

EXT. RURAL USA - STILLWATER HIGH - BLOOD DRIVE VAN - DAY

CHEERLEADERS and JOCKS flirt, waiting by a sun-bathed blood drive van. A sign by the steps: 'STILLWATER HIGH BLOOD DRIVE.' The school buzzes as school cliques mill past.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)
What would it take for you to believe
the unbelievable?

A Jock dribbles a basketball THUD-THUD-THUD, loud and fast.

INT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - DAY

Sorority queen CHASTITY (16, white) reclines in an arm chair. Her blue eyes are terrified. Sweat coats her top lip. Her lace bra peeks through her baby-pink shirt.

The basketball THUD-THUD-THUD outside replaces her heartbeat. Chastity pumps a ball in a manicured hand.

Raven-haired nurse EVE (appears 40, white), with a body to die for, bends close over Chastity.

EVE
Stay. Completely. Still.

A thick needle SLOW, SLOW, SLOWLY pierces Chastity's vein, blue in her alabaster skin. Chastity cries out.

Eve's deep blue eyes fix on the blood snaking down a tube. Eve notes Chastity's purity ring. Chastity notices.

CHASTITY
I'm head of the chastity club.

EVE
You've really never had sex?

CHASTITY
I'm not going to hell.

A bell RINGS. The school chatter outside fades.

Blood DRIPS fast, echoing into a bulging blood bag.

Chastity eyes the bag, the door. Tries but can't speak.

BANG - a basketball smacks the window. Chastity startles. Eve closes the blinds. Turns to Chastity. Smirks.

EVE
Relax. It's almost over.

Eve jerks the needle out. Chastity whimpers, weak.

Eve eyes a fat blood drop at Chastity's elbow intently.

Her tongue flicks the blood drop into her mouth!

The basketball THUD-Thud-thud slows, slows -- Stops.
Chastity's arm flops from the chair.

Eve labels a blood bag 'VIRGIN 16 AB-'.

EXT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - DAY

Eve scans the empty school yard. The UNITED WELLNESS logo is set in a galaxy. Eve retrieves the sign. Door shuts.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. RURAL AMERICA - STILLWATER - ARI'S HOUSE - DAY

ARI'S BEDROOM: Small and crammed with taped moving boxes.

Through the boxes is glimpsed the naked back of a small woman, sitting on the edge of the bed.

Her bitten nails zip up the back of a white nurse's uniform, hiding cigarette burns on her pale back.

A medical bracelet is clasped on her delicate wrist. She fastens a necklace, pulling forward an amethyst cross.

Frazzled single mom **ARI** (46, Korean Australian) is a flower struggling through a crack in the road. A testament to survival but always about to be run over.

Ari pats makeup on bags under her eyes. Yanks thin hair into a ponytail. Arranges her fringe to cover a forehead SCAR.

Ari regards her once beautiful face in the mirrored built-in. Exhales heavily. Ari tugs her fringe, her nervous tick.

-- A CAT jumps on the bed. Ari startles.

ARI
Jonesie! You scared me!
(calls out)
Ben! Merry! Get a wriggle on!

Ari nuzzles into Jonesie, who PURRS. As she carries him to the door, she trips over a box with clothes jumbling out.

She drops Jonesie who MEOWS in protest. Ari rubs her shin.

ARI (cont'd)

Frack!

On her nightstand are two forgotten ANTI-CONVULSANT TABLETS.

HALLWAY: Ari dodges Jonesie, ALWAYS UNDERFOOT, and a dozen neatly folded empty boxes, on her way to...

KIDS' BEDROOM: Twin beds, haphazardly made, in a small room. Half the room is themed with vampire posters and figurines.

ARI (cont'd)

(distressed)

Ben? Merry?

BEN (O.S.)

Boo!

Ari jumps. Turns. Her kids have backpacks on, ready to go.

Her kids often take the lead, by nature or necessity. Ari may be the heart but the kids are the head and hands.

Ari's cheeky, independent daughter **MERRY** (11, Eurasian), has HEMOPHILIA, leans on her WALKER. Merry raises an eyebrow.

MERRY

We're ready. Are you?

Ari's withdrawn son **BEN** (Eurasian, 8), with thick glasses and Complex Trauma* films her. Jonesie rubs against him.

**Complex Trauma, from childhood trauma, can present as a mix of autism and ADD, difficulty reading cues and boundaries etc.*

Ari seizes Ben's camera. He hisses, baring plastic fangs.

ARI

Ben baby, can we lay off the vampire stuff today?

Ben spits his fangs into Ari's palm. A familiar routine. Ben nuzzles into Jonesie. Jonesie wriggles and jumps off.

MERRY

Have you made lunch?

ARI

Argh!

Merry picks up three packed lunches from a table behind her.

MERRY

Another day in chaos.

Merry sees the bruise on Ari's shin.

MERRY (cont'd)
What happened?!

Merry hardens remembering their violent past. Ari strokes Merry's face.

ARI
I tripped. It's nothing. We're safe.

Ari assesses Ben as he cinches his lips with his fingers.

ARI (cont'd)
Remember. Your last name is Lee. And we keep our secrets, like about Dad.

Ben grabs his stomach. Ari bends her face down to his.

ARI (cont'd)
Won't it be fun to make new friends?

MERRY
No more home schooling. Yay!

ARI
For you and me both baby. For you and me both. Look, we're right on time!

MERRY
You don't get points for that, Mom.

Ari pokes out her tongue playfully. Merry responds in kind.

Ben's long blink. Ari's reassuring face.

Ben spews a demonic fountain of vomit.

Ari's mouth gapes. Her uniform is soaked.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Ari watches Ben and Merry walk into school, holding hands. Ben looks back, nervous. Ari fakes a smile. Waves.

-- Ari drives through a **PRESERVED SMALL TOWN**. A BACKPACKER enters a diner. Sign: STILLWATER'S BEST JUICY LUCY

-- Passes a billboard: 'United Wellness. Healthcare you can trust.' A HANDSOME DOCTOR reinforces the message.

NEWS READER (V.O.)
 The sixteen children on the Crusaders
 basketball team bus remain missing...

-- Clouds look down on the town, hemmed in by dense forest
 in sunset colors, radiating into endless APPLE ORCHARDS.

-- Ari's car snakes along the road through the forest.

-- Ari looks up at the autumn leaves. Smiles. Exhales.

Ari passes a sign:

Stillwater
 Est 1884
America's Apple Capital
 Population 19,184

A REDHEADED MAN in overalls paints the '4'.

He locks Ari's eyes with his --

BAM! A flash of white fur BOUNCES into the window.

Ari swerves. SCREECHES to a stop. She pants, wet with sweat.

IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR: An injured white bear CUB.

Ari exits the car.

The man and cub are gone.

The CUB SCREAMS.

Ari chases the scream to the forest edge.

Peers but doesn't leave the road. The CUB SCREAMS.

Ari squeezes her eyes shut until SILENCE.

Ari hurries to the car, distressed.

She shuts the door. Peers at the bonnet. No damage. Exhales.

THRUMP! A giant albino mama bear lunges at the window.

Ari drops the key. The bear MOANS, loud. It retreats.

Ari feels for the key under her seat. Got it!

THRUMP!

The bear slams at the car, shaking it.

Its huge paws and slathering, wide jaw, fill the window.

The engine stutters then starts. Ari screeches off. Her mirror hangs broken. The bear MOANS in grief behind her.

-- Ari drives, rattled. Red tree canopy casts an eerie glow. The forest opens into a clearing with a sprawling brick building with turrets. A sign: 'NEW AMPIRA HOSPITAL 1890'

-- Ari jogs down the OLD hall. Signs: PEDIATRICS, RESEARCH. Ari pushes open a door to a STATE OF THE ART pediatric unit.

Ari, harried, soundlessly explains her lateness to a nurse.

The nurse is Eve. Eve leers over thick-rimmed glasses, hair pulled into a severe bun. She looks dour. NAME TAG says Eve.

INT. HOSPITAL - PEDIATRIC UNIT - DAY

ROOM 6: Ari wipes drool from the mouth of **JAX** (11, male, Black), a paralyzed stroke patient. His eyes are intelligent and bright. He speaks but his words are unintelligible. Ari smiles sympathetically. He grunts in frustration.

SHWP! The curtains around the bed draw back -- It's Eve.

Ari spins, knocking the patient chart off the bed.

EVE

Pick that up.

Pediatrician **ADAM** (looks 50, white), devilishly attractive, stands outside the curtains. He's a man that stops conversations and starts whispers, with gray eyes you trust and a velvet voice you sink into. He enters unimpressed.

ADAM

Are you making our new nurse welcome?

Eve purses her lips.

EVE

Doctor Well, head of pediatrics.

ARI

You're on the billboard.

ADAM

And regretting it daily. I'm Adam.

Adam extends a hand. Ari hesitates then, her hand shaking, takes his hand. He holds it then shakes firmly. He clocks her medical bracelet. Ari withdraws her hand quickly.

Adam bends to pick up the medical chart. Checks the chart.

ADAM (cont'd)
I'll take over from here, Eve.

Eve's eyes narrow. She jerks the curtains closed behind her.

Adam smiles boyishly. Pushes his black mop of hair from his magnetic gray eyes. He has a widow's peak and no boundaries.

ADAM (cont'd)
Eve's the first person I met when I got here. She runs this place. It's Ari right? You're in the Mackenzie house. That was a smuggler's den, you know, like a lot of these old houses.

ARI
How did you --

ADAM
Best thing about a small town is you know everyone. Worst thing about a small town is everyone knows you.

Ari smiles tightly. Adam fills any void with chatter.

ADAM (cont'd)
I was with Doctors Without Borders. This is the longest I've stayed anywhere. I can introduce you to some other single moms if you like.

Ari's brow furrows. Adam hesitates. Tries to read her.

ADAM (cont'd)
I'm a doctor and a single dad. Five minutes after I got here, every single mom's kid got sick.
(off her look)
No, I'm not some player. I just feel like prey sometimes.

Jax garbles urgently, eyes flicking between Adam and Ari. Ari squeezes his hand.

ADAM (cont'd)
Moving isn't easy but kids adapt. My son Seph is fifteen, at Stillwater High. What about your kids?

ARI
Ah, Ben is eight and Merry is eleven, going on fifty.

Adam chuckles.

ADAM
And their dad?

ARI
He's... not on the scene.

ADAM
Dead or deadbeat? Sorry. Not my
business. I can't control my mouth.

Adam takes Jax's other hand. Jax shakes his head vigorously.

ADAM (cont'd)
It's okay, Jax. This will be easy.

Jax stares into Adam's gray eyes. Adam exhales. Jax exhales.
He calms and so does Ari. Adam traces Jax's veins.

ARI
Do you want a butterfly needle?

Adam notices Ari's hand tremor.

ADAM
I'll get it. You take a break.

ARI
But I just got here.

ADAM
It's our secret. Us single parents
have to have each other's backs.

Ari closes the curtain behind her.

Peeks between the curtains at Adam's strong back. He turns.

She snaps back. *Sprung*. Inside the curtains, Adam chuckles.

NURSE'S STATION: Ari writes in a patient chart.

ON THE CHART: OWEN JONES. Hemophiliac. Foster care.

Eve and TWO NURSES track Ari like hunters.

Ari looks up. They busy themselves. Ari's phone RINGS.

EVE
We have a no phones policy.

Ari silences it and pockets it. Adam stands behind her.

ADAM
Answer it. It could be the school.

Ari checks his face. Listens to voicemail. She gasps.

ARI
My daughter fell over. She has a
medical condition. I have to go.

ADAM
Can I help?

Ari regards him suspiciously. Eve's in the distance.

ARI
I, uh -- No.

Ari's eyes bug. Her face slackens. She falls back.

Ari CONVULSES on the floor.

Adam kneels by Ari.

Eve's there in a flash.

ADAM
I'll take care of her.

In Ari's daze, Adam and the ceiling lights become...

EXT. DREAM SEQUENCE - DAY

Light dapples through apple trees.

Adam, naked, kisses Ari's neck. Ari looks past Adam.

Eve is draped in a writhing snake.

It rises and STRIKES at Ari. Her SCREAM becomes...

INT. SCHOOL - FOYER - DAY

Adam is BUZZED into a foyer with a Stillwater School logo.

Merry looks up from her teen romance novel. Ben wages a figurine battle. His vampire hunter stakes a vampire.

BEN
Die! Fwoosh! We got him Merry.

A SECRETARY (30, female) leers at Adam. Chews her pen.

School Principal CHANNING (looks 50, female, white) enters. She's athletic, dressed in Armani.

CHANNING

Oh! Hello! Is there a clinic today?

ADAM

No. A student was hurt. Merry Lee.

The Secretary points toward Merry who observes them.

ADAM (cont'd)

Hi Merry, I'm Doctor Well. I've come to take you to the hospital.

Merry looks at Adam's doctor's bag, her lips pressed flat.

MERRY

Why didn't Mom come?

ADAM

She's already at the hospital.

Merry notices Adam's photo on the board of school staff.

CHANNING (TO ADAM)

Will I see you at drinks?

Adam signs Merry and Ben out and glances at the kids.

ADAM

Depends on my patients.

CHANNING (TO MERRY)

Well, don't keep the doctor waiting.

Merry holds fast. Channing looks stern. Merry relents.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Merry awkwardly maneuvers in the small gap between the car and wall. Adam steadies the walker.

MERRY

I can do it!

Merry plonks into the passenger seat. Ben sits behind her.

Adam turns the ignition. Cheesy music oozes out.

ADAM

I like your independence. Not many --

MERRY

Disabled kids?

ADAM

I was going to say, not many young women are so assertive, mature.

MERRY

Oh. It's not a quality Mom appreciates... This is nursing home music.

Adam chortles. Nods at the radio.

ADAM

You drive. What music do you like?

Merry flicks jarringly from channel to channel.

RADIO REPORTER (V.O.)

Two bears escaped whilst being tr--

MERRY

Do you know After Romeo?

ADAM

No, sorry.

MERRY

I can't believe Mom sent a doctor to pick me up. She always overreacts.

ADAM

Look, your mom, she had an episode. She's fine. We're just observing her.

MERRY

She's in the psych ward?

ADAM

What? No. She had a seizure.

Ben squeaks. Merry leans over the seat and holds his hand.

MERRY

It's okay, Ben. We're going there.

Adam notes Merry's tunic rising above her bruised knee.

ADAM

We can check your leg whilst we're there. If that's okay with you.

Merry sights a poster: MISSING CHILDREN; MISSING CHASTITY.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Ari is unconscious. Merry holds her hand. Ben shakes Ari.

BEN
Mom? Mom! Mom Mom Mom Mom Mom.

MERRY
No one called Dad, did they?!

BEN
Then who's going to take care of us?

Ari's eyes flicker. She sees Ben's lip tremble and Merry's brow knit. Adam stands between them. Calm, in command.

ADAM
Ari, you had a seizure. We're going to observe you for a bit. My shift's over. I can take the kids home.
(to kids)
You like pizza?

Adam puts his arms around Merry and Ben. Merry pulls back. Ari argues unintelligibly. They dim as she passes out.

ADAM (cont'd)
(distorted)
Your mom needs to sleep.

HOURS LATER: The muffled sounds of the ER. Ari's eyes flutter. Through dazed eyes Ari sees Eve loom over her.

Eve TAPS the purplish veins in Ari's wrist. A kidney dish with needle and blood bag is by Ari's wrist.

Eve fakes a smile. Looks over her shoulder. *No witnesses.*

SHWP! The curtains draw back. An OLDER DOCTOR enters.

Eve's nostrils flare. Ari opens her eyes but Eve's gone.

ARI
What time is it?

INT. ARI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

KIDS' BEDROOM: Ari throws open the door. Ben sleeps deeply.

A girl's SCREAM. Ari whips around.

LIVING ROOM: Ari slams open the door.

Merry lies on the couch, her knee on Adam's lap. Adam holds an icepack on her knee. Between them is a bowl of popcorn. Horror movie plays.

ARI

Merry!

Ari removes the ice from Merry's knee. It's blue.

ARI (cont'd)

She has hemophilia.

ADAM

Merry told me. She's okay. Are you okay? I could stay. I ordered pizza.

ARI

Oh. Ah...

MERRY

(eyeing Ari)

Yes, of course you'll stay.

JAWS RINGTONE. Ari looks at her phone.

ON THE PHONE: Mom 6 missed calls.

ARI

My mom has a sixth sense.

EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Through the window, Ari and Merry laugh at the dining table, captivated by Adam gesticulating a story.

INT./EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Adam lingers, zoning in on Ari. There's chemistry here.

ARI

Is something wrong?

ADAM

I can't read you. You're... different to other women here.

ARI

Because I'm not swooning?

ADAM

Yes -- no.

Adam chuckles. Strokes his chin.

ADAM (cont'd)
These stairs can't be easy for you.

ARI
We're lucky to find anywhere. I had
to pay three months in advance.

ADAM
There's not a lot of turnover here.
(sees Merry spying)
You know, Merry really should have a
phone. In case of an emergency.

Ari, sensing Merry, looks back. Merry ducks out of view.

ARI
Go to bed.

Merry peeks out. Adam winks. Merry grins.

