

HELL BELOW

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EXT. GARVIN, PA - FAIRGROUNDS - HILLSIDE - NIGHT

SUPER:

Halloween Night 1962  
Garvin, Pennsylvania

Alabaster COUPLES, FAMILIES, and FRIENDS stand shoulder to shoulder in front of an empty road illuminated by streetlights, candles, and flashlights.

Frizzy blond and ginger hair streams from the CHILDREN, who buzz and bounce to a loud, rhythmic beat. The music swells as a PARADE approaches.

Behind them, more rosy-cheeked ONLOOKERS settle on a sloped, grassy hill full of bright red and orange sugar maple trees.

A red blanket lands at the base of one such tree.

JULIE ROGERS (27) Black, long thin braids, brown eyes, with a soft, wholesome face, and BOOKER ROGERS (30s) Black, tall and lean with glasses and a square jawline, huddle together and stare at the road.

A Parade of GHOULS and GHOSTS dance as the awe-struck AUDIENCE cheers them on.

Booker points at the road, and Julie's eyes widen.

JULIE

I should take the class here for  
Cultural Appreciation Day.

(beat)

How long did it take us to get  
here?

Booker glances at his watch.

BOOKER

The drive was 30 minutes, and it  
took us 5 more to park.

JULIE

It feels like we've stepped into  
another world.

BOOKER

Over 90% came here from Ireland to  
work for mining companies.

FOUR MEN with varying Irish accents stumble past them.

IRISH MAN 1 stops and stares at Julie, whose eyes are glued to the parade.

Irish Man 1 pulls a clover from his lapel and thrusts his giant freckled hand toward Julie. Startled, she leans back.

He pauses and tilts his head toward Booker.

IRISH MAN 1  
Do ye mind, friend?

BOOKER  
May I?

Irish Man 1 sways and plops the clover onto Booker's palm.

Booker places it in Julie's braids and winks at her.

JULIE  
Thank you.

Irish Man 1 sways toward the tree.

IRISH MAN 1  
No disrespect. Ye got a mighty feckin' beautiful lass there.

BOOKER  
Are you okay, friend?

Irish Man 1 plops down next to them.

IRISH MAN 1  
How are ye liking the Samhain Festival?

JULIE  
It's magnificent! I've never seen anything like it.

IRISH MAN 1  
Is it yeer first time here then?

BOOKER  
It is. We're from a few boroughs over.

Booker wraps his arm around Julie and pulls her close.

IRISH MAN 1  
Ye're good to hold her tight ye know. The evil out this night is diabolical. Sluaghs an'--

IRISH MAN 2 stumbles up and pulls at his friend's arm.

IRISH MAN 2

What're you going on about Slaughs  
for? Leave these fine people alone.

IRISH MAN 1

They come to an Irish borough they  
should know the evil that lurks--

IRISH MAN 2

You're the only one lurking  
tonight.

(to Booker and Julie)

Sorry to shower you with this  
buffoon. Night's early. Enjoy it.

Irish Man 2 pulls at Irish Man 1's arm.

A VENDOR holds up bags of fresh popcorn as he passes.

JULIE

Oh! Can you get us some popcorn,  
please?

BOOKER

(smirks)

Anything for my beautiful lass.

Booker shoots up and sprints after the Vendor.

In a flash, SOMETHING snatches Julie up into...

FAIRGROUNDS - TREE

Julie trembles in darkness as her legs dangle from a branch  
under the sugar tree's thick foliage.

Beams of light blaze into her teary dark brown eyes.

Long gray FINGERS slide over her mouth. She attempts to pull  
away, and the grip tightens.

SLUAGH (O.S.)

(whispers; Irish accent)

Let me see yeer sins, and I'll tell  
ye yeer fate, wee lass.

The hand muffles Julie's screams.

The unseen SLUAGH inhales, and a black mist seeps from  
Julie's mouth between its fingers.

Her dark brown eyes rolls back and turn light blue.

She looks down and spots Booker who clutches two bags of popcorn and scans the area.

BOOKER

Julie!

SLUAGH (O.S.)

Mmmmm.

(beat)

A soul so sweet is mighty clean.

She thrashes as she watches Booker; the grip tightens.

BOOKER (O.S.)

Julie!

SLUAGH (O.S.)

Calm. Calm. Ye've been a good girl.

(breathes heavily)

Hush if ye want to see him again.

A sickly gray finger wipes her tears. Booker disappears into the CROWD. Julie steadies her breath.

SLUAGH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

We have a soft spot for a good lass. How's about this?

Its grip loosens on Julie's mouth.

SLUAGH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Ye'll get yer soul back; ye bring me two more.

JULIE

I'm not going to hurt anyone for you.

SLUAGH (O.S.)

All ye have to do is tell me who ye've chosen before the stroke of midnight.

JULIE

I can't--

SLUAGH (O.S.)

How bad do ye want to live? 'Tis a trade. Their souls for years.

She lifts her gaze to the giant Sluagh's sickly gray face and green glowing eyes. She shudders.

SLUAGH (CONT'D)

Be a good lass and go on now.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - FAIRGROUNDS - BEER STAND - NIGHT

A bewildered Julie weaves through the CROWD. She scans the hoards of giggling Irish FAMILIES.

Julie catches her warped reflection in a funhouse mirror. She stares into her now light blue eyes.

JULIE

(to herself)

What the...

IRENE BYRNE (26), a brown-eyed Irish blonde in a light blue dress and pumpkin orange cardigan, storms past Julie.

LIAM O'MAHONEY (27), with a thick Irish accent, dark eyes, well-built and tall in a burnt orange button-up and brown slacks, bumps into Julie as he stalks toward Irene.

Julie recoils, turns and watches him.

Irene steps up to a beer stand; Liam lines up behind her and hovers.

Liam grabs Irene's waist. She leans away, slaps him, and storms off. He throws an empty beer bottle at her heels.

He plucks a beer from a cooler and opens it. Tossing \$5 onto the counter, he drinks as he storms off.

Booker appears behind Julie, wrapping his arms around her waist. She gasps.

BOOKER

There you are!

JULIE

Oh, god! You scared me!

BOOKER

I've been looking all over for you.

JULIE

(shielding her eyes)

Sorry. I have a migraine. Can we go home?

She glances at the clock; it's 8 pm. She charges off.

INT. LOCK HAVEN, PA - ROGERS HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Moonlight illuminates the bright, floral bedroom.

Julie tosses in her bed; she shoves her face into a pillow and cries.

The Beverly Hillbillies blasts on a TV in the distance.

A gold clock on the wall reads 10:17 pm. Julie throws her blankets off and sneaks out the window.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - FAIRGROUNDS - PUMPKIN PATCH - NIGHT

Piles of pumpkins surround straw bales under strings of bright orange and green lights.

FAMILIES huddle together. They eat, drink and take photos.

Liam approaches JAMES O'MAHONEY (32), who has an Irish accent, blond hair, green eyes, and is taller and more muscular than Liam.

James stands with NESSA (30), a petite frosted blonde with an Irish accent who wears a light pink crewneck sweater and mauve pencil skirt. She turns and chats with a COUPLE.

NESSA

Look at the two of ye! Want me to take a picture?

Liam steps up to James and tosses a beer bottle in the trash.

LIAM

I'm ready to get goin' now.

JAMES

'Tisn't even midnight yet. Won't ye go on some rides with us?

Liam grabs James' beer, drinks it and glares at the FAMILIES.

LIAM

This place is for families. I'm one too many, ye ask me.

JAMES

Stick around, and perhaps ye'll meet someone special.

LIAM  
 (sways slightly)  
 Well, I had that myself and a baby  
 on the way already, didn't I?

James lights a cigarette and takes a long, slow drag.

JAMES  
 Isn't it time ye're after letting  
 go?

Liam glances over James' shoulder, fixing his gaze on Nessa's  
 ass as she bends to take a photo of a COUPLE.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
 Look around ye. Start seeing the  
 possibilities.

LIAM  
 Wouldn't be necessary now, ye put  
 my wan on a ship that didn't sink.

JAMES  
 So ye could feed them on potato  
 picking money?

LIAM  
 Least we woulda been together.

JAMES  
 I did my best.

LIAM  
 Ye could have let me do mine.

Liam watches Nessa play with the other couple's baby.

JAMES  
 I'm going on some rides.

Nessa bounces back to the men.

NESSA  
 There you are! Let's all go to the  
 play now!

JAMES  
 Do we have time for the rides as  
 well? 'Tis the last hour, isn't it?

Nessa smirks as she glares at James.

Julie frantically searches the crowds, wanders into the  
 pumpkin patch and nearly runs right into Liam.

She quickly lowers her head and sits nearby.

LIAM  
I'd be getting back now.

NESSA  
Nonsense. James wants the rides.  
Will ye go to the play with me?

JAMES  
(to Nessa)  
He might wanna go on rides himself.

Liam glances at the rides and downs the beer.

LIAM  
I'll go to the play.

Julie watches James kiss Nessa.

JAMES  
(to Liam)  
Take care of my wife!

Nessa grabs Liam by the arm and pulls him to...

EXT. GARVIN, PA - FAIRGROUNDS - OUTDOOR THEATRE - NIGHT

THIRTY PEOPLE fill benches surrounding a small stage.

Nessa and Liam settle on an isolated bench in the back.

Julie watches them clasp hands and sit.

SPOOKY MUSIC fills the small space. The lights dim.

A WITCH (80s) hobbles onto the stage with a large book. She sits on a rocking chair and turns to the first page.

WITCH  
Once upon a time, on a night so  
dreary.  
(beat)  
Sluaghs came collecting unforgiven  
souls, all so heavy and weary.

A BOY stumbles on stage with his hands covered in fake blood.

TWO costumed "SLUAGHS," gray with sharp teeth and fingers,  
lurk in the shadows as the Boy wipes his hands on his pants.

WITCH (CONT'D)

The worst o'the worst among the  
ghouls!

The Sluaghs pounce on the Boy.

Using a sleight of hand, the Sluaghs pull a black silk figure  
from the Boy's mouth and fight over it.

WITCH (CONT'D)

First, they release yeer inner  
ghost. Playing and taunting 'tis  
their game.

(beat)

Slowly, they siphon the soul from  
the host. Pain and torment are  
their aim.

Liam rolls his eyes and glances down at an awe-struck Nessa.  
He leans back and places his hand on her upper thigh.

NESSA

(whispers)

Liam.

Nessa feigns an attempt to push him away.

LIAM

(points at a ride)

Relax. He's on a ride.

She leans forward, spots James on the ride in the distance  
and places her hand on Liam's. He reaches under her sweater.

WITCH

When they've had their full  
o'fun...

(beat)

Whoosh! The rest is out in the  
blackest mist.

The Sluaghs "devour" the "silk shadow" and drag the Boy,  
kicking and screaming backstage. The Witch cackles.

Nessa shivers as she watches Liam pull Nessa in for a kiss.

WITCH (CONT'D)

That's when ye know the Sluaghs  
have won.

(beat)

And once a Sluagh...for eternity  
other souls ye must enlist.

A clock on a building's top chimes as its hands strike 11:30.

Nessa darts off toward the hillside.

The Boy, now sickly and gray, emerges as a third Sluagh.

WITCH (CONT'D)

So I do warn, from yeer wrongs ye  
must repent.

(beat)

And forgiveness from yeer every  
victim beg relent.

The three Sluaghs jump toward the audience. Several startled people scream as the Witch lets out a final wicked cackle.

FAIRGROUNDS - TREE - LATER

A breathless Julie climbs the large tree and searches.

JULIE

Hello?! Are you here?

Silence. Julie scans the dark, twisted branches. Nothing.

JULIE (CONT'D)

(laughs, relieved)

I must be losing my --

SLUAGH (O.S.)

Did ye pick 'em?

Several sets of glowing eyes blink at the top of the tree.

JULIE

I don't know their names, but I can  
point them out.

SLUAGH (O.S.)

When they love ye, take their  
souls.

JULIE

What?! That wasn't a part of the  
deal!

SLUAGH (O.S.)

Ye didn't ask.

A branch snaps under Julie's foot. She shifts to another.

JULIE

That could take months.

SLUAGH  
Most take years.

JULIE  
(cries)  
But I want to go home. My husband  
will be worried sick.

SLUAGH  
Then ye better work quickly.

More branches snap and Julie falls from the tree.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Dim lights bear down on a barren, sepia-tone space. One plain dresser, two nightstands, and a large bed covered in brown bedding fill the room. Not a photo or trinket in sight.

A boxer-clad Liam sits up in bed with a lit cigarette. He flips his old gold Murphy's lighter top back and forth.

The lights FLICKER.

He reaches for a flashlight on his nightstand.

A SHADOW darts past the open doorway. He whips his head in its direction. Nothing.

BLACKOUT.

Liam PANTS as he flips the switch on the flashlight. His trembling hand rattles and shakes as the bright beam jumps around the room. He leaps to his feet.

LIAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Liam scrambles up a breaker on the wall and flips the switches. FOUR NIGHTLIGHTS plugged into the wall light up.

He turns on the hall light and SIGHS as he steps into...

LIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

Liam stomps up to the sink and splashes water onto his face.

He looks in the mirror.

LIAM  
Jaysus. Yeer eyes be getting  
blacker.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Liam clenches a cigarette between his teeth and slams the front door shut. He tightens the lid on his coffee thermos.

The faint kitten's meow erupts from an unknown location.

He drops his cigarette and squishes the butt with his boot.

Another faint meow begs for help in the distance.

LIAM'S HOUSE - STREET

Liam marches up to his Ford F100 parked along the curb.

Another hopeless meow. Liam surveys the area.

A meow echoes from the storm drain. He bends on one knee.

Liam studies the desperate kitten covered in mud. Rain drips on its dirty white fur as water pools around its tiny body.

LIAM

May the grace of God be on ye.

Liam stands and walks away.

The sky opens up, and it pours. The desperate kitten cries.

Liam gets in his truck and slams the door shut.

The Louvin Brothers' "Knoxville Girl" blares as he starts the engine and takes off.

Julie runs up and pulls the kitten from the drain. She dries its wet fur on her jacket.

OLD WOMAN (80s), tidy and plain, shields herself with newspapers as she approaches.

Julie cradles the kitten as she watches Liam's truck disappear down the road.

OLD WOMAN

Would you look at that? You know what they say.

JULIE

(eyes on the road)  
What?

OLD WOMAN

If you rescue something, you'll be bonded to each other forever.

JULIE

(looks at the Old Woman)  
Is he headed to the mine?

OLD WOMAN

Liam? Yeah, he's a blacksmith. Can I help you?

Julie hands the kitten to the Old Woman.

OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, I can't take a kitten.

Julie darts off to her old station wagon. The Old Woman clutches the kitten as she watches Julie drive after Liam.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Liam parks his truck. The music stops. He swings the door open, steps out into the rain and slams the door shut.

Julie pulls behind large piles of dirt. She watches Liam.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - DAY

Liam jogs past a series of free-standing red brick office buildings. James calls out as Liam passes his office.

JAMES (V.O.)

Brother, my boy!

Liam stops, mutters to himself, and walks to the open door.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - JAMES' OFFICE - DAY

Liam enters a small space. James' oak desk is covered in maps of the mines and paperwork. Safety posters clutter the walls.

JAMES

Liam, how are ye keeping like?

LIAM

I'd be working hard by now, ye stop calling me over.

JAMES

It'll be brief. Can ye shut the door ye?

The door closes, Liam spins on his heel and sits.

LIAM

What's the craic?

Liam spreads his legs and leans back as he drinks his coffee.

JAMES

I'm after talking to Irene Byrne.

