

ABANDON

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Title: Portland, ME - 5 years ago

INT. HOME OF KIPPLING FAMILY

No sounds. A family, mother, father, two kids, and a priest all kneeling in a living room. They all have a rosary, all are coated in sweat and their eyes closed. We see some kind of dark shadow on the wall. The father then gets up, walks into the kitchen and returns with a butcher knife.

INT. HOME OF KIPPLING FAMILY - PORTLAND, ME, LATER

The same living room kids and mother all dead on the floor, the father is on the floor with his throat slashed, knife in his hand. We see a priest in the corner holding his rosary, blood on his face and hands, calling 911.

FATHER SIMON

It's 217 Commonwealth Circle.
Please hurry, I couldn't save them,
I couldn't save them.

911 OPERATOR

Please just stay on the line sir,
help is on the way.

EXT. - Home of the McCready Family - LATE EVENING

Title: 1 week ago, Savannah, GA.

The only sound is the WIND in the Spanish moss infested trees. Six year old Vivian McCready, a curly haired blond girl, playing with her dolls. Her mother, Agnes McCready is off screen.

AGNES (O.S.)

Vivian! You have a few more
minutes, then you come help me with
dinner, okay, angel?

VIVIAN

Yes, Mommy. I have to finish
drying my doll's hair. She's been
at the salon all day!

Vivian is playing with her dolls and then stops. We only see the back of her head and it looks as though she is having a conversation. Agnes notices and walks outside for a closer look.

AGNES
Who are you talking to, baby?

VIVIAN
The man.

AGNES
What man?

The screen door SLAMS.

VIVIAN
The man. He had a black coat.

AGNES
Vivian, I didn't see anyone. Why
don't you come help me finish?
It's almost ready.

VIVIAN
Okay, mommy. I told him not to
come back unless he uses kind
words, like you tell me.

FADE TO:

INT. MCCREADY DINNER TABLE - EVENING

The family is around the table eating. It is all inaudible, but we see the father, Parker, handsome but haggard, the 22 year old son, Ben is tidy and fresh looking and Lucy the 18 year old sister, long blond curly hair and dark eyes. They are laughing and talking.

INT. VIVIAN'S ROOM, LATER THAT NIGHT

Lucy walking down the hall to Vivian's room with a book in hand to read to her. She hears Vivian having a conversation. When she enters the room, we barely see the end of black coat/cloak fade into the wall. She blinks, checking what she just saw.

LUCY
Vivy, who were you talking to?

VIVIAN
You won't believe me, I know Mommy
doesn't.

LUCY
I promise I will believe you.

VIVIAN
Pinky-swear sister promise? Cross
your heart.

Lucy crosses her heart, KISSES her index finger then locks
pinkies with Vivian.

LUCY
There, best sister promise. Who
were you talking to?

VIVIAN
He's my friend. The man in the
black coat. It's long and it looks
old and it's stinky. But he is nice
to me, usually. I can only tell
you because he's gone. I'm not
suppose to tell.

LUCY
Tell what?

VIVIAN
That he comes. He says we are
secret friends.

Lucy looks a little worried. She walks over to the bed and
sits next to Vivian. She starts braiding her hair. Vivian is
focused on playing with her Barbie doll and she is braiding
her hair.

LUCY
What else does he say?

VIVIAN
Stuff. Just stuff.

Vivian pauses. Not sure if she should keep talking. Lucy
gives her a reassuring look.

LUCY
It's okay, what stuff? Like he
wants to play?

VIVIAN
Sometimes. He says I can fly away
with him. He said I could bring my
dollies.

LUCY
Hmmm. What does he look like?

VIVIAN

He's tall and his face is kind of grey. But he has a mouth but it never moves and his eyes look like Daddy's on Sunday mornings.

LUCY

How does he talk to you without moving his mouth?

VIVIAN

I don't know. When he is here, I just know what he is saying. Sometimes, even when he is not here, I can hear him.

Lucy stops braiding her hair and turns so she can look at Vivian.

LUCY

Why don't we talk about the Man more later, okay? I brought your favorite book!

She presents a worn copy of the book.

VIVIAN

Alice in Wonderland!?

LUCY

Yes! Let's see what adventures Alice finds tonight!

INT. LUCY'S ROOM, LATER

Lucy is on her laptop searching Vivian's description of the Man. She searches for a while before she finds anything. She sees several pictures of a tall man in a black coat, but he has a huge grin. She finds a page about Shadow People, and the Slenderman, and the Crooked man. Her next search she finds several articles about families who had reported seeing a similar "man". Some of the families or family members found dead. She discovers an article with a priest, Father Simon, and a photo.

LUCY (V.O.)

Local Portland Parish Priest, Father Simon Ouellet, had recent slashes on his face and reported of a demon, calling it the "Mean Man", who had eventually destroyed a local family. He was the only survivor. He was arrested on scene and questioned for three days.

Father Simon told local authorities he had been commissioned by the Kipling Family two weeks earlier to help rid them of a demon, their youngest son referred to as "The Mean Man." The priest reportedly also had seen the entity and described him as a figure in a long black cloak, with large bloodshot eyes and a permanent smile. Father Simon told Police Chief Sydney Hanley that he "couldn't best the demon." Accordingly, Police Chief Hanley ordered a psychological evaluation with Dr. Geraldine Amari of Boston. No further information regarding this case is available. The Portland Post has a scheduled interview with Dr. Amari. More details to follow this story in the coming weeks.

Lucy sits back and thinks for a minute. She writes down Father Simon Ouellet. Then, she Googles his name. It comes up quickly. She sees the Parish number. Pauses, but then grabs her cell phone and DIALS the number.

LUCY

Hello, my name is Lucy McCready. I live in Savannah, GA.

NUN (O.S.)

Yes, how can I help you, dear?

LUCY

I am looking for Father Simon Ouellet. Does he still work there at St. Michael's?

NUN (O.S.)

Yes, child. He's not available. But, I can't really give information.

LUCY

Of course, I understand. Can I leave my number and could he call me when he gets in?

NUN (O.S.)

Yes, child, I can do that. Bless you. Good Evening.

Lucy TOUCHES the screen on her phone to hang up. She decides to take a shower and grabs a towel from her closet and TURNS on the faucet in her en suite bathroom.

INT. RACER ENGINEERING - NEXT MORNING

Agnes is holding a cup of coffee and walking into a large engineering firm. It is modern and expensive.

Agnes stops at a desk with a young, attractive woman sitting and TYPING, she is Agnes's Senior Administrative Assistant, STELLA TARANTINO. Stella hands Agnes a cup of hot coffee and takes the older one from Agnes's hand, like clockwork.

STELLA

Good morning, Ms. McCready. How's everything, how's Vivy?

AGNES

She is good, having a little trouble sleeping though. Thank God for Lucy, she reads to her every night.

STELLA

She reminds me of and my sister. Anyway, Ms. McCready, I put the Hansen file on your desk. I'll let you settle and I'll be back to go over your day.

AGNES

Stella, it's been almost three years. You can call me Agnes. Please, try it.

STELLA

Okay, Agnes. I will try.

AGNES

Thank you dear. Give me about ten minutes, please

STELLA

Sure thing.

Stella stands and CLOSES the door behind her and walks to the break room to throw the old coffee away and to fill her cup. Several coworkers are CHATTING.

STELLA (CONT'D)

What's today's topic?

COWORKER #1

That latest Creepy Pasta. Have you read it? Supposedly it's some entity who haunts your family, turns them against each other and swallows their souls. Some guy documented a case in Tacoma. The priest who tried to help the family apparently ended up in a psych ward.

(MORE)

COWORKER #1 (CONT'D)

He gouged his eyes so he wouldn't ever have to see the demon again.

STELLA

That's real uplifting for a Tuesday, Got to run, due in Agnes's office in five.

COWORKER #2

Agnes now?

Stella winks at them and rushes off to Agnes's office. She KNOCKS.

AGNES (O.S.)

Come in Stella.

Stella sees that she is on the phone and sits in one of the white leather chairs in front of the large glass and silver accented desk. Agnes smiles at her and holds up five fingers to single five more minutes.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Yes, Lucy. I understand sweetie. You called the Parish? Okay, um, well I've got Stella in here and I have to start my day. We can talk tonight? I know sweetie, she will be okay. We can discuss over dinner. Is your dad up yet? Okay, well when he does please make him some coffee and get him to get back on that job search. Thank you honey, see you about 6:00.

Agnes HANGS up the phone and rolls her eyes at Stella.

STELLA

I'm so sorry to intrude. I can go and come back if..

AGNES

No, it's okay honey. Sorry you had to hear that.

STELLA

Oh it's fine, Ms. Agnes. Okay, Your 10:30 is pushed to 11. Mr. Hodgenson called and your lunch is at The Peninsula, not the St. Regis, 1:00. I already called Don and told gave him the itinerary changes. He will have the Lincoln out front at 12:35.

(MORE)

STELLA (CONT'D)

This afternoon, you have the weekly staff meeting at 3:00. Mr. Olszewski is out sick, so Mr. Telford will be his stand in.

She swipes her finger across the iPad in her hand to her second page of notes.

STELLA (CONT'D)

The board meeting will be at 4:00, and Duncan promised it would only be 30 minutes this time. And is there anything I can do for you? On the family front, I mean.

AGNES

Thank you Stella, and can you make sure those changes on the slides for the board meeting are done by 3:45, just so I have a second to look them over?

Agnes lets out a big SIGH. She takes her coffee and walks over to the window and gazes. She turns back to Stella.

AGNES (CONT'D)

You know, I have been in Finance for 20 years, and you know what I had to do to get here? Neglect my family, expect my older kids to raise Vivian. Parker only had to show up with his client portfolio and the Board offered him CEO. Funny, how things work isn't it?

Stella looks a bit uneasy. She tries to look busy scrolling through the calendar on the laptop.

AGNES (CONT'D)

It's Lucy, upset a little about Vivian. She mentioned someone or something was in her room with her. And she was talking to him or it. Lucy got scared and called a priest apparently. We are going to talk tonight. Stella, you can do something for me on that front.

STELLA

Sure, anything.

AGNES

Find my husband a job.

Agnes barely CHUCKLES. Stella looks in her in the eye and nods her head. She quietly SHUTS the door and sits down and gets to work.

INT. ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - LATE AFTERNOON

Father Simon is sitting in a pew. He is praying silently with his rosary intertwined in his hands. A nun approaches him with a paper in hand. He does not look up nor does he notice her.

NUN

Father, I have a message for you. This young woman called around 9:30 last night, I apologize I did not get it to you earlier.

He takes the paper and looks up at the Nun.

FATHER SIMON

Did she say what it was regarding? Lucy McCready? She's not in this parish.

NUN

Yes, I know father, she lives in Savannah and she did not say.

FATHER SIMON

Thank you, SISTER MARTHA. I will call her. Finish your morning chores, please.

Sister Martha nods and walks away. Father Simon stands, makes the sign of the cross as he looks up at the life size version of Jesus on the cross.

INT. MCCREADY'S KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

We can see through Agnes's POV that Vivian is on the screened porch playing with dolls. Lucy enters the kitchen.

AGNES

Hey sweetie, how was your day?

LUCY

Great! I'm up for the small promotion at work, Ben actually got to work on time, and Vivian landed her right split.