INT. ARI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ari wakes, smiling. She lays in bed and stretches.

CRERSH of the garbage truck. She jumps up with a start.

EXT. ARI'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ari, in a robe, runs a bulging bag to the trash. It breaks.
Rotting food falls on her legs.

MAGGOTS WRITHE over her feet. Ari's mesmerized by them.
Jonesie eats the maggots. *Ergh.*

INT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY

BATHROOM: Under the shower, Ari scrubs her legs harshly,
like a punishment. Water beats against her scarred back.

Behind the shower curtain, the SHADOW of a man.

Ari lifts her head to the full force of the water. Exhales.

SHADOW presses against the curtain. Ari turns off the tap.

SHADOW retreats. Ari reaches for her towel on the door rail.

She rubs her face as she exits the shower.

The room is dense with steam.

Ari faces a steam-fogged mirror. Wipes it and -- Nothing.

Ari gives herself an imaginary facelift. Duck pouts.

She opens her makeup kit. In its mirror -- Nothing.

Ari looks up at the bathroom mirror, fogged again.

The SHADOW flashes!

Ari spins toward the MENACING FACE of ex-husband Doctor ZANE WHITE (45, white).

Ari tries to scream -- Can't. Zane sneers.

ZANE

Shhhh.

Zane grips her neck. She chokes.

He SMASHES her head into the mirror.

SMASH-SMASH-SMASH. It shatters.

Ari sees the silver-backed glass on the floor.

Her head bleeds. RAP-RAP-RAP on the front door.

Ari jolts **BACK TO REALITY**, alone with her violent past.

ARI

You're safe you're safe you're safe.

She touches her forehead scar. RAP-RAP-RAP.

ENTRANCE: Ben opens the door to Adam who has a carry bag.

BEN

What's in the bag?

ARI (O.S.)

Don't open the door!

Ari pokes her head into the doorway, wearing only a towel. Merry ducks her head out behind Ari.

ADAM

Just checking on my patients.

ARI

Oh! We're fine, thanks.

MERRY

I can speak for myself.

Ari assesses Adam. He reads her face.

ADAM

I remember starting in a new town as a single parent. If it wasn't for the kindness of strangers...

Ari notices a welcome basket on the step. She picks it up. The CARD: 'NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH *Looking out for you!*'

ADAM (cont'd)

It's a tight community. You get used to it.

(holds out the bag)

I brought lasagne.

MERRY

My favorite!

ARI

Ah, thanks.

Adam checks his watch. Ari sees the time. Panic.

ADAM

I'm on the way to the school clinic. I can take them if you like. You know you shouldn't be driving so soon.

Ben runs under Ari's arms, down the stairs, camera in hand.

ARI

Ben! Don't run off!

MERRY

Mom, what's your problem?

Merry pushes past Ari who goes to object. Merry descends, holding the rail. Adam picks up her walker. Smiles at Ari.

ADAM

Do you have anything on this weekend?
(glances at kids)
I can introduce you to some families.

Ari sees Ben film Adam's cartoon socks, endearingly caught in his pants leg. Jonesie circles Adam's ankles.

ARI

That would be great.

INT. UNITED WELLNESS COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Adam leads Ari, Merry and Ben into the community center.

IMMIGRANTS consult with volunteers at tables.

KIDS (aged 2-10) cluster on beanbags, transfixed by an animated teen storyteller, seen from behind.

ARI (TO BEN)
Don't. Wander. Off.

ADAM
Undocumented immigrants come for fruit picking. We link them with services and pay them for blood donations. Volunteers for our research studies get free healthcare as do the kids. What do you think?

ARI
Uh, being paid to donate blood?

ADAM
It's a symbiotic relationship. We need it for research, they get free quality healthcare in return. That's what pays for a high-tech pediatric unit in a low-tech town.

MERRY
Yeah, Mom. It's fantastique, Adam. I'm learning French.

ARI
Since when?

They approach the Kids and storyteller. His back is turned.

ADAM
This is my son, Seph.

The storyteller, **SEPH** (15, male, white), turns. He's the captain of everything, a boy living out his father's dreams.

ADAM (cont'd)
Seph, this is Ari, Merry and Ben. Ari, Seph volunteers to tutor special kids, if Ben needs any help.

SEPH
Dad bought you lasagne, right?

ADAM
Brought.

SEPH
He doesn't cook.

ADAM

Traitor. We're doing a blood drive at the moment. We're looking for nurses.

Ben mouths "*blood drive*." Puts fangs in. Catches Seph's eye.

Ben gestures *Shhh* to Seph. Seph winks. Ben sneaks away.

EXT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - DAY

Ben scans as he wanders off to the van.

Apple orchards for miles. Dense into darkness.

MOANING from the clinic van.

Ben snoops in the window.

EXT./INT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - DAY

Ben sees a nurse bends over a sun-worn FRUIT PICKER (50s, male). He moans. A blood bag is filled to the top.

Fruit Picker flops toward Ben, as if dead.

Ben gasps -- The man's eyes DART OPEN.

FRUIT PICKER

Run.

Nurse Eve whips toward Ben --

Blood DRIPS from Eve's mouth. Her eyes are PURPLE.

Ben freezes. He wills his body to move. Can't.

Fruit Picker grabs Eve. She turns, breaking her hold on Ben.

FRUIT PICKER (cont'd)

RUN!

Ben looks around. Too open. He dives under the van.

Ben shrinks under the van. THUD above. SQUEAK of van door.

Eve's feet hurry down the steps. Ben ducks behind a wheel.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - SAME TIME

Merry reads her vampire teen romance novel.

Adam and Ari chat whilst painting a mural with volunteers.

ADAM
I loved Korea. I wish I'd picked up
some of the language.

Ari wipes hair out of her eyes, smearing herself with paint.

Adam reaches to wipe it. Ari backs away -- into the wall.

ADAM (cont'd)
Oh, ah, I was trying to help.

Ari chuckles with embarrassment.

ARI
Better at paintball than painting.

ADAM
I can't imagine you as a--
(sees Seph close by)
Hey Seph, go help Eve in the clinic.

Seph shakes his head vigorously.

ADAM (cont'd)
He's going to be a doctor but he's
afraid of blood.
(stares Seph down)
This isn't a negotiation.

SEPH
Bu-

Adam wins. Seph trudges off. Gives him a murderous glare.

ADAM
Kids will kill you, I tell you.

EXT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - DAY

Ben hears the Community Center door open. Opens his eyes.

Seph wallows toward the clinic van. Hesitates at the steps.

Ben's hand grabs Seph's foot. Seph YELPS.

Seph peers under the van.

BEN
Sh-sh-sh-she's a vampire.
Th-the man. The nurse killed him.

SEPH
A vampire, huh? In here?

Ben nods. Seph treads up the steps.

Ben listens. Door SQUEAKS open. Seph's SCREAM. Ben freezes.

Seph's head ducks into view, under the van.

SEPH (cont'd)
Just jokes. There's no one here.

Ben tries but fails, as always, to read the face of the person before him. Seph smiles. Ben takes the cue.

SEPH (cont'd)
Sorry, li'l dude. It's safe. I'll show you.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Adam and Ari chat easily. She's more relaxed with him now.

ARI
Ben could do with some help,
tutoring. Speaking of Ben...
(scans the room)
Where is he? He never listens.

Ari hurries to the door, bumping into **PARK** (Korean, 50s, male), kind-faced. Each sidesteps the same direction. And again. Laugh awkwardly. He smiles warmly. Ari smiles back.

PARK
I'm Park. You're the first Asian
person I've met here. You from Korea?

Ari brightens. They chat in Korean unheard as...

INT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - SAME TIME

Seph and Ben enter. Ben cranes his neck. The van is empty.

SEPH
See? No one here... Better not tell
anyone you saw a vampire, though.
They'll put you in the psych ward.

Ben knows what what a psych ward is. He nods. Seph puts his arm around Ben as they leave, over a HATCH in the floor.

SCANNING THROUGH THE FLOOR: Stuffed in the cavity under the floor is Fruit Picker, his neck twisted, eyes open. DEAD.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

ADAM'S STUDY: Ben scratches his neck compulsively. Seph sits close to Ben. He sees Ben's carotid pulse.

SEPH
Relax. School isn't life or death.

BEN
You're good at everything.

SEPH
I don't have a choice... Okay, focus.

Ben's face contorts in concentration. Seph leans in and turns a flashcard '2 x 5' over to '10'.

SEPH (cont'd)
Don't calculate. Remember the word like a picture. Think of a word.

BEN
Vampire.

SEPH
Not letting go of that, huh? Okay. You don't think v-a-m-p is vamp, add i-r-e to make vampire. You see it.

BEN
Yes, I see vampires.

Ben hisses. Bares his imaginary fangs. Seph chuckles.

SEPH
Everyone wants to be a vampire.

BEN
Vampires suck.

Ben laughs at his own joke. Seph can't resist and joins in.

SEPH
Okay Dracula, let's get back to it.

The study decor is old money. A heavy duty bow and arrow is mounted above the door. A skeleton hangs on a medical stand.

Merry, on her walker, arrives in the doorway. It's framed by a wall of bookcases. She watches Ben and Seph. Puffs. Bored.

ON BOOKCASES: Books on hematology, genetics and MONSTERS.

INT. ARI'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

LIVING ROOM: Ari's on a ladder. It leans on a ceiling high bookcase. Sings 'Fight Song' by Rachel Platten or similar.

ARI (SINGS)
*This is my fight song
Take back my life song!*

Ari holds the drill, as if for the first time. *Deep breath.*

She drills into a bracket. *Done!* Blows on the drill like a smoking gun. She's covered in sunshine yellow paint.

EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - SAME TIME

A POSTMAN drops a box at the yellow door. Sender: ZANE WHITE

Postman sees Ari through the window, getting ready to drill. He places his hand, with a GALAXY PATTERN RING, on the wall.

ARI (SINGS)
*My power's turned on
Starting right now, I'll be strong!*

Electricity CRACKLES from his hands.

INT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY

LIVING ROOM: Ari lines up the drill, face determined.

IN THE WALLS: Electricity crackles toward her.

LIVING ROOM: The drill pierces the plaster.

Ari's body JOLTS.

FLASH: Terrified faces of screaming children.

Ari falls. Her head SMASHES against the window. Crack!

Ari whimpers on the floor. Blood courses from her cut eye.

Ari levers onto her elbows. Her knee is at forty degrees.

Ari picks up her flaccid leg, positioning it straight. Crooks her good ankle under the lifeless one.

In a cold sweat, she drags herself back...

HALLWAY: Ari grunts, dragging her limp leg back to...

ARI'S BEDROOM: Ari collapses on the floor. Breathes hard.
Her hand flails for the phone on her nightstand.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - STUDY - SAME TIME

Merry picks up a novelty photo from the bookcase: Adam, Seph and Eve are in 1800s dress.

One hand on her walker, she reaches toward an ornate wooden box on a high shelf. Stands on tiptoes. Adam startles her.

MERRY
I wasn't snooping.

ADAM
Sure you were. You're a curious cat.
That's a medicine man's box. Powerful
magic. It came with the house, like a
lot of this cool stuff. It doesn't
open. Is your mom here?

MERRY
Probably forgot about us.

ADAM
I doubt that.

Merry shrugs. Adam calls Ari from his cell phone.

INTERCUT - ARI'S BEDROOM AND ADAM'S STUDY

Ari's phone RINGS in her hand. She's out cold.

Jonesie pads over to her. MEWS. Nudges her. No effect. MEWS.

Adam hangs up. Merry stares into the distance.

ADAM
She'll call us back.

MERRY
No. Something's wrong... Ben! Get
your stuff. We're going home!

INT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY

ARI'S BEDROOM: Merry hurries in, followed by Ben and Seph.

MERRY

Mom! Mom!

Adam kneels beside Ari.

Seph watches Ari's cut eyelid. A blood drop fattens --

FLASH: Ari's eyes EXPLODE with blood, drenching her body. Blood drips down the walls. BLOOD POURS IN A WAVE over Seph.

ADAM (O.S.)

Seph, get some bandages.

Seph, covered in blood, falters back to reality.

MERRY (O.S.)

The first aid kit's in the bathroom!

ARI'S BATHROOM: Seph reaches into a mirrored cabinet for a first aid kit. Closes it. In the mirror, he's free of blood.

SEPH

What the fuck was that?!

ARI'S BEDROOM: Adam feels Ari's pulse.

Seph hands Adam bandages.

ADAM

You do it.

Seph tenses. His hands shake. He applies the bandage.

Blood seeps through on Seph's finger. His eyes widen.

He looks at his bloody finger. Sniffs it.

TASTES it with the tip of his tongue. Recoils.

Merry catches him. Ari groans, focusing Merry's attention.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

BIRD SONG. Adam offers Ari his hand - frisson - as he helps her out of his luxury car. The sun shines. Idyllic.

Ari takes in the 1800s home, gilded with golden vines. Carved above the entrance arch is A SWORD and 'ST JOHN'.

Adam puts his arm around Ari's waist. She flushes.

ADAM

Lean on me.

Ari, leg in a brace, uses Adam as a crutch as she limps in.

Ari sees a ONE-LEGGED CROW nudge its dead, bloody mate, by a broken basement window. Ari's face reflects the pathos until

RUSTLE. Ari turns. Bushes beyond the iron gates shift.

GRRR as the imposing iron gates close them in. CLANG shut.

OUTSIDE THE GATES: An **UNKNOWN MAN** with a purple NECK TATTOO watches.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

HALLWAY: Adam leads them through the heritage house.

ADAM

Bedrooms are to the right. Living, dining, kitchen are at the back. It's an old house so the electricity's temperamental, but we do have a generator. Reception's a bit patchy.

All the doors are open, except one. Ben turns its handle. Adam grabs Ben's hand.

ADAM (cont'd)

That's the cellar. No kids allowed.

Ben's face lights up. *Challenge accepted.*

LIVING ROOM: Adam carries tea to Ari, on a chaise lounge.

ARI

As soon as I can manage stairs--

ADAM

Don't worry. It's good for Seph to have kids around.

ARI

Nothing like an accident to make you feel totally alone.

ADAM

You're not alone.

Ari sees a tiny open box with gold Lego brick nearby.

ARI
Is that a fourteen Karat gold brick
from Hohenwestedt factory?!

ADAM
If you like that, you're going to
love this...

He opens a walk-in of color coordinated Lego.

Ari gasps.

Ben barrels in. Merry is close behind.

MERRY
Where's the pool?

BEN
Seph has a PlayStation!

ADAM
See? Everybody's happy.

BEN
You look like Frankenstein's monster!

ARI
Thanks baby. Oh, god. The cat...

ADAM
Don't worry. We'll get it.

Ari tugs her fringe.

INT. ADAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ari is on a video call with her sprightly Korean mom, **BINSA JANG** (65). Ben and Seph play an online monster hunter game in the background. Ari and Binsa speak in Korean, SUBTITLED.

ARI
Could Zane be in the US?

BINSA
Don't worry. We're on the hunt.

ARI
We?

BINSA
What? I have connections. You think
I'll let that monster go after you?
You really do attract them.

Ari winces at her mother's criticism dressed as support.

INT. BINSAs STUDY - SAME TIME

Binsa softens. Teases her. They speak Korean, SUBTITLED.

BINSAs
So you're shackled up with this man?

ARI
Just until I can manage on my own.

BINSAs
Then you're never leaving... You're not exactly a strong female lead Ari.

ARI
Why does every woman have to be?!

Binsa huffs in frustration.

INTERCUT - ADAM'S LIVING ROOM AND BINSAs STUDY

Adam enters with Jonesie in the cat carrier, shopping bags, suitcases and the three kids.

Adam sees Ari on the call. He pretends not to listen.

Binsa and Ari speak Korean SUBTITLED.

BINSAs
Where's his ex-wife?

ARI
Out of the picture. She went underground after the divorce.

BINSAs
Ari, where's your necklace?!

ARI
It's somewhere.

BINSAs
You must always wear it!

MERRY (O.S.)
We're home!

BINSAs
Home? Ari, if it seems too good to be true... Connect with your instincts.

END SUBTITLES. Adam hands Ari flowers. Waves at Binsa.

ARI
This is Adam. This is my mom, Binsa.

ADAM
I see where Ari gets her beauty.

BINSA
You a politician or a pediatrician?

Adam leans into Ari's phone.

ADAM
Pediatrician. I love kids. Your grandkids are great.

BINSA
Yes, I'd kill for them.

ADAM
(holds his hands up)
I'm one of the good guys! I was in Korea, a lifetime ago. It's stunning.

Binsa regards Adam's handsome face in her laptop.

BINSA
You must visit with my daughter.

Behind Adam, Ari gestures 'shut it', hand slicing her neck.

Merry interrupts. She has changed into new short shorts.

MERRY
Grandma, look! Adam bought me new clothes! Let's do the fashion parade!

Adam trails after Merry. He waves Binsa goodbye.

Beyond Binsa's laptop, unseen by Ari, is an

ARMORY: high-tech crossbows, guns, tactical bodysuit, PURPLE SWORD.

A MURAL OF MONSTERS is gilded with vines of a FAMILY TREE.