LIAM

Y'know yeerself that wagon's a gobshite.

JAMES

Don't be a langer. She's a hard worker herself; she is.

(beat)

Come in here with a complaint about ye the other day.

LIAM

The cheek of it. What sort of shite she throw yeer way?

James pulls a cigarette carton from his shirt pocket. He looks inside; it's empty.

JAMES

Feck's sake. I'm out.

Liam lights a cigarette with his old gold Murphy's lighter.

LIAM

Well? Come out with it, will yeah?

Liam hands his lit cigarette to James.

JAMES

Cheers.

(takes a drag)

She says ye been starting in with her. That true?

LIAM

Stop the lights. 'Tisn't. I bet she's brassed off from the other night. Got plastered and begged me for a ride.

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

But I was in no mood for the clap  
on that particular evening.

JAMES

Since when?

The men erupt in laughter. James flicks ash into an old cup.

JAMES (CONT'D)

All roight. Keep yeer distance from  
her for a spell, will ye?

LIAM

Feck. Yeah. O'course. She'd have  
the state. I could give it, I  
would.

(beat)

That all?

JAMES

Nessa wants ye over for dinner  
herself the marra evening.

LIAM

O'course. Sure.

JAMES

It's dialed, then.  
(teases)  
Ye need anything I'd be off in the  
Buck Mountain vein the day.

LIAM

Ye don't say.

Liam stands and pulls the door open without looking back.

JAMES

I'm only buzzing with ye. I'd never  
make ye go down, and ye know it  
yeerself. Don't be so sour.

James stands and shoves his arms into a dirty yellow jacket.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LIAM'S WORKSHOP - PORCH - DAY

Liam stomps up to an old brick building.

He kicks the mud off his boots before entering.

The plaque on the door reads, "Colliery Blacksmith."

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LIAM'S WORKSHOP - DAY

Liam steps into his tidy workstation.

He lifts his coffee thermos to his lips; it's empty.

Rain pounds on the building.

Julie peeks in from a nearby window. She quickly ducks as Liam approaches the door. With a sigh, he exits.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Water drips from a drenched Liam as he fills his coffee thermos. He stares at an open office door across the hall.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - IRENE'S OFFICE - DAY

Liam leans on the doorframe and watches Irene, who studies a stack of papers at her desk.

LIAM  
Busy, are ye?

IRENE  
I am.

LIAM  
I amn't a monster. Ye know it so.  
Didn't mean--

Irene slams the documents down onto the desktop.

IRENE  
Feck, Liam! Did your brother speak  
with you, did he?

LIAM  
He did.

IRENE  
Then heed him. Away with you now!

LIAM  
I will, yeah. Fine. I've gone.

Liam hesitates, nods at Irene and turns away.

IRENE  
Wait!

Liam spins as Irene plucks a manilla folder from a drawer.

IRENE (CONT'D)

Give these to James and get them  
back right away.

LIAM

Scott'll do it.

IRENE

He won't. He's deep in the Primrose  
vein by now. Your brother'd be just  
over in Buck Mountain.

Liam nods, brewing a silent fury.

LIAM

I'll set it on his desk now.

Irene looks at the clock on the wall; it's 9:00 am.

IRENE

We'd need it back in the next  
thirty minutes.

LIAM

Ye know yeerself I don't go down in  
the mines at all at all.

(Hiberno-English uses the "at all" iteration for emphasis.)

IRENE

That won't work, so will it? We've  
got payroll. Them men don't care  
you're afraid of the dark.

(beat)

Go do it before I tell James you  
paid me a visit after he told you  
to leave me be.

She plops the folder on her desk. Liam leans over and grabs  
it. His knuckles turn white as he clenches his mug and turns.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - COMMON ROOM - DAY

Liam rips the last flashlight and hard hat from a locker.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - DAY

Liam stomps through the rain toward the shaft elevator.

Julie steps out from under a ledge, takes a deep breath and  
casually strolls up to Liam.

JULIE  
Excuse me! Sir--

Liam stops and looks at Julie; he towers over her.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
Do you know if the mine is hiring?  
(Liam studies her)  
...I...can do paperwork.

LIAM  
Wouldn't know. Can't talk to lasses  
workin' here, anyway.

Liam marches toward the mineshaft elevator.

Julie ducks behind a nearby vehicle while glancing back at Liam. She spots a flashlight and miner's gear in the truck, pulls the unlocked door open and quickly dresses.

A short Irish shaft OPERATOR (50s) stands in his station.

OPERATOR  
Who's there?

LIAM  
'Tis only me.

OPERATOR  
Can't believe my eyes.

LIAM  
Payroll needs James' tending.

OPERATOR  
You know yourself the mines are  
awfully dark. Couldn't see your own  
dick in your fist amidst a tug.

The Operator laughs, pleased. Liam spits at his feet.

LIAM  
Daft, fucking with a bigger man.

OPERATOR  
Cool it. We're taking a piss. Wait  
a bell. I'll bring it to him.

LIAM  
That hoor's melt he calls a  
secretary needs them in half that.

OPERATOR

I'll offer you another torch, then.  
The one in your hand is pure shite.

LIAM

Thanks. The boys took the rest.

The Operator tests the switch on his flashlight. It's dead.

OPERATOR

Em.

(beat)

Feck. I'm afraid it's gone.

(beat)

Sorry, Liam.

LIAM

Let's get it over with so.

Liam studies the colliery coin board. The Primrose section is full of miners' numbered coins.

He pulls out his coin; it's #13. He hangs it next to the single coin #7 in the Buck Mountain section.

The elevator door opens.

The Operator steps aside as Liam enters, and the doors shut.

A stack of boxes falls over. The Operator tends to them.

Julie jogs up to the coin board, glances at the #13 coin still swinging and quickly studies the map.

She takes a deep breath and strides up to the Operator.

JULIE

Buck Mountain, please.

OPERATOR

We'll need to wait till it comes  
back.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - ELEVATOR - DAY

The large steel space HUMS. Liam breathes erratically. His shaking hands clutch the flashlight and folder.

The elevator doors slide open. He hesitates. It's dark and damp. Engines grind and roar back at him. He steps into...

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Liam roams opposite a lit drift into the black.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - UPPER BUCK MOUNTAIN DRIFT - DAY

Liam passes rows of hanging chains. The ventilation shaft kicks on with a sudden roar. He flinches.

SLUAGHS crawl in the shadows around an unwitting Liam.

Hanging chains sway in different directions.

The air ventilation shaft goes silent. Chains clink and clang in the distance.

Liam spins around and shines his light on the chains.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LANDFILL - DAY

Rain pounds on TWO MEN who pull rubbish bags from the back of their truck and toss them atop a burning mound.

As the last bag lands, the earth rumbles and gives way.

The trash disappears into a widening sinkhole as steam and flames erupt in the storm.

The men jump in their truck and speed off.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LOWER BUCK MOUNTAIN ROOM - DAY

A fire grows below the mound of trash. It intensifies as it hits a coal seam and speeds down the mineshaft.

Smoke billows out of the hole above. The pillars buckle.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - UPPER BUCK MOUNTAIN DRIFT - DAY

Liam shines his light down a 100ft manway. He steps onto the ladder. Chains clink down the drift. He stops.

He shuffles up to the swinging chains.

LIAM

James?!

Liam steadies a chain and sighs, releasing a stream of fog.

A second fog stream appears from over his shoulder.

He spins back and finds nothing.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - IRENE'S OFFICE - DAY

Irene glares at the clock. It's 9:20 am.

She stands, throws on her jacket, pulls a flashlight out of a drawer, and grumbles under her breath as she exits.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - BUCK MOUNTAIN MANWAY - DAY

Liam descends the ladder system. Every twenty feet rests a small wood platform with a new ladder behind the last.

A WHISPER at his back. He turns. Nothing.

GLOWING EYES blink inches from his face. Unaware, Liam continues down the ladder.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LANDFILL - DAY

The truck returns to the flaming sinkhole with a firetruck.

FIVE FIREFIGHTERS burst out and battle the blaze.

BRIAN (40s), Irish and stocky, evaluates the situation.

BRIAN

It's in the Buck Mountain vein  
below! Somebody call the mine and  
get the men outta there!

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LOWER BUCK MOUNTAIN DRIFT - DAY

The flashlight rattles in Liam's shaking hand; its beam of light bounces around the room.

He spots glowing eyes and runs in the other direction. Chains clink and sway around him.

LIAM

James! Ye down here, are ye?!

Liam turns a corner and smacks into Irene.

She screams; he grunts and drops the folder. Papers fly.

They bend, collecting the documents.

IRENE

Do you want your teeth in a bag?!  
 (beat)  
 What're you running from?

LIAM

'Twas a...

IRENE

That's it. I'll do it myself, you  
 damn fecking eejit.

Irene plucks the last sheet from the dirt and rips the folder  
 from Liam's hands.

LIAM

Why didn't ye do it yeerself in the  
 first place?

Irene storms off. Liam watches her go.

Irene approaches the glowing eyes; her light reveals a dog's  
 carcass. She laughs, and Liam jogs over.

She reaches behind an air tank and flips a switch. With a  
 loud buzz, a string of lights illuminates the small space.

IRENE

(points at the dog)  
 Is that what sent you running? He  
 don't look like he's got much bite  
 left. Does he?

Liam shuts off his flashlight and shoves it into his pocket.

LIAM

See through ye torturing me down  
 here. Ask me, ye're out on the  
 prowl. Aren't ye?

IRENE

Amn't. You're taking too long. Pay  
 will be late for us all now.

LIAM

Horse shite. Ye wanted time alone  
 with me; ye shoulda said something.

Liam stomps toward Irene; she steps back.

IRENE

You're thick as a stone! I know  
you're gumming to clock a girl so  
you can settle in and have some  
ugly bastards, but I ain't the one.  
That's a fecking fact.

(beat)

Let's get payroll to your brother.

Irene charges off. Liam leaps, grabbing her arm. He pushes her into the pillar wall. Her glasses crash onto the ground.

IRENE (CONT'D)

You got the black eyes of the devil  
himself. Make no mistake, I've  
never met a bigger coward.

Liam lifts Irene's dress. She slams her knee into his groin.

He gasps and drops to his knees. She darts away.

With one swift leap, he pulls her to the ground.

Irene screams and flails. Liam presses her face into his  
body, suffocating her in his chest. She goes limp.

Julie cries as she ducks behind a wall. She turns and runs  
back toward the mine elevator.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LOWER BUCK MOUNTAIN ROOM - DAY

James stands in a lit room with a clipboard. He checks the  
ventilation system and picks up his walkie-talkie.

JAMES

O'Regan, I'm after checkin' the  
Buck Mountain fans. Why have they  
quit?

STATIC.

JAMES (CONT'D)

O'Regan. Do ye copy?

The room RUMBLES. He looks up, and dirt falls on his face.

The MINE ALARM BLARES a single loud blast. (It won't stop  
until all miners are out.)

Smoke streams into the room, and James stumbles back.

BLACKOUT.

INT. GARVIN, PA - NESSA'S BEAUTY SALON - DAY

Nessa and FIVE STYLISTS work on SIX WOMEN'S hair. All chat and laugh to chipper background music.

An enormous BOOM rattles the windows.

WOMEN scream, gasp and cry as they stare at the smoke billowing into the blue sky over the mine.

The MINE ALARM BLASTS.

Everyone grabs their keys and sprints to the door.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - OPEN LOT - DAY

Rain douses the large gravel lot.

SMOKE and COAL MINERS pour out of the mine, joining the MASSES OF OTHERS, who shiver and huddle together.

The MINE ALARM continues to BLAST its single deafening note.

FIRETRUCKS and AMBULANCES skid up.

MEDICS jump out of their vehicles and tend to COAL MINERS.

FIREFIGHTERS run toward the flames.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LOWER BUCK MOUNTAIN ROOM - DAY

Liam stands over Irene's lifeless body.

LIAM

Jaysus.

The fire approaches. Smoke billows toward him. Liam shoves something into his pocket and shakes Irene.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Irene?!

No response.

He drags her body to the inferno, stops, and rips her necklace from her neck.

He tosses Irene into the flames and runs.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - BUCK MOUNTAIN MANWAY - DAY

Liam hoists himself up the ladder. Smoke fills the small space. He coughs and wheezes but doesn't stop.

GLOWING EYES stare and blink at the top of the manway.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - LOWER BUCK MOUNTAIN DRIFT - DAY

James rushes toward the manway and steps on Irene's glasses.

JAMES

Irene?!

The alarm is too loud.

He carefully collects the broken glasses, places them in his pocket and runs.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - UPPER BUCK MOUNTAIN DRIFT - DAY

Liam's flashlight DIES. He roars and smacks its side.

LIAM

Bleeding cock!

The roof collapses into a mound near the drift exit.

WHACK! A beam of smoke-filled light floods the small space.

Chains rattle and sway in every direction.

Julie watches Liam from the top of the dirt mound at the exit and quickly disappears.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - MAIN ROOM

Julie rolls to the bottom and buries herself in the dirt seconds before Liam appears at the top of the mound.

He stumbles to the bottom of the mound, and a HAND grabs his ankle. He crashes to the ground and whips his head back.

He stands. At his feet, a dirt-covered Julie groans.

Liam glances at the elevator on the other end of the room, hesitates, and pulls a gold wedding ring off her finger.

He pockets the ring, backs away and spots James on the mound top. Quickly lowering his head, he pretends not to see James.

LIAM  
Ye got lucky, lass.

He hoists Julie over his shoulder and sprints to the elevator.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - OPEN LOT - DAY

FIREFIGHTERS tirelessly fight back the flames.

OFFICER DANIEL (40s), thin, Irish accent, storms up to Brian.

OFFICER DANIEL  
How can we help?

BRIAN  
The fire's caught a seam. Any chance you've got a map of the mines? We need to see where it's headed.

OFFICER DANIEL  
That anthracite's everywhere.

BRIAN  
Sure, it's a big mine, but--

OFFICER DANIEL  
The seams span the whole of Garvin.  
(beat)  
Your boys don't control it here we'll be after evacuating the whole town.

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

James runs as the ceiling crumbles around him.

JAMES  
Liam!

INT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - ELEVATOR - DAY

Breathless, Liam steps into the elevator.

With his head lowered, he watches James run toward him through the smoke. He presses the elevator button.

The elevator door slides shut and stops. It pops open.

James pulls his foot from the doorway and limps in.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - COAL MINE - OPEN LOT - DAY

The elevator door slides open; Liam and James emerge.

Smoke streams out of the ground. Dark gray clouds blanket the sky as the fire spreads to the hills.

Medics tend to injured MINERS. Desperate WOMEN search for their husbands. Charred BODIES are hauled off on stretchers.

TWO MEDICS rush over. James wipes dirt from his eyes.

Julie watches through squinted eyes as she dangles, lifeless, over Liam's shoulder.

MEDIC

We need another stretcher!

(beat)

You boys need a medic?!

LIAM

Just the lass.

The Medics bring a stretcher. Liam gently sets her down and touches her face.

LIAM (CONT'D)

She's a beauty.

Officer Daniel and Brian approach. Brian holds out three miners' coins.

BRIAN

What're your numbers boys?

LIAM

I'd be thirteen.

JAMES

I'm seven.

BRIAN

(motions to Julie)

Is she number four?

LIAM

No. Came lookin' for a job earlier.  
Must've got lost.

BRIAN

Get a name?

LIAM

No.

JAMES

Irene's four. Didn't see her  
myself, but I'd be after finding  
her glasses in the lower Buck  
Mountain drift.

Liam glares at the broken glasses in James' hands.

