrified to find TWO BODIES lying
motionless on his front lawn, blood pooling beneath them.

JIMMY
(Runs up behind Chris)
What the hell!

One of the dead men is recognizable as one of Jimmy's
FRIENDS.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - LIVING ROOM - MIDNIGHT

The front door bursts open as Amy rushes in, eyes wide with
panic.

AMY
Mom! I'm home!

Jessie hurries in from the kitchen, startled by Amy's frantic state.

JESSIE
Hey honey. Why so urgent?

AMY
(Grabs her mom's hand)
Come outside with your flashlight.
I need to show you something!

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

Amy leads Jessie down the dark, quiet street, shining the flashlight ahead of them until it illuminates...WORDS SCRAWLED IN RED: "JESSIE, I'VE RETURNED".

Jessie GASPS, clutching Amy protectively.

JESSIE
Oh my god. It can't be...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - MIDNIGHT

A dank, shadowy space lit only by bare bulbs. A GOON leads a beautiful but dangerous-looking woman named SELENA towards a figure seated in the shadows.

GOON
Master, someone's here to see you.

The shadowy FIGURE turns, revealing the cruel, scarred face of JESTER (formerly known as Bradley).

SELENA
(Smirking)
Well, well...if it isn't Bradley.
Or should I call you Jester now?

JESTER
(Leans back in his chair)
It's been a long time, Selena. I
was beginning to wonder if you'd
forgotten about me.

SELENA
(Circles him slowly)
I haven't heard from you in years.
Where have you been hiding?

JESTER

Waiting for the right time to
strike again. This wasn't something
to be rushed.

SELENA

(Stops behind his chair)
And why have you revealed yourself
to me now?

JESTER

(A cruel smile spreads)
Because I need an partner to help
me finish what Brandon started
years ago. To make this entire city
fall to its knees.

Selena matches his smile.

SELENA

Then you've come to the right
place. We're going to paint this
town red.

They shake hands, sealing their malicious pact.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - BEDROOM - MORNING

Sunlight filters through the curtains as Jessie sits up in
bed, stretching. A KNOCK at the front door makes her tense.

JESSIE

(Mutters under her breath)
Oh my god...James.

INT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessie opens the door to reveal JAMES, an old friend with a
weary but determined expression.

JAMES

Yeah, it's been a long time.

JESSIE

(Ushers him in quickly)
I got your text. I knew I had to
call you to come back for answers.

They settle on the couch, keeping their voices low.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Someone new is messing with us.
(She shows him the)
(chilling words scrawled
on the street.)

They know about our past.

JAMES
(Runs a hand over his)
(face)
What should we do?

JESSIE
We can't call the cops. You know
they're useless in these
situations.
(Tears well up in her)
(eyes)
I thought getting away from
Tennessee would make things better.
But it's all happening again.

JAMES
(Places a comforting hand
on her arm)
Your husband can't know about this,
you know that.

JESSIE
(Nods, composing herself)
I know. James...wait, I think I
have an idea.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RIVER DALE CHARTER SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

Students shuffle test papers as MR. GIBSON, the
teacher, passes out a math exam. Chris raises his hand.

CHRIS
MR. GIBSON?

MR. GIBSON
(Looking up from his desk)
Yes, Chris. What's your question?

CHRIS
Can I use the bathroom?

MR. GIBSON
Sure, but make it quick.

Chris gets up and exits the classroom.

FADE OUT

INT. RIVER DALE CHARTER SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Chris moves furtively down the empty hallway until he reaches a row of lockers. He pulls something from his backpack - A HANDGUN. Glancing around furtively, he OPENS JIMMY'S LOCKER and stashes the gun inside.

Chris then heads for the FIRE ALARM and pulls it. ALARMS BLARE as he rushes back to class just as students start filing out.

EXT. RIVER DALE CHARTER SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

TEACHERS hurry the STUDENTS away from the building in an orderly evacuation as FIRE TRUCKS arrive with lights flashing.

INT. RIVER DALE CHARTER SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - SAME

Mr. Gibson's phone RINGS urgently. He answers as Chris slides back into his seat, trying to appear nonchalant.

MR. GIBSON
(into phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

MR. NORMAN
(grim-faced)
Yes, can you send Jimmy to my
office please? And thank you.

MR. GIBSON
(to class)
Jimmy, the principal needs to see
you at his office.

Jimmy looks surprised but gets up and heads out.

CUT TO:

INT. RIVER DALE CHARTER SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -
CONTINUOUS

Jimmy enters, seeming apprehensive.

JIMMY
Good morning, you needed to see me?

Mr. Norman levels him with a hard stare. On his desk sits the
HANDGUN in an evidence bag.

MR. NORMAN
Explain to me why you had this
Glock 19 in your locker.

JIMMY
(Eyes go wide)
I swear that's not my gun!

MR. NORMAN
But we ran tests, and your
fingerprints were all over it.

He nods to a COP standing behind Jimmy. The cop quickly CUFFS
the protesting Jimmy.

JIMMY
(struggling)
No, please don't do this to me! No!

The cop drags the screaming Jimmy out as Mr. Norman watches
stoically. Chris watches the scene unfold from the classroom
window, a satisfied smile creeping across his face.

FADE TO BLACK

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 WEEKS LATER

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - AFTERNOON

Troy pedals his bicycle down the quiet street, enjoying the
sunny day. Rounding a corner, he suddenly brakes hard as
JIMMY steps into his path.

JIMMY
(A hard glint in his eyes)
Hey, you remember me, bro?

TROY
(Studying him warily)
Who are you?

JIMMY
You don't remember, do you?

TROY
(Recognition dawning)
Jimmy? How did you--

JIMMY
(Cuts him off)
Yeah, I just got out like three
days ago.
(His fists clench)
I'll never forget what you guys did
to me.

TROY
(Tries to keep his tone casual)
How's Chris?

JIMMY
(A disturbing smile
spreads)
You got a problem with me, punk?
'Cause I could kill you right now.

He pulls out a GUN, pointing it right at Troy's chest. Troy
freezes, eyes wide with terror.

The sound of AN APPROACHING ENGINE makes them both turn.
Chris roars up on his DIRT BIKE, skidding to a stop between
them.

CHRIS
(Glares at Jimmy over the
handlebars)
You'll leave us alone, or else
there's gonna be bloodshed. Your
choice.

JIMMY
(Sneers, keeping the gun
raised)
Don't you dare threaten me!

TROY
(Desperately)
Chris, let's just go man. It's not
worth it.

Chris and Jimmy are locked in a tense standoff before Chris
finally revs his engine.

CHRIS
Next time, you won't be so lucky.

Chris executes a wheeling turn, roaring off with Troy running behind him. Jimmy watches them go, a malicious glint in his eye.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY - ENTRANCE - LATER

James strides up to the visitor's desk, his expression grim.