On the desk is a sketch of a monstrous ridged white face with long hair. She dials her phone.

BINSA (ON PHONE)
Have you found anything suspicious?

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DINING/KITCHEN: On the wall is an ominous CORREGGIO PAINTING 'Jupiter and Io'. Jupiter, swathed in a dark cloud, kisses naked Io's neck. It's the backdrop for --

Seph and Ben set the table with NAMED MUGS.

Pulling back, Ari and Merry sit at the kitchen island.

Adam cuts and tosses food like a cocktail bartender.

Ari painstakingly builds a Lego fairytale castle.

ARI

I need a red two by two.

Adam finds it immediately and hands it to her.

Pots and pans hang on hooks, catching Adam's reflection.

Jonesie waits for food to fall. Adam throws him some meat.

ARI (cont'd)

Put 'Doctor Who Cooks' on a T-shirt
and you can have any woman you want.

ADAM

I don't want any woman, just the
right one.

Adam clicks a piece of Lego into place. Smiles at them.

INT. BINSAs HOUSE - NIGHT

STUDY: Binsa zips up her high-tech tactical bodysuit.

Looks at a high shelf.

Does PARKOUR to the top and grabs her cross-bow.

ELEVATOR: The elevator cage transverses floors. Down...

-- CENTER OF DISEASE CONTROL(CDC) jet is loaded up. Down...

-- Strategy room with CDC logo: A map with circled towns...

-- Looking down, people in bodysuit armor train like ninjas.

Doors open onto a platform above the ninjas.

Binsa steps to the edge of the platform. The ninjas bow.

Binsa JUMPS off the ledge.

She lands as if waiting for a starter pistol.

PRELAP: Coach's WHISTLE.

INT. SCHOOL - BASKETBALL GAME - DAY

Ben's basketball game. An attempt to build social skills.

COURT: Ben is the only Eurasian on the CUBS team (all white, 8). He's weedy compared to the others. He is dwarfed by the hefty KNIGHTS players. Ben awkwardly dribbles the ball.

BLEACHERS: Ari watches coach Adam sidestep the sidelines. His body ripples in polo shirt and shorts.

ADAM

That's it, Ben!

FROM THE GYM DOOR: Unknown Man (spying on Ari at Adam's house) watches Ari and Merry cheer.

He turns -- It's Park!

Sitting behind Ari are overdressed BITCHY MOM and PLASTIC MOM (40s). Ari's knee is still in a brace.

BITCHY MOM

Doctor, coach, on the school board.
Must be a flaw.

Ari smiles as she eavesdrops.

PLASTIC MOM

The flaw is he's taken. You know that sad nurse with the disabled kid? He's a sucker for wounded birds.

Ari screws up her face. Adam sucks his drink bottle.

BITCHY MOM

Who cares? I'd let him suck me dry.

PLASTIC MOM

You're terrible.

Merry arrives, with Seph behind her. Merry opens the walker seat, packed with drinks and chips.

The Moms snicker. *Oops!*

COURT: Ben's fast but clumsy as he dribbles the ball.

SIDELINES: Seph, who is the Cubs' junior coach, claps.

SEPH
Go, bro! You got this!

COURT: Ben ducks away from hands reaching for the ball. Miraculously, the hoop's in reach. Ben's terrified.

BLEACHERS: Ari holds Merry's hand.

ARI
Please, please, please...

COURT: An OPPONENT is at Ben's heels.

Bitchy Mom's son DOM, Cubs player, grabs the ball from Ben as he pushes him into Opponent.

Dom shoots, scores, as the WHISTLE blows. Foul! Play stops.

BLEACHERS: Bitchy Mom claps. Merry scowls.

MERRY
Asshole!

SIDELINES: Adam calls time out.

BLEACHERS: Ari sees...

SIDELINES: Ben slumps. Adam berates Dom. Grips his arm.

Adam puts his hand on Ben's neck. Smiles at Ari.

Adam pats DAVID, team star, on the butt and sends him in.

BLEACHERS: Ari's brow knits. She glances at Bitchy and Plastic Mom. They're not fussed. They lean forward.

PLASTIC MOM
You're AAARY right, Adam's *friend*?
That's my David who just went in.
Adam really took him under his wing.

BITCHY MOM
I heard you two are living together.

COURT: KLAXON SOUNDS. A crushing defeat. The Cubs glower at Ben as they walk off. Seph puts his arm around Ben.

DOOR: Park watches Seph and Ben walk off. He withdraws.

LOCKER ROOM: Raucous boy energy fills the room. Boys change into clothes and throw uniforms into a laundry basket.

Ben is shrouded in his towel, self-conscious. Seph leans in.

SEPH
Bro, don't be weird.

David, unusually muscular, whips OTHER PLAYERS with a towel. Adam squeezes David's shoulder.

ADAM
Bulking up there, David.

DAVID
It's that high protein diet.

Ben twitches between: SLO MO boys CACKLE -- Boys shove each other HARD -- Boys watch Ben and WHISPER. The room SHUDDERS.

Bitchy Mom's Son glares at Ben. He rips Ben's towel away.

Ben SCREAMS! Loses it. Leaps SLO-MO toward Bitchy Mom's Son!

PRELAP: Birdsong and the soft thump-thump of a basketball.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

YARD: Vines over the house are bright blood red. Ben looks up at a basketball hoop in the yard. Adam and Seph nod.

SEPH
Like we practiced. You can do it.

Ben does a layup. He shoots. Misses.

BEN
This is a stupid game!

Seph picks up the ball. Ben stomps and crosses his arms.

Adam glances up at the window, where Ari and Merry watch. He puts his hand affectionately on Ben's neck.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

LIVING ROOM: Ari watches with a misty gaze.

Merry's puppy dog eyes belie her CONFUSED CRUSH, between tween hormones and a desperate need for a father figure.

ARI
I think they've practiced every day.

MERRY

He's pretty great, isn't he?

Ari puts her arm around Merry, who wears a bikini top and towel wrapped around her waist, revealing her CROOKED SPINE.

INTERCUT - YARD AND LIVING ROOM

-- Adam dribbles the ball like a pro, staring down Seph.

ADAM

Suck it up princess.

Seph blasts him with a teen glare.

Seph charges Adam and grabs the ball.

Adam shoulders Seph HARD, steals the ball, shoots. It's in!

Seph's pissed. Adam, always first, gloats.

ADAM (cont'd)

It's hot as hell out here.

Adam takes off his shirt. Ben follows suit. Adam tips a bottle of water over his head. Shakes his hair SLO-MO.

Adam waves up at Ari and Merry. Seph rolls his eyes.

Ben dribbles again. Locks eyes with Adam who nods.

Ben shoots. SWISH. Nothing but net.

-- Ari and Merry gape. They fling open the window. WHOOP.

-- Ben grins. Adam picks up his shirt, heading inside.

ADAM (cont'd)

He's all yours.

-- Ari tugs her fringe. *He's a good guy - right?*

-- Adam waves at them, his face warm and open.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM: Ari sips wine by the fire.

Watches the family tableau.

Seph roughhouses with Ben on the lounge.

Adam dances with Merry, holding her off her feet.

Ari exhales fully for the first time in years.

MUSIC changes. 'Total Control' by The Motels. Sexy, intense. Adam winks at Merry. Sits her down. Merry pouts.

Adam pours himself and Ari more wine. Breathes it deeply. Surveys Ari's face as it brightens with the song.

MARTHA DAVIES, LEAD SINGER

(singing)

*Knowing what could happen
Any moment maybe you, Maybe even you.*

Adam pulls Ari up to dance, holding her waist.

ADAM

(singing)

*Steadfast collapse
Always certain any moment
Maybe you maybe you,
Maybe even you. Recline
complete dream too sweet.*

ARI

I can't believe you know
this song. No one knows this
song. I love this song...

Adam hands her an invisible microphone. She begs off then acquiesces. At the words he feigns a stake to the heart.

ARI (cont'd)

(singing)

*I can't do it not with you
Not even with you.
Maybe never with you.*

(sobers up, speaks)

Adam, the brace is gone. We should go
too.

MARTHA DAVIES, SINGER

(singing)

*And I'd sell my soul for
Total control
Yeah I'd sell my soul for
Total control*

ADAM

You're not going anywhere.

Adam pulls Ari close. Her resistance melts with the lyrics.

SINGING (PRELAP)

*Street wet tonight
Lover's touch pure delight*

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari stands beside the bed. Adam kisses her neck from behind. Her lips part. She leans back against him.

ADAM
Are you sure?

MARTHA DAVIES, SINGER
*Stay in bed, stained
sheets...*

Ari turns. She unwraps her dress.

ARI
It's time.

Adam kisses her collarbone. She breathes hard. He caresses her breast. His tongue trails her neck. She moans.

PRELAP: Dinner party chatter.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ANOTHER NIGHT

BEN'S BEDROOM: Ben lies in bed, listening to chatter and stabs of laughter drifting through from...

DINING ROOM: A candlelit dinner party for eight. Guests wear flamboyant haute couture, animatedly telling stories.

Adam TINGS a glass, raises it and looks lovingly at Ari.

ADAM
To Ari, who brought new life to my
dead heart.

EVE
Always the drama!

Adam side-eyes Eve, smiling. An old, complex friendship.

HALLWAY: Ben creeps toward the chatter. As he passes the CELLAR DOOR, he tries the handle. LOCKED. Creeps toward...

INTERCUT - HALLWAY AND FORMAL DINING ROOM

-- The guests CLINK glasses. Ari, clearly nervous, CLINKS glasses with Eve, Channing and social worker VERA.

EVE
You have to lock eyes when you toast.

VERA
It's a Stillwater tradition.

ADAM
Is it?

EVE
Wouldn't know what's under his feet.

Eve and Channing share the smile of an inside joke.

-- Ben, at the door, sees Eve. His eyes bug. He falls back.

-- C/U Eve chews bloody steak. Blood stains her lip.

-- The lights cut out. Then the candles blow out.

Woooooo!	ARCHITECT TYPE(O.S.)	ADAM (O.S.) (overlapping)
		The generator will kick in.

EVE
No one touch my food.

Ari turns on her phone torch -- There's NO ONE AT THE TABLE.

A SHADOWY FIGURE, black on black, stands behind her.

Ari sweeps the light around the room to --

Adam and the guests stand behind her. She shrieks.

A HAND with long nails reaches out. Ari jumps back.

The generator goes on and everyone is at their seats, eating and drinking. As if nothing happened.

-- Ben peeks at the guests. Jonesie darts out! To the table!

-- UNDER THE TABLE: Jonesie curves in and out of Eve's legs.

-- Adam holds an empty wine bottle. Scrapes his chair back.

ADAM
I'll get us a fresh bottle.

-- Ben ducks. CREAK behind him. He scrambles after Jonesie.

-- A slurring drunk FAT MAN (50s) gesticulates wildly.

FAT MAN
It's a political cesspit.

-- Under the table, Eve kicks Jonesie away, into Ben's arms. Jonesie MEOWS. Ben pats Jonesie. Hears conversation above.

MICK JAGGER TYPE (O.S.)
How about some better music?

-- Sexy dance MUSIC starts. An ARCHITECT TYPE (Asian, male, 40s) and EARTH GODDESS (Black, 30s) stand drunkenly to dance, their chairs falling backwards.

-- UNDER THE TABLE: Ben sees the chairs SLAM. Architect retrieves the chair, his face close to Ben. Doesn't see him.

Ben sees Eve stroke Adam's thigh.

Jonesie darts out!

Ben crawls between feet in pursuit. Channing's feet bar his path. She crosses her legs. He crawls underneath them.

-- Ben's in the clear until -- He crashes into Seph's feet.

-- Ari is oblivious of Ben. The party is a drunken frenzy. Distorted laughter. Eve pushes Adam's hair back, like a lover. Jagger licks salt off Channing's neck. Tequila shots.

Ari's vision doubles. She knocks over her glass of red wine. Red wine spills across the white tablecloth.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Ben, shaking, huddles into Seph as they sit on Seph's bed. Dinner party laughter wafts in.

SEPH

Don't worry, Ben. I'll keep you safe.

Ben looks up at Seph. Seph scrunches Ben's hair and smiles.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

GARDEN: TIME-LAPSE. The trees turn from red to purple.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

BEN'S BEDROOM: Curtains are drawn. Merry and Seph, dressed as vampires, swoop around. Ben films. Jonesie dozes.

BEN

And cut!

MERRY

That's take ten. We're done!

BEN

Seph can hypnotize people! Show her.

SEPH

Shh! That's our thing.

Seph squirms. In the face of Ben's excitement, he gives in. Ben takes his position. Merry crosses her arms, unimpressed.

SEPH (cont'd)
Look deep into my eyes.

MERRY
Seriously?

SEPH
Touch your nose.

Ben complies. Jonesie wakes, on alert.

MERRY
This is stupid. Let's get some food.

SEPH
He can't move. Until I release him.

Jonesie HISSES. Merry shakes Ben. He's in a trance.

MERRY
Ben? Ben? Let him go!

Ben snaps alert. Jonesie returns to his post, still wary.

BEN
Now do Merry!

MERRY
Yeah, try me.

Seph holds Merry by the shoulders. Stares at her deeply.

MERRY (cont'd)
Nothing.

Seph's pupils dilate. Jonesie HISSES.

Seph's eyes flash purple for an instant. Merry SCREAMS.

Seph inhales sharply and lets go. He stares, shaken.

KITCHEN: Merry rushes to Ari. Ari looks in the fridge at stacks of bloody steaks, phone on speaker. Merry shakes Ari.

MERRY (cont'd)
(Korean, SUBTITLED)
Mom-Mom-Mom! Seph hypnotized Ben and he couldn't move! And his eyes turned purple! We have to get out of here!

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - SAME TIME

Adam listens to the commotion on his phone. *Not good.*

ARI (V.O.)
Hon, I'll call you back.

Adam, perturbed, watches a CLEANER mop up blood drops.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

KITCHEN: Ari, hands on hips, scolds Merry. Korean SUBTITLED.

MERRY
I'm not lying!

ARI
Merry, why are you trying to sabotage
this? Don't I deserve to be happy?

Ari lifts her face to the ceiling, considering this herself.
Merry, her face unsure, watches her mother.

MERRY
Yes, Mom. You deserve to be happy.

Ari searches Merry's face. *What's going on with her?*
Merry sighs. Her body sags. *She'll never believe me.*

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

KITCHEN: Ari puts bloody meat on a chopping board. Radio on.

RADIO (V.O.)
There is still no sign of the
Crusaders school bus or missing boys.

The meat bleeds over the chopping board.

Boys' SCREAMS split the air!

Blood cascades over the bench, waterfalls onto the floor.

A SCREAMING BOY flails out from the blood, reaching for Ari.

He grabs Ari's arms. Holds tight. Eyes locked in on her then

Ari's POV: Ari is pulled into the bench into --

UNDERWATER

A lake? The Screaming Boy sinks, streaking blood, grasping her hand, terrified eyes locked on Ari. Her grasp fails...

BACK TO SCENE (KITCHEN)

Ari's daze is broken by Adam kissing her neck. She yelps.

ARI
Jesus! Hi, hi... How was your day?

ADAM
Murder. Something's causing hallucinations. We had it last year but it died out. How was your day?

ARI
Oh, ah, um, well, Merry's not happy so that's fun for the whole family.

ADAM
I'll talk to her.

ARI
Seems like the more she talks to you, the less she talks to me. Just let her be. It's hormones.

Adam dumps mail and a package on the kitchen table.

ADAM
I picked up your mail.

ARI
I forgot all about it. Thanks.

Ari, knife in one hand, picks up the box. Sender:ZANE WHITE.

ADAM
What's wrong?

Ari can't speak. Adam picks up the box. Sees the sender.

Adam opens the package. Ari peers into it, HEARTBEAT racing.

INSIDE THE PACKAGE: Ari's amethyst cross is in pieces.

FLASH: A bloody mouth jerks back from a whimpering woman.

Ari drops the knife. It SPEARS her foot deeply. Ari freezes.

Ari lifts her foot. Knife has pierced her sole. She screams.

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Adam brings Ari a glass of wine and cup of tea in bed. She's in a short nightie. Her foot is bandaged.

ADAM (cont'd)
Wine or tea? I wasn't sure.

Ari takes the wine, her hand shaking. She skulls it.

ADAM (cont'd)
You're safe here, Ari. I'll keep you safe, forever. Tell me what you need.

Adam pushes Ari's hair from her face. Kisses her gently.

Ari pulls him down. Kisses him deeply. Rolls on top of him. Unzips his pants. Straddles him, pulling him inside her.

She pins his hands above him. She arches, pushing her nipple into his mouth. He sucks it. It's rough, desperate. She slams against him until he cums.

LATER THAT NIGHT

ADAM'S BEDROOM: As Ari types in bed, words appear

ON HER LAPTOP: An email. *'Hi Mom, Things are getting serious with Adam. Could you ask your contact to do a check on him?'*

LIVING ROOM: Adam, on laptop, reads her email as she types.

INTERCUT - ADAM'S BEDROOM AND LIVING ROOM

-- Ari clicks SEND.

-- Adam clicks UNSEND on Ari's email. He frowns.