OFFICER DANIEL

Give them here.  
(to Liam)  
You see Irene?

Officer Daniel glances at Liam's dirty hands.

LIAM

Didn't. I'd been doing her a task.

OFFICER DANIEL

Your hands are after a beating.  
Sure you don't want to get them  
checked?

LIAM

They're scratches.

Officer Daniel studies Liam. The mine alarm goes SILENT.

OFFICER DANIEL

Boys! Looks like we got a real hero  
on our hands! You're good skin,  
Liam.

Lackluster clapping is drown out by the WEEPING WIDOWS.

Officer Daniel and Brian march off toward their vehicles.  
Miners CRY OUT in agony. Firefighters battle the inferno.

James pats Liam on the shoulder.

JAMES

Ye're good for savin' her. They're  
right; ye're a real hero.

Nessa runs up and wraps her arms around James' neck.

NESSA

There's my boys! I was worried  
sick.

JAMES

We're okay now.

Nessa kisses James. Liam stares at Julie being tended to by Medics in the distance.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

Sheets of rain turn to snow and ash. Smoke blankets the skies over the deserted community.

Wide open doors bounce in the wind. TVs BLARE. Phones RING. A leashed dog wanders the street alone.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Black soot swirls on the bottom of the sink as Liam washes his hands. He slams Irene's wet necklace onto the countertop.

He opens the necklace locket and looks at a picture of Irene and her SWEETHEART. He tosses it in a drawer and stomps off.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liam lies in bed and stares at the ceiling with the light on. A bottle of lotion sits nearby. He pulls out Irene's panties.

Julie's ring clangs as it lands on the wood floor.

Liam squirts lotion into his hand. He places the panties on his face and squeezes his eyes shut. He masturbates.

A small black SHADOW clings to the windowsill. It jumps down with a loud THUD and scurries under the bed.

The lights flicker, and he jumps to his feet.

He scrambles in the dark and flips his flashlight on. The ring rolls toward Liam.

INT. GARVIN, PA - HOSPITAL - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Liam stomps snow off his boots as he approaches the front desk. FINN (20s), slight build with a flamboyant accent, sees Liam and playfully straightens his clothes.

FINN

Well! Wasn't expectin' be in a  
hero's presence t'night.

(beat)

Howaya, Liam?

LIAM

'Twas nothin'. I did my best.

FINN

Take a compliment for-feck's-sake.  
Howanever and anyways...

LIAM

What's the story now?

FINN

C'mere 'til I tell ya.

The front doors slide open. A gust sends papers flying. Finn and Liam scan the area. No one's there. The lights flicker.

FINN (CONT'D)

(shudders)

God between us and all harm.

(beat)

Been gettin' a steady stream of  
miners and firefighters alike all  
day. Ya wan's in her bed now.

LIAM

That so?

FINN

It is. She's after losing her  
memory, though. Banged up pretty  
good, too. But the doctor says  
she'll be all roight.

LIAM

No memory at all at all?

FINN

Poor lamb doesn't know her own  
name. They're callin' it amnesia.

LIAM

Hasn't her fella been around?

FINN

How do ya know she's got one  
herself? She say something?

Liam twists Julie's RING off his pinky and pockets it.

LIAM

She's a beour. Why wouldn't she  
have a ball and chain herself?

FINN

Well, there's the big mystery. No one's been around fetch her.

LIAM

Check with the gardaí?

FINN

Cops got nothin'. Seems no one's missin' her...besides, the whole town's been complete cat the day.

(beat)

Tell ya one thing...she don't talk like she's from here herself.

LIAM

She's alone then?

FINN

Not a soul been by. Worries me 'cause we'll need boot her for her bed soon.

(beat)

Hospital's full, and no one knows what do with her.

LIAM

Can I see her myself?

FINN

It's after hours by now, Liam.

LIAM

Heroes hold visiting hours?

FINN

The town wasn't turnin' hell they'd put on a parade for ya now.

(sighs)

Fine. Let's go. She seems awfully lonely anyways. Who knows...a single tradesman around here needs himself a family his own.

INT. GARVIN, PA - HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

A room filled with beeping machines, a single bed and a box TV mounted on the wall. Julie watches the news from her bed.

She sees Liam and Finn approaching through the window. She quickly shuts her eyes and pretends to be asleep.

FINN

Ring me ya need anythin' so.

Finn exits. Liam hovers over Julie and moves her long, black braids out of her face. She opens her empty blue eyes.

LIAM

Em. Come to see how ye're holding up. So ah...how ye holding up like?

JULIE

I'm sorry, who are you?

LIAM

I, em. Ye had an awful fall, and I brang ye up from the mine.

JULIE

Oh. You're the one who...Thank you.

LIAM

Glad to help. So, who's coming around to pick ye up?

JULIE

I don't know. No one...I guess.

LIAM

Where's yeer gaff?

JULIE

Gaff?

LIAM

Where ye...yeer home.

Julie shrugs and cries.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Sorry. Didn't mean--

JULIE

I don't remember anything.

LIAM

How's the napper?

JULIE

What?

LIAM

Em. The scone or sally...

She stares blankly. He points to his head.

LIAM (CONT'D)

...noggin.

JULIE

My head?

LIAM

Sure.

JULIE

It's fine...I just...I'm scared  
they're going to kick me out.

LIAM

Oh, for-feck's-sake. That won't do.

(beat)

Well, ye're not from around here.  
That surely makes ye better off  
than us. I'll tell ye that much.

JULIE

How do you know?

LIAM

Way ye're talking for one. For two,  
we only got three Blacks in Garvin.

She looks away, now uncomfortable. They sit in silence.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I like it. Yeer black skin. Nice.

JULIE

What?

LIAM

Don't get me wrong now, Blacks  
don't have it easy around here, but  
no one likes us Irish much  
either...or so I've been told.

(beat)

Anyhow, they give ye the boot. I've  
an extra room. I do be a stranger,  
but it's yeers if ye want it.

JULIE

You'll let me stay with you?

LIAM

Don't know doctor'd let ye, but the  
offer's a sure thing.

JULIE

If it's not too much to ask.

LIAM

Not at all at all. I offered.

Liam smiles. Julie does, too.

LIAM (CONT'D)

What's yeer name?

JULIE

...I don't know.

LIAM

Oh. Sure. The memory.

(beat)

I always thought Siobhan was pretty.

(JULIE will now be referred to as SIOBHAN [Sha-vonne].)

SIOBHAN

Siobhan's nice...

ALARMS erupt. PATIENTS flood in on gurneys. A MEDICAL TEAM enters. TWO LVNs unplug Siobhan's machines. A NURSE enters.

NURSE

There's our hero!

The medical team CLAPS for Liam.

LIAM

T'was nothing really now.

DR. ADAMS (70s), a tall and terse Pennsylvania local, enters.

DR. ADAMS

My apologies. She's not sick, and we need the room.

LIAM

What's happened?

DR. ADAMS

They were adding pipes to vent the fire, and the ground caved.

LIAM

Ay. The devil's got a grip on us.

The medical team rolls Siobhan out of the room.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Where they taking her?

HOSPITAL - HALLWAY

Liam follows Siobhan's gurney. Dr. Adams walks with them.

DR. ADAMS  
She'll be in the hallway for now.

The LVNs push Siobhan's bed against the wall.

LIAM  
Ye're gonna leave her here, are ye?

DR. ADAMS  
These men are dying, and all the hospitals are full. Despite her memory, she'll be fine.

ALARMS BLARE. Dr. Adams barely looks at Liam.

LIAM  
I can take her off yeer hands

DR. ADAMS  
Why would you do that?

LIAM  
Got an extra room just sitting empty across the hall from mine.

DR. ADAMS  
She's had a tough day. I can't see why she would--

Siobhan hobbles up to the men.

SIOBHAN  
I want to go.

The men stare at her.

DR. ADAMS  
We'll find a spot for you in a few--

The Medical Team rolls another PATIENT into her old room.

SIOBHAN  
I'm going.

The patient in the room FLATLINES and more ALARMS blare.

NURSE  
Doctor! We're losing him!

DR. ADAMS  
Tell Finn I authorized her release.

Dr. Adams runs to his patient.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

A small plain bedroom with a twin bed and a nightstand.

Siobhan stands at the doorway in Liam's baggy T-shirt.

She watches him make the bed. A shadow shoots past the doorway. Neither Liam nor Siobhan see it.

LIAM  
There we go now. 'Tisn't posh, but  
it'll do ye.

SIOBHAN  
(shivers)  
It's perfect.  
(beat)  
Do you have a heater?

LIAM  
I do.

Liam strides toward the door and stops in front of Siobhan.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
It'll be on shortly.

SIOBHAN  
Thank you.

Siobhan reaches for the light. Liam slams his hand atop hers.

LIAM  
The light in yeer room's fine...but  
do be keeping the others on.

SIOBHAN  
You're a miner, aren't you?

LIAM  
Blacksmith. I work above ground.

Liam exits. Siobhan turns out the light.





INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Liam slams his wallet, money, jeans, and boots down onto the table. He places Siobhan's wedding ring on top of his wallet.

Siobhan sips her coffee and moves the boots to the floor.

Liam plops down and digs into his breakfast like an animal.

Siobhan stares her wedding ring sitting on his wallet.

She caresses her bare ring finger under the table and discretely wipes a tear from her eye.

SIOBHAN

Listen, I don't want to impose. How long will you let me stay with you?

Liam chews his food.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

I can cook--

LIAM

All but toast.

(beat)

That'll do.

SIOBHAN

Are you sure?

LIAM

Mrs. Gallagher next door's lonesome. A widow. She'll take ye dress shopping the day. She might.

SIOBHAN

Okay.

They eat in silence for a few seconds until...

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to pry about the lights last night.

LIAM

Ye're awful pretty when yeer gob is closed so.

Siobhan stares at her plate.

LIAM (CONT'D)

This isn't bad at all.

SIOBHAN  
I'm glad you like it.

LIAM  
How's the memory coming?

Siobhan shrugs.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
We'll visit my brother and his wan  
this evenin' for dinner. Can ye be  
ready around five bells?

SIOBHAN  
(she blinks)  
You're asking me to be ready by  
five?

LIAM  
Ay. Ye call it...five OHH-CLOCK.

Liam laughs as he awkwardly pats Siobhan on the shoulder.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S TRUCK - DAY

Liam drives in the snow. Steam rises from the road.  
He pulls up to a large red brick house.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Liam knocks on the door, and Nessa pulls it open.

NESSA  
Morning Liam.

LIAM  
James go down the Ashland mine yet?

NESSA  
He hasn't. He's after having his  
breakfast, though.  
(beat)  
Think he's fixing to head out that  
way in a wee while.

Nessa leans into Liam for a kiss. He withdraws.

LIAM  
(whispers)  
Will ye show a little class? My  
brother's in now.

NESSA  
 Look at yeerself...acting like ye  
 isn't a maggot.

JAMES (O.S.)  
 Who's there?!

LIAM  
 'Tis only me!

NESSA  
 (whispers)  
 Will ye come by soon?

LIAM  
 I will, yeah.

(That's an Irish, "I won't. Not ever." Today she's American.)

NESSA  
 Good then.

JAMES (O.S.)  
 Liam?

LIAM  
 'Tis, brother.

Nessa watches Liam walk into the house.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Liam enters. James smokes a cigarette and reads a paper at the table. His dirty breakfast plate sits nearby.

JAMES  
 How's the form, boy?

LIAM  
 On my last legs.  
 (beat)  
 What's the story?

James lowers the newspaper as Liam takes a seat.

JAMES  
 Our boy Kennedy's at it again with  
 the Soviets--

Nessa glides toward the kitchen. In passing, she offers...

NESSA

'Tisn't even seven, and ye're already after piling on more bad-feckin' news atop our woes.

LIAM

Speaking of...for how long's the mine gonna be closed?

Nessa emerges from the kitchen with a plate in her hand.

NESSA

(to Liam)

How hungry are ye?

LIAM

Not at all at all.

JAMES

(laughs)

Since when?

LIAM

I'm after eating. Got the girl from the mine staying with me. Fed me this morning herself.

NESSA

Ye're having me on! Ye took a stranger in?

LIAM

That's exactly what I did now.

NESSA

(grumbles)

Jaysus. I'm guessing she's not a wagon then. Ye're like a tit in a trance.

JAMES

How's she cutting so?

LIAM

Surviving, except her memory. Her loaf's a marlie.

NESSA

Ye don't say! Then why'd ye take her?

LIAM

(to James)

Doctors do be stumped.

JAMES

She's lucky to have ye caring for her.

NESSA

But ye can't care for someone who's gone mental. Ye're not qualified.

LIAM

She's fine. The hospital's so busy they put her in some hallway, surrounded by death himself.

JAMES

At least she remembers how to cook.

NESSA

She'd be a killer, and ye wouldn't even know it.

JAMES

Cop on. 'Tis fine. He's standing here after a night with her. Isn't he now?

Nessa cleans off the table and rolls her eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Liam)

Talking the Ashland mine foreman about the fire the day.

LIAM

It let up at all?

JAMES

Hasn't. They keep throwing water on it...and it just gets hotter.

LIAM

I'll come with ye. Got some old scrap to sell and gotta pick up a toaster for Siobhan.

NESSA

Siobhan?...Stop the lights! Did ye give her a name!?

LIAM

Wouldn't ye want one yeerself?

James extinguishes his cigarette on a nearby ashtray.

JAMES

Roight. Well, ye're coming let's  
get on the road.

The men stand and exit. Nessa stands with her mouth open.

INT. ASHLAND, PA - APPLIANCE STORE - DAY

Liam pays for his new toaster as CASHIER (50s), a white  
local, bags it.

BOOKER enters and steps up to the Cashier with FLYERS in his  
hand. He places them on the counter.

CASHIER

Can I help you?

BOOKER

Sorry to interrupt. I was wondering  
if you men have seen this woman?

(beat)

My wife's missing.

Liam and the Cashier study the flyer.

ON SCREEN:

It's a photo of "Siobhan" with "Have you seen Julie Rogers?"  
written below.

CASHIER

Nice flyer. Your boss know you're  
taking his supplies?

BOOKER

Sir, have you seen her?

CASHIER

Nope.

LIAM

Where ye from?

BOOKER

Lock Haven.

CASHIER

That's a whole town over.

Booker looks down at the counter and chokes back tears.

BOOKER  
I just needed to know if you'd seen her. Thank you for your--

LIAM  
Would she be this far?

BOOKER  
Not of her own volition.

LIAM  
What'd the police say now?

Booker shakes his head in defeat.

BOOKER  
Can I leave these here, please?

Booker points to the flyers. The Cashier shoves them away.

CASHIER  
I told you...I've never seen her.

Liam slams his hand atop the stack.

LIAM  
Where ye headed after now?

BOOKER  
Next borough over. Garvin.

LIAM  
That's where we came from.

BOOKER  
And you haven't seen her?

Liam shakes his head as he inspects a flyer.

LIAM  
Word of advice. She wants to see ye; ye'll see her.  
(beat)  
I'd stay put and wait. Ye know lasses, fickle about love and all.

BOOKER  
(eyes water)  
With all due respect, you don't know my...lass.

LIAM  
I'll take yeer flyers myself and hand them around if ye'd like.

BOOKER

That won't be necessary. I can--

Booker reaches for the flyers. Liam pulls them away.

LIAM

There's a fire roaring out there in Garvin. In a lotta ways, it's not safe...ye catch what I mean.

Booker stares at Liam and lowers his hand.

BOOKER

Thank you. That would be great.

Booker exits. The Cashier holds the trashcan up for Liam.