JAMES

Hi, good morning. I've come to see
Bradley.

OFFICER

(Looks up apologetically)
I'm afraid that's not possible,
sir. He escaped from here a few
months back.

JAMES

(Stunned)
How's that possible? After all
these years...?

Shaking his head, James turns and exits the prison, pulling out his phone.

INT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Jessie is wiping down the counter when her phone RINGS. She answers, drying her hands.

JESSIE

(into phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH JAMES:

JAMES

Hey Jessie, you're not gonna
believe this...

As James breaks the news, a look of dread crosses Jessie's face.

JAMES (CONT'D)

They told me they've been searching
for him all these years with no
luck. Listen, I've got to go handle
something personal. I'll catch up
with you later.

He hangs up abruptly, leaving Jessie worried and confused.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ABANDONED CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

The musty interior is lit only by dusty shafts of light from the high windows. James moves purposefully down the aisle towards A LARGE ORNATE MIRROR mounted on the far wall.

As he nears it, A SINISTER FACE appears in the mirror's surface - the face of JOSHUA, an demonic entity.

JOSHUA

(a guttural, demonic voice)

Long time no see, James. You stopped visiting me after what happened.

JAMES

(unflinching)

We both know you were a creation born of a mistake. A dark magic I regret ever dabbling in.

JOSHUA

You came here for something, didn't you? I can smell your worry, your desperation...

JAMES

(exhales slowly)

You're right. I need your help to stop a new threat.

JOSHUA

(chuckles deeply)

And why would I help you, when you've said I bring nothing but pain to your life?

JAMES

Because I strongly suspect the one pulling the strings this time...is an old friend of yours.

Joshua's demonic visage contorts with a sinister grin.

JOSHUA

Ah yes, the one you seek. What if I
told you...I was the one who broke
him out of that pathetic human
prison?

James stares at the mirror, realization and dread dawning.

JAMES

I'm done talking to you, monster.

He turns to leave, but suddenly SLAMS against an invisible
barrier, as if struck by a powerful force.

JOSHUA

(laughing cruelly)
I never said you could leave,
James...

Joshua's ESSENCE streams out of the mirror, A DARK VAPOROUS
CLOUD that encircles James, forcing its way into his eyes,
Nose and mouth. James CONVULSES, then goes still as...

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

(now speaking from James'
body)
Now I have the power to make this
entire world miserable. Starting
with your loved ones...

James'/Joshua's eyes snap open, blazing with an unholy light
as he turns and strides out of the abandoned church.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Chris, Troy and Amy lounge in the living room, remnants of
pizza boxes and soda cans scattered around them as they
unwind after school. The calm is suddenly shattered by the
SOUND OF GUNFIRE erupting outside.

CHRIS

Stay here, you two! You hear me?

Chris disappears down the hallway as more MUFFLED SHOUTS AND
GUNFIRE can be heard. He returns seconds later, his GUN in
hand and a grim look on his face.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(To his crew waiting
nervously behind him)
(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Lock and load, guys. Looks like the
gang war just hit our street.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - HEAVY RAIN - NIGHT

Sheets of cold rain blow horizontally as RIVAL GANGS take shelter behind parked cars, BULLETS RICOCHETING back and forth in the dimly lit street.

The ROAR of an approaching ENGINE cuts through the chaos as Chris rockets around the corner on his DIRT BIKE, taking cover behind an abandoned car.

JIMMY (O.S.)
(shouting over the
gunfire)
You're gonna pay for what you did
to me all those years ago, punk!

Chris risks a look to see Jimmy approaching, PISTOL in hand.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Don't be a bitch! Put down your
weapons and fight me like a man!

They lock eyes for a tense moment. Then, as one, they DISCARD THEIR GUNS and TEAR OFF THEIR SHIRTS, squaring off in the downpour.

The first PUNCH is thrown, and they're off, trading VICIOUS BLOWS and GRAPPLING in the mud as the gang war rages around them. Chris lands a BRUTAL UPPERCUT, snapping Jimmy's head back with a CRUNCH of breaking bone.

CHRIS
(panting hard)
That all you got, punk?

But the punk ain't done yet. With a FERAL ROAR, Jimmy tackles Chris, slamming his ELBOW into Chris's ribs. Chris SCREAMS in agony, struggling for breath as Jimmy straddles him and retrieves his GUN.

JIMMY
(cocks the gun, grinning
savagely)
Any last words?

CHRIS
(wheezes defiantly)
Go to hell, bitch.

A SLEEK BLACK CAR SCREECHES around the corner, HEADLIGHTS blazing through the downpour. As Jimmy turns towards the new threat, GUNFIRE ERUPTS from the car's open window, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE ripping into Jimmy's body.

Jimmy's lifeless form crumples to the muddy ground as the car speeds off into the night, leaving Chris gasping in shock and pain.

INT. CHRIS'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy and Troy flinch at the barrage of distant GUNFIRE. Troy shakily pulls out his phone.

TROY
(into phone, frantic)
Chris, answer the damn phone!

AMY
(Heads for the front door)
I'm going out there.

TROY
(Grabs her arm)
You can't! It's too dangerous!

AMY
(Pulling away from him)
I don't care! He could be hurt!

TROY
(Relents, drawing his own
gun)
Okay fine, but stay behind me.

CUT TO:

Troy and Amy creep cautiously down the street, Troy leading with his gun raised. DISTANT SIRENS can be heard growing louder.

Up ahead, they spot a crumpled figure in the road. Troy breaks into a run.

TROY (CONT'D)
(yelling over the pounding
rain)
Chris! I'm coming!

Troy reaches Chris and tries to pull him up, but Chris CRIES OUT in agony, clutching his ribs.

CHRIS
(through gritted teeth)
I can't...the cops are coming. I
have to turn myself in.

TROY
There's gotta be a way out of this,
man!

BLUE LIGHTS strobe through the rain as POLICE CRUISERS skid
to a halt. COPS pile out, guns raised.

COP
(shouting over the howling
storm)
Freeze! Get on the ground with your
hands behind your back!

Just as Chris resigns himself to surrender, a RUMBLING DIESEL
ENGINE announces the arrival of a MENACING BLACK TRUCK. The
rear doors burst open and A SQUAD OF MASKED GUNMEN leap out,
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BLAZING.

GUNMAN
Get in the truck, NOW! This is your
one chance!

Chris and Troy share a stunned look as BULLETS WHIZ past
them. In a split-second decision, Troy hauls the injured
Chris up and they stumble towards the beckoning truck, Amy
right behind.

As the GUNMEN lay down SUPPRESSING FIRE, the trio scramble
aboard. The truck PEELS OUT, TIRES screaming as it vanishes
into the night, leaving the cops pinned down and cursing.

DISSOLVE TO:

30 MINTUES LATER

INT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - KITCHEN - MIDNIGHT

Jessie paces anxiously as her husband DANIEL tries to calm
her.

