

ECHOES FROM BEYOND

Inspired by true events.

INT. MOUNT LARSON, APAC-TV SHACK, CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Banks of flickering monitors light up SEAN, 21, sharp-eyed and half-caffeinated, like a digital cowboy riding the late shift. He leans into the mic with practiced ease.

SEAN

And that wraps up tonight's
scheduled weirdness from Austin
Public Access Television - beamed
out from way up here on Mount
Larson to all y'all down yonder in
the Hill Country. Sleep tight,
dream weird, and may your breakfast
tacos never be cold.

EXT. MOUNT LARSON - MIDNIGHT

SUPER: Mount Larson, Austin, Texas

A screeching wind sweeps past rustling cedar trees.

SEAN stands small beneath the hulking 100-foot tower - wide-eyed, buzzed on curiosity, lit by the ominous blood-red moon that looms like a bad omen.

Clouds whip overhead while a low subsonic hum begins.

Without a second thought, Sean grabs the tower ladder - boots clinking on cold steel - and starts his midnight ascent.

SEAN'S POV:

Steel rungs blur upward. Wind howls.

From the shadows below, a shapeless figure - the REAPER OF SOULS - emerges, gliding skyward with unnatural grace.

Sean climbs higher, fingers numb, hair blown sideways. At the top, he reaches out - fingertips grazing the clouds like a kid trying to pet God - but vertigo sucker-punches him.

FLASH - a vision slams his brain: metal screeching, glass exploding - he's inside a flipping car, headlights spiraling.

The Reaper slashes upward - clips Sean's boot - almost sends him flying. He grabs a guy wire, dangling mid-air like a sock on a clothesline in a storm.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM, AUSTIN - NIGHT, 4 A.M.

A cheap lamp flickers on. SEAN bolts upright in bed, shirt damp with sweat. A PHONE BUZZES.

SEAN

Yeh?

MICK (filtered)

Sean, wake up. It's Mick.

SEAN

What time is it?

His hands: black, oily - like he fist-fought a barbecue pit.

MICK (filtered)

It's Ken. He's been in a terrible accident.

SEAN

Where? What happened?

MICK (filtered)

Seattle. Couple hours ago. Driving home after a Asleep at the Wheel concert.

SEAN

God damn us all... It's our fault.

MICK (filtered)

Wait-what? Your folks tried calling you, man.

SEAN

I'm on my way. Thanks, Mick.

He turns on the overhead light - revealing his face, arms, even his hair - slick with the same dark, glistening ooze.

SEAN stares at his reflection in the mirror - half ghost, half grease monkey - and doesn't blink.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY - TRAVELING

SUPER: One Year Later - Near Lake Travis, Texas

A beat-up convertible Jeep roars down the sun-bleached asphalt. Behind the wheel, SEAN, weathered by time but sharp-eyed, cradles a dented coffee can with a cheap label: KEN.

A sun-faded photo of Sean and Ken flaps on the dash. A thick photo album sits shotgun – a scrapbook eulogy.

Sean hurls an empty beer can into the back without looking, peels off the interstate onto a dusty two-lane ribbon slicing through endless flat farmland.

CREST OF A HILL

A longhorn steer blocks the road like a statue of Texas pride, led by a stoic COWBOY in shadow. Hovering above them – ghostly, oily, almost shimmering in the heat – is the REAPER OF SOULS.

Sean hits the brakes, tires screeching. The Jeep fishtails, gravel flies.

The Cowboy's face – just for a blink – morphs into KEN'S. Then it's gone. Stranger now. Wrong. Sean clutches the can – tight seal, heart racing.

SEAN
WHAT THE HELL?!

The Cowboy yanks the steer's rope. The shadow fades like bad weather.

COWBOY
Sorry, Bubba. Big Keechie slipped the fence this mornin', but I wrangled him good.
(tips his hat)
Y'all be safe now, ya hear?

Sean, rattled but amused, nods and waves.

SEAN
Dumbass hick ghost cowboy... only in Texas.

INT. TRAVIS FOOD MART – NOON

Sean pulls into a dusty lot. The convenience store sits crooked in the heat like it gave up on straightening up years ago.

DING! A bell tinkles as Sean walks inside.

SEAN
Hello? Anybody here?

From the back, out bounces K-GIRL (8) – pigtailed, grinning, wearing denim overalls with the confidence of a county sheriff.

K-GIRL
Howdy! What can I do ya for?

SEAN
Howdy back. You the boss of this fine establishment?

K-GIRL
Naw, silly. My mama owns it.
(twirls her eyebrow with one finger)

Sean clocks the habit – familiar. Weirdly familiar.

SEAN
Have we met before?

K-GIRL
Nope. We just bought this place last month. That there's Mama. Ain't she purdy?

She gestures to a wall of framed photos:

- One with her mom, GAYLA, crowned Miss Pork Queen, clutching a bouquet.

- Another in a sparkly dress, leaning on a new car at an auto show. Big hair. Bigger earrings. Tiny heart pendant.

SEAN
Well I'll be. Gayla Toothman – Pork Queen royalty. And you must be the heir to the ham throne. What do folks call you?

K-GIRL
Everyone just calls me K-Girl.

SEAN
That like OK-girl, or Cowgirl with a K?

K-GIRL
Just K-Girl. Plain as biscuits.

SEAN
Pleased to know ya, K-Girl. I need six bags of ice.

She points toward a chest freezer outside.

K-GIRL

Right out there. That's a lotta ice. Ya'll throwin' a party?

SEAN

Somethin' like that. Lotta beer needs chillin' up at the church camp.

K-GIRL

Bad Uncle, you can't drink beer at church!

SEAN

Bad Uncle? What'd you call me that for? I'm Sean.

K-GIRL

I dunno. That's what Mama calls them.

SEAN

Oh really...

He puts \$30 on the counter.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Twenty-four for the ice, and six for you.

K-GIRL

Six fer me?! No sir. I give it all to Mama.

SEAN

Well now, aren't you the little angel?

Sean pauses, watching her twist her eyebrow again. His smile fades to something softer. A flicker of recognition.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You sure we haven't met?

K-GIRL

Nope. I'd remember.

SEAN

All right then, K-Girl. Bye fer now.

K-GIRL
See ya later, Bad Uncle.

SEAN
Later.

FLASHBACK - INT. SEAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dim lamp light flickers on a cluttered desk.

Sean sorts through a box of Ken's old things - CDs, crumpled photos, a lucky rabbit's foot...

He freezes.

Nestled in a tangle of junk: a tiny heart-shaped pendant - identical to the one in the Miss Pork Queen photo.

He blinks.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

EXT. JEEP - TEXAS HIGHWAY - DAY

Sean grips the wheel, staring off.

SEAN
(shaking it off)
Naw... couldn't be.

EXT. LAKE TRAVIS - CHURCH CAMPSITE ENTRANCE - DAY

SUPER: Lake Travis

The Jeep rumbles down a cracked two-lane blacktop, kicking dust as it veers onto a chalk-white dirt road.

Ahead, a rusted iron archway creaks in the wind. The sign reads:

"Welcome to the Church ..creation Center"

(The "Re" has fallen off.)

Two jet-black crows perch atop the arch, cawing like gossiping witches.

Sean flings a beer can out the window at them.

SEAN
Damn flying rats!

HIGH POV - FROM THE EYES OF A CROW

The REAPER OF SOULS looms ON THE SIGN ARCH - watching.

EXT. MAIN CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Sean rolls into a scrappy campsite - tents, beat-up trucks, coolers, folding chairs, a dented BBQ pit, and an aging Class C RV.

He honks twice.

ALL
SLOW DOWN!!

Sean parks. Steps out, arms full of ice, grinning like a cowboy back from the trail.

SEAN
Who needs ice?

CHEERS erupt.

THE TRIBE emerges:

MICK (25): rugged, limping, grinning like trouble.

RED (21): wild-eyed, tank-top hottie, Mick's firecracker wife.

BELINDA (23): stressed out schoolteacher with doubts.

SUZANNE (20): her tough-as-nails carpenter girlfriend.

DAVIS (23): nerdy, sharp-tongued art kid.

RAY (23): camera-slung, always lurking for the perfect shot.

Down the road, ATHENA (16), Mick's sulky niece, stomps toward camp.

MICK
Well if it ain't the Venice Beach
bum! You holdin' up?

SEAN
Like 40 miles of bad road, brother.

MICK
We're all here for you, man.
Over here, sit a spell.

SEAN
Tried callin' y'all on the road.

MICK
Dead zone. No bars, no beeps, no
BS.

RED
Hallelujah! Sweet, sweet silence.

SEAN
So what's the deal with the creepy
castle?

MICK
It was a nunnery long ago before
the Episcopalians took over.

SEAN
Well, I'll have nun of that.

BELINDA
Ouch!

RED
If ya get sick of mosquitoes,
there's a dozen bedrooms up there.

A golf-cart hums past driven by Ray and Davis.

ALL
SLOW DOWN!!

SEAN
Where's Harry?

MICK
You didn't hear? He and his wife
moved to Australia.

SEAN
They gave up all this for
kangaroos?!

Mick sparks a joint. The group circles up. Sean holds the can
tight.

RED
Is that... him?

SEAN
You mean... Ken in a Can?

SUZANNE

That's awful.

BELINDA

He was your brother. How can you joke?

SEAN

'Cause if I don't laugh, I'll cry a river. Besides, Ken would've thought it was funny as hell.

BELINDA

Can we... see inside?

DAVIS

Jesus, Belinda.

RAY

Wait - lemme grab my camera!

SEAN

Who's being morbid, now? Let's hold off. Later, alright?

SUZANNE

It's been one year since he...

BELINDA

Suzanne, don't.

SEAN

It's okay. Yeah. A year since Ken died. And not a day's gone by I haven't thought of him. But I'm here. With y'all. And together, we'll honor him - scatter his ashes right here in Lake Texoma. Like we promised.

MICK

Hallelujah!

RED

Amen!

Sean lifts the can like a chalice. Everyone raises their beers.

SEAN

Here's to Ken. We miss ya.
Hoot Man! Hoot Man! Hoot-Hoot!

ALL
Hoot Man! Hoot Man! Hoot—Hoot!

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The TRIBE fans out across the campsite – popping tents, planting lawn chairs like flags, slamming coolers full of beer and soft drinks. Ice crunches. Grills clank.

Mick cranks down the RV's metal legs, surveying the scene like a camp general with a bum knee.

Nearby, Sean slips away, walking the dusty road outside the camp.

From behind –

ATHENA (16) barrels into frame and leaps into Sean's arms.

ATHENA
You're here! Oh, I love it!

SEAN
Well hey there, Athena. Lord, look at you – just glowin'.

Across the site, Mick throws Sean a sharp side-eye.

ATHENA
This weekend's gonna be magic. I got it all planned! Sunset walks, swimming at the Point, canoein' – Belinda brought one – and you're gonna teach me how to drive, plus Lee's takin' us waterskiin'!

SEAN
Whoa now – Lee's here? Driving?

A passing golf cart zips by.

ALL
SLOW DOWN!!

ATHENA
C'mon. Walk with me. Now.

EXT. SECLUDED COVE - MOMENTS LATER

From high above – the POV of the REAPER OF SOULS, lurking in the trees – Sean and Athena stroll the quiet shoreline.

Sean sits in a camp chair, rubbing sunscreen on his arms.

Athena twirls in front of him in a new bikini.

ATHENA

Well? What d'ya think?

SEAN

Think of what?

ATHENA

Ugh. This! My brand-new bikini!
Ain't it just heavenly?

SEAN

Sure is. But let's be honest – the
suit's lucky to be on you.

Sean glances at the trees – something watching?

ATHENA

Hey! Eyes front, cowboy.

She plops into his lap, throws her arms around his neck.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Thanks for bein' the only grown-up
who treats me like one.

SEAN

You ain't a kid no more, that's for
damn sure. Full of spark... and
ideas... and Lord knows what else.
Life's short, huh?

ATHENA

See? You always say the right
thing.

SEAN

That all I am – good for advice?

ATHENA

You're more than that. You're mine.

She kisses his cheek. He winces, pulls a cartoon face.

SEAN

Slow down, Athena. I gotta tell you
what's been goin' on...

DAVIS and RAY walk by – right on cue.

DAVIS

Well, well. Look who's already
settin' up for a Dateline arrest.

SEAN

Oh, gimme a break.

RAY

Soon, you'll be tradin' lake views
for three hots and a cot.

ATHENA

I'll wait for him 'til he gets out.

They laugh and wander off. Sean sighs.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - LATER

LEE, shirtless and cocky, revs his boat up to the shore like
he's in a Dukes of Hazzard spin-off.

LEE

Alright, alright! Who's ready to
ride my water rocket?

BELINDA, SUZANNE, and RED sprint to the boat, giggling as
they strap into life vests.

MICK limps behind, waving them off.

MICK

Go on, have fun. RED - don't do
anything I wouldn't film.

RED

You sure you don't wanna come?

MICK

Naw. Got some important sittin' to
do.

LEE

Hold on ya'll - we're blastin' off!

The boat tears off across the water.

Mick returns to camp, lights a joint, drops into a creaky
recliner.