CASHIER

Need a place for those?

LIAM

Piss off, ye racist cock muppet.

Liam tucks the flyers under his arm and heads for the door.

James pulls up outside and HONKS several times in a row.

EXT. ASHLAND, PA - APPLIANCE STORE - DAY

Liam glances back at the distracted Cashier, then looks at Julie's photo on the flyer one last time. James HONKS.

Liam drops the stack of flyers into a trash bin and jogs off.

INT. ASHLAND, PA - JAMES' TRUCK - DAY

James takes off before Liam can shut the door.

LIAM

What's the rush?

JAMES

Route 61's collapsing over by the mine. They're closing the road.

LIAM

That didn't take long, did it?

INT. GARVIN, PA - MRS. GALLAGHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Siobhan sits with MRS. GALLAGHER (80s) robust and elegant with a strong Irish accent. They drink tea. At Siobhan's feet rests a tote bag full of clothes and a container of cookies.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Shame ya can't remember a thing at all. Quern odd, really.

SIOBHAN

Thank you again for the clothes.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Don't mention it, dear. My daughter left them in her room last year after she paid me a visit. She's after moving back to Wicklow now. Said give them away...and so we finally have.

(beat)

She's got two backs like yarself.

Mrs. Gallagher glances at Siobhan's flat chest. Siobhan holds up a large coat to her chest and admires it.

SIOBHAN

She certainly has exquisite taste.

MRS. GALLAGHER

I'll tell her. She'd be pleased they're being put to good use. Sure glad they do fit well enough.

Mrs. Gallagher tips the kettle over her cup. She's out.

Siobhan looks at her necklace.

SIOBHAN

That's beautiful.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Ya likes my Shield Knot cross?

SIOBHAN

I've never seen that design before.

MRS. GALLAGHER

It's a Celtic symbol of protection.

SIOBHAN

Protection from what?

MRS. GALLAGHER

Evil spirits. In case my wan try  
come back for me.

(beat)

Will ya have another cuppa?

SIOBHAN

No thanks. I'm fine.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Don't be silly. Of course ya will.

Mrs. Gallagher exits. Siobhan notices an Irish Folklore book sitting on the coffee table. She opens it...

ON SCREEN:

Sinister images of Sluaghs, shadow figures, and mist pouring from people's mouths fill a page titled "The Sluagh."

Mrs. Gallagher re-enters with a fresh pot of tea. A second necklace hangs from her grip. She sits and pours the tea.

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)

Careful with that.

SIOBHAN

Sorry. I shouldn't have--

MRS. GALLAGHER

Ya can't hurt my book. But yar  
dreams might be haunted for a time.

(looks at the book)

Fancy that's the page ya'd turn on.

SIOBHAN

Why's that?

MRS. GALLAGHER

'Tis the evil that took my wan so  
many years ago now.

Siobhan's eyes dart between each of Mrs. Gallagher's crosses in the room. Her gaze lands on the clock. It's 4:30 pm.

SIOBHAN

...I'm sorry to hear that.

MRS. GALLAGHER

He isn't missed.

Another page.

ON SCREEN:

Hoard's of Sluaghs and shadow figures torment victims. Sluaghs suck men's souls from their mouths. They flood out in a black mist as the victim's eyes turn blue.

SIOBHAN

What are the shadows?

MRS. GALLAGHER

The man's own demons taunting him.  
That's how it starts for most.

(beat)

And the mist d'be the soul. See?

Mrs. Gallagher points to the mist on the page.

SIOBHAN

Where did the Sluaghs come from?

MRS. GALLAGHER

They are and always were. 'Tis the destiny of the unforgiven. Neither heaven nor hell wants them.

SIOBHAN

(gasps)

What do they want?

Mrs. Gallagher sighs and closes the book.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Oh. I don't want ya going home all scared like. I think it's time--

SIOBHAN

No. I'm fine. Please continue.

Siobhan opens the book to the page they were just on.

MRS. GALLAGHER

They compete for vile souls amongst the living for eternity.

SIOBHAN

What about innocent souls?

MRS. GALLAGHER

'Tis rare the two should meet.  
'Tisn't their aim at all at all.

(beat)

Here...

Mrs. Gallagher turns the page.

ON SCREEN:

A woman in white bows before a large Sluagh as she offers it two "souls," one in each hand.

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)  
 They're obliged to trade—two souls  
 for the return of theirs.  
 (beat)  
 A near-impossible task, though.

SIOBHAN  
 Why's that?

MRS. GALLAGHER  
 Oh! Well, innocents can only steal  
 the soul of someone who loves them.

SIOBHAN  
 That doesn't seem impossible.

MRS. GALLAGHER  
 Innocents always make the mistake  
 of picking someone too wicked to  
 love anyone but themselves.

Mrs. Gallagher sips her tea.

Siobhan turns the page and GASPS.

ON SCREEN:

An image of a crying baby reaching out for a man.

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)  
 Speaking of...the only successful  
 innocent to trade a truly wicked  
 soul transferred it to his baby  
 first.  
 (beat)  
 Infancy is the only time the  
 wicked're capable of true love.

SIOBHAN  
 Does it hurt the baby?

MRS. GALLAGHER  
 Well. I guess I wouldn't know.

Mrs. Gallagher sets the second Shield Knot cross necklace on the table and slides it toward Siobhan. Siobhan backs away.

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)  
 'Tis a gift, dear.

SIOBHAN

No, I'm okay. Thank you. I don't think I believe in all that.

MRS. GALLAGHER

They don't mind ya believe, or ya don't believe. They're here either way. They are.

Siobhan looks at the clock again.

SIOBHAN

I better get ready for dinner.

MRS. GALLAGHER

'Tis fine. I understand ya.

Siobhan collects her bag and hurries to the door.

INT. ASHLAND, PA - JAMES' TRUCK - DAY

James pulls up to a blockade. PAUL (40s) waddles up to James' window in his orange hard hat and matching vest as he clutches a clipboard. His accent is a mix of local Pennsylvania and a forced Irish.

JAMES

All roight boy?

PAUL

A sinkhole opened up where Hoffman meets Route 61.

Liam leans forward...

LIAM

Diabolical. Guess ye better stop talking and let us go then.

PAUL

I'm afraid youse boys can't pass. It's too dangerous.

JAMES

Listen fella, my home's just fifteen minutes up this--

LIAM

We'll take the risk.

PAUL

Wind yar neck. Shouldn't take ya more than a couple hours on the back roads. You should pick up some canaries on the way in, too.

Paul points toward a treacherous dirt road.

LIAM

(grumbles to James)  
Feckin' canaries. Pan him out.

PAUL

Go on, or I'll report youse both.

Liam steps out of the truck. Paul tenses as he shuffles back.

EXT. ASHLAND, PA - HWY 61 - DAY

James and Liam stride up to Paul. He continues to back away.

PAUL

Don't get all wound up. Just doing my job here.

LIAM

Don't ye try putting on airs with that "just doing my job" shite.

JAMES

Listen, we don't want trouble either, but all I got's on the other side of yeer blockade here.

Liam charges up behind Paul and rips his clipboard away.

PAUL

Hey! Give it back now.

Liam pretends to study the documents and laughs.

LIAM

It says nothing here about refusing people on the road. It says warn us when we come in. That's it.

James laughs.

PAUL

Sleeven...it doesn't! I'm serious--

LIAM

What's serious is yeer piss poor  
accent. Ye were born in  
Pennsylvania. We all know it.

Liam tucks Paul's clipboard under his arm and plucks his hard  
hat from his head. He tips it at him and gets in the truck.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Try and tell on us, and we'll knock  
yeer pan off. Ye hear, boy?

PAUL

Ya can't take my stuff!

James and Liam wave at Paul as they drive off.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - HWY 61 AND HOFFMAN - DAY

James drives past several fire and rescue vehicles.

TWENTY FIREFIGHTERS battle a large hillside blaze.

The SINKHOLE spans an entire lane of the two-lane highway.

A sedan hangs out of the sinkhole next to an on-fire truck.

James pulls up to Brian, who talks to FIREFIGHTER 1 (20s).

BRIAN

Jaysus. Paul had one fecking job.

James rolls down the window, and Brian rushes up to them.

JAMES

What's the story?

BRIAN

Embers jumped out after we tried  
digging a trench between the fire  
and the rest of the seam.

LIAM

Ye winning?

BRIAN

We're prepared to dump the town on  
it till we do.

(beat)

Where ye coming from?

JAMES

Ashland mine.

BRIAN  
What'd they say?

JAMES  
No luck. They're--

The earth shakes, the sinkhole widens, and the burning vehicles disappear, leaving a plume of smoke and dust.

Brian slaps the door and yells...

BRIAN  
Better get going now! Safe home!  
(turns to his crew)  
Let's get our trucks moved, boys!

Embers float to the field on the other side of the road and erupt into roaring flames.

BRIAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Stay after that till you get it!  
(beat)  
Keep them embers down!

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' TRUCK - DAY

James shifts the truck into drive.

JAMES  
I suppose we'd be picking up some canaries on the way.

LIAM  
It'd make the lasses feel better.

A blazing tree falls in front of them.

Embers float into the cabin and ignite.

James quickly rolls up his window as more embers float in. Liam smothers the flames as the road crumbles around them.

JAMES  
Ye got it!?

LIAM  
Drive!

James backs up and pulls around the flaming tree, narrowly escaping the widening sinkhole.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Liam enters, clutching a new toaster and four lively canaries in a birdcage.

He dumps everything on a table.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Dark shadows cling and crawl on the ceiling behind Liam. The canaries chirp wildly.

LIAM

I'm home.

Thud. Liam spins. A hallway nightlight shuts off.

The light sways violently. Liam watches it as he steps to...

LIAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Liam scans the area; nothing.

LIAM

Siobhan?!

Liam flips on the nightlight. He pushes Siobhan's door open. Nothing. A shadow darts past an unwitting Liam.

All of the nightlights go black.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Out of breath, Liam runs back to the light. The birds shriek frantically. He looks back toward the dark hallway.

LIAM

Siobhan? Ye here?!

BLACKOUT. The canaries go berserk. Liam CRASHES into furniture as he runs to the front door.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Siobhan, it's not a fucking joke!

The lights turn ON.

Liam hyperventilates on all fours. A beautifully dressed Siobhan enters through the front door.

SIOBHAN  
Liam. Are you okay?

Siobhan rushes to his side as he regains his composure.

                  LIAM  
Why'd ye shut all the lights?!

                  SIOBHAN  
I didn't. I just came from Mrs.  
Gallagher's. She gave me clothes,  
and I returned her bag.  
          (beat)  
What happened?

Liam sits up and looks around the well-lit house.

                  LIAM  
Let's go.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Liam, James, and Nessa sit before near-empty plates. Siobhan pushes the sausage, cabbage, and potatoes around hers.

                  NESSA  
Have they yet found Irene?

                  SIOBHAN  
Who's Irene?

Liam clears his throat and shifts in his seat.

                  LIAM  
They wouldn't go telling us now.

                  NESSA  
They would.

                  LIAM  
We barely knew her.

                  NESSA  
          (to Siobhan)  
Irene is James' secretary.

Siobhan nods as she stabs a sausage with her fork.

                  JAMES  
Bangers are salty.

                  NESSA  
Ye've never complained before.

LIAM

They're gorgeous. As always.

Siobhan shoves a small piece of meat into her mouth and chews, then gags a little.

James smirks at Siobhan, then reaches for the salt and pushes his silverware onto the floor between Liam and Nessa.

JAMES

Shite. Would ye mind? 'Tis closer.

NESSA

Now ye've done it.

LIAM

(grumbles)

Pain in the bollocks.

Nessa and Liam lean down and pick up the silverware.

James quickly swaps his empty plate for Siobhan's full one and shovels food into his mouth.

A pile of silverware plops onto the table.

Liam rubs his stomach, unbuttons his top button, and groans. James follows suit.

NESSA

Ugh! Ye men stuffing yeer gobs and yeer noises and open buttons.

(to Siobhan)

Sorry, they're disgusting.

Siobhan stuffs a giggle as the men close their jeans.

LIAM

James' fault for making me bend.

(beat)

'Tis murder.

Nessa stands and exits in a huff.

JAMES

'Tis tragic ye'd pick that day to go down in the mine after all these years.

SIOBHAN

Ironic.

JAMES

Yeah. Ironic.

Liam tenses and shakes his leg.

LIAM  
(yells to Nessa)  
Do ye have more bangers?

JAMES  
Which level ye go down to?

LIAM  
'Tis all a blur now.

JAMES  
Well, if Irene came down, ye  
must've been down there a while.  
(beat)  
Did ye go down the manhole?

NESSA (O.S.)  
Will ye have more spuds, too?

JAMES  
We're full.

LIAM  
I will.

NESSA (O.S.)  
Siobhan?

SIOBHAN  
I'm good. Thank you.

JAMES  
(to Liam)  
Well?

LIAM  
Well, what? Ye're awfully morbid  
tonight.

SIOBHAN  
What happened?

Nessa appears with a plate of sausages and potatoes. She places it on the table. Liam stabs at it.

NESSA  
Irene went missing after the fire.

JAMES  
Something's off.

Liam's leg shakes wildly.

LIAM  
Police say anything about it?

JAMES  
Surely there's no time with  
everything.

Liam's leg relaxes.

LIAM  
The fire took her.

NESSA  
Jaysus.

SIOBHAN  
That's awful.

LIAM  
Remember when she left for  
California without telling anyone?

JAMES  
'Twas her vacation.

NESSA  
I'm worried. What'll we do if they  
don't put the fire out soon?

SIOBHAN  
Fires aren't meant to burn forever.

JAMES  
This one can live off them seams  
below our feet for centuries.

SIOBHAN  
Will they evacuate the town then?

LIAM  
I amn't moving no matter what.

JAMES  
Ye heard Brian yeerself. The gases--

LIAM  
Eh. Feck. Gases. 'Tis why we're  
after buying them birds.

Liam rests his hand atop Siobhan's. Nessa stiffens.

NESSA  
What's yeer plan, Siobhan?

LIAM  
Living with me.

NESSA  
For how long?

LIAM  
Long as she wants.

Liam pats Siobhan's hand and squeezes it. Nessa tightens.

SIOBHAN  
Thank you.

JAMES  
(to Siobhan)  
How'd ye get down in Buck Mountain  
yeerself?

SIOBHAN  
...I don't remember.

JAMES  
That vein's an awfully long way  
from the surface. Surely there's  
something you can recall?

LIAM  
They found a sinkhole behind the  
bus station. They think she  
might've fallen in and wandered  
down.

The birds chirp wildly. Everyone collectively stiffens.

NESSA  
Shut up ye damn fecking birds!  
(to Siobhan)  
How's it ye still can't remember  
anything at all at all?

Siobhan shrugs. James lifts his glass.

JAMES  
To luck.

James takes a celebratory drink from his glass.

The house shakes. Everyone grabs their dishes.

A crash in the living room. The shaking stops.

Liam and James stand...

LIAM  
I'll check it out.

The canaries shriek wildly.

JAMES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

On a wall full of family photos, a couple are missing.

Two framed images rest face up on the tile floor. A glamour shot of Nessa and a headshot of Liam.

Liam plucks the images from the ground and hangs them.

JAMES (O.S.)  
Everything okay!?

LIAM  
'Tis fine.

Liam turns on the TV.

ON SCREEN:

Booker holds up a photo of Siobhan on the screen behind a NEWS ANCHOR.

Liam lowers the volume and blocks the screen with his body.