AGNES

And your father?

LUCY

Before I left, I woke him and left eight jobs with websites for him to send his resume. I haven't seen him yet, since I got home, 'bout an hour ago.

AGNES

Thank you honey. I know I ask a lot, no girl your age should be taking on so much.

LUCY

Well, just let me live here for free a while longer.

They both LAUGH. Lucy walks over to Agnes with a full glass of red wine and hands it to her.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Mom, that priest I called, about Vivian, he called back today.

AGNES

What did he say?

LUCY

He was a bit reluctant to talk about anything.

AGNES

You can't really blame him. Why can't you just talk to Father Jessup? I know we haven't been in a while, but.

LUCY

It's a specific case he dealt with five years ago in Portland. Vivian told about that "friend" who visits her.

AGNES

She mentioned that "friend" to me also. I think it is harmless. I wish we could've talked about this before you called this Priest.

We see Agnes is watching Vivian as she is speaking to Lucy.

AGNES (CONT'D)
I just don't want to...

We can hear raised VOICES. She sets the wooden spoon down and RUSHES to the screen porch. Lucy follows. As she OPENS the back door, she sees flash of black and the screen door SLAMS. We see Agnes with a look of disbelief and watered eyes. Vivian is STABBING her teddy bear with scissors. Agnes's shaking hand takes the scissors out of her hand.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Vivy, what are you doing baby? Who are you talking to?

Vivian glances at Lucy, as if for approval. Lucy nods her head.

VIVIAN
It was my special friend.

LUCY
Why were you stabbing Mr. Buttons?

VIVIAN
He told me that it would make Mr. Buttons feel better.

AGNES
Why would hurting him make him feel better?

VIVIAN
My friend said once he is dead, he won't hurt anymore. I didn't want to, but the Mean Man said it would be okay.

AGNES
The Mean Man?

VIVIAN
Yes, mommy. Then I told him I didn't want him to come see me anymore. I got mad.

LUCY
Is that what you were arguing about?

VIVIAN
Yes, he said he won't go, he is staying, he likes it here.

INT. Vivian's room - EVENING

Agnes is reading to Vivian. Agnes's back is to us. Vivian SCREAMS.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Mommy! Mommy!

AGNES
What is it sweetie?

VIVIAN
My closet, I saw him, I saw him!

Agnes turns and squints, the only light is from the lamp on the bedside. Vivian SCREAMS again. Lucy then appears at the door. Before she switches on the light, we see a faint black cloak and it disappears through the wall. Her eyes well up and she looks at Lucy with panic. She turns back to Vivian to comfort her.

AGNES
Baby, shh, shh. It's okay.

VIVIAN
I knew he wasn't away. He said he wants me to fly away with him, he said he would kill you.

The lights go out. Lucy rushes to the bed.

AGNES
Leave us alone!

She looks at Lucy and he grabs Vivian and holds her close, before they can exit the room, Vivian is ripped out of Agnes's arms and Agnes is thrown into the wall, up to the ceiling and slashed across the shirt. Agnes DROPS to the floor unconscious and bloody.

LUCY
DAD!! DAD!!

Lucy grabs her phone out of her pocket and DIALS 911.

LUCY (CONT'D)
DAD! DAD!

PARKER approaches the room, disheveled and not in a hurry.

PARKER
What the hell is going on Lucy?
What happened to your mother?

911 OPERATOR answers the phone. She ignores her dad and answers the operator.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
911, what is your emergency?

LUCY
It's my mom, she..

Parker grabs the phone, slurring his words and swaying a bit.

PARKER
Yes, I'm the father. I think Agnes had a stroke or something. No, she is not awake, hold on a second then, Lucy - check if your mother is breathing. Yes, she is. I don't know I was napping in th'other room, heard noise and such from my daughter's room.

Lucy grabs the phone back and glares at Parker.

LUCY
Yes ma'am, it's Lucy McCready. It's 16 E. Jones Street. Yes, she is bleeding from her stomach. No, like a cut.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Okay, yes, please stay on the line, I have dispatched an ambulance, they are only moments away.

EXT. MCCREADY HOME - EVENING

An ambulance out front and camera follows two EMTs into the home, up the stairs, and into Vivian's bedroom. They set the portable stretcher down and EXTEND the legs. Vivian and Lucy are on the bed. Parker is in the corner smoking a cigarette.

EMT #1
Sir, could you please extinguish that cigarette?

Parker turns and puts it out on the windowsill and sways over to the EMTs

PARKER
It must've been a seizure, she's had them before, ya know. Years back. Must be the stress.

(MORE)

PARKER (CONT'D)

God damn, her face looks pretty
bruised up.

LUCY

Dad, it's wasn't a seizure.

EMT #2

You were here, Miss? Can you tell
us what happened?

LUCY

I'm not quite sure. I heard Vivian
scream, so I ran in. Mom picked
her up and we tried to leave,
then...

Parker cuts in.

PARKER

Yeah, like I said, seizure.

EMT #1

Sir, please step back, we will take
her to St. Joseph's. One of you can
ride in the back.

LUCY

I have to stay with Vivian, Ben
isn't home yet.

PARKER

I have a, um, appointment. I'll
come by right after. Not much I can
do for her anyway. Just remember
what I said, seizures, she's had
'em.

Parker winks at the EMTs, CLICKS his tongue and points a
pretend gun at them and fires, then leaves the room.

LUCY

I'll try Ben and be by as soon as I
can.

EMT #2

Yes, Miss, someone will have to be
there to provide insurance
information, etc. As soon as you
can.

VIVIAN (WHISPERING)

Make the Mean man go away. Make
him go away!

INT. Kitchen - LATER

BEN MCCREADY is preparing dinner. Vivian is sitting at the dining room table with Parker, playing Go Fish. Ben's phone RINGS.

BEN

Hey Lucy. Yes, she's okay, dad's playing cards with her. How's mom? A couple days? Right, let us know.

Ben PRESSES the end button on his phone.

PARKER

What'd she say, son?

Parker is sober and drinking coffee, but still looks unkept with bloodshot eyes.

BEN

Mom has three broken ribs, twelve stitches across her abdomen, and a contusion above her left eye. She hasn't been conscience yet, but the Doctor expects her to come around soon. They'll probably keep her for a few days.

VIVIAN

Benny! Your dinner smells yummy! What is it tonight?

PARKER

Yeah, how'd that fancy chef education pay off tonight?

BEN

I made your favorite, Vivy monkey's brains with a side of cricket bread and chocolate ants for dessert!

Vivian makes pretend gagging SOUNDS and motions.

VIVIAN

I'm gonna puke!

BEN

Okay, Vivy. I really made your favorite, spaghetti with meatballs and homemade noodles.

VIVIAN

The big ones?

BEN
 Yep! Linguini.

VIVIAN
 Linguini! Yay!

Vivian starts to sing.

VIVIAN (SINGING) (CONT'D)
*I know a man, named Mr. Linguini,
 Mr. Liguini. He has a long house he
 has a long wife, but he won't have
 a long life!*

Ben takes her hand and they start SIGNING and dancing around the room.

BEN AND VIVIAN (SINGING)
*I know a man, named Mr. Linguini,
 Mr. Liguini. He has a long house he
 has a long wife, but he won't have
 a long life!*

They proceed to dance around for a few minutes, until the BUZZER goes off from the microwave. Ben leads Vivian into the kitchen and pulls her chair out. Then he serves them then sits down. Parker starts to eat and doesn't look up. Vivian is HUMMING to herself.

BEN
 Hey Vivv! Want a special treat? I can set up the TV tray and you can watch that DVD of Reading Rainbow!

VIVIAN
 The one where Mr. LeVar Burton reviews "Where the Wild Things Are"? Oh, I love that one!

BEN
 Yes, just don't tell mom I let you eat in front of the TV!

VIVIAN
 Promise!

Ben sets up the TV tray and moves Vivian's plate and glass. Vivian follows. Parker rolls his eyes and continues to eat, as Ben sits down.

BEN
 What the hell is wrong with you?

PARKER
What do you mean?

BEN
Why didn't you go to the hospital
with Mom?

PARKER
I had an appointment.

BEN
What appointment? A job interview,
at 8:00 at night?

PARKER
I had an appointment with my bed.
My god damn head hurt so bad, I
couldn't think.

BEN
Day drinking again instead of
looking for work? Jesus Christ,
Parker, you are useless.

Parker DROPS his fork and looks Ben in the eyes.

PARKER (WHISPERING)
Listen to me. This is still my
house god damn it and you will
respect me. I got enough shit to
deal with.

He turns his head and goes back to eating.

BEN
I am not sure how anyone owes you
respect, when you can't stay on the
wagon, Mom is the one supporting
this family and now Vivian is
seeing things? What kind of man are
you? Mom works, Lucy works and
takes care of Vivian, I work. You
spend the money on liquor and feel
sorry for yourself.

Parker is angry, BREATHING heavy. His fork is in his fist
now and he holds it up to Ben's left eye.

PARKER (WHISPERING)
Listen to me you little cake eating
douche, what I do is none of your
god damn business! I will justify
nothing to you.

Parker keeps the fork there for a beat, still BREATHING heavily and Ben sits quietly, sweating. Ben remains quiet until Parker is calm.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Who the hell do you think paid for your education, not your mother! Before the accident I was the bread winner you little pussy and don't forget it.

Parker throws the fork across the table. And just sits and stares for a beat.

PARKER (CONT'D)

It was seizures, Ben. I knew your Mom would be okay. She's had them before.

BEN

Has she cracked a rib having a seizure before?

PARKER

Not that I know of. How about some dessert? I'll call when we are done here. Maybe we can all go by there tonight.

BEN

I made lemon meringue pie, and then we can -

Ben is cut off. We hear a loud THUMP from the living room. They both jump up and run in. Vivian is spread eagle on the floor, SCREAMING.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh my god! Vivian! Dad, help me!

Parker is frozen, eyes wide open. Ben scrambles to the floor and tries to move her, but he can't. He is PANTING and SCREAMING.

SMASH CUT:

INT. AGNES'S HOSPITAL ROOM - EVENING

Lucy is next to the bed, stroking her mom's hair. She gets her phone and DIALS the same number from yesterday, St. Michael's church.

LUCY

Hello, this is Lucy McCready, may I please speak to Father Simon? Yes, I can hold.

Lucy is pacing the floor, it is a minute or two before someone answers.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Hello, Father. It's Lucy McCready. I called last night. Do you have a moment?

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)

Hello, Yes, I am sorry I haven't returned your call yet. What is it regarding?

LUCY

It's about the Kipling Family, you know from Portland, Maine? I did some research and wanted to ask about them and what happened.

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)

The Kipling family? Is this for a school paper or something? I have already reported to the police. Since my release from custody, I focus on the future and who I can help. But I'd be happy...

She cuts him off before he can finish.

LUCY

No, actually Father, it's about my sister, Vivian. She is six years old. She has been seeing that same figure you described to the paper. My mother is already in the hospital and we need your help.

Lucy is CRYING now. She wipes her eyes and waits for a beat. We can hear Father Simon BREATHING over the phone.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Father Simon? Are you still there?

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)
 Yes, child. I was just thinking.
 I am not really qualified anymore
 to help, I am sure I can find one
 of the younger, but experienced
 priests to help you.