MICK

Ahh... doctor's orders.

EXT. SKI BOAT - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

Ray films with his iPhone as Red carves across the lake on skis, hair whipping like a rodeo queen on water.

Suddenly - a shadowy FIGURE, black as midnight, rises in her path.

Red's eyes go wide. She wobbles.

SPLASH! She crashes hard.

She bobs up, gasping, spinning in place.

RED

Y'all saw that?! Tell me you saw that!

LEE pulls the boat around, throwing it in neutral as they drag her back onboard.

LEE

Are you OK?

RED

There was somethin' - big, black, creepin' up on me!

LEE

Didn't see squat but your splashdown.

RAY

Hold up - got it on video. Look, look!

He rewinds the clip. Everyone crowds around.

The video shows her skiing... a stumble... splash. No shadow. Nothing.

RED

What the hell?! It was right there!

LEE

Maybe he missed the angle? We believe ya... right?

Crickets.

RED

To hell with that lake. I'm done. Take me back.

EXT. CAMP ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Athena and Sean stroll back into camp, full of sunshine and mischief.

ATHENA
Well? You teachin' me or not?

SEAN
Right now?

ATHENA
You promised, mister!

SEAN
Alright. Gimme one sec.

MICK leans against the RV, joint in hand.

MICK
Oh boy. What could possibly go wrong? Buckle up, Bonnie and Clyde.

ATHENA
You're the best, Uncle Mick!

MICK
I'm your only uncle. And your mama will skin me alive if you so much as scratch a mirror. Sean?

SEAN
We're takin' it easy. Just to the gate and back.

MICK
It ain't the drivin' I'm worried about.

SEAN
Would you stop?

ATHENA
Sean, come on! I'm so excited!

SEAN
Okay, but listen - I need you calm and focused. No funny business.

ATHENA
I'll do anything you say.

SEAN
Please stop sayin' things like
that.

MICK
Already regrettin' this...

EXT. DUSTY BACKROAD - DAY - MOVING

Sean and Athena bounce along a gravel road to his dusty Jeep.

SEAN
Alright. Mirrors good? Brake's on
the left, gas on the right. You
nervous?

ATHENA
Nah. First time drivin', but with
you ridin' shotgun, I feel like
Kyle freakin' Larson. He's so cute.

A CROW watches from a tree limb, cawing. It's the REAPER OF
SOULS—its presence means danger.

SEAN
Who? Okay, easy on the gas. Just
lightly tap til you feel the car
move.

She presses the pedal too gently at first—creeps forward like
a church parade.

Then—vrooom!—she guns it.

Dust explodes behind them. Sean braces with white knuckles as
Athena squeals with glee.

SEAN (CONT'D)
That's opposite of easy does it.

ATHENA
This is awesome!

The Jeep fishtails. Gravel sprays. The crow flies ahead,
leading them.

They round a bend—a LITTLE GIRL appears in the middle of the
road. Denim overalls. Blank stare.

SEAN
Oh, hell—!

Athena slams the brake. The Jeep skids sideways, halting in a cloud of dust.

They sit, breathless.

ATHENA

Holy crap, that was fun!

She throws her arms around him and kisses his cheek.

SEAN

Athena! That kid—we could've hit her!

They turn.

The road is empty. The girl is gone. The crow flies off cawing.

ATHENA

Where'd she go?

SEAN

Wait. You saw her too? That—that was the girl from the store. The one with the attitude.

ATHENA

What girl?

SEAN

Smartass in overalls. Looked just like her.

Athena leans close, all sugar.

ATHENA

Can I drive back?

SEAN

Yeah, sure... just no NASCAR this time.

ATHENA

Best. Teacher. Ever.

She plants kisses on both his cheeks—just as a couple CAMPERS stroll by and eyeball Sean like he just got caught stealing Girl Scout cookies.

Athena giggles. Sean gives a sheepish wave.

EXT. SECLUDED BEACH #2 - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

Belinda and Suzanne walk barefoot along the shoreline, toes skimming the water.

Overhead, the REAPER'S shadow hangs still in the branches.

Suzanne reaches for Belinda's hand. Belinda flinches away.

BELINDA
Someone might see.

SUZANNE
Let 'em. It's been five damn years,
Bel. The world won't end 'cause you
held my hand.

BELINDA
My mom's sick. She wouldn't
understand.

SUZANNE
Mine threw me out and changed the
locks.

Belinda stays quiet.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
I'm tired of hidin'. Either face
the world alone—or face me.

She pulls Belinda close. Kisses her, long and sure.

CRACK!

A thick tree limb drops behind them—WHUMP!

Belinda jumps.

BELINDA
Jesus! What was that?

SUZANNE
Hell raisin' angels, maybe.

She grabs Belinda again, holding her tight as the Reaper's shadow slides away.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TEXOMA - DAY

Red saunters up and plants a kiss on Mick's cheek.

RED
Hey there, Old Husband.

MICK
Yes, Crazy Wife?

RED
I love you.

MICK
I love you more'n brisket on Easter
Sunday.

RED
You ever wonder if we'd make good
parents?

MICK
Aw, hell--don't go pokin' that
hornet's nest. You said no kids,
remember?

RED
I know, I know. Just... thinkin'.

MICK
Well stop that. Let me do the
thinkin', and the drinkin'.

RED
Can I get an amen?!

LEE
(offscreen)
Amen, sister.

Lee, Davis, and Ray wander in, beers already cracked.

LEE (CONT'D)
Boat's beached and tied. What'd we
miss?

RED
Mick's givin' me a TED Talk on not
thinkin' too much.

MICK
Wisdom's my curse.

They cheers their beers.

LEE
Y'all talk to Sean about spreadin'
Ken's ashes?

RED

Not yet. He's teachin' Athena how not to crash a Jeep.

MICK

She spun out and loved it. Nearly gave Sean a coronary.

LEE

Man, things just gettin' weirder.

RED

Tell me 'bout it. I saw somethin' in that water. Big. Dark. Creepy.

MICK

And yet, Ray's video shows nothin' but splash and sass.

RAY

Coulda been a wave shadow... or my lens was bein' moody.

DAVIS

Our Hobie flipped with barely a breeze.

RED

See? Strange crap's stackin' up soon as Sean rolled in.

MICK

Y'all sound like campfire kids tellin' ghost stories.

RED

So now I'm crazy?

LEE

Alright, ceasefire! Weather radio said a storm might blow through.

MICK

Fine by me—I'll shower in the rain and call it eco-friendly.

LEE

Tree-huggin' hillbilly.

RED

Should we tie down the tents?

MICK

Nope. But you can tie me up later.

RED
In your weird little dreams.

MICK
Cheers to the Camp o' Fools! Hoot
hoot!

Sean and Athena stroll in.

SEAN
What'd we miss?

MICK
Just minor wisdom and major
nonsense.

ATHENA
Sean taught me how to drive!

The group exchanges knowing snickers. Sean rolls his eyes.

EXT. DIRT ROAD NEAR THE LAKE - AFTERNOON

A beat-up pickup truck sputters to a halt, coughing smoke like it's been through war too. Out jumps SARGE (45) — grizzled, barrel-chested, wrapped in faded fatigues and holy fire. He hoists out ALI (9), wide-eyed, clinging to a small backpack like a lifeline.

SARGE
AT EASE! AT EASE!
Brothers and sisters—I bring you a
child of war! This here's Ali. Lost
his kin back in Iraq. My church
gave me the divine honor to
shepherd him into the light... into
the American way!
Now... who among y'all got a
Christian heart and a free hand?

MICK
Don't know about all that
"Christian duty" stuff...
But I reckon the boy might like
fishin'.

SARGE
OUTSTANDING! Fishers of men! Mark
1:17—praise Jesus!

MICK
Yup. Hallelujah or whatever.

Sarge slaps Ali's hand into Mick's like a transfer of sacred trust. Then his voice goes full drill sergeant.

SARGE
ALI! FOLLOW THIS MAN! HE IS MIKE!

MICK
It's Mick.

SARGE
MIKE! YES. FOLLOW MIKE TODAY!
YOU COPY THAT, SOLDIER?

Ali flinches, backing behind Mick like he's dodging shrapnel.

MICK
Easy, Sarge. WE ain't at war. Are we?

SARGE
He don't speak American so good like us. But he'll learn! Alright now—God bless ya, Mike!

MICK
Still Mick.

SARGE
Off to install toilets for the Lord!
(Gives a firm, sweaty handshake)
Praise the plumbing—and the flag!

MICK
Come on, Ali. Before we end up in a revival.

Sarge marches off, belting out a dusty hymn as he climbs into his truck.

SARGE
Bringin' in the sheaves, bringin' in the sheaves...

MICK
Ain't he Muslim?

Sarge peels out in a cloud of patriotic dust.

Mick grabs two fishing rods and motions to Ali, who follows... until—

POP!

A distant firework cracks the sky. Ali hits the dirt, flat, fast, and trembling.

MICK

Hey-hey, it's OK, little buddy.
That's just folks bein' loud and
dumb. You're safe here. Come on
now... grab a pole.

Ali stands. Hesitant, but trusting. They walk down the path.

From the trees, the REAPER OF SOULS looms—its shadow swollen.

Red watches from the campsite, eyes softening. Her heart beams toward Mick.

The REAPER shrinks, cowed by kindness.

EXT. BEACH - SECLUDED AREA #1 - LAKE TRAVIS - DUSK

The lake glows amber as Sean and Athena sit on driftwood, toes buried in cool sand. The horizon burns gold.

ATHENA

Thanks for lettin' me drive
today... even if I nearly crashed
us.

SEAN

Wasn't a crash. Just a spirited...
spin.

ATHENA

Still. You trusted me. That means
somethin'.

SEAN

I see potential. You just need
practice. And maybe fewer
distractions... like wild joyrides.

ATHENA

You actually believe in me, don't
you?

SEAN

Yea, you're sharp. Brave. Just in a
damn hurry to grow up.

ATHENA

I forgot Ken's memorial. It's like the world's turnin' without tellin' me where it's goin'. You're off at school... My friends are dull children... My parents—strict like prison guards. I'm just... lost.

Tears spill. Sean gently wraps her in a hug.

SEAN

Hey... you're not alone. Go on, cry it all out.

WHOOSH.

A silent saucer zips overhead—low, chrome, pulsing. It halts midair, then rockets straight into the sky. Seconds later an Air Force fighter jet is in hot pursuit rockets low over the campers.

ATHENA

Oh my God. I just saw a freakin' UFO!

She collapses to the sand. Sean steadies her.

ALL

What the hell was that? SLOW DOWN!.

SEAN

It's okay. I got you... Truth is, weird stuff's been tailin' me for a while now.

ATHENA

Ghost girl on the road and now this? Sean, what have you done?!

SEAN

Started a year ago. Night Ken died. Then came... visions. Premonitions. My Dad died next, then all the grandparents, Mom was last.

ATHENA

I'm so sorry you've been facing all this alone.

SEAN

Yeah. Like bein' wide awake inside a nightmare.

ATHENA
You're scarin' me.

SEAN
I scare myself sometimes too.

POV - REAPER OF SOULS

From the tree line, the Reaper watches—still and pulsing.

ATHENA
We have to tell everyone.

SEAN
Not yet. Please. Just trust me.
I'll explain everything... when
it's time.

ATHENA
You'll keep me safe, right?

SEAN
With everything I've got.

She rest her head on his shoulder.

EXT. SECLUDED AREA #2 - LAKE TRAVIS - DUSK

Sunlight kisses the horizon. Belinda and Suzanne lounge on
beach towels in swimsuits, half-clothed in golden light.

POV - REAPER OF SOULS

Its shadow stretches from the trees, unseen but creeping.

BELINDA
Do you feel that?

SUZANNE
Girl, unless it's a silent
mosquito, I felt nothin'.

BELINDA
I dunno... Feels like we're bein'
watched.

SUZANNE
Unless one of those little perverts
wandered off the Point, you're just
paranoid. I'll punt 'em back to
Dallas if I have to.

She reclines, then props herself up again as Belinda stares off.

BELINDA

Alright. That's it. I'm done hidin'. I'm tellin' my family. About us.

SUZANNE

Hope it helps, but I already know who you are. That's what matters to me.

BELINDA

Still... I'm scared.

SUZANNE

We'll face it together. Always.

BELINDA

Texas ain't safe for girls like us.

SUZANNE

Hell, I'm queer and Mexican. I hit the bigot jackpot.

BELINDA

I hate that word.

SUZANNE

"Queer" or "Mexican"?

BELINDA

No, the label thing. Feels like shrink-wrapping your soul.

SUZANNE

So what are we then?

BELINDA

A couple in love. Ain't that enough?

SUZANNE

Sounds perfect. But Texas? Not so much.

BELINDA

God, I wish we could run away.

SUZANNE

My cousin's in California. Says the ocean don't judge.

Belinda tears up. Suzanne pulls her close.

A rabid mongrel dog comes out around a tree looking to bite them.

Belinda hides her face in a towel, while Suzanne is looking for a weapon in their beach bag.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

I'll fucking kill that mut!

She turns around and the rabid dog is gone.