NEWS ANCHOR  
--have determined the missing New Haven woman, Julie Rogers, left on her own volition and have closed the case.  
(beat)  
In other news--

Footsteps grow behind Liam. He quickly changes the channel.

ON-SCREEN:

A vampire theatrically claws a mirror as he mourns his (lack of) reflection.

Nessa places her hand on Liam's waist.

NESSA  
Never understood why vampires don't have a reflection.

Liam switches the TV off and turns to Nessa.

LIAM  
They haven't got a soul.

Nessa glances toward the dining room and steps closer...

NESSA  
Ye're pulling away from me.

LIAM  
Ye're my brother's wife. Anything  
more 'tis in yeer head.

NESSA  
(eyes water)  
...Roight.

LIAM  
I've got Siobhan. Ye've got James.

NESSA  
I know that. Ye damn fool.

Nessa backs away from Liam, slapping his arm.

LIAM  
(softly)  
Hey now.

He caresses her upper arm. Her shoulders drop as she sighs.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
I've a favor to ask.

NESSA  
Ye're in no position for a favor.

LIAM  
I've done ye seven years of favors.

NESSA  
'Twas never a favor, Liam.

LIAM  
Can ye give Siobhan a cut?

NESSA  
Haircut?

LIAM  
Indeed.

NESSA  
She ask for one?

LIAM

I'd like my two favorite ladies to get to know each other.

Nessa hesitates and glances at the dining room.

NESSA

Ye really like her then.

LIAM

I do. Sure.

JAMES (O.S.)

Liam! Need yeer help with the trash.

EXT. JAMES' HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Liam and James drag trashcans down the concrete slope.

The porch light ends three-quarters down the walkway. Liam stops at the light's edge. James continues to the curb.

JAMES

Liam, for God's sake. I'd be here with ye. Come on, now.

LIAM

I took it most of the way.

Liam turns away as he lights a cigarette with his old gold Murphy's lighter. James stomps up and grabs the trashcan.

A SLUAGH emerges from the dark and watches an unwitting James as he positions the trashcans on the curb.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Are the bin collectors even coming?

JAMES

Trash'll be there if they do.

LIAM

Toss it on the fire if they don't.

The Sluagh closes in on James. It reaches for his shirt. Before its fingers make contact, he turns and jogs to Liam.

JAMES

I took ye out here for a talk.

LIAM

What about?

JAMES  
When do ye plan on giving her back?

LIAM  
Who?...Siobhan?

JAMES  
Her fucking name isn't Siobhan. Ye gave it to her. She's surely got a family of her own. Waiting and hoping for her to come back.

Liam flicks his cigarette at James' feet and stomps back to the house. James watches.

Something CRASHES onto the road in the distance.

James scans the area; nothing.

The glowing eyes of Sluaghs, hiding in the trees above, peer down on James as he pulls the back door open.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liam drinks a beer on a giant burgundy and blue plaid couch.

James strides up to the TV. Liam tenses and leans forward.

LIAM  
Wait.  
(both men pause)  
She ain't got family. We're it now.

JAMES  
(turns to Liam)  
Ye're living a fantasy.  
(beat)  
Ye didn't try finding them.

LIAM  
Did so.

James steps up to Liam and sits.

JAMES  
Try harder.  
(beat)  
Seems like a real nice girl herself. Smart. Speaks good, like a teacher or something...

LIAM  
Ye're jealous.

JAMES

I'm guilty of anything it's caring about what's best for ye both.

LIAM

There ye go making decisions for me again. Same old fecking shite.

JAMES

I know ye've been wanting for a family yeer own for tamall, but I'd be telling ye, something's off here. Ye don't just take a girl for yeer own because ye want her. 'Tisn't roight.

Liam shoots up from his seat and marches up to the TV, blocking the screen with his body as he turns on the game.

LIAM

When the road opens up.

JAMES

Okay, then.

James hobbles over to a large, burnt orange recliner and plops down with a groan. Liam reclaims his position on the couch. The men sit back and watch football.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nessa works gel into the last section of Siobhan's medium-length loose curls. The ballgame blares in the background.

SIOBHAN

Where'd you learn how to do this?

NESSA

Ghanaian miner started five years ago. Ye can thank his wife and daughter for teaching me.

Nessa sprays Siobhan's hair and stands back.

NESSA (CONT'D)

Well, I outdid myself this time, didn't I? Ye look stunning.

Nessa holds up a mirror and fluffs Siobhan's curls.

SIOBHAN

I barely recognize myself!

NESSA

Would ye even anyway?

The women laugh.

SIOBHAN

I suppose now is a bad time to tell you I can't pay?

NESSA

I wouldn't take yeer money ye did have it. Got a question, though.

SIOBHAN

What's that?

NESSA

How do ye feel about Liam?

SIOBHAN

...I don't really know him yet.

NESSA

Seems he likes ye something fierce.

SIOBHAN

Yeah?

NESSA

It's not what ye want, say so.

SIOBHAN

I'm okay with that. Are you?

NESSA

I worry yeer family'll come for ye, and ye'll leave him with a broken heart.

Siobhan stands. The women speak eye-to-eye.

NESSA (CONT'D)

Yeer eyes are so blue...

SIOBHAN

I won't break his heart.

NESSA

Ye're awfully sure of yeerself.

SIOBHAN

You care for Liam a lot.

NESSA

Well, I do. We've been friends  
since the three of us was kids.

Siobhan gently brushes Nessa's hair out of her face.

SIOBHAN

I'll take good care of him.

NESSA

Right. Good. It's settled.

SIOBHAN

Why is he afraid of the dark?

Nessa leans in and whispers.

NESSA

Their parents died in a car wreck  
when they were wee boys. Liam was  
pinned between their bodies all  
night while James ran for help.

Siobhan's eyes widen, devastated. Liam enters.

LIAM

Well, well, well! Look at the  
beauty now!

NESSA

Ye like it?

LIAM

I do.  
(to Siobhan)  
Ye like it yeerself?

SIOBHAN

I love it.

LIAM

(looks at watch)  
'Tis after ten. Are we calling it a  
night?

NESSA

Ye kidding? This hair deserves an  
audience. Let's go out on the lash!

LIAM

Ye're singing my favorite tune.

The TV goes silent, and James appears.

JAMES  
It's awfully late, isn't it?

SIOBHAN  
What's the lash?

INT. GARVIN, PA - MCGUIRE'S PUB - NIGHT

FIFTEEN IRISH PATRONS chat, drink, and shoot pool in a worn-out brick and wood bar with a dance floor.

Liam, James, Siobhan, and Nessa plop onto the barstools tucked under the countertop.

The gruff and husky, half-Black, half-Irish DUFF MCGUIRE (40s) greets them with a thick Irish accent.

DUFF  
Hey! Can't youse fucking read?!

Duff points to a sign that reads, "No Blacks! No dogs! And definitely no Irish!" The bar HUSHES.

LIAM  
Eat shite, Duff! Yeer mom's Black, yeer dad's a bitch, and ye're the most fecking Irish Irishman I've ever met!

EVERYONE laughs, Duff included.

DUFF  
Ay. Liam, glad youse come in.

LIAM  
Wasn't a choice. I've an awful throat on me.

JAMES  
I'll get the bleeding gargle over. Four pints of the black stuff.

James slams cash onto the bar. Duff swiftly collects it.

DUFF  
(to Siobhan)  
'Tis truly a list of me favorite types...in order from most ta least. How ya liking it here?

Duff slides the drinks over with a wink. Siobhan blushes. Liam wraps his arm around her waist and pulls her close.

SIOBHAN  
Everyone's so friendly.

DUFF  
Who else knows ya now?

SIOBHAN  
I met Mrs. Gallagher.

DUFF  
(laughs)  
Dear old Mrs. Gallagher. She go on  
about Sluaghs and her wan?

SIOBHAN  
In fact, she did--

LIAM  
Feck. Sluaghs are after making it  
over to America on them ships now?

SIOBHAN  
You guys did.

Liam and Duff pause and then erupt in laughter.

NESSA  
Aren't ye worried about the fire  
Duff?

Duff scowls and exclaims...

DUFF  
Ah, feck! I am the fire!

LAUGHTER.

The insufferable PA local FRANK (40s) offers...

FRANK  
Looks like it's getting serious.

LIAM  
Why don't ye ride out with all the  
other pussies then?

JAMES  
Cool it. He's not starting  
anything, Liam.

FRANK

(to Siobhan)

Do you know how fucking stupid you look with that Paddy Boy on your arm? Word of advice...give him a strong drink, and run when he passes out.

JAMES

Now he's swinging all roight.

NESSA

Ye've earned it, boyo.

FRANK

Get back in your hole. Fucking rat.

DUFF

Look 'round ya! Do ya know where ya are, boy!? Least ya can do is keep a lid on yar gob.

NESSA

Hold up. I amn't bladdered enough for all this shite yet.

Nessa CLINKS her glass on Siobhan's and downs her pint.

LIAM

I claim ye! Put up yeer fists!

Frank shoots up from his seat.

Liam rushes Frank and lands a solid right hook to his temple.

Frank shakes it off and shoves Liam's chest.

James and Nessa sit back. Siobhan stands in protest.

SIOBHAN

You have to stop this.

JAMES

(to Duff)

Want me to douse it?

DUFF

Ya said it. 'Tis fair play. The man insulted our mot here.

(to Siobhan)

Let him fight. It'll give him a boost, and ya'll get a better ride before bed t'night.



JAMES

Get him a pint of near beer on me.

(to Frank)

That'll be yeer last round.

Frank takes a step forward in protest. James charges so ferociously that Frank immediately sits with a nod.

James leads Liam to the exit.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - MCGUIRE'S PUB - NIGHT

James pushes Liam out the door onto the sidewalk.

LIAM

Come on. We'd be twisting hay.

JAMES

Ye're not! And I've an awful worry about Siobhan. I do be telling ye, ye've a massive talent for fucking up good people. Siobhan's cheek's carrying proof of that now.

(beat)

'Tisn't how ye treat family.

LIAM

Ye're fucking talking about family, are ye? Ye haven't got a roight ye blather and twaddle cunt.

JAMES

Bollocks... 'tisn't my fault mom and dad died on us. I did my best.

LIAM

Fiona--

JAMES

Ye're always after Fiona! Staying behind was her request, and that's the truth of it.

Liam slugs James in the jaw; he stumbles back.

LIAM

Do ye want yeer go!?

(beat)

Take it!

James storms off toward the bar entrance.

Liam charges up behind James and jabs him in the kidney.

James crumbles onto the road, slamming his head on the pavement. Liam straddles James and pounds his ribs.

With a hip thrust, James inverts and sends Liam to his back.

James sits on Liam's chest and renders several devastating blows to his kidneys. Liam holds up his hands, surrendering.

Breathless and covered in blood, the men pause and stumble to their feet.

JAMES  
Ye'd owe Siobhan an apology.

LIAM  
Sure. I will.

James studies the disheveled Liam.

JAMES  
I'd be asking ye one time more...  
(beat)  
Did ye see her in the mine  
yeerself?

LIAM  
Who?

JAMES  
Ye know who.

LIAM  
I can't help ye didn't believe me  
all the other times ye've asked so.

Siobhan steps up to James.

SIOBHAN  
Sorry to interrupt. Nessa needs  
help settling the tab, and I don't--

LIAM  
I've got it.

Liam marches to the bar's entrance. James wipes blood from his eye with his forearm. Siobhan pulls a tissue from her purse and hands it to James.

JAMES  
Thanks.  
(wipes his eye)  
Sorry about my brother, he's--

SIOBHAN

Is it just me, or do Nessa and Liam seem awfully close?

JAMES

What's that now?

SIOBHAN

You're a good man, James. You deserve more.

Liam and Nessa stride up to James and Siobhan.

NESSA

My bed's been waiting around all night. Safe home, the two of ye.

LIAM

Cheers. Let's go.

Liam storms off to the truck. James nods at Siobhan and leads Nessa to their truck. Siobhan runs after Liam.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Steam seeps from the snow-covered streets as Liam drives.

LIAM

Ye shouldn't interfere when men are having a discussion.

Siobhan nods and grips the seat. Her knuckles turn white.

SIOBHAN

...I'm sorry.

Liam stops at a red light on an empty road. Amber smoke billows from the distant hills, a hauntingly beautiful sight.

Liam looks at Siobhan, leans in, and kisses her. The light turns green. They continue kissing.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

The front door flies open. Liam and Siobhan ravage each other as he slams and locks the door.

Clothes hit the ground: Shoes, his pants and her dress.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

The canaries CHIRP and CHATTER. Liam carries Siobhan down the hall. Shadows stalk them from the ceiling above their heads.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM

A black shadow lies motionless on the bed.

Liam and Siobhan kiss, caress and grind at the doorway.

A shadow jumps from the windowsill and crawls up the wall.

Still kissing, Siobhan pushes Liam toward the bed. He stumbles back and lies directly atop the menacing shadow.

The shadow moves through Liam and caresses Siobhan's body.

Siobhan writhes atop Liam and hovers her mouth over his. She inhales the shadow in a mist as she touches her stomach.

Liam groans as he finishes. All lights shut OFF.

He rolls over and snores. She rolls over and cries.

The canaries SCREAM.

## EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The wind rattles the snow-covered windows.

SLUAGHS' glowing eyes watch Liam and Siobhan sleep from outside the bedside window.

## INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY (1963)

The lights are OFF. The sun beams through windows that showcase green hills and the warm summer morning.

Liam opens his eyes. They're bright BLUE.

A nine-month pregnant Siobhan sleeps with her back to Liam.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Liam stomps down a dark hall past four unlit nightlights.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

Liam steps up to the mirror and splashes water on his face. His reflection seems dim and dull but not quite transparent.

He stares into his now blue eyes and pulls at his lids.

LIAM

Ay. Something's wrong with the mirror in here.

Siobhan steps up behind Liam and hugs his waist.

Her image doesn't reflect in the mirror. Liam doesn't notice.

SIOBHAN

Morning, sexy.

Liam turns. Siobhan kisses him. He tenses and pulls away. She places his hand on her large, pregnant belly.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

Do you feel that?

LIAM

I do.

Liam looks down at Siobhan's shirt.

LIAM (CONT'D)

This my T-shirt?

SIOBHAN

It's the one you gave me on my first night here...it finally fits.

LIAM

I give ye money for yeer own clothes. Don't I now?

SIOBHAN

Oh. Yeah, sorry. I'll wash it and put it back in your drawer.

LIAM

Heading to James' this morning.

SIOBHAN

I'll make breakfast.

LIAM

Asked me to come first thing. He's at the Ashland mine, and Nessa says the fence been broken on them.

SIOBHAN

All right. Well, don't take too long...and stay by the phone. He's coming any minute now.

LIAM

I'll tell Nessa to keep the phone on her hip.

Liam nods and marches away.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S TRUCK - DAY

Liam stops at a red light and looks out the window. Black skies loom above the mine fire that burns in the distance.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

Liam examines the two holes in James' fence. A thick, black substance coats the jagged edges. Liam inspects it, confused.

Sluaghs watch with glowing eyes from the trees just beyond the yard. He picks up a large pair of clippers and works.

LATER

A shirtless Liam drips wet with sweat as he finishes mending the fence. Nessa strides up and hands him a large beer.

NESSA

Looks good. Ye figure out what's done it?

LIAM

Must be the fire bringing in the wild animals.

Nessa wipes sweat from her neck. Liam admires her.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I've missed ye now.

NESSA

Don't ye dare get any notions.

Liam steps toward Nessa; she storms away.

NESSA (CONT'D)

I better check dinner now.