-- Ari Googles 'Adam Well Doctors Without Borders.' Google results: Key speaker at National Hematology Convention, Head of Pediatric Genetics Research Unit, working in war zones.

ARI (TO HERSELF)
What is wrong with me?

Ari looks up sharply -- Adam stands over her.

Adam's eyes bore into her.

He gets on one knee.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

KITCHEN: Ari and Adam sit in front of the kids who slump.

Ari and Adam's hands are entwined, showcasing a huge engagement ring. Adam takes Merry's hand.

ADAM
Now we'll always be together.

Adam and Merry exchange a long look. Merry's eyes well. Merry looks at Ari who seems younger, lighter, happy.

ARI
I'll need a maid of honor.

Adam smiles at Merry reassuringly.

MERRY
I'll think about it.

Ari hugs Merry who stiffens.

WEDDING DAY SEQUENCE

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari and Merry get their hair done by a HAIRDRESSER. Ari calls Binsa. She speaks Korean, SUBTITLED.

ARI
Mom, I've left you twenty messages!

INT. AIRPLANE - SAME TIME

Binsa calmly sits in first class. Plane pitches and yaws. A PASSENGER beside her grips his seat. The CRACK of thunder.

PILOT (O.S.)
Sorry folks. We have an unexpected storm. We have to turn around.

Binsa checks her sat phone. No signal. Her face clouds.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari clicks off the phone, fuming.

ARI
Your grandma's done another disappearing act. And where's Ben? Vanished again?!

Merry shrugs. Seph sticks his head in the door.

SEPH
Merry, can I talk to you?

Merry doesn't budge. Ari makes her move with a look.

HALLWAY: Merry, her jaw set, stares at Seph.

SEPH (cont'd)
Merry, I don't want things to be weird between us, okay? Isn't it good for Ben to have an extra person looking out for him? You don't need to be jealous. I'm like a spare tire.

Merry can't help but laugh.

MERRY
I'm not jealous. I thought...

Merry looks into Seph's earnest blue eyes. *Am I jealous?*

SEPH
It's all so fast between your mom and my dad. It messes with my head too.

MERRY
Maybe it is making me a bit crazy.

Seph punches her playfully. She smiles sheepishly.

SEPH
So do I call you sister now?

Merry chuckles, bashful.

PRELAP: Classical wedding MUSIC.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Adam and Seph stand at the front of the aisle. Behind them is Father JUDAS (60) the priest, conservative but affable.

Merry peeks in from the vestibule at the back of the aisle.

A United Nations of head-turners fill the front three rows. Eve sits up front with Principal Channing.

Seph pulls at his collar, sweating. His eyes dart from the stained glass window to Jesus on a cross whose hands BLEED.

ADAM
Here, have a swig.

Adam hands him a flask. Seph swigs it. Coughs hard. Calms.
Merry walks down the aisle. Onlookers coo.
Ben fiddles with his suit. Counts his steps to walk slowly.

BEN
Five elephant elephant. Six elephan--

Ben looks up. Strangers stare. He freezes. Tries to focus.

BEN (cont'd)
What elephant was I on?

All eyes turn toward Ari behind them. She glows.
Musicians in the crowd stand to play a schmaltzy song.

Park (the spying man from the basketball game) watches as
Seph LOCKS IN ON BEN. Adam smiles at Merry who beams back.
Churchgoers gasp. Rose petals fall on their upturned faces.
Seph shakes, fighting an internal force.
Purple veins throb through his skin. Pupils flash purple.
Neck cracks. Lips twitch back, showing small white FANGS.
A TRUMPET FLARE drowns Merry's SCREAM. Seph grins. No fangs.
Merry feels her forehead. *Am I sick? What's happening to me?*

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - NIGHT

Wedding dance. Adam and Ari waltz across the floor.
Merry slumps, eyes downcast. Ari and Adam exchange a look.

Adam offers Merry his hand. Ari touches her heart.

A STATUESQUE WAITRESS carries a tray of drinks.

Ari reaches for red wine but a champagne is put in her hand
as the tray is whipped away. She takes a sip, annoyed.

Ari, clearly tipsy, weaves unsteadily through the strange
crowd. She catches snippets of conversation.

Fat Man and Mick Jagger Type watch a wraith-thin COLLEGE
STUDENT (21, female, Asian) dance seductively with a
BASKETBALL PLAYER (23, female, Black).

FAT MAN
Isn't she delicious?

MICK JAGGER TYPE
Careful, you might break her.

FAT MAN
You are what you eat.

Ari wrinkles her nose. *Gross.*

SNATCHES OF CHATTER
People have been seeing things... the
CDC... a genetic breakthrough... When
are they leaving? I'm starving!

Fat Man nibbles College Student's neck. Jagger tut-tuts.

CAIN (70), a behemoth, bumps against Ari. His red-headed
BODACIOUS WIFE (30) grabs his arm.

CAIN
Ah, the new wife.

Cain spots Eve staring at them. Ari follows his gaze.

CAIN (cont'd)
Must be uncomfortable having her
always under your feet.

BODACIOUS WIFE
Sorry, he doesn't know when to stop.

Adam spots Ari. He pushes through the crowd toward her.

Ari sees Seph embrace Eve. Their foreheads touch. She cups
his face, speaking intensely. *Strange.*

CAIN
I'm a Principal on the Council.

ADAM
I'm stealing my bride away.

Bodacious Wife glares at Cain. Adam steers Ari away.

They join his MALE FRIENDS and YOUNG DATES and talk unheard.

Ari senses someone. The HAIRS ON THE BACK OF HER NECK rise.

A group watch her: Eve, Channing, Jagger, Vera, Architect,
Fat Man, Earth Goddess, Cain and Postman.

Ari turns slowly. Like meerkats, as one, they turn away.

Ari scans for Ben. She sees Merry approaching.

ARI
Where's your brother?

MERRY
I don't know. I've got my own life.

ARI
No, you don't. Go find him. Please.

Behind them, Ben pops balloons on his way to the back door.

Seph tracks Ben with his eyes. He follows him.

Seph checks over his shoulder. Skulls the red dregs in a wine glass. He chokes as he swallows.

EXT. WEDDING RECEPTION - NIGHT

Ben leans over a barrier. He peers down a cliff to the sea.

Ben watches a boat bob. Seph's face appears beside his.

SEPH
I, am, so, bored.

Seph smiles mischievously, turning to Ben.

Ben smiles innocently -- His face slackens. His eyes glaze.

Seph's pupils are black saucers, with purple rims.

Ben climbs over the barrier. Seph holds his jacket.

Ben's toes teeter on the edge. He looks down.

Below, two men drag a FEMALE DEAD MODEL into the boat.

A vein PULSES in Ben's neck.

Seph BARES FANGS.

Seph sees Ben as a NETWORK OF BLOOD VESSELS pulsing.

Seph overshadows Ben, the moon behind him. His ear TWITCHES.

Merry is highlighted in the doorway in the distance.

MERRY
Ben! Seph! They're leaving!

Seph's fangs retract. He sees Ben, as if for the first time, teetering. Seph yanks Ben back, pulling him to his chest.

SEPH
What were you doing out there?!

Ben shakes his head, waking.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Ari, Adam, Ben, Merry and Seph step inside a black Porsche. Wedding guests throng around them.

Ari winds down the window to wave -- The guests are gone.

The venue door SLAMS shut. CHEERING from inside.

INT. WEDDING RECEPTION - NIGHT

A traditional wedding feast begins: Sexy music sweats through the room. Bodies writhe. Clothes are shed.

Basketball Player is on her knees, her face in Jagger's groin as he sucks her wrist.

Fat Man fucks College Student against a wall, fangs in neck.

Cain's mouth drips with blood as ASPIRING MODEL falls dead.

Bodacious Wife drains ASPIRING ACTRESS. Glares. He shrugs.

The floor is red with blood.

Eve sits naked on the stage like a queen.

A snake writhes over her. She strokes her breasts. She wears a GALAXY PATTERN RING.

A primal **SCREAM** of a girl. Eve strokes her lips.

EVE
Ah, the main course. Yummy.

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - DAY

NURSE'S STATION: Ari watches Merry at Jax's bedside.

ROOM 6: Merry wears a Wonder Woman T-shirt. Jax sits up in bed, a pile of books beside him. He speaks clearly.

JAX
How often do you volunteer?

MERRY

Adam said I should be more independent. I can come whenever. He even gave me my own phone.

JAX

Merry, is your real dad Korean?

MERRY

My dad's a dick. No, he's Australian.

JAX

My dad's a dick too, but Mum's great.

MERRY

My mum's great too. But don't tell her I said that.

JAX

You should tell her. You never know what's gonna happen, right?

Merry's lost in the past.

MERRY (V.O.)

Dad! Where are they taking Mommy?

PRELAP: RAP RAP RAP on a door.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

HALLWAY: Ari RAPS on the bathroom door as she passes, carrying a laundry basket.

ARI

Merry, get moving!

BATHROOM: Merry dries herself, seated before a mirror. The door wedges open.

VOYEUR'S POV: Merry pushes her breasts together. Screws up her face. She senses a presence. Swings around. Covers up.

HALLWAY: Adam bumps into Ari. He jerks back in surprise.

ADAM

I'll fix the lock on that door. She's not a child any more.

ARI

Neither is Seph. You're so good.

Ari kisses him. He smacks her on the butt. She play yelps.

LIVING ROOM: Merry enters in shorts. She's on the verge of being prey.

Adam reads Merry's teen romance, lying on the chaise lounge. The other lounge is covered with Adam's bag, jacket, laptop.

ADAM

Don't be shy. I see naked people all day. You have a beautiful body.

Merry's chest caves as she wills the floor to swallow her.

ADAM (cont'd)

Come on, come with me.

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Merry sits before a full length mirror, with Adam behind her. Her long braids drape in front of her.

ADAM (cont'd)

I see a beautiful young woman.

MERRY

I'm ugly.

Adam moves her braids behind her. He slowly unbraids her hair. He twists it in a knot at the crown of her head.

ADAM

You should show off your neck.

Adam holds up a heart locket and chain.

He clasps it at her nape.

The heart locket sits between her breasts.

Merry chews her lip, unsettled.

Ari enters. Sees Adam's hands on Merry's shoulders.

Adam sees Ari's uncertain face in the mirror. He claps Merry's shoulders twice. Merry swings around.

MERRY

Mom, look what Adam got me!

ADAM

To celebrate us becoming a family.

MERRY

Don't I look grown up?!

Ari looks at Merry, worried. She does look grown up.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Ari puts laundry in drawers.

Ben and Seph wrestle on the floor, in shorts. Ben wears his vampire cape. They roll. Seph has him pinned.

BEN

Whoooooa!

Ari chuckles. Merry pokes her head in.

Merry sees Seph, his eyes closed, sniff Ben's neck deeply. Seph opens his eyes. Locks eyes with Merry.

SEPH

You reek, Ben.

Seph fake vomits. Ben cackles. Merry's brow knits.

ARI

Ben, put that vampire cape in the wash or I'll put it in the trash.

Ben and Seph mock Ari soundlessly.

Ari lifts Seph's pillow to put fresh pajamas underneath.

-- A bloody, headless white mouse lies there. Ari shrieks.

SEPH

Jonesie left me another present?

Ari clutches her chest. Merry looks at Ari.

ARI

What's wrong?

MERRY

Apart from the dead mouse?

In a moment between them, things could be, but aren't, said.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is swathed thickly in dark purple vines. Clouds cast shadows. The vines knock against Ben's bedroom window.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

BEN'S BEDROOM: Vines knock at the window, obscuring light. Ben wages war with figurines. Merry enters behind.

MERRY
Whose side are you on?

BEN
The vamp side, of course.

Merry leafs through one of Ben's vampire books.

MERRY
How did they know who was a vampire?

BEN
Vamps are repelled by garlic,
crosses, holy water. They burn in
sunlight and sleep in coffins.
Although that'd be hard on a quest...
Anywhere dark works, I guess.

A white MOUSE runs over the bed. Merry SQUEALS.

BEN (cont'd)
That's Harry. He lives here.

Jonesie pounces. HARRY the mouse scampers away.

BEN (cont'd)
Jonesie STOP!

Ben jumps up and chases after Jonesie. Merry follows to...

LIVING ROOM: Merry watches Harry the mouse disappear into the fireplace, followed by Jonesie. No sign of them.

Ben crawls into the fireplace and disappears too!

Merry rushes to the fireplace. She gets down on her knees.

Inside the fireplace, to one side, there's a SECRET DOOR.

She abandons her walker. Crawls through a tight space to...

A HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY:

-- Ben's far ahead. He runs downstairs to the basement where

-- MEOW! Jonesie chases Harry up a bookcase.

Ben TSK-TSKS to Jonesie above him.

A RUSTY BOX is at Ben's eye level. He picks it up.

Jonesie chases Harry around a large glass JAR of formaldehyde. The jar teeters, teeters, then FALLS.

Ben catches it with his free hand! *Phew!*

Ben's eyes bug.

The jar holds a YOUNG WOMAN'S head!

She smiles, her green eyes open.

Ben SCREAMS.

The jar SHATTERS on the floor. The head stares at Ben.

Jonesie jumps on Ben. Ben screams again!

-- Jonesie chases Harry down a passageway and into...

-- A room with a COFFIN.

-- Merry stands without her walker but falls.

She raises her PHONE, casting light onto the walls.

They are painted with hunters through the ages in battle.

Merry crawls further. Lifts her phone, casting light onto --
A century-old fresco of a VAMPIRE is above her.

A RAT CRAWLS on the ceiling above her then

-- DROPS on Merry's face.

Merry screams! She pushes it off her and crawls, as fast as she can manage, back the way she came.

LIVING ROOM: As Merry exits the fireplace, the secret door closes. She tries to open it. No joy. Ari stands behind her.

ARI

What are you doing?! Where's Ben?

MERRY

He's in here!

ARI

Merry!

MERRY

I'm not making it up!

Ari and Merry have a silent stand-off. Merry's face roils from rage to resolve.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Merry gathers mince garlic from the fridge.

-- Merry puts a cross around Ben's neck.

-- Merry fills a bottle with holy water from the church. Father Judas has his back turned. He turns -- she's gone.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

DINING ROOM: Merry watches Seph as the family eat dinner.

Adam takes vitamins.

MERRY
Should we say grace?

ARI
What happened to "the bible is a book
of myths and legends"?

Adam hands Seph a bottle identical to his -- GARLIC TABLETS.

ADAM
For your immunity. Take one a day.

Merry notices Seph wearing a chain. With a cross. *Humph.*

Merry, under the table, empties holy water into her glass.

Merry puts the glass on the table. She reaches for the salt.

Merry accidentally-on-purpose knocks the glass of holy water into Seph's lap. He springs up. Annoyed but unhurt.

SEPH
You did that on purpose!

ARI
Merry, go apologize!

Seph stomps off. Ari stares at Merry. *What's going on?*

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

LIVING ROOM: Ari looks out from the living room window at Seph and Ben playing basketball.

Seph's hands position Ben's hips. He stands close behind him. Lifts Ben as he takes the shot.

The One-Legged Crow taps on the window. Ari jumps.

ARI
Hello there. Are you okay?

Ari taps the window. One-Leg stares, wordlessly answering.

BEN'S BEDROOM: Seph massages Ben's shoulders on his bed.

Ari looks in. Ben groans. Ari bites her bottom lip.

SEPH
That feels good, right?

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEN'S BEDROOM: Ben sleeps. Vines knock the window. He sits bolt upright. Picks up his teddy. His feet hit the floor...

HALL: Patters down the hall. Eyes search the dark until...

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Adam and Ari read in bed. Stack of books on her nightstand. He reads a book on genetics. She reads a book on child trauma.

ARI (V.O. READING)
Pedophiles use roughhousing and
massage to desensitize kids to touch-

Ari bites her nails. Adam puts down his book.

ADAM
Don't bite your nails. What's wrong?

ARI
I'm going to sound like a prude...
It's just, I don't like Seph
massaging Ben. It gives me the icks.

ADAM
Is that a medical diagnosis?

ARI
You think I'm being silly.

ADAM
It's better than farting in each
other's faces. But that's just me.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ADAM'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Ben reconsiders whether he can jump in bed with Mom now.

INTERCUT - ADAM'S BEDROOM AND HALLWAY

-- Adam gently takes Ari's hand.

ADAM
 You're hyper-vigilant given your ex,
 Ari. But not all men are monsters.
 Wrestling, roughhousing, it's normal.
 I massage the boys at basketball.
 What's the issue?

ARI
 I'm being ridiculous.

ADAM
 Just overprotective. Look how much
 better Ben is with men in his life?
 He can't be a mama's boy forever.

ARI
 You sure?

Adam takes her face in his hands. Looks at her intently.

ADAM
 You have nothing to worry about.

-- Ben absorbs the lesson. *It's all normal.* He walks away.

-- Ari reads her book, tugging her fringe.

ARI (V.O. READING PRELAP)
 Pedophiles groom the community, then
 the parents and then the child...

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - BACK YARD POOL - DAY

Ari swims. She surfaces to watch the family in the pool.

Ben is on Seph's shoulders. Merry swats Adam as he lifts her
 on his shoulders. Ben and Merry try to push each other off.