BELINDA

Is it safe to come out?

POV - REAPER OF SOULS

Its pulse quickens. The girls suddenly pack up, sensing the chill in the dusk.

They walk off hand-in-hand toward the glow of campfires.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CAMPFIRE - LAKE TEXOMA - NIGHT

A crackling bonfire throws golden light across smiling faces. The tribe gathers like moths to flame.

Lee strolls up with his beat-up guitar. Sean carries a dusty mandolin.

MICK

Well butter my butt and call me a
biscuit—it's Hee Haw hour.

RED

Come on, old timer—we saved the
good spoons for ya.

Red tosses him a set. Mick shrugs and starts clacking. Athena straps on a washboard like she means it.

Ray and Davis join in with guitar and bongos.

They bust out "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"—bluegrass style. Feet stomp, hands clap. Belinda and Suzanne dance a wobbly jig around the fire. Even Ali cracks a smile.

BELINDA

I love these old songs... but I
miss Ken's voice.

RED
And his laugh.

MICK
And them whoppers he called
stories.

He sparks up a joint, takes a puff like it's communion.

MICK (CONT'D)
Ken crossed every line—but damn if
he didn't make us laugh doin' it.

LEE
Y'all remember when he tied inner
tubes to his four-wheeler in the
snow and dragged us through Norbuck
Park? Cops couldn't catch us—they
were too busy slidin' around in
Crown Vics.

Everyone laughs.

SEAN
One summer—blisterin' hot—me, Mom,
and Ken had popsicles meltin' down
our elbows in the car. Ken leaned
on the door, whoop!—straight out
onto the pavement. He sat on the
curb gigglin' like it was the best
day of his life.

Roaring laughter around the fire.

SEAN (CONT'D)
But the wildest story? Super
Mercado, Chico, California.

FLASHBACK - EXT. SUPER MERCADO PARKING LOT - CHICO, CA - DUSK

A dusty red Land Cruiser rumbles into a lot decked out like a
county fair—colored streamers, balloons, and a GRAND OPENING
banner flapping.

INT. SUPER MERCADO - DUSK

Ken and Sean push a cart like mountain men who lost a bet
with civilization—two weeks unwashed, beards like
tumbleweeds.

MANAGER
Welcome to Super Mercado!

KEN

Howdy. We need steaks, beans, TP,
and enough beer to forget we smell
like raccoons.

Spanish pop music blares. Ken tips his cowboy hat to the ladies.

MANAGER (ON MIC)

First raffle number: nueve-dos-
tres!

KEN

YEEHAW! That's me!

Polite claps. Side-eyes. The Manager hesitates but confirms.

KEN (grabs mic) (CONT'D)

First dang thing I've won since a
cakewalk in third grade!

MANAGER

So... you'll be shopping with us
weekly?

KEN

Oh, no sir. We're just passin'
through-Texas boys on the move.

Crowd groans. Manager panics.

MANAGER

Okay okay, next number. Maria, help
us out!

MARIA, a shy cashier, pulls a new ticket. Ken grabs it.

KEN (arm around her)

Oops, sorry darlin'. Go on ahead.

MARIA

Nine-two-four.

SEAN

Oh no... that's me.

Crowd grumbles. The manager sweats bullets. Two full carts of groceries are rolled up.

KEN (low to the manager)

You've got yourself a mutiny
brewin'. Tell you what—we'll give
all this to the locals...

(MORE)

KEN (low to the manager) (CONT'D)
 in exchange for a couple steaks and
 two more cases of beer.

MANAGER
 Deal! ¡Sí, sí! OK, listen up
 everyone! These nice young men are
 going to give away the groceries to
 you all. Isn't that great? So
 anyone who wants a free grocery
 item, just meet them right out
 front. Thank you for shopping at
 Chico Super Mercado. Whew!

The manager adds an extra case of beer into the boy's basket.

Ken on microphone whistling like he's herding cattle, motions
 toward the front of the store and guzzling a beer.

EXT. SUPER MERCADO - PARKING LOT - DUSK

Ken whistles like a ranch hand, herds the crowd with a beer
 in hand.

A long line of Mexican grandmothers and moms forms as they
 hand out groceries. One baby is passed to Ken while a teary-
 eyed mom shops.

GRANDMOTHER
 Él es un ángel.

KEN
 Just a hungry angel with a
 hangover, ma'am.

He pops a beer. Sean shakes his head, smiling in disbelief.

BACK TO CAMPFIRE
 - NIGHT

Laughter swells around the flames.

SEAN
 That was Ken. Half outlaw, half
 saint. A heart big as Texas—and
 twice as stubborn.

Everyone raises their drinks and howls under the stars.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

The fire flickers, casting dancing shadows on weathered faces. Laughter trails into memory.

RED

Yup, sounds about right. Women just fell for that man.

MICK

Well, he had enough confidence to share with the whole damn county.

SUZANNE

Y charisma. (with a wink)

LEE

Mmm-hmm. Heard he got caught with that gymnast girlfriend.

FLASHBACK - EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - NIGHT

A teenage KEN clambers out a bedroom window, yanking up his jeans mid-air. Inside: a GIRL sobbing, a FATHER roaring like a grizzly.

BACK TO CAMPFIRE

BELINDA (O.S.)

And again in Denver.

FLASHBACK - EXT. DENVER STREET - NIGHT

Same story. Different state. Teenage KEN tears down the block pant-less, grinning like a fool while another furious FATHER chases him. GIRL crying on the porch.

Laughter explodes around the fire.

SEAN

Lisa. That was her name. I was there. He was nuts about her—right up until her daddy ran him outta town.

FLASHBACK - EXT. DENVER PARK - DAY

Beneath a sweeping pine tree, KEN (20) and LISA (16) lie shoulder to shoulder.

LISA
Are you stayin' in Denver?

KEN
Might head to Alaska. Big, wild...
untamed.

LISA
You sound like you're searchin' for
somethin'.

KEN
I feel like life's a wild mustang
and I'm barely hangin' on by the
mane.

LISA
You some kinda poet?

KEN
Guess I am. Maybe a dumb one.

They kiss—soft, uncertain, electric.

BACK TO CAMPFIRE

More chuckles.

RED
I heard he seduced one of them
pageant gals at the Texas State
Fair Auto Show. Took her for a
ride... in the camper.

FLASHBACK - INT. STATE FAIR - CAR SHOW - NIGHT

GAYLA, a radiant model in a satin gown, spins on a rotating
car display. A heart-shaped pendant gleams at her chest.

KEN grins like the devil with a secret. She blushes. Game
over.

BACK TO CAMPFIRE
- NIGHT

SEAN stares into the flames, tone shifting.

SEAN
But he wasn't just a clown.
I'll never forget walkin' in from
school and seein' him—fourteen
years old—talkin' our dad off the
ledge. Dad lost his job.

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

His health. Said he was worth more
dead than alive. Mom wanted out.
Ken sat him down, talked him
through it. Got him into treatment.
Talked Mom into stayin'.

(beat)

He held us together before he even had a driver's license.

A heavy silence. The fire snaps, startled embers flying.

MICK

Damn. I never knew that.

RED

He was somethin' else, that boy.

BELINDA

You ever gonna tell us what really
happened in Seattle?

SEAN

Yeah. I'll tell it. But don't
expect no happy ending.

(He pulls out a coffee can and hands it to her.)

SEAN (CONT'D)

There he is. Bone, dust, and bad
decisions.

BELINDA crosses herself, slowly unscrews the lid. She peeks
inside—quiet. Reverent.

The REAPER OF SOULS constellation pulses faintly above the
treetops. A loud crack from the fire makes them all jump.

FLASHBACK - SEATTLE MONTAGE - NIGHT

HANDHELD VIDEO POV - Grainy, shaky footage.

The Space Needle blurs by.

Ken laughing, clowning with an unknown WOMAN.

Fish fly at Pike Place.

Rain streaks across a windshield.

"End of the Line" by Asleep at the Wheel plays softly.

A red Toyota Land Cruiser speeds down a winding, rain-slicked highway. Headlights streak across a dark curve.

Tires screech. Metal screams.

CRASH.

The screen tilts—camera fallen in wet grass. Music slows, warped.

BACK TO CAMPSITE
- NIGHT

SEAN
Impact snapped his brain stem. Gone
in a blink. No seat belt. How many
times did I...

LEE
Man...

The fire pops. The music from the crash lingers faintly, then cuts out.

Silence.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

Faces lit by firelight freeze mid-horror. Jaws slack. Eyes wide.

LEE
I think I'm fixin' to hurl.

RED
Make it a duet.

A long breath passes through the group like a cold wind.

MICK
Is... that all?

SEAN
Nope.

RED
Well, dammit—what happened?

SEAN
Something else happened that same
night. Same minute. Coulda been a
double funeral.

ATHENA
You're messin' with us.

FLASHBACK - EXT. MOUNT LARSON TV TOWER - MIDNIGHT

POV - SEAN climbs the skeletal tower under a blood-red moon. Clouds whip by like they've got somewhere to be.

From the steel rungs, the REAPER OF SOULS glides behind him, silent as breath.

At the peak, Sean reaches for the clouds—then slips. A phantom hand yanks his boot, nearly sending him to oblivion.

He catches a guy wire just in time. Hanging. Gasping. Alive.

BACK TO CAMPSITE

LEE
Are you shittin' me? Why didn't you ever say nothin'?

SEAN
Didn't wanna sound like a nut job.

MICK
Too late for that, brother. But hey—we love you anyway.

ATHENA
Hush, Uncle Mick. Let him finish. Was Ken even awake?

SEAN
By the time I got to the hospital, he was gone. Just a machine breathing for him.

FLASHBACK - EXT./INT. SEATTLE - NIGHT

POV - Rain-slick streets shimmer under sodium lights. Sean walks past a church. A black silhouette trails behind. It vanishes.

Sunrise through stained glass. A flatline hum creeps in.

SEAN (V.O.)
EEG was flat. Just noise. He was on a respirator, but his heart was overworked and dying.
(MORE)

SEAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We made a pact years back—if one of us ever ended up like that, we'd pull the plug. That night, I walked all over Seattle. Bargaining with God. Even talked to a priest. All he had was "faith." That's when I knew—no miracles. No prayers. No God.

We shut off the machine. Ken held on two more days... then let go.

BACK TO CAMPSITE

LEE

Now I need a bucket.

SEAN

I went back to the crash site once. No lights on that curve. Just a steep, greasy ramp and a speed limit meant for the devil. I almost lost control in broad daylight.

LEE

Man... he didn't stand a chance.

BELINDA

Sean, how'd you hold all this in?

SEAN

Ken and I talked about this stuff—National Parks trip, remember? We promised... no life support. Pull the plug.

BELINDA

What kinda teenage boys make that deal?

SEAN

The kind that knew life don't always give warnings. We also swore—if one of us went... we'd try to reach back.

ATHENA

Wait. What?

MICK

Well ain't this a heapin' helpin' of freaky.

ATHENA

You've seen something?

MICK

I've seen coincidences, sugar. Just weird-ass coincidences.

LEE

I've seen enough. I'm gonna dream about ghost towers now.

BELINDA

Come on, Suzanne. I'm done.

RED

You stayin' up?

SEAN

For a bit. Didn't think y'all would like the story.

MICK

Maybe not. But we needed it. G'night.

(beat)

C'mon Athena.

A few faint lightning flashes dance on the distant horizon. No thunder follows.

SEAN

Guess that storm never made it here.

ATHENA

Sean... I'm here for you, alright?

She kisses his cheek, lingers a beat, then Sean kisses her cheek.

One by one, the others drift away. The fire pops.

Sean stays behind. Alone. Staring into the embers. The can of ashes glints beside him.

He cracks open a beer.

A hot wind. Distant heat lightning.

POV - BLACK SPECTER'S VIEW: watching Sean from the treeline.

REAPER OF SOULS (V.O.)

Your debt... must be paid.

Sean hears it. Freezes.

Then... just sips his beer. Like nothing happened.

EXT. THE ROAD - LAKE TRAVIS - SUNRISE

Sarge in his rusty old pickup pulls up near campsite.

Everyone in different tents screams in unison to slow down.

GROUP

SLOW DOWN!

The harried-looking veteran, Sarge is banging and emptying trash cans into his pickup.

SARGE

Attenhut! Good Morning Texoma! Rise and shine Americans! Today is the 4th of July! Independence Day. God, I love this country.

He bangs and empties the trash cans into the back of his pickup truck.

SARGE (CONT'D)

Where's Ali? That boy will experience America at its greatest.

Ali comes out of the RV and runs toward Sarge.

SARGE (CONT'D)

There's my boy. Good morning Ali. Today we celebrate our country, your new country's birthday. How would you like to be in a parade?

ALI

What's a parade?

SARGE

You'll love it. I'll be back after I finish police call.

SUZANNE

Ali. Come help me cook breakfast.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - MORNING

Sunrise sizzles through the trees. A ragtag crew of hungover campers stagger from tents like zombies in flip-flops, drawn by the scent of frying food.

BBQ grills hiss as an efficient breakfast brigade flips huevos rancheros like a mess hall drill.