DANIEL
Clam down, Jessie. We'll find Amy,
I promise.

JESSIE
(distraught)
There's something I have to tell
you. Something that happened a long
time ago...

A KNOCK at the front door interrupts them. Jessie flinches,
then moves to answer it, revealing JAMES standing on the
doorstep.

JAMES
Jessie, I came as soon as I heard.

DANIEL
(Rises, eyeing James
warily)
Jessie, who is this?

JESSIE
(Ushering James inside)
Honey, this is James, an old
friend. He's here to help us find
Amy.

They settle tensely at the kitchen table as James leans
forward.

JAMES
Jessie, I know who's behind all of
this.

JESSIE
(Hopeful)
Who?

James's phone starts RINGING. He answers and puts it on
speaker.

JAMES
(into phone)
Hello?

JESTER (V.O.)
(a cold, mocking tone)
So the whole crew is gathered! How
cozy.

DANIEL
(Leaps to his feet)
You sick piece of shit! Where's my
daughter?!

JESTER (V.O.)
Well now, someone there will tell
you soon enough, won't they James?

James flinches as all eyes turn to him. Jessie stares at him, confused and hurt.

JESSIE
What is he talking about?

JAMES
(placating)
Nothing, I'll explain everything
later, I promise.

JESTER (V.O.)
(laughing cruelly)
Having a few trust issues, are we
Jess? I do love watching families
tear themselves apart.

He hangs up abruptly, leaving them in tense silence. James suddenly GASPS, clutching his head.

JAMES
(straining)
No...not again...

He COLLAPSES, convulsing violently as the LIGHTS FLICKER AND DIE. The front door LOCKS ITSELF with a heavy THUNK.

DANIEL
(pulling Jessie close)
Jessie?! What's happening?

JESSIE
(frantically)
I'm here honey, I'm right here!

Jessie tries the front door but it's jammed solid. A CHILD'S WHISPER slithers from the dark hallway.

AMY'S VOICE (O.S.)
(whispered)
Mommy...mommy...

JESSIE
(Whirls, hope flaring)
Amy?!

But the FIGURE that emerges from the shadows is no child. A TOWERING SILHOUETTE WITH BURNING RED EYES seems to GLIDE TOWARDS THEM, LAUGHING CRUELLY.

JOSHUA
 (a demonic, guttural
 voice)
 Not quite, bitch! I am Joshua, the
 EVILBORN!

Jessie SCREAMS. She grabs a HAMMER, swings it at the window—
 CRASH! She dives through the shattered glass, hitting the
 lawn outside.

A BEAT—then DANIEL'S BODY is THROWN through the window behind
 her, CRASHING beside her. His neck slashed with a DEMONIC
 SYMBOL carved in blood.

EXT. JESSIE'S NEW HOME - CONTINUOUS

Gasping for air, Jessie stare back at the house, the LAUGHING
 still echoing from the depths. But the sinister presence
 seems to have vanished.

Jessie fumbles for her phone with shaking hands, calling
 someone.

JESSIE
 (into phone, frantic)
 Dad, come pick me up quickly! I
 need to get somewhere safe. I'll
 explain everything...

FADE TO BLACK

INT. ERICK'S CAR - DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jessie's father ERICK idles outside their house as they climb
 into his car, still reeling from the ordeal.

ERICK
 So you're telling me this
 psychopath is back?

JESSIE
 (nodding grimly)
 Yes, and he's not working alone
 this time.

ERICK
 (frowning)
 Elaborate.

JESSIE
 I have this old friend, James. An
 evil entity has been...attached to
 (MORE)

JESSIE (CONT'D)
him for years. And now it's working
with Bradley - the Jester - to
torment us.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Daniel disappeared! Without a
trace.

ERICK
(grave)
This maniac is just carrying on
Brandon's sick legacy, after all
this time...

Jessie's phone starts RINGING. She answers, putting it on
speaker with dread.

JESTER (V.O.)
Well hello there, Jess! Enjoying
our little reunion?

JESSIE
(outraged)
You bastard! Where's my daughter?!

JESTER (V.O.)
(chuckling darkly)
Now now, is that any way to speak
to an old friend? I do so love that
fire in you.

ERICK
(seething)
I should've put a bullet in you
when I had the chance, you son of a
bitch.

JESTER (V.O.)
And rob the world of
such...entertaining times ahead?
You're next on my list, old man.

Jessie and Erick share a look as THEIR PHONES SIMULTANEOUSLY
BEEP - the Jester has hacked their locations.

JESSIE
(grim, studying her phone)
Dad, take us here. It's time we
settled this once and for all.

Erick peels out, tires SQUEALING as Jessie loads a REVOLVER, her face set in grim determination.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHEMICAL LABORATORY - RADIO STATION - CONTINUOUS

Jessie hurries into the dimly lit room, glancing around wildly. She spots a RADIO CONTROL PANEL and quickly turns off the BLARING STATIC NOISE.

JESTER (O.S.)
(his voice echoing
unnaturally)
Jessie...Jessie...Jessie...

Jessie whirls, GUN RAISED, to see a trail of PLAYING CARDS scattered across the floor, leading towards a BASEMENT DOOR. She follows cautiously.

CUT TO:

INT. CHEMICAL LABORATORY - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The dank basement is littered with DUSTY CHEMICAL VATS and TUBING. Jessie descends the last few stairs, GUN SWEEPING the shadows.

JESSIE
(calling out defiantly)
I'm here! Right here, you son of a bitch!

JESTER (O.S.)
Well, well...hey there, Jess.

A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF JESTER FLICKERS TO LIFE in the gloom. Without hesitating, Jessie FIRES, SHATTERING the hologram into static.

Suddenly, ALL THE LIGHTS CUT OUT, plunging the basement into PITCH BLACKNESS.

JESSIE
(voice edged with fear)
Where are you? Show yourself!

CUT TO:

INT. CHEMICAL LABORATORY - BASEMENT - THE LAB - CONTINUOUS

In a secluded CORNER LAB, a MEDICAL GURNEY holds the unconscious form of AMY, Jessie's daughter. The real JESTER looms over her, an ominous SYRINGE in his hand.

AMY
(coming to, terrified)
What the hell...? You're fucking sick!

JESTER
Don't worry, my dear, this is simply the virus that will sever your last ties to your mother forever.

He INJECTS the GLOWING GREEN SERUM into Amy's arm. She CONVULSES, SCREAMING IN AGONY as her eyes turn feverish and dilated.

JESTER (CONT'D)
(soothingly)
That's it...bow down to your new lord and master.

Amy's struggles cease. When she looks up at Jester, her eyes burn with unholy DEVOTION.

AMY
(reverential whisper)
Hail Lord Jester...

JESTER
Good girl. Now go, and deal with our...unwanted intruder.