Liam watches Nessa enter the house as he drinks his beer.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Nessa bends over the oven and checks the food. Liam enters.

He creeps up behind her and grinds against her backside. She spins and slaps him across the face.

NESSA

Stop that! Ye do be messing with me  
again, Liam!

He leans in and kisses her. She lets it happen.

JAMES' HOUSE - JAMES' BEDROOM

Liam and Nessa kiss as he throws her onto the bed. He goes down on her, and the phone RINGS. Liam looks up...

LIAM

Could be Siobhan now.

Nessa answers and pushes Liam away. He "goes back to work."

NESSA

Hello?  
(beat)  
Howaya James?

Nessa attempts to push Liam off again. He goes harder.

INT. ASHLAND, PA - COAL MINE - OFFICE - DAY

James sits in a plush leather chair in a tidy office. He leans back and places his feet on the desktop.

JAMES

Liam ever come by?

NESSA (V.O.)

He did.

JAMES

Ye okay? Ye sound strained.

NESSA (V.O.)

I'm just down for a nap now.

James smiles and blushes.

JAMES

I've been away a while, haven't I?

James stands. He shuts his door, locks it, and pulls the blinds. He unzips his pants as he steps back to his desk.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Start talking, sexy.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - JAMES' BEDROOM - DAY

Liam makes love to Nessa as she holds the phone receiver.

NESSA  
(to Liam)  
What're ye doing?

JAMES (V.O.)  
I think ye know already, don't ye.

NESSA  
This isn't...

JAMES (V.O.)  
What're ye wearing, my love?

NESSA  
James, I can't...

INT. ASHLAND, PA - COAL MINE - OFFICE - DAY

James shakes as he pleasures himself below the desk.

JAMES  
That's pure magic, hearing yeer  
voice now.

He groans and pulls a few tissues from a box.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Shite.  
(beat)  
...We've waited a lil' long and...

Nessa groans. James pulls the phone away from his ear.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Well, well...Two for the win.

A knock on his door. James sits up and zips his pants.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - JAMES' BEDROOM - DAY

Liam and Nessa pant as they roll onto their backs.

JAMES (V.O.)  
I better go now.

NESSA  
See ye the marra?

JAMES (V.O.)  
Indeed.  
(beat)  
Hun?

NESSA  
Yeah?

JAMES (V.O.)  
I love ye.

NESSA  
I'd be making yeer favorite for  
dinner after ye're back.

Nessa hangs up. Liam laughs.

NESSA (CONT'D)  
Ye're sick.

The phone rings.

NESSA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

Nessa bolts upright and stares at Liam.

NESSA (CONT'D)  
Siobhan's in labor.

They frantically throw on their clothes. Liam skips his boxers and pulls up his jeans. His old gold Murphy's lighter falls out of his back pocket. They rush out the door.

INT. GARVIN, PA - HOSPITAL - LABOR ROOM - DAY

Siobhan moans in an empty room.

Liam rushes to her side and holds her hand. Nessa slinks in and sits on a chair by the doorway across the room.

LIAM  
Ye okay, Siobhan? I'll go till I  
can find a doctor.

Liam leans down and kisses Siobhan. She licks her lips.

SIOBHAN  
What's that taste?

                  NESSA  
Do ye want me out in the lobby now?

                  LIAM  
Tend to her while I get the doc.

Liam exits.

Nessa tiptoes up to Siobhan and holds her hand. Siobhan studies Nessa's shirt; it's off by one button.

Siobhan pulls Nessa in and licks her lips. Nessa recoils.

                  NESSA  
What're ye doin--

                  SIOBHAN  
          (soft and sad)  
That's the taste.

Nessa wipes her mouth.

                  NESSA  
I'm sorry?

                  SIOBHAN  
Pity.

Siobhan screams. Liam rushes in with a MEDICAL TEAM.

The earth shakes. Siobhan squeezes Nessa's hand. Everyone prepares for delivery. The DOCTOR hands Liam the scissors.

GLOWING EYES appear in the vent above their heads.

A black mist shoots from Nessa's body and up to the vent.

Time slows. Nessa's eyes turn blue, and her body hits the ground in a lifeless THUD. The BABY CRIES.

A stoic Liam takes his child from the doctor and looks down at his son. Everyone rushes to help Nessa.

The baby gazes up at Liam with its big dark brown eyes.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - OPEN FIELD - DAY

A blanket of dark smoke creeps toward the neighborhoods.

FIVE KIDS (11-14) play ball. A few old houses stand nearby.

GIRL 1 (13) whacks the ball near some bushes. BOY 1 (11) runs for it. The ground gives way under his feet. He SCREAMS as he falls into a sinkhole. The KIDS race over to rescue him, and the sinkhole widens.

The kids back away. Smoke billows out of the hole. Girl 1 crawls over and finds Boy 1 holding onto some roots. She pulls him out, and they run away with the other kids.

Red embers float out of the hole and land on a nearby house. It smolders, then erupts into flames.

INT. GARVIN, PA - HOSPITAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Liam relaxes on a large chair and watches the baseball game.

James wipes his eyes as he steps up to Siobhan's bedside. He leans down and admires his nephew, CILLIAN [kill-ian].

                  SIOBHAN

I'm so sorry, James.

                  JAMES

Hush now. Lemme hold my nephew.

                  SIOBHAN

(passes Cillian to James)

Cillian, this is your uncle, James.

James smiles at his nephew as tears stream down his cheeks.

                  JAMES

(to Cillian)

Yeer auntie Nessa woulda given anything to meet ye.

(to Siobhan)

He's beautiful, Siobhan. He's his dad's eyes.

James glances up at Liam's blue eyes.

                  JAMES (CONT'D)

Funny.

                  LIAM

What's that?

                  JAMES

I remembered yeer eyes being dark.

                  LIAM

Will ye be all roight?

JAMES  
I will. Yeah.

LIAM  
Come over this night.

JAMES  
I'll be okay.  
(beat)  
Speaking of, 'tis late. I'm off.

James passes Cillian to Siobhan.

SIOBHAN  
Isn't it time you paid your family  
in Ireland a visit?

JAMES  
What's that now?

Siobhan says nothing. James nods and exits.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Roight. Safe home.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - NESSA'S BEAUTY SALON - NIGHT

James pulls up to the salon.

He shoves a key into the door and pushes the door open.

A large sign in the window reads, "CANARIES SOLD HERE."

INT. GARVIN, PA - NESSA'S BEAUTY SALON - NIGHT

James steps up to the counter, pulls out a piece of paper and marker and writes, "CLOSED FOR GOOD."

As he tapes it to the window, he rips down the canary sign.

Stomping up to a large canary cage, James reaches for it and pauses. All of the birds are dead.

He sits on a chair and cries.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Liam and Siobhan enter a pitch-black house. Liam isn't bothered by the dark, but Cillian cries in his arms.

Siobhan turns on the lights. Cillian calms.

SIOBHAN

Can you please set up the baby monitor while I put him to bed?

Siobhan takes Cillian from Liam. He immediately cries. She hands a new baby monitor box to Liam.

LIAM

When'd we buy this now?

SIOBHAN

It was a gift from Mrs. Gallagher.

LIAM

Why do we need it? We didn't have one of these when we were babies, and yet here we are.

SIOBHAN

Please do it so we can go to bed.

Siobhan strides off with Cillian. Liam stares at the box.

LIAM

(reads)

Place in a room from which reception is desired and listen in on yeer baby, making sure it's safe, as ye enjoy the freedom of roaming anywhere in yeer home.

INT. GARVIN, PA - JAMES' HOUSE - JAMES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

James stands in the doorway and stares at the messy bed.

He slowly steps in, bends down on one knee and picks up Liam's boxers from the carpet.

Dropping the boxers, he finds Liam's old gold Murphy's lighter, picks it up and stands.

He plucks Nessa's panties from a chair and sits. He flips the top of the old gold Murphy's lighter back and forth.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Liam tiptoes into a Bear-themed nursery.

Siobhan smiles at her sleeping infant as she rocks in the rocking chair. Liam places the baby monitor on a dresser.

SIOBHAN  
 (whispers)  
 Is it on?

Liam gingerly twists its knob.

BLARING RADIO FEEDBACK assaults the quiet space.

Cillian WAILS. Siobhan's shoulders drop.

Liam moves the receiver away from its base.

It goes silent. Cillian doesn't.

LIAM  
 Go on.

SIOBHAN  
 Are you sure?

LIAM  
 I am.

Siobhan kisses her infant and gently passes him to Liam.

Liam calms Cillian as he nods toward the monitor.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
 I'll be up a while longer. What  
 will I be listening for?

Cillian latches onto a pacifier, and the room goes quiet.

SIOBHAN  
 Choking, gagging, wheezing  
 ...anything unusual.

LIAM  
 Crying?

SIOBHAN  
 No. The doctor said to let him cry.  
 It'll strengthen his lungs.

LIAM  
 Roight.

Siobhan kisses her son once more and exits.

Liam stands and places Cillian in the crib.

He cranks the baby mobile and shuts OFF the light.

Cillian wails.

The room lights up. Cillian stops crying.

LIAM (CONT'D)

On it is now.

Liam exits with the receiver and closes the door behind him.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liam places the monitor on the coffee table, cracks open a beer, turns on the TV, and switches to the game.

The light above his head sways. He doesn't notice.

He plops onto the couch, kicks off his shoes, and throws his feet onto the coffee table.

LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM

A wide-eyed Cillian gazes up at his mobile. The MUSIC plays. He blinks a few times and falls asleep.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Liam drinks his beer.

Cillian coos and giggles on the monitor. Then...WHISPERING.

Liam sets his beer down, leans forward and picks it up.

He stands and marches toward Cillian's room.

LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM

The door swings open. Liam finds Cillian sleeping soundly.

The WHISPERING continues on the monitor.

He turns the volume up. A baby coos and giggles.

His eyes shift to his sleeping son. He swallows hard.

LIAM

Piece of junk.

He twists the volume down and turns the mobile music on.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liam turns the TV down and yanks the tab on a new beer open.

He sets the monitor on the coffee table, sits on the edge of the couch, and rests his elbows on his knees.

He sips his beer and stares at the monitor.

Cheering erupts on the TV. No reaction from Liam.

His gaze remains trained on the monitor.

LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM

The mobile music stops. The lights flicker.

Cillian's eyes open. He cries.

Shadows form on the ceiling above his crib.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Cillian's cries erupt from the monitor.

Liam sips his beer and turns the device's volume down.

He sits back and watches the game.

LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM

Cillian's eyes dart around the room.

The mobile music plays. The WHISPERING returns.

His eyes land on something outside of his crib.

BLACKOUT. He cries.

Large EYES stare at him from between the bars of his crib. It cocks its head and blinks. Cillian screams.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Liam's eyes dart from the monitor to the game.

More screaming from Cillian.

Liam grabs the monitor and darts toward the hallway.

He stops at the hallway entrance and turns the monitor down.

He twists the TV volume up and sits on the couch.

A KNOCK on the front door. He stands.

LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER

Liam pulls the front door open.

Mrs. Gallagher barges in with stacks of food containers.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Can't ya see I got my hands full?

LIAM

Sorry. How can I--

MRS. GALLAGHER

I'd like to see the baby now.

LIAM

Fine. Sure, I'll get him.

(beat)

Make yeerself at...

Mrs. Gallagher makes her way into the kitchen.

Liam closes and locks the front door.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

The mobile plays. A crying Cillian fusses in his crib.

Liam gently collects his son and exits.

LIAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Mrs. Gallagher rearranges the fridge and sets the last food container on the packed shelf.

Liam enters with a now happy Cillian.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Oh! Isn't he a beautiful boy?! I hope we didn't wake him.

LIAM

He was crying something fierce already.

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

(beat)  
What's all this food for?

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Surely ya didn't expect yar wan to  
do the cooking this week?

(gasps)  
And I heard about Nessa. May God  
take her...no questions asked.

Mrs. Gallagher performs the sign of the cross.

LIAM  
I didn't think about--

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Indeed. Ya didn't do any thinking  
at all at all. 'Tisn't yar strong  
suit, is't.

(beat)  
Women gotta stick together. Ya men  
never seem to think.

LIAM  
I--

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Say, why haven't I seen yar truck  
gone lately?

LIAM  
I'm after retiring now.

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Oh, don't be a dosser. No such  
thing as retirement for a man with  
a baby. Get working soon. Will ya?  
(beat)  
Now let me hold the child a minute.

Mrs. Gallagher pulls Cillian from Liam. The infant screams.  
She clutches her necklace as she stares down at the baby.

LIAM  
Sorry. He's taken with me something  
fierce. Sometimes he can barely  
tolerate Siobhan holding him.

She hands Cillian back and studies Liam's eyes.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Last time I seen eyes that blue was on my man before he passed. Take care of yarself so.

LIAM

So it's serious, then?

MRS. GALLAGHER

I wouldn't know. Just telling it like I seen it. I better be going. Give Siobhan my congratulations.

She takes a few steps toward the exit and stops.

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)

Say, did ya get the notice in the mail from the government?

LIAM

I haven't had time to check. What'd I miss?

MRS. GALLAGHER

They're tellin' us our homes might be too dangerous to live in now.

LIAM

The fire's still a ways out.

MRS. GALLAGHER

On land. Underground it's coming in faster along the seams.

LIAM

Ye got yeerself some canaries?

MRS. GALLAGHER

I do.

(beat)

But can I count on ya holding out with me they come a knocking?

LIAM

Ye can. I'm not moving from my gaff. This here's the only thing I've ever called my own.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Except that there baby in yar arms and yar wan.

LIAM

O'course. Sure.

LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER

Liam shuffles to the front door with Mrs. Gallagher.

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Bye-bye for now.

LIAM  
Say, yeer man have an eye disease?

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Oh, dear. I wouldn't know at all.  
One day, his eyes turned that blue,  
and then the Sluaghs took him  
before we could sort it out.

LIAM  
Sluaghs.

MRS. GALLAGHER  
That's what I said.

LIAM  
All roight. Thanks. Bye now.

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Don't ya dare eat all that food  
yarself.

LIAM  
Course not.

Liam shuts and locks the door. He steps toward the kitchen.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - TOWN - EMPTY ROADS - NIGHT

The sky glows amber in the distant hills above the mine.

Smoke rises from the storm drains on the hot summer evening.

TWO OLD IRISHMEN exit a pub; each clutches a can of beer.

They laugh and sing "The Old Dun Cow."

TWO OLD IRISH MEN  
...brown upside down, he was  
moppin' up the whisky on the floor!  
(beat)  
"Booze, booze!" The fireman cried  
as they came knockin' at the door!  
(beat)  
(MORE)

## TWO OLD IRISH MEN (CONT'D)

Don't let them in till it's all  
mopped up, somebody shouted  
MacIntyre! MACINTYRE!

(beat)

And we all got blue-blind paralytic  
drunk when the Old Dun Cow caught  
fire. On fire!

They hold their beers up as they disappear down the road.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - TOWN - EMPTY ROADS - DAY (1964)

The sun rises. Snow blankets the ground.

Steam pours from gaping cracks in the road.

Black clouds enshroud the town.

TWO WOMEN enter a store.

SIGNS ON SCREEN:

"GARVIN IS NOT FOR SALE! Don't let the government buy yeer  
home for nothing!"

A bird lands on a tree, chirps, and then falls dead.

Flames rumble and glow from inside the tree.

EXT. LOCK HAVEN, PA - ROGERS HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julie peers into a window. Booker sits alone on the couch. He  
eats a microwave dinner in front of the TV.

Julie wipes tears from her cheeks.

SLUAGH (O.S.)

Why haven't ye finished the task?