Behind, there's a waterfall into the pool.

Ari focuses on Seph's hands on Ben's thighs. *Is that normal?*

ARI (V.O. READING)
They're the people you trust.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEN'S BEDROOM: Ari tucks Ben in and kisses him.

MERRY'S BEDROOM: Ari tucks Merry in. She sits on her bed.

ARI
You'd tell me if anyone ever made you
or Ben feel uncomfortable, right?

MERRY
Of course, Mom. I know all about
consent. I'm a modern woman.

ARI
Oh. Well, good. I love you baby.

SEPH'S ROOM: Ari sees Seph's outline in bed.

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - SAME TIME

Adam flirts with Eve and two NURSES at the nurse's station.

ADAM
Good night, my pretties.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari drinks coffee. Reads. Eyes droop.

CREAK of a floorboard. Ari snaps awake.

POV: Ari creeps to Merry's door. Merry sleeps in shorty PJs.

Ari creeps to Seph's door. Bed empty. Her heart POUNDS.

Ari hurries to Ben's door.

Ari steps on a red Lego brick. Silently curses.

BEN'S ROOM: Ben, awake, lies with his head in Seph's lap.

MALE DEEP VOICE (O.S.)
Slowly, Sephtis. Let your gift flow
into him. Is he willing?

Seph nods, as if drugged. Looks Ben in the eyes.

SEPH
You are strong, fast. Unbeatable.

Ari stands at the door, watching in shock.

Seph BARES HIS TEETH. His FANGS DESCEND. Black VENOM DRIPS.

Ari pounces on Seph!

A GNARLED HAND pulls Ari off Seph.

Ari, wild-eyed, turns to the Deep Voice.

She opens her mouth to scream but nothing comes out.

The gnarled hand taps her forehead.

She falls like a plank, smashing her head.

The hand pushes Ari's fringe from her scar. Almost tender.

MALE DEEP VOICE (O.S.)
Silence. Sleep. Forget...

Ari wakes whimpering. Her eyes widen in terror at --

The blood-wet face of **FIRST** (ancient). His face is white, ridged. Long hair. Just like the sketch on Binsa's wall.

First buries his face in her bloody hair, sucking. She whimpers. Just like Ari's dream.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Adam kisses Ari's neck. She groans.

ARI
My head's on fire.

ADAM
I found you sleepwalking last night.

Ari looks around disoriented. Bolts upright. Runs down...

HALLWAY: Trips over Jonesie. Falls hard. *Get up!* Runs to...

BEN'S BEDROOM: Ari checks Ben's neck. He's asleep. No bites.

MERRY'S BEDROOM: Ari checks Merry's neck. Merry grumbles.

ADAM (O.S.)
Are you okay?

Ari startles. Turns to Adam. He looks worried.

ARI
I, I had a nightmare. It was so real.

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - DAY

ROOM 6: Ari, distracted, checks Jax's vitals. His fingers blur over a computer game. Phone is on the bed.

ARI
You make me believe the unbelievable.

JAX
Yeah, I'm kicking Merry's butt.

MERRY (V.O. ON PHONE)
Hey! And Mom, I'm not in homework club because Adam drove me home after school. And Ben's out with Seph.

MEMORY HIT

Seph BARES HIS TEETH. His FANGS DESCEND. Black VENOM DRIPS.

BACK TO SCENE (ROOM 6)

Ari wakes from -- *What was that? A hallucination?*

ARI (V.O. TO HERSELF)
Pull it together. If Zane puts you in a psych ward again he'll get custody.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ari approaches the house. It looks sinister not majestic. Bare black vines strangle the house. They bleed red sap.

The gates GRRR closed. Ari twitches back but steels herself.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM: Ari enters. Ben, Seph, Merry and Adam play Twister. They collapse in a tangle, laughing. Look at Ari.

BEN
Mom, come and play.

MERRY
Get in here.

ADAM
The bath's running. You relax. I've got these monsters under control.

The kids throw cushions at Adam. Ari eyes Seph.

BATHROOM: Candles surround a bubble bath. A glass of wine is on the table. She sips it and locks the door. *Still broken!*

Ari sheds clothes. Lowers herself into the bath. Exhales.

She sinks under the bubbles, her eyes closed.

Peace at last. Air bubbles plop slowly to the surface.

A DEAD BOY'S FACE brushes her cheek!

Her eyes flash open!

Ari sits up. She pants with her whole body.

Eventually her breath calms.

She sips her wine. Laughs at herself.

HANDS GRAB AT HER, DRAGGING HER DOWN...

VISION: Through murky water of a pond. Down, down, down.

She sees the Crusaders minibus.

DEAD BOYS FLOAT, half out of windows or trapped inside.
Their eyes are open in horror.

Ari fights for the surface. She emerges in the...

BATHROOM: She jumps out of the bath.

Stumbles back against the wall towel rack. Steadies herself.

She treads gingerly on the wet floor toward the bath.

She bends over the bath... wipes the bubbles aside...

Nothing. Just her face saying *I'm losing it*. She stands up.

FIRST LEAPS OUT OF THE WATER!

Her feet slip. She goes down.

Hits her head against the rail. Falls to the floor.

She's unconscious. Her eyes flash open. *Time for action.*

QUICK MONTAGE - ARI SPIES ON THE FAMILY - DAY

Ari buys spy cameras at an electronics store -- Ari hides cameras -- a vampire figure in Ben's room -- book in Merry's room -- threads one in the front of a living room vent, without opening the vent. Seph's room is locked.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BEN'S BEDROOM: Ben stares at the ceiling.

His hand is on Seph's head as Seph nuzzles into Ben's neck.

Seph rolls back, revealing his BLOODY MOUTH. He brings Ben's head onto his shoulder. Ruffles his hair. A tender scene.

BEN
Am I a vampire now?

SEPH
Maybe when you get older.

Ben turns toward the vampire figure.

THROUGH THE CAMERA: Ben is calm. He still wears the cross.

BEN
I want to be just like you.

MERRY'S BEDROOM: Adam enters. Merry looks up from a book, frowning. She shows Adam the open book with the camera.

HALLWAY: Merry trails Adam without her walker.

LIVING ROOM: Adam pulls a SD card from the vampire figurine. Adam pulls out a vent. Inside it is his own hidden camera.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

LIVING ROOM: Ari has the hidden cameras by her laptop where an SD card is plugged in.

ON THE SCREEN: She clicks open a file. Nothing but static.

Ari clicks the mouse frenetically, biting her lip.

EXT. STREET - DAY

In the street, A DOG WALKER stops to chat to a NEIGHBOR. Kids play in a park. An ad for Middle America. Scan to...

PHONE BOOTH: Park (spy at basketball game) is on the phone.

PHONE MESSAGE (V.O.)
You've reached Stillwater Police
Station. Please hold and...

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

HALL: Police walk past Ari. She sits, clasping her handbag tightly. The blurred BUZZ of the police station is cut by

BEN
Mom, I'm hungry.

Ari gets muesli bars from her bag. Ben doesn't wear glasses.

ARI
Where are your glasses?

BEN
I can't see with them now. I want something from the vending machine!

Merry notes Ari sagging. Ari absently hands Ben some change.

Merry and Ben jostle each other down the hall to the...

IN FRONT OF VENDING MACHINE: They consider their options.

OFFICER STURDY (50, male) grabs a soda from the machine.
OFFICER EARNEST (30, female) passes behind him.

OFFICER EARNEST
Heard you caught a filthy pedo messing with kids at basketball. Think this one will stick?

OFFICER STURDY
Probably not. It's the usual 'pillar of the community' bullshit.

OFFICER EARNEST
Maybe it's that virus from last year. Making the kid hallucinate? I heard they have a few new cases recently.

They notice Ben and Merry. Merry blinks rapidly.

BEN
Merry, what's a pedo?

Merry looks at Ben's frown.

INTERROGATION ROOM: Merry and Ben, silent and defiant, sit opposite a PSYCHOLOGIST (50s, female) and Officer Earnest.

VIEWING ROOM: Ari and Sturdy look into interrogation room.

INTERCUT - INTERROGATION ROOM AND VIEWING ROOM

Merry and Ben whisper conspiratorially.

MERRY
Don't say anything about vampires.

BEN
Or they'll put me in the psych ward.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST
Ben, we heard Adam is in the locker room with the boys. Is that right?

BEN
'Course. He's the coach.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST
He's a good coach, then?

Ben nods.

The child Psychologist turns to Merry, who crosses her arms. She refocuses on Ben.

PSYCHOLOGIST
Has your step father ever touched you in a way that made you uncomfortable?

MERRY
Adam would never hurt us. He loves us! He's not like Dad.

BEN
I want Mom!

Ari watches in anguish. Responds to Sturdy's scrutiny.

ARI
What mother would I be if I let someone hurt my kids? Adam is a good man. Better than I deserve.

HALL: Merry and Ben exit the interrogation room.

Ari and Psychologist see Adam down the hall with Fat Man.

PSYCHOLOGIST
What's the Mayor doing here?

ARI
Adam knows everyone...

Adam turns to the kids. Ben races ahead.

Seph's there! He STARES at Ari. She gasps.

BEN

Dad!

Merry runs behind Ben! Her walker appears purely decorative.

Ari gapes.

Adam picks Merry up and kisses her neck. He folds Ben into his body. The perfect dad. Ari tugs her fringe.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Ari's eyes beseech a marble Virgin Mary holding baby Jesus. Judas, the priest, appears beside her.

ARI

Jesus! I thought I was alone.

JUDAS

Never. You're always under His gaze. Do you need a priest or a friend?

ARI

Something's wrong... with me, Father.

Ari's head collapses in her hands.

ARI (cont'd)

You believe in monsters, Father?

JUDAS

Part of the job description.

ARI

I mean real monsters. This is confidential, right?

JUDAS

Of course.

ARI

I dreamed, I saw... Seph biting Ben's neck. Merry can miraculously walk. And Adam loves Merry, maybe too much?

JUDAS

You know a virus is making people hallucinate? The CDC might come.

ARI

I didn't know about the CDC.

JUDAS

Ari, we are all born sinners. Even Merry. She's a ripening apple. Every father notices his daughter maturing. It's your duty to satisfy your husband so he isn't tempted... The only monster here is jealousy.

Ari seeks Mary's face, whose TEARS FALL onto Baby Jesus.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Outside the church, Judas leans in to talk to the driver.

JUDAS

Bible's the best cover story ever. Fear wrapped in love. We should give that writer a prize.

ADAM

Ari won't say anything?

JUDAS

Believe in demons and angels and you're a Christian. Believe in vampires and you're insane. She doesn't want to believe it. Seph is safe, at least for now.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

KITCHEN: The radio is on as Ari cooks. It's food chaos.

RADIO (V.O.)

The father of Tim Jones, who hijacked a school bus, and Owen Jones, who went missing in foster care was...

Ari cuts her thumb. She clenches it.

RADIO (V.O.) (cont'd)

...arrested today, accused of killing the officer investigating both cases. The weapon was a wooden stake.

Blood splots SLOW-MOTION into the sink.

ADAM IS IN THE REFLECTION of a hanging pot.

Adam leans into Ari's neck -- and kisses it. She jumps.

RADIO (V.O.)
 Tim's claim that vampires
 attacked the bus put sleepy
 Stillwater on the map, with
 a flood of horror tourists.

ARI
 Don't sneak up on me!

ADAM
 I'm not sneaking. That's a sad case.

ARI
 There's no justification for murder.

ADAM
 You wouldn't kill to protect your
 son? That kid saw vampires. He should
 have been committed not investigated.

Ari stirs a pot of red bubbling sauce.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Total Control by The Motels or similar plays on the radio.

BEN'S BEDROOM: Ari picks laundry off Ben's floor. She
 stares. On Ben's pajama collar are two dark RED SPOTS.

MEMORY HIT: Ari attacks Seph as he sucks Ben's blood.

BACK TO PRESENT: Ari drops the laundry basket. She rubs her
 forehead. Ari gets on her knees to pick up the laundry.

She retrieves a sock from under the desk. Spots a RUSTY BOX.

Ari sits cross-legged under the table. She opens the box.

INSIDE THE BOX: Antique vampire-fighting paraphernalia and
 the OLD DIARY that Ben found in the basement.

Opens the diary with St John crest. Inside: *Olivia St John*
 Ari's EYES ROLL BACK in her head.

VISION: EXT. FIELD - DAY

1820s: OLIVIA (21) in a man's hooded cape, sweeps a purple
 sword against five vampires. Beheads two at once!

Their bloody heads, fangs extended, roll across the ground.

Olivia pulls back her hood, huffing.

Olivia smiles triumphantly. Surveys the dead.

A sword SLICES Olivia's head off!

It rolls on the ground, smiling, her green eyes open wide.

It's the head in a jar!

INDISTINCT VOICES of Ari's family coming home wake her to...

BACK TO SCENE (BEN'S BEDROOM)

Ari, panting, fumbles to replace the contents.

HALLWAY: Ari peeks into the hallway.

She sees Merry walk unaided. Adam's hand is low on her back.

MARTHA DAVIES, SINGER

(singing)

*Sell my soul for total contro-o-o-o-l
Over you.*

The song, their intimacy, shake Ari. Yet a decade of abuse isn't easily overcome.

EXT. STILLWATER STREET - DAY

Ari walks, talking on phone. Scans nervously. Voice quavers.

ARI

(Korean subtitled)

Mom, am I losing it? If Zane finds out... Mom, he'll get the kids.

INT. KOREA - BINSAs HOUSE - NIGHT

STRATEGIC PLANNING ROOM: Binsa, on the phone, watches an OFFICER put a pin in the map over STILLWATER.

ON A SCREEN are photos of bus driver Tim, Owen Jones and their FATHER with a story about the missing bus.

BINSAs (TALKING ON PHONE)

You're sane, Ari. Okay? The CDC has two reports of hallucinations. We have someone monitoring the area... You had a... let's call it a vision. But you haven't seen a vampire right?

EXT. STILLWATER STREET - DAY

Ari laughs weakly as she tugs her fringe.

ARI
Then I really would be crazy.

BINSA (V.O.)
Ari, trust your instincts. Get out of
there as soon as there's a window.

How do you trust your instincts if you don't trust yourself?

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM: Ari enters. Adam's on the lounge. Merry, Ben and Seph cover him like puppies, watching a vampire movie.

BEN
Turn on the lights!

MERRY
Where's the fun in that?

SEPH
They deserve to die.

ADAM
Darwin's law.

Subtle flashes on Ari's face: fear, love, doubt.

Adam extends a hand to Ari.

ADAM (cont'd)
Come here.

ARI
There's no room.

Adam stands, jettisoning the kids, who scream and laugh.

ADAM
There's no us without you.

Adam sweeps her up and flops back onto the chaise with her.

He holds her face to his chest. Hear Adam's LOUD HEARTBEAT.

ADAM (cont'd)
I'm sorry about this but I have to go
away tonight. For five days. You know
those patients with hallucinations?
(MORE)

ADAM (cont'd)
The CDC heard so we need to get
organised before they sweep in.

MERRY (TO ARI, IN KOREAN)
Maybe grandma will come.

Ari shoots Merry a look that silences her.

ADAM
You'll be okay on your own?

MERRY
She's not on her own.

Ari looks to Ben, Merry and Seph laughing at the movie.

ARI
We'll be fine.
(fakes a smile)
I'm going to look for a book club.
Try and meet some local Mums.

ADAM
Oh, okay. Let's look when I'm back.

Ari appears to acquiesce.

LIVING ROOM (LATER): Ari blows a kiss out the window as the taxi drives off. Ari watches the taxi recede into darkness.

HALL: Ari pads down the hall.

She looks into Merry's bedroom -- she's asleep. Continues...

She pads to Ben's bedroom -- he's asleep. Continues...

Her feet tread over floorboards. CREAK. She freezes...
She's in front of the CELLAR DOOR. Continues...

Ari approaches Seph's room. Seph sleeps. Ari exhales.

LIVING ROOM: Ari video calls Binsa. Whispers IN KOREAN.

ON THE PHONE, BINSAS POV:

ARI
Mum! Adam's away! We have our window.

Jonesie jumps on Ari's shoulder!

Ari yelps then laughs at herself.

Seph walks up behind Ari unseen!

BINSA
He's behind you!

Ari drops the phone. FROM THE FALLEN PHONE:

ARI (IN ENGLISH)
You're sleepwalking. Back to bed.

Ari walks Seph out of the room.

PRELAP: The SPIN of metal wheels on a linoleum floor.

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - NIGHT

ROOM 6: A DRUG TROLLEY crosses the room.

Jax watches a MUSCULAR NURSE (25, male, white) hand pills to child PATIENTS who swallow them.

Muscular Nurse wheels the drug trolley toward Jax.

He places a pill on Jax's tongue then makes him sip water. Jax swallows. Lifts his tongue. Muscular Nurse smiles.

Jax watches him wheel the trolley out. Spits out the pill.

Dreamy Doctor JET (35, male, Asian), enters with a chart.

Jax tracks him with his eyes. Dr Jet bends over a GIRL (5).

The Girl locks eyes with Jax. SLURPING sounds.