As Amy shuffles off obediently, Jester settles back to wait, an evil grin twisting his features.

BACK TO:

INT. CHEMICAL LABORATORY - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Jessie edges slowly through the BLACKNESS, sweeping her gun wildly, trying to pierce the smothering shadows.

JESSIE
(yelling in frustration)
Stop being a coward and face me, you son of a bitch! Unless you don't have the balls...

A LOW CHUCKLE comes from directly in front of her. She JUMPS, GUN SNAPPING AROUND to find Jester lounging casually on a stool, LEGS CROSSED NONCHALANTLY.

JESTER

My dear Jessie...I was merely waiting for you to join me.

JESSIE

(furious, GUN LEVELED)

Where's my daughter, you sick freak?

JESTER

Your daughter? I'm afraid the little lady has sworn herself to a new...higher calling.

He TSKS in mock disappointment.

JESTER (CONT'D)

Full disclosure, Jess - playing with you and your pathetic family has been such fun. But all games must end.

JESSIE

(jaw clenched, voice shaking with rage)
Any last words?

Jester just THROWS BACK HIS HEAD AND LAUGHS - a deep, bone-chilling cackle. Without further words, Jessie SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER.

The GUNSHOT CRACKS LIKE THUNDER in the confined space...but when the smoke clears, Jessie's face falls in HORROR.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

(anguished cry)
Oh my god...DAD!

FADE IN:

INT. CHEMICAL LABORATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Jessie rushes over to the SLUMPED FORM of her father, ERICK. She gently turns him over, PLEADING WITH HIM.

JESSIE

Dad? Dad, are you okay? Please...

But Erick's face is a GHASTLY PALLOR, HIS EYES GLOWING A SICKLY GREEN. He's been infected by Jester's virus.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
(recoiling in horror)
What the hell...?

AMY (O.S.)
(a guttural, inhuman
snarl)
Mommy...you don't love me anymore.

Jessie SPINS, coming face-to-face with her daughter AMY - but her features are TWISTED AND MALEVOLENT, HER EYES BURNING LIKE HELLFIRE.

Jessie SCREAMS IN PRIMAL TERROR, SCRAMBLING AWAY as Amy LUNGES FOR HER. She flees for the exit as Amy's ANGUISHED OWLS ECHO through the underground lair behind her.

EXT. CHEMICAL FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Jessie BURSTS OUT A SIDE DOOR into the night, chest heaving. She sprints for her CAR, throwing herself inside and PEELING OUT with a frantic squeal of tires.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ERICK'S CAR - HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jessie races down the deserted highway, glancing panic-stricken in the rearview as POLICE CRUISERS appear, LIGHTS FLASHING and SIRENS WAILING in pursuit.

Gripping the wheel with white knuckles, Jessie hits the gas, her car ROCKETING TOWARDS A LOOMING CLIFF EDGE ahead. She squeezes her eyes shut as the car EXPLODES OFF THE PRECIPICE

IN SLOW MOTION...

NOTE: {"EMPTY"} BY JUICE WRLD

The car SOARS MAJESTICALLY, ARCING OUT OVER THE CHURNING OCEAN below as the lyrics to Juice WRLD's haunting hit "Empty" kick in.

SEQUENCE ENDS

The car and its precious cargo PLUMMET IN A BLAZE OF FIERY GLORY towards the black, welcoming depths.

As it CRASHES THROUGH THE SURFACE in an ALMIGHTY EXPLOSION OF FOAM ANDSPRAY...

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MRI LABORATORY - THE NEXT MORNING

Jessie's eyes flutter open slowly, squinting against them harsh fluorescent lights. She blinks in confusion, taking in her sterile surroundings - AN MRI MACHINE looms over the bed she's strapped to.

JESSIE
(groggy)
Where...where am I?

A LOW, WHISPERING VOICE seems to slither from the shadows.

JOSHUA (V.O.)
(echoing unnaturally)
Jessie...Jessie...Jessie...

JESSIE
(panicked)
Oh my god! Somebody help me!

Jessie THRASHES wildly against her restraints as A DARK MIASMA begins to coalesce around her, TENDRILS OF SHADOW OOZING OVER HER BODY.

Her SCREAMS take on an UNEARTHLY, GUTTURAL TONE as she's SUBSUMED BY THE ENCROACHING DARKNESS. Then, as quickly as it began, her struggles cease.

Jessie's eyes SNAP OPEN, now TWIN PITS OF OBSIDIAN. Effortlessly SNAPPING HER BONDS, she slides off the bed, an UNNATURAL GAIT carrying her toward the exit like a marionette on strings.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The dimly lit garage is THICK WITH SHADOWS as the possessed Jessie enters. A RUSTLING from the corner makes her whirl, alert.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
(calling out nervously)
Jessie? Is that you? What's wrong?

BLOOD-RED WRITING BEGINS TO OOZE ACROSS THE WALL, DRIPPING WORDS FORMING: THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.

Claire SHRIEKS in visceral horror and revulsion as Jessie turns, HER FACE TWISTED INTO A DEMONIC SNEER. She glides forward with UNNATURAL SPEED.

JOSHUA
(Jessie's voice, demonic and
guttural)
Poor deluded fool. Your so-called
"Jessie" can no longer hear your
pitiful whimpers.

Jessie/JOSHUA LASHES OUT WITH ONE HAND, SLAMMING INTO CLAIRE AND SNAPPING HER NECK WITH GROTESQUE EASE. As Claire's lifeless body CRUMPLES, Joshua CACKLES WITH GLEE.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: 3 HOURS LATER

INT. TENNESSEE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION - JESSIE'S ROOM -
MORNING

Jessie jolts upright in her narrow bed, GASPING. Her room is a spartan cell with padded walls and a single barred window.

She hugs her knees to her chest, ROCKING BACK AND FORTH as FLASHES of Claire's broken form HAUNT HER MIND'S EYE. A SOFT KNOCK preceded the door opening to admit a NURSE in pastel scrubs.

NURSE
(kindly)
Good morning, Jessie. I've got your
morning medication.

Jessie eyes the paper cup of PILLS warily before dry-swallowing them with a grimace.

JESSIE
(hoarse, desperate)
How...how much longer do I have to
stay here?

NURSE
(checking her chart)
I'm afraid only your doctor can
answer that, dear. Let's see...ah
yes, Dr. Steward?

JESSIE
(nodding dully)
Yeah, that's him.

NURSE
Okay, I'll make sure he stops by
soon so you two can discuss your
treatment.

Jessie doesn't respond, just stares out the window
unseeingly. The nurse EXITS, leaving Jessie alone with her
tortured thoughts.

A SHORT TIME LATER

The DOOR OPENS AGAIN, this time admitting DR. STEWARD, a
graying man in his 50s with a paternal manner. He consults
his notes as he takes a seat across from Jessie.