SUZANNE, apron-wrapped and in full command, barks orders like a benevolent kitchen general.

SEAN is a crumpled mess in a camp recliner, surrounded by a six-pack graveyard.

ATHENA leans down and nudges him gently.

ATHENA

Time to rise, cowboy. You need grub. Long day ahead. I sure wish you'd take it easy on the sauce.

SEAN

What... time is it?
Smells like eggs and regret.

ATHENA

Suzanne and Belinda cooked for an army. Get up. We need you. I need you.

SEAN

Well... in that case—
Can we start with just breakfast?

ATHENA

Fine. But wipe the crust off your face, Romeo.

SEAN

Wait—where's my Ken in a Can?

ATHENA

Forget the ashes. Focus on coffee.

SEAN

Yes ma'am.

EXT. CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Sean staggers like a cowboy after a bender. Dunks his head into an Igloo of melted ice water. YELPS. He nearly walks into a clothes line of Athena's bikinis.

LAUGHTER erupts up around the Castle balcony.

Athena guides him to the Castle where a Bloody Mary (extra Clamato) waits like a holy sacrament. He downs it in one gulp.

SEAN

Og thank God for AC. Was that Sarge
clanging pots like a church bell?
That guy's a real piece o'—

MICK

You better hit the brakes right
there, hoss.

The table goes quiet. Sean freezes mid-bite.

MICK (CONT'D)

Sarge is a decorated vet. Captured,
tortured, broke his boys out and
brought most of 'em home. Yeah,
he's a little... loud. But he's
earned our respect.
You catch my drift?

SEAN

Loud and clear. My bad—I didn't
know.

RED

None of us did, honestly.

SUZANNE

Stuff this in your mouth instead of
your foot.

SEAN

Gracias.

Athena tosses Mick a grateful smile. Tension melts into
campfire comfort...

HONNNNK!

A thunderous boat horn blasts from the lake.

Heads whip around.

A 60-foot YACHT barrels toward the Point. Swimmers scatter.
On the bow stands DWAYNE, skeletal in a navy-blue suit, arms
wide like Moses.

RED

Oh Lord, that boat's gonna hit the
rocks!

DWAYNE (ON MEGAPHONE)

Yank my doodle, it's a dandy!
Happy Independence Day, y'all!

EXT. THE DOCK - LAKE TRAVIS - MORNING

The Tribe sprint down the dock, run at the sight of a 60-foot yacht, slicked in black oily grime, driving into the dock.

No one aboard. Not a soul.

From a dark porthole below deck, the REAPER OF SOULS watches.

RAY

Where the hell's the captain?

DAVIS

Damn it, I saw the nut on the bow.

LEE

Sweet Jesus... what's that smell?

RED

Where are the passengers?

SEAN

Hello? Anybody up there?

MICK

Someone climb up. Let's see what we're dealin' with.

LEE and SEAN splash into the water toward the hanging rope ladder.

SUZANNE charges ahead, shoving past them.

SUZANNE

Step aside, boys. Let someone with balls go first.

SEAN

Be my guest. Lead the crazy parade.

ATHENA

Sean, please—be careful.

MICK

Athena, stay close. We don't know what's waitin' in there.

They watch as the others board.

INT. GHOST YACHT - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Suzanne creep into the wheelhouse.

Sean and Davis descend into the belly of the beast.

SUZANNE
Fuel's half full...

LEE
Try the key.

She twists it. Nothing.

SUZANNE
Dead as disco.

LEE
But we heard the horn, saw that
guy.

SUZANNE
Looks abandoned...

LEE
...or left in a hell of a hurry.

Lee pops open a hatch, jumps—it's just his reflection.

SUZANNE
Easy there, tiger. You nearly wet
yourself.

Below deck Sean walks through half-empty whiskey bottles,
moldy food, and dirty clothes littering the hull deck.

He picks up a crumpled porn mag. The centerfold stares
back... it's Gayla, aka K-Girl's mom, from the Miss Pork
Queen photo at the mini-mart.

The REAPER'S POV watches him from a crack in the closet door.

Davis climbs back to the wheelhouse—a CROW squawks, nearly
clocks him.

LEE
Damn, y'all tryin' to kill me?

SEAN
This fella loved his dirty reading.
But... I swear I've seen her
before—

SUZANNE
I believe you. I believe you're a
perv with a subscription.

SEAN

No, I'm serious. That woman's real.
I saw her photo back at-

LEE

Guys. Look at this.

She points to a faded calendar on the wall—July 4th circled.
Ten years ago.

DAVIS

Holy hell...

SUZANNE

This boat's a floating time
capsule. If nobody's claimed it...

MICK (O.S.)

Y'all find anything up there?

LEE

Everything's still here... but the
people? Gone. Just gone.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Red and Athena stiffen beside Mick.

RED

This don't feel right. They've been
in there too long.

RAY

No shit, Sherlock.

MICK

Alright, get off the damn boat.
Don't touch nothin'. We'll call the
local cops.

RED

Can't we just push it back out? Let
the lake take it?

MICK

This ain't no ghost story, Red.
It's a potential crime scene.

INT. YACHT - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone gathers on the bow deck.

SUZANNE

What about salvage rights? Could be treasure...

MICK

Yea, and maybe a dead body. Let the cops sort it.

LEE

Agreed. Let's roll.

SEAN

Bet you're sneakin' that sexy nightie home.

SUZANNE

Keep dreamin', perv. Vamos, hombres.

DAVIS

Copy that.

SUDDENLY – THE ENGINES ROAR TO LIFE.

The boat jerks into reverse with a metallic CLUNK.

MICK

GET OFF THE BOAT! NOW!

SUZANNE

Who the hell's drivin'?!?

SEAN

Ain't nobody! It's a damn ghost ship!

RED

What?!

MICK

Jump! MOVE!

Chaos erupts. They dive, stumble, and fall into the lake as the yacht churns backward.

LEE

God DAMN it!

MICK

I thought I was the only one high before breakfast. Suzanne, what the hell just happened?!

SUZANNE

Don't know, but I'm drivin' to town. My phone's still dead.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Athena grips Sean's arm.

ATHENA

This ain't normal. What does it mean?

RAY

Mind grabbin' some fireworks too?

BELINDA

Say what now?

DAVIS

You're thinkin' of firecrackers after all that?!

MICK

And beer. We're low on beer. And ice.

ATHENA

Sean... I wanna get away from this lake, now.

SEAN

You and me both. Let the cops handle this.

(beat)

Let's go. I need a drink.

ATHENA

Sean, slow down on the drinking! Damn it!

SEAN

Aye, aye.

MICK

God, they already sound like an old couple.

INT. THE CASTLE - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

Scorching Texas sun.

The guys—Sean, Lee, Red, and Mick—laze around a beat-up picnic table, half-dressed and half-hungover, sorting beach junk.

SEAN

Alright, which one of y'all kidnapped Ken in a Can? I ain't playin'.

LEE

Last I saw, y'all were cuddlin' during your beer-fueled lovefest last night.

MICK

Man, I wouldn't touch that rusty tin of ashes with a hazmat suit.

RED

Cross my heart, I didn't take it.

SEAN

Dammit, we need him for the memorial. Ken deserves better than this!

MICK

Simmer down, we'll find it.

Athena steps out of the RV in a fresh bikini, posing like it's a runway.

SEAN

Well damn, another installment of Lake Travis's Top Swimsuit Model.

She glares. He chugs his beer.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Hair of the dog, y'know?

ATHENA

You done? There's a canoe in the cove. Let'sgo. Now.

SEAN

Yes ma'am.

MICK

Take life jackets. She swims like a cinderblock.

SEAN

Copy that.

MICK

Be careful Sean, her swimmin' ain't so good.

ATHENA

I can hear you, Uncle Mick.

MICK

Good. Then my advice goes double for you.

ATHENA

We'll just paddle around in the cove.

SEAN

I've been canoeing since the Boy Scouts.

MICK

Scouts honor, ya'll will be in an hour.

Sean holds up his three Boy Scout fingers.

EXT. TEXAS MINI MART - DAY

A faded payphone hangs like a dead limb.

Belinda lifts the receiver-cord's cut.

SUZANNE

Well, that dog won't hunt.

INT. MINI MART - CONTINUOUS

Inside, it's all fluorescent lights, dusty shelves, and a counter smothered in off-brand everything.

K-GIRL, teen queen of the middle of nowhere, mans the register.

K-GIRL

Howdy! What can I do y'all for?

SUZANNE

You got a landline? Our cells are deader than Elvis.

K-GIRL

Who?

BELINDA

We need to call the cops. We found a yacht just floatin' out there... no one aboard.

K-GIRL

A yacht? Shoot, Mama ordered a phone last week... still ain't come.

SUZANNE

Where's your mama, sugar?

K-GIRL

Most folks call me K-Girl. Mama went into town for supplies. Should be back 'fore sundown.

BELINDA

So you're here all alone?

K-GIRL

Heck yeah. We don't lock doors up here. Double-wide's out back. If it's slow, I go watch Walker Texas Ranger reruns.

SUZANNE

You sell beer?

K-GIRL

If y'all don't tell, I won't either.

BELINDA

You got fireworks?

K-GIRL

Over yonder by the bait fridge.

Suzanne grabs a basket, starts shopping.

K-GIRL (CONT'D)

Where y'all stayin'?

BELINDA

Episcopal campground. Near the Point.

K-GIRL

Ohhh. Ain't that where Bad Uncle was headed?

BELINDA
Excuse me... who?

K-GIRL
Think he said his name was Sean.
Bought a mess of ice the other day.
Funny fella... but he's got sad
eyes.

BELINDA
Yeah... he's workin' through stuff.

Suzanne freezes by the wall photo—a young woman in a glittery
pageant sash.

SUZANNE
Who's this pretty thang?

K-GIRL
That's Mama! Back when she won
every pageant from Dallas to
Luckenbach. Ain't she a looker?

SUZANNE
Mmm-hmm.

K-GIRL
Y'all stayin' for the big fireworks
tonight? Mama and I never miss it.

BELINDA
Wouldn't miss it for the world.

SUZANNE
Alright, sugar. Keep the change.

K-GIRL
Y'all be sweet now. Tell Bad Uncle
I said hi.

SUZANNE
Will do, darlin'. Bye now.

EXT. MINI MART PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Belinda and Suzanne hop in the truck, ice and beer in the
back.

SUZANNE
You saw that photo, right?

BELINDA
Yeah... so?

SUZANNE

That was the same woman from that skin mag on the ghost ship.

BELINDA

You serious?

SUZANNE

Sean was right. It's her. K-Girl's mama.

BELINDA

Well that ain't sittin' right with me at all. Somethin's real off in this place...

They drive off as the sun blisters the horizon and crickets start tuning up.

EXT. THE COVE - CANOE - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

Sun glints off ripples. Sean paddles slow and steady. Athena lounges at the bow, legs draped, toes skimming the water. A small cooler clinks between his feet.

Sean pops the lid, fishes out a cold beer.

ATHENA

Hey-got one for me?

SEAN

Not a chance. You might find a Dr. Pepper in here if you dig deep.

ATHENA

Don't you trust me?

SEAN

Darlin', I don't trust me.

ATHENA

Well, I trust you. With everything.

SEAN

Yeah... that's not the problem.

She leans forward, eyes sparkling.

ATHENA

But we kissed. I know you love me. I dreamed about this day.

Sean sighs, beer halfway to his lips.

SEAN

Athena, c'mon. Let's talk straight.
I'm about to graduate college.
You're getting learner's permit.
There's rules. Morals. Texas laws.

ATHENA

You sound just like Dad. Always
with the rules.
Guess I'm just some campfire fling
to you.

SEAN

That's not fair. I do care. Deeply.
My heart's screamin' yes... But my
head says stop. I've been living
though hell this past year.
Someday, you'll find someone more
stable.

ATHENA

I don't want to wait for "someday."
I want my full life now.

Sean stares into the sunlit haze.

SEAN

Some days I swear I'm losin' my
damn mind.

ACROSS THE SHORE - POV - THE REAPER OF SOULS

Shadows stretch. Something massive watches them. Growing.

Back in the canoe, Athena slips off her life vest, reclines
in the sun.

ATHENA

Whew, I'm cookin'. Time to roast
proper.

SEAN

No arguments here.

She tosses a bottle of tanning oil at him.

ATHENA

Oil me up.

SEAN

Where you want it?

ATHENA
Everywhere.

SEAN
Lord, gimme strength.

Sean hesitates, then pours oil onto her shoulders, rubbing gently.

ATHENA
Mmm... now my tummy.

He rubs her stomach. She grabs his hand, presses it higher—onto her breast.

SEAN
Sweet... holy... Jesus.

From shore, a shout slices the air.

MICK (O.S.)
Sean! Where the hell's Athena?

Sean freezes.

SEAN
Don't. Move.

Athena stifles a laugh and sits up, waving.

ATHENA
Uncle, I'm fine! Quit hollerin'.

SEAN
We're good!

MICK (O.S.)
Then paddle in closer, jackass!

Athena lays back down, smirking—and reaches behind her back.

SEAN
Athena, hang on—

UNDERWATER POV - THE REAPER OF SOULS

It surges forward—a dark missile beneath the surface.