LUCY
 But, you know what to do! Please
 help us. I am so scared.

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)
 Lucy, these are complicated
 matters. In my position, I cannot
 just run off and leave my church,
 my congregation. Do you
 understand? Let me research who
 can help and I will get back with
 you.

LUCY
 Father, please! I have seen him.
 My mother has already been hurt.
 Can you please come?

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)
 I'm sorry my child.

The line goes dead.

Int. Father Simon's office, St. Michael's Cathedral, later.

Father Simon sits back in his chair and SIGHS heavy. He is sweating and a tear rolls down his cheek. He proceeds to turn out the lights in his office and walks down to his room in the basement.

INT. KIPPLING LIVING ROOM- 2 AM (DREAM SEQUENCE)

FATHER SIMON
 No, Robert, we can fight him!

ROBERT KIPPLING disappears and reenters with a large kitchen knife in his hand.

ROBERT KIPPLING
 It's over Father. I have to end
 this. I have to end Bobby's pain,
 all of our pain!

As Father Simon plunges toward Robert, an unseen force throws him across the wall and he cannot move. His eyes are wide, paralyzed with fear.

FATHER SIMON
NOOOOO!!!!

ROBERT
It will be all over, we will defeat
him.

Robert proceeds to stab the older daughter in the stomach. Then we see the boy, Bobby is dead, but the kill was off screen. Robert's wife, MEREDITH KIPPLING tries to run from him, but he tackles her and stabs her repeatedly until she is motionless. Robert then turns the knife on himself and slashes his own throat. Father Simon sees it all and cannot move. The entire sequence, he is chanting and praying.

INT. FATHER SIMON'S OFFICE - DAY (CONT'D DREAM SEQUENCE)

NUN
Father Simon, the phone, I think
it's that young girl, Lucy.

FATHER SIMON
Yes?

LUCY
They're dead!!! They're all dead!!!

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. FATHER SIMON'S ROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Father Simon juts up from his sweat soaked pillow, SCREAMING. He grabs his rosary on the night stand and begins to PRAY.

INT. MCCREADY LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Lucy has returned from the hospital. She walks upstairs to Vivian's room, Parker is in there, asleep on the floor. Vivian's blanket is pulled back, her legs exposed. Lucy SWALLOWS hard and sits next to Vivian.

LUCY (WHISPERING)
I'm so sorry Vivy, I'm so sorry.

She CRIES quietly when she sees a bruise the shape of a man's thumb on her little mid thigh. Lucy strokes Vivian's hair and continues to CRY softly. Vivian stirs. Parker is SNORING.

VIVIAN
Lucy? Hi Lucy. Where's Mommy?

LUCY

Morning, sweetie. Mommy is still at the hospital, but she is feeling better. I hope she can come home tomorrow.

VIVIAN

That's good.

LUCY (WHISPERING)

Did daddy sleep here last night?

VIVIAN

Yes, he said he would protect me.

LUCY

I'll protect you.

INT. KITCHEN, LATE MORNING

Lucy is making eggs and Ben comes down the stairs. He stops when he see Vivian on the floor, blanket sprawled out, and several dolls. She is watching the same "Reading Rainbow".

BEN

Morning Vivy! Whatcha doin'?

VIVIAN

Just playing, Lucy beat you to breakfast!

Ben walks in and POURS some coffee.

BEN

Morning. How's Mom?

LUCY

Better, she was up for a bit early this morning before I came home. And I told you not to let Dad near Vivian's room.

BEN

I'm sorry. I was so tired after dinner, I read to her until she fell asleep. Parker was out when I finally went to bed. He drank all day sobered up then drank until he passed out.

LUCY
We have to keep her close.
Especially at night.

BEN
I think that thing was here last
night.

LUCY
The Mean Man?

BEN
We have to be careful, Parker was
furious when I mentioned the name.
He said he is taking Vivv to a
shrink today.

LUCY
Okay, well what happened?

BEN
We were talking in here and then
Vivv screamed. She was, um

Ben's eyes to begin to water.

LUCY
It's okay, Ben.

BEN
Vivv was pinned to the floor or
something, like spread eagle, she
was screaming. I couldn't move, I
was so scared.

LUCY
I called someone to help, Father
Simon, from Portland. He helped
another family five years ago.

BEN
Good thinking, is he on his way
now?

LUCY
He hung up on me, he's not coming.
I'm not sure what to do next.

Lucy's phone RINGS.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Hello?

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)
Hello, Ms. McCready, it is Father
Simon. I assume you still need my
help?

LUCY
Yes, we do.

FATHER SIMON
I have booked a flight this
afternoon. I plan to be there by 8
this evening. If you give me your
address, I will be there as soon as
I land.

LUCY
I don't know what to say. Thank
you. Our address is 16 East Jones
Street. We will be ready for you.

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)
I'm not sure I'm ready.

Lucy PRESSES the end button. She smiles a little. We see
Parker enter the kitchen.

PARKER
Who will you be ready for?

LUCY
I have called a priest from up
north to help us. I spoke to mom
about it. He'll be here after 8:00
tonight. He can stay in my room
and I'll stay with Vivian.

PARKER
Sorry, not happening. I am taking
Vivian to Dr. Petaluma downtown.
She needs a psychologist, not a god
damn priest.

Parker gets coffee and plops down at the table. Ben and Lucy
exchange a look.

LUCY
Dad, he helped with a case just
like this five years ago.

PARKER
Oh yeah? And what happened?

LUCY
The family died.

PARKER

That just proves my point doesn't it? Call him back. I'm taking Vivian to the shrink.

Ben sits at the head of the table.

BEN

Listen, this priest is coming! Lucy is not calling him back. Mom has already been hurt, and we won't let anything happen to Vivian!

Ben POUNDS his fist on the table. Parker ignores him, POURS the rest of his coffee down the sink and goes to get Vivian.

LUCY

Please don't do this. Just give the priest a chance!

PARKER

She needs professional help. Maybe the two of you do! Now please get your sister dressed. We are going to see your mother on the way. Be down in ten minutes.

Ben stands in front of the stairway.

BEN

Parker, she is staying!

PARKER

Get out of my way, Benny.

BEN

No, dad.

Parker knees him in the abdomen, and Ben drops. Parker calmly walks up the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TEN MINUTES LATER

Ben is standing in front of the door. Parker has Vivian by the hand and Lucy is standing next to Ben, CRYING.

PARKER

Move, god damn it, you two. We need to leave.

LUCY

Just listen to us. It's not going to stop!

BEN
I'm not scared of you.

PARKER
Move aside, Ben or I will hurt
Lucy. Don't force me, Benny.

BEN
You asshole! Don't touch her!

Parker lets go of Vivian's hand and grabs Lucy by the hair,
again, calmly.

PARKER
Move! Now!

Ben pauses for a beat. Then moves. Parker releases Lucy's
hair and grabs Vivian's hand and tries to walk out. Vivian
is torn away, thrown, and scratched across the face. Lucy
runs to her, this time Parker shoves Lucy out of the way and
picks Vivian up and tries again. This time both are pushed
back violently.

LUCY
He won't let her leave.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Ben is making dinner. Parker is sitting at the table sipping
bourbon with the bottle out. He is shaking. Lucy enters.

LUCY
Vivian is sleeping on the sofa.
She still hasn't said anything.

BEN
Did you call the hospital?

LUCY
Yes, I spoke to Mom. And told her
what happened and that Father Simon
would be here soon. She should be
released about the same time.

BEN
How'd she sound?

LUCY
She sounded weak, but wants to be
here.

BEN
I'm done here. You guys eat and
I'll go pick up Mom.

He leaves in a hurry not giving them time to fight him.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HOUSE - LATER

The doorbell RINGS. Parker doesn't budge.

LUCY
It's him.

We see her hand shaking as she OPENS the door. Father Simon smiles slightly and she lets him in.

LUCY (CONT'D)
It's nice to meet you, Father
Simon.

INT. BEN'S CAR - WAITING OUTSIDE AN NICE APARTMENT BUILDING

CHARLIE GARMIN approaches the car wearing a minister's robe. OPENS the door, slides in and kisses Ben on the cheek.

BEN
Hey. Thanks for coming.

CHARLIE
Hey. So, you poison Parker yet?

BEN
Not yet.

They both CHUCKLE.

CHARLIE
When is Agnes released?

BEN
About eight, but I couldn't stay in
that house anymore.

CHARLIE
You left Lucy and Vivvy with him?

BEN
No, the priest from up north was
coming over. Lucy called him.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

Apparently he helped, or tried to help a family in Maine like five years ago.

CHARLIE

And?

BEN

Well, they all ended up dying, except him.

CHARLIE

Goddamn.

BEN

Lucy thinks Parker was touching Vivian again.

CHARLIE

How can Agnes, a successful, brilliant, gorgeous woman put up with that piece of shit?

BEN

We all put up with that piece of shit.

CHARLIE

How did she not leave him the first time?

BEN

She said "he's sick", and she believes she can help him.

CHARLIE

But at the expense and suffering of her children? That is some messed up codependent pile of crap. I asked you to come live with me. You're 23, you're too old to be living there anyway.

BEN

I know, but I can't leave Vivy and Lucy alone with him. Mom's working like 60 hours a week now.

CHARLIE

Maybe I can talk to Agnes. She owes me. Maybe after all this, she will kick the bastard out. He get a job yet?

BEN

Nope.

Ben and Charlie DRIVE a bit more and stop at a bar called Happy Hour. Charlie gets out and opens Ben's door and puts his arm around him as they walk in. They sit up to the bar and the bartender, BRUCE GARMIN walks over.

CHARLIE

How's it hanging Bruce?

BRUCE

Low and left, Chuck. What are you boys having?

BEN

Gin and tonic.

CHARLIE

Two fingers of Bourbon.

BRUCE

Hey, how do you like that new church, it's right off Oglethorpe right?

CHARLIE

Yeah, they have really done a good job renovating that old building. It's been good to me. Not many churches in this town welcome an openly gay minister.

BRUCE

I'll admit, the Catholic in me doesn't get it, but shit, who am I to say, right?

BEN

Right. The good Reverend Charlie Garmin will soon be residing over the First Unitarian Church of Greater Savannah. I'm so proud of you.

Ben leans over and KISSES Charlie.

BRUCE

I do think it's better than that food truck you boys had a few months ago.

BEN

You're right Your Aunt Eileen set that interview with the Waltermann Hotel, changed my life.

BRUCE

Sous Chef or something fancy like that? I have no idea what a fucking sous chef is but I know it pays better than the Hilton. So, why you still living with that shit stain of a father?

CHARLIE

Jesus, Bruce.

BEN

It's fine. He's right about Parker.

BRUCE

Then why?

CHARLIE

The real question is, is it your business?

BRUCE

Just looking out for my cousin's lover, that's all.

Ben pauses, takes a long DRINK and SETS his glass back on the counter.

BEN

You get me another and I'll tell you.

Bruce smiles and takes Ben's drink and grabs a bottle of gin. Then the DOOR opens and loud male VOICES and three obviously intoxicated men in their late twenties enter.

CHARLIE

Oh fuck.

BRUCE

What?

CHARLIE

Those guys are the cock suckers from our old job at the Savannah Room. Remember that? The tall one..