DR. STEWARD
Hello Jessie. How are you feeling
today?

JESSIE
(toneless)
...When can I go home?

DR. STEWARD
(sighing deeply)
I'm afraid that's...complicated. Do
you remember what happened? The
circumstances that led to you being
admitted here?

JESSIE
(shaking her head slowly)
No...the last thing I remember is
being in some kind of laboratory.
Chasing a...a psychopath.

DR. STEWARD
(nodding grimly)
Yes, we're aware of those events.
(MORE)

DR. STEWARD (CONT'D)
But what about after that, Jessie?
What happened next?

Jessie squeezes her eyes shut, FLASHES OF HORROR flickering
through her mind.

JESSIE
(whispering hoarsely)
I think...I was possessed. By an
evil entity.

DR. STEWARD
(making a note)
An entity? It has a name?

JESSIE
(haunted)
Joshua. They call it Joshua.

DR. STEWARD
(studying her closely)
I see. Tell me Jessie, do you
believe these events, this
"possession" ...were all in your
head? Or did they actually take
place in the real world?

Jessie meets his gaze, her own eyes hollow with uncertainty.

JESSIE
Both. I truly can't be sure
anymore.

DR. STEWARD
(standing with a
reassuring smile)
Well, that's precisely what we'll
work on figuring out, okay? For
now, I'm going to have the nurses
keep a close watch, just in case
you experience any
other...episodes.

Jessie nods numbly as Dr. Steward makes his way to the door.

DR. STEWARD (CONT'D)
One last thing - would you like to
use the restroom before I go?

JESSIE
(dully)
Yes, please.

CUT TO:

INT. PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jessie stands at the cracked PORCELAIN SINK, splashing water
over her pallid features.

She glances up, CATCHING HER REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR - but her EYES SEEM TO SMOLDER WITH AN UNHOLY INNER LIGHT.

JOSHUA (V.O.)
(whispering from
everywhere and nowhere)
Hello again, Jessie...

Jessie GASPS, WHIRLING AROUND in the cramped bathroom stall. But she's alone.

JOSHUA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Don't worry, my dear. It was I who
killed your foolish friend Claire,
not you. You were just...an
unwilling accomplice.

Jessie SHAKES HER HEAD VIOLENTLY, hands clamped over her ears in denial.

JESSIE
(whimpering)
No...get out of my head, demon!

JOSHUA (V.O.)
(chuckling darkly)
Oh, I'm afraid our bond runs much
deeper than that. If you want my
help escaping this wretched
place...you had best start
listening very carefully.

Against her will, Jessie's eyes are DRAWN TO THE TOILET, where a SHIV made of SHARPENED METAL GLISTENS underneath.

JOSHUA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
There's a ventilation shaft above
the stall, see? That knife should
help you...get a better view.

As if in a trance, Jessie retrieves the CRUDE WEAPON. Behind her, the BATHROOM DOOR RATTLES AS THE NURSE TRIES THE HANDLE.

NURSE (O.S.)
(calling out in concern)
Jessie? Are you alright in there?

JESSIE
(hoarsely, stalling)
Y-yes, I...I'm not feeling well.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
Bad stomach cramps, but I'll be
just another minute!

She has already WEDGED THE SHIV into the WALL GRATE, PRYING IT LOOSE with desperate strength. It CLATTERS TO THE FLOOR just as SECURITY STARTS POUNDING ON THE DOOR.

GUARD (O.S.)
Ma'am, we're coming in! Step away
from the door!

INT. PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION - AIR VENT - CONTINUOUS

Jessie maneuvers her way through the cramped and dusty air vent, METAL GRATING CREAKING with her movements.

JESSIE
(whispering reluctantly)
I hate to do this...but I suppose I
have no choice but to trust you for
now.

JOSHUA (V.O.)
(edges of satisfaction in
his sibilant tones)
A wise decision. Now listen
carefully...

Jessie pauses, hanging on Joshua's disembodied instructions with wary trepidation.

JOSHUA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Take your first left, then another
left immediately after. Your next
turn will be a right, then proceed
to the end of that run. There,
you'll find a simple tool to aid
your escape.

Sweating with the exertion of hauling herself through the tight spaces, Jessie follows the entity's directions until her questing hands encounter A LONG SCREWDRIVER SHAFT.

JESSIE
(gritting her teeth in
determination)
I made it...the vent's sealed, but
maybe I can pry it open.

She WEDGES THE TOOL into the slot and STRAINS WITH ALL HER MIGHT. The GRATE finally POPS FREE with an ECHOING CLANG, swinging open to reveal AN EMPTY CORRIDOR beyond.

JOSHUA (V.O.)
 (cool satisfaction)
 Well done. You've made it to the
 east wing - now be a good girl and
 offer your benefactor some thanks
 before I guide you further.

Jessie ROLLS HER EYES in disgust, MUTTERING through gritted
 teeth.

JESSIE
 Thank you.

JOSHUA (V.O.)
 (darkly amused chuckle)
 My pleasure. Now...RUN!

Wasting no more time, Jessie DROPS from the vent opening and
 SPRINTS down the abandoned hallway, ALARM KLAXONS already
 beginning to WHOOP through the facility behind her.

EXT. PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION - GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Jessie EXPLODES out a SIDE DOOR into the night air, GASPING
 FOR BREATH as she glances around wildly. UP AHEAD, the GATE
 TO THE FACILITY GROUNDS stands open as A NONDESCRIPT
 PURPLEVAN ROARS THROUGH.

The VAN SKIDS TO A HALT right beside Jessie, the SIDE DOOR
 FLUNG OPEN to reveal the driver - **GARRET MURPHY**, Jessie's
 younger brother sporting an military-style BUZZ CUT.

GARRET
 (urgently)
 Get in, sis! Let's get you out of
 here!

Jessie doesn't hesitate, LEAPING ABOARD and SLAMMING THE DOOR
 behind her as the VAN PEELS OUT.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. GARRET'S VAN - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Jessie finally feels safe enough to CATCH HER BREATH, relief
 and confusion warring across her face as she studies her
 long-lost brother.

JESSIE
 How...how is this even possible? I
 haven't seen you in nearly a
 decade!

GARRET

(grim smile over his
shoulder)

I got discharged from the Marines a
few weeks back after my last tour.
As soon as I heard what was
happening with you, I high-tailed
it back home.

JESSIE

(haunted look)

Let's just say you missed out on a
whole hell of a lot, little
brother.

GARRET

gentler now

I know, about the boyfriend...about
dad. Everything you've been through
sounds horrific beyond words.

Jessie stares out the window, remaining silent and letting
Garret continue.

GARRET (CONT'D)

You clearly need help, Jessie.
Professional help. I've got someone
who can assist - an old friend
named Ms. Moree. She deals with
cases like yours all the time,
the...supernatural stuff.