The canoe lurches violently. Athena screams as she tumbles overboard.

SEAN
Athena!

Sean dives forward, grabs her, yanks the life jacket on mid-struggle, hauls her back into the canoe. She's gasping, clinging to him.

SEAN (CONT'D)
You're alright. I've got you.

ATHENA
Oh my God. What was that?!

SEAN
Rogue wave, maybe. A big one.

She buries herself in his arms.

ATHENA
You saved me. I love you forever.

She smiles up at him, water beading on her face.

SEAN
You're somethin' else, you know that?

He brushes her hair back, looks into her eyes.

ATHENA
Sean... I think I lost my top.

They both crack up.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

A scorched picnic table.

DAVIS and RAY hunch over a makeshift cannon - three feet of rusted pipe, capped and filled with gunpowder. Beside them: a mountain of fireworks and bad ideas.

MICK
What in the name of MacGyver is that?

RAY
Homemade cannon. Me and Davis whipped it up.

MICK
How the hell'd y'all know how?

RAY
Got a cousin doin' time in Huntsville. Sent me the schematics.

MICK
Convict Pinterest. Just peachy.

RED
That thing looks like it'll launch
us to kingdom come. Who's dumb
enough to light it?

RAY
I was thinkin' Sean. Kid runs like
a scalded dog.

DAVIS
Genius. Light it and leg it.

RAY
Just don't stand too close if you
value your eyebrows.

They burst out laughing.

MICK
Cold beer, anyone?

RED
We got fire and ice—and a pipe bomb
dressed like a party trick.

RAY
It's good to go. Just need a real
long fuse.

DAVIS
Leave it to me. I'll jimmy-rig it.

RAY
I'll be over yonder... filming from a
safe ZIP code.

SUZANNE sifts through fireworks with surgical focus.

RED
Hold up—where's the yacht?

They all pivot toward THE POINT.

Empty water. No boat.

LEE
Well, hell. It's gone.

Suddenly, SARGE rolls in, rusty pickup backfiring. A dozen
kids in red, white, and blue pile out and line up.

SARGE

Ali! Where's my little firecracker?

ALI dashes out of the RV.

Sarge plops an Uncle Sam hat and beard on him.

SARGE (CONT'D)

Let's go, patriots! Time to strut
our freedom!

MICK

Love to, but my bum leg says no
dice. Happy 4th, Sarge. You're the
hero we barbecue for.

RED

Ain't no parade without an
audience. We love ya, old man.

MONTAGE:

- Kids march off toward The Point, singing "America the Beautiful."
- Firecrackers pop. Campers honk in rhythm.
- Smoke trails rise behind them like a mini Macy's Parade.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TEXOMA - DUSK

The mood's shifted.

Tension simmers beneath the party buzz.

Grills hiss. Sparklers crack. Folks murmur about the missing yacht.

ATHENA, dry and radiant, slides onto the bench beside SEAN.

MICK

Athena, Ali—come git it while it's
hot!

RED

It's a feed-yourself free-for-all,
folks. Load up.

On the horizon, a blood-red moon creeps upward.

SEAN

Y'all see that?

MICK

Is this where you sprout fur and
start howlin'?

SEAN

Nah, but think about it...
Anniversary of Ken's death, and we
get a blood moon encore?

LEE

Somethin' ain't right. My bones
feel it.

SEAN

Weird's been on a roll. Started
before Ken's accident... kept on
rollin' with the rest of my family.

FLASHBACK: EXT. MOUNT LARSON TOWER - NIGHT

Wind howls. Clouds rip past like freight trains.

SEAN climbs a rusting tower, chasing the clouds with open
arms.

The moon glows. A dark shadow swallows him.

He sways, dizzy. His boot slips—metal groans.

He clutches a ladder rung just in time.

KEN (V.O.)

Hold on, brother...
It ain't your time yet.
(whispers)
See you on the other side.

BACK TO SCENE

MICK

You think Death's gunnin' for you?

SEAN

Death don't hunt. It waits. Just
needs you to blink.

LEE

Man, you always find a way to spook
me.

SEAN
The real freak show started when I
had a vision about my mom.

FLASHBACK:

EXT. DALLAS NEIGHBORHOOD - WINTER - DAY

Snow blankets everything. Sean trudges through ice toward his
childhood home.

The front door is frozen open. Inside: a glacial tomb.

ICICLES hang like knives from the ceiling.

His mother lies blue and frozen, entombed in ice on the
living room couch.

Sean SCREAMS.

FLASHBACK
CONTINUES:

INT. APARTMENT - VENICE BEACH - SUNRISE

Sean bolts awake, sweat-soaked. Dials his mom.

SEAN
(into phone)
Mom?

MOM (V.O.)
Sean? You okay? What time is it?

SEAN
Just wanted to check on you.

MOM (V.O.)
We had some snow last night.
Driveway's iced over.

SEAN
Wait-ice? Are you alright?

MOM (V.O.)
I'm fine. Why wouldn't I be?

SEAN
Just... needed to hear your voice.
I love you.

MOM (V.O.)
I love you too, sweetie.

He hangs up. The headache's already coming.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - DUSK

Sean leans forward, moonlight glinting in his eyes.

SEAN
Since that night... it's like something cracked open. And now it's all leaking out. Then two hours later, she had a massive heart attack and died on that couch in the living room, right where I dreamed it. (pause) When I got back to Dallas, I told you guys I needed to sleep on the couch to see if there was nay more to this crazy shit.

EXT. FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DALLAS - MORNING

FLASHBACK
BEGINS:

SUPER: "Dallas, TX", "Three days later"

Sean and Lee drive up to his childhood home.

LEE
You can't be serious? Do you want to stay in the house your mother just died in? Are you insane?

SEAN
I am serious and will stay there until I receive another sign.

LEE
Another sign? From who? You sound like you're cracking up man.

SEAN
Look I've told you about the premonitions and I can't explain them.

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

I've had some kind of telepathic contact that I still don't understand. I'm going in, you coming?

LEE

Oh crap, I guess so.

They unlock the door, enter and turn on some lights.

SEAN

See, there's nothing to be afraid of.

LEE

Man, your Dad and Mom both died in this house. You don't get the creeps being here?

SEAN

Nope. Go ahead I'll be fine. I'll talk to you tomorrow, OK?.

INT. FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DALLAS - NIGHT

Lee leaves and Sean starts a fire in the fireplace, lays down on the couch, and begins looking at a photo album but soon falls asleep.

LUCID DREAM:

Sean awakens on the living room couch to the sound of a radio playing in the nearby kitchen.

Next to the couch in a chair is a beautiful, young CHINESE WOMAN combing out her long black hair with ornate Chinese brush.

CHINESE WOMAN

Qichuang sleepy head, time to get up.

SEAN

Excuse me, who are you?

At that moment, Ken enters the living room appearing to have a bright waxy halo around him making him look younger and healthy.

KEN

Hey sport, who's the dame?

SEAN

What the hell? Where are we?

KEN

Look around you dummy. We're at home and I'm having breakfast with Dad. You two should join us.

Sean's father FRED enters the living room, gives a smile, and goes into the kitchen with Ken.

He also has a weird waxy glow around him and looks years younger too.

CHINESE WOMAN

Bu xie xie, I with Sean.

KEN

Hey Sean, keep a look out, Mom's on her way.

SEAN

Oh my God, this can't be happening.

Sean runs out the front door scared out of his mind.

He sees his next-door neighbor, MR. MARTIN hand watering his yard then runs to him.

MR. MARTIN

Hey Sean, how's that Californy treatin' ya?

SEAN

What the hell is going on? My brother and Dad are in that house.

MR. MARTIN

Oh yea, I saw them this morning. They're doing fine too. Hey, I just saw your Mother drive up a minute ago. Looks like you got a big family reunion.

SEAN

What? This is insane!

Mr. Martin begins laughing and continues to water.

Sean goes back inside his home.

CHINESE WOMAN

What's wrong? You not well?

SEAN

I don't know.

A knock on the front door and Sean opens it to see his mother standing there in a business suit, a waxy glow around her and looking years younger.

MOM

Sean, is everyone here? It's so good to see you. And you brought your girlfriend, she's so pretty.

SEAN

My who? I gotta get out of this dream. That's what this is, a nightmare.

Sean panics and runs into the nearby bathroom and begins to splash water onto his face.

He looks up from the sink to see his face has aged 70 years with old skin starting to fall off revealing bone underneath.

REAPER OF SOULS (V.O.)

Debt must be paid.

LUCID DREAM
ENDS.

He screams and suddenly awakes back in his home laying on the living room couch in the dead of night.

FLASHBACK
CONT'D:

INT. FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DALLAS - CONTINUOUS

SEAN

Oh man, I'm going crazy.

Sean runs to the nearby bathroom to check to see his image but sees he's still in his early 20s.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Phew. I am really losing it.

The sound of dog tags is coming from the front porch.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What now?

Sean goes to look out the front window Venetian blinds to see if there is his old dog MAX clanging tags outside on the porch.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Max. Is that you boy? Max?

Sean sits down on the couch confused.

SEAN (CONT'D)
This still can't be happening, I'm awake.

A bright red light seems to be out in the front yard.

SEAN (CONT'D)
God damn it, I must have been screaming like a madman and somebody called the cops.

The red light becomes increasingly bright and comes closer to the front window.

Then amazingly without a sound, a bright red glowing orb (spirit ball) passes through the glass and window blinds floating directly into the room to a hovering stop.

On its surface, there seems to be a swirling mass of clouds spinning around the basketball size floating globe.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Oh, my God!

Sean stares motionless at this apparition.

Then the orb's brightness dims for a second and then bursts into a blast of white light to vanish into nothingness.

Sean jumps up screaming, scrambling for the phone.

SEAN (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
911, 911! Oh shit, oh my God!
Hello, hello, Lee!

LEE
(over the phone, filtered)
What the hell? It's 4 in the morning?

SEAN
(into the phone)
Ken, Mom, Dad! They were here. I mean I had a crazy dream. Wait.
(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

A red ball came into the room and
blew up. I'm not kidding, I was
awake.

LEE

(over the phone, filtered)
Man, calm down. Is anybody there
right now?

SEAN

(into the phone)
No, they're ALL gone.

LEE

(over the phone, filter)
Good. I'll be over in the morning.
Make some coffee.

FLASHBACK
CONT'D:

INT. FAMILY HOME - DALLAS - KITCHEN - MORNING

Warm sun filters through dusty blinds. SEAN and LEE sit
hunched at the kitchen table, coffee steaming between them,
both looking like they've aged ten years overnight.

SEAN

I'm tellin' ya—it wasn't a dream. I
saw Ken, Mom, Dad... and that
Chinese lady with the hair brush.

LEE

Buddy, you've been runnin' on fumes
and caffeine. That brain of yours
is doin' donuts in the fog.

SEAN

I was awake, dammit. There was a
red ball of light—like a soul
kissin' goodbye. And then this was
sittin' in the chair.

He holds out a delicate, ornate Chinese hairbrush like it's
radioactive.

LEE

Holy hellfire... You kept it? You
know this house is haunted, right?

SEAN

Nah, they ain't here to hurt me.
Hey—is that Mick at the door?

LEE

What are you talkin' about? There
ain't nobody—

DING DONG.

Both men jolt like popcorn on a skillet.

SEAN flings the door open. MICK stands there, all smug and
sunshine.

MICK

Mornin', ladies. Got any of that
good gas-station coffee?

LEE

Dude, Sean just called you being
here, like, seconds ago!

MICK

It's 8 a.m. Y'all day-drinkin'
again? Screw the coffee—gimme a
Bloody Mary.

SEAN

Come on in. We're servin' spirit
encounters.

MICK

Well, now I'm listenin'.

They pour him a cup.

INT. FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

MICK sips his coffee, squinting at the hairbrush like it's
cursed.

MICK

You cannot be tellin' people this
ghost story. Your mama's service is
today.

SEAN

I ain't makin' this shit up, Mick.

(PHONE RING SOUND.)

SEAN

Oh for cryin' out loud—tell me you
hear that. Belinda is calling.
(Ringing STOPS.)

LEE

Ain't hearin' jack.

MICK

You been hangin' out with too many
dead folks.

RING-RING.

They all FLINCH like they just heard a gunshot.

LEE

Well damn! You gonna answer it?

MICK

Fine, I got it.
(into phone)
Hello? ... Belinda?! Hell... uh-
huh... yeah, see ya soon.
(hangs up)
She's on her way. You spooky
bastard.

LEE

Sean, man, you gotta stop
manifestin' phone calls and
houseguests.

SEAN

I don't want this. I'm not try ing
to channel ghosts like it's a radio
station—I just want my damn life
back. If this is some kinda
posthumous prank from Ken, I'm
done.

MICK

What if it ain't a prank? What if
he's tryna tell you somethin'?

SEAN

Like what, Mick? "Hey, don't forget
to take out the trash from the
afterlife"?

MICK

Something important. Bigger than us. But you gotta live your life now. You got breath in your lungs, and put ghosts in your rearview. Maybe it's time to just... let it go.

SEAN

Let it go?