BRUCE

Shit, the one who tried to touch Ben's pecker in the bathroom?

BEN

Yes, it's them. Then they said I tried to grab him! Cost us both our jobs. Charlie punched him in the parking lot after our shift ended. Big Joe believed that jerk over us.

Bruce nods to his bouncer by the door. The bouncer follows the three to their table.

BOUNCER

We'd like to buy you a round on the house. And then kindly ask you to leave.

TALL GUY

Now why the fuck would we do that? Just got here big guy!

BOUNCER

Mr. Garmin doesn't like you. And I'm trying to be polite. We will give you some free roadies and you can be on your way.

SHORT GUY

I don't care, just let me take a piss and we'll go. I want a free drink!

The short guy gets up and heads to the bathroom. He glances at the bar and momentarily makes eye contact with Ben. Charlie sees and immediately jumps up and follows the short guy into the bathroom. He ENTERS the bathroom and doesn't say anything. UNZIPS his pants to pee. The short guy looks at him for a minute and doesn't think anything. Charlie turns to him.

CHARLIE

Been to the Savannah Room lately?

SHORT GUY

Huh, what?

Charlie then ZIPS up his pants and PUNCHES him in stomach.

CHARLIE

Get the fuck out of here!

The short guy is clearly dazed and ZIPS his pants. Throws a weak punch that Charlie ducks.

SHORT GUY

Shit! I knew I knew that was you
and your butt buddy!

Then the lights start to flicker and toilets start to FLUSH and water starts running everywhere on its own. Then the lights go out. We hear a SCREAM and a THUD. Then we just hear Charlie BREATHING heavily.

After a beat, the lights come back on. Charlie sees a shadow disappear through the white tiles and through the wall. We then see the short guy lying on the floor, his arm turned unnaturally behind his back, his shirt is slashed and blood has puddled on the floor. Charlie runs out to get Ben.

CHARLIE

We have to go, now Ben.

BEN

Yeah, my mom just called, she is finishing her paperwork and anxious for us to come get her.

CHARLIE

Now! We need to leave.

BRUCE

What's wrong?

Charlie looks at Bruce with bloodshot eyes and a red slash across his face, we only see now.

CHARLIE

I'm so sorry, Bruce. The bathroom, it's... Shit, it's wasn't me, it wasn't me. Call 911, call 911!

Charlie throws down a couple bills, grabs Ben's arm, and they run to the car.

INT. MCCREADY LIVING ROOM - LATER

We see Father Simon sitting next to Lucy, she's texting. Parker enters with a drink in his hand, shaky, bloodshot eyes and wild hair. He stands in the corner, perhaps to keep himself from falling over. Vivian is asleep with her head on Lucy's lap.

FATHER SIMON

How are you feeling, Parker?

PARKER

I feel great, father. How do you feel?

Father Simon reacts with a bewildered look.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Lucy, god damn it, put that thing down, and talk to the priest. You asked him to come here. How the shit do I know what to say to him?

Father Simon looks again at Parker, odd look on his face, and turns to Lucy.

FATHER SIMON

Lucy, can you tell me what has been going on?

Lucy places her phone on the end table next to her by a lamp.

LUCY

I didn't mean to be rude, Father. That was my boyfriend, he can be a little impatient.

FATHER SIMON

I understand, Lucy. This is a lot for someone of your age to handle. What can you tell me about your mother's condition.

Parker doesn't wait for Lucy to answer. He sanders over to the love seat and sits right next to Father Simon.

PARKER

It's seizures. That's all it is. Agnes has had them before, that's what I told the EMTs, but they looked at me just like you are.

FATHER SIMON

How am I looking at you, Mr. McCready?

PARKER

Like I'm full of shit, like I'm the crazy one. I told Lucy that Vivian needs a shrink not some priest. What the hell could you do? Vivian can barely speak, she is petrified.

FATHER SIMON

And you believe it isn't real? The things that have been happening?

LUCY

Father, when he tried to take Vivy out of the house he wouldn't let her leave.

PARKER

What the hell are you talking about, Lucy? I changed my mind and stumbled over the doorway. Nothing threw nobody.

FATHER SIMON

And Lucy, you believe it was the Mean Man?

Lucy glances at Parker and he glares over his glass at her.

LUCY

Yes, I do. My mother didn't have a seizure. Lucy doesn't need a psychological help. We need your help, someone who has been through it and lived! I don't care if my father doesn't believe me.

Lucy begins to CRY. Father Simon gets his rosary from his pocket and sits next to Lucy.

FATHER SIMON

I am here to help however I can. I have seen this demon. The first time I went through this, it almost killed me. The whole family was killed. I failed. I failed the church, I failed the Kipling's. That is why I hesitated. That is why I am not sure I can make any difference. But I will try, Lucy.

Lucy's phone RINGS. She answers it, still wiping tears away. She walks into the kitchen.

PARKER

What happened to that family, the Kipling's, father? Give me the no shit, no demon version.

Father Simon is visually upset. He turns to Parker.

FATHER SIMON

Mr. McCready, the inconvenient thing is it doesn't care if YOU believe in him. He will torment and destroy this family all the same. He has been growing stronger, something in this house is feeding him.

Lucy walks back in, still upset.

LUCY

What is feeding it Father? What do you mean?

FATHER SIMON

I have to tell you, this is my experience. Legally I must tell you the church lays no credence or justification to what I am about to tell you. In fact, after I was released from the police that day, the church had me committed for six months.

Parker smirks and walks back to his corner, after stopping at the bar and filling his drink. He TAKES a long drink and starts LAUGHING.

PARKER

Looks like you need the shrink, not Vivy. God almighty, good idea, Lucy. Bring the looney toon priest here to "save" us.

Father Simon ignores Parker and continues.

FATHER SIMON

After those six months and after biweekly psych evaluations, I was found mentally sound. The church had to reinstate me. But, Mr. McCready this isn't about me, this is about saving your family.

LUCY

Well, why us? Why is it here?

FATHER SIMON

I don't know. But he is a demon who feeds on your soul. He has been feeding on Vivian's, she interacted with him and he latched himself to her. It will get worse.

LUCY

That doesn't tell us why though?
There has to be a reason it was
just here one day talking to Lucy.
It befriended her.

PARKER

I'll tell, it's because whatever
you think this is, it's not. It's
nothing.

LUCY

Then how do you explain everything
that has happened?

PARKER

There's shit in life everyday that
we can't explain, that doesn't mean
we say "Oh it was a demon",
everyone agrees and we move on.
It's not a god damn demon!

The lights flicker then go out. It is dark and quiet for a couple of beats. The lights come back on and Parker is gone. Vivian shoots up and Lucy SCREAMS. We see Father Simon PRAYING with beads of sweat rolling down his temple. his hands are shaking. He clasped his hands in a prayer with his rosary wrapped around them.

INT. BEN'S CAR

BEN

What's going on? Why is there
blood on your shirt?

CHARLIE

That thing, I think it was there.

BEN

The "Mean Man"? The one from the
house? How is that even possible?

CHARLIE

I don't know. I saw that short guy
in the bathroom and all that hate
came back. I punched him. The
second I did, the lights went out.
Then when they came on, he's on the
floor, unconscious, I assume, but
blood all over his shirt. I
panicked. I just wanted to grab
you and get the hell out.

BEN

I just got a text from Bruce, he said the cops are there. You missed the turn for the hospital, where are we going? I've got to get my mom.

CHARLIE

Call the hospital. Let them know we will be there soon. I've got to pick up some stuff from my office. I'm coming to help.

Ben DIALS on his phone.

BEN

Yes, Agnes McCready's room please.

MCCREADY'S MASTER BATHROOM, LATER

Parker is passed out on the bathroom floor. He has a slash across his face. Father Simon enters and checks his breathing. He helps Parker onto the bed, puts blanket on him and leaves the room.

LUCY'S ROOM, LATER

Lucy is on her bed CRYING while on her phone. Father Simon in on a chair on the other side of the bed, PRAYING and CHANTING something into Vivian's ear. She appears to be asleep.

LUCY (ON THE PHONE)

Yes. Vivian isn't well. I know! It's been very difficult. I will try.

Lucy PUSHES the end button and set the phone on her night stand. She stands up and walks to the window. Father Simon looks up and sees she is distraught.

FATHER SIMON

Boyfriend? This is a very stressful and draining situation. Why don't you go see him and come back to meet your mom here? I will sit with Vivian. I have many more prayers for her.

Lucy turns away from the window and pauses for a beat.

LUCY

I'm not sure. She doesn't really know you.

FATHER SIMON

I don't think she will waking up anytime soon. Please, get some fresh air. It will help clear your mind a bit.

LUCY

If I do, you CANNOT let Parker in here alone with her, okay?

Father Simon looks a bit bewildered, but then nods. Lucy nods back. We see a tear run down her cheek.

FATHER SIMON

When you return Lucy, we need to have a talk, don't we?

LUCY

Yes, Father.

INT. LUCY'S CAR, OUTSIDE BOYFRIEND'S FAMILY MANSION

Lucy is sitting in the car. She seems anxious when she sees her boyfriend OPEN the door and sit in the passenger seat and CLOSES the door.

BOYFRIEND

What the fuck took you so long?

LUCY

Sorry, it's been insane at home. I came when I could.

BOYFRIEND

I'm glad you could fit me into your schedule.

LUCY

Maybe you could forget yourself and try to understand what Vivy's been through. My mom is in the hospital and Parker can't even stay sober for day!

BOYFRIEND

I have shit going on too, Lucy. I have to work fucking overtime this weekend.

Lucy stops for a beat. And BREATHEs. She looks out the window at the bridge in the distance.

BOYFRIEND (CONT'D)

What about what we talked about last time? It's not that big of a deal. The operation.

Lucy doesn't meet his eyes. She EXHALES again, but this time against the window and draws a stick figure man with a top hat, like Abraham Lincoln.

BOYFRIEND (CONT'D)

Did you hear what I said?

LUCY

I heard you. I just wanted to have a nice talk. I needed some air. Can we just talk?

BOYFRIEND

Yes, let's talk. Like I was saying, my cousin in Hoboken. He said it saved them. Him and his girl.

Lucy was quiet again. She looked at the window and BREAthed on it and drew a smiley face.

BOYFRIEND (CONT'D)

Then, we could forget all this nonsense and leave. It's not your job to be the mother. You can't save Vivy and Ben. It's up to your mother to leave the bastard.

LUCY

Then we'd be happy? Just let it all go, the operation, say goodbye? How could I do that?

BOYFRIEND

It's all we fight about. That's it, then we'd be happy, before all this started. Before Parker's accident, before he started drinking again.

Lucy stops again. She looks over his shoulder and looks at his family mansion with the oaks with Spanish Moss entangled everywhere.

LUCY

I do love it here. You get all of this, don't you? The wealth, the status?

She turns to him. He is looking her in the eye. He slides his hand barely between her legs and KISSES her mouth. She KISSES him back. He pushes harder and moves his hand under her jacket. She pushes it away. He tries again. She pushes his shoulders away.

BOYFRIEND

What's wrong?

LUCY

This won't help. Not now.

BOYFRIEND

When? It has been so long.

LUCY

This isn't about us. It's about my family. My sister. Helping my mom, I just...