JAMES

Will it hurt the baby?

SLUAGH (O.S.)

The longer ye wait, the harder  
it'll be.

The Sluagh stomps away. Julie cries at the window.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The canary cage rests on a mantle.

TWO of the FOUR canaries twitch on the bottom of the cage.

Liam carries Cillian (1) to the couch.

He sits next to Siobhan. Across from them sits GOVERNMENT AGENT (40s) and a CDC AGENT (50s).

Mrs. Gallagher is perched on a plush chair in the center.

On the coffee table rests a plate of cookies and paperwork.

LIAM

Where else do ye suggest I raise my family?

The agents each grab a cookie from the plate.

CDC AGENT

(to Mrs. Gallagher)

These are delicious.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Don't ya dare take it as a kindness.

(beat)

My mum'd drag me straight down to hell herself if I didn't do it for visitors.

The agents shift awkwardly in their seats.

Liam reaches for a cookie.

Mrs. Gallagher slaps his hand away. He recoils.

SIOBHAN

Sometimes life doesn't go as planned, and you have to adapt.

Siobhan reaches over and caresses her son's head.

MRS. GALLAGHER

I do be with yar man on this one.

(to the agents)

Who yas think ya're taking good people's homes away? Do ya think we came down with the last shower?

CDC AGENT

Ma'am. We're offering to buy--

Liam plucks a check from the coffee table and studies it.

LIAM

My home appraised for \$35,000 not  
two years ago. This shite's an  
insult, it is.

Liam rips the check and passes Cillian to Siobhan.

The agents' stomachs GRUMBLE.

The light above their heads sways. The baby fusses.

GOVERNMENT AGENT

Sir, with all due respect...none of  
the properties in Garvin are worth  
anything anymore. We had to fight  
to get that \$17,000 for you.

CDC AGENT

The roads are crumbling--

LIAM

Whose fault is that now?

MRS. GALLAGHER

Them! That's who!

GOVERNMENT AGENT

We've been advocating on your  
behalf so that we can help--

LIAM

Really now? Is that why ye're after  
drilling up my yard?

MRS. GALLAGHER

I have so many holes in my yard.  
Tiptoeing is the only thing keeping  
me from falling. When ya boys gonna  
fill them holes?

The agents' stomachs GRUMBLE louder. They sweat.

GOVERNMENT AGENT

We're trying to determine if the  
land is safe for you to--

LIAM

The fire should be out by now.

CDC AGENT

Sir, we've spent millions trying.

LIAM

My dad was a sir. Call me Liam ye  
wanna show us a glimpse yeer  
humanity.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Ay! But they don't bother, do they?

SIOBHAN

Don't you want to take some time to  
think about it?

GOVERNMENT AGENT

Don't take too long. Once the land  
starts caving around the  
neighborhood, we'll be forced to  
condemn all the houses, and you  
won't get anything for it.

Liam shoots up from his seat, towering over the men.

LIAM

Don't ye dare sit on my couch after  
threatening me!

SIOBHAN

They're not threatening anyone.

LIAM

Whose side are ye after?!

The Government Agent and the CDC Agent stumble to their feet.

CDC AGENT

Sir...Liam...aside from the  
sinkholes, there are toxic levels  
of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide,  
and a host of others--

The agents' stomachs GRUMBLE. Cillian grows hysterical.

LIAM

Siobhan, control yeer son!  
(to the agents)  
Get out, the two of ye now.

Siobhan attempts to calm Cillian, and he bites her.

SIOBHAN

Ouch!

Siobhan recoils as her son offers her a sinister smile. The  
light above their heads sways more violently. No one notices.

The agents each rub their stomachs.

CDC AGENT

If you stay here, you can't run your car in the garage, you can't burn charcoal in the house, and you can't use a gas stove or heater.

MRS. GALLAGHER

But we can show yas the door!

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Siobhan bounces Cillian as she shows everyone out.

GOVERNMENT AGENT

Could I use your restroom?

MRS. GALLAGHER

Why don't ya try one of them holes in the yard?

The agents run to their car and take off.

SIOBHAN

What is in those cookies?

MRS. GALLAGHER

Don't ya worry, They'll be fine after a few trips to the toilet.

SIOBHAN

Mrs. Gallagher.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Well, I'd best go now. Oh. Before I forget, I need to give ya something...

Mrs. Gallagher pulls out a Celtic Shield Knot cross and places it in Siobhan's palm. Siobhan winces as Mrs. Gallagher holds Siobhan's hand between hers...

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)

Take it. I gets awful anxious about yas, especially with the baby now.

Mrs. Gallagher winces as she glances down at Cillian.

SIOBHAN

Thank you.

Mrs. Gallagher charges off. Siobhan tosses the necklace.

She looks at her son and inhales. A black mist seeps out of his body but quickly snaps back in. He cries. She does too.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Liam throws the government paperwork into the trash.

LIAM

I'd die before I gave them my gaff...much less steal it.

SIOBHAN

Everyone else is leaving.

LIAM

I know at least fifteen others who'd rather die than go.

SIOBHAN

We have an electric stove, but how are we supposed to heat the house?

LIAM

We have wood for the fireplace. And I'll cut more...

SIOBHAN

Every day? It's cold.

LIAM

Yeer feet could use some socks then. Couldn't they?

The phone RINGS and Liam picks it up.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Hello?

(beat)

For Jaysus sake, James. How could ye even consider it?

(beat)

Don't do anything yet. Come for dinner the night. Yeah?

(beat)

Ay. See ye then.

SIOBHAN

Is he taking the deal?

Liam storms off. Cillian cries and reaches for him.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

Wait! I need you to watch Cillian while I go to the grocery store.

LIAM

I've chopping to do.

SIOBHAN

You invited James over for dinner, and we have nothing to serve him.

LIAM

Order pizza delivery.

Siobhan throws on her coat and grabs her purse.

SIOBHAN

We haven't seen him in ages.

LIAM

Roight, but--

SIOBHAN

I'll be right back. And please keep Cillian inside. I don't want him to fall into a sinkhole out there.

Siobhan rushes out the door.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S TRUCK - DAY

Siobhan pulls up, pauses, and stares out the windshield.

She deflates and throws the truck into reverse.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - GROCERY STORE - DAY

The grocery store's windows are boarded up, and the doors are chained shut. A large sign hangs across the front.

ON SCREEN:

"Relocated to Lock Haven."

INT. LOCK HAVEN, PA - GROCERY STORE - DAY

Siobhan lowers her head as she shops. Booker pushes his cart down the aisle and sees Siobhan. He abandons his cart.

BOOKER

Baby!?

Siobhan turns toward the exit. He runs up and embraces her.

SIOBHAN

I...I don't know who you are.

BOOKER

Julie, baby, it's me! It's Booker!  
Your husband...I'm--

Siobhan pulls away.

SIOBHAN

Sir, please let me go!

Booker unhands her and steps back.

BOOKER

Sorry. My...mistake. I...

(beat)

You're right. My wife had brown  
eyes...I just...my mistake.

Booker storms outside. Siobhan wipes away tears as she watches him through the glass storefront.

Booker paces, stops, and barges back to Siobhan.

BOOKER (CONT'D)

Julie, look at me!

(beat)

What's going on?! Why don't--

A MAN marches up to Booker and grabs his arm.

MAN

Ma'am. Is he bothering you?

BOOKER

This is a family matter, sir.

SIOBHAN

I think he's...just mistaken.

BOOKER

What happened to you, sweetie!? Why  
don't you recognize me!?

The Man stands between Booker and Siobhan.

MAN

Ma'am. I'm sorry.

(to other men)

Guys! Help me get him out of here!

THREE MEN forcefully pull Booker out...

BOOKER

Get your hands off of me! Julie!

Siobhan closes her eyes as she composes herself.

INT. LOCK HAVEN, PA - PARKING LOT - LIAM'S TRUCK - DAY

Siobhan bursts into tears. Sinister laughing drowns her out.

Glowing eyes appear in the rearview mirror. The Sluagh sits in the truck bed and talks to her through the back window.

SLUAGH (O.S.)

'Tis fine ye don't want it back.

Siobhan's eyes narrow, and she growls...

SIOBHAN

You'll get it soon.

SLUAGH (V.O.)

I will...with or without ye.

The truck shakes violently as the Sluagh jumps up into the trees above. Julie starts the truck and speeds off.

INT. LOCK HAVEN, PA - PARKING LOT - BOOKER'S SEDAN - DAY

Booker sits up as he spots Siobhan drive past him.

He starts his car and follows her.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

A fire roars in the fireplace. Only two logs remain.

Liam glances down at Cillian...

LIAM

We'll need a few more logs, boy.

Liam picks up Cillian, slides the back door open, and exits.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DUSK

Liam ambles up to a stump and places Cillian on the ground.

He picks up an axe and chops.

A sea of glowing eyes stare down at them.

Sluaghs slowly edge down the trees toward them.

A mouse scurries past Cillian and runs past the bushes. A Sluagh reaches out from the bush, snatches it up and eats it.

Cillian crawls toward the bush.

Liam cradles the wood in one arm and retrieves his son moments before the infant reaches the bush.

Several logs spill from his arms. He sets Cillian back down.

LIAM

I'll be right back, boy.

He shuffles toward the house.

A HOARD of Sluaghs rains down from the trees.

Liam drops the wood, grabs Cillian, and runs.

LIAM'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH

Liam trips over a hose and nearly falls. Cillian SCREAMS.

A Sluagh leaps as it swipes at Liam's heels. A near miss.

Liam lunges into the house and SLAMS the door shut.

The Sluagh hoard skulks up to all of the windows. They watch.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liam rests a hysterical Cillian on the couch.

He rushes to a closet and pulls out a large shotgun.

A long gray finger reaches out to a window. TAP! TAP! TAP!

Liam stops. The shotgun rattles in his trembling embrace.

SLUAGH

(in a Nessa's voice)

Don't ye wanna nap with yeer dear  
folks this night?

LIAM

Nessa?

The Sluagh hoard LAUGHS.

Liam rips the thin curtains shut.

He picks up the phone and dials.

LIAM (CONT'D)

James, will ye pick up yeer fecking phone?!

Liam slams the phone down, picks it up and dials again.

MRS. GALLAGHER (V.O.)

Hello?

LIAM

Mrs. Gallagher, it's Liam.

MRS. GALLAGHER (V.O.)

Oh! Howaya, Liam! What's the matter? Them government boys back at

LIAM

They aren't.

MRS. GALLAGHER (V.O.)

Good then.

LIAM

Listen. Ye seen any...em...

MRS. GALLAGHER (V.O.)

Any...what, Liam?

Liam stares at his windows and takes a deep breath.

LIAM

...Fancy ye have some milk ye could bring for Cillian? Siobhan's just gone to the store for some now.

MRS. GALLAGHER (V.O.)

Is Cillian okay so?

LIAM

He is. He's getting roight fussy, and I'd prefer to give it to him now. We'll replace it when she gets home. Ye have my word.

Silence, and then...a SIGH.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Sure. Fine. I'll be right over.

Liam cradles Cillian and paces. A KNOCK. Cillian CRIES.

LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER

Liam opens the door as he bounces Cillian on his hip.

Mrs. Gallagher thrusts a cup of milk at Liam with a smile.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Ay. There, there. Mrs. Gallagher's here with some milk for ya.

LIAM

Would ye come in?

MRS. GALLAGHER

Oh. Sorry. I'm after baking now. I can't leave my goodies, or I'd be starting a whole new fire.

The Sluagh hoard slowly approaches.

LIAM

Question.

(looks at the Sluaghs)

Do ye see that now?

With a trembling hand, Liam points at the Sluaghs.

Mrs. Gallagher clutches her cross necklace but doesn't look.

MRS. GALLAGHER

See what?

LIAM

...Nothing, I suppose. Thank ye for the milk. We'll get some back soon.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Okay. No rush. So bye for now.

Liam shuts the door and locks it.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

He turns off the lights, grabs the shotgun, and sits.

Cillian SCREAMS. Liam grips his palm around his son's mouth.

LIAM

Shhhhhhh. Be a good boy.

WHISPERING and COOING emerge from the baby monitor.

A bright light shines into the windows. A truck engine ROARS.

LIAM'S HOUSE - FOYER

Liam rips the door open and pulls Siobhan inside.

He SLAMS the door shut and locks it. Cillian WAILS.

LIAM  
Get in here.

SIOBHAN  
What are you doing?!

LIAM  
Shhhh!

SIOBHAN  
Why are all the lights out? You  
know Cillian's afraid of the dark.

Siobhan drops the grocery bags and rips Cillian away from  
Liam. She flips on a light.

Liam lunges at the switch, but Siobhan blocks him.

LIAM  
There's something out there!

SIOBHAN  
Keep them on.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Siobhan smiles at Cillian and turns on the remaining lights.

SIOBHAN  
You're okay. Mommy has you.

LIAM  
There was something out there.

Siobhan rips open the curtains and looks out the window.

Liam looks for himself. The Sluaghs are all gone.

SIOBHAN  
What was it?

LIAM  
I don't know. It spoke--

SIOBHAN  
Liam, I need to get dinner started.

LIAM

They were gray creatures...with sharp claws and teeth.

Siobhan passes Cillian to Liam.

SIOBHAN

You're starting to sound like Mrs. Gallagher.

LIAM

I'm telling ye the truth now.

SIOBHAN

Are you sure it wasn't the trees?

LIAM

I know a tree from a creature!

(beat)

They've gone now, but there was a bunch--

SIOBHAN

Of creatures.

LIAM

There was!

SIOBHAN

Your brother's going to be here soon.

(beat)

Why don't you two take a nap?

INT. GARVIN, PA - BOOKER'S SEDAN - NIGHT

Booker sits in his parked car across the street from Liam's house. He watches them for a few seconds and speeds off.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Liam places Cillian into his crib, picks up a mirrored toy, and clips it onto the corner post.

He cranks the crib mobile. Music plays, and he exits.

Cillian looks at his bear, then at the mirror.

Liam's face and dark eyes reflect back at the infant.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Shadows lurk on the ceiling as Liam strolls to his bedroom.  
A large shadow "darts" back and forth in Cillian's room.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

A radio blares as Siobhan prepares dinner.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM

Liam sleeps in a dark room.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - CILLIAN'S ROOM

Cillian grunts and fusses as his eyes dart between his chubby baby arm and his "Liam" reflection in the mirror.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM

The light turns on. Liam snores.  
Cillian waddles up to the bed and glares at Liam.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

STATIC erupts from the baby monitor on the side table.  
The static turns to WHISPERING, COOING, and GROWLING.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Music BLARES as Siobhan transfers food onto plates that reflect on a shut window. Still no reflection from her.  
She reaches for a fork. A burn mark in the shape of Mrs. Gallagher's Celtic Shield Knot cross graces her palm.

## LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM

A floorboard CREEKS as Cillian reaches for Liam.  
Liam wakes and jumps when he sees Cillian.

LIAM

Jaysus. Ye scared yeer auld man.  
What're ye doing out of yeer crib?

SIOBHAN (O.S.)

Liam! Your brother's here!

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Siobhan holds Cillian on her lap as she, Liam, and James eat.

SIOBHAN

(to James)

Why haven't you been around?

LIAM

Siobhan, ye're prying.

JAMES

'Tis fine. Been working brutal  
hours at the Ashland mine.

Liam reaches for Cillian, but he fusses and pulls away.

LIAM

Ye don't want yeer auld man?

Cillian turns away. Siobhan masks a smile. Liam eats.

SIOBHAN

You turned the lights off on him.

(beat)

So are you going to move?