Dr Jet glides to the foot of Owen's bed.

He wipes his mouth, wet with blood. He picks up the chart.

ON THE CHART: Owen Jones. HEMOPHILIAC. Foster care.

Dr Jet growls. Muscular Nurse enters.

Dr Jet THROWS him across the room.

A COMMOTION of a crowd entering, comes from the hallway.

Dr Jet twists to the door. Flashes out and into--

CORRIDOR: First glides down the corridor, an inch of chilly air beneath his feet. Muscular Nurse and Dr Jet bow low.

A THRONG of people, dressed for cocktails, part like the Red Sea, as First approaches.

FIRST
They're subdued, not sedated?

Dr Jet, head bowed, nods. Channing appears in the Throng.

DR JET
Yes, First.

CHANNING
I fell asleep at the wheel last time.

The Throng titters. Dr Jet scowls.

DR JET
It was a tasting night. No one was
supposed to be drained.

Channing's lip curls.

Postman strokes the wall as he passes down the corridor. The lights flicker. His fingers CRACKLE, animating a painting.

The playful painting of children running COMES TO LIFE. The children turn, terrified, running from something unseen.

First's purple eyes sweep the Throng, who bow in turn.

First's lips retract.

His FANGS DESCEND -- long, large, white with a violet sheen.

His jaw unhinges like a snake. His fangs extrude.

The Throng cowers. On his signal --

The Throng blurs into the rooms of unconscious children.

First's flat nostrils flare. His ears twitch.

ROOM 6: Eve stands over Owen. Strokes his neck.

Eve salivates. Her eyes FLASH PURPLE. Her FANGS descend, white with a violet sheen. From behind her lower lips, fangs ascend. Eve opens her mouth like a slathering wolf.

Eve strikes! She SUCKS on Owen's neck loudly.

Seen like a medical scan, BLACK VENOM flows through Eve's fangs into Owen, spreading tendrils into Owen's brain.

Owen wakes! He flails at Eve. She pulls back, mouth bloody.

Owen, looking into Eve's purple eyes, is not mesmerised.

Owen's SCREAM is gut curdling.

First enters the room.

Owen is paralyzed by fear.

The Throng goosenecks to watch.

First kneels over Owen. He speaks as if giving Communion.

FIRST
Blood is the food of the Thirst.

THRONG (IN CHORUS)
Until Vampira returns.

Owen whimpers. First sinks FANGS into Owen.

Eve nods to the Throng. They SWARM in. Owen screams.

Channing sinks her FANGS into Owen's wrist. Dr Jet BITES his thigh. Owen's screams stop.

Jax breathes hard.

Channing SPINS HER HEAD 180 degrees.

Jax tries to scream. A strangled squeak comes out.

Channing slowly returns to Owen. Jax's eyes brim with tears.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari opens Adam's nightstand. Grabs cash.

Her silver earring falls out. Ari feels her ear.

The back of her earring rolls under the nightstand.

Ari's head pokes under the nightstand.

ARI
Shit!

Ari moves the nightstand.

Hidden underneath is a bottle of SLEEPING PILLS.

She opens it. They've been POWDERED.

MEMORY HIT: Ari wakes to Adam staring at her.

ADAM
You sleep like the dead.

KITCHEN: Ari clumps two dozen silver earrings on the table.
Ari opens Seph's garlic capsules.
Puts the back of an EARRING INSIDE GARLIC CAPSULE. Seals it.
From the open kitchen window, One-Legged Crow watches.
It flies in and lands on the kitchen table. Ari gasps.

ARI
Hello again.

One-Leg flies onto Ari's shoulder. Ari's on edge.
One-Leg caws. Except it's not a caw. It's a BOY'S SCREAM.
Ari stumbles back.
One-Leg flies off. *Phew!*
Ari exhales, eyes closed. One-Leg SWOOPS HER FACE! SCREAMS!

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM: Merry and Ben curl up to Ari on the chaise lounge. They drink milk from mugs with their name on it.

Seph, on the couch, seems transfixed by the television.

His eyes slide to Ben's neck. PULSE-PULSE-PULSE.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Seph swallows garlic tablets with his milk.

Ari sits on his bed. She watches his face. Innocent, desperate to be loved.

SEPH
This is the first time Dad's been away on Council business and I haven't been stuck with a sitter, first time I feel like I've got a real family, you know. A real mother.

Ari takes Seph's mug. She squeezes his hand.

SEPH (cont'd)
Ari... is it okay, if I call you Mum?

Ari kisses his forehead. *He's just a child. What am I doing?*

Beneath her lips, under his skin --

EXPLODING FROM SEPH'S FACE -- his network of veins reaches out like a webbed hand to grab Ari's face.

Ari gasps as she pulls back.

SEPH (cont'd)
You okay?

ARI
I thought, I - I -

SEPH
Should I call Dad?

ARI
No! No, I'm fine. Go to sleep.

MOMENTS LATER: Ari eases the door closed as Seph sleeps.

GARAGE: Ari softly closes the trunk, hiking packs inside.

She texts BINSAs: 'On schedule.'

Cl-UNK. A shovel falls.

Ari freezes. Her eyes pierce the shadows.

Harry the mouse runs over her feet. Ari cries out.

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari talks on the phone. Ben and Merry sleep in her bed. Merry winces as she rubs her knee.

ADAM (O.S.)
I miss you. How about some phone sex?

ARI
Ben and Merry are in bed with me.

ADAM (O.S.)
Have they been there all week?!

ARI
What time does your plane land?

Ari double checks her CHECKLIST: stakes, holy water, crosses etc. She tosses it in a sports bag of vampire weapons.

ADAM (O.S.)
Nine PM as planned.

ARI
I'll be at my book club and the kids
have sleepovers.

INT. UNITED WELLNESS LABORATORY - NIGHT

Adam's in a lab coat. Beyond him are cages of WHITE MICE.
LAB SCIENTISTS peer into microscopes or titrate blood.

ADAM
You have a book club? With who?

INTERCUT - LABORATORY AND ADAM'S BEDROOM

-- Adam leans against a glass-walled room in the lab.

-- Ari packs the last of her things.

ARI
Jenny. I met her at the library.

ADAM
Really? I don't like sharing you.

ARI
I plan to make it up to you.

-- Chastity (Virgin AB-) BANGS ON THE GLASS WALL with both
hands UNHEARD. She wears a patient gown.

ADAM
I have to go. I love you. Goodnight.

CHASTITY (UNHEARD)
Help me! Let me out! Please!

Adam hangs up, vaguely concerned. He turns to Chastity.

Chastity's eyes widen. She backs away from the door.

The door opens. Chastity SCREAMS hysterically.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HALL: Ari carries Ben, asleep on her shoulder.

She peeks into Seph's room. Sees the outline of his body.

GARAGE: Ari buckles Ben in his car seat. Checks behind her.

A SKITTER in the garage. Ari's on alert. Scans. No one.

C/U: Harry, paws raised, watches. Nose twitches. Adorable.

HALL: Ari peeks into Seph's room. He's still asleep.

She soft foots down the hall, EYES glued to his door.

Her HEART POUNDS. She TURNS TO --

ADAM'S BEDROOM: Ari rouses Merry. Her eyelids flutter awake.

A SHADOW at the door.

Ari whips around. No one.

Merry sees Ari's terrified face.

MEMORY HIT (MERRY'S) - ONE YEAR EARLIER - NIGHT

Ari carries Merry to the car. Binsa carries Ben.

Merry lifts her face to Ari's terrified, bandaged face.

Merry wears POLAR BEAR pajamas with her leg in a cast, another casualty of Zane's violence.

BACK TO SCENE (ADAM'S BEDROOM)

Merry's face is intense, more grown up than it should be.

MERRY
Did Dad find us?!

Merry stands. Falls to the floor! She gapes at her legs.

MERRY (cont'd)
Mum! My legs! I can't--

ARI
Okay, it's okay. We'll go to the E.R.

Ari fights her inner panic.

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - NIGHT

ROOM 6: Merry sleeps in a hospital gown.

Ari removes an icepack from Merry's tennis ball knee.

ARI
Please God, let her walk again...

Ben sleeps on a chair beside the bed.

Ari looks up -- Eve stands at the foot of the bed! *Shit!*

EVE

Adam didn't mention she's a hemophiliac... Has anything changed in the last five days?

ARI

No, apart from sleeping in my bed...

Ari's phone buzzes. ON THE PHONE: Binsa is calling.

ARI (cont'd)

I think we can manage Merry at home.

Adam stands right behind Ari.

ADAM

Why didn't you call me?

Ari spins. Adam's face is full of fatherly concern.

EVE

Let's talk at the nurse's station.

Adam and Eve leave the room.

Ari kisses Merry's forehead. Clicks off the light. Darkness.

Merry, Jax, and two PATIENTS sleep. Ben sleeps on a chair.

NURSE'S STATION: Ari, Adam and Eve talk unheard.

ROOM 6: Ben's neck is vulnerable.

The black shadow of a SMALL MAN FLASHES across the room.

Ben opens his eyes. His eyes slowly drift to Merry.

Seph stands by Merry's side.

Seph turns Merry's neck. His fangs SINK into Merry's neck.

NURSE'S STATION: Ari balks! Seph is at the desk.

ARI

What the hell are you doing here?!

SEPH

I woke up alone. I thought Merry --

ROOM 6: Ari races in. Merry sits up in bed.

Merry pulls back the sheets. Her legs are back to normal!

Ari looks accusingly at Seph. He looks guilty.

Adam puts his hand on Ari's shoulder. She jumps.

ADAM

We've been ordered into lock down.
It's essential personnel only.

ARI

I need to be with Merry.

ADAM

And leave Seph and Ben alone? You
take Ben. I'll bring Seph later. I
want to check him out first.

Ari bites her nails. Adam grabs her hand to stop her.

INT./EXT. CAR (HOSPITAL PARKING LOT) - NIGHT

Ari looks up at the hospital, thinking. She turns to Ben.

ARI

Stay here. I'm going to get Merry.

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - NIGHT

CORRIDOR: Ari's outside the door of the pediatric unit. She
taps her pass on the scanner. It doesn't work. Tries again.

Posters of vampire movies with teen stars, hang by the door.

FOOTSTEPS behind her. Ari ducks out of view, brushing a
poster off the wall in the process.

Channing turns the corner, seemingly alone, on her cell.

CHANNING

I expanded the boarding school
scholarship program and we captured
an interesting mix of kids.

Ari steps out of the shadow -- Eve appears behind Channing!

Ari ducks out of sight.

Eve stops by the fallen poster with BLOBS OF BLU TACK on it.

EVE

The sexy vampire. Our greatest PR campaign. The boarders have families?

CHANNING

Foster kids, addict's kids. We have five rare blood disorders, ten high talent and two hemophiliacs.

EVE

Girls?

CHANNING

You know how rare that is. It could be years until we find another Merry.

EVE

First thinks we could breed her.

Ari's eyes bug. Eve scans her pass and enters the ward.
Eve and Channing stand right in front of the open doors.
Ari's ready to duck in.
The doors close slowly but Channing and Eve don't budge.

EVE (cont'd)

Might be our last tasting for a while if the CDC come.

CHANNING

And we have the ascension ceremony tonight. You must be excited!

The doors close. Channing and Eve's heels CLIP-CLIP away.
Ari crouches beneath the glass pane. Eyes peek out.
Channing and Ari are at the other end of the corridor.
Ari pushes open the door. A glob of Blu Tack is on the lock.
Ari creeps down the corridor. Curtains SCRAPE. Ari twists.
Eve and Channing stand at the bed of a YOUNG GIRL.

CHANNING (cont'd)

So, what's on the menu?

ROOM 6: Ari slinks in.

The curtains are drawn around the four beds.

Ari crouches looking for feet. All clear.

Ari slips between the curtains around Merry's bed --

No Merry! Ari's heart POUNDS.

Through a gap in the curtains Ari sees Jax, eyes closed.

Doctor Jet sits on his bed.

Jax's arm hangs off the bed. Bite marks! Blood drips.

Ari peers at Dr Jet. He sucks blood from Jax's other wrist.

Jax's eyes open.

He points with his bloody hand, down the corridor.

Ari hesitates. Jax mouths UNHEARD --

JAX

Merry.

CORRIDOR: Ari peeks into room after room. Children sleep.

A SHADOW crosses behind her.

Ari flicks back.

Doctor Jet crosses to another room. He doesn't notice Ari.
Her feet pad to...

NURSE'S STATION: Muscular Nurse sits on the station, his
back to Ari. The head of Goth Nurse bobs between his legs.

Ari crouches. As she sneaks past, Muscular Nurse groans.

He arches his back unnaturally, doubling back on himself.

His head falls back in an orgasmic paroxysm, just in front
of Ari. Ari holds her breath. His eyes are closed.

GOTH NURSE

My turn.

Muscular Nurse straightens. Ari scrambles forward.

She tiptoes down the corridor, looking into each room.

HOSPITAL ROOM: Ari looks into the final room. It's empty.

She leans on a wall. She sobs softly, shoulders shuddering.

PARTY CHATTER from the corridor. Ari hides behind a curtain.

The wall at the back of the room SHIMMERS.

WAITERS in black tie exit with trays of white cloth napkins.

Ari peers into the hidden space behind them. It closes.

CORRIDOR: A Throng in cocktail dress enter. A string quartet starts to play. Waiters present trays of white napkins.

HOSPITAL ROOM: Ari feels the wall that shimmered. Solid.

A COUGH behind Ari. A WAITER (25, male) is right behind her!

The Waiter carries a tray of blood-dotted white napkins. He offers Ari his wrist. It has an electronic bracelet.

WAITER

AB negative?

His forearm is covered in double punctures.

Ari shakes her head.

WALL SHIMMERS as the Waiter passes through, blood dripping.

Ari follows him. Her shoes step in his blood. Through to...

PASSAGEWAY: Ari follows him down a dark passage.

The Waiter turns out of view. Ari steadies her breath and follows him. The passage splits in three directions.

Which way? She hears MUSIC. Follows it. Passage opens to ...

BAR: There's a coatroom of furs, capes and coats.

A shard of light shows Ari's bloody footprints. She sees it. *Shit!* Ari removes her shoes, hides them between the coats.

The empty elegant bar is strewn with remnants of a soiree.

Ari follows MURMURS. Treads barefoot, missing BROKEN GLASS.

PASSAGEWAY: Ari soft foots toward the voices.

At the end of the passage, there's a heavy door.

Ari creeps toward it.

Looks left - empty passageway. Right - empty passageway.

The door is AJAR.

Ari peeks in. Thick red drapes block her view.

She pulls back the edge of a curtain. Through the gap...

COUNCIL CHAMBER: First's broad back is imposing.

He sits at a large table. To his left is an empty chair.

To his right sits a RAVEN-HAIRED WOMAN. Her hair touches the floor. They wear bejeweled ceremonial purple capes.

INTERCUT - PASSAGEWAY AND COUNCIL CHAMBER

Ari checks over her shoulder. All clear. Looks into room.

Ari sees HUNCHED FIGURES sitting in shadow around the table.

From above, the table is large, round, gold. In the center is etched a GALAXY. Twelve grooves radiate from it to...

Hunched Figures pass around a candelabra with unlit candles.

FIRST

From Vampira came Adam and Eve.

The Hunched Figures respond in chorus, like a prayer rite.

HUNCHED FIGURES

The Firsts.

FIRST

And the Firsts created the Thirst.

HUNCHED FIGURES

And blood is the food of the Thirst.

FIRST

And the First created the Rings.

As each Hunched Figure speaks, they light a candle bringing them into focus. They are the PRINCIPALS of the Council.

POSTMAN

The Tenth -- Technology, planning.

ARCHITECT TYPE

The Ninth -- Shelter.

MICK JAGGER TYPE

The Eighth -- Arts.

EARTH GODDESS

The Seventh -- Food, Agriculture.

FAT MAN

The Sixth -- Government, Justice,
Defense.

JUDAS

The Fifth -- Religion.

VERA

The Fourth -- Volunteers, vulnerable.

CAIN

The Third -- Sport.

CHANNING

The Second -- Education.

RAVEN-HAIRED WOMAN

The First -- Health and research.

HUNCHED FIGURES

And all are bound to The First.

FIRST

Until the great feeding.

ALL TOGETHER

Until Vampira returns.

Ari sees Raven-Haired Woman light the last candle.

FIRST

Today is the ascension --

RAVEN-HAIRED WOMAN

Of our son to the First Ring.

From a door at the far end of the room, SIX WAITERS carry in a six-foot covered gold dish. They place it on the table.

The Principals clap and gush. Fat Man licks his lips.

With pomp, Waiters remove the gold dish cover revealing

A GIRL IN A WHITE HOODED CEREMONIAL ROBE. *Possibly Merry.*

Gold rope cinches her robe and bind her hands to gold rings in the dish. She struggles. Her cries are muffled.

Ari opens her mouth but her fear strangles her scream.

The Waiters retire.

FAT MAN

Oh goody!

The red lips of Raven-Haired Woman speak.

RAVEN-HAIRED WOMAN
We fed this vegetarian meat for six
months. So she's high in iron!

First's hand slides between Raven-Haired Woman's thighs.

Behind Ari, A HOODED FIGURE APPROACHES.

Ari's oblivious, transfixed by the bound young woman.

He's right behind her. She senses him too late. Turns.

IT'S SEPH!

Seph's eyes are glazed. He sees Ari but doesn't see her.

The curtains are parted from within, by long white nails.

Ari is exposed. The man with white nails has his head bowed.

The man doesn't see her as she steps back but --

TOOT-TO-TOOT! A trumpet sounds loudly just inside the door.

The Principals turn to the door and Ari. As they do, the red curtains fall back in place, obscuring her from view.

Inside the room, the Council members rise as Seph enters.

ALL TOGETHER
Hail Sephtis, the Eternal Death.

Ari's face is half seen as she parts the curtains.

ALL TOGETHER (cont'd)
Hail Sephtis, the Eternal Death.

Seph unties the robe of the woman tied in the gold dish.

Chanting continues. He pulls back the hood, It's CHASTITY!

She fights against her restraints. He removes her blindfold.

Seph stalks around the table. He's facing the door now, fixated on Chastity like prey.

His robe drops to the floor. He's naked. He removes her gag.

Chastity is wild-eyed. She SCREAMS as she looks up at him.

Seph's eyes flash purple. His voice is deep.

SEPH
Silence. Still.

Chastity is silent, still.

And so is Ari. She's mesmerized by Seph in the same moment.

Seph's muscles grow and bulge.

Seph bares his FANGS. Mouth SLATHERS. His fangs EXTRUDE.

Seph BITES into Chastity's groin. ARTERIAL BLOOD SPRAYS.

Seph kneels on the table. He's on all fours above Chastity.

His jaw widens, wet with blood.

Chastity's eyes are saucers. She knows what's coming.

Seph's teeth rip at Chastity's neck. Blood gushes.

Blood flows into the table-grooves, trickling to the seats.

The faces of Principals twitch. Snarling. Drooling. Long, sharp teeth. They lick blood from the grooves of the table.

Chastity's head lolls toward Ari. They lock eyes.

CHASTITY
(mouths, no sound)
Help me.

Ari opens her mouth to scream. No sound. She can't move.

Seph's face is wet with blood. He drinks until Chastity's eyes glaze. Seph kneels on the table, satiated.

Standing in shadow, First and Raven-Haired Woman paint his arms and chest with blood. They place a crown on his head.

RAVEN-HAIRED WOMAN
I'm so proud of you, son.

FIRST
All hail Prince Sephtis, the Eternal
Death.

ALL TOGETHER
Hail Prince Sephtis, the Eternal
Death.

The Raven-Haired Woman and First turn to each other. Their faces, clearly seen, glow with pride.

THE RAVEN-HAIRED WOMAN IS EVE.

Seph unties Chastity. Focuses his eyes on her limp body.

SEPH

Move.

Chastity, weak, sits up. She backs away from him.

Ari is broken from her spell. She steps back onto glass.
CRUNCH! Ari silently screams in pain.

Seph nods to the Principals of the Council.

As one, the vampires seize on Chastity, biting and tearing.

Ari's aghast. Blood flows from Ari's foot.

Seph sniffs. Turns to Ari, eyes glazed as if drugged.

Ari sparks to life.

PASSAGEWAY: Ari RUNS leaving bloody foot prints.

ANOTHER WAITER turns into the passageway behind her.

Ari runs through the wall blindly into...

HOSPITAL ROOM: Ari runs headlong into a WAITRESS (25).

They startle. Stare at each other until

Waitress offers Ari her punctured wrist.

WAITRESS

'A' negative?

The Waitress looks at Ari's bare feet. Ari thinks quickly.

ARI

Never dance on a table.

WAITRESS

You were at the ascension!

(she bows)

Please, take my shoes.

Ari takes the shoes and shoves them on. She hurries toward the door. She leans her head into the...

CORRIDOR: The corridor is deserted.

Ari runs, head on a swivel.

Vampires suck at the necks of unconscious children, smoke cigarettes, chat casually.

She's horrified but doesn't stop.

INT. ARI'S CAR (HOSPITAL PARKING LOT)- NIGHT

Ari hunches over the steering wheel sobbing. Ben's asleep in the passenger seat.

A shadow sits up in the back seat.

Ari senses it behind her. Tries to see in her peripherals.

Arms grab Ari's neck.

MERRY (O.S., KOREAN SUBTITLED)

Mom!

Ari turns and grabs Merry. She kisses her all over her face.

ARI (KOREAN SUBTITLED)

How did you...

MERRY (KOREAN SUBTITLED)

I knew you'd come for me.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Ari speeds on an empty road. Apple orchards on both sides.

Ari looks in the rear-view mirror at Merry and Ben.

ARI

It's going to be okay.

BEHIND HER CAR: A red truck screeches onto road in pursuit.

Ari picks up speed, dead focused. THUNK! onto the roof.

Merry and Ben look to the dent above their heads.

THE CAR IS PUSHED OFF THE ROAD BY AN UNSEEN FORCE.

Ari punches into reverse.

BABUNK. They run over *what was that?* Ari pushes into drive.

GRIYIY. They're stuck!

In her peripherals-- she turns-- ten VAMPIRES RUSH THE CAR!

ARI (cont'd)

Run!

EXT. ORCHARD - NIGHT

Our trio dissolves into the orchards. RUSTLE from all sides.

POV Vampire: The trio's heat signatures are red on black, disappearing and reappearing behind trees.

Ari, Merry and Ben RUN. Ben stumbles but Ari picks him up.

They TUMBLE into a dam, HIT the water and SINK down, down.

Around the dam, vampires sniff. They clamber up trees.

EXT. UNDERWATER - NIGHT

Ari, Ben and Merry fall through the water.

Something brushes Ari's face -- the DEAD FACE of the boy in the bathtub! A school bus is at the bottom of the dam.

EXT. ORCHARD - NIGHT

The trio surfaces. Eyes scan around.

They crawl out, wary.

Vampires lie dead, hearts staked or heads exploded.

A shadowed FIGURE DRAGS BODIES into the red truck car.

Figure turns-- It's Park! He waves brightly. Ari's face says *What the hell?!* She waves back.

Park walks back toward Ari smiling.

A redheaded vampire rips off his head! It rolls toward Ari.

Frack! Ari, Ben and Merry race to their car.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Ari speeds through the orchards into town, checking in the mirror, wiping tears.

Redheaded vampire blurs after the car.

Ari pulls ahead when--

WHOOOP-WHOOOP! A police car pulls out, chasing her down.

Ari won't stop. SIREN WAILS.

Redhead flashes away. Ari brakes.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Officer Earnest sits across from Ari. Ari notices her cross.

ARI

Do you believe in the devil? Demons?
Jesus coming back from the dead?

Officer Earnest fingers her cross and looks uneasy.

OFFICER EARNEST

I'm a police officer and a minister's
daughter. Yes, I believe in evil.

ARI

But what about demons with fangs?

Ben and Merry look to Officer Earnest expectantly.

ARI (cont'd)

You know Proverbs thirty fourteen?
'There is a generation whose fangs
are knives, barbarous inhuman
creatures, devouring the needy.'

Ari seems to be getting through to Officer Earnest.

ARI (cont'd)

How do you believe the unbelievable?
(steadies herself)
In the pediatric unit tonight, I saw
it. Vampires preying on children.

Officer Earnest listens. Ari's calm, seizing control.

ARI (cont'd)

And we found the school bus in a dam
in the orchard. Look at their necks.

Officer Earnest is on full alert.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- **PSYCH WARD:** Ari is in a hospital room. She tries the
door. Locked. Peers through the glass pane in the door.

Adam walks down the corridor holding Merry's hand.

-- **DAM:** Police cover the dead bodies of boys from the dam.

-- **PSYCH WARD:** Ari sees Officer Earnest, face stern, talk to Adam. She reads her lips. Ari smiles. *She found the bus!*

Merry walks to Ari's room. Places her hand on the outside of the pane. Ari raises her hand to Merry's hand.

Ari looks past Merry to Officer Earnest. Her eyes bug. Officer Earnest TURNS HER WRIST UP to ADAM.

-- **BINSA'S CAR:** Binsa almost yells on her cell phone.

BINSA
Park hasn't checked in. Find him!

INT. PEDIATRIC UNIT - DAY

ROOM 6: Merry sits on Jax's bed. Adam enters. Jax tenses.

ADAM
Hello Jax. What you two up to?

MERRY
We're going to the cafe.

She holds her palm out. He chuckles and hands her money.

ADAM
Lucky I love you.

Jax watches the teasing exchange. Adam leaves.

JAX
You really love him, don't you?

MERRY
He doesn't treat me like a kid.

Jax chews his knuckle. Takes a deep breath. Steels himself.

JAX
Does he..... does he bite you?

Merry looks at her feet. Her face glows with shame.

MERRY
(whispers)
He says it's natural. And he only does it for people who are special.

JAX
You are special.

MERRY
Am I?

JAX
'Course you are. And the bite makes you better, right? It heals you?

MERRY
Yes. It's the power of love.

JAX
It's not real... It's not real love. They mesmerise you, so it feels real. They drink blood bags but it's better fresh. And their venom heals. But it's not real, Merry.

Merry looks at her legs. Healthy, perfect.

MERRY
I don't know how to break free...
If he stops I'll go back on a walker.

JAX
And you'll still be smart and funny and kind and beautiful. Amazing.

Merry looks down shyly. Jax summons his courage. He lifts her chin. Looks into her eyes. Moves in for the kiss.

Their lips hover then connect gently. They stay like that for a long moment. Jax puts a hand on Merry's face. She puts a hand on Jax's face. They lean their foreheads together.

JAX (V.O. PRELAP)
Don't look in his eyes. He mesmerises you, tells you what you want to hear.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Adam and Merry drive through streets lined with bare trees. Adam searches for a radio station. Merry taps the radio off.

MERRY
I have a headache.

ADAM
Do you want me to massage --

MERRY

No. I'm just going to rest my eyes.

Merry closes her eyes. Concentrates on Adam's words.

ADAM

You're so beautiful. I love you more than the sun and the moon.

MERRY (V.O.)

Ergh. I'm going to vomit.

MERRY

Uh-huh.

ADAM

Did I tell you why the Mona Lisa smiles?

MERRY (V.O.)

At least three times.

MERRY

Let's just drive in silence.

Adam's ruffled. He looks at Merry, his brow furrowed.

MERRY (V.O.)

Has he always been that creepy?

ADAM

Your Mum's not coming back for a long time. I've got you all to myself.

A tear runs down Merry's cheek.

MERRY (V.O.)

I need my mum.

INT. CARGO PLANE (FLYING) - DAY

FOUR SOLDIERS, including Binsa, check equipment, weapons, maps, etc. Binsa makes a call.

EXT. ORCHARD - SAME TIME

Park's phone lies among grass in the orchard. It rings next to Park's lifeless head.

INT. CARGO PLANE (FLYING) DAY

Binsa hangs up. ON HER PHONE: She calls Ari.

INT. ARI'S CAR (PARKED) - SAME TIME (EARLY MORNING)

The phone rings in the front seat cup holder.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

DINING ROOM: Merry and Ben pick at their breakfast. Adam and Seph get up from the table.

ADAM

You sure you don't want to come to the community center with us?

MERRY

No, we're going to the library.

SEPH (TO BEN)

I'll see you for dinner.

BEN'S BEDROOM: Merry hurriedly packs a bag for Ben.

INT./EXT. ARI'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY (LATER)

Merry peeks over the steering wheel. Ben rides shotgun, Jonesie in his lap. Ben peeks through his splayed fingers.

A POLICE SIREN sounds. Merry sideswipes a STOP sign.

They scrape along a parked car as Merry pulls into the curb. They duck. A police car crosses the intersection behind.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is quiet. PRELAP: RAP-RAP-RAP on the front door.

INT./EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

ENTRANCE: Adam opens the front door, shirtless. Bitchy Mum's carrying a covered dish and showing lots of cleavage.

BITCHY MUM

I hear your wife's in the hospital. I don't want you to starve.

She leers at Adam. He leers back. She struts in.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD - DAY

ARI'S ROOM: Ari tries the door. Locked. Peers through glass.

A broad-shouldered male ORDERLY appears at the window!

Ari steps back. Orderly's face FLASHES INTO A VAMPIRE.

Ari yelps. He opens the door. His face is very human.

CORRIDOR: Orderly steers Ari roughly down the corridor.

Ari resists but he holds firm.

He JABS her with a needle. He swipes a door open.

WHITE ROOM: Merry and Ben sit at a table, back to the door.

They turn as Ari is pushed into the room.

ARI

Merry! Ben!

Ben runs to Ari. Merry leans heavily on her walker.

Orderly sneers and turns to leaves.

BEN

Hey, asshole!

The Orderly turns. His face is tight, thin-lipped.

Ben bites his lip but holds fast, staring him down.

Merry sprints to the door with her walker. She's faking!

Merry creeps behind the orderly.

Her fingers reach toward the access pass on Orderly's belt.

Merry glances at Ben who is in karate stance.

Merry charges Orderly with her walker, falling toward him.

MERRY

Leave my brother alone!

The Orderly pushes her off.

He growls and lunges at Ben. Ben jumps back. Orderly laughs.

The Orderly exits the open door. The door clicks closed.

Merry and Ben rush to Ari. Merry holds up the access pass.

ARI
Wha--

MERRY
We're breaking you out of here.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Ari pulls out from the curb as the SUN SETS. Brows twitch.

ARI
How did you get the car here?

Ben and Merry make a silent pact to never tell.

MERRY
Our bags are in the trunk. We're not going back to the house.

ARI
Without venom, you'll be in pain.
You'll never run again.

MERRY
It's okay, Mum.

ARI
No, it's not... If we capture Seph...

Ari picks up her phone. Calls Binsa.

ARI (cont'd)
Mum, where are you? I need your help.

Jonesie wriggles in Ben's arms. His vampire CAPE is on seat.

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY (PARKED)

The car HUMS. It's around the corner from Adam's house.

Ari steps out of the car. Leans in to look at Merry and Ben.

ARI
Stay in the car. I mean it.

Ben holds Jonesie to his chest. Pats him by an open window.

Ari grabs Ben's cape. Rubs it under her armpits. Throws it to Merry who does the same.

ARI (cont'd)
Now it stinks like all of us.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY (SUNSET)

Ari hides her phone and Ben's cape outside the house.

Ari spots THREE DEAD, BLOODY BIRDS by the basement window.

At the front door, she removes her shoes.

Slowly turns the lock. A loud CLUNK! Ari winces.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY (SUNSET)

DINING ROOM: Adam, from behind, eats at the dining table.

He listens to dramatic, SINISTER MUSIC at high volume.

Adam cuts raw meat on a white plate. A bright red HEART.

ENTRANCE: The front door is open. Ari's eyes dart.

HALL: Ari pads down the hall.

Ari peers into Seph's open bedroom. Empty.

INT./EXT. CAR - SAME TIME

Ben and Merry watch the house. Ben pats the cat anxiously.

JONESIE JUMPS OUT THE WINDOW.

Ben runs after him! *He never listens.*

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY (SUNSET)

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Ari pulls back the bed covers -- No one.

Ari walks into the walk-in wardrobe. Walls of clothes. Tall riding boots are covered by a long coat. Ari continues on.

At the end of the room, she pushes aside a curtain.

Ari startles. Just herself in a floor length mirror.

Seph, in the overcoat and boots, JUMPS ON ARI. Open his jaws. Slathering FANGS.

Ari turns. No one. The room sways. Ari steadies herself.

ARI (V.O.)
What did they give me?

Ari takes a slow, deep breath. She creeps out into...

HALLWAY: Empty. Ari glues herself to the wall. Crab walks.

FLOWING DOWN, we cross-section the house to the...

BASEMENT CORRIDOR: Jonesie chases Harry the mouse to...

BASEMENT ROOM: The room in the basement has a coffin.

No, not just one coffin. THREE COFFINS.

A coffin slides open.

The CREAK of floorboards above.

A large cage of white mice is on a shelf.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: The bed floats six feet up and hovers.

BASEMENT: Seph's feet climb the basement stairs.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Under the bed a trapdoor opens.
Seph emerges. Yawns.

BASEMENT: Seph's coffin is empty. The other two are closed.

Harry, evading Jonesie, climbs the side of a closed coffin.

His nose twitches. *Cute.* Harry nibbles a bloody HUMAN EAR.

A hand yanks Harry into the coffin. Harry SQUEALS. Silence.

ADAM'S STUDY: Ben scans the study. Looks under a table.

BEN
(whispers)
Tss-tss-tss. Jonesie.

Merry picks up the medicine box.

Intuitively, she removes the amethyst cross around her neck. It's sharply pointed at three arms. She pierces her finger with the small sword.

A blood drop FALLS onto the box.

It slides open. Purple light emanates. Merry is spellbound.

Merry's finger heals itself. She looks up at the bookcase.

Merry does PARKOUR up the bookcase. Seizes the crossbow above the door. She leaps and lands like a cat. Ben stares.

MERRY
Come on! Mum needs us!

DINING ROOM: Ari sees Adam from behind.

A stake is tucked into her belt.

Adam chews his last bite. Wipes blood from his mouth.

Ari looms behind him. Her shirt is sweaty. Adam sniffs.

ADAM
(in **KOREAN**, SUBTITLED)
Ari my love. What are you doing here?

Ari is framed by the large Correggio painting behind her.

The dark cloud in the painting SWIRLS.

From the painting, a MUSCULAR ARM GRASPS Ari's wrist.

In the painting, Jupiter's face raises behind Io's face. Her head lolls to the side. Blood drips down her neck.

Jupiter holds Ari's forehead back. Tilts her head.

In Ari's peripheral vision, Jupiter opens his mouth revealing fangs. Jupiter flicks his head, about to --

ADAM
Stop!

REVEAL: Adam twists, TRANSFORMING INTO FIRST. Fangs slather. Jupiter releases Ari.

ARI
Who are you?

FIRST/ADAM
The bible says Adam was The First.
I'm Adam.

ARI
What are you? You're not a man.

FIRST/ADAM
Well spotted darling.

First morphs back to Adam. Ari slaps him across the face.

ARI
I thought you loved me but you just used me, to get to my children.

ADAM

Everything I did, I did for love.
Merry's not in pain. Ben's a new kid.
They're better because of me. You
kept them with you when I went away
so Seph couldn't give them venom.
It's your fault Merry can't walk.

ARI

Will they... will they become...

ADAM

Say it.

ARI

...Vampires!

Ari summons the bravest part of herself. Stares down Adam.

ARI (cont'd)

Just stay. Away. From my children.

HALLWAY: Merry and Ben tread slowly. Merry gestures *Shhh*.

They reach Seph's closed door. Merry listens. Shakes her head at Ben.

DINING ROOM: Adam continues with increasing intensity.

ADAM

Once we were worshiped. To sate a
vampire's blood drive was an honour.
Now we hide in plain sight. People
refuse to see us.

ARI

Will they become vampires?!

LIVING ROOM: Merry and Ben press against the wall listening.

DINING ROOM: Adam strokes Ari's neck. Her pulsing jugular.

ADAM

Some are born vampires with an
ancient gene. Others are bitten. Some
feel the blood drive but never act on
it, like choosing to be vegetarian
when you could kill for a steak.

Adam laughs at his own joke.

ADAM (cont'd)

Some conditions grant total immunity.

ARI
Haemophilia...

LIVING ROOM: Ben's about to speak. Merry covers his mouth.

ADAM
Female hemophiliac, as adults, see us for what we are. They could become vampire hunters. Murderers! So they're hunted. Without my protection, Merry would be dead.

ARI
What about Ben?

ADAM
He'd feel the blood drive by now if he was going to turn, but I can't be sure. That's why we research what makes a vampire. We don't want vampire overpopulation. We want you to thrive, free of pollutants. It's not in our interest to kill everyone.

ARI
So garlic, holy water, crosses, silver, that's all in the movies?

ADAM
There are as many differences in vampires as there are in humans. Some die in sunlight. Others weaken with silver. Our genetic research will create stronger vampires.

ARI
What about a stake to the heart?

ADAM
Wouldn't even raise my cholesterol.

Ari has a light bulb moment.

ARI
There was no virus causing hallucinations was there? You just used it to discredit any witnesses...

ADAM
Unfortunately the CDC thinks it's real, but there's no one left for them to test.

Adam smirks. Ari ducks under Adam's arm.

From the painting, Jupiter's arm grabs Ari! The dark cloud that forms Jupiter's body COILS AROUND HER.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Seph hunches shirtless over his laptop, head phones on, shooting vampire hunters.

Seph's stomach GRUMBLES. His lips twitch, curl back. His fangs descend. His back muscles throb as he transforms.

DINING ROOM: Jupiter's cloud-body squeezes Ari tight, tighter, TIGHTER.

ARI

Please, Adam. We won't tell.

ADAM

Who would believe you?

Ari gasps for breath.

She sees Ben and Merry peek out. *No!*

LIVING ROOM: Ben takes a weapon out of his shirt. A balloon bomb. Merry peeks around the corner to see...

DINING ROOM: Adam throws Ari against a huge antique wall MIRROR. The mirror breaks.

SEPH'S BEDROOM: Seph transforms into a young man. He TEXTS.

LIVING ROOM: Ben has a balloon of holy water/garlic mix in each hand. Merry positions the bow. Poised to strike!

DING! Seph's text message on Ben's phone!

DINING ROOM: As Adam turns to Ben,

Ari STABS HER NECK with a shard of mirror.

Adam flashes into First. His wide eyes are purple.

First pulls Ari's hair back. He SINKS FANGS into her neck!

Ari locks eyes with Merry and Ben. Silently mouths 'Run!'

Ari looks at the shard in her hand, backed with SILVER.

Merry lets the arrow fly! It hits First in the shoulder.

First turns slowly. His eyes fix on Merry like prey.

MERRY

(distorted)

Adam, stop it! You're hurting her!

(MORE)

MERRY (cont'd)
(clearly)
Dad!

First reverts to Adam. His face is soft, vulnerable.

MERRY (cont'd)
If you love us, let us go. Please.

Ari breaks free, pushing Adam hard.

He falls back, toward Merry. In one fluid movement --

Ari STABS Adam in the heart with the mirror shard!

The shard cuts deeply into her hand.

Ari grabs his head. SMASHES it hard against the floor.

Adam lies bleeding, unconscious.

BEN
Dads really do suck.
(beat)
You have to cut off his head.

MERRY
We're not doing that.

Ari's rigid, looking down at Adam. Merry grabs Ari's hand.

Ben looks toward the hallway -- EMPTY.

Ari snaps alert. She leads Merry and Ben through to the...

LIVING ROOM: Past the FIREPLACE through to...

HALL: They're almost at Seph's door when --

DING!

ON BEN'S PHONE: Message from Seph '*I'm home. Where are you?*'

Ben hands Ari the phone.

ON THE PHONE: ... (A message being typed).

Ari pulls them back through to...

LIVING ROOM: Ben crawls into the fireplace!

The secret fireplace door to the basement opens.

Ben waves to Ari to follow.

BASEMENT: The second coffin rests in the gloom.
The coffin lid floats up. Long, long red nails emerge.
The occupant sits up -- EVE! Eve looks down to the floor.
Jonesie licks a pool of blood
... next to a lingerie-clad woman
... Her mouth is open in a silent scream. It's Bitchy Mum!
Her CHEST IS TORN OPEN. No heart!

LIVING ROOM: Ari sees Ben crawl through the fireplace.

FLASHBACK: Ari sees three dead birds at the basement window.

LIVING ROOM: Ari pulls Ben back from the fireplace.

They retreat back to the...

DINING ROOM: Adam still lies on the floor.

The gash on Adam's head HEALS.

Ben leans over him. *Cool!* Merry pulls him away.

The painting of Jupiter and Io comes to life as Adam heals.

IO (GREEK SUBTITLED)

RUN!

Merry grabs Ben's hand. Jupiter snatches at them. Io holds him back. They duck under his arms. Run through to...

KITCHEN: Ben leads as the trio hurry through the kitchen.

Ari, hands unsteady, opens a box of silver cutlery. A wedding present. A CARD: Use in good health, Love Mum.

In a pan's reflection, ADAM STUMBLES TO HIS FEET.

Ari grabs the silver carving knife and fork.

Ben gasps, looking at something behind Ari.

Adam is right behind Ari. His FANGS extrude.

Ben points, eyes bulging.

Adam closes SLO-MO on Ari's neck.

Ari's eyes flick to Adam's reflection in the pans.

Ari plunges the carving knife into Adam's eye.

Adam screams in pain.

Ben throws a balloon bomb.

The bomb explodes in Adam's face. His face burns.

Adam's still not down.

Ari smashes the Lego castle that's on the island.

Adam steps on a Lego piece, trips, legs kicking up. SMASH!

SEPH'S BEDROOM: The lights and computer fritz out.

SEPH

Shit!

Seph takes his headphones off. Hears Adam's SCREAM.

The muscles on his neck bulge as he morphs into a VAMPIRE.

HALL: The CELLAR DOOR.

It CREAKS open...

POV: Looking down the dark stairs into blackness...

CELLAR: Dimly seen, the glass doors of a cool room.

DARK SPACE

C/U Ari envelops Merry and Ben. Ari cups her bleeding neck.

ADAM (O.S.)

Where the hell are they?

CELLAR: The cool room doors.

Moving closer, the black outlines of wine racks within it.

The generator HUMS loudly to life.

The room lights up. One-Legged Crow flies in. Hops around.

Dom, Bitchy Mom's son, slams against the glass.

Dom rattles the locked cool room doors.

A FIGURE stands behind him.

Dom punches his fists into the glass, crying now.

Dom sees something outside the door.

Dom SCREAMS. Backs away from the door when

EVE RIPS OUT HIS JUGULAR.

Blood sprays the door. One-Legged Crow mimics the SCREAM.

WINE RACK: Bottles are labeled with the name, blood type, age (all 8) of six boys.

The wider room comes into view.

Six boys in Crusaders basketball uniforms are hooked to machines. Faces vacant. Blood snakes from needles in their elbows to each machine with a tap and wine bottle under it.

One-Leg flies out of the room.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BACK YARD: One-Leg lands on the fence.

Seph and Adam scan the back yard. Naked statues are spotlighted, ghoulishly.

Adam and Seph walk toward the pool.

The waterfall flows into the pool.

Bushes, potential hiding spots, sway in the breeze.

UNDER THE POOL COVER: Ari, Merry and Ben huddle. The pool cover is closed, except the section around the waterfall. It sits a foot above the pool surface and is translucent.

Adam stands next to the pool. SNIFFS long and deep.

Ari signals and the trio's heads sink below the water. Ari bleeds into the water. The blood is sucked into the drain.

Adam floats above the pool.

From underwater, the trio watch Adam float above them. Ari, hand above the water, clicks a buzzer. BRRRRRRRRR.

Seph and Adam's eyes flash purple.

SEPH

The gate!

FRONT YARD: Seph and Adam stand outside the gate.

SEPH (cont'd)
I smell them.

He turns to follow what he sees as a yellow trail of scent.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Adam starts the car. He tracks Ari's phone on his screen.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

BACK YARD POOL: Only Merry hears the SCREECH of Adam's car. She pulls Ari and Ben to the surface, gasping.

MERRY
Mum, it's okay. They're gone.

Ari, Ben and Merry stand soaking at the pool edge.

Ari speaks into Merry's phone in Korean, SUBTITLED.

ARI
Mum, they're coming. They'll follow my phone. Merry's geotracking is off.

INT./EXT. VAN - NIGHT

Binsa is small behind the wheel.

IN THE PASSENGER SEAT: Ari's phone and Ben's stinky cape.

Binsa waves the vampire cape out the window and cackles.

The fetid fumes of the cape waft behind her.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Adam speaks into his phone. Seph rides shotgun.

ADAM
She's at the hospital. Find her.

INT./EXT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Adam pulls up to the hospital. From the car speaker --

DR JET (V.O.)
We can't find her.

ADAM
Useless!

SEPH
(sniffing)
They're definitely here.

They see a CDC van parked at the hospital entrance.

ADAM
Great! Perfect!

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Adam and Seph walk toward the entrance. The CDC van is open. FIVE CDC STAFF in space suits check equipment.

Seph sniffs long and hard. They stop next to the van.

SEPH
They're right here!

Seph and Adam are PUSHED INTO THE VAN.

INT./EXT. ARI'S CAR - NIGHT

Ari, Merry and Ben speed through town. Ben holds Jonesie.

The town is dead. A blinking streetlight. An owl hoots.

Ari smiles at the kids in the backseat. *Home free.*

Turns back to see FATHER JUDAS JUMPS IN FRONT OF THE CAR.

THUMP as the car runs over his body.

Ari slams the brakes but it's too late.

She sees his limp body in the rear view.

ARI
Jesus!

Ari's opening the door when --

JUDAS IS AT HER OPEN WINDOW.

Ari screams.

Ari grabs a stake from her kit. Plunges it into his chest.

No effect.

Judas grabs as Ari, pulling her out the window --

The albino mama bear CHARGES into Judas.

Her jaws tear into Judas's neck.

Ari hits the gas. They screech off.

INT. CDC VAN - NIGHT

Seph and Adam are held down by four space-suited staff.

A tiny CDC person in a spacesuit slams the door closed.

Seph and Adam start to MORPH into vampires.

FANGS. Arms thrash. Necks twist. Purple veins throb.

The tiny CDC person plunges an injection into Adam's neck. Purple fluid is pushed into him.

Seph is unconscious. A syringe is pulled out of his neck by a large hand. The team speak in Korean SUBTITLED.

One by one they pull back their head gear, revealing a TATTOO of a PURPLE SWORD on the back of their neck.

A circle of Korean faces look down on Adam -- CDC ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR and Binsa.

Adam's open eyes are vacant. Binsa shuts them.

BINSA

We can milk his venom for a century.

INT./EXT. BLOOD DRIVE VAN - NIGHT

The blood drive van pulls up next to the CDC van.

Eve checks her face in the rear view mirror. Pulls human flesh from her teeth. As she does, the CDC van pulls out.

EXT. CDC CARGO PLANE - DAY

Insignia emblazons the plane: CENTERS OF DISEASE CONTROL.

INT./EXT. CDC CARGO PLANE - DAY

The plane RUMBLES. The CDC crew lean back on benches.

Seph and Adam are pinned down in the center. They stir.
 Binsa pushes syringe into Seph who DISINTEGRATES INTO DUST!
 The crew goggle. *What the --*
 Adam flashes open his purple eyes. Transforms into First!
 First, in a rage, breaks his restraints.
 Throws CDC ONE, TWO and BINSAs against the bulkhead.
 Stomps on CDC THREE'S head.
 First rises in the air. The cargo bay opens.
 First throws CDC ONE out the plane! He screams as he falls.
 Binsa shoots her crossbow. First catches the arrow. Snarls.
 First gazes at Seph's ashes. He FLIES out the open door into

BLACKNESS

SUPER: TEN YEARS LATER

PRELAP: SOUNDS of a party.

INT. BINSAs HOUSE - GARAGE - NIGHT

Ben (now 18) opens the garage. Ben is muscular and assured.
 He wears a fang on a necklace.

In the garage is a blood drive van.

Ben saunters to a room at the back. KNOCKS on the door.

BEN

Merry, you're missing your own party!

ROOM: A thumb on a sensor on a fridge.

MERRY (O.S.)

Be there in a minute, Ben!

IN FRIDGE: Vials of black vampire VENOM and BAGS OF BLOOD.

A vial is loaded into a high-tech syringe.

Merry (now 21) sweeps her long hair from her straight spine.
 She looks at herself in the mirror. A confident, strong,
 beautiful woman. She swabs her neck, angles her head.

Merry injects venom, next to her PURPLE SWORD NECK TATTOO.

Merry places her palm on a sensor next to a WALL MURAL.
The wall slides open. Merry walks through to...

ARMORY: Crossbows, guns, tactical suits, purple sword, etc.

Merry walks through to...

GLASS ROOM: It's well furnished and comfortable.
Merry KNOCKS on the glass.

MERRY (V.O.)
How do you believe that the person
you love is a monster?

She slides opens a small window and slides a blood bag in.

It sits there until -- A figure flashes toward it.

MERRY
It's B negative. Your favorite.

The vampire sucks the blood bag.

A venom vial is pushed through the window. Merry takes it.

MERRY (cont'd)
I'm sorry. There's too many people
here and after last time...

Merry puts her hand on the glass.

The vampire places her hand on the glass. Lifts her chin
into the dim light -- It's Ari!

Ari and Merry lock eyes in a poignant moment.

ARI
Happy birthday, baby. I wish...

Ari hesitates, overcome, then flashes away.

Merry fights back tears but loses the battle. She weeps.

Merry closes the armory, her palm on the sensor.

She touches the mural of vampire slayers in battle. They're
all women, including Olivia St John, Binsa Jang and Merry.

EXT. BINSAS HOUSE - NIGHT

BACK YARD: Merry calms herself as she enters her 21st party.

Ben and Jax (21) play DJ. Girls dance close to them.
 Jax, now a hot nerd, waves Merry up to the spotlight.
 Binsa skulls her whisky. She whistles LOUD. The MUSIC stops.

BEN
 Let's give it up for the birthday
 girl, my sister --

JAX
 And my girlfriend, Merry!

Merry smiles broadly. Binsa is teary.

BINSA
 (in Korean, slurs)
 We're so proud of the woman, warrior
 you are... This is from your mom.

Merry opens the dagger-shaped gift. It's a STETHOSCOPE.

BEN
 To the future Doctor Jang! Woot!

Merry blinks back tears. Party Goers cheer. MUSIC starts up.
 The yard gate opens. A GIRL IN PINK MINI dress enters.

MERRY
 Ben, Jax. Do you know that girl?

	BEN	JAX
No.		Nope.

Pink Mini turns toward Merry -- She's a VAMPIRE.
 Binsa winks at Merry, who pulls a dagger from her bra.

MERRY
 Now, it's a party.

A rapacious-paced, upbeat version of Total Control plays to

FADE OUT.