He grabs her throat and presses her against the window. He slides his other hand back up her thigh to her crotch.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Not like this.

BOYFRIEND

Why? You beg me. You've begged me to. Just like this.

LUCY

Don't you've ruined it. It's all ruined!

She pushes him off again. He looks shocked.

LUCY (CONT'D)

No more. It can never be the same.

BOYFRIEND

Get the operation or don't. I'm bored.

He turns OPENS the car door, SLAMS it and puts his hand in his pockets. He walks back to the entry of the grand home.

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE AT THE CHURCH - EVENING

BEN

What are you looking for?

CHARLIE

I have this old book, my grandmother gave me when I finished my Master's. She was Catholic and always wished I had gone to the seminary.

BEN

How is this going to help?

CHARLIE

It's an old Catholic text on how to exercise demons, release one from Satan's grasp, that sort of thing.

BEN

Wouldn't the priest from up north have a text for that?

CHARLIE

Not this one! Found it!

Charlie OPENS the book and Ben walks over to look at it. The pages are yellowish and some of the text is smeared.

BEN

Think there will be something in there?

CHARLIE

I hope. It's from the Vatican. Only like a couple hundred of them in existence. Shit, it's 7:45, when is your mom getting released?

BEN

About 15 minutes.

CHARLIE

I'll bring this, a few of my own religious texts on demons, possession, and the paranormal.

BEN

Thanks for helping. I didn't want to get you involved.

Charlie stops what he is doing and turns around and looks at Ben for a beat.

CHARLIE

That's part of your family's problem, no one wants to get involved. Your problems balloon out of control and you all hope somehow they will disappear. This one won't, Ben.

Ben looks hurt. Charlie walks over to Ben and hugs him. Ben eyes fill with tears.

BEN

What kind of god damn brother am I? It took me a year just to confront Parker about it all. Mom kept denying, until she saw the bruises.

CHARLIE

The counseling helped I guess, for a while. But the damage was done. Poor Lucy never had an advocate. Your mom buried herself in work. You were still just a kid. I didn't mean to make it sound like your fault. It isn't. It's that bastard's fault. We are all dealing with this. This is happening. Maybe we can reason with the Parker and convince him Vivian is in danger.

Ben hugs Charlie one more time and wipes his eyes.

BEN

I know you are right. Then we will be good right? We will go to Boston?

CHARLIE

We will. We will.

They grab a few more books and Charlie LOCKS the office door behind them. They head to the car and drive toward the hospital.

INT. AGNES'S HOSPITAL ROOM, LATER

Her nurse enters with a tray of food.

NURSE

Your last meal. Isn't this exciting, chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, I think, and green beans coated in something that may or may not be butter.

AGNES

Thank you. My son just called, and he and his boyfriend are on their way. I need to get home. My girls need me.

NURSE

Of course. It's hard when you are the bread winner. From what you've told me, I'd say you are a strong example to them.

AGNES

An example? Maybe of what not to do, who not to marry. Who not to have children with. Lucy has taken on so much of it. I haven't been fair to her.

NURSE

I didn't mean to eavesdrop, but seems there is some additional trouble at home?

AGNES

It's my daughter, Vivian. She has been um, seeing something or someone. Someone who has been talking to her. Lucy has seen it well, it feels unbelievable to say it out loud.

NURSE

I have a very open mind.

AGNES

I'm sure you have things to do on the floor. You don't need to hear my troubles.

NURSE

It's about the Mean Man, isn't it?

AGNES

I'm sorry?

NURSE

I don't want to upset you. But I did hear a little of the conversation you had with your daughter when she was here. I believe it. The story, him, all of it. My step father's cousin's family had a similar issue. It plagued that family for several months.

AGNES

What happened to them?

NURSE

I have upset you haven't I? I knew I should have kept it to myself. It's not any of my business.

AGNES

Please tell me. Why was he there? What happened to them?

NURSE

My step father's cousin was very abusive. He tormented his family. He like to watch them suffer. My step father even went up north to try and help the wife and the kids get away. Her husband broke her jaw when she tried to leave. She covered for him when the cops came. I will never understand why she wouldn't leave. My step father begged her. She said she wouldn't split up her family. The priest who helped said it was the abuse, it fed the demon, the violence of it, it gave it power.

AGNES

What happened? Is she okay, now?

NURSE

They're all dead. The priest was arrested. It was god, five years now. It is making me a little nauseous talking about it again. But I do believe if we can release some of those negative thoughts or energy, it helps us heal. Agnes, honey, are you okay?

Agnes is frozen.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Are you okay? I need you to breathe for me, honey. Can you breathe?

Agnes doesn't respond. Just a look of terror in her eyes. Charlie and Ben enter the room. Charlie sees something above Agnes, it looks somewhat like black smoke and it has a grasp on Agnes's neck.

CHARLIE

Ben, he's got her!

Agnes starts to convulse and twist. She is writhing in pain and SCREAMING. All of the blood vessels in her neck, face, and eyeballs pop.

NURSE

CODE BLUE! CODE BLUE!

Another nurse and two doctors rush in. Everything goes silent. Charlie has pulled one of his books and begins to quietly chant. Ben is stunned and immobile.

DOCTOR

One more time, CLEAR!

After a moment, Agnes starts to return normal vitals and she has calmed a bit. Her BREATHING also begins to steady. The doctor is giving instruction to the nurses, inaudible.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Ms. McCready, I'm afraid you will have to stay the night, we cannot release you after this episode. But if everything remains normal, you can go home in 24 hours. You can have some time with her.

The doctor and nurses exit.

AGNES

Ben.

BEN

Oh god, Mom, I was so scared. Are you okay?

CHARLIE

It was him, Agnes.

Agnes COUGHS.

AGNES

This is because of me. I kept thinking he would change. I did this. I let him hurt you and the girls. I was a coward. I let my own shame keep me from confronting him.

BEN

You didn't let him, mom.

AGNES

I knew and I didn't do a goddamn thing!

CHARLIE

Agnes, why do you think this has anything to do with this thing?

AGNES

Benny, that case in Portland? The nurse, it's people she knew. In her family. She told me, the father abused the mother. It's Father Simon who was there. He said this type of demon feeds on the violence, the hate, the rage.

BEN

He's at the house mom. Staying with Vivian. He will help. You need to feel better, so you can come home.

AGNES

I'm sore and tired. But I'm fine. I need to get home. I need to talk to Father Simon.

Charlie is already DIALING Lucy.

CHARLIE (ON THE PHONE)

Lucy, we need to talk to Father Simon. Yes, okay.

Charlie waits for a beat.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hi, Father, this is Charlie, eh, Reverend Charlie Garmin. I am Ben's boyfriend. Is Vivian okay? He was here, father. He was choking Agnes. I saw it.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The nurse here said she knows you.
Her family is the one in Portland.
What is happening?

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)

Reverend Garmin. We all have much
to discuss. Are you leaving soon?
I would rather do this in person.

CHARLIE

They won't release her until
tomorrow.

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)

I'm not sure this can wait that
long. He has set his intention in
motion. He does not relent, he must
have almost enough strength or he
wouldn't have been able to leave
Vivian's side or this house.

AGNES

Let me speak to him.

Charlie hands Agnes his cell phone.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Father, this is Agnes. I am
leaving here, I'm signing myself
out.

FATHER SIMON (V.O.)

Ms. McCready, in your weakened
state, I'm not sure that's the
right way to...

Agnes cuts him off.

AGNES

I'm coming home.

Agnes HANGS up the phone and hands it to Charlie. She
presses the nurse button and then slowly sits up.

BEN

Let me help, mom. But, are you
sure?

AGNES

Don't you think it's been long
enough since I did something about
this family? I'm as guilty as
Parker. What kind of mother have I
become? Fuck it.

(MORE)

AGNES (CONT'D)
Charlie, hand me those clothes in
the closet, please.

Agnes then pulls the cords off her chest and the IV out of her arm. All the machines start to BEEP loudly. Then her nurse enters.

NURSE
Ms. McCready, what do you need?

AGNES
Nurse, I am leaving. I am fine,
albeit my ribs are still sore.

NURSE
They will take time to heal. And
that cut, the stitches will
dissolve in a few more days.

AGNES
I am checking out now. My family
needs me.

NURSE
I brought the release papers in. I
thought you might decide to leave.
This form releases the hospital
staff of any and all responsibility
if something additional happens
after you leave our care.

AGNES
Thank you.

NURSE
I knew that you'd want to go. God
be with you.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL, MOMENTS LATER.

Charlie, Ben and Agnes are headed toward Ben's car. Ben is pushing Agnes in a wheelchair. The sun is about to set.

BEN
Come on Mom, I've got you.

AGNES
Don't be silly, Benny, I'm fine.
Charlie would you tell him, I'm
fine? I can do it.

Ben SHUTS the back door and returns the wheelchair to the nurse waiting.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE AND AGNES IN THE CHARLIE'S CAR.

CHARLIE

I saw it, him, whatever we are calling this demon. It wanted you to die.

AGNES

I was so scared. I didn't see anything, but I couldn't move, couldn't breathe.

CHARLIE

I am going to talk to Father Simon, I hope with both of us, we can figure out how to kill or get rid of it.

AGNES

I appreciate you being here, Charlie. We love you.

CHARLIE

My own family hasn't spoken to me in five years, Agnes. Ben, you, and the girls, you are my family.

Ben SHUTS the car door and sits down.

BEN

So, let's go, I guess. We ready for all this?

Charlie proceeds to pull out of the parking lot and head home. Trees and the evening lights line the freeway and the sky as they drive toward home. Then Agnes starts to softly SING.

AGNES (SINGING)

*I know a man, named Mr. Linguini,
Mr. Liguini He has a long house he
has a long wife, but he won't have
a long life!*

Then Ben and Charlie join in and they all SING

AGNES, BEN, AND CHARLIE (SINGING)

*I know a man, named Mr. Linguini,
Mr. Linguini. He has a long house he
has a long wife, but he won't have
a long life!*

They SING it four or five times, getting faster each time, each one trying to sing it faster than the other. Then they all LAUGH out loud and Agnes is CLAPPING. They stop for a beat. The camera scans the trees and lights ahead, again. There is a stillness now and they are silent.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MCCREADY HOME, EVENING.

Lucy and Father Simon are speaking in the corner (inaudible) and Vivian is on the floor playing with her dolls, watching the same episode of "Reading Rainbow". Ben, Charlie, and Agnes come in. Lucy and Vivian run to her and Lucy hugs her carefully and Vivian grabs her leg.

VIVIAN

Oh mommy! I'm so glad to see you! I have so much to tell you! One of the girls at the salon got fired because she cut my favorite doll's hair too short. We couldn't have that! And I know what we can do about the Man.

Everyone stops for a beat. Charlie and Ben still have Charlie and Agnes's bags in hand. Agnes looks at Father Simon as he walks over.

AGNES

What can we do baby?

Vivian just starts SINGING.

VIVIAN

*I know a man, named Mr. Linguini,
Mr. Linguini. He has a long house he
has a long wife, but he won't have
a long life!*

AGNES

Vivian, baby. Are you okay?

VIVIAN

Yes, Mama, why?

LUCY

I think she's just really tired.
I'll take her in the kitchen.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

Vivy, I think there's still a piece or two of Ben's famous Lemon Meringue pie in the fridge!