JESSIE

(perking up with grim
determination)

That a girl. But what I need most
is to get my name cleared. Have all
these ridiculous charges stemming
from my "crimes" erased for good.

GARRET

(nodding firmly)

Then that's what we'll do, sis. No
matter what it takes.

He reaches over and SQUEEZES JESSIE'S HAND in reassuring
solidarity.

SUPERIMPOSE TITLE: ONE MONTH LATER

FADE OUT

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

Jessie stands before A SOLITARY GRAVESTONE, expression sober and distant. She bends down, gently TRACING THE NAME WITH HER FINGERTIPS.

JESSIE

(murmuring remorsefully)
It feels like it was just
yesterday. I hope you can forgive
me one day for what I did...what
that monster made me do.

FOOTFALLS ON THE GRAVEL PATH behind her make Jessie turn to see JAMES approaching, looking haggard but resolute.

JAMES

(gravely)
Jessie...I know it was my fault, in
the end. All of this darkness
stemmed from my own hubris.

JESSIE

(searching his face)
James...? What are you doing here
after all this time?

JAMES

(extending his hands
imploringly)
I came to see you. To beg your
forgiveness for the negative impact
I've had on your life. It's a
burden I take full accountability
for.

He pauses, seeing the unspoken question in Jessie's pained eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I can see you want answers, Jessie.
Don't be afraid - just ask me. I
owe you that much, at the very
least.

Jessie takes a steadying breath before meeting James's regretful gaze.

JESSIE

How did it happen? How did Joshua
first become...attached to you?What
is his origin?

JAMES
 (nodding slowly, bracing
 himself)
 It's a fair question. And one with
 a long, sordid history behind it -
 just like the sagas of Bradley,
 Brandon and the rest of us poor
 souls.

He settles onto a nearby bench, gesturing for Jessie to join him.

JAMES (CONT'D)
 So you know, Joshua wasn't always a
 demonic entity. He was once a
 little boy, much like any other...

Jessie leans in, entranced, as James delves into the tale,
 his voice taking on a WAVERING, HAUNTED QUALITY.

JAMES (V.O.)
 ...Born into the world a quiet,
 afflicted youth - what they called
 "autistic" in those days. He was
 different, you see. Disconnected.
 Which made him all the more
 vulnerable when the evil came
 calling...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. ANCIENT TEMPLE RUIN - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK SEQUENCE)

A FLICKERING TORCH REVEALS the crumbling walls of an ancient,
 sandstone structure - िषहद का मंिर (The Temple of the
 Martyr).

COUGHING ECHOES through the gloom as A BEARDED MAN (JOSHUA'S
 FATHER) makes his way up a spiral staircase, CLUTCHING A ELIC
 OF SOME KIND. His son JOSHUA, no older than 8, follows close
 behind.

JOSHUA'S FATHER
 (hissing urgently)
 Stay close, my son! We must show
 the utmost care with these
 artifacts - they are imbued with
 unholy energies!

But Joshua has already wandered ahead into A VAST CENTRAL
 CHAMBER. The TORCHLIGHT FLICKERS ACROSS AN OBSIDIAN
 PEDESTAL...upon which RESTS AN ANCIENT, TARNISHED URN.

Before his father can object, JOSHUA LIFTS THE URN, INSPECTING IT WITH CHILDLIKE CURIOSITY. A THIN TRICKLE OF VISCOUS, INKY LIQUID SEEPS FROM THE URN'S LIP, QUICKLY ENVELOPING THE YOUNG BOY.

JOSHUA'S FATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (bellowing in stark
 horror)
 NOOOOOO!!!

But it's already too late. The OILY CLOUD POURS DOWN JOSHUA'S THROAT, FORCING ITS WAY IN AS HE GAGS AND RETCHES.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - CONTINUOUS

The wind starts to howl, swirling leaves across the graveyard. A poster lands on Jessie's face.

JAMES
 What is that?

Jessie brushes it off and examines the poster, realizing Jester is still alive.

JESSIE
 It's a poster. But how is this possible?

JAMES
 Don't tell me we're going to confront him.

JESSIE
 It's too big a risk to ignore. We have to try.

FADE TO:

EXT. JESTER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

They approach the church cautiously, the wind whipping their clothes.

JESSIE
 Okay, we're here.

JAMES
 (tenses, then gives her a gun)
 You're going to need this.

Jessie takes the gun, her hand trembling slightly as she grips it tightly.

INT. JESTER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

The church is dimly lit, with eerie party lights casting ominous shadows. A woman in a Jester costume stands at the pulpit, addressing a small group.

SCARLET

If there's one person to rule the world, it will be us. As long as we have each other, we can bring this world to its knees.

A tense silence falls over the room. Then, a phone rings, shattering the quiet. The minions exchange nervous glances.

SCARLET (CONT'D)

Who's there?

Jessie and James step forward, guns raised.

JESSIE

Where the hell is Jester!

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Wait Selena how did--

SELENA

It's scarlet now...I can feel your confusion...addition to the story full of snakes even the those closest to you...stabbing you in a final blow of betrayal

She steps down from the pulpit slowly, hands spread wide, grin painted in madness.

SCARLET (SELENA)

I can taste your confusion, Jessie.

(darkly poetic)

This story is full of snakes... even the ones closest to you. And they don't hiss. They wait. They smile. And then--stab--your final breath is stolen by betrayal.

JAMES

(tense)

What are you talking about?

SCARLET (SELENA)
(circling them like prey)
 Auburn University... it all started
 there, didn't it? Your brother
 Ryan's death wasn't some accident,
 Jessie. It was a *message*.

Jessie stiffens. Scarlet leans in, whispering as if
 delivering prophecy.

SCARLET (SELENA) (CONT'D)
 The Murphy family was targeted...
 because of your *father*.
(beat)
 He's the reason the Bradley family
 was torn apart. Maybe he thought
 burying the past would save you.

But secrets have a way of surfacing—like corpses in shallow
 graves.

INT. JESTER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Scarlet stands in front of Jessie and James. Her clown
 minions begin to close in — circling like hyenas, gripping
 metal bats, tapping them against the floor with rhythmic
 menace.

SCARLET (SELENA)
(softly, as if saying goodbye)
 You were never meant to understand
 me, Jessie. Not until it was too
 late.
(smirking)
 And now... it is.

The minions raise their bats — ready to strike.

JESSIE
(to James, tense)
 Get ready.

JAMES
(steady)
 Already am.

SUDDENLY—

CRASH!!!

A car SMASHES through the side wall of the church, engine
 ROARING. Headlights blaze into the room, blinding everyone.

RATATATATAT!!!

Auto-mounted guns from the vehicle's roof tear through the clown minions – bodies dropping, bats clattering to the ground. Chaos erupts.

BOOM!!

A GRENADE explodes in the center of the chaos – flinging Scarlet back. Her laughter cuts off mid-scream as she SLAMS into the pulpit.