FLASHBACK ENDS.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - DUSK

Golden light glows off beer cans and mosquito coils. The gang exhales in sync-part relief, part existential dread.

SEAN

Ever since that day, I knew the afterlife was real. Maybe we're all just antennas tuned to other dimensions.

MICK

Lord have mercy, here we go again—Sean's spooky TED Talk.

SEAN

Just you wait. I'm gonna prove it. All of it connects.

ATHENA

I don't get most of what you say... but I believe in you.

SEAN

See that? One believer. That's a start.

MICK

OK kids, I have a surprise dessert for ya.

He reveals a tray of pills and mushrooms in a baggie.

LEE

What the hell is that?

MICK

Independence Day enhancers. LSD better known as Orange Barrel Sunshine, and those disgusting lumps are psilocybin mushrooms. All guaranteed to take you on the trip of a lifetime.

LEE

Oh, I don't know about shit. I'll stick with margaritas, gracias.

SUZANNE

No gracias, señor. We brought mescaline from the finest Mexican peyote.

BELINDA

Yea, I'll eat that.

RED

Mick and I will have the mushrooms, too.

DAVIS

Tequila and weed for me, thank you.

RAY

Same for me, man.

MICK

Sean? What's your poison, I mean pleasure?

SEAN

Orange barrel express please.

Mick looks sternly at Athena.

MICK

Don't even think about it.

ATHENA

I didn't say a word. Someone has to watch you delinquents.

SEAN

Come on Athena, I'll make ya a virgin margarita.

BELINDA

Nope. I'll make it.

Sean swallows the LSD and gulps a beer.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - TWILIGHT - MONTAGE

Fireworks pop in the distance. Everyone grabs supplies and heads toward the road.

- Mick and Red launch bottle rockets at Belinda and Suzanne, 150 feet apart like dueling hillbilly Jedi.

- Lee shakes margaritas while polishing his DSLR camera like it's a holy relic.

- Athena spins sparklers in wild figure eights, laughing like a kid.

- Sean, already half-lit, stuffs extra gunpowder into a cannon tube like it owes him money.

- Finally, Suzanne unleashes a pro-level sky burst - big, colorful, and loud.

The campground freezes, heads tilting upward.

A Texas 4th of July at full throttle.

EXT. CAMPSITE - PICNIC BENCH - NIGHT

BELINDA, SUZANNE, RAY, and DAVIS gather by the cannon.

SUZANNE

How ya feelin'?

SEAN

Like a Roman candle on a prayer.

BELINDA

That fuse is too short.

SUZANNE

Best we got. But Sean's fast-right?

SEAN

Outrun death twice. Third time's charm.

BELINDA

Not funny.

Everyone backs way up.

SUZANNE

Light it and run like the devil's got a taser.

SEAN

This ain't my first rodeo. Hand me
the punk, Punk.

RAY

She's hot and ready.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Suzanne shakes her head, grinning.
- Athena covers her eyes.
- Lee hits record.
- Ray mans his Nikon.
- Davis hides behind a truck.
- Red and Mick cling to each other like widows at a funeral.
- Belinda ducks behind the bumper.
- The Reaper of Souls pulses ominously nearby.
- POV of a shadowy presence watching Sean.

SEAN

Ladies and gents, Texans and
otherwise... I give you: the Blast
of the Year. To new beginnings!

LEE

Rolling... 3... 2... 1... action!

Sean lights the short fuse, steps into the road-

BOOOOM!

A nuclear-flash. Sean flies backward like a rag doll, landing
hard.

A black shadow-The Reaper-drifts over Sean.

Smoke. Silence. Then-

KEN emerges, haloed in white light.

KEN

It ain't your time, brother. See ya
on the other side.

Ken winks and twirls his eyebrow then morphs into K-GIRL,
then fades.

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Sean lies dazed as faces gather above.

ATHENA

Oh my God, are you OK?! You
could've died!

(She sobs, face in
hands.)

SEAN

I'm alright. I think...

BELINDA

That cannon was way overpacked.

MICK

But damn, he lived.

ATHENA

Uncle?! That fuse was your call!

MICK

Whoa whoa—I didn't pick it.
Belinda? Suzanne?

Sean tries to reach for Athena, but Red pulls her away.

SEAN

Did... did y'all see him?

MICK

See who?

SEAN

Ken. He spoke to me.

LEE

Stop messin', man. That's cold.

DAVIS

He's concussed.

MICK

His bell's so rung it's echoing.
Get him to a chair.

BELINDA

That was the dumbest thing we've
ever done.

Lee and Mick carry Sean to a lawn chair.

LEE

We got killer footage. But... no cannon.

SEAN

He spoke to me.

MICK

OK. You're spookin' the kids... and me.

BELINDA

We need to get you checked out?

SEAN

I'm fine. I was out of it for a few seconds. But I swear I saw them.

MICK

Them?! Oh boy...

Sean raises one eyebrow and stares off, rattled.

LEE

You were out cold a full minute. Thought you cashed in.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Suzanne waves a flashlight from the road.

SUZANNE

Found the cannon—it's six feet under. We really do need a bigger one next year.

DAVIS

Someone get this man a margarita. Or hell, bring the bottle.

RAY

Guys—you need to see this.

Ray shows his iPhone screen. Everyone crowds in.

MICK

What the hell is that?

RAY

Better question, who is that?

Onscreen: A ghostly white blur hovers between the explosion and mid-air Sean.

RED
Sweet Jesus...

LEE
Where the hell is that tequila?!

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

The fire crackles. Tequila flows like prophecy.

Sean, Belinda, Suzanne, Red, Ray, Davis, and Lee pass around the bottle, sloshed and starry-eyed.

Suddenly, a wild howl rips through the night sky-

ALL
Ooooooo!

They howl like wolves, stumbling arm-in-arm, barking at the moon.

Inside the Castle, Athena snuffles.

Mick, grinning, shakes his head and steps inside to check on her.

LEE
I'm seein' double... night,
ya'll...

He stumbles into a hammock like it's a life raft and passes out mid-swing.

BELINDA
We're burnt toast too. Nighty
night.

Belinda and Suzanne head for the Castle.

Sean, still concussed, still hammered, rises like a prophet with a bad idea.

SEAN
I got it! Nude. Beach. Astronomy.
Party.

MICK
Boy, you're high and possessed. Red
and I are hittin' the hay.
Tomorrow's Ken's Day-get some damn
sleep.

SEAN

Yea, yea, I remember...

Sean stumbles toward the lake like a holy fool, shouting into the Texas night.

SEAN (CONT'D)

NUDE BEACH ASTRONOMY PARTY AT
MIDNIGHT! Learn about the cosmos...
in your birthday suit!

DAVIS

Aw hell, shut up and pass out
already!

Sean flops into a recliner. The camp falls quiet.

The tequila wolves retreat to their tents.

Sean looks down by his feet and hallucinates two small elf-like creatures laughing at him.

SEAN

Oh, shit. The Orange Barrel is
playing games.

Standing behind is the Reaper of Souls watching over him.

Sean's eyes drift shut... and we drift into memory.

EXT. BOAT RAMP - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY - FLASHBACK

SUPER: Lake Travis, TX - Years Ago

A ski boat trailer backs into the water.

Ken, Sean, Mick, and Lee joke as the sun blazes high.

KEN

Little left... there. Nailed it.

SEAN

You skiin' first?

KEN

Nah, Lee's boat. Let him have first
crack.

SEAN

You're a gentleman.

LEE

Eighteen today, huh? How's it feel?

SEAN
Same dumb brain, now with voting
rights.

MICK
And liquor privileges.

SEAN
Praise be.

They all laugh and pile into the boat.

EXT. ABOARD SKI BOAT - LAKE TRAVIS - DUSK

Golden hour glints off the glassy water.

Sean carves elegant turns through the wake.

He splashes back into the boat, breathless and beaming—

Then... distant thunder.

Clouds churn, black and fast, spiraling over the lake.

LEE
Well shit. That ain't good.

KEN
Giddy-up and go, Daddy.

SEAN
Let's ride into it. It'll pass.

LEE
I ain't playin' Chicken with Thor.
We're out.

SEAN
Ken?

KEN
Captain's orders, birthday boy.
Hang tight.

Lee throttles forward, trying to outrun the storm.

Waves slam the hull. Spray soaks the deck. Wind howls.

KEN (CONT'D)
YEEEEHAAAW!

He surfs the bow like a rodeo champ, riding chaos like it
owes him money.

MICK

Faster! Jesus, Lee! Go that way!

Lee's knuckles whiten on the throttle.

The boat bucks like a bronco.

Ken drinks from the cooler like it's communion.

Lightning arcs. The storm chases them into the dark.

EXT. SHORELINE - LAKE TRAVIS - SUNSET - CONTINUOUS

The storm is biblical.

Lightning forks across the sky. Thunder punches the air.
Flash flood waves slam the shore.

The Black Spector looms behind them, chasing the ski boat
like a ghost from hell.

LEE

Mick! Get the damn trailer!

SEAN

No! You'll swamp the boat! Point
the bow into the waves!

LEE

Hell no—it ain't your boat! My
dad'll hang me if we sink it!

Sean jumps out onto shore as the engine coughs—waves swamp
the stern, choking it.

LEE (CONT'D)

Push it! Now! Go, go!

KEN throws it into neutral as Lee hops out, water waist-high.

Sean protests from the shore, waving frantically.

SEAN

Stop! It's too rough!

Lee ignores him, shoving the boat toward the trailer.

Gas leaks from the engine—splashes in Lee's face.

LEE

My eyes! Son of a—!

KEN
Hold still, dammit!

Ken pours beer into Lee's face. Lee howls louder.

LEE
YOU POURED BEER IN MY EYES?!

KEN
That's all I had!

CRACK!—Lightning hits a tree nearby. Another bolt slams the center of the lake.

LEE
I'm bein' electrocuted! Lightning!
Gasoline! Beer in my eyeballs!

The REAPER OF SOULS sails silently overhead.

Meanwhile, Mick's in the truck, blaring music, backing the trailer—completely oblivious.

MICK
What the hell is happenin' out
there?

Ken and Sean finally wrestle the boat onto the trailer.

KEN
Punch it, Mick!

Mick hits the gas—BOOM, the trailer lurches, stuck in a rut.

KEN (CONT'D)
Aw hell.

Mick floors it. Tires screech. Smoke billows. The truck finally yanks the boat out.

A trailer tire is flat.

Water pours from the hull like a dying walrus.

SEAN
Told y'all—point the bow into the
waves.

MICK
Shut. The fuck. Up.

Suddenly—a swarm of mayflies.

Thousands. Coating them head to toe. Faces. Hair. Arms.

LEE
Now what fresh hell is this?!

GROUP
YAAAAAAAHHH!!

KEN
Back into the lake! Strip 'em off!

LEE
There's gas in the damn water! And
my eyes!!

They splash in, slapping bugs, swearing, tripping over themselves—finally collapsing on the shore in laughter and exhaustion.

The REAPER OF SOULS drifts overhead again.

Ken watches its shadow pass. Says nothing.

KEN
Well... that was officially fucked.
"Jacob, take my staff!"
(grabs his crotch)

LEE
I'm blind, covered in bugs, and so,
so screwed.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A fire crackles. Steam rises off wet clothes. They sit like drowned rats.

KEN
How's the peepers, Lee?

LEE
Burnin'. Why'd you use beer?!

KEN
Look, it was cold and available.
Like most of my decisions.

Suddenly, the boat horn BLARES, and the engine coughs to life.

MICK
What the holy hell is that?

SEAN
Ghost in the machine.

LEE

Ken! Make it stop!

KEN

She's just mad. She'll be alright.
We get her to the boat club
tomorrow, she's fixable.

MICK

Use my tools. Got a can of Fix-a-
Flat in the truck too.

LEE

Y'all are saints. I gotta confess
somethin'...

SEAN

Uh-oh.

LEE

That trailer? I, uh... stole it
from my dad's boat club.

MICK

Jesus H. Christ.

KEN

No. No way. This wasn't karma, Lee.
It was just freak storms and bad
luck.

LEE

We're bein' punished!

KEN

Punished? Over a \$200 trailer? What
kinda petty-ass God doles out
locusts, lightning, and temporary
blindness over a loaner trailer?
If I'm lyin'—may he strike me dead
right now.

Everyone falls silent. Lee slowly backs away.

Nothing happens.

KEN (CONT'D)

Hmph. Thought so.

LEE

We're returnin' it at first light.

KEN

Dammit, Lee... I got work to do.
And all our beer's warm. Ice melted
in the storm.

SEAN

I'll go. I can run to town.

LEE

Take my dad's Oldsmobile. And hit
Dairy Queen. Get us giant burgers
and double fries.

KEN

One last thing—today's Sean's 18th
birthday.

SEAN

It's all good. Happy to help.

They raise hot beers by the smoldering fire.

The boat horn honks once more, propeller spinning eerily.

GROUP

(to the boat)

SCREW YOU!!!

EXT. CAMPSITE - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Sean drives Lee's dad's giant Escalade, buzzed and proud.

He guns it—hits 80 MPH on a crooked backroad.