VIVIAN

Oh yes! Mamma, can I? We didn't eat dinner, yet, but I promise I will, I promise!

LUCY

I guess I kind of forgot about dinner. Father Simon and I were talking and sitting with Vivian. I don't know where Dad went.

Charlie pulls his phone out of his pocket. And PRESSES the screen several times.

CHARLIE

Done, pizza is on the way. Ben, why don't we go set up? Then, Father Simon, I'd like to have a family meeting.

FATHER SIMON

Why don't you boys get settled and we can all talk. We need to prepare.

Charlie and Ben walk up the stairs HUMMING the same song from the car. Agnes follows. The camera scans the room, bird's eye view. It is quiet, but the lights flicker a few times. Vivian jumps in Lucy's lap. Lucy smiles at her and begins to stroke her hair. Vivian tugs on Father Simon's jacket.

VIVIAN

Excuse me Mr. Simon, I have a message for you.

FATHER SIMON

You can call me father, if I can call you Vivy.

VIVIAN

Okay, Father.

FATHER SIMON

What's the message, Vivy?

Father Simon is smiling and looks at Lucy and winks. Lucy smiles.

VIVIAN

He said he should have killed you
the first time.

Then Vivian grabs Lucy's hand and bites down hard. Lucy SCREAMS. Ben, Charlie, and Agnes RUN down the stairs. Ben runs over and tries to get Vivian to release her bite. Lucy has tears streaming down her cheeks and blood is running down her hand. Father Simon has his rosary in his hand and begins to PRAY. Charlie is holding Agnes.

TIME LAPSE

--Charlie goes to the sofa to try and help Ben release Vivian's bite.

--Father Simon is sweating and chanting (inaudible)

--Agnes stands, alone. Paralyzed with fear and her realization of the situation. She has a look of complete shame and defeat. She falls to her knees SOBBING.

--A single drop of blood drops onto the white leather sofa.

INT. LIVING ROOM, SECONDS LATER

BEN

Charlie, come get Vivian. I'm
going to get Lucy's hand under some
water and dress it.

CHARLIE

I've got you Vivy.

He is rocking her back and forth. Father Simon grabs a tissue from his pocket and wipes the blood from Vivian's face. Her face is pale, grey circles around her eyes, contrasted with the red on her face and teeth.

FATHER SIMON

You hold her and I'll go grab some
water for her to sip on. Agnes,
are you okay? Why don't you sit
down next to Vivian?

Agnes is still shook up. She gingerly sits on the sofa and MOANS softly as she sits, adjusting to let some pressure off her broken ribs. Vivian KISSES Charlie on the cheek and climbs to Agnes's lap.

VIVIAN

I missed you so much Mommy. I'll
protect you.

Vivian smiles up at Agnes with some pink still on her teeth. Father Simon just then brings a glass of water. Agnes takes it from him, tears streaming down her face.

AGNES

Drink this baby. Everything is just fine. You're such a sweetheart. You are my angel face, aren't you?

Vivian touches the tip of Agnes's nose then takes a drink.

VIVIAN

Of course I am Mamma. Of course I am.

Agnes puts Vivian's hair behind her ears and starts to rock her and softly HUMS.

INT. MCCREADY HOUSE, 3 AM

The house is quiet. There is a dried drip of blood on the white leather sofa no one noticed. Then the door CREAKS open, and Parker stumbles in. He CLOSES the door as quietly as he can, removes his shoes, and drops on the couch. He is asleep moments later.

INT. MCCREADY HOUSE, 3:30 AM

The house is quiet. Parker sleeping on the sofa. Father Simon is CHANTING and PRAYING barely audible holding his rosary. He is looking at the ceiling. He decides to get up for a glass of water. He almost knocks into Charlie in the hallway.

FATHER SIMON (WHISPERING)

I'm sorry Charlie. I'm just up for a glass of water.

CHARLIE (WHISPERING)

With the commotion, we never did have that meeting. We need to have that discussion, Father. Whether you want to or not.

FATHER SIMON (WHISPERING)

I know, you're right Charlie. I have to tell you I feel better with you here. A fresh perspective, sometimes the Church isn't too accepting of all the new ways of faith.

CHARLIE (WHISPERING)

We need to be working together, so I need to know the full story. I love this family and I know what happened to the last family you helped. That will not happen this time.

Charlie WALKS past him and into the bathroom and CLOSES the door, while Father Simon WALKS down the stairs, quietly. Father Simon glances toward the sofa and sees Parker on the sofa. He then walks into the kitchen TURNS on the facet and FILLS a glass. He stares into the darkness through the kitchen window. He EXHALES and takes a last sip of his water and just as he is setting the glass on the counter, he hears a SCREAM. He drops the glass and it SHATTERS in the sink. He runs up the stairs and we see Lucy and Charlie outside of Ben's room. Their eyes huge with fear and Lucy SCREAMS again.

FATHER SIMON

What is it?

Charlie and Lucy are in the room and we see Ben with no shirt and a pair of underwear on. He is suspended in the middle of the room upside down with several slashes across his abdomen, the blood is streaming into his eyes.

CHARLIE

Oh my God! Ben, Ben!

Lucy and Ben run to him, but he is frozen in place. When Charlie tries to reach out to him, he is pushed back. Lucy tries as well with a similar reaction.

FATHER SIMON

Reverend! Let's try together.

CHARLIE

I am getting my book!

Father Simon nods and Charlie runs to get it. Lucy is on her knees in front of Ben.

LUCY

Ben, Benny, can you hear me?

Now Agnes rushes in.

FATHER SIMON

Agnes, go check on Vivian, and don't leave her.

Charlie returns with the old text. They begin CHANTING and PRAYING (Inaudible).

LUCY

Ben, Benny, can you hear me?
Charlie, Father, DO SOMETHING!

Ben is still frozen, more blood slowly runs into his already blood soaked eyes. Then we hear Ben EXHALE. The room goes silent, Charlie and Father Simon stop. Ben THUDS to the floor. Charlie runs over to him and gently rolls him over. Lucy inches back.

CHARLIE

Lucy, run grab a couple of towels
and glass of water.

LUCY

Okay, yes, okay.

CHARLIE

Father Simon, please go check on
Vivian and Agnes.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I've got you Ben.

Charlie gently elevates his head and places it on his leg. He begins to stroke his hair.

BEN

What happened? I was dreaming and I
thought I saw him and I sat up.

Ben notices the several slashes across his abdomen. And touches the blood on his chest, then his hair.

CHARLIE

He had you Ben. Lucy went to get
towels.

BEN

The blood, I think it's in my eyes,
Charlie.

Lucy comes back with towels and a glass of water. She and Charlie try their best to clean Ben up. Charlie gives him the water.

BEN (CONT'D)

What can we do? We have to do
something. Isn't that why you're
here Father? And you Charlie?

FATHER SIMON

Yes. Agnes and Vivian are fine. Agnes agrees that we all need to talk, now. Parker came in only right before this happened. He is passed out downstairs, better we have it now.

BEN'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Agnes walks in with Vivian in her arms. Ben has showered and changed and his hair is still wet. Lucy is in the chair in the corner. She lays Vivian on the bed and sits beside her.

FATHER SIMON

We don't have time for me to walk lightly, so we all have to be honest. I will be honest with all of you, if you will be with me. Something always feeds him. In my experience, it has been a secret, a sin hidden that all or some in the family know about. From what I have seen and Lucy's concern about Parker, I believe that his perpetual abuse of first Lucy, and now Vivian that has fed the Mean Man. The fact that it remains hidden, with no confrontation or no one to pay for the sin, he has what he needs to destroy everyone of us. The negative energy feeds him and he craves more, until he is powerful enough to have his way by torturing or killing everyone in this house. Once the sin is out in the open, that is when he will fully manifest and we will all have to face him. And a sacrifice must be made to satiate him and I believe he will leave.

Agnes has tears running down her cheek. She looks around and no one wants to make eye contact with her. She bows her head.

AGNES

What do we do then? It is time and it has to be me. What can I do?

LUCY

Mom, it's not just you, we all were part of this.

She turns to Father Simon.

LUCY (CONT'D)
How do we know it'll work? What sacrifice?

FATHER SIMON
Lucy, I think for now we need to focus on Vivian and keeping her safe. Why don't we all stay in here for the night?

AGNES
That is a good idea, Father. I will deal with Parker in the morning.

LUCY
Father, you didn't answer me. What kind of sacrifice?

FATHER SIMON
A willing one.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - 4:15 AM

Father Simon sitting in a chair is jerking and BREATHING heavily. He suddenly wakes up in a sweat, he just had another nightmare. He takes a few BREATHES and walks over to the window and pauses for a beat. He hears something in the hallway so he quietly exits the room to the hallway. He see Parker down the hallway outside the guest bathroom. Father Simon approaches him with his rosary in hand.

FATHER SIMON (WHISPERING)
Parker, can I speak with you?
Parker?

Parker is just standing there looking at the door. He doesn't respond.

FATHER SIMON (WHISPERING) (CONT'D)
Parker, can you hear me?

Parker turns his head and punches Father Simon's stomach. Father Simon YELLS out in pain and drops to his knees. Ben's door OPENS and Charlie and Agnes run over. Parker has a wild look in his eye and has backed away a little. Father Simon in pain on the ground. Parker then lunges at Charlie, he moves out of the way and Agnes punches him, he only backs up a bit, then she grabs a paperweight off the hallway table and HITS him on the head. He DROPS to the floor.

CHARLIE

Agnes, run grab Lucy. We are going to tape him up and lock in him the bathroom.

Agnes goes to get her and Charlie helps Father Simon stand.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Father, can you get a roll of duct tape down in the garage, and some wire or twine or something. There is a red tool chest and the table it sits on has two doors, you should find what you need in there.

Father Simons walks quickly toward the stairs. Lucy appears in the hallway.

LUCY

Should I call the police? Mom said he attacked Father Simon?

CHARLIE

No, no police. Last time, Father Simon ended up at the psych ward. We have to keep this with us.

INT. HALLWAY - 4:45 AM

Parker is taped up and Charlie and Father Simon are moving him into the bathroom, he is still unconscious. They SHUT the door and use the twine to tie around the knob and the adjacent knobs on either side of the small bathroom door to keep it secure. Charlie has also grabbed a chair from the office to prop up under the knob.

LUCY

What do we do now?

AGNES

I think we all need some sleep. We can take shifts. Lucy, let's move you and Vivian in my room you and sleep first.

CHARLIE

Agnes, you just got out of the hospital, why don't the three of you all sleep for a bit?

ANGES

That's a good idea. Just for an hour or so, okay? Please stay with Ben.

CHARLIE

I will, don't worry.

Agnes and Lucy lay next to Vivian and Charlie sits up against the bed, next to Ben. Father Simon sits down next to Charlie as he fiddles with his rosary.

FATHER SIMON (WHISPERING)

How did you and Charlie meet?

CHARLIE (WHISPERING)

We met in culinary school. Ben was very shy. I attract or am attracted to men who need help, I guess. We had an assignment to make Croque Monsieur. It's like a French grilled cheese. I burned the Béchamel sauce, and he helped me make the second batch. He was patient and gentle. I remember my hand shaking while I whisked the sauce. I was so nervous, but I wanted to ask him out.