Silence. Smoke. Then footsteps.

Jessie and James rise, coughing, looking toward the figure stepping out of the wrecked vehicle...

A woman. Leather jacket. Stern face. Weapon still smoking.

JESSIE
(barely believing it)
...Mom?

JUSTINA MURPHY
(cool, calm, but fierce)
Looks like I'm right on time.

INT. JESTER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH - LATER

Scarlet, unconscious and bruised, is tied to a massive wooden CROSS at the front of the church – hands and legs bound tight. Blood drips from her temple.

Jessie stares at her in silence, then turns to her mother.

JESSIE
You disappeared. You left us.

JUSTINA MURPHY
No, Jessie... I was taken. I had to disappear. To protect you from them.

JAMES
From who?

Justina glances at Scarlet. Her jaw tightens.

JUSTINA MURPHY
There's more to this than JESTER.
Than BRANDON. Than the darkness
you've seen. Your father... made a
deal. Years ago. With something he
didn't understand.

Jessie stiffens.

JUSTINA MURPHY (CONT'D)
 It tore Bradley's family apart. And
 when your brother Ryan got too
 close to the truth, they killed
 him.

JESSIE
 So... all this...

JUSTINA MURPHY
 Scarlet's just one piece. The real
 enemy is older... and he's been
 watching us this whole time.

A cold wind blows through the shattered windows. The
 flickering lights hum louder, almost reacting to the truth.

JUSTINA MURPHY (CONT'D)
 And he's coming for all of us.

INT. JESTER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

*Jessie, James, and Justina stare at Scarlet tied to the
 massive cross. A beat of silence. Then—*

RING. RING.

*Jessie's phone buzzes on the ground. The caller ID:
 "UNKNOWN." Her hand trembles slightly as she picks it up and
 answers.*

JESSIE
 Who is this?

JESTER (V.O.)
 (in a twisted, theatrical
 tone)
 Ahhh... the Murphy family —
 reunited at last.
 How touching.

*Justina freezes. James reaches for his weapon. Jessie stays
 locked in.*

JESTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 But don't get too comfortable.
 See, while you were having your
 little reunion... I took someone
 very important from you.

Static crackles, then—

JESTER (V.O.)
 (mocking whisper)
 Say hi to Garrett.

A muffled SCREAM echoes through the line.

JESTER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He's currently enjoying the
 penthouse view from Nashville
 Tower. And the green... oh, the
 green is spreading fast.

EXT. NASHVILLE CITY - NIGHT

*A wide, panoramic SHOT of the city skyline. Green mystical
 runes pulse in the sky above the towering structure -
NASHVILLE TOWER.*

*From its spire, waves of glowing green energy ripple out,
 washing over neighborhoods.*

*One by one, civilians freeze, their eyes flashing emerald,
 mouths curling into twisted clown-like grins. They begin
 laughing hysterically, convulsing as they transform into
emerald-eyed manic clowns - infected by the spell.*

INT. UNKNOWN SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

*A dark room lit only by green monitors. On one screen:
 Jester, standing on the edge of Nashville Tower. On another:
 Garrett, bound and gagged.*

*Behind a microscope, a tall man observes the chaos through
 lenses - calculated, silent.*

VOICE (O.S.)
 (on phone, distorted)
 Delvin... are you watching?

DELVIN VIERA
 (coldly, eyes locked on
 Jester)
 He's gone too far this time.

VOICE (O.S.)
 He's your son.

DELVIN VIERA
 No.
 He was my son.
 Now... he's a weapon.

Delvin lowers the microscope and looks to the shadows of the room, where a large LOCKED CASE with ancient sigils hums faintly with a blue glow.

DELVIN

And it's time someone pulled the trigger.

CUT TO:

INT. NASHVILLE TOWER - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Jessie, James, and Justina stand in silence, weapons in hand. The elevator rattles as it ascends. Outside, distant SCREAMS echo through the metal walls - chaos is spilling through the city.

JUSTINA

(senses something)
Something's wrong, sweetie. Be cautious.

JAMES

Stay behind me. No matter what happens.

DING. The doors slide open with a hiss.

INT. NASHVILLE TOWER - 16TH FLOOR - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A long hallway stretches ahead, dim and flickering with failing power. Smoke creeps along the floor like a ghost.

Jessie pauses. She hears a deep, unnatural RUMBLE from above.

JESSIE

Guys... I'm heading to the roof.

JUSTINA

Be careful, Jess.

Jessie nods, jaw clenched, and bolts toward the stairwell.

EXT. NASHVILLE TOWER - ROOFTOP - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The wind howls. Red lightning cracks across the sky. A MASSIVE ARCANIC CANNON, glowing with green sigils, stands at the edge of the rooftop. JESTER, unhinged and smirking, loads the final spell.

JESSIE

(shouting over the wind)
Shut it down, Jester!

Jester turns, cloak whipping around him. His eyes gleam emerald with madness.

JESTER

Well, well... the grieving daughter returns.

JESSIE

How are you even alive? I shot you!

JESTER

(laughs darkly)

A graze... barely touched me.
But I remember that night –
The night you lost your daughter...
and your father. So much death,
Jessie.
And now... it's your turn to watch.

He steps aside, revealing the cannon aimed at the heart of the city.

JESTER (CONT'D)

This world laughed at my brother's failure.
But I'll finish what he started.

JESSIE

What are you doing?!

JESTER

(screaming into the storm)
TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT MY BROTHER
COULDN'T—
TO RULE THE WORLD!!!

BOOM! The cannon fires. A blast of emerald energy streaks into the sky, splitting into a storm of FLAMING METEORS. The clouds swirl blood-red, the city beneath caught in the eye of the apocalypse.

Jessie watches in horror as the sky rains fire.

BACK TO:

INT. NASHVILLE TOWER - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Gunfire ECHOES above. JAMES kicks open a door, leading JUSTINA up the stairs. Blood smears the walls. SCREAMS echo through the building.

JUSTINA

They're everywhere...

JAMES

Then we clear a path to get
through.

A pair of JESTER'S MINIONS – twisted clown-like maniacs with emerald eyes – lunge from the shadows. James SHOOTs one down. Justina stabs another with a concealed blade.

JUSTINA

(muttering)

I didn't survive all this time to
die to painted freaks.

EXT. NASHVILLE TOWER – ROOFTOP – CONTINUOUS

Jessie circles the cannon as Jester steps closer to GARRETT – bloodied, tied to a rope that dangles over the rooftop edge.

JESSIE

Let him go, Jester!

JESTER

Let him go? After what his father
did?
Garrett is bait – just like you
were.
But this time, no one's coming to
save you.

He tightens the rope. Garrett GASPS, struggling.

