

Vanishing Place

By

Dan Olds

206-714-5333
oursalvation@msn.com

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

In a beautiful forest a dog runs, barking. Running behind the dog - a MAN wearing a coat and a red cap. He yells at the dog.

MAN

Thor! Stop!

The dog continues to run through the woods, barking. The distance between them grows greater.

The barking stops.

We hear a loud CRACK followed by a WHOOSHING noise like something flying through the air.

THUD! It hits a tree.

We focus on the tree. About 20 feet up the tree the man lies dead on some branches, blood dripping from him.

SUPER: THIRTY YEARS LATER

EXT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

A pickup truck speeds down the highway.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

In a speeding truck two young men in their early twenties, JEFF and DAVID, have an intense conversation. Jeff drives. With them in the truck is Jeff's dog, KING, a German Shepherd.

JEFF

You're wrong.

DAVID

I'm not!

Jeff points to a Bible sitting on the dashboard.

JEFF

Look it up.

David thumbs through the Bible. He holds it up triumphantly.

DAVID

See. I was right. He hung himself.
Case closed.

JEFF

But I know his guts spilled out all
over the place. That's what I put.
His guts spilled out.

David laughs.

JEFF (CONT'D)

Well. Good job for getting it right.
I'm proud of you.

Just then they pass a sign that says "Entering Amber".

DAVID

Jeff! Can you tell me now? Why are
we here?

JEFF

Patience David.

They pull up to a gas station.

David pops out of the car and starts to grab the nozzle at
the pump. A young ATTENDANT pops out of the building.

ATTENDANT

Fill er up?

David is a bit surprised.

DAVID

Ah... sure.

The attendant takes the nozzle from David, opens the gas cap
and inserts the gas nozzle.

ATTENDANT

You can pay inside.

DAVID

Thanks.

ATTENDANT

Check your oil?

DAVID

Nah. I think we're good.

The attendant picks up a squeegee and a bucket of soapy water
and starts to wash the windows.

Jeff pops out of the car and follows David into the Mini-Mart.

INT. MINI MART - DAY

They walk down a food aisle in the Mini-Mart.

An elderly man, SAMUEL PROPHET, is also in the store. Jeff nudges David.

DAVID

What?

Jeff points at the man.

JEFF

I know him.

DAVID

Yeah. Right.

Jeff goes wide eyed as he approaches the man.

JEFF

Are you... Samuel...

The man extends his hand. Jeff grabs it.

SAMUEL

Samuel Prophet's the name.

Jeff joins in and they speak together.

SAMUEL AND JEFF (CONT'D)

Jesus is my game. Are you in?
Good. Because we're raising the
stakes.

They both laugh. David comes over.

JEFF (CONT'D)

David. I'd like you to meet Samuel
Prophet.

David and Samuel shake hands.

DAVID

Nice to meet you.

SAMUEL

The pleasure is all mine, David.

JEFF

He used to be on TV.

SAMUEL

I did.

JEFF

What are you doing here? In the middle of nowhere?

SAMUEL

This is my home. Just got back from India.

JEFF

India?

SAMUEL

Yep. Still doing the Lord's work.

Jeff picks up a bag of chips. He turns to David.

JEFF

I used to watch his show. Trials and Tribulations. Well... Reruns of his show.

Samuel chuckles. Jeff turns to David.

JEFF (CONT'D)

My grandfather used to listen to the show on the radio. When he was just a kid.

Jeff opens his mouth.

JEFF (CONT'D)

That was like 70 years ago.

SAMUEL

I guess I've been at this a long time.

David approaches Samuel.

DAVID

You're a Bible expert, right?

SAMUEL

I know a thing or two.

DAVID

Tell me. How did Judas die?

SAMUEL
The betrayer of Jesus?

DAVID
Yes.

SAMUEL
Well, first he hung himself. Then
he burst open and his guts went all
over the place.

David and Jeff laugh and high five each other.

JEFF
Yes!

Jeff turns to Samuel.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Thanks man. You just made my day.

SAMUEL
Anytime.

They head towards the cash register.

EXT. MINI-MART - DAY

David and Jeff emerge and walk towards their pickup truck.
Samuel emerges from the store and heads towards his car.

Just then a beat up pickup driven by WINSTON GROVE comes into
the parking lot and parks right by Samuel.

He's a man with gray hair in his sixties. He gets out of his
car and slams the car door. He immediately confronts Samuel.

WINSTON
What the hell you doing here?

SAMUEL
Winston!

WINSTON
I heard you were dead. I was hopin'
it was true.

SAMUEL
It's good to see you.

WINSTON
Good to see me? You're kidding me
right?

Winston walks right up to Samuel.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
You're not welcome here.

SAMUEL
This is my home.

Winston shoves Samuel.

WINSTON
Get out! Go back to whatever hell
hole you came from!

Samuel recovers and approaches Winston.

SAMUEL
Please Winston.

Winston shoves Samuel again.

WINSTON
You want more huh?

Samuel approaches Winston.

SAMUEL
I'm sorry Winston. I really am.

David and Jeff quickly exit their pickup and approach them.

JEFF
Leave him alone.

Winston spits on the ground.

WINSTON
Who the hell are you? Couple a out
of town clowns?

David and Jeff stand on either side of Samuel.

Winston looks Jeff in the eye. Then he looks David in the
eye. Then he looks back at Samuel.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Why you bastard!

Winston makes a lunge at Samuel. David steps in between the
two.

DAVID
We told you to leave him alone.

WINSTON

Ah... Just messin' with ya.

Everyone relaxes. Winston start to head into the store. He suddenly turns and lunges towards Samuel. He throws a punch!

David blocks it.

DAVID

Stop! Now!

Winston spits again and enters the store.

SAMUEL

Thank you boys. It's good to be home.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY

David and Jeff drive in the pickup.

JEFF

What just happened?

DAVID

I have no idea.

JEFF

Looks like there's some beef between them.

They drive along for a few moments in silence.

DAVID

Is his last name really Prophet?

JEFF

I don't know. Look it up.

David looks at his phone.

DAVID

Looks like he changed it from Janson to Prophet.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What the heck!

JEFF

What?

DAVID
I don't believe it. He's 102 years
old!

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - DAY - LATER

Jeff drives along a road in the forest. David looks at his phone.

DAVID
Turn here.

Jeff turns and continues down a gravel road. They come to a barricade on the road. Jeff stops the car.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Just drive around it.

Jeff drives around the barricade.

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Jeff and David set up their campsite by a beautiful stream. King is there, off leash. He looks a bit agitated