From the shadows...

The REAPER OF SOULS steps onto the road.

Sean gasps—sharp right-angle turn ahead. He can't brake in
time.

SEAN

NOOOOO!!

The SUV skids, flies into a ditch, and Sean slams into the
window—unconscious.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

Sean jerks awake in a rusted lawn recliner, sweat-drenched and gasping.

SEAN

NOOOOO!

His eyes dart. The shadowy figure of the REAPER OF SOULS lingers just beyond the firelight.

The tiny elves run across the road laughing but no sound can be heard.

He hears laughter—youthful, mischievous—echoing from the beach below.

EXT. THE COVE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

Sean stumbles through the sand, bleary-eyed. At the water's edge, two TEEN GIRLS in towels giggle while two TEEN BOYS in cutoff jeans kick nervously at the sand.

ATHENA, arms crossed, is all sass and suspicion.

ATHENA

Where the hell you been, cowboy?

SEAN

Athena... who're these—? What's goin' on here?

ATHENA

You called for a midnight swim party. Word spread faster'n gossip in a church parking lot.

TEEN GIRL

That him? He's your man? He's cute!

TEEN BOY

He's old.

ATHENA

Shut it, dipshits. Go ahead, Sean.

Sean straightens up, a flicker of inspiration in his eyes.

SEAN

Alright, y'all listen up. First rule: kill the flashlights. Let your eyes drink in the dark.

(beat)

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

Now, get in the water. Just the edge. Lay back, heads on the dry sand.

TEEN GIRL

Wait—Mister, we keep our clothes on, right?

SEAN

Well darlin', unless you're plannin' on moonlight skinny dippin'— yes, you do.

They lay down. Small waves lap at their sides. The sky unfolds above like velvet.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Look up. Let your eyes settle. There... see that river of stars? That's the Milky Way.

ATHENA

Thank you. (whispers)

GROUP

Whoa... That's wild. I see it! Dang!

SEAN

Now grab a handful of sand. Imagine this—there are more stars in our galaxy than all the grains of sand on every beach on Earth.

TEEN GIRL

Pfft. No way.

SEAN

Swear on my grandma's pecan pie. And that's just one galaxy. There's billions more.

TEEN BOY

Okay, Professor Space Cowboy.

SEAN

Well, maybe somewhere out there, some alien kid's starin' back at us, thinkin' we're the weirdos.

Laughter ripples through the group. Athena squeezes Sean's hand.

ATHENA

You missed your calling, teacher man.

SEAN

Alright, class ain't over yet. I got one more show'n'tell.

He pulls out a high-powered laser pointer and flicks it skyward. A beam pierces the mist, glowing green like a lightsaber.

TEEN GIRL

Ooooooh...

SEAN

Now, that there is Orion the Hunter. See the belt? Those three lil' stars? That's where he keeps his sword.

TEEN BOY

What's he huntin'?

SEAN

Good question. Look just above the sword—see that "V" of stars? That's Taurus the Bull. A mean ol' beast with long horns like the one I nearly hit.

ATHENA

(laughing) Oh Lord...

SEAN (snorting like a bull)

Wait! Did y'all hear that?

ATHENA

What now?

SEAN (SNORT, MOO)

I think I heard Taurus! Moo!
(snort)

The teens erupt, splashing and shrieking as Sean charges, fingers on his head like horns.

TEEN GIRL

YEEEHAW!

A splash war breaks out. Water flies everywhere.

Athena laughs, tackles Sean, and they tumble into deeper water.

From water level, the REAPER OF SOULS glides silently toward them.

Athena clings to Sean's back.

ATHENA
Sean! I can't swim!

SEAN
Just hang on, I got you.

He wades away from the chaos with her clinging tight.

ATHENA
You always make me feel safe.

SEAN
Ain't nobody or nothin' gonna hurt you. Not on my watch.

ATHENA
Sean... I saw him. I saw Kendall—in the smoke—when you passed out.

SEAN
You serious?

ATHENA
Yeah. Strange things've been happenin' since I met you.

SEAN
You might be psychic too. Maybe we all are, just needin' the right lightning strike to wake it up.

She shivers.

ATHENA
I'm cold.

He grabs a big dry towel, wraps it around her. They sit, quietly, side-by-side. Nearby them, the Reaper watches.

INT. THE CASTLE - BEDROOM #1 - LAKE TRAVIS- NIGHT

POV of the REAPER OF SOULS hovering around them. Suzanne is drunk and is forcing rough sex with Belinda.

SUZANNE
Get off me!

BELINDA

Come on, I know you want it.

SUZANNE

What I want is for you to stop acting like a drunk frat boy.

BELINDA

You lying hypocrite, like you've never been a horny little bitch in heat?

SUZANNE

Damn it, Belinda! The first time we ever met you raped me! I was only 14 years old when you were a junior in high school.

BELINDA

Oh my God, stop it! That never happened. I was and still am attracted to you. Don't say these things.

SUZANNE

You came into my room late at night and raped me over and over.

BELINDA

What?! Suzanne, that was not me. What are you saying? We made love at my parent's house when you were in high school. What are you talking about?

SUZANNE

No, you were drunk and forced your way inside me! I can still smell the alcohol and cigarettes on your breath.

The REAPER OF SOULS is growing in size feeding off their emotions.

BELINDA

I don't smoke. Never have. Calm down. Look at me. That was not me.

Suzanne is crying now while Belinda comforts her.

SUZANNE

I see HIS hands ALL over me and can smell his sickening breath.

(MORE)

SUZANNE (CONT'D)

Then he put his thing inside me. I was so scared, I couldn't move.

BELINDA

He? Who Suzanne?

Lee, in his hammock which has surrounded him, he is screaming out and can't move.

INT. THE CASTLE - BEDROOM #3 - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

Davis and Lee in the bunkbeds hide from the noise.

DAVIS

Hey, should we say something?

RAY

Nope, we stay out of their family squabbles. Here, use this cotton.

They put cotton in their ears to block the noise.

INT. THE CASTLE - BEDROOM #2 - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

Red and Mick get ready to sleep inside the RV.

The REAPER OF SOULS now hovers above them.

MICK

Why the sad face?

RED

I dunno, I just feel empty inside.

MICK

Oh no, is this about children again? I married you because I love you, not having kids.

RED

I will never be able to have children because I can't. (crying)

MICK

Stop it. You survived cancer and you're alive. That's ALL that matters.

RED

No, it doesn't. You'll find another woman and have babies with her. You bastard.

She throws a beer bottle at him and it breaks against the wall.

MICK

God damn you, stop it!

He is angry and moves toward her.

EXT. THE COVE - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Sean and Athena are ankle deep on the shoreline.

Just yards underwater a bright pulsating green light is moving towards them while a subsonic hum begins.

REAPER OF SOULS

The debt must be paid.

Like a shark, it speeds toward Sean and power pulls him out into the water, Athena screams.

Meanwhile, Sean is fighting for his life underwater until he spots another bright orb, red this time, deeper in the lake rapidly rising toward them.

The red orb smashes into the green orb with a blinding white flash which releases him to the surface where he chokes for air.

Athena runs to the shoreline and pulls Sean back to the shore.

ATHENA

Oh my God. What was the light flash?

SEAN

You saved me.

ATHENA

Sean, I'm scared.

SEAN

Don't be. They're gone now.

ATHENA

They?! How do you know?

SEAN

I just feel it.

ATHENA

But you almost drowned!

SEAN

Ken was there to fight for me.

ATHENA

I heard a voice, something about a debt.

SEAN

You heard it too. It's Death trying to collect on an old bill from me but Ken stopped it. He's in between worlds and protected us.

ATHENA

I believe you. It makes no sense. But, I do believe you.

SEAN

As long we love each other, Death cannot trick us into turning against each other. This past year, I've heard poltergeists, seen ghosts, had premonitions. We saw the UFO and now these fighting spirit balls.

ATHENA

What does it mean?

SEAN

Everything in this universe is connected to our consciousness...our souls. These temporary bodies are just shells that house our true being. We are made from the same materials that exist everywhere in the universe. In essence, we are the universe becoming aware of itself. My near-death experience happened at the instant Ken died and our connection through our telepathy was severed. We had similar DNA, right down to the quantum physic level. Everybody has psychic abilities at birth but they're repressed as we age unless there is a traumatic event that causes our sixth sense to open like an antenna. You follow me so far? We have five senses right?

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

We see, hear, taste, touch, and smell but our sixth sense can receive information from other sentient beings from another dimensions that briefly opens to our reality. Ken was communicating from the other side where he continues to exist. We shouldn't be afraid of death because there really is no end. We transform from this reality to another dimension.

ATHENA

All this makes my head spin.

Holding both her hands.

SEAN

Athena, you have the ability too. We opened the door to the other side. You saw Ken in the smoke, K-Girl in the road, and the black shape by the canoe. And we fought the evil spirit ball together. You can develop your ability and expect to continue seeing these phenomena.

ATHENA

Sean, I feel blessed you showed me all these things but I'm a bit terrified too.

SEAN

Me too. Come here kiddo. (hugging her.) You're a super smart young woman with a wonderful future. Those boys might not be ready for you. But one day, you'll meet your soul mate and you'll journey forward together. As for me, I feel I have more lessons ahead. For now, let's get some sleep. We gotta a big day ahead.

Sean reaches out and takes her hand, they walk away.

INT. THE CASTLE - BEDROOM #1 - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

Suzanne suddenly awakes.

SUZANNE

What happened?

BELINDA

Your fever broke and you're OK now.

They hug and cry together.

INT. THE CASTLE - BEDROOM #2 - LAKE TRAVIS - NIGHT

The hate fever has broken between Red and Mick too.

RED

Mick? I'm dizzy, what is happening?

MICK

You were mumbling in your sleep.

RED

I'm sorry if I said to hurt you.

MICK

Come here. You know, I love you forever.

RED

But the things I said?

MICK

Forget it. We'll be OK now.

The hug and kiss.

INT. CAMPSITE - LEE'S HAMMOCK - SUNRISE

Lee wakes up to find himself covered in sweat but unharmed.

LEE

Oh my God, I'll never drink tequila again.

EXT. CAMPSITE - LAKE TRAVIS - SUNRISE

SUPER: "The Memorial Ash Scattering"

Everyone is hungover and stumbling out of their tents or waking from lawn chair recliners.

Sean is already up sitting on the tailgate of a pickup taking shots of tequila and drinking beer.

He has his brother Ken's ashes in a can in his lap.

Mick carrying a cocktail, lights a cigarette and limps up to Sean.

MICK
Did you sleep?

SEAN
Yea, I got a couple.

MICK
Where did you find the can?

SEAN
He found me. I woke up in a lawn chair and there it was.

MICK
Weird. What's the plan?

SEAN
We take Lee's boat out, say our peace, and scatter his ashes.

MICK
Did anything weird happen to you last night?

SEAN
I believe we were all tempted by a wicked force but our love won.

MICK
Yea, sure thing there, Father Damian. I'll rouse the troops.

Sean hits another shot of tequila. Mick limps away to the line of tents and finds Lee awakening in his hammock.

LEE
Oh crap, my head. Crazy blood moon night, huh? What did I miss?

MICK
We all went insane until we were not. Bloody Mary?

Lee bends over and dry heaves.

SEAN
That's right. Get the poisons out, son.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - LAKE TRAVIS - EARLY MORNING

They begins to gather at the shoreline.

SEAN
I think we have everything.

LEE
How many are going?

SEAN
Four. You, me, Mick, and Ken.

LEE
Not funny.

SEAN
Sorry.

Suzanne, Red, and Athena approach the boat.

SUZANNE
Hold your horses. We're coming too.

SEAN
Please do.

Mick brings a soft cooler of beer and ice.

LEE
Jesus, Mick, beer at 8 in the morning?

MICK
For ceremonial purposes only.

EXT. ABOARD THE BOAT - LAKE TRAVIS - MORNING

Lee drives the boat slowly moves out to the center of the lake.

SEAN
I guess this is as good a place as any.

Sean opens the can and pulls back the plastic inside revealing the ashes, tiny bones and gray powder.

SEAN (CONT'D)
Ken, we're here to place your remains into your favorite spot, Lake Travis.
(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

You were a lousy waterskier and sailor but you were one hell of a fisherman and a incredible storyteller. I was honored to be your brother. I'll think of you every day for the rest of my life. See you on the other side, brother.

Sean takes a handful of ashes and dips his hand in the still water of the lake.

The remains sink and dissolve into the cool, dark water.

Sean tries to hand the can to Lee who motions no.

Lee just can't get the courage to touch the remains.

Sean hands the can to Mick.

MICK

Ken-Bob, I am sad you are gone but I will always remember you as one of the funniest people I've ever known. Take care, buddy.

Mick takes a handful of remains and lightly tosses it into the lake.

Then Mick holds the can out so everyone can take a handful of ashes and toss them into the lake.

Mick returns the can to Sean who sees there are remains still left in the can.

SEAN

What do we do with the rest?

MICK

Go ahead and pour them into the lake.

Sean holds the can over the water then it slips from his hand.

SEAN

God damn it! I want that can.