INT. DELVIN'S COMPOUND – ARMORY ROOM – NIGHT

DELVIN opens a heavy, rusted door. Inside: a ROCKET LAUNCHER wrapped in cloth and marked with ancient runes. A PHONE RINGS in his pocket.

DELVIN

(into phone)

Yeah?

UNKNOWN (V.O.)

The time has come. Fire it on my
signal. We end this tower and
everything in it.

Delvin pauses.

DELVIN

...Understood.

INT. JESTER'S MEMORIAL CHURCH - NIGHT

Dark, smoky light. SCARLET groans, bound to the giant cross. A SHADOWED FIGURE enters the ruined chapel - face hidden, presence cold and immense.

SCARLET
(weak, shocked)
You've returned... after all this
time?

The figure steps forward slowly. The stained glass flickers with green light.

UNKNOWN
We need to move, clown girl.

SCARLET
(smiling through blood)
Still playing puppeteer... You're
the one who broke Brandon... You
shattered the Viera bloodline.

UNKNOWN
(sinister, cold)
And I'm not done.

Scarlet lets out an unhinged LAUGH that echoes through the broken rafters.

BACK TO ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Jessie tackles Jester. They BRAWL viciously near the edge - punches, spells, blood. The cannon glows brighter, charging for a second shot.

Garrett, still dangling, groans in pain.

JESTER
This world was never yours to save,
Jessie. It was mine to destroy.

JESSIE
(shouting)
Not while I'm still breathing!

EXT. NASHVILLE SKY - NIGHT

A HELICOPTER ROARS in from the clouds - SCARLET at the gunner seat, laughing maniacally as she opens fire with MECHANIZED BULLETS toward a second helicopter piloted by DELVIN.

INT. DELVIN'S HELICOPTER - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The cockpit SHUDDERS. ENGINE SMOKE floods the panel.

PILOT
We're losing altitude!

DELVIN
Lock onto the tower! Fire!

*Through the crackling static and chaos, the ROCKET LAUNCHER locks on.**

EXT. SKY OVER NASHVILLE - CONTINUOUS

The rocket BLASTS toward the tower - SMASHING into the side. Flames ERUPT. The entire structure begins to TREMBLE, SHRIEK, and slowly COLLAPSE.

EXT. NASHVILLE TOWER - ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Scarlet hovers low with her chopper.

SCARLET
Jester! HOP IN!

Jester limps forward - but JUSTINA steps out of the shadows and FIRES - BANG. BANG. Scarlet takes two to the chest, reeling back. Jester is shot in the leg and SCREAMS in rage.

JUSTINA
NO MORE ESCAPES.

She sprints forward, tosses Scarlet's limp body out of the pilot seat, and GRABS the controls. Jessie runs and leaps aboard.

INT. SCARLET'S HELICOPTER - MOMENTS LATER

Jessie catches her breath - then SCREAMS as she looks back.

JESSIE
GARRETT! NO!!!

Garrett - still tied - slips off the roof edge. The rope SNAPS. His body FALLS in slow, sickening motion. Jessie claws at the open side of the chopper.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
NO! NONONO!!!

The tower finally gives way - collapsing into a wave of dust and fire beneath them.

EXT. HELICOPTER - MID-AIR - CONTINUOUS

Jester, bleeding and broken, LEAPS from the falling rooftop and BARELY GRABS the chopper's landing rail.

JUSTINA (O.S.)
He's on the damn rail!

JESSIE
(grimacing)
You took everything from me...

JESTER
One day you'll know why things
happened the way it did.

INT. HELICOPTER - Mid-Air - CONTINUOUS

Rain pelts the chopper. Thunder rolls.

Jessie grips the frame, frozen between heartbreak and fury. Jester's body dangles, trembling, his blood mixing with the rain. Below them, the fiery ruins of Nashville Tower blaze like a funeral pyre.

JESSIE
(tears streaming)
Then why didn't you let us help
you?

JESTER
(quiet, almost smiling)
Because broken people don't look
for help... We look for escape.

JESTER (CONT'D)
(voice strained)
But you were always right about one
thing...we all have to take
ownership of our mistakes. For the
record I wasn't never the enemy the
trauma was.

He locks eyes with her, not as a villain — but as the man she
once loved.

JESTER (CONT'D)
Always remember through adversity
that where strength manifest. And
tell yourself... you're the
strongest person I ever knew.

His grip loosens. A beat.

JESSIE
 (whispers)
 Bradley...

With a final breath, Jester lets go.

WIDE SHOT — His body falls into the smoke below — swallowed by the darkness.

INT. HELICOPTER - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Justina steadies the controls as Jessie sinks back into her seat, shaking, stunned.

JUSTINA
 (softly)
 I'm so sorry, sweetie.

JESSIE
 (staring into the storm)
 He wasn't the villain.
 He was the aftermath...

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - MORNING

The sun is low, casting a soft light over the graveyard. Jessie stands before the graves of Ryan, Claire, Bryce, Amy, and Jester. She gazes at them with a quiet intensity, the weight of loss heavy in the air. She pulls out a guitar and begins to play softly.

MUSIC CUE: "HOLY GROUND (SOLO) Version by JESSIE MURPH"

As Jessie sings, her voice raw with emotion, the camera pans across the graves. The air around her seems to hum, as if the ground itself is alive with energy. The camera slowly pulls back to reveal a growing unease — the lights around the graveyard begin to flicker, casting the entire place in eerie shadows.

The music continues, but then suddenly, the speaker cuts out. The light flickers, fading until the graveyard is plunged into darkness. The audience begins to disappear, leaving only Jessie standing in the center of the graveyard, her voice now the only sound.

From the shadows, the TORMENTOR of the Brotherhood of Brandon & Jester (Bradley) emerges. A dark figure, cloaked in malevolent energy. Its voice echoes through the graveyard, an unsettling laugh filling the space.

TORMENTOR
 (voice booming, sinister)
 Our story continues, Ms. Murphy.
 ARUGH HAHAAHAAHAAHHA!

Before Jessie can react, the TORMENTOR reaches out and grabs Justina by the throat, lifting her off the ground with terrifying ease. Jessie screams in horror.

JESSIE
 (desperate)
 MOM! NO!!!!

The figure vanishes into the air, taking Justina with it. The graveyard is left in complete silence.

CUT TO BLACK.

POST-CREDIT SCENE

The screen remains black for a beat, the silence almost suffocating.

FADE IN: BLACK SCREEN.

The voice of JESSIE MURPH cuts through the darkness.

JESSIE MURPH (V.O.)
 This is just the beginning of the Expedition universe.
 I'm honored to be part of this project – so blessed for everything. Turning struggles into something authentic...

A beat. Then, another voice interrupts.

JUICE WRLD (V.O.)
 My message to the youth is – be strong, no matter what you're going through. You have the power to change the world. And even if things take a negative turn – stay positive.

The screen fades to black again, leaving the weight of these words lingering.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE END

FADE OUT.