FATHER SIMON

What happened?

CHARLIE

I asked him out and he said "But I'm not gay." I just looked at him. I didn't feel rejected or hurt, I felt for him. I wanted to hug him and tell him I understood. I felt an instant connection with him. After a few minutes he said "Where?"

Father Simon SIGHED then sat forward a bit.

FATHER SIMON

Sounds like a good fit. How long has it been?

CHARLIE

That was just over three years ago. We have had some dark days. Usually stemming from something to do with Parker.

FATHER SIMON
I can understand that.

He pats Charlie then slowly gets up obviously in pain.

FATHER SIMON (CONT'D)
I think I will go check on Parker,
it's been a while.

Father Simon GROANS a little and SNIFFLES and walks toward the small guest bath. He puts his ear up to the door and jerks back. He tries it again and leaves his ear there this time. He hears VOICES. His BREATHING intensifies. The doorknob TURNS side to side. Father Simon doesn't move. He decides to KNOCK softly.

FATHER SIMON (CONT'D)
Parker, Mr. McCready, are you okay?

PARKER
Yes, I'm okay, except for my headache and for some reason my god damn family decided to lock me in the bathroom. Can you open the door please?

FATHER SIMON
I cannot do that. You have been a threat to this family. It won't be for long.

PARKER
Let me out, Father. He said if you don't let me out, he will slit your throat and baptize Vivian with your blood.

Father Simon is still. His BREATHING is almost at a panicked level.

PARKER (CONT'D)
Did you hear me cocksucker? He knows you are scared. He knows you don't have the balls to face him. That's why you brought that Minister. He doesn't even have a god. What the fuck can he do? That boy-lover doesn't matter. He is the one. It's only he who fears nothing. It is almost time. Your prayers and chants only fuel him. He wants you Father, give yourself to him. The taste of your soul will satiate him!

Father Simon is still as the sweat on his brow drops to his nose. Tears roll down his face, though he remains still. Father Simon gets his rosary from his pocket and begins a prayer (inaudible). His BREATHE is shaky, but determined. His eyes are razor focused on the door. We hear Parker and another voice SPEAKING low. Parker SCREAMS. Then silence.

FATHER SIMON (WHISPERING)
Mr. McCready?

PARKER
What can I do for you Father? Not in the mood to chat unless you are opening the fucking door.

FATHER SIMON
Did you talk to him?

PARKER
To who?

FATHER SIMON
To the demon?

PARKER
The only one I am talking to is you. You woke me up from a decent dream, I just won the lottery. So you ruined that.

FATHER SIMON
You don't recall the conversation we had before this?

PARKER
I'm sorry, Father. Seems to me, you may not be the right man for this job. Sounds like you might be delusional. Talking about demons and now you are imagining conversations. Can you go get Agnes? We need to fire you.

FATHER SIMON
You can't fire me. I am here to help Vivian.

PARKER
You're in my house goddamn it and I will kick your ass out!

FATHER SIMON
Perhaps it would be best for you to have a conversation with Agnes.

PARKER

I don't need you to tell me, boy-lover. Just open the door and I'll get her myself.

FATHER SIMON

No, I can't do that.

Father Simon walks down the hall and down the stairs. He goes to the sink FILLS a glass of with water. He looks down at the sink and SETS the glass down. He looks up and Agnes is behind him in the window.

AGNES

I'm sorry to be so quiet. I hope I didn't startle you.

FATHER SIMON

You didn't. Is Vivian okay?

AGNES

Yes, her and Lucy are still sleeping.

FATHER SIMON

How is your injury?

AGNES

It is tender, but fine. I do need to know how we are going to win. What do we do?

FATHER SIMON

Win? I'm not sure we win. From my only other experience with him, I didn't win. The entire family died. I had no answers, my faith was left in shreds.

AGNES

But we know now, don't we? You know what has to happen. We have to admit what we've done. Someone has to sacrifice, right?

FATHER SIMON

Yes, the one to sacrifice has to volunteer, an offering to pay for the sin.

Then Father Simon stops. He remembers what Parker said.

AGNES

What is it?

FATHER SIMON

I think he will take me. He said he would be satisfied with my soul. If nothing else, maybe it will help stave him off. Then he might leave. I can be the one who atones.

AGNES

What are you talking about?

FATHER SIMON

Yes. If I have a way to save your family, this is it. No prayers or faith will stop him. But my death might.

AGNES

Why would you do that?

FATHER SIMON

If I can do something to help this family, I am going to do it. I did nothing before, I can do something now.

AGNES

Can we at least talk to Charlie? Maybe he has found something? Let's go upstairs and see what he has to say? Okay? You look weary, let's go rest a bit.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - 5:37 AM

Father Simon is laying on Ben's bed. Ben, Charlie, and Agnes at the far end of the room near the window, Agnes is sitting on the window seat.

AGNES (WHISPERING)

Father Simon believes the Mean Man will leave if he sacrifices himself. What am I suppose to say to that?

CHARLIE (WHISPERING)

I don't know what to say or what to think.

Agnes shifts on the window seat and lets out a little WHIMPER of pain.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Agnes why don't you go lie in your bed? We can stay with Father Simon and the girls. And I'll check on Parker. You can barely keep your eyes open.

AGNES

I will only rest for a bit. Just a enough to get through.

Agnes exits Ben's room to go lay on her bed. She removes the pillows and lays down on the bed.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - 7:41 AM

The door is open to the bathroom where they were holding Parker. In Ben's room and the sunlight is streaming in. It is right in Charlie's eyes and they open. He nudges Ben.

CHARLIE

Hey Ben, you up?

BEN

I'm awake. I'll go make breakfast. You check on everyone?

CHARLIE

I checked on Parker about 45 minutes ago and all good there.

BEN

I'm glad you're here.

He reaches up and KISSES Charlie. He gets up walking toward the bathroom.

CHARLIE

I'm glad I am too, hey Benny. Brush your teeth!

Ben smiles and WHISPERS back.

BEN

Brush yours!

Ben looks at his reflection in the mirror and wets down his hair where it is sticking up and stares at himself for a beat. Then he walks into the hallway. He decides to go down the hall to check in on Agnes. He KNOCKS lightly then gently pushes the door open. Parker is sitting on Agnes's chest. Ben runs over to her.

BEN (CONT'D)
Parker, Dad! STOP!

Parker is sitting on her with his hands around her neck. Her eyes are open and bulging. Parker is foaming at the mouth and writhing. The look on his face is pure joy. Ben tries to pull Parker off, but he is like stone. Then he pushes as hard as he can. And YELLS for Charlie. Charlie runs up next to him trying to push Parker off her. We can hear Agnes trying to WHISPER something.

AGNES (RASPY WHISPER)
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

This time when Charlie and Ben push Parker, he rolls off the far side of the bed and THUDS to the floor. Ben and Charlie run over to him. He is getting up, but before he can, Ben PUNCHES him in the face and he falls back to the floor. Charlie is surprised and looks at Ben. Ben's face is drenched in rage. Agnes begins COUGHING.

AGNES (RASPY WHISPER) (CONT'D)
How did he get out?

CHARLIE
I don't know. Are you okay, Agnes?

AGNES
Yes. But his knees were digging so hard into my sides, I'm not sure I can move.

Ben and Charlie both help her up.

AGNES (CONT'D)
Charlie, did you find any other way to stop him?

CHARLIE
All I found is what we already know. A willing sacrifice.

BEN
How can we ask Father Simon to do that? We brought this on ourselves. What are WE willing to do? Father Simon has nothing to do with why the Mean Man is here.

BEN (CONT'D)
Charlie, you help Mom? I'll ask Father Simon to come help restrain him. We will have double up on the everything to keep him contained.

Ben leaves to go downstairs, Charlie stays with Parker. Agnes walks into Ben's room and Vivian is still asleep on the bed. She doesn't see Lucy. We hear wrenching NOISES from the en suite bathroom. Lucy is over the toilet, on her knees vomiting. She gives Agnes a look. Agnes knows what this means. She tries her best to hold her hair back and comfort her. Agnes's back is to the camera.

AGNES

How long have you known?

LUCY

Only a few weeks, but I was hoping it wasn't true. Yes, he knows. He doesn't want it. I'm not sure I want it.

Lucy looks up at Agnes with desperation. Then her countenance changes to sheer horror. Vivian is squatting on the counter top, with Parker next to her, caressing her hair, and the Mean Man is behind him, caressing his hair.

VIVIAN

The priest must die!

INT. OUTSIDE BEN'S BATHROOM DOOR - 8:09 AM

Father Simon comes to the open door. Vivian perched on the counter top, Agnes and Lucy huddled in the corner and Parker is standing next to Vivian stroking her hair. No sign of the Mean Man.

PARKER

Will you sing it with me baby?

PARKER AND VIVIAN (IN UNISON)

*I know a man, named Mr. Linguini,
Mr. Linguini. He has a long house he
has a long wife, but he won't have
a long life!*

PARKER

He will not let go. We have
welcomed him. We welcome him!

Parker and Vivian keep singing the song over and over. We then see the Mean Man's shape appear almost super imposed over Parker. Father Simon has his rosary and he is shaking and sweating and CHANTING and PRAYING. Ben and Charlie have now entered. Charlie has his book and he stands next to Father Simon, they are CHANTING in unison. Ben tries to grab Vivian, but he is thrown out the door into the bedroom. Charlie turns his head to see Ben fall.

He stops the chant and runs to him. Then Father Simon moves his rosary to his left hand while he is still praying. He then pulls out a pair of kitchen sheers and opens them and holds them to his neck.

FATHER SIMON

It is time for me to pay penance
for my sins. For the Kipling's
and now for you. Be well, my child
and he winks at Lucy.

Agnes SCREAMS.

AGNES

No!!!

Agnes grabs Vivian from the counter and is not pushed away. She holds her and Lucy and hides their faces in her chest. Father Simon then with a shaky hands holds the scissors up to his throat. Agnes she is holding her daughters, heads hidden, and she is SCREAMING. A pool of blood on the white tile begins to spread. Then a heavy thud and Father Simon drops to the floor. Agnes gets the girls up, covering Vivian's eyes and they walk past Father Simon's body. Parker is standing near the counter top. Not moving. Charlie comes back into the bathroom. He kneels down and checks Father Simon's pulse. It is very weak, he takes Father Simon's hand and says something into his ear. Then he closes his lids as tears roll down his cheeks.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Vivian is sitting up on the sofa and Lucy is giving her water. She is motionless. Charlie is pacing the room.

CHARLIE

Jesus Christ, what do we do now?
Should we call the police? Is it
gone? How will we even know?

Ben drops to his knees. Silence. We see Parker walking down the stairs. His hair is wild and eyes dark with lack of sleep.

PARKER

He's gone. I saw Father Simon. I
know he is gone. He told me if he
sacrificed himself, the Mean Man
would leave. And he has.

BEN

How do we know? We can't trust
you! You did this to this family.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

You ruined Lucy, you are ruining Vivian! You don't deserve to be part of this family! We don't need you and your sickness here anymore!

Ben stands up and gets right in Parker's face.

BEN (CONT'D)

This is on you! You sick motherfucker! I won't let you near my sisters any longer! I am the man of this house now! You tried to kill Mom! Did he make you or did you want to?!