Sean dives in after it and chaos erupts on the boat. Athena screams. Lee throws a life jacket, and Suzanna is laughing.

ATHENA

Sean!

MICK
Get back in here, you asshole!

LEE
What the hell?! I can't take much
more of this weekend.

The can sinks quickly but Sean can see as he swims
underwater.

He struggles to swim after it but the can continues to sink.

At about 20 feet underwater Sean can see it is just out of
reach from his hand.

He holds his breath watching it sink.

The REAPER OF SOULS black shadow surrounds the can and pulls
it down deeper until it disappears.

Then he hears Ken's voice.

KEN (VO)
Let it go, brother, let it go. You
have much to do.

Sean is running out of air and realizes he must give up.

He returns to the surface empty-handed.

ATHENA
Sean!!

MICK
Jesus H. Fucking Christ! What the
fuck were you doing? We thought we
lost you too.

SEAN
I was trying to get the can. Did
you guys hear that?

MICK
Hear what? Us screaming for you?

SEAN
I swear I heard him again

MICK
Let's get out of here.

ATHENA
Sean, you scared me, are you OK?

SEAN
Never felt better.

Mick hands a beer to Sean but he waves it away.

SEAN (CONT'D)
No, I've had enough.

Athena holds Sean hand and warmly smiles.

They head back to the Campground Dock with everyone relieved and laughing.

INT. THE CASTLE - KITCHEN - LAKE TRAVIS - LATE MORNING

BBQ brunch is being started for the entire all and Belinda sees Sean approaching the camp.

BELINDA
How ya feeling now?

SEAN
I'm fine.

BELINDA
We're making brunch before we start on the memorial. But we need a couple of things.

MICK
Here's a short list. Need cash?

LEE
I got it. Alright, alright, let's go.

BELINDA
We all love you, Sean.

SEAN
I love you more.

Sean and Lee hop into one of the pickup trucks and head out to the store for ice.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Lee is itching to know what happened during Ken's ash ceremony.

LEE

OK, so what the hell happened out there this morning?

SEAN

I lost the can.

LEE

Oh, man. But something else happened yea?

SEAN

I tried to get it back but it just sank like a rock. It was weird, I could see the can when I was underwater until it disappeared. The water was so clear and as I was just holding my breath watching it sink, I swear I heard Ken say, let it go.

LEE

What the fuck? Ken's voice?

SEAN

I'm starting to see things more clearly now. Death has been stalking me ever since my tower fall but now I'm free.

LEE

Oh well, that really comforts me.

They arrive at the store for the ice and park the pickup truck in front of the ice refrigerator.

INT. TRAVIS MINI MART - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

K-GIRL is at the register blowing bubble gum and listening to C&W music on a small radio.

They enter and the little bell rings.

K-GIRL

Hi Bad Uncle. How was your 4th?

LEE

Uncle?

SEAN

Hi K-Girl, our 4th was spectacular. A ghost yacht, explosions, a near-death experience, messages from the dead - you know the regular holiday stuff.

K-GIRL

You are so silly. So what can I do ya' for?

Her mother GAYLA (35ish) a stunning beauty in "Daisy Mae" cut-off blue jeans and a tight "I love Texas" T-shirt walks out from the backroom.

GAYLA

K-Girl baby, turn off that radio. Now what can I do for...YOU! Is that you? What are you doing here?

SEAN

Wait a minute! You've got me mixed up with someone else. Let me explain.

GAYLA

Baby girl, please help Mama. Go to the back room and count the cases of soda for me. Would ya do that for Mama? I love you, baby.

K-GIRL

OK, Mama. Bye Uncle.

LEE

Sean, what the hell is going on?

Nonplussed K-Girl leaves and as she walks away she twists her eyebrow.

GAYLA

What do you want?

SEAN

Please hear me out. You met my older brother, Kendall, years ago. Texas State Fair? Auto Show? I'm Sean, his brother.

GAYLA

Oh my God, I just knew this day would come. (Starting to cry)

SEAN

Is she? Is K-Girl...

K-Girl is hiding by some soft drink cases listening to them.

GAYLA

Yes. There, I admit it. Yes. You have to understand. I was young and wild in my pageant days. I got modeling jobs and traveled all over the country. That Auto Show led to Playboy and was a big deal for me. Being away from home I was lonely and when I met Kendall that one night... He was so charming and beautiful.

SEAN

So you never saw him again?

GAYLA

God no. I was 23 and pregnant. I didn't even know how to reach him. I told everyone I was with a soldier boy who went off to Iraq and died. Mama was a God-fearing Baptist and furious. We lost Daddy the year before on the lake when his yacht sank. It was too much to bear.

Sean and Lee knowingly look at each other about the mystery yacht.

SEAN

Wow. I'm so sorry to have to tell you this now. But Ken's gone too. This morning we put his ashes into the lake. And this afternoon we're building a memorial.

GAYLA

What? Oh God no.

SEAN

I'm so sorry, Gayla.

Gayle is crying and staggers to a chair.

GAYLA

How did you know about me?

SEAN

I didn't but I was given clues. You know Ken used to do that eyebrow thing too just like K-Girl does now?

GAYLA

What? He did? (Smiling)

SEAN

You see, even though Ken is gone, there is still a bit of him left in our world. You're a very lucky woman. I believe K-Girl one day will be a remarkable woman.

Gayla stands and comes over to Sean and Lee.

She takes Sean's hands and looks him in the eye.

GAYLA

You must promise me to never tell her about this. I don't want my baby to feel the shame of what I did. Never tell anyone about my K-Girl. Promise me!

SEAN

OK, OK, I promise.

GAYLA

You'll to never come back here, agreed?

SEAN

Fine. We won't.

LEE

Yes Ma'am, we promise.

GAYLA

I'm sorry but I must protect my baby girl. She's all I've got.

SEAN

I understand. Take care.

Gayla gives a sad smile and sits back down then covers her face with her hands to cry.

K-Girl runs out from the backroom to comfort her Mom yet smiles at Sean as he leaves the store.

EXT. TRAVIS MINI MART - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

They leave the store.

LEE

Holy shit! You're telling me that kid in there is Ken's daughter? Oh my God!

SEAN

Lee, please stop right there! We promised to keep that woman's secret. So we have to let it go.

LEE

Whhhaaaat?

SEAN

Yes. So what he had a one-night stand years ago with some beauty queen and now there's a kid? He had lots of women. For all we know there could be a dozen kids out there. He's gone and she moved on. So should we. Fuck this! God damn it, Ken!

LEE

What about our friends?

SEAN

Oh God no, if they knew they'd be down here every day looking at K-Girl. I can see it now. Belinda is down here trying to pet the girl's head like she's some freak. No. We tell no one.

LEE

Maybe you're right. We should let sleeping dogs lay.

SEAN

Yes, that's right. Grab some ice. Let's get out of here.

EXT. THE POINT - MEMORIAL SITE - LAKE TRAVIS - DAY

The Tribe is putting the finishing touches on Ken's memorial.

It is a concrete pillar about three feet tall with a sundial and star chart on top.

On a nearby picnic bench is the photo album of Ken.

SEAN

Ken. Your life burned bright like a supernova. We all love and miss you. (pause) Does anybody else have something to say?

MICK

Ken-Bob. You taught us about death but you also showed us that we must make something our lives.

Everyone takes turns touching the memorial.

SEAN

Well, I guess that's it. Thanks, everybody for helping build this. I know he'd appreciate our work. Take care.

People start to leave.

MICK

Are you good driving back?

SEAN

No problem.

MICK

Fine. Call us when you get back.

LEE

Well, it's been one hell of a weekend.

SEAN

It was totally out of control from start to finish. Ken would have been proud.

They laugh and give each other a man hug. Lee leaves and Sean turns to Athena.

SEAN (CONT'D)

The past few days have been insane and I put your life in danger. I'm so sorry.

ATHENA

No, it's been the greatest time I've ever known. I was thinking, maybe we do need some time apart.

(MORE)

ATHENA (CONT'D)

But remember, you will always be my
good man.

SEAN

I'll never forget.

MICK

Athena, are you ready?

Athena hugs Sean and kisses her on the cheek for their last
goodbye.

RED

We love you. Be good to yourself.

SEAN

Thanks, guys.

Red hugs Sean then walks away with Mick and Athena.

Belinda and Suzanne start to leave.

BELINDA

Are you coming? You can follow us.

SEAN

Yea, in a minute. Go ahead. I'm
gonna stay a bit longer.

SUZANNE

Drive safe, you nut!

Belinda and Suzanne leave.

DAVIS

Take care brother and go easy on
yourself.

RAY

And don't try to live two lives.
Yours and Kendalls.

DAVIS

You asshole. That doesn't help.

SEAN

Guys, I'll be fine, thanks.

Sean gives them man hugs and they leave.

Sean stays and looks out at the lake as if searching for
something.

Everyone drives off and he waves goodbye.

EXT. MEMORIAL SITE - LAKE TRAVIS - LATE AFTERNOON

As he stands looking at the lake and out of nowhere K-GIRL comes up next to him.

SEAN

K-Girl? What are you doing here?

K-GIRL

I heard ya'll talking at the store.

SEAN

Does your Mom know where you are?

K-GIRL

It's OK, she closed the store and went to the trailer. Is that the memorial?

SEAN

Yea. It's got a sundial and star chart, see? The sun's shadow tells the time. And it has some of the star constellations Ken liked.

K-GIRL

That's so cool.

SEAN

K-Girl. Please let's sit down. I have something to show you.

They sit at the picnic table.

K-GIRL

Are you my real Uncle?

SEAN

Yes, I'm certain.

K-GIRL

I knew it. So he was my Daddy?

Gayla walks up to the picnic table.

GAYLA

K-Girl! What are you doing out here? I told you to stay away from these people. Let's go.

K-GIRL

But Mama, I need to know the truth. Uncle Sean, tell Mama.

GAYLA

Uncle Sean? What have been telling my daughter?! You promised.

SEAN

Wait, Gayla, hear me out for a minute. Please, sit down.

K-GIRL

Please Mama, I heard ya'll talking at the store, let Uncle talk.

GAYLA

Alright baby. I guess it's time you knew the whole story.

Gayla sits next K-Girl and puts her arm around her.

On the table is a photo album.

Sean opens it and pushes it toward her.

The first page has a portrait of Kendall.

SEAN

I want you to have this. K-Girl meet Kendall, your father.

K-GIRL

Look, Mama! He's so handsome.

GAYLA

Yes baby, he was.

SEAN

Ken died a year ago. He lived a short life but so many people loved him. Eight years ago, your Mom and Ken met in Dallas. They got together and produced a miracle - you. Gayla, is this your necklace?

GAYLA

Oh my God, yes. But how?

SEAN

I found it in a box of his most valuable things but I didn't know what it meant until I saw your photo at your store.

He hands the necklace to K-Girl.

K-GIRL
I'm so sad I never got to meet him.

SEAN
I know this will sound crazy but
this weekend he guided me to you.

Sean twirls his eyebrow.

SEAN (CONT'D)
He contacted me before and after
the accident. We've always had a
close psychic bond. I think you
have the gift too.

K-GIRL
The gift?

GAYLA
That does sound crazy.

SEAN
I can't explain how it works, it
just does.

K-GIRL
What's that?

Low over the lake, a basketball-sized bright red orb floats
silently and slowly moves toward them.

K-Girl runs to the shoreline.

GAYLA
K-Girl stop! Sean, what are you
doing?

SEAN
It's not me!

The bright disk hovers in front of K-Girl just offshore.

Gayla and Sean run towards K-Girl.

K-GIRL
It's OK Mama. Don't you feel it?

GAYLA
Feel what, baby?

K-GIRL
His love. Hi Daddy!

K-Girl raises her hand toward the orb and it responds becoming brighter as if signaling back. Gayla cries.

K-GIRL (CONT'D)
Look Mama! He sees me!

GAYLA
Yes baby yes, I see him too.

SEAN
My God.

K-GIRL
What? Uh-huh. OK, I will. I love
you, Daddy! Wait, don't go.

Again the orb signals and becomes brighter then resumes its normal brightness.

Sean and Gayla reach out with a hand as if wishing to touch the energy of the orb.

The orb becomes bright once again. Then it shoots off over the lake at fantastic speed and disappears.

SEAN
Where did he go?

K-GIRL
He's still there, he'll always be
near. He told me so.

K-Girl leans on her Mom and she hugs her back.

K-GIRL (CONT'D)
Daddy says I must take care of you
forever.

GAYLA
Oh, he did? You'll take care of me?
I love you, K-Girl.

SEAN
Amazing.

K-Girl embraces Sean.

K-GIRL
Thanks for bringing us together. I
love you too.

SEAN
I love you more.

GAYLA

I'm sorry I was so mad at you
before. I feel at peace now. Thank
you, Sean.

SEAN

I think everything is going to be
OK.

K-GIRL

Bad Uncle, what do we do now?

Sean looks out across the lake.

SEAN

We start living.

K-Girl returns to her Mom and they look at the sunset over
the lake.

On top of the memorial is the sundial with a tiny shadow cast
across it.

Looking closer inside the shadow a tiny throbbing Black
Spector waiting to grow.

THE END