LIAM

Stop that? He isn't moving.

JAMES

I'd be thinking about it.

LIAM

'Tisn't much but this place and  
each other's all we got.

James glares at the fireplace in the living room.

JAMES

It's baltic in here.

SIOBHAN

We're low on wood. Liam was getting  
some, but he said something  
attacked him.

Liam clears his throat as he slices through his steak.

JAMES  
What was it?

LIAM  
Must have been a wild dog.

SIOBHAN  
That's not what you said earlier.

James stands and steps into the living room.

JAMES (O.S.)  
I'll get my coat.

Liam GRUMBLES under his breath as he joins James.

Cillian smiles up at Siobhan. She smiles back and glances at the men in the living room.

She inhales, and the black mist seeps from Cillian's mouth.

He SCREAMS. She stops. Tears roll down her face.

SIOBHAN  
It's okay. Mommy would never hurt you.

She kisses his forehead as her chin quivers.

LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

James slides open the door.

LIAM  
'Tisn't an animal I've ever seen in my life.

JAMES  
Stay here, then.

James steps out into...

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

James finds a flashlight on a table and turns it on.

Liam peeks his head out and scans the area.

The flashlight beams into the black beyond the porch.

JAMES  
Point out the stack.

LIAM  
Come in, will ye? I have some old  
chairs that need burning.

JAMES  
Ye're a dad now.

LIAM  
I'm not talking about the dark.

JAMES  
I'll find it myself.

James forges on into the yard.

LIAM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

Liam takes a deep breath and dashes out after James.

LIAM  
(points)  
It's just here.

They stack their arms with wood. The trees SHAKE.

Liam whips his head up. A cool breeze shakes the treetops.

LIAM (CONT'D)  
Hurry.

James follows Liam's gaze up to the treetops.

JAMES  
Wild dogs attacking from the trees  
now?

LIAM  
Ye're a gas.

JAMES  
Nothing's there.

Liam spots glowing eyes at the treetops; he drops the wood.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Why'd ye go and do that?

LIAM  
Run.

JAMES

Don't ye dare leave me with--

Liam runs. Siobhan holds Cillian on the porch. She paces.

LIAM'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH

Liam runs inside.

LIAM (O.S.)

Get in the house.

SIOBHAN

Where's the wood?

James approaches with his arms full of wood.

JAMES

Why'd ye go and drop all the wood?  
There's nothing out here, boy.

(beat)

Ye didn't wanna walk in the dark ye  
shouldn't've come.

James enters on Siobhan's heels.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James stacks the wood by the fireplace and adds some logs to the fire. Liam stands by a window and stares into the yard.

JAMES

That should last ye the night.

(whispers)

I'm leaving for good.

SIOBHAN

(whispers)

You should say goodbye.

James nods and shuffles over to him.

JAMES

Are ye all roight?

Liam doesn't answer.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Will ye go for a jar?

LIAM

Wouldn't mind a gargle.



LIAM (CONT'D)  
Ye all roight?

JAMES  
Ready for a drink, that's all.

INT. GARVIN, PA - MCGUIRE'S PUB - NIGHT

Siobhan cradles Cillian and trails behind James and Liam.

They forge past FIVE drinking PATRONS and step up to the bar.

DUFF  
There we are, the proud few.  
(beat)  
What're we gettin' this night?

JAMES  
I'll go for some of the hard stuff.

BRENDAN (39) hovers over a table with a notepad and pen.

LIAM  
Howaya Brendan? Get that poem  
wrote?

BRENDAN  
Ay. I'm a drinker with writin'  
problems...what d'ya expect?

DUFF  
(to Siobhan and Liam)  
What're ya havin'?!  
Ella Roisey 702-448-8804 - linkedin.com/in/ella-roisey-scott

SIOBHAN  
Could I please get a pint of stout?

DUFF  
Ya let me off easy this time. I'd  
go semen collectin' naked in a  
bullpen for a colleen such as  
yarself.

Siobhan lowers her head and removes Cillian's jacket.

JAMES  
(to Duff)  
Ye've always had a way with the  
ladies.

LIAM  
I'll take a pint of the black  
stuff.

(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

But I'd pay for a cuppa yeer Brown  
Bull's finest spaff if ye're  
gumming for a glass yeerself.

DUFF

Do ya want yar go?!

LIAM

Any time, my man. Any time.

Officer Daniel enters, shirt barely tucked. He's worn out.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Well, I never met a situation a cop  
couldn't make worse.

OFFICER DANIEL

Yeah, yeah, yeah. How's the boys?  
(a nod to Siobhan)  
And the lady, of course.

JAMES

You've been missed.

OFFICER DANIEL

I've moved a few towns over.  
They've asked me to pick up some  
loose ends at the station here.

LIAM

I gotta hit the jacks.

James turns to Siobhan as he steps away from the bar.

JAMES

Be right back.

James sits next to Officer Daniel at a small table.

OFFICER DANIEL

Heard about Nessa. Sorry.

JAMES

Appreciate it.

OFFICER DANIEL

Are you heading out yet?

JAMES

The marra.

James glances at the bathroom and leans into Officer Daniel.

OFFICER DANIEL  
Help you with something?

JAMES  
Irene Byrne.

OFFICER DANIEL  
What about her?

James pulls out the necklace and gives it to Officer Daniel.

JAMES  
I found this in Liam's house.

Officer Daniel opens the locket and looks at the photo.

OFFICER DANIEL  
What about it?

JAMES  
Did ye ever find her body?

OFFICER DANIEL  
You know yourself she didn't make  
it out. The fire got her. Case  
closed.

JAMES  
Why would my brother have her  
necklace now?

Officer Daniel glances at Siobhan and Cillian.

OFFICER DANIEL  
Plenty of people need saving if you  
want to be a hero, too.

Officer Daniel slides the necklace back over to James.

OFFICER DANIEL (CONT'D)  
Breathing all these toxic gases.  
Tomorrow might be too late.

With a nod, James stands and places the necklace back in his pocket. He plops down next to Siobhan.

SIOBHAN  
Trust your gut.

She pats him on the shoulder and passes him a beer.

Liam joins them. James lights a cigarette with the old gold Murphy's lighter he found in his room with the boxers.

LIAM  
Where'd ye find that?

Liam reaches for the lighter. James pulls it away.

JAMES  
This here lighter?

LIAM  
'Tis mine.

JAMES  
Is't now?

LIAM  
Ye know it is. Give it over.

JAMES  
I didn't know that.  
(beat)  
...or maybe I hoped it wasn't.

James flips the top of the old gold Murphy's lighter back and forth a few times. He stands and removes his jacket.

He takes a drag from his cigarette and gazes at his brother.

LIAM  
Ye gonna give it over or not?

James kisses Siobhan and Cillian on their heads.

JAMES  
Ye coming when I'm done?

SIOBHAN  
You go. Be safe.

JAMES  
Call the mine ye need anything.  
(beat)  
I'll need to borrow Liam now.

Siobhan stands and carries Cillian away from the men.

LIAM  
Are ye gonna give me the lighter?

JAMES  
(to Officer Daniel)  
Ye're off duty?

OFFICER DANIEL  
Keep it fair.

James lands a solid blow to Liam's temple. Liam staggers. Brendan stands and walks to the door.

BRENDAN

I'd be off.

LIAM

What the hell was that for?!

James swings again, but Liam ducks at the last second. Liam grabs James from behind and tosses him onto the ground.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Ye gonna tell me why the fuck we're brawling?!

James sweeps Liam off his feet with a kick, gets down on his knees and pounds on him.

Liam lands a knee in James' groin.

The men rolls on their backs and lie on the floor.

DUFF

Tell me when youse ladies'd like another round of drinks.

James mounts Liam and renders one last blow to his ribs.

He slaps the lighter and Irene's necklace on Liam's chest.

Liam palms the lighter and stares at the necklace.

JAMES

Now I know why yeer lighter was in my bed...but why'd I find Irene's necklace in yeer bathroom?

Liam wipes the blood from his eyes with his T-shirt.

LIAM

I was over yeer house, fixing the fence--

James lands another punch to Liam's ribs.

JAMES

Didn't ye hear me?! I know why yeer lighter was in my bed! God rest Nessa's soul. I've handled my pain...

(beat)

Why was Irene's necklace in yeer house?! Don't ye dare lie, boy!

LIAM

She dropped it herself at the bar.  
Was planning to give it back, but  
ye said leave her be. So I did just  
that.

JAMES

There we go again. 'Tisn't even a  
good story at all at all.

James stands, grabs his jacket, and exits.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liam flips his old gold Murphy's lighter top back and forth.  
He lights a cigarette and GRUMBLES.

Siobhan lies with her back to Liam. She smirks.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

Blocks of abandoned, snow-covered homes. Kids' toys sit on  
frozen lawns. Steam rises from gaping cracks in the streets.

A front door swings open. A disheveled MOTHER (25) cradles a  
BABY as her SON (9) drags a bag to the car.

The Mother SLAMS the door shut and takes off.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Liam stands on his front lawn with a shotgun.

The Government Agent and CDC Agent pull into the driveway.

GOVERNMENT AGENT

We're glad you changed your mind.  
They weren't going to let us pay  
you but--

LIAM

I didn't change my mind.

CDC AGENT

But your wife called us.

LIAM

I don't have a wife.

Liam cocks his gun. The agents back out and take off.

Mrs. Gallagher CACKLES from her front porch.

MRS. GALLAGHER  
Couldn't've said it better myself.

Liam grunts as he stalks back into the house.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Siobhan sets out refreshments on the coffee table.

Liam enters, sits, and helps himself.

LIAM  
What's all this?

SIOBHAN  
Those guys from the government  
called and asked to stop by.

LIAM  
They've come and gone.

SIOBHAN  
What did you do?  
(beat)  
Everyone's left town, Liam.

LIAM  
Mrs. Gallagher's still here.

SIOBHAN  
Just because she's stubborn, too,  
doesn't mean she's right.  
(beat)  
We'll take her with us. I'll pack  
her myself if I have to.

LIAM  
That won't do at all at all.

Siobhan joins Liam on the couch, defeated.

Cillian waddles up to Siobhan, and she picks him up.

SIOBHAN  
Don't you want to raise Cillian  
near his uncle?

LIAM  
He doesn't have an uncle.

SIOBHAN

He was angry and hurt...and he didn't mean it.

Liam looks away and says nothing.

SIOBHAN (CONT'D)

Cillian will need preschool before we know it. I'd love to get a job teaching, and I know Ashland needs another blacksmith.

LIAM

I'm retired.

SIOBHAN

I'd like to work.

LIAM

Why didn't ye believe me when I told ye something was out there in that yard?

SIOBHAN

Nothing was out there.

LIAM

Ye wanna go, then go.

Liam leans back and pulls Cillian to his lap. He fusses.

LIAM (CONT'D)

He used to only want me. Think he loves you more now.

SIOBHAN

What do you want?

Liam glances at the shotgun across the room.

LIAM

Another beer.

Siobhan stands and plucks the canary cage from the mantle. She sets it on the coffee table. Three of the canaries lie dead on the bottom. One stands on its perch.

SIOBHAN

Coming right up.

Cillian fusses and reaches for her. Liam pulls him back.

LIAM

Bring it out back. Wood's low.





LIAM (CONT'D)

My brother loved her no matter  
what...and she loved him.

(beat)

Tried taking it because he didn't  
deserve it after what he did.

SIOBHAN

What do you want?

LIAM

Not this.

Liam drops Cillian into the hole. Siobhan screams and leaps.  
It's too late. Big fat tears roll down her cheeks.

Liam aims his shotgun at Siobhan's head.

Booker charges up to Liam.

BOOKER

Stop!

Booker tackles Liam. The gun falls into the sinkhole.

The men fight until...

Siobhan leaps into the hole. The men freeze, astonished.

She emerges, gently cradling her child's lifeless body. She  
tenderly peers down at him.

Tears fall from her eyes as her son's soul pours from his  
body. He turns to dust in her arms.

BOOKER (CONT'D)

Baby?

SIOBHAN

Go wait in the car.

BOOKER

Yes, ma'am.

Booker stumbles back and runs away.

INT. GARVIN, PA - MRS. GALLAGHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mrs. Gallagher sits by a back window and clutches a cup of  
tea as she watches the situation unfold in Liam's backyard.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Oh, make him pay, Siobhan. That's a  
good girl, now.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Liam stands face-to-face with Siobhan, who leans in and exhales Liam's soul.

The mist shoots into Liam's mouth. His eyes turn dark brown.

LIAM

I saved ye from the mine an--

Liam steps back and falls onto his back. He looks up...

The Sluagh hoard hovers. Their glowing eyes bear down on him.

The largest Sluagh steps up to Siobhan.

SLUAGH

Sure ye want it back? 'Tisn't as sweet as it was.

SIOBHAN

Don't you ever come looking for me again.

SLUAGH

A deal's a deal.

The Sluagh exhales black mist into her mouth.

Siobhan's eyes turn brown.

She swipes Cillian's blanket off the ground and storms off.

LIAM

Siobhan! Ye can't leave me here!

Siobhan flips Liam off without looking back.

The Sluagh bends down, hovers its mouth over Liam's, and sucks the soul from his body. His eyes turn blue.

SLUAGH

'Tis rotten and sparse ye filthy bastard.

LIAM

What're ye after?

SLUAGH

Come here till I tell ye...I've a proposition for ye.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - STREET - DAY

Siobhan runs up to Booker, who waits by his sedan.

They embrace. Siobhan is JULIE again.

JULIE

Let's get out of here.

They jump in the car, take off and disappear down the road.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

The Sluaghs slink up the trees.

Liam stands, dusts himself off, and strides to the house.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Liam steps up to the mirror. With no reflection, he straightens his shirt collar and jacket.

LIAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Liam opens the fridge and guzzles a beer.

He pauses, looks in the fridge, and reaches back in...

EXT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Liam tosses a bag into the bed of his truck.

He pauses and turns to Mrs. Gallagher's house.

EXT. GARVIN, PA - MRS. GALLAGHER'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Mrs. Gallagher knits on her rocking chair.

Liam glides up her steps.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Well, hello there, Liam. Howaya?

Liam steps all the way up to Mrs. Gallagher's feet and silently hovers for a few seconds. He flashes a smile.

LIAM

No spring chicken, I'll tell ye that much.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Well, 'tis hard to dance with the devil on yar back. Isn't it?

LIAM

Isn't that so.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Tell ya one thing...ya're a good deal younger than me. I'm over eighty, but I'm living my last days best I can.

LIAM

Ye're doing great, anyone asks me.  
(beat)  
But alas, I must give ye my sincerest apologies.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Whatever it is, 'tis fine.

LIAM

Not at all at all. I've done ye wrong...I do be making it roight, though.

Seconds pass. Liam pulls a cup of milk from behind his back and offers it to her. She takes it.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Yeer cuppa milk I borrowed.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Oh, ya're a real man o'yar word, ya're.

(beat)

Many thanks.

LIAM

I'm off now.

Liam waves goodbye, turns, and walks away.

MRS. GALLAGHER

Safe travels.

Liam's engine roars as he drives off. Mrs. Gallagher sighs.

MRS. GALLAGHER (CONT'D)

May the devil's own children have the devil's own luck.

Mrs. Gallagher tosses the entire glass of milk into the bushes. She stands, does the sign of the cross, and steps back into the house. She locks the door behind her.

INT. GARVIN, PA - LIAM'S TRUCK - DAY

Liam drives down the road, a man on the prowl. The whole town is empty. He passes the Garvin Borough Limits sign.

Steam billows from the orange-glowing hills behind him.

THE END

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