Ben balls his fist ready to punch Parker. He hesitates, BREATHING heavily and Parker doesn't flinch.

PARKER

Do it, Benny. Like you said, I deserve it. I have failed and I need help. I know that.

Parker turns to Agnes. She nods to Ben and Ben PUNCHES him in the face, knocking him cold.

INT. DINING ROOM - 9:02 AM

Parker is in a chair in the dining room, duct tape on his mouth, and hands. We can hear voices in the other room. His eyes are wide and look sinister. He is looking at the opposite wall and nodding.

INT. KITCHEN, - 9:07 AM

Adults sitting at the table and Vivian and Lucy are on the couch playing.

AGNES

What should we do with Father Simon? I can't get his face out of my head.

CHARLIE

I can at least cover him with a sheet. Once we are sure this is over, we will call the police.

BEN

We will have to let Parker go.

AGNES

I will deal with Parker, he doesn't scare me. I let him manipulate me and you all suffered for it. He is my problem.

CHARLIE

I have read my last prayers. I hope that and Father Simon's sacrifice was worth it.

BEN

We have got to get out of here. All of us. A new place, a life away from the Parker. Mom, you could change to the New York office, right?

AGNES

Yes, I suppose. Whatever I can do, now. Parker is out of chances.

BEN

I'm going to some breakfast.

Agnes gets up and walks over to the sofa where the girls are. She sits down next to Lucy and cradles Vivian in her lap.

AGNES

How are you doing, baby?

VIVIAN

I'm okay, Mommy. Where's Daddy?

AGNES

He's fine, don't worry about him right now. Benny is making his world famous strawberry crepes, doesn't that sound good?

VIVIAN

That sounds so yummy! I am starving. Make sure he makes some for Daddy. He is probably resting. The Mean Man made him really tired.

Lucy looks at Agnes. And Agnes begins to rock Vivian back and forth on her lap.

AGNES

We will be okay, everything will be just fine.

Lucy then gets up and runs to the powder room under the stairs. Ben CALLS them to come eat.

BEN
Where's Lucy?

AGNES
She doesn't feel so well.

BEN
The last few days have been brutal.
She's had to deal with a lot.

Agnes shakes her head and touches her stomach. Ben looks at Agnes with surprise.

BEN (CONT'D)
When? How long?

AGNES
She's only known a few weeks. She
is probably a few months along.

Charlie enters the kitchen and grabs a plate and sits down.

BEN (WHISPERING)
Maybe you should go change, you
have blood on your shirt.

CHARLIE
Yeah.

Charlie leaves and Ben sits down.

BEN
What are we going to do, about
Lucy?

AGNES
She's not sure she wants it, I'm
not sure if this family could
handle anymore right now.

BEN
Yeah. Strange.

AGNES
What is strange?

BEN
I am sure I am wrong.

ANGES
Wrong about what Benny?

BEN

Wasn't her boyfriend on that trip with his family? They were gone for like three months to the Mediterranean.

AGNES

No, that was way before.

BEN

It wasn't. It was over her birthday and remember how sad she was that he wasn't here?

AGNES

Oh, yeah, well then.

BEN

Mom, it's not his.

AGNES

Who's then?

Charlie enters the room and sits back down.

CHARLIE

I think we need to call the police about Father Simon. I feel horrible. And maybe now Vivian can leave, we could all get out of this house.

AGNES

What do we do about Parker? If we untie him, he will tell the police!

BEN

Then we have to try and explain this whole thing? How do we do that?

CHARLIE

We could tell them he tried to strangle you and we tied him up.

AGNES

Then they will want to know why we tied him up instead of just calling them! No, we need to try and leave with the girls and figure it out then.

The three of them go into the living room where Lucy and Vivian are sitting on the floor, playing.

LUCY

Vivian really wants to go swing in the backyard.

VIVIAN

Can we?

CHARLIE

Why don't you grab my hand sweetie, we will walk out together?

Charlie gives a nod to the others and walks back through the kitchen with Vivian to the French doors. He opens it and walks out, Vivian stops.

VIVIAN

I can't go. I can't. He won't let me.

BEN

This isn't going to work.

Charlie ignores him and tries to pick her up and walk her out. Charlie involuntarily drops Vivian and he is pushed across the room into the fridge. He gets back up and tries to pick her up again and this time he is held up in the air and pressed into the ceiling. We hear his BREATH pushed out and bones start to CRACK. His one eye focused on the camera, it is filling with blood.

CHARLIE

Don't look Vivy. Turn your head.

BEN

CHARLIE!!!

He tries to YELL for Ben, but his last breath is PUSHED out and his body DROPS to the floor. Lucy grabs Vivian and they run out of the room and up the stairs. She LOCKS the door to her room behind them. Vivian is white. Lucy is trembling as she reaches for her phone. Then someone is KNOCKING on her door, it's Agnes

AGNES

Open the door, Lucy.

LUCY

I'm calling the police. I will tell them everything, everything he did! This is all his fault.

Just then Parker walks out of the shadows. He appears to be in a trance.

PARKER

Oh baby. Please don't do that. It is time now, he has come for us. We all have sinned and he is here for me and this family.

LUCY

Admit what you did!!! You touched Vivian, I know you did and you touched me. I hate you, we all hate you! He can have you!

Then we see the black coat and the Mean Man appears behind Parker. Parker falls to his knees, sobbing. Apparently out of the "trance" he was under.

THE MEAN MAN

I will not take him. I will take you all! The Father only made me stronger. I will take you all away.

Parker shaken gets up and looks around. He looks confused and dazed. The door starts to BANG. We see Ben outside the door trying break it down. Over and over, he RUNS into it, but it doesn't budge.

AGNES

Let me go look for something better.

Ben ignores her and starts CRASHING into the door, repeatedly. Until she stops him.

BEN

Oh god, Mom! Charlie, Charlie! He's gone.

AGNES

I know Benny. We have to get in that room, before the girls get hurt too.

Ben YELLS at the door.

BEN

Goddamn it! Leave them alone!

INT. LUCY'S ROOM - SECONDS LATER

The Mean Man is beginning to turn from a vapor like form into a human like form.

THE MEAN MAN
You can't stop this now.

LUCY
Dad! Daddy! Help us!

Lucy is hugging Vivian tightly in the corner. Agnes is YELLING from outside the door.

ANGES (O.S.)
Leave them be! Leave my girls
alone!

LUCY
You can stop this Dad! You can
stop it Parker!

The lights start to flicker and a wind is RUSHING in the room from no where.

PARKER
What can I do? I don't know what
to do!

LUCY
Tell them! Say it, say it out
loud, you bastard!

PARKER
I don't know, what you want?!

LUCY
He is going to take Vivian! We are
all going to die if you don't admit
it!

PARKER
I don't know!

Parker then looks in a mirror above the bed and sees the Mean man in the opposite corner coming into view and becoming more human like by the moment. The room is in chaos with wind and objects flying.

LUCY
Say it! Say it! She touches her
stomach.

Parker looks shocked and sick. He is shaking. We can hear Agnes YELLING outside the door again.

PARKER

I'm sorry, honey. I'm sorry. I deserve...

LUCY

SAY IT!!!! SAY IT!!!

PARKER

I'm sorry I hurt you and hurt Vivy. I know I am sick. I need help, will you help me? We can all be a family. It'll just take some time.

LUCY

Say it! It's YOUR baby I'm carrying! Say it!

Parker has a look of dread. And the BANGING stops outside the door. We see Anges drop to the floor. Ben holds her, they are PRAYING together. Parker begins to SOB. He looks at Lucy and Vivian as if for forgiveness.

PARKER

I, I..

Parker stops and looks at himself in the mirror over Lucy's bed, he sees the Mean Man behind him. Agnes YELLS through the door.

ANGES (O.S.)

SAY IT! What you did to our girls!

Parker BREATHING raspy and overwhelmed.

LUCY

Save Vivian. You can save her! Daddy, please!

Parker turns and looks over to Lucy and Vivian. His eyes are severely bloodshot and full of tears.

PARKER

I am so sorry babies. I love you. That is my child Lucy is carrying. I deserve this, I deserve hell for what I have done. I know that. Remember me for this act and not the shame and grief I have caused. I will take it out of this world with me.

Behind him, we see the Mean Man grab him by the neck and lift him off the ground.

THE MEAN MAN

You cannot save this family, you
are mine!

Parker then pulls a small knife from his pocket and slashes his throat right above where the Mean Man is holding it. Then Parker DROPS to the floor. There is more wind RUSHING in. Then quiet. Lucy runs to the door and UNLOCKS it. Agnes rushes to the girls and the Ben and all of them are holding each other SOBBING. Then Lucy breaks away and goes over to Parker. He is holding his throat, barely alive. She puts her hand over his and puts the other one next to it then begins to squeeze. She squeezes out what life of him is left. She just stares at him and squeezes harder until he isn't moving. Anges comes over to her, but Lucy lunges for the knife Parker used.

LUCY

I can't do it. I can't carry this
baby.

Lucy places the knife right at her abdomen, ready to thrust the knife into her stomach.

AGNES

Lucy, it's okay. Please don't.
Please don't. We can figure it out.
But not like this. We are not his
victims! We need you, we love you!

LUCY

Mom, you let him do this. I'm
carrying this because you left us.
Why? Why did you forgive him?

Lucy is SOBBING and starts to press the knife into her stomach.

BEN

Lucy, don't. Let me have it.

Ben moves to her and places his hand on her hand. He guides her hand away from her stomach and takes the knife. Agnes then tries to hug her, but Lucy fights her and starts to punch Agnes's chest.

LUCY

I hate you!

Agnes keeps trying to hug her, then finally Lucy succumbs and her arms drop to her side and Agnes pulls her tight.

We see Lucy's face over Agnes's shoulder, she has a look of pure horror and SCREAMS.

INT. HIGH RISE BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY, DAY

Title: 18 months later.

Agnes is sitting at a large glass corner desk. Someone KNOCKS on the door.

AGNES

Come in.

The door opens and it is Stella. She is dressed in a business suit.

STELLA

Has Lucy been up with the baby yet?

AGNES

Not yet. She should be here anytime. But, how are you? I haven't seen you all week.

STELLA

The Freeman account has had our department really bogged down.

She glances at her watch.

STELLA (CONT'D)

I hope she makes it before my 1:30.

AGNES

I'm sure she will. You want to come by for dinner tonight? Ben is making Coq Au Vin.

Then we see Lucy enter the office. She is dressed more casually with sneakers on. She is carrying a baby about eight to nine months old. She has curly blond hair and dark chestnut eyes. She looks just like Lucy.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Oh there's our little Abigail! Oh sweetie, come see me!

Lucy brings the baby over to Agnes to hold.

ANGES

How has she been today?

LUCY

She had her morning nap on time and content since. You coming to dinner tonight?

STELLA

You're not too sick of us?

LUCY

How could anyone get sick of this little angel?

Agnes turns toward the windows. The office is still and she SIGHS.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Everything okay, mom?

AGNES

Yes. It will be nice to all be together again.

Lucy's back is to us looking out the windows HUSHING Abigail.

AGNES (CONT'D)

Lucy?

Lucy turns her head to look at Agnes. She is white and her eyes are wide. She looks petrified.

LUCY

MOM?!

THE END