



Dark Spot

(Horror/Spec/Feature)

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - 1930s - DAY

A mountain looms large above a rural town- Its peak obscured by dark rain clouds.

The trees, ground, and rocks are stripped and lay in perfect rows toward the entrance of a mine at the foot of the mountain. Black smoke from heavy construction equipment fills the air.

EXT. TERN DOWNS - CONTINUOUS

A bustling mining town, nestled in the shadow of Hell's Gate mountain. At the edge of the town, little LINDA (7, curious, innocent) watches as MINERS, cloaked in coal dust, trudge out of the mine.

LINDA's father, gaunt and coughing, stumbles among them. She runs to him, worry etched on her young face.

EXT. TERN DOWNS - 1945 - NIGHT

The town, is now empty and silent.

Linda (17), stands at the edge of the road as somber women and children watch the last of the town's MEN vanish, swallowed by the mountain mist.

EXT. CAMBODIAN JUNGLE - 1974 - NIGHT

A dark, dense jungle appears from the black. It's lifeless. No Insects. No animals. No people. Only an unnatural SILENCE. A light rain begins to fall.

RADIO CHATTER is heard coming from a radio inside the GI tent, which is illuminated from the inside.

A branch SNAPS, and a tree rustles in the background. The rain grows heavier, beating out patterns on the leaves and rocks.

INT. TENT - CONTINUOUS

A reel to reel portable audio device fills a portion of the cramped, damp, green tent.

Two men, SGT. GABRIEL BARNES (24, Male, timid, anxious) and PVT. TEDDY REYNOLDS (20, Male, unearned confidence, energetic, funny) operate a sound system.

INT. TENT - CAMBODIAN JUNGLE - NIGHT

A dim lantern flickers inside the cluttered tent.

REYNOLDS, hunched over the sound equipment, adjusts the knobs amidst a HUM of ghostly static.

Suddenly, the tent fabric FLUTTERS unnaturally, casting distorted shadows that stretch and recoil like living things.

BARNES
(nervous eyes darting)
Reynolds... what the hell is that?

REYNOLDS squints, the shadow reflection of a figure looming behind him, its presence felt more than seen.

GHOST TAPES - CHILD WHISPER

The ghost tape emits a CHILD'S WHISPER, barely discernible, a call through time and space.

Reynolds' hand trembles, hovering over the STOP button, but he can't bring himself to press it.

BARNES instinctively clutches his weapon, eyes wide, as the shadow flickers, revealing the hint of a familiar face - a soldier's face.

The tent settles and silence swallows the chaos.

GHOST TAPES - MAN PLEADING AND GROANING

Teddy sits with headphones on, gently manipulating the sound board. His eye twitches unnaturally, and he rubs it. Irritating him, he accidentally bumps into the table.

GHOST TAPE SCRATCHES, ELECTRONIC SQUEALS.

Barnes shakes his head, adjusts the gear and glares at Reynolds.

The rain THUMPS ASYNCHRONOUSLY and VIBRATES the tough tent fabric all around them.

GHOST TAPES - BABY CRIES, CHOKING SOUNDS.

Reynolds relaxes and stops rubbing his eye. He shrugs at Barnes.

A GREEN BERET's hand appears through the flap of the tent behind them. It wraps around Pvt. Reynolds' mouth.

Reynolds bolts upright and tries to look backward.

A Green Beret in unconventional jungle camo puts a finger to his lips and signals for them to grab their guns and come with him.

Reynolds and Barnes grab their weapons and rain gear and run out of the tent into the rain.

EXT. CAMBODIAN JUNGLE - CONTINUOUS

U.S. Soldiers SHOOT wildly in the background. Sporadic flashes from grenades burst in the distance.

Reynolds and Barnes run through the jungle after the Green Beret. They slow, realizing they are lost. They stop and crouch behind a tree and shake their heads. Reynolds presses a finger to his lips and cocks his head, listening.

GHOST TAPES AUDIO - BABY CRYING

Reynolds spots a patch of pale skin glowing in the dense ground ahead of him.

GHOST TAPE AUDIO - DISEMBODIED MUTTERING

Reynolds crawls toward the baby and leaves the petrified, Barnes huddled against a tree.

Soldiers can be seen retreating through the woods, then falling SILENT when an unseen weight drags their bodies halfway into the ground, partially buried, their last positions frozen in time.

A flare erupts high above the canopy, and the light that shines through dances unnaturally as the arc of the flare passes overhead.

INT. LINDA'S HOME - 1974 - NIGHT

Creaking floors in an old Victorian home. Linda, now a mother, MYLES BARNES' photograph on the mantle. She gently places her hand over his youthful grin.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Linda, disheveled and menacing, walks through a forest of trees laid on their sides facing up the mountain.

GHOST TAPES AUDIO - MALE CRIES

Long drag marks at the base of the trees make them appear to be plucked and dragged.

EXT. HELL'S GATE MINE - 1980 - NIGHT

LINDA (50s, resolute, mystical) gathers ancient runes and herbs under a full moon.

EXT. TERN DOWNS - 1991 - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

LINDA (70s, stoic, wise) stands in front of her "Witch Shoppe," the mountain looming behind her. She lights a candle, the flame flickering as if caught between worlds.

CUE TITLE:

DARK SPOT

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. "CARLY'S" CAR - DAY

JACOB REYNOLDS (13, Male, quiet, honest, anxious, sad) sits in the back of an older model Chevrolet Cavalier. Stacks of household items from his mother's and his recent move crowd the back seat. He fiddles with his headset.

Jacob rests his head against the window and looks out at the mountainous landscape.

A distant shadow appears on the horizon. It's nothing more than a spot as if he had looked at the sun for too long, but he hasn't seen the sun at all.

Jacob rubs his sleepy eyes and looks again.

The black figure is still in the distance.

Jacob murmurs to himself.

CARLY REYNOLDS (37, Female, hard-working, kind, caring) looks over her shoulder at Jacob.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'N.I.B.'

CARLY

What's that, Jake? Hmmm?

Carly leans over and pushes aside a box to get to Jacob's knee, which she gently squeezes.

Jacob murmurs to himself again then stops. He turns off his music and looks up at his mom.

JACOB

What?

CARLY
All I hear is the sound of your
lips smacking. Were you singing,
honey?

JACOB
I was praying.

CARLY
Praying... Okay, Jake.

Jacob smiles, sarcastically, then looks out the window again.

The shadow is still in the bottom right-hand corner of his vision. It appears to be either growing or getting closer. Maybe both.

JACOB
(Murmuring)
Defende. Defende.

Jacob closes his eyes and squeezes his head between the boxes and the front seat. He presses PLAY on his portable CD player with 4-second anti-shock resistance.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'N.I.B.'

He holds his headphones tightly against his head.

JACOB (CONT'D)
(Murmuring)
E tenebris. E tenebris.

A wooden sign is seen hanging from a white post. The first word has been altered from 'TERN' and the sign now reads 'THE DOWNS'.

INT. "JACOB'S" HOUSE - DAY

Carly watches Jacob riding his bike off to school through the front window while she hugs her morning coffee. Outside, Linda watches Jacob ride away. A big black dog pants beside her. They both turn to look at Carly through the window.

CARLY
(To herself)
Old weirdo, get outta here.
(exhales)
I should have never moved you out
of the city... I should've stayed.
(shakes head)
Stop.

Carly surveys the room.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 Not exactly...
 (Laughs to herself)
 A Pier One catalog.
 (Takes a sip)
 OW.

She burns her lip on the coffee.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 Fuck.

A toaster pops up with a RING. Two pieces of toast sit burnt in the top position.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 (startled)
 Oh, my...

The smoke alarm goes off.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 (sarcastically)
 Really.

Carly walks over to an open box in the hallway and rips off the box top. She wafts the box top at the smoke alarm.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

JACOB
 (smiling)
 AHH!!!

Jacob yells out as he sails down a damp mountain road on his bike.

A car appears behind a turn. HONKS.

Jacob spins around and lands on the ground. His bike sails over the edge of the cliff.

Jacob's face is scratched.

GERALD runs up to Jacob.

GERALD
 Are you crazy? I could've killed you! You okay?

Gerald LIFTS Jacob to his feet.

Jacob gives a thumbs up and looks at the edge where his bike went over.

JACOB
(cries)
My bike.

GERALD
(chuckling)
You're lucky you're not part of my
windshield, boy.

Gerald looks over the edge of the cliff.

GERALD (CONT'D)
(Shakes head)
Good news.
(Looks at Jacob)
And bad news.

JACOB
(Getting up)
What?

Jacob wipes the snot away and leans over the edge.

Gerald looks down at him and playfully but still aggressively
pretends to push him over, then stops, as men do.

Jacob, not used to being around men, feels the tap on his
back and overreacts, slipping slightly.

GERALD
(laughing)
Careful!
(points)
There's your bike. Looks to be in
one piece... although I have no
idea how to get down there.

Jacob snuffles then looks up at him.

JACOB
Same way you came up.

GERALD
Yeah.
(embarrassed)
That makes sense. Hmm. You need a
ride into town, kid? Or help at
least with the bike? Where you
headed?

JACOB
The Downs.

GERALD
AH. Okay. Good luck then.

Gerald begins to back away, his temperament changing.

GERALD (CONT'D)
 Sorry about the bike.
 (Getting in car)
 I'll be seeing you.

Gerald drives off in a hurry.

JACOB
 Asshole!

The dark spot in Jacob's eye grows LARGER. A shadow separates from it---like a cell---and starts coming toward him. Jacob steps back from the edge and RUBS his eyes.

TAYLOR (15, Male, obnoxious, loud, impulsive) approaches Jacob on a bike.

Jacob is still unable to identify who walks toward him. He peers deeper into the distance, trying to figure out if it's somebody he knows.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 (recognition)
 Shit.

Taylor appears in front of Jacob, pulling up on a bike.

TAYLOR
 What happened to your bike, *Jake*-
 ass?

JACOB
 Fell down the hill, Taylor.

TAYLOR
 Fell? Were you trying to find that
 entrance to hell down there?

JACOB
 (annoyed)
 What are you talking about?

TAYLOR
 (smiling)
 You know there's an entrance to
 hell under the mountain there...

JACOB
 No idea.

TAYLOR
 Oh, I figured you'd be down there
 looking for your dad. Him being a
 suicide and all.

JACOB
What does that even mean?

TAYLOR
Suicides go to hell. Didn't you
learn anything in Sunday school?

JACOB
How do you know though?

Taylor shakes his head and rides away.

TAYLOR
My dad's there too!
(flicks him off)
Jack-ass!

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

Jacob looks at his bike with a slightly bent tire. He tilts his head and the black spot appears in his vision on the bottom right... now slightly larger than before.

Shaking his head, he backs away. His bike appears to have two long, shallow trenches under its front and rear tires from where it's been dragged UP the hill.

Jacob looks down at where his bike landed at the bottom of the trenches. Then he follows the trenches up with his eyes.

The sky darkens.

A branch SNAPS from a tree and lands behind Jacob.

Jacob picks up the bike from the side of the mountain and walks it the rest of the way up the hill.

EXT. EDGE OF TOWN - DAY

At the edge of town, Jacob walks his bike past a shop with a marquee sign that reads: 'The Crying Forest'.

Underneath the marquee, a smaller sign reads: 'Tickets, Curiosities, and Witch Shop'.

JACOB
What a strange place for a...
(Jacob looks closely at
the sign)
Witch shop?

Jacob looks up at the darkening sky. The first rain drops begin to fall.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 (sighs)
 But I guess it's as good a place as
 any to get out of the rain.

Jacob shivers and walks up to 'The Crying Forest.' He tries the door. It doesn't open.

A sign in the window reads: CLOSED. Jacob peers beside the sign into the shop. It's empty.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 Closed... And empty. That's weird.

Jacob takes a step back.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 It looks like it should be open.

Jacob shakes his head and starts walking away as the rain begins to pick up.

EXT. TOWN - DAY

Jacob walks through town with his head down and headphones on.

The bent bike wheel makes a 'SLUMPING' noise as it goes around the tire.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'BLACK SABBATH'

Jacob looks around at the town. The black spot is still present in his vision.

A woman sits on her stoop with a Doberman watching slowly as he passes.

Jacob picks up his pace. The bike wheel makes it hard to move faster. The bike falls over. He picks it up and looks around.

JACOB
 (Singing Aloud, to
 himself)
 Find out I'm the chosen one...
 (bobs head)
 Oh noooo!

A car pulls up in front of Jacob, and he stops.

Carly runs over to Jacob.

CARLY
 What happened to you? Are you hurt?

JACOB
I'm fine. I'm fine.

CARLY
Are you sure? What...
(looks at his bike)
Happened?

Carly starts to touch Jacob's knees and arms to make sure he's okay.

Jacob shrugs her away.

JACOB
Fell off my bike... I'm fine, mom.

CARLY
Screw the bike, you're fine. That's what's important.

JACOB
How did you know I was here?

CARLY
I saw you from over there...

Carly points to a gas station on the road.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Met your school librarian...
(snaps fingers)
Cassie! She seems nice... bookish.
(laughs)
I told her to...

Jacob cuts Carly off mid-sentence.

JACOB
(Interrupting)
Oh, no. What did you say to her...

CARLY
Nothing much... I was headed up to the mountain... I thought maybe you'd gone there without me again, and...
(Waves her hands)
Voila! Here you are!
(Frowns)
I've had a pretty bad morning so far... and I think you have too...

Jacob looks up in silence.

CARLY (CONT'D)
You want to get some food?

JACOB
Won't school be mad?

CARLY
They think you're playing hooky...
(winks)
It'd be a shame to disappoint them.

Jacob smiles and they both put the bike in the trunk.

Carly inhales a whiff of air.

CARLY (CONT'D)
That's so funny, Jacob. I just
smelled your father.

JACOB
I put on dad's old cologne this
morning.

Jacob climbs in the backseat and pushes his mom's research
equipment and her caving harness out of the way.

INT. DINER - DAY

Carly looks on at Jacob lovingly as he tries to avert her
gaze.

A WAITRESS walks over to their table.

WAITRESS
What can I get you to start?

CARLY
I'll have a coffee.

Carly glances at Jacob.

JACOB
I'll have a coffee too.

The waitress looks at Carly for confirmation.

Carly nods in affirmation.

JACOB (CONT'D)
AND a coke please!

The waitress looks disappointed at Jacob.

WAITRESS
Sorry, hun, we only got Pepsi here.

JACOB
Never mind.
(exhales)
I'll have some water.

WAITRESS
Done and done...
(winks at Jacob)
I'll be right back with your
drinks.

Thanks! JACOB Thank You! CARLY

WAITRESS
Okay then.

Carly waits until the waitress leaves before looking back at Jacob.

CARLY
So- You gonna tell me what really
happened?

Jacob looks away and winces trying to get the black spot out of his eye.

Carly looks at him concerned.

WAITRESS
Here's your drinks!

Carly and Jacob look up and smile.

CARLY
(smiling)
Thank you.

WAITRESS
(smiles back)
No problem.
(looks at Jacob)
You know what you want
(in a weird voice)
... Dude?

Jacob laughs a little and answers.

JACOB
I'll have the French toast with
bacon and white toast please.

WAITRESS
What kind of jam?

JACOB
Strawberry of course. Wait. Does it
have seeds in it?

WAITRESS
(confused)
The jam? Um. No, I don't think so.

JACOB
Then strawberry.

The waitress smiles and turns toward Carly.

CARLY
I'll have the ham steak with syrup
and hash browns please.

WAITRESS
Bacon?

CARLY
Well I'm having a ham steak
sooooo...
(looks at Jacob)
Yes. I'll have some.

WAITRESS
Alrighty, back in a jiffy.

Carly rips two Sweet'n'Lows in half and dumps them in her
coffee.

Jacob looks at her and then grabs two Sweet'n'Lows and rips
them in half and puts them in his coffee.

Carly smiles without looking at him and grabs the creamer and
rips two of them and then pours them into her coffee.

Jacob rips the top off one of the creamers and pours it into
his coffee. He flicks the other creamer at his mom with his
index finger. It lands next to her coffee.

CARLY
Next time.

Jacob smiles and then looks out the window again.

CARLY (CONT'D)
What's wrong with your eye?
Something get in it when you fell?

JACOB
Nope. It's been there a while now.

CARLY
What has?

JACOB
The dark spot.

CARLY
(scared)
Dark spot, what do you mean?

JACOB
(sips coffee)
(to himself)
That's hot.

CARLY
Mm-hmmm. What dark spot, Jacob?

Carly is taken aback by Jacob raising his voice. She looks around to see an older woman at the counter staring at her.

Linda stands just outside the window waving at Jacob.

Carly is unaware of Linda outside. She looks around and sees Jacob waving at nothing.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Jacob...
(stops herself)
(smiles)
Jake. Do you have a spot in your eye? Is your vision blurry? Did you hit your head at all? Where's your helmet?

Jacob pats his backpack with his helmet inside.

JACOB
It's been there since dad died.

CARLY
Your helmet?

JACOB
No, mom, the spot. I have this little tiny black spot in my vision. It's been getting bigger.

Carly is startled by the CLANG of plates from the Waitress dropping the bacon plate on the floor.

WAITRESS
(embarrassed)
Sorry! I'll get you some fresh bacon.

Carly smiles.

JACOB
That's very nice of you, thank you.

WAITRESS
Well, my, my, aren't you a well-behaved young man.

CARLY
He is.

WAITRESS
Where'd you get that bruise on your face?

Waitress looks at Carly.

CARLY
He fell off his bike.

The waitress waits for Jacob to respond.

JACOB
I fell off my bike. It wasn't my mom's fault.

CARLY
Jacob, she...
(interrupted)

WAITRESS
(shocked)
I wasn't... I didn't say she did.

JACOB
But you were thinking it.

WAITRESS
(throws the plates on the table)
I'll be back with your bacon.

CARLY
Don't worry about it really.

WAITRESS
MMM. Okay.

The waitress disappears into the swinging doors and her head rises above the window, looking at Jacob.

Jacob raises his hand to wave at the waitress. Carly grabs his hand and lowers it.

CARLY
What's with the waving at things?
Eat your breakfast.

Jacob looks at the strawberry jam. He hallucinates that the strawberry jam turns to coagulated blood, but he stays quiet.

CARLY (CONT'D)
What's wrong, Jake? Seeds?

Jacob's face turns pale. He puts the jam down and pushes it away.

JACOB
Yeah... seeds...

CARLY
Aw... I'm sorry honey.

INT. "JACOB'S" HOUSE - NIGHT

Jacob sits on the couch, watching TV. An infomercial for Dark Spot Removal Skin and Eye Cream is on. Carly appears in the doorway.

CARLY
Are you going to bed soon, hon?

Jacob quickly switches the TV Channel.

JACOB
Sure. Once this is over.

CARLY
Okay, well don't stay up too late.
Tomorrow's still a school day. I'm
beat. I'm going to bed.

Carly steps back into the hallway to go to her room.

Jacob switches the TV back to the Dark Spot Infomercial.

TELEVISION ANNOUNCER
Just rub the cream anywhere on your
skin, and the dark spot goes away.
Just like that.

A model rubs the cream on a dark spot on her skin and a time-lapse photo shows it disappearing.

Jacob rubs his bleary eyes.

A phone number appears on the screen below the announcer's face.

TELEVISION ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Just call us at: 800-666-6666...

The Television Announcer's face transforms into Reynolds' face.

REYNOLDS

Jacob.

Jacob jerks upright in his seat and rubs his eyes again. The phone rings beside him. Jacob looks at it. It rings again. He answers it.

JACOB

Hello?

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)

You have a collect call from...

REYNOLDS (ON PHONE)

Your father.

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)

Will you accept the charges?

Jacob is visibly terrified, and shaking.

JACOB

Yes.

OPERATOR (ON PHONE)

Thank you. Connecting you now.

Jacob is silent, holding the phone in his hand. The sound of heavy breathing comes through the line.

JACOB

Dad? Is that... Is that really you?

REYNOLDS

Hey, buddy. It's me.

In the background, we can see Reynolds on the television, having the same conversation with Jacob that they're having on the phone.

JACOB

How?

REYNOLDS

Never mind how. You alone?

JACOB

Yeah, I...

REYNOLDS

Listen. I need you to meet me.

JACOB
Meet you? But that's...

REYNOLDS
Listen!
(calming back down)
I need you to see me.

JACOB
See you? How?

REYNOLDS
That spot. The dark spot. Why'd you
tell your mom about such a gift?

JACOB
I didn't. Mom...

REYNOLDS
Mommy doesn't matter here!
(calming down again)
I need you.

JACOB
Me, why?

REYNOLDS
Shh... she's coming.

The phone line goes dead. Carly appears in the doorway again.
The announcer on television transforms once again from
Reynolds back into the original announcer.

CARLY
Who were you talking to?

Jacob hangs up the phone. He's still trembling.

JACOB
Nobody. Wrong number.

CARLY
Oh. I was just coming to see if you
were going to bed yet. I told you
not to stay up too late.

JACOB
Yeah... yeah... I should probably
go to bed.

A dog howls in the distance. The LIGHTS flicker off and back
on. Jacob jumps in place.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Mom, can I sleep in your room
tonight?

Carly looks at Jacob with a concerned expression.

CARLY
Sure, hon.

Jacob RUBS his eye.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Is your eye still bothering you?

Jacob nods.

CARLY (CONT'D)
We'll go to the first eye
appointment tomorrow.

JACOB
(sullen)
But, mom...

Carly holds up a finger and points the way to bed.

INT. "JACOB'S" BEDROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight seeps through the curtains, tracing patterns on the faded wallpaper. JACOB lies awake, his eyes on the PHOTOGRAPH of his father.

CARLY enters, her footsteps soft yet purposeful. She sits at the edge of his bed, her silhouette a comforting presence in the dim room.

Jacob shifts, taking a deep breath, tension unwinding in the presence of his mother.

CARLY
(quietly, leaning in)
It's wracking your mind, isn't it?
Like an unanswered question on the
tip of your tongue.

Jacob turns, searching Carly's eyes for reassurance.

JACOB
(voice barely a whisper,
full of yearning)
It's like I'm looking through his
eyes...

Carly nods, her response wordless yet profound, as she brushes his hair back, grounding him.

JACOB (CONT'D)
But. it's not him. Not anymore.

Jacob leans into her touch, the bond palpable, an unspoken agreement to face the darkness together.

INT. EYE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

A large metal eye chart machine covers Jacob's face.

A female EYE DOCTOR rests her hand on the machine and looks over at Carly, who sits, holding Jacob's hand.

EYE DOCTOR
(smiles)
Can you read the top line for me,
Jacob?

Jacob squints into the machine.

JACOB
W, S, U, I, J, K, O

EYE DOCTOR
Great Job. 10 points.
(smiles)
Keep going. Second line please.

JACOB
Okay. J, H, G, N, F... N and K!

Jacob smiles.

EYE DOCTOR
You're on a roll, Jacob. Last line
please.

Jacob leans closer to the machine.

The face of Reynolds flashes onto the screen.

Jacob tries to pull away from the machine, but he's stuck. He tries to pull his face off, but he can't find the leverage.

EYE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Jacob. JACOB... Stop fooling
around.

Reynolds' face appears on screen again. Fangs hidden under his lips open wide and dart forward.

Carly stands and looks at the Eye Doctor in shock. Then, she grabs Jacob from behind and tries to pull him off.

CARLY
(panicking)
Jacob! JACOB! Let go, baby. PLEASE
let go of my boy!

The Eye Doctor tries to pull the machine off of Jacob but can't.

EYE DOCTOR
I don't understand.
(shouting)
NURSE!

A NURSE opens the door.

NURSE
(screams)
DOCTOR! What in the world?

The Eye Doctor and Carly look over at the Nurse.

EYE DOCTOR
Don't just stand there. Help me
pull this damn machine off him!

The Nurse looks around and grabs a towel and wraps it around the metal handle on the machine for leverage and begins to pull.

JACOB
(screams)
You're hurting me! My FACE!!
(screams)
HE'S GOT ME NOW! GET IT OFF!

Reynolds reaches out his hands toward Jacob and grabs his face on either side.

Carly, Eye Doctor, and the Nurse go SILENT and stop pulling as they see blood start to trickle down from the sides of the machine.

EYE DOCTOR
(stops pulling)
Stop!

The Eye Doctor touches Carly's arm.

EYE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(solemnly)
Stop pulling.

JACOB
(screaming)
He has me! He's hurting me! MOMMY!

Carly slaps the doctor's hands out of the way and throws her arms around Jacob. With a final pull, she manages to get him out of the chair, and she lands with a THUD on the ground with Jacob in her arms.

Jacob's face is ringed in blood. Deep fingernail marks are seen on either side of his face.

The Eye Doctor and the Nurse look at each other.

EYE DOCTOR
Call an ambulance.

The Nurse hesitates.

EYE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Call the fucking ambulance. NOW.

The Eye Doctor leans down to help pick Jacob up, but Carly swats her hands away and picks him up in her arms.

Carly carries Jacob out to her car, and they drive away.

NURSE
Should we report this?

EYE DOCTOR
Are you kidding? Call Tennessee.

The Nurse looks at the blood on the floor and hesitates.

EYE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Now.

NURSE
(Still looking at the
blood)
Yes...
(Looks at Eye Doctor)
Yes, Doctor. Right away.

INT. "JACOB'S" BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jacob's eyes roll underneath his eyelids as he sleeps in bed.

A close-up of a chicken head flicked by thumb flashes across the screen followed by a POPPING sound.

Carly stands over Jacob and holds the shirt he wore earlier in her hands. When she holds it up to the light, the collar is burnt, and there appear to be what look like bite marks.

CARLY
(whispering)
Why won't you
(sighs)
Tell me what's wrong, Jake? I'm so
sorry.

A close-up of a chicken head flicked by thumb flashes across the screen followed by a POPPING sound.

Carly TOSSES the shirt in the hallway and kisses Jacob on the forehead.

Jacob bolts upright from bed. His gaze darts around the room.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(startled)
Jake! You scared me.

Jacob relaxes when he sees Carly.

But his gaze continues on until it lands on a picture of Reynolds, his father, as a young man.

In the picture, Reynolds wears combat fatigues and holding an AR-15 on his hip in front of a forest decimated by Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(Catching her breath)
Did you get any sleep, hun?

Jacob looks away from the picture. He shakes his head, No.

JACOB
Bad Dreams.

CARLY
I'm sorry, baby.
(smiles)
You want to talk about it?

Jacob shakes his head, No.

CARLY (CONT'D)
You wanna talk about what happened earlier today?

JACOB
Mom...

CARLY
Or last week?

JACOB
(hesitates)
Is dad in hell?

CARLY
(surprised)
What? Why would he be in hell...
What made you think of that?

Jacob closes his eyes.

A close-up of a chicken head flicked by thumb flashes across the screen followed by a POPPING sound.

Jacob winces.

JACOB
Because he...

Jacob looks back at the picture. With a concerned look, Carly follows her son's gaze.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Someone at school told me...
Someone at school told me that
people who kill themselves go to
hell.

CARLY
No, Jacob, they're wrong. First
off, they wouldn't go to hell.
Because... I don't believe there is
a hell. Personally.

Jacob has a puzzled look on his face.

Carly picks up the picture of Reynolds.

Jacob's nose starts to bleed.

Carly leaves the picture of Reynolds face down on her son's dresser. She rushes over to him.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Oh, dear.
(Grabs tissue)
You're leaking.

Jacob touches his nose and leans his head back.

Carly grabs a tissue out of a box beside Jacob, and she looks at him worriedly.

JACOB
What is it then? I mean what
happens then?

Carly stands up.

CARLY
What?

JACOB
Do people stay in hell forever?

CARLY

Well, that's what the Bible says.
But it's not real. Your dad had a
disease that made him sick in his
mind. His demons had nothing to do
with religious ones.

JACOB

What do you mean?

CARLY

How many more questions do you
have?

JACOB

A couple.

CARLY

Okay... How much do you know about
what he did? Did he ever... I mean,
tell you or did you ever see
anything?

(catches her breath)

He did a lot of bad things for
work, and I think it got, like,
inside him and it stayed there.

(Tears swell in her eyes)

It was all too...

(sniffles)

Was too much for him. And he went
insa... I,--

(Trails off)

No more questions. Sleep and don't
let it bother you too much.

(Turns to Jacob)

You want me to turn on your music?

Jacob nods his head, yes.

CARLY (CONT'D)

You got it. I love you, babe. Sleep
tight.

Carly smiles, kisses Jacob on the head, presses PLAY on his
cassette player and exits.

Jacob rubs his head where she kissed it.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'N.I.B.'

INT. EYE DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

TENNESSEE (50, Female, smart, funny, observant) stands over
the fallen eye equipment. She looks over at the blood, then
at the towel, then the door, and then the Eye Machine.

TENNESSEE

You don't normally see that type of
behavior from... ophthalmology
equipment.

The Eye Doctor shakes her head as the Nurse walks up behind
Tennessee.

NURSE

No. It was terrifying, ma'am. We
are all taking bets on how much
longer they last here...

TENNESSEE

(Looks at Nurse)

Is that a fact... Doctor?

EYE DOCTOR

It's not important.

(to Nurse)

Get outta here.

The Eye Doctor waves her away.

NURSE

(to Herself)

That child is cursed.

TENNESSEE

Mm-hmm... Is that your expert
medical opinion?

Tennessee looks over at the Nurse and smiles, she blushes and
then quickly walks away.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)

(smiling)

I think that takes care of that.

Tennessee closes the door to the room.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)

(serious)

Now... What do you think happened,
Doctor?

The Eye Doctor becomes visibly disturbed once the door is
shut and walks over to the door and opens it again. She
stands on the outside of the room looking in now.

EYE DOCTOR

I can't rightly say, Ten. With the
amount of force we were applying...
even if the kid was holding onto
it...

(Pantomimes)

EYE DOCTOR (CONT'D)
He'd never have been able to resist
all three of us.

TENNESSEE
What side was the mother on?

EYE DOCTOR
She was on the opposite side...
Pulling.

Tennessee walks over to the other side of the room and
imitates the situation.

TENNESSEE
You sure the mom wasn't pushing him
into it?

EYE DOCTOR
MMM, no. Ain't no way.

TENNESSEE
She spooked?

EYE DOCTOR
We were all spooked, Ten. Real
spooked.

Tennessee gets up and then looks at the front of the machine
where Jacob's face had been.

TENNESSEE
What have we got here?

Taking a plastic evidence bag and unfolding a pocket knife,
Tennessee kneels and plucks something small and sharp out of
the rubber surrounding the eye machine.

EYE DOCTOR
What is it?

Tennessee shakes her head.

TENNESSEE
I don't rightly know. I don't
rightly know. Seal this room. You
got a lock on the door, right?

EYE DOCTOR
(nods)
Yep.

TENNESSEE
Good. Nobody comes in here until I
tell you... Understand?
(sniffs)
And it stinks in here...

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 What is that? I know that smell,--
 like burning, the hell is that?

Tennessee walks around the room sniffing.

EYE DOCTOR
 (sniffs)
 I'm not sure, Ten. I'll use the
 other exam room. You think
 insurance is gonna cover this?

TENNESSEE
 I don't rightly know that either...
 What would we say even happened?

They both look at each other and back to the blood on the floor.

Tennessee walks out of the room and the Eye Doctor locks the door.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MICHELLE (13, Identifies as Female, outgoing, curious) sits next to Jacob in the back of the classroom.

CASSIE (30, Female, quirky, over-sharer), is droning on about the Town's History at the front of the classroom.

MICHELLE
 Psst.

Michelle looks at Jacob.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 Psst.

Jacob glances up from his book and shrugs his shoulders at Michelle.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 Black Sabbath. Your tape...
 (Points to Jacob's
 backpack)
 You know how they got their name
 right?

Jacob, interested now, shakes his head, No.

Cassie continues talking in the background.

CASSIE
 ... They didn't stop hanging women
 for being witches until,-- well, we
 shut down the mine...

MICHELLE

(to Jacob)

They were called something really stupid at first, Polka something or other. I can't remember the name at all, but it wasn't cool.

STUDENT

(to Cassie)

Why did it stop when they shut down the mine?

MICHELLE

(to Jacob)

And this movie called Black Sabbath was playing across the street from their rehearsal space.

CASSIE

Great Question. I,--

Cassie stares at Michelle.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

There's a simple answer. It's strange and sad but it's the truth...

MICHELLE

(to Jacob)

They took one look at the name of the movie, and they were like,

(claps)

"That's it, we're Black Sabbath..."

Cassie hears Michelle CLAP and turns around.

CASSIE

... We rid ourselves of the problem.

(annoyed)

Michelle!

(calm)

What was the problem?

Michelle's twin brother, LUKE (13, Male, brash, outgoing, trouble-maker, funny) stands on the other side of the classroom.

LUKE

(shouts)

Men!

The class giggles.

CASSIE
 (turns to Luke)
 Thank you, Luke... for proving the
 point.

LUKE
 (smug)
 You're welcome!

CASSIE
 Please see me after class.

LUKE
 (points to Michelle)
 Wait but she was talking too...

The class bell RINGS.

CASSIE
 Ok, get out of here.
 (holds up hand)
 Quiz on what we covered when I see
 you again. And, do your research
 because,
 (looks at Michelle and
 Jacob)
 It just might save your life.

Michelle and Jacob look at each other and laugh.

Cassie lets out a wink and a smile.

Luke sullenly walks to the front of the classroom.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Michelle and Luke loiter outside the school.

LUKE
 What do they mean by cow tipping?

Michelle checks the door, waiting for Jacob to come out.

MICHELLE
 I think it's, like, when people get
 together and push them over. I
 don't know.

Michelle shrugs and kicks a rock.

LUKE
 Like, ok,--
 (holds up finger)
 People like push them over... Like
 how many people?

LUKE (CONT'D)
 They must be like,-- really heavy
 like a thousand pounds or
 something. Maybe two thousand
 pounds.
 (shakes head)
 Then what?
 (frustrated)
 Then they just watch this sad cow,-
 Mooing on the ground?
 (waves his arms)
 That's it?

Jacob bursts out of the doors of the school.

MICHELLE
 (relieved)
 Oh, thank god.
 (to Jacob)
 Hey! We were waiting for you.

LUKE
 (joking)
 Yeah where were you!

Jacob didn't know anybody was going to be waiting for him and stops, searching for words.

MICHELLE
 You wanna walk home together?

Jacob nods his head, yes.

JACOB
 Um, sure.

Luke laughs and hops up onto a curb.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 (half-joking)
 Wait, you aren't going to kill me,
 right?

LUKE
 Well, I wanted to, but
 (exaggerating)
She wanted to get to know you
before that. I said we should just
 do it and not get to know you.

Michelle pushes Luke.

MICHELLE
 I wasn't saying that.

Jacob smiles and tightens his backpack's straps.

LUKE
 Didn't you have a bike?

Jacob nods and sighs.

JACOB
 Used to.

MICHELLE
 You're usually out of here so fast.
 (tries to snap fingers)
 Damn.
 (tries again)
 Damn.

Luke slaps Michelle's hand away and tries to snap his fingers. The TWINS completely stop and have a finger snapping contest.

Jacob SNAPS his finger in the middle of them, grins and walks past them.

Michelle looks at Jacob, impressed.

LUKE
 Teach me, Oh--
 (places hands together)
 Honorable Master Finger.
 (looks at digital watch)
 We're gonna miss ninja turtles!

MICHELLE
 Whatever.

Jacob looks at Michelle, fakes disinterest and shrugs.

LUKE
 Have you both gone-- Completely
 insane? I'm outta here.

Luke takes off at a full sprint.

MICHELLE
 So,-

JACOB
 (chuckles)
 He must really like turtles.

Two roads diverge in the woods.

MICHELLE
 Let's go this way.

JACOB
I, uh, always go this way when I
ride home.

Michelle crosses her arms and starts to walk down the other path.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Well... I always go-- crap.
(rolls eyes)
Ok. Ok.

Jacob follows Michelle down the winding path. She nods, yes, and pats him on the back.

A METALLIC, BOUNCING SOUND is emanating from the woods in front of them, followed by a CLANG OF METAL ON ROCK.

Michelle walks ahead of Jacob extending her arm back, protecting him from whatever is ahead. They walk softly forward to investigate. He feels safe with her.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

Taylor sprays the words, 'NO THANKS!' underneath the phrase, 'FACE YOUR DEMONS' which was put there much earlier. He runs out of paint and shakes a bunch of empty cans to see if any paint is left.

TAYLOR
Nothing.

Taylor tosses the can. Grabs another. Shakes it.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Nothing.

Taylor tosses the can. Grabs another. Shakes it, then stops. He sees two figures creeping toward him along the road. He aims the can in his right hand and lets it fly toward Michelle and Jacob.

The can EXPLODES in front of Michelle, sending black paint everywhere.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Holy crap!

Taylor reels, not realizing it would cause a small explosion, then raises his arms in the air in accomplishment.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
He shoots! He scores!

The black spot in Jacob's eye grows a little larger. He wipes at his eye and looks at his hand, black with paint. He looks around and finds Michelle, kneeling near him.

JACOB
You ok? Michelle, you ok? What was that?

Michelle takes a piece of metal out of her shin.

MICHELLE
Ouch. Screw you, Taylor! That hurt, you moron.

Jacob stands up and walks over to Michelle, placing a black hand on her shirt.

JACOB
(to Taylor)
Taylor? What-
Did you make a bomb? What was that?
(angry)
Michelle's bleeding man-- Why are you smiling?

TAYLOR
Michelle?
(taunts)
Ooh. Mi-chelle. HM.
(puts a finger to his head)
That sounds familiar where do I know that from?

Jacob gains a new courage and starts walking over to Taylor.

JACOB
What's your problem, Taylor? That was dangerous.

TAYLOR
Oh, Jacob, didn't realize Michael became Michelle.
(to Michelle)
What? You thought we wouldn't remember? We used to be friends.

Jacob clenches his sticky hand. The black spot in his vision grows a little bigger. A little darker.

MICHELLE
Jacob. Jacob. I'm ok. Let's go.

Michelle stands and tries to run after Jacob, now standing in front of Taylor. She reaches out just as Taylor picks Jacob up and throws him into the Abandoned House.

TAYLOR
(angry)
What do you think you're doing?

Michelle runs past Taylor and picks Jacob up.

MICHELLE
Jacob! Come on, stay with me—are
you okay?
(to Taylor)
Taylor-- what is wrong with you?
Goddammit, just stop being so mean?

Jacob blinks his eyes. A FLASH of Reynolds wreathed in flames
appears.

REYNOLDS
(desperate)
Jacob!

Jacob blinks again and Taylor stands where the man was.

TAYLOR
Shit. He's alive.

MICHELLE
Thank god-- you complete dick.

Taylor abruptly turns around and runs away.

JACOB
(bolts upright)
What... happened? Is Taylor gone?
Michelle, you're bleeding...

Jacob rubs his eye vigorously.

MICHELLE
He threw you into the abandoned
house. Come on, let's get out of
here.
(stifles breath)
There's asbestos in these old ones
and... Oh my god.
(gasps)
I sound just like my mom.

Michelle helps Jacob to his feet.

JACOB
But you are ok? Are you sure? I saw
your leg.

Jacob points to her leg damp with blood and paint.

MICHELLE

Yeah, I'm ok. Let me lean on you a little though.

Michelle hooks her arm around Jacob's. They are both stained with black spray paint and dirty from the house.

JACOB

Wow, you look crazy!

MICHELLE

(glances up at Jacob)

You fought for me.

JACOB

(scoffs)

I lost.

MICHELLE

It's the thought that counts.

Michelle smiles and leans into Jacob as they walk out of the woods together.

EXT. THE CRYING FOREST - NIGHT

The night air is electric, the trees around Linda's shop whispering secrets to those who dare listen. Shadows stretch unnaturally under the moon's cold gaze.

Linda, enigmatic and intense, stands in the doorway, her eyes a storm of unspoken knowledge. CARLY and JACOB hesitate on the threshold, the shop an invitation and a warning.

Inside, the room breathes with ancient energy. Cryptic symbols glow faintly on walls cluttered with relics of forgotten magic. A MAP unfurls across the table, depicting the labyrinth beneath Hell's Gate Mountain.

LINDA

(raspy, deliberate)

Every path has its price. The mountain takes as much as it gives.

Her gaze bores into Jacob, who feels the weight of her words as a tangible force. His fingers hover over the drawn paths, sensing their ominous pull.

A RUNE, cracked and imperfect, hangs among talismans. Its fractured surface pulsates, casting eerie reflections that seem to dance with intent.

LINDA (CONT'D)

(leaning forward, voice dropping to a whisper)

LINDA (CONT'D)

You seek its power, but it seeks
you too. The dark spot – it's not
just a passage. It's a doorway, and
it hungers.

Jacob's eyes fix on the RUNE, drawn in by the danger that
lurks within its depths. There's a lure, a temptation,
intertwined with fear.

JACOB

(voice barely a murmur)
And once it opens... what then?

Linda's smile is knowing, yet edged with a hint of darkness.

LINDA

(soft yet piercing)
Then, it's a game of shadows and
echoes. You touch that darkness, it
touches back, and not everyone
returns whole.

Carly watches, a swirl of protective instincts waft over
senses, her grip on Jacob's shoulder tighten.

A shiver runs through Jacob, his mom's hand is squeezing his
shoulder. The stakes are clear – to wield this power is to
gamble with his soul.

Linda gestures to the map, an implicit dare. The boundaries
of safety and the unknown blur, and the real journey lies in
the balance between courage and caution.

Carly and Jacob exchange a glance, a silent pact forged
between uncertainty and resolve.

JACOB

Mom- Your staring.

Carly shakes her head.

CARLY

Sorry. I'm back.

JACOB

Sleepover. I'm gonna be late for
the sleepover.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. "MICHELLE AND LUKE'S" HOUSE - NIGHT

Michelle, Luke, and Jacob are huddled in their bedroom
reading, 'Scary Stories to Tell in The Dark' aloud.

MICHELLE
 (Looks at Jacob)
 I can't believe your mom let you
 sleep over.

JACOB
 (smiles)
 I think she's just happy I'm out of
 the house.

LUKE
 (sarcastically)
 Why... Does she hate you?

Michelle throws a pillow at Luke.

MICHELLE
 Why don't you shut the f...
 (interrupted)

Their MOM opens the door to the room.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 (Continues clumsily)
 Fff....
 (recovers)
 For God's sake, I can't believe you
 made it all the way home without
 peeing yourself again, good job
 Lucas.

LUKE
 (To MOM)
 That's not what she was going to
 say.

MOM
 What was she going to say?

LUKE
 (smug)
 She was going to say 'Fuck'.

MOM
 (laughs)
 I'm glad she didn't. But you...
 (Motions with Index
 finger)
 You... can go do the dishes.

LUKE
 WHAT!?
 (Looks at Michelle)
 You little liar.

MICHELLE
 (smiling)
 I didn't even do anything.

LUKE
 (angrily)
 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Luke walks past Michelle and tries to swat the book out of her hand but misses.

JACOB
 (quietly)
 Too slow.

Mom closes the door.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 Is he usually like that?

MICHELLE
 Who? Luke? He's a dick, but you know where we are... If there's a bright center to this world, you're in the state that it's farthest from.

Michelle leans in a little closer.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 Besides, I think he's jealous...

JACOB
 I don't know what that means. Oh...
 You mean of...
 (smiles)
 Us?

Michelle stands and begins to perform a CHEER.

MICHELLE
 (pantomiming)
 HE...
 (Points towards the door)
 IS!

Michelle makes an "A" clasping her hands over her head in a triangle.

SUPER: FLASH THE TRIANGLE SIGN FROM THE MAGIC SHOP

Jacob winces.

The black dot appears on screen.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

A!

Michelle stands on the bed and raises then lowers her hands to her sides.

An image of black birds falling from a gray sky onto the Tern Downs' main road, flashes on the screen.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Giant!

Michelle points to the groin of a POSTER hung on the wall.

Jacob looks around and winces.

CUTAWAY: ASH FALLS FROM THE SKY

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Dick!

Michelle laughs as she falls onto the bed. She glances over at Jacob.

Jacob has his eyes closed.

An image of the mountain above their town erupting fills the screen.

Michelle smiles as Jacob slowly opens his eyes.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

(concerned)

Where'd you go?

JACOB

(looks around)

Hmm?

Jacob shakes the thoughts out of his head.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(to Michelle)

Can I tell you a secret?

MICHELLE

Sure.

JACOB

You promise you won't tell.

MICHELLE

I do.

JACOB

Swear it.

MICHELLE
I swear it...

Michelle trails off but continues to mouth some words. No sound comes out.

Jacob leans in a little closer.

JACOB
You know you aren't saying anything, right?

Michelle looks down shyly.

MICHELLE
(shyly)
I have a secret too. A big one.
Like a giant, huge gargantuan secret.
(looks away)
Maybe I shouldn't.

Jacob reaches out with his hand.

JACOB
(interested)
What is it? I'll tell you mine if you tell me yours.

MICHELLE
(pensive)
HMMMMMMMM.
(smiles)
Maybe I will or maybe I won't...

JACOB
You should. You should.
(begging)
Please. Please. Please tell me.
Please. Please.
(louder)
PLEASE. PLEASE.
(louder)
PLEASE.

Michelle closes her hands around Jacob's mouth to shut him up.

Michelle pulls Jacob's arms away, and pulls Jacob toward her then KISSES him.

Jacob freezes and opens his eyes to see Michelle pulling away slowly.

MICHELLE
 I was born Michael... Not Michelle.
 Taylor wasn't lying. At least, not
 that time. So... Now you know.

Luke kicks the door wide open.

LUKE
 (quietly)
 You asshole.
 (louder)
 And you...
 (Pointing to Jacob)
 (laughs)
 Asser... Hole.

They all laugh.

JACOB
 (Touches his lips)
 I know.

Luke looks up.

LUKE
 Know what?

Jacob looks at Michelle.

MICHELLE
 Know that mom...
 (motions with her eyes)
 Is standing right behind you again.

Luke doesn't look back.

Mom stands behind Luke.

LUKE
 Like I'm going to fall for that,
 you fuck...

MOM
 (interrupts)
 You, what?

Jacob and Michelle both laugh.

MOM (CONT'D)
 Sorry about that, kids. Looks like
 we got to do the trash too... And I
 think the dog needs walking.

Mom motions with her finger.

JACOB
We'll do it!

MOM
Pardon?
(sarcastically)
Nobody volunteers for chores.
(To Michelle)
Oh I... I like this one.

Michelle grabs the leash from the front door and puts it around the family dog, OZZY (Great Dane, Immortal, black, loyal, intimidating, majestic).

MICHELLE
Settle down, Ozzy.
(dog jumps on her and she
stumbles)
Ozzy! DOWN!

Jacob puts his hand out and the dog relaxes then sits. He grabs the collar and puts it around Ozzy's neck.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
How'd you do that?

JACOB
I've got some skills. I'm not
completely useless. Let's go!

Jacob is pulled through the open door. They walk out into the night.

Michelle smiles at Jacob as he struggles with Ozzy who strains the leash as they round the street corner.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ozzy barks as Michelle and Jacob walk down the main road that dead ends at the bottom of the mountain.

Ozzy looks back at Jacob, tilts its head. Jacob tilts his head back at Ozzy.

Ozzy takes off running up the steep mountain path.

Jacob starts running after Ozzy as Michelle starts to laugh.

MICHELLE
Don't worry about her.
(laughs)
She knows where she's going.

Jacob stops running after the dog and bends over, trying to catch his breath.

JACOB
 (sarcastically)
 We were racing... Glad you stopped
 me... I didn't want to beat him the
 first night I met him. Where's he
 going?

MICHELLE
 SHE.

JACOB
 Sorry.
 (sarcastically)
 Where is SHE going?

Michelle nods to the hilltop.

MICHELLE
 There's a cave up there. Ever since
 we got her, she always goes there
 to sit till morning. She used to,
 anyway. She likes our sofa, and our
 treats are better than whatever she
 was eating out here before we found
 her.

Jacob shakes his head.

JACOB
 Found her? You're telling me that a
GIANT GREAT DANE was just roaming
 the woods around here,-- And you
 let her into your house!

Michelle nods. The two of them start off after Ozzy again.

As they walk behind the dog who is barreling up the hill,
 rocks start to rise up out of the ground and slide in the
 direction of the mountain. They make an eerie groaning sound.
 GROANING and SHRIEKING sounds fill the woods.

Jacob looks around and motions toward his ear.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 What is that?

MICHELLE
 You are hearing the famous
 Shrieking Woods...

JACOB
 Or crying forest...

MICHELLE
 (shrugs)
 Either way. You get used to it.

JACOB
Yeah, but what is it?

Ozzy begins barking in the distance.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jacob and Michelle come out of the woods to see Ozzy barking at the night and standing guard in front of the boarded over CAVE ENTRANCE.

Behind Jacob and Michelle a huge harvest moon can be seen over the treetops.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'THE WIZARD'

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

Luke and Michelle stand next to Jacob at a free throw line.

Jacob bounces the ball twice then it misses his hand and bounces away.

Luke laughs.

Michelle runs to retrieve the ball but comes face to face with Taylor, BROCK, and ADAM.

Taylor picks up the ball.

TAYLOR
Looking for your... balls?

Taylor kicks the ball far away, flexes at Michelle, and laughs along with his two friends.

BROCK
(squinting into the distance)
I think I see them!

Michelle retreats back to her brother and Jacob.

ADAM
'Prolly stuck in a sand trap.

TAYLOR
(stopping laughing)
What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

ADAM
Like in golf, you know?

TAYLOR
I know what it means. It just
doesn't make any sense, asshole.

Luke slaps Jacob's shoulder.

LUKE
Never mind them. They don't have
mothers...

Jacob, Luke, and Michelle head around behind the school's
main building.

Luke pulls a semi-wet pack of cigarettes out of his gym
shorts and shares them around.

MICHELLE
That's where you keep them?

LUKE
Where else could I put them?

Michelle shrugs.

Jacob looks at the twins distrustfully, but he takes a
cigarette anyway.

JACOB
I hate that fucker.

MICHELLE
Who?

JACOB
Taylor...

LUKE
(Lights cigarette)
Sure... I know why I hate him.
(Takes a drag)
He flushed my dress shirt down the
toilet last year...

MICHELLE
(Takes a drag)
On picture day...

Luke glances angrily at his sister.

LUKE
But why do YOU hate him?

JACOB
Well, he threw me through a wall,
and he said my dad was in hell.

Luke lights Jacob's cigarette.

LUKE
Like Hieronymus Bosch hell?

JACOB
(coughing)
I don't know what that means.

LUKE
He's an artist. Go to the library
and look up the 'Garden of Earthly
Delights.' Mom showed it to me once
in some art book, and... It stuck
with me...

MICHELLE
(To Jacob)
DON'T look it up.

JACOB
Why not?

LUKE
(Takes a drag)
Just look it up.

Michelle shakes her head, No.

JACOB
He also said something weird... I
asked him how he knew for sure--

Michelle and Luke get a little closer to hear this one.

JACOB (CONT'D)
And he said, because his dad is in
hell too.

Luke and Michelle both look at each other at the same time.

MICHELLE
Yeah, yeah. I forgot about that.
They found him all scratched up and
stuff. We weren't allowed to watch
the news because we were so young.

LUKE
I watched it.

MICHELLE
No you didn't.

LUKE
(nods)
I watched it. It was awesome.

LUKE (CONT'D)
They said it was ruled a suicide
because they had no evidence of
another person.
(exhales)
But how do you carve stuff like
that into your body and not like,--
pass out.

Jacob and Michelle feverishly smoke the rest of the
cigarette.

JACOB
I gotta go. Thanks for the--
cigarette.

LUKE
(trying to be cool)
Anytime, bro.

Michelle pushes Luke, and he slips a little.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Hey! Quit it!

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Jacob walks through the large wooden doors of the school
library.

Cassie rises from a desk in the corner.

CASSIE
A visitor! How wonderful! I know
you!
(Sticks hand out)
You're my new student...

Jacob smiles.

JACOB
I'm Jacob.
(Shakes her hand)
I need some art books for research.

CASSIE
Perfect. What artist or type of
art?

JACOB
Um...

Jacob reaches his hand into his pocket and reads off of a
crumpled piece of paper.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 The Garden of Earthly Delights by
 (hesitates)
 Hier...O...
 (Sounds the word out)
 ...Ny...

Cassie interrupts him and smiles.

CASSIE
 Hieronymus Bosch. Yes. Yes. Yes.
 Follow me, young one.

Jacob puts his bag down on a chair and follows.

Cassie passes her fingers by a row of books and then stops,
 SNAPPING her fingers.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 Here you are!

Cassie grabs the book and hands it to Jacob.

Jacob tries to get a good hold of the large book but DROPS
 'The Treasures of the Prado Museum' onto the ground. The
 pages of the book FLUTTER open to 'The Garden of Earthly
 Delights'.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 Oh my... Now what are the chances
 of that...

Jacob and Cassie look down at the huge double page of the
 painting, 'Garden of Earthly Delights'.

JACOB
 Oh... my god.

CASSIE
 (laughs)
 That's just what he would have
 said.

JACOB
 What on earth is this?

CASSIE
 Correction... You mean...
 (laughs)
 What the Hell is this...

Jacob looks at Cassie quizzically.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 Wait till you see Goya. That will
 really blow your hair back.

Cassie flips through the pages.

JACOB
(entranced)
Why would anyone paint this?

Jacob looks down at the art book.

INT. LIBRARY - MONTAGE - CONTINUOUS

1. Dark Castles with glowing light.
2. Broken Egg.
3. Carcasses
4. Birds coming out of a butt.
5. Man and woman in a transparent sphere, attached to a flower.
6. Griffon
7. Bird eating man.

Cassie pulls down another book titled: 'WESTERN ART HISTORY'. She puts the book on the floor next to the other one and they both sit there and look through the pages.

CASSIE
(smiles)
There's also Dore. He illustrated
Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

Jacob looks at Cassie nonplussed.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Oh... *The Divine Comedy*. By Dante?
I think you're almost the right age
for it.

Cassie walks away.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'FAERIES WEAR BOOTS'

Jacob continues to flip through the pages.

INT. LIBRARY - MONTAGE

1. Saturn devouring his Son.
2. Babies on pikes with their umbilical cords wrapped around their necks.

3. People on stakes and crosses.

4. Goat man holding court with mothers and their dead children.

Cassie returns and SLAMS a book down in front of Jacob.

Jacob is STARTLED.

JACOB
(Nervously Laughs)
You scared me.

Cassie laughs.

CASSIE
It's easy to do with this type of research... What kind of project did you say you were doing?

JACOB
I didn't. Can I ask you a question...

CASSIE
Anything.
(Snaps fingers)
Go.

JACOB
Do you think that if mountains can be pushed up through the ground... then the opposite could be true as well?

CASSIE
Meaning? Something goes back into the ground? Like it's descending into hell?
(smiling)
Like through seven or so circles descending around a perimeter...
(Motions with Finger)
...that get smaller and smaller and lead straight down...

JACOB
Yes! YES! I'm trying to get to,
(Changes wording)
I'm trying to *find* a way... *In*.

Cassie stares at Jacob.

CASSIE
But why on earth would you want to go there?

CASSIE (CONT'D)

(Pointing)

You really should read Dante.
Then... you let me know if you'd
like to find this... stairway to
hell.

Jacob gathers the books and wrestles them into his bag. As he turns to leave he suddenly remembers his manners.

JACOB

Thank you Ms. Cassie!

Cassie watches through a stained-glass window as Jacob exits the school and hops on his borrowed bike.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

Jacob, riding a child's hand-me-down bike from Michelle and Luke, pulls up to the city center.

Jacob looks at his watch then up at the statue, which is missing its head.

JACOB

Where are they?

Luke and Michelle appear in the distance, biking hard and coming straight at Jacob.

Luke arrives first but out of breath.

LUKE

(panting and motioning)
Ozzy... She... She...

Michelle rides up behind Luke and stops abruptly.

Jacob flinches a bit but holds his ground.

MICHELLE

(breathes)
Ozzy left in a hurry. And she was
coming THIS way.

Michelle points toward the mountain.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Come on!

Michelle leaves both Jacob and Luke in a dust cloud as she races toward the entrance to 'The Crying Forest' shop.

Michelle looks back at Jacob and smiles.

LUKE
You two weirdos are creeping me
out. Stop looking at each other
like that.

Jacob blushes and pedals hard.

Linda stands under the marquee of 'The Crying Forest' shop.
She motions with her hands toward the door.

Michelle looks back at Luke and Jacob and pulls her bike over
in front of 'The Crying Forest' shop. She nods to Linda.

EXT. FOREST ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Taylor, Brock, and Adam sit on their bikes just out of sight
of Jacob, Luke, and Michelle as they ride off from the store.

ADAM
Where they going?

Taylor rubs his arm then looks over at Adam.

TAYLOR
Don't know. Let's tail 'em.
Whatever they got from that old
witch could be worth some money.
And I'm broke.

BROCK
Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Me too.
(quickly)
Let's go. Let's go!

TAYLOR
How much Ritalin you take, Brock?

BROCK
(shouts)
ENOUGH!

Taylor laughs then speeds away on his bike, setting the pace
for Adam and Brock following close behind.

Adam looks back over his shoulder.

In front of her shop, Linda stands and feverishly waves her
arms and mouths silent words.

Adam shakes his head and keeps pedaling.

Faint SHRIEKING sounds come from out of the forest and get
louder as they pass.

INTO THE ABYSS

INT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jacob, Luke, and Michelle pull up to the cave on their bikes and dismount. The entrance to the cave, which is usually boarded shut, is wide open.

LUKE
(gesturing)
Here it is.
(looking around)
Did you hear that?

Jacob looks around while Michelle looks directly at Luke.

MICHELLE
(to Luke)
Stop fucking with him.

LUKE
Him? You didn't hear that?

JACOB
(to Michelle and Luke)
Come on, guys. Wait... Isn't this
entrance usually boarded up?

MICHELLE
Mm-hm.

Luke bows and extends his hand to the entrance.

LUKE
Right this way, my good sir.

JACOB
Thank you... After you...

Michelle pushes past them, turns on her flashlight, and darts its light around the cave.

MICHELLE
Ozzy's in there.

Michelle gestures with her flashlight.

The cave reveals a dripping interior with a metallic mine shaft glittering at the end of their flashlights.

Luke motions for Jacob to enter.

LUKE
After you.

Jacob hesitantly enters the cave.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Taylor and the gang look on as Jacob, Michelle, and Luke enter the cave.

BROCK
(to Taylor)
How'd they get in? That's been
closed since I was a kid.

TAYLOR
(sarcastically)
You still are a kid numb nuts.

Taylor slaps Brock on the back of the head, which causes him to drop his bike.

EXT. CAVE LEVEL ONE - NIGHT

Luke darts around again at the sound of the bike falling over in the distance.

LUKE
I KNOW YOU HEARD THAT!

Michelle nods.

Ozzy BARKS loudly from deeper inside the cave.

MICHELLE
Yeah, I heard it.

Jacob, Michelle, and Luke rush into the cave and dart their flashlights around trying to find Ozzy.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
OZZY!

JACOB
Ozzy! Here, girl.

Ozzy BARKS.

LUKE
OZZY!
(whistles)
Come here, girl!

Jacob WHISTLES to get their attention.

JACOB (O.S.)
You guys might want to take a look
at this.

Ozzy, wreathed in red light from behind, becomes visible,
barking at the edge of a Ravine.

Michelle walks slowly toward Ozzy, still barking.

The ravine is revealed in front of them as a pit with seven
widening circles descending into darkness.

Luke and Jacob walk up behind Michelle, who has her hand on
the dog's collar.

MICHELLE
(calmly)
(to Ozzy)
What's wrong, girl?

Ozzy BARKS.

LUKE
I don't think this is a part of the
tour.
(to Ozzy)
Easy, girl...

Luke kneels in front of the dog.

JACOB
What is this place?

LUKE
Just rumors mostly...

JACOB
What kind of rumors?

Luke and Michelle look at each other, then back at Jacob.

LUKE
Bad ones.

The Entrance to the Cave behind them becomes illuminated with
flashlights.

JACOB
Hello?

TAYLOR
Hey, *Jake*-ass

LUKE
Hey fuckers, I knew you were behind
us.

A rock is thrown and barely misses Jacob and Ozzy.

Jacob picks up the rock.

MICHELLE
(To Jacob)
No... Wait...

Ozzy BARKS.

Brock is revealed in silhouette, LAUGHING.

BROCK
(Laughs)
Next one's for the dog.

JACOB
(chuckles)
No one touches the fucking dog.

Jacob throws the rock and a THUD is heard and then a GASP.

TAYLOR
(gasping)
Oh my god.

Brock, lifeless, lay on the floor in a pool of blood.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Brock?

Ozzy walks over to Brock and starts to lick up the blood coming from his head.

JACOB
(In horror)
Wait. Oh shit. I didn't... I mean
how? Oh my god.

Michelle runs over to Brock.

Jacob stands at the edge of the chasm in shock.

MICHELLE
(running over)
Oh no... Jacob... You...
You hit him on the head!

JACOB
(To himself)
Et Tutemet... Et Tutemet...

Taylor looks down at his friend now lying still on the ground. He runs over to Jacob and lifts him up over the edge of the ravine.

DISEMBODIED VOICE
Drop him...

TAYLOR
(to Adam)
What did you say?

ADAM
I didn't say anything, man.

Michelle and Luke start hitting Taylor, trying to peel him off of Jacob, but they are unable to because of his size.

JACOB
(to Ozzy)
Save me... Save me!

Ozzy pivots and runs toward Taylor, frothing with Brock's fresh blood still in his mouth.

Jacob grasps at Taylor's arm.

JACOB (CONT'D)
(choking)
(to Ozzy)
Save... Me...
(gasping)

Adam comes out of the shadows and grabs Michelle and Luke and throws them on the ground at Taylor's feet.

DISEMBODIED VOICE
Drop him...

TAYLOR
(to Jacob)
What did you say?

Jacob looks quizzically at Taylor.

DISEMBODIED VOICE
Feed me his body... Feed me his blood.

Taylor looks confused. He shakes his head, looks into Jacob's eyes.

Ozzy jumps and leaps onto Taylor's back, biting his arm and sending all three of them -- Ozzy, Taylor, and Jacob -- careening into the cavern.

SCREAMS can be heard as they plummet into the darkness

Michelle and Luke look on in horror.

MICHELLE

JACOB!

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

Ozzy licks the blood from Jacob's head wound.

Taylor is writhing in pain in the darkness to Jacob's left.

TAYLOR

(indistinguishable)

AHH... it's... AHH! Who's there?

Hello? Help me!

Jacob opens his eyes.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Jacob? Jacob? Is that you? Help me... Please. Help me. I can hear you but I can't see you. there're shards of... Ouch. Fucking Rock! Sticking out of my head and

(coughs)

Some fucking black lung coal shit in my throat.

(coughs)

Pass that water bottle. Jacob?

Jacob stares straight up at the ceiling. Unblinking, he grabs the headset he had with him that is now playing faint heavy metal music and puts it over his ears.

Taylor's arm breaks and starts elongating at the elbow, to drag across the ground. Rocks stick out of his head. His face is bruised and bloody.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'IRON MAN'

Taylor, the bully, is transforming into Taylor, the monster.

Taylor's face morphs into a bull's snout. The rocks sticking out of his head transform into horns growing out the side of his skull. His back breaks, and he's suddenly on all fours.

Ozzy barks at him, and the Taylor monster goes running back into the darkness.

A red glow is dimly lighting the cavern.

Ozzy stops licking Jacob and turns slowly toward Taylor, teeth showing and feet firmly planted in an aggressive position.

Taylor looks over to see Ozzy lunge toward him. In the dark, we only see bits and pieces of the struggle.

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
The punishment fits the crime.

Jacob looks down at his legs. Both legs are broken and pitched at a strange position. He manages to get himself up onto his back and flick a lighter that he got from his pocket.

REYNOLDS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Get up, boy. I've got so many
wonderful things to show you.

Jacob shivers. The hair stands up through clotted blood on his arm.

JACOB
(sobbing)
No.

A close-up of chicken head flicked by thumb fills the screen followed by a POPPING sound.

Jacob flicks the lighter again, and it comes to life, illuminating the cavern. Jacob squints through the bright light.

A shadow moves in the flickering light.

The flame from the lighter in Jacob's hand is suddenly extinguished by a dirty white hand.

JACOB (CONT'D)
(screams)
AHHHHH!

The cave goes dark.

JACOB (CONT'D)
(gasping)
No! Dad! Please no!

ECHOES OF THE PAST

INT. CAVE TUNNEL - NIGHT

Luke and Michelle slowly stand up and look at each other. Then they look over the edge of the cliff.

MICHELLE
(Yelling)
Jacob! OZZY!

LUKE
(yelling)
Jacob! Ozzy!

The cave doesn't echo.

MICHELLE
Wait.

LUKE
JACOB!

Michelle motions with her hand.

MICHELLE
Wait! Do you hear that?

LUKE
(yells)
OZZY?

Michelle hits Luke in the arm.

LUKE (CONT'D)
Hear what?!

MICHELLE
Exactly.

Luke looks around confused.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Where's the echo?

Michelle begins to open her mouth to test the theory when a huge rock dislodges itself from above the twins and crashes in behind them, causing them to lose their footing, sending both of them sailing off the side of the cliff.

LUKE
I got you!

Michelle holds onto Luke's outstretched arm and pulls herself over to the ledge beneath Luke.

Michelle hugs the wall. Breathing deeply, she looks up at her brother.

MICHELLE
Thanks, brother.

LUKE
(smiles)
No problem. But I don't want to do the dishes anymore.

MICHELLE

Deal.

They both let out a small laugh and look down beneath them at a descending stairway that was previously hidden to them.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Where do you think those stairs go?

Luke jumps over to the entrance of the hand-carved stairs and looks around.

LUKE

(to Michelle)

They go down.

(sniffs)

Gross.

(to himself)

What's that smell?

Michelle jumps and joins Luke at the top of the stairs.

MICHELLE

(looking back)

We can't go back that way. Besides
Jacob is down there.

LUKE

Yes... Both those things are true.
But I don't like the look of this.

MICHELLE

We don't have a choice. You've got
your bag still, right?

Luke flips his bag around and rummages through it. He grabs the MINER'S HAT and pops it on his head.

Michelle flicks the gas burner on the hat and the bulb glows to life.

Something out of focus floats in the dark behind Michelle.

Luke's face turns pale. His eyes grow large.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

What? Luke. What? You're scaring
me.

Luke is violently shaking.

Michelle, lit by Luke's miner's hat light, smells the air and cringes as a single tear forms in her eye.

A gigantic PIG DEMON floats silently behind Michelle.

Michelle, without looking back, kicks Luke down the stairwell as she follows close behind.

At the end of the stairs, in a small alcove, Luke and Michelle huddle tightly together.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Luke!
(panting)
What did you see?!
(crying)
What was it?

Luke starts to motion with his shaking hands.

LUKE
(whispering)
It was a giant white animal head.
Or something. But... The eyes were
glowing. And that smell. That
barnyard shit smell. Ya know?
(sniffs the air)
I could smell it before I saw it.

MICHELLE
(sniffs)
It's gone now but, yeah...
(nods)
I smelled it too.

Luke, still shaking, pantomimes as he talks.

LUKE
It was... Like inches away. Like...
Like... Like... Just over your
shoulder.
(hyperventilating)
I tried to scream, but...
(rubs throat)
I couldn't... What's going on?

Michelle takes Luke's trembling hands in hers.

MICHELLE
(smiling and crying)
We could go ask?

Michelle smiles.

Luke manages to stop hyperventilating.

LUKE
You think anyone's looking for us?

MICHELLE
 We didn't tell anyone we were
 coming, right?
 (facepalms head)
 Smart.

LUKE
 Wait--
 (snaps finger)
 We told the witch.

MICHELLE
 Great. Linda.

LUKE
 She seems, trustworthy, right?

LUKE (CONT'D)
 What about?
 (snapping his fingers)
 What's his face... Brock's
 friend... shit, I'm blanking... his
 name is...

MICHELLE
 Yeah. Yeah, yeah. He took off
 pretty quick.

LUKE
 Smart.
 (sarcastically)
 Maybe he went to get help?

LUKE (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 Yeah.
 (talking louder)
 Or maybe that pig demon ate him
 too.
 (louder)
 I mean really...
 (shouting)
 WHAT the FUCK was that?!

A loud BANG is heard. Chains RATTLE and tighten in the
 distance.

MICHELLE
 Shut up!
 (Sniffs)
 Shhhhhhh.

Michelle puts a finger over her mouth.

LUKE
 (sniffs)
 Oh no.

A glowing, fat, slow-moving animal with hairy, heavy feet passes by the alcove entrance.

Michelle sees that Luke is about to scream and puts her hand over his mouth.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 (muffled scream)
 (into Michelle's hand)
 Ahhhhhh!

Michelle presses tighter onto Luke's mouth.

Luke's eyes grow wider. He starts to sweat. Centipedes start to crawl all over them and worms come straight up out of the ground. The walls secrete insects.

The Pig Demon stops next to their alcove. He SNORTS. Then lets out a piercing squeal.

Then, the Pig Demon grabs its own head with one hand and starts to bang its head against the wall adjacent to them.

Blood bursts from the wounds the Pig Demon manifests on its body. It gets larger as the pain it inflicts on itself intensifies.

The cave rumbles, and the Pig Demon stops hitting its head against the wall. Reaching down, it pulls chains up from the earth.

Michelle leans over, trying to see the direction it's headed. She looks back at the Pig Demon and discovers that it's actually the wall that it's trying to close them into. She GASPS.

Luke takes Michelle's hands off his mouth. HEAVY FOOTFALLS fill the dense air.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 (whispers)
 What's it pulling?

Michelle silently mouths the words 'THE WALL'.

They hear distant animal SNORTING.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 A wall? Fuck!
 (covers mouth)
 It knows we're here.

The wall creeps closer to the alcove entrance the chains pulling more taught every couple of seconds.

Chains CLANG in the distance.

MICHELLE
We have to go in there with it.

LUKE
You're a damn liar.
(shakes head)
No.

MICHELLE
Yes.
(nods)
You will. You want to die in
here... With that?!

Luke looks around then shakes his head, No.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
Good. Then let's go. Don't let go
of my hand.

Luke looks down at her hand.

LUKE
(to himself)
Ok. Ok. OK. Let's do it.

Luke grabs Michelle's hand and they both step out into the darkness just as the wall is about to close them in.

Rocks GRIND into place, sealing them in.

The twins, now in the tunnel, are being pushed by the wall, which takes them deeper into the cave.

EXT. TOWN STATUE - NIGHT

Adam stumbles past the headless statue in the middle of town leaving a hand print at its base.

EXT. POLICE PRECINCT - NIGHT

Tennessee stands outside the precinct smoking a cigarette and drinking coffee.

Carly pulls up, feverishly pumping the brakes on her car. She stops right in front of the Police Precinct. She jumps out of her car and accosts Tennessee.

CARLY
I can't find my son.

TENNESSEE
Well, I'm sure he's...

Adam stumbles out of the darkness, toward the Police Precinct. He falls at Carly's and Tennessee's feet.

Carly SCREAMS.

Tennessee fumbles for her radio and calls it in.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
This is Tennessee over at Dispatch.
I'm going to need a red and white.
We've got an adolescent male,
possibly 12 to 13.
(To Adam)
Adam, right?

ADAM
Adam.
(nods)
Right...

TENNESSEE
You hurt?

Adam shakes his head, no.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
(to radio)
This is dispatch, doesn't appear to
be any physical damage. Bring a lab
kit.

Carly kneels down beside Adam.

CARLY
What happened to you? Do you know
where my son is? Jacob? Where is
Jacob?

Adam looks knowingly at Carly and reels back on his hands.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(sternly)
Adam. Where is my son?

ADAM
In the cave. He's in the cave. We
followed them from the old witch...

CARLY
Followed who?

TENNESSEE

Old witch? You mean Linda's shop?

Adam tries scrambling away from them, but Tennessee holds him tight.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)

Adam-- We need to know whose blood
this is on you.

ADAM

Brock's. It's Brock's. They...
He...

CARLY

(screaming)

WHERE IS MY SON?

ADAM

-- Hit him with a rock,
(looks up at Carly)
So Taylor--
(closes eyes)
He threw him down the well.

TENNESSEE

He what?

ADAM

(still mumbling to
himself)

Threw him... And the dog...

Carly grabs Adam by his collar.

CARLY

(To Adam)

They threw Jacob down what?
What about a dog? Whose dog?

ADAM

(Trails off)

Luke and Miche....

Tennessee breaks Carly's grasp on Adam's collar as the
emergency vehicles pull up behind her.

Tennessee sees Carly release her grasp and looks directly
into her eyes.

TENNESSEE

(To Carly)

We'll find him. Okay? This boy
needs to get to a hospital. He's in
shock. We won't get anything more
out of him tonight...

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 I think I know where they went
 though. But let's check with the
 old witch first...
 (Looking at Carly)
 Linda.

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'INTO THE VOID'

Light comes up in the opposite way that it disappeared from Jacob's sight. It starts in the upper, left-hand corner and expands to engulf the entire screen.

The skyline wavers in the distance as if the entire place were floating.

In the distance a single-story house is set in front of a large black monolithic mountain.

JACOB
 I can see you, and I can see...

Jacob looks around.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 NO! No, it can't be.

Jacob looks at the house in the distance and recognizes it as the one he lived in with his mother and father when he was younger.

Jacob shakes his head.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 I've got to run...
 (Looks around)
 Now.

Reynolds SHOUTS in the distance.

REYNOLDS
 Jacob! Get back here and help me
 put these chickens to sleep.

YOUNGER JACOB, a version of Jacob that exists in the house's reality, talks back to Reynolds in the distance.

YOUNGER JACOB
 But dad they always do that in the
 morning.

REYNOLDS
 Who would own such a hideous
 creature?

YOUNGER JACOB
 You got them for me, dad. You said
 you'd help me raise them? You
 remember don't you? Dad? Dad? NO!

The chicken's head comes off with a POP as Reynolds sticks
 his finger into the chicken's neck.

EXT. TOWN - NIGHT

Tennessee opens the door to the witch's shop.

LINDA
 (scowling)
 We're closed.
 (smiling)
 Oh. It's you, hun. Come on in.
 Who's your friend?

Carly walks through the doorway and nods.

CARLY
 I'm Carly, Jacob's mother— you know
 him, right?
 (holds out photo)
 Please, I need to know if you've
 seen him. It's important.

Linda looks past the photo at Carly's blood-stained shirt and
 Tennessee's red hands.

LINDA
 I told him to be careful.
 (sad)
 He looks just like my Sam. Poor
 Sam.

Tennessee looks up at Linda.

TENNESSEE
 We're gonna go for a little ride.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Linda rides in the back of Tennessee's car.

Carly rides in front with her window down.

Tennessee looks over at Carly.

TENNESSEE
 (To Carly)
 We'll find them.

Tennessee touches Carly's hand and squeezes.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
(smiles)
We'll find them.

Carly lets herself smile for a brief second before looking out the window again.

CARLY
(nervous)
So...
(to Linda)
(half-joking)
You from around here?

LINDA
(cackles)
No, no- Came here to be close to my son.

Carly turns to face Linda in authentic interest.

CARLY
Oh? You're close.

Linda and Tennessee exchange glances in the rearview mirror.

LINDA
Well-
(hesitates)
Let's just say that we are- CLOSER now.

Tennessee shakes her head.

TENNESSEE
You go up to the mountain quite a bit.
(smiles)
Must do pretty good business.

LINDA
Sells itself, really.
(cackles)
Tell me dear-
(to Carly)
Why don't nightmares need salesman?

Tennessee rolls her eyes.

TENNESSEE
A riddle?

Carly pauses to think.

CARLY
 (unsure, to Linda)
 Because-
 (beat)
 A nightmare knows you?

TENNESSEE
 Nice-

Linda squints against Tennessee's rude interruption.

LINDA
 (whispers)
 You're going to need my help. I
 didn't tell you why I go to the
 mountain. That place, is like a
 funnel, concentrating malevolent
 forces.
 (draws an inverted
 triangle)
 Straight down.

Carly is silent, mulling over Linda's interpretation.

TENNESSEE
 You're staying in the car until I
 check things out.
 (stern)
 Copy that?

LINDA
 He died some time ago, he killed,
 and he-
 (trails off)
 I couldn't save him- I was too
 late. Suicide... But, I found a way
 to commune with him. Here- Though
 He doesn't talk so much anymore.

CARLY
 You think he can hear you?

LINDA
 (nodding)
 I know he can.

Tennessee SCOFFS.

In the console between the seats, the Snake Fang that was
 extracted from the Ophthalmologist's machine, sits in a clear
 plastic bag marked 'Evidence'. Carly stares at it.

CARLY
 What's this?

Linda smiles, and looks at Carly.

LINDA
 (whispering)
 Talisman. Keep it. Some faith is
 better than no faith. You're going
 to need all you got.

Tennessee clearly notices her take it, but she lets Carly pocket the fang anyway.

TENNESSEE
 (sarcastic)
 Thanks for sharing, Linda.
 (to Linda)
 Not a talisman-
 (to Carly)
 Snake fang. Native to Southeast
 Asia. Has skull-like marking on its
 forehead-

Tennessee looks through the rearview mirror at Linda- Who SUDDENLY appears as a large White Owl- It blinks twice and cocks its head.

Tennessee SHRIEKS and fights the steering wheel as the car careens off the road- Slamming into an upturned tree.

Tennessee and Carly hit the airbags; They lay motionless- Unconscious- But alive.

Linda, now a large white owl, flies out of the broken window of the Cruiser.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 (to Carly)
 You okay?
 (looks for Linda)
 Ah, hell-

CARLY
 Yeah, you found it.

TENNESSEE
 (chuckles)
 I reckon. Now- Where'd that old
 witch get to?
 (to Carly)
 Can you get out your side?

Carly pulls the door handle on the Police Cruiser, and the door FALLS off.

CARLY
 Yeah. I got it.

Carly gets out and looks up at the mountain. She walks backward and GASPS.

TENNESSEE

(To self)

She couldn't have gotten through here...

Tennessee slams her fists against the boards blocking the entrance. They are fastened tightly by old nails blocking the cave.

CARLY

(to herself)

But how did they get in...?

(sarcastic)

Detective.

Tennessee turns to Carly who nods toward the mountain.

The entire mountainside has been uprooted.

Each and every stone and tree and shrub look like they've been dragged 20 feet straight up the side of the mountain.

The lines from the trees digging into the earth cause great scratches that can be seen from a distance.

The top of the mountain is rimmed with dark, deep purple clouds and the air is dense with humidity.

Carly KICKS at the Police Cruiser trunk- Trying to get it open.

Tennessee unlocks the trunk with a press of her key fob- The trunk POPS open.

TENNESSEE

(reveals her key fob)

Magic.

(to Carly)

Where do you think you're going?

Carly grabs her spelunking pack out of the trunk of Tennessee's police cruiser.

CARLY

Jacob is in there.

Tennessee grabs Carly by the arm. She stares into her determined gaze.

Carly shrugs Tennessee off and starts up the mountain.

Tennessee grabs a flare gun out of the car and shoots it off into the sky to signal to others where they can be found. She grabs the radio out of the car. She tests it but, it's broken. She opts for a large, flashlight instead.

Carly is almost at the Cave entrance.

DESCENT INTO SHADOWS

INT. CAVE LEVEL THREE - NIGHT

Shaking and terrified, Michelle and Luke make their way along the dark path. CHAIN RATTLING and HEAVY FOOTSTEPS echo through the chamber.

WHISPERS
Don't take another step...

Michelle and Luke stop walking. They stare at one another in the darkness. The FOOTSTEPS fade away.

WHISPERS (CONT'D)
Have you ever been burned alive?
Would you eat the burned flesh of
your own mother? Your own brother?
Your own sister?

Michelle starts to sweat.

WHISPERS (CONT'D)
Turn around!

Luke turns around and almost runs into Michelle.

WHISPERS (CONT'D)
She's hiding something from you...

Luke shakes his head as if he doesn't believe it. Michelle shakes her head to indicate it isn't true.

WHISPERS (CONT'D)
Can you keep a secret?

They both start moving again, shaking their heads and covering their ears. HEAVY FOOTSTEPS echo through the chamber again.

WHISPERS (CONT'D)
Your mother is dying.

Luke is on the verge of tears.

WHISPERS (CONT'D)
You're all going to die!

A loud THUMP fills the silence.

INT. CAVE LEVEL ONE - NIGHT

Carly clips on her belt and tightens her safety harness before stepping over the cliff.

Tennessee looks down after her and shines his light in Carly's face.

CARLY
Ah! The light!

Tennessee adjusts her headlamp.

TENNESSEE
Better?

Carly looks around the cavern. She lowers herself down the sheer rock face, which goes 100 meters straight down.

CARLY
(to herself)
He couldn't have survived this.
Shut up.

A SLURPING and CHOMPING sound bounces around the cave walls.

Carly stops abseiling and looks around.

TENNESSEE
Everything ok?

Carly sits on the end of the rope in silence listening.

CARLY
You hear that?

TENNESSEE
Um. Nope.

Carly continues descending. The SLURPING and CHOMPING sounds grow louder around her.

CARLY
Something is down here. Jacob?

Tennessee looks over the edge at a distant Carly.

TENNESSEE
(shakes head)
(to herself)
No way anyone survived that fall...
(to Carly)
How we doing?!

CARLY
 Fine! Almost at the bottom! I'm
 detaching. Send some more rope down
 here!

Carly hears the sound of a large animal chomping on something. She darts her flashlight from left to right and walks toward the sound with her arms outstretched.

TENNESSEE
 What do you see?

CARLY
 Something is down here!

A rock separates Carly and the LOUD CHOMPING noise.

She leans in on the rock and takes a final breath before surprising Ozzy who feasts on Taylor's decapitated corpse.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 (screams)
 What the fuck!

Carly drops her flashlight.

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'N.I.B.'

Jacob's crisp, dry lips appear on screen murmuring in Latin.

JACOB
 (to himself)
 Daddy, daddy, come home with me,
 come home.
 (louder)
 Daddy! Daddy!

Jacob stands an inch from a slick black cave wall. He pauses, smiles and then continues to murmur.

His voice now is a gravelly, echoing ghostly sound. It is faintly similar to his father's. Strange FOOTFALLS echo in the dark.

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
 (in Latin)
 Who is that? Who is calling me?

Reynolds' voice sounds distant and bounces off the chamber walls.

REYNOLDS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 My son? My wife?

INT. CAVE LEVEL THREE - NIGHT

Carly is frozen in place against the rocks. She looks around and winces at the strained voice of Reynolds speaking through Jacob.

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
Your father is back home with
you... My... son.

INT. CAVE LEVEL TWO - NIGHT

Luke and Michelle freeze in their tracks as the door behind them slams shut.

LUKE
(to Michelle)
You hear that?

Michelle has her hands pressed to her chest and begins breathing deeply.

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
Your husband is back home with you-
- WIFE.
(beat)
I can't find my body. I am dead.

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

Jacob's mouth moves in the dark.

CARLY
Jacob? Stop it, sweetie.
(to herself)
It's not real. You can do this. Go
get your son.

The walls start bleeding.

INT. CAVE LEVEL THREE - NIGHT

Carly slips and knocks her head on the ground.

Ozzy BARKS and lunges for her face. The rocks hold Ozzy back, clamped down on the dog's leash.

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
I am dead... my family. I have come
back to let you know I am dead.

REYNOLDS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I am in hell. Just hell. It was a
senseless death... How senseless...

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

Jacob stops murmuring.

Carly screams in the distance.

A shadow passes behind Jacob.

REYNOLDS
But I realized the truth... Too
late.

A tear forms on the side of Carly's face.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
Too late. But while you are still
alive-- There's still a chance to
be reunited...
(beat)
With your loved ones.

Reynolds materializes behind Jacob.

Jacob's chapped lips stop murmuring.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
I will make you understand.

Reynolds places his scarred hand over Jacob's eyes.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CAMBODIAN JUNGLE - NIGHT

A dark, dense jungle appears from the black. It's lifeless.
No Insects. No animals. No people. Only an unnatural SILENCE.

SOUND UP: RAIN FALLING LIGHTLY ON LEAVES

A branch SNAPS, and a tree rustles in the background. RADIO
CHATTER is heard coming from a radio inside the GI tent,
which is illuminated from the inside.

INT. TENT - 1974 - NIGHT

Barnes operates the analog audio console while Reynolds
attenuates the speed on the tape deck.

A GREEN BERET's hand appears through the flap of the tent
behind them. It wraps around Pvt. Reynolds' mouth.

Reynolds bolts upright and tries to look backward.

A Green Beret in unconventional jungle camo puts a finger to his lips and signals for them to grab their guns and come with him.

Reynolds and Barnes grab their weapons and rain gear.

EXT. CAMBODIAN JUNGLE - NIGHT

Reynolds and Barnes walk out into the rain, trying to keep up with the Green Beret who is sprinting through the dense jungle.

GHOST TAPE AUDIO - DISEMBODIED CAMBODIAN VOICES MOAN IN PAIN.

Weapons fire can be seen through the jungle, POPPING and HISSING around them.

Reynolds squints in the rain. He stops and stoops low motioning to Barnes.

GHOST TAPE AUDIO- BABY CRIES OUT IN PAIN

BARNES
(whispers)
You see the guy?

Reynolds looks around.

REYNOLDS
(shakes head)
I don't know. Where'd he go?
Where'd he go?

BARNES
Fuck. Fuck. I don't know.

GHOST TAPE AUDIO - DISEMBODIED MUTTERING

The weapons fire ceases and dissolves into rain PATTERING on the fat jungle leaves. Some trees BRISTLE in the distance.

BARNES (CONT'D)
That's not -- That's... was he ours even?

REYNOLDS
Shut up, shut up. Shh. Did you know that guy?

BARNES
 (shaking head)
 No man. Did we just get our shit
 pushed in? Oh my fuck.

REYNOLDS
 Can you see the tent?

Barnes looks around in the darkness. He shakes his head, No.

An old naked man, half-buried, glows in the sporadic
 moonlight. His torso slowly turns and angles itself at
 Barnes.

Barnes doesn't notice the Naked Torso reaching out behind
 him.

NAKED TORSO
 (to Barnes)
 (in Cambodian)
 My son, have you seen my son, Are
 you my son?

Reynolds turns around as the Naked Man reaches toward Barnes.

REYNOLDS
 (stammers)
 Bbb-bba--rnes.
 (whispers)
 Bbb-ar--nn--nnnes.

NAKED TORSO
 (to Barnes)
 (in Cambodian)
 No, you're not my son. Six years.
 How tall will he be now, he was
 three when I left. Do you know?

BARNES
 (scared)
 Rey,--
 (to Reynolds)
 Rey! Shoot him man! Fucking shoot
 him!

A baby cries in the distance, its pale skin glowing in the
 dense ground.

SOUND UP: BABY CRYING

Reynolds crawls toward the baby, still crying.

U.S. Soldiers shoot wildly in the background. Sporadic
 flashes from grenades can be seen.

Soldiers can be seen retreating through the woods, then falling SILENT when an unseen weight drags their bodies halfway into the ground, partially buried, their last positions frozen in time.

A flare erupts high above the canopy, and the light that shines through dances unnaturally as the arc of the flare passes overhead.

NAKED TORSO (O.S.)

(to Barnes)

(in Cambodian)

No, you're not my son. I'm late,
you understand... I have not seen
him in six years.

(louder)

Who are you? Why are you here?
You're not my son.

GHOST TAPE AUDIO - WOMAN CRIES/ CHOKING SOUNDS.

Reynolds turns to see Barnes, laying motionless. A pale hand extends up through his chest with its hand on his face dragging him down through the earth.

Reynolds turns and begins crawling toward the baby again.

REYNOLDS

(scared)

I'm coming. I'm coming, Jake.

(shaking)

I'm coming.

Reynolds takes his helmet off and drops his weapon. He tears his Poncho off and tries to swaddle the baby in it.

A jet, the F4-Phantom, is heard SCREECHING high above.

Reynolds falls head over heels into a punji pit trap set by the Viet Cong.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

(screams)

AH! AH! Goddammit.

(calms down)

It's ok, Jake. You're ok though.

You're ok. Right? You're ok, right?

Reynolds feverishly reaches around the wet pit for the baby. A Cambodian Kukri snake, which has a distinctive skull-like marking on its head, bites his hand as he searches.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

AH! Ow! Goddamn snake!

(shouts)

You lied, Jacob! You lied to me!

Reynolds looks up as the F4-Phantom drops its payload danger-close.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
(angry)
You tricked me!

SOUND UP: NAPALM BOMB

Flames from the napalm scorch the ground above the punji pit and suck all the air out.

SOUND UP: POPPING SOUND

Reynolds holds his throat as he tries to draw breath, flipping back and forth in the hole as his leg is pinned down by the sharpened stick. He claws at his throat, and his right eye turns black with blood from a brain hemorrhage.

FADE TO:

INT. CAVE LEVEL SEVEN - NIGHT

A tear rolls down Jacob's cheek.

JACOB
(sobbing)
So, you always hated me.

Reynolds shoves his bloody scarred face into Jacob's face.

REYNOLDS
YOU tricked me boy- YOU cursed me.
(whispers)
I want more life- So I traded that
red, devil downstairs-
(points to Jacob's chest)
- For yours.

INT. CAVE LEVEL ONE - NIGHT

Tennessee walks around the top of the cliff looking down at Carly's dim flashlight. She spins around when she hears a growing dirge of eerie sounds emanating all around her.

TENNESSEE
WHO'S THERE?

Tennessee unbuckles her sidearm and holds it in the holster. She darts the light back and forth. The FLASHLIGHT dims.

Carly's headlamp dims.

CARLY
 (To Tennessee)
 Something's going on down here!

Carly's FLASHLIGHT dims then goes out.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 Ten.
 (Yelling)
 TEN!

Tennessee, who doesn't hear Carly, squints in the dark while cocking her head back and forth trying to get a better view.

TENNESSEE
 Is that you, kids? Game's over.
 Come on out.

She takes the weapon out of its holster and walks forward in the darkness. The sound of KIDS PLAYING makes her head lean in closer, trying to hear a little better.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 Get your hands where I can see
 them! QUIT PLAYING AROUND!

A piece of the wall in front of Tennessee drips in the dark making it appear to move.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 You heard what I said!

Tennessee gets closer and tries to grab the object but SCREAMS, breaking her fingers as they slam into the wall. She drops her gun and it FIRES.

Light from Tennessee's weapon discharge flashes through the cavern. Images of wailing souls illuminate the cavern wall as silhouettes.

THE SPIRIT'S LAIR

INT. CAVE CHAMBER - NIGHT

Below where Tennessee's gun discharges, the light illuminates Carly's point of view.

CARLY
 Tennessee! Jacob!

Through a crack in the rocks, Reynolds appears dimly in the light behind Jacob.

Large, black and red spots and water bubbles appear on his naked body and all his hair has fallen out.

Jacob and his father speak at the same time and with one voice.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| REYNOLDS | JACOB |
| (In Latin) | (in English) |
| All that I had I give to you | All that I had I give to you |

A POPPING sound is followed by HEAVY ROCKS falling far below.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
(to himself)
My body.

Reynolds rubs his skin. Boils on the skin burst and drip as his hands roll over them.

Carly squeezes her hand through a crack in the wall behind Reynolds.

CARLY
(to Jacob)
Baby. Jacob. I'm right here. Try to reach me.

Reynolds spins around and slowly pushes Carly's hand back out.

REYNOLDS
(to Carly)
I see you.

Reynolds peers through the hole.

Carly JUMPS as she sees Reynolds' eyes through the hole.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
(To Himself)
My wife.

CARLY
(screams)
AH! No no no.

Carly crab walks away from the wall. She hits the back of the cave, and she JUMPS again.

REYNOLDS
(to Jacob)
My son.

INT. CAVE LEVEL TWO - NIGHT

Luke stops walking and holds his hand back to get Michelle's attention.

LUKE
I heard it. I heard it again. I
heard it.

Luke and Michelle walking again.

MICHELLE
(quietly)
I heard it too. I think there are
other people
(softer)
In here with us.

Luke stops walking again.

LUKE
Yeah. But... How many?

Michelle begins to slow down.

MICHELLE
It's getting hotter.

Michelle undoes her water bottle and drinks it. She PASSES it to Luke.

Luke is startled by the gesture in the dark.

LUKE
(gasping)
Fuck. Thanks.

Luke keeps walking forward and the walls begin to fold in sharply.

MICHELLE
(sniffs)
That smell again. It smells like
something's bu...

Luke cuts her off and POINTS.

Flames engulf the passage's exit.

LUKE
Something's in there?
(squints)
What is that?

Reynolds, standing at the end of the narrowing entrance, is wreathed in flames.

He is covered in large, black and red spots. Water bubbles appear to burst on his body and all his hair has fallen out.

REYNOLDS
(moaning)
You are not family. Go home--
Trespassers.

Luke tries to talk but only succeeds in moving his mouth.

MICHELLE
We're getting Jacob. And you're in
the way.

Michelle takes the water bottle and squeezes it into Reynolds' face, bursting the boils on his skin and partially dousing the flames.

REYNOLDS
(screams)
AHHAHHHAHA!

Michelle tries to squeeze past Reynolds, now blocking the entrance, without touching him.

Luke is being dragged by his collar by Michelle.

A hand reaches out and grabs Luke's arm.

LUKE
(gasps)
Help! He's got me! My arm! My arm!

Luke looks down at his knife, which is on his belt. He tries to unbuckle it with his left hand, but he can't.

REYNOLDS
Go home.

Michelle sees the knife and unbuckles it from Luke's belt. She flips the knife OPEN and SAWS at the exposed flesh of Reynolds' arm.

LUKE
He's taking me!

Reynolds reaches out with his other arm.

REYNOLDS
You are not family. Go home.

Michelle finally saws enough of the flesh to weaken Reynolds' grasp.

MICHELLE
 (yells)
 JACOB!

Michelle kicks at Reynolds and sends him off the side of the cliff.

Souls dance in silhouette along the cave walls, briefly illuminated by Reynolds' half-burning body.

Luke and Michelle LAND HARD on the cave stairs and pant in unison in the darkness.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 (to Luke)
 I've got you, brother. I've got you.

Luke stares into the distance.

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
 (in Latin)
 The way is shut. Go home. You are not my family.

Michelle nods in the darkness, holding her brother's head next to her chest.

MICHELLE
 (to herself)
 Yes. We are.

LUKE
 (confused)
 We are what?

Michelle looks down at Luke.

MICHELLE
 Latin. He was speaking Latin.
 (softly)
 He said... We are not family.

Luke bolts upright.

LUKE
 Family?

MICHELLE
 Yeah.

Michelle looks down.

LUKE
 What else did he say?

MICHELLE
Go home. He said go home.

Luke looks over the edge.

LUKE
(whispering)
Wow... I'm really glad I took
Spanish.

Michelle and Luke share a chuckle in the dark.

MICHELLE
(chuckles)
You mean... Espanol.

Michelle and Luke share another chuckle in the dark.

LUKE
(chuckles)
Yeah.
(softly)
Hey, what do you think he meant
by... Family?

MICHELLE
He must mean Jacob. Maybe...
(squints in the dark)
Did you see where that thing
landed?

Luke's shoulder is suddenly PUSHED from behind.

LUKE
(stumbling)
Quit it.

Luke taps Michelle's arm playfully.

MICHELLE
Huh?

Reynolds' large burnt face emerges behind them.

REYNOLDS
(in Latin)
Trespassers.

Reynolds GROANS and SHRIEKS as he lunges at them, violently
sending them off the cliff.

REYNOLDS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You stay now.

A POPPING sound bounces around the cavern.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
Fall with us.

INT. CAVE LEVEL THREE - NIGHT

The Cave top is expansive and glows from the top. Luke and Michelle fall, followed by a ball of flame, Reynolds.

Dancing shadows on the walls morph into the shapes of Cambodian Kukri snakes.

Luke and Michelle fall along the rocks and land not far from Carly. As they hit the ground, the dancing shadows disappear.

Along with a pile of rubble, Ozzy, her leash caught in the rubble, blocks Carly and the Twins' path to Jacob.

INT. CAVE LEVEL SEVEN - NIGHT

Jacob is located inside a semi-circular protrusion wreathed in rocks.

The Flame that was following the Twins, flies through the rocks to guard Jacob.

Reynolds' ethereal light flitters behind the rocks. His GROANING and SHRIEKING cease.

CARLY
(fumbling in the dark)
What was that? Jacob?

Luke and Michelle stand up and dust themselves off.

LUKE
Did you see that?

MICHELLE
I felt it.

Carly's voice comes from behind them, still fighting Ozzy.

CARLY
(to Ozzy)
Get away from my boy!

Carly stabs in the dark with her climbing pick.

Ozzy BARKS.

LUKE
(looks behind)
Is that?

Michelle looks around.

MICHELLE

OZZY!

Carly looks at the now barking Ozzy who runs away in the opposite direction.

CARLY

What the hell?

Carly gets up and walks around the corner to see that Luke and Michelle are wildly petting Ozzy, the guardian of hell.

CARLY (CONT'D)

You know this thing?

MICHELLE

(to Carly)

Jacob's... Mom?

LUKE

(to Carly)

Hi... Jacob's Mom.

Carly smiles and waves politely.

Ozzy turns and BARKS at Carly.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Hush Girl.

(calmly)

She's good people.

MICHELLE

Yeah. She's family.

(smiles)

SHE'S FAMILY!

Michelle leaps to her feet and races toward Carly. The two of them embrace.

Ozzy stops barking to leap and lick Carly before continuing to eat the rest of her meal.

Michelle stares first at Ozzy, then to Carly, then back to Ozzy.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You can smell her, right, Ozzy? She smells of Jacob.

Ozzy barks.

CARLY
 You could lead me to him, right?
 You can lead me back to my boy?

While Ozzy eats, Carly ties the dog's chain to her spelunking belt.

INT. CAVE LEVEL FOUR - NIGHT

Jacob's dirty face fills the screen. His bad eye opens to reveal a pale, white, bloodshot sphere.

JACOB
 (whispers)
 The dark... Dark...

Jacob's pupil ROLLS DOWN from behind his eyelid revealing a radius of white around a deep black circle.

JACOB (CONT'D)
 (louder)
 DARK...

INT. CAVE LEVEL THREE - NIGHT

Ozzy stops barking. She looks straight past the Twins and Carly and bolts as fast as she can through Luke and Michelle's outstretched hands until her chain pulls taut.

CARLY
 (looking down)
 I... Tied her to me.

Carly trails off as she is pulled by Ozzy. Her face goes pale as she is dragged through vines clinging to the black stone slab wall.

Michelle and Luke GASP as they rush to grab on to Carly.

Ozzy vanishes through the vines and rock, and she drags Carly through them both as well.

Luke runs to the wall and pushes through the dense vines. He disappears.

MICHELLE
 (yelling)
 LUKE!

Michelle stands in front of the vines. Her dim lamp BLINKS on and off.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 (panting)
 Luke, this isn't funny.
 (looks down)
 Come on you stupid thing... work!

Michelle is startled by the sudden illumination.

Luke's hand shoots back out through the wall at Michelle's eye level.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
 (startled)
 AHH!

Luke grabs the air wildly.

Michelle ferociously bats Luke's hand away. Then, she stops, BREATHES, and grabs on to his outstretched arm.

The vines along the length of the cave wall begin wiggling and behaving more like a waterfall.

INT. CAVE LEVEL TWO - NIGHT

Tennessee gasps in the dark clutching her broken hand. She uses her legs to kick herself over to the cliff face. She peers over the edge.

TENNESSEE
 (loud)
 Carly?! Carly?! You all right?!

Tennessee begins to sit up when a loud RUMBLING water sound fills the cavern. She begins to feel the vines beneath her swell up and engulf her hands, then her body.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 (panting)
 Help me!

INT. CAVE LEVEL FIVE - NIGHT

Vines hang and extend from every inch of the cave.

Carly is being yanked by Ozzy.

OZZY
 (loudly)
 Bark!

CARLY
 Let me go! Damn you!

Ozzy looks behind herself and sees Carly on the leash.

Ozzy bites the leash, and it SNAPS off.

Carly tumbles head over feet through the thick vines.

Ozzy continues through the vines disappearing in the distance.

Flames are lit and then quickly extinguish from where Ozzy recently touched.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Hello? Kids!
(yelling)
Michelle! Jacob? Anyone?

Tennessee, motionless, is held up by the vines behind Carly.

Carly backs up and stumbles into Tennessee's broken, dangling hand.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(gasping)
What the... Tenn?!

Carly shrieks as she sees Tennessee hanging in front of her.

Luke and Michelle run up seconds later.

Carly holds Tennessee in the air.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Cut her down.

Luke and Michelle stand paralyzed as Carly bears Tennessee's weight.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(urgent)
Cut her down...
(panting)
Please hurry.

Luke grabs his knife and starts to saw away using the appropriate tool on his Swiss army knife.

CARLY (CONT'D)
Must go faster...

Michelle grabs Carly's pick axe from her belt and feverishly hacks at the vines.

Tennessee lands with a thud.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 (smiles)
 Tennessee!

Carly hops onto Tennessee's chest and checks for a pulse.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 Tennessee- You breathe goddammit.
 You are a...

A shadow moves in the vines behind them.

TENNESSEE
 (gasping)
 Carly.

Tennessee's spits up some blood.

TENNESSEE (CONT'D)
 You're alright. You are ok.

Carly is startled, but smiles and Nods.

Michelle holds Luke in her arms. Luke's back is drenched in sweat.

LINDA (O.S.)
 Vines are fickle.

Carly stands up straight and turns around as if knowing where the voice came from.

The vines retract through their holes in Tennessee's body leaving a lifeless corpse.

MICHELLE
 (whispering to Carly)
 I see her.

A shadow dangles from the vines in the background.

LINDA (O.S.)
 (whispers)
 Do you remember what I told you,
 mother of Jacob? About faith?

Carly jerks her head as if to signify that she remembers. She lifts her hand out of her pocket.

Luke and Michelle run over to see what Carly has in her hand.

Carly slowly unrolls her hand to reveal the Snake Fang in an evidence bag that she took from Tennessee's car.

CARLY
 Faith, right. Ticket. What's it do?

MICHELLE
 (to Linda)
 Wait. We don't have tickets.

LUKE
 Shut up. Shut up.
 (to Michelle)
 You need to stop talking now.

LINDA (O.S.)
 Ah. Yes. You did. And your brother,
 by proxy.

Michelle touches her lips.

MICHELLE
 (to herself)
 A kiss.

LUKE
 Eww. Wait. I didn't kiss him. I
 mean we're twins but...

TENNESSEE
 Shut-
 (frustrated)
 up!

Luke is cut off by Michelle who glares at him through the darkness.

MICHELLE
 (to Luke)
 You need to stop talking right now.

LINDA (O.S.)
 (to Michelle)
 Powerful, this one.

The Fang in Carly's hand hovers in the air and the vines lovingly take it. Tennessee is yanked by the vines into the darkness.

CARLY
 Hey! Tenn! Linda- Let her go.

LINDA (O.S.)
 So rude, that one.
 (faintly)
 A memory is more than just a place
 in time. The ticket- Your
 conviction.

CARLY
 You,-
 (beat)

CARLY (CONT'D)
 Wanted to see if I could believe-
 (stammers)
 I, I mean... have faith- So, you
 could TRUST me?

Carly walks forward toward the shadow in the vines. Linda's face begins to materialize out of the dense root system.

CARLY (CONT'D)
 (to Linda)
 What about my husband, Teddy?

LINDA (O.S.)
 You are so close- I wonder how far
 will you go?

LUKE
 (to Linda)
 Close to what?

LINDA (O.S.)
 Reynolds BELIEVES he can live
 another life-
 (gestures to Carly)
 - Your sons life.

All lights go out followed by HEAVY PANTING.

LINDA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 He is what he is and THAT is what
 he must be made to remember. He
 MUST remember-

CARLY (O.S.)
 What?

Linda pauses and the floor disappears. Carly, Luke, and Michelle fall.

LINDA (O.S.)
 That he is just another wandering
 soul.

SLAM TO:

ROPE TO REDEMPTION

INT. CAVE LEDGE - NIGHT - PAGE 95

A flare pierces the darkness. Flaming bits of it splash onto a dark sandy beach.

Carly holds the flare up and out of the way as she holds Luke by his left side.

Michelle has Luke's arm around her neck and takes most of his weight.

Luke hobbles along, trying to keep pace.

The beach has no sides or walls. Only a black ocean and beyond it a faint red glow. No stars. No moon.

The ocean begins to sparkle and roil with a phosphorescent glow dancing among the waves.

The waves emit no sound.

LUKE
(jokingly)
At the next floor...
(beat)
Let me out.

CARLY
(laughing)
(to Luke)
You got it.

Michelle and Carly exchange smiles.

MICHELLE
(to herself)
A memory is more than just a place
in time... HMM.

CARLY
Do you think it means something?

MICHELLE
Maybe...

CARLY
Me too...

LUKE
I think maybe...
(coughing)
She means... like wanting to die or
dying or like...
(beat)
Being dead is its own memory and
maybe...
(beat)
Living with it afterward is,--
(beat)
Even MORE difficult,--

Carly and Michelle look over Luke's head at each other.

CARLY
 (to Luke)
 That was an incredibly lucid read
 of the situation.

Michelle pets Luke's head.

MICHELLE
 (whispering)
 What happened to Jake's dad?
 (looks at feet)
 Yours,--

Luke leans in closer to hear Carly.

LUKE
 (looks around)
 Wait. Um...

CARLY
 (to Luke)
 What?

LUKE
 Can you hear that?

Carly and Michelle stop and listen. An eerie SILENCE fills
 the dark beach.

LUKE (CONT'D)
 There is-- Nothing.
 (bends his ear)
 This-- Is worse somehow.

MICHELLE
 (to Carly)
 So...
 (beat)
 What happened to your...

Michelle trails off.

CARLY
 My Husband?

MICHELLE
 We don't have to talk about it if--

CARLY
 No, it's ok.
 (exhales deeply)
 Maybe there's an answer in it.

LUKE
 (abruptly)
 So... that was--

LUKE (CONT'D)

(beat)

With the... boils and pus and
stuff--

(points to Michelle)

And the smell?

Michelle nods, wincing.

CARLY

That happened later...

(beat)

After we had--

(beat)

Jacob.

Michelle and Luke stop and look at Carly.

LUKE

Wow.

(beat)

Then...

(beat)

What happened before?

CARLY

(sobbing)

We didn't know.

(beat)

We just didn't know.

(beat)

They didn't tell us the truth.

Those fucking bastards.

(beat)

Those fucking bastards.

LUKE

Tell who?

(beat)

What?

Michelle looks around and stops walking.

MICHELLE

Can we sit down for a sec...

(points at sand)

Look.

The sand prints in front of them are identical to the ones
they left behind. They have been walking in the same
footprints for a while.

The spot where they choose to put Luke down has already been
disturbed.

LUKE
 Looks like we've already been
 here...
 (beat)
 And something happened.

Michelle dismisses the thought with a wave of her hand.

MICHELLE
 (to Carly)
 It couldn't have been--
 (beat)
 THAT bad.

REYNOLDS (O.S.)
 (loud)
 It's hard to imagine WORSE.

Carly SCREAMS.

Two bright white eyes open behind Carly in the dark sand.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)
 (to Carly)
 Hi, honey.

Reynolds' face pushes through the sand beneath Carly, grabs her, and pulls her under the sand.

Luke and Michelle are startled, but they quickly start to dig for Carly.

EMERGENCE INTO LIGHT

EXT. CAVE EXIT - NIGHT - PAGE 102

The ground is uneven, scattered with debris from the earlier chaos. Tennessee, bruised but resolute, stands just outside the cavern, her breath visible in the chilling air.

She reaches into her now-open POLICE CRUISER and retrieves her service pistol, a comforting weight. Alongside it, she grabs a COILED ROPE and a small TOOLKIT.

TENNESSEE
 (muttering to herself)
 No ticket bullshit.

From the trunk, she pulls out an ELECTRIC SPOOL OF WIRE mounted to the front of the car, the cable stretching into the cave's maw.

INT. CAVE LEVEL SEVEN - NIGHT

A cloud of hazy dust gathers around Carly as if she had just fallen some distance. But she awakes in the pitch black.

GHOST TAPE AUDIO - GROANING SHRIEKING SOUNDS

Reynolds paces, GROANING and SHRIEKING at Carly.

REYNOLDS

That little shit never listened to me. He only listened to YOU! And he's still only listening to YOU!

(starting to cry)

I need him. Can't you see? I need his body.

(getting angry again)

I need to get OUT of here!

CARLY

He's not yours to keep, you already lost him once. Let him be free!

A clock CHIMES three times.

REYNOLDS

You talk of freedom? All I know is relentless agony. No peace, just burning suffocation.

(Leans in close)

You WANT me to suffer like this. Here.

(waves arms)

In HELL!?

CARLY

(shakes head)

You blame everyone else.

(opens eyes)

Blame yourself.

(sobs)

I blame you.

(beat)

Shame on you. He's your SON, Teddy.

REYNOLDS

Yes.

(wipes hands)

He'll do nicely. Quite nicely.

Jacob HUMS BLACK SABBATH's "N.I.B." softly in the distance.

JACOB

(sings faintly)

Your love for me has just got to be real--

Carly looks around.

REYNOLDS
What is that? He shouldn't be there
anymore.
(looks around)
I should be there... inside him...

Carly smiles.

Jacob HUMS BLACK SABBATH's "N.I.B.".

Carly looks around as if she recognizes the voice. She
answers back when she remembers the verse.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S "N.I.B.".

CARLY
(singing)
Before you know,--
(humming what she can't
remember)
Hmmm mmmm--I'm going to feel...

Carly stands with her fists clenched.

JACOB AND CARLY (CONT'D)
(singing together)
I'm going to feel... I'm going to
feel...

CARLY (CONT'D)
(smiling)
You son of a bitch.
(beat)
You'll never get--

The lights begin to flicker and die out.

REYNOLDS
Now --
(extends fire hands)
I have you both.

A clock CHIMES twice.

INT. CAVE LEVEL SEVEN - NIGHT

Carly lands HARD on the cave floor. She opens her eyes and
sees Jacob standing on broken legs as he stares at the cave
wall.

CARLY
JACOB!
(quieter)

CARLY (CONT'D)
Jake. Baby. I'm gonna get you out
of here.

She stops halfway to Jacob and realizes his legs are bent the
wrong way. Carly lets out a GASP.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(gasping)
What... did... he?

Carly grabs Jacob slowly, trying not to hurt him. The sound
of bones CRACKING fills the space.

Jacob GROANS.

JACOB
Oooooowwwwwwww...

Jacob's eyes roll from behind his eyelids and meet Carly's
GAZE.

JACOB (CONT'D)
Mom? MOM? I saw...

Carly smiles and cries quietly.

JACOB (CONT'D)
I saw him. I found him.

CARLY
Quiet, baby. I'm gonna get you out
of here.

Carly begins to back away.

Reynolds GROANS and SHRIEKS.

JACOB
I saw Dad, like... for real.

Carly winces and nods, holding Jacob in her arms.

CARLY
I saw him, too. Shh, sweetie.

JACOB
I saw him, then I heard him but--

FADE TO BLACK.

SOUND UP: POPPING SOUND

EXT. "REYNOLDS" HOUSE - NIGHT

Reynolds appears in front of the FAMILY'S Old House, clutching a headless chicken. The ground is wet with blood.

REYNOLDS

No. No.
 (points)
 These have problems.

Headless chickens line the ground around the home. Some are still alive with their heads off. They wander aimlessly, spurting blood onto the ground.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

(pointing)
 Something to do with that
 (Sticks finger in Chicken)
 Valve...
 (Points with bloody
 finger)
 There.

Jacob runs over from the house. He looks down and realizes he's lived this scene before, when he was younger. He can walk again.

JACOB

(looking down)
 My legs!
 (looks around)
 Dad? Just before he...
 (To Himself)
 But maybe it can be different now.

Reynolds screams in pain as he pulls both of his eyes out of their sockets on the partially lit front porch.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Dad! No! Please!

REYNOLDS

(smiles)
 Better. I can hear much better now.
 Thank you,
 (Looks at Jacob)
 Jacob.

Reynolds picks Jacob up by the neck and begins to run his ear on Jacob's esophagus.

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

I hear it. Yes. I hear it. I'll get
 it out for you.

Jacob screams out in pain as the father sticks his fingers into Jacob's throat, drawing blood.

Carly runs out onto the front porch.

CARLY
(screams)
Put him down!
(reaching out)
JACOB!

Carly pulls Jacob from his Father's clutches, sending Reynolds off-balance.

Reynolds loses his balance and lands on all fours. He crawls toward the barn.

Carly RUNS over to the barn.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(Panting)
Dear God, Jacob.

Carly opens the door, winces, and pivots to cover Jacob's eyes.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(to Jacob)
Don't look!

A loud BANG can be heard and the middle of the barn buckles from Reynolds' weight.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(shakes head)
Not again.
(To Jacob)
You can't help him! JAKE!

A clock CHIMES.

GHOST TAPES AUDIO - MAN PLEADING AND GROANING

Jacob escapes Carly's grasp and runs into the barn.

JAKE
DAD!

Jake pushes the barn door open.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CAMBODIAN JUNGLE - DAY

GENERAL BURNETT's Huey flies nap-of-the-earth over the burned out war zone.

U.S. Infantrymen appear a pale white. They're sunk into the earth as they try to reach out from the ground in petrified horror. Their lifeless bodies protrude out of HILL 734 like mushrooms on a log.

A thick green tent is seen flapping on the ground next to smoldering sound equipment.

General Burnett points and the Huey makes a wide circle and lands Twenty Feet from Reynolds' collapsed A/V tent. He walks out of the chopper and toward the green tent flapping in the breeze.

U.S. Army choppers land behind the General. He shakes his head and walks over to the pit where Reynolds lay gasping for breath.

A wisp of smoke catches the breeze as a Kukri Snake slithers out from the side of the pit. Its distinctive skull-like markings clearly visible in the daylight.

The General waves his arms at the Medics who gather around the entrance to the pit. Looking down at Reynolds, they feverishly take notes, writing, "Single survivor, probable contamination from rift" and "Test 134: Shows Improvement".

Jacob walks slowly over and peers into the pit at his father writhing in pain.

REYNOLDS
(silently)
Jacob! Why Jake?!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH - DAY

Carly stands at the foot of Reynolds' hospital bed, holding in her feelings with a hand over her mouth.

Jacob drives a toy car around the edges of the bed.

The Doctor leans in to comfort Carly and mouths the words:

DOCTOR
(silently)
I'm sorry...

The doctor then nods at Jacob, picks up Reynolds' file and writes the word, "Discharged".

Beneath it, he continues, "Psychosis, tremors, seizures -- consistent with Chemical Poisoning" and "Reason for Dismissal: At Capacity".

Reynolds tosses and turns, kicking Jacob off the bed. He grabs at the hospital curtains, violently kicking at the ORDERLIES sent to subdue him.

Jacob, frightened, runs out of the room with Carly following close behind.

LINDA (O.S.)
(angry)
You come for this boy- For another
chance at life? You have no respect
for the dead.

INT. CAVE LEVEL SEVEN - NIGHT

Ghostly figures begin appearing from the ground, walls and ceiling of the cave itself.

REYNOLDS
NO! I had him. He was-- I can't go
back! I need more time!

LINDA (O.S.)
(cackles)
Time's up.

In the distance, Carly sees an illuminated pile of rocks that begin to separate. She runs through the groping white hands, which seem oblivious to her presence.

GHOST TAPES AUDIO - A BABY CRIES OUT IN PAIN.

From every corner the PALE DEAD hands grasp at Reynolds. They wrap around his torso, legs, and hands, pulling him down into the dark.

GHOST TAPES AUDIO - MAN CRYING

REYNOLDS
(to the Dead)
Not me! The boy! The boy! The deal
was for the boy!
(to Carly)
And WHERE do you think,--
(pained)
You're going?

Reynolds reaches out to grab Carly and manages to get a hold of her hair.

Carly struggles against Reynolds' hand. She gets free, leaving a handful of hair in his grasp.

CARLY
(to herself)
Think. Think.

Carly realizes she's back where she started at the bottom of the cave.

CARLY (CONT'D)
(squinting)
My gear is still here.

Carly runs over to the wall. The rope she came down on is burnt on both ends on the cave floor. She looks around in anguish.

NAKED TORSO
(to Reynolds)
You-- I recognize you.

Linda's VOICE rises from the deep, speaking with a deep, unnatural, binaural tone.

LINDA (O.S.)
(to Reynolds)
You fool-- do you not know what this is? My son has told me so much about you.

NAKED TORSO
(to Reynolds)
You are not--
(wheezing)
My son. He would be nearly YOUR age now. Won't you help me find him?

LINDA (O.S.)
(to Reynolds)
I couldn't save my own son.
(to Carly)
So I made a deal for yours.
(to herself)
I am ready now.

The Naked Torso reaches up through Reynolds, ripping out whatever was left of his soul. The opaque white hand smothers the flames on his chest.

Michelle, Luke and Tennessee, far above, shout and wave down to Carly.

LUKE AND MICHELLE AND TENNESSEE (O.S.)
Carly! Carly!

CARLY
 Jacob!? Tenn?
 (looks up)
 Oh!
 (waves arms)
 Michelle? Luke! INT. CAVE LEVEL SIX
 - NIGHT LUKE and MICHELLE are at
 the ledge, peering into the
 darkness with a mix of hope and
 fear. They wave down at CARLY and
 JACOB, visible in the flickering
 shadows below.

TENNESSEE appears behind the duo, pistol in one hand, the
 rope slung over her shoulder, her presence both unexpected
 and welcome.

MICHELLE
 (relief flooding her
 voice)
 Tennessee! We need that rope bag!

TENNESSEE
 With pleasure, darlin'. Let's light
 up this scene.

Steadying herself at the precipice, she expertly tosses the
 rope down, eyes scanning the abyss.

INT. CAVE LEVEL SEVEN - NIGHT

Below, REYNOLDS, spectral and wild-eyed, reaches forward, his
 fingers stretching toward JACOB. The moment hangs in the
 balance.

Just as Reynolds lunges, Tennessee takes aim, her focus
 absolute. The SHOT rings out, echoing off the cavern walls.

The bullet strikes Reynolds' outstretched hand with a
 visceral CRACK, his spectral form momentarily flickering as
 he recoils, the impact shattering his ethereal grip.

REYNOLDS
 (hissing in pain,
 momentarily vulnerable)
 You...!

JACOB, inches from his father's clutches, scrambles back,
 grasping the rope. CARLY, securing him, looks up, gratitude
 on her face.

TENNESSEE
 (jesting with a sly smile)
 Don't mess with family. Now, hang
 tight-literally.

MICHELLE

Carly! Up Here! Hey! Hey!

CARLY

I need rope! There should be another bag up there!

(to Tennessee)

Tenn- you see my bag?!

(to Jacob)

Give me a sign, Jake! Where are you? JACOB!

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - DAY

At the top, Tennessee quickly ties the rope to the spool's cable, gives Luke a nod, and races to the cruiser. She slides into the driver's seat, turning the ignition with a silent plea.

The engine ROARS to life, the spool whirring as it pulls the rope taut, lifting Carly and Jacob slowly but steadily.

CARLY

(holding Jacob close, a whisper to Tennessee)

Thank you...

The duo ascends safely, climbing from the shadows back into the light.

The cave starts falling into the dark.

GHOST TAPES AUDIO - MAN PLEADING AND GROANING

Reynolds MOANS, the light from his burning body fades, turning a pale white. He falls INTO the rock itself, mouthing his final words with lips of granite.

REYNOLDS

(confused)

Have you seen him? My son, Jacob.

Reynolds gropes at Carly's feet as she puts her climbing harness on. She shakes her feet.

CARLY

(to Michelle and Luke)

Any time guys!

(to Jacob)

Jacob!

REYNOLDS

(to Carly)

Have you seen my boy?

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

(beat)

I was supposed to meet him.

Jacob's thumb grazes over the PLAY button on his Walkman.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'N.I.B.'

REYNOLDS (CONT'D)

(fading)

If you see him, can you tell him
that I was,--

(faint)

Looking...

(fainter)

For...

(whispers)

Him.

Michelle and Luke throw the rope down to Carly.

CARLY

Jake! Hold on!

Carly tugs the rope and leaves some slack. Then, she begins to run toward the end of the cliff where Jacob lies exposed, his body broken.

Jacob, with the last of his strength, holds up his arm in the dying light.

JACOB

Mom.

(weak)

I'm here.

Carly runs and jumps. Her rope is pulled taut at the apex and swiftly guides her to Jacob. She reaches out with one hand.

Jacob MOANS as he's pulled away and the cave slips into the dark.

Jacobs' headphones and Walkman fly off his head and hip and into the nothing. The sound can be heard fading away.

SUGGESTED AUDIO - BLACK SABBATH'S 'N.I.B.'

The rope is pulled taught, straining against the weight of the climbing harness and its occupants.

JACOB (CONT'D)

(to Carly)

You heard me.

Jacob gazes up at Carly.

CARLY
 (smiles)
 I heard you, baby. I heard you.
 (sobbing)
 You're safe.

Carly darts her eyes at the rope then down at Jacob.

JACOB
 (whispers)
 Michelle.

CARLY
 (securing Jacob in her
 arms)
 What, baby?

JACOB
 Michelle. Is she--

Carly shakes her head in the dark.

CARLY
 Shh, honey. She's fine, she's fine.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Emerging from the cave, Carly and Jacob are met by Tennessee, waiting with her characteristic mix of relief and droll humor.

TENNESSEE
 (smirking)
 Next time, we're taking your car.

CARLY
 (smiles)
 Yeah, we're going to have to...

The tension breaks, the air filled with a shared sense of real triumph. The wilderness around them begins to quiet.

The WHISPERS and MOANS from the cave die out completely. A large, white Owl flutters overhead.

Carly and Tennessee share a knowing glance at each other.

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------|
| | TENNESSEE | CARLY (CONT'D) |
| Linda. | | Linda. |

EXT. CAVE - DAY

Carly wipes off Jacob's dirty face next to the totaled police cruiser.

CARLY
(smiling)
I knew you'd pull through, my brave
boy. Welcome back.

Jacob looks up at Carly.

JACOB
Mom... Did we make it? My eye... I
think I can see again, almost.

Michelle and Luke walk out of the darkened entrance and wave behind them.

CARLY
HEY!
(to Luke)
Who are you waving at?

Luke and Michelle look at one another.

Michelle runs over to Jacob.

MICHELLE
(crying)
You're alive! I missed you. Isn't
that strange?

JACOB
(whispers)
Missed you too.

MICHELLE
(to Jacob, horrified)
Oh my god, your legs.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - DAY

Jacob is hoisted into an ambulance.

MICHELLE
(to Jacob)
I'll see you in a bit, ok?

Michelle leans in and gently kisses Jacob on the cheek.

Carly, Michelle, and Luke look at each other and then back to Jacob.

CARLY
(to luke)
See you in a bit, honey.
(to Tennessee)
Who you riding with?

Tennessee sits on the side entrance of the Ambulance, she looks past the bandages on her head and sees Luke, Michelle and Carly smiling down at her.

TENNESSEE
I have got to-
(shakes head)
What do you gotta do, Tenn?

An Ambulance Tech with a mask on, pulls the doors shut.

CARLY
(kisses Tennessee's head)
Save me a seat at the hospital.

Tennessee nods, smiles and hops into the cab of the Ambulance. She looks out the window at a Large white owl, sitting silent in the trees in front of them.

Michelle SNIFFS the air a couple of times, stops, raises her eyebrows, and looks at Luke.

Luke waves his hands and walks away.

The Ambulance's blue and red lights flood the screen as it pulls out of the cave entrance.

Carly smiles then shakes her head, No.

Ozzy BARKS ONCE, then settles into his well worn spot next to the entrance, and continues to gnaw on Taylor's hip bone.

A white owl watches the Ambulance as the Ambulance drives away, then swoops low to follow it.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The mountain, ringed in storm clouds, looms large behind the Cave entrance. The trees, ground, and rocks remain uprooted and face toward the entrance of the mine.

FADE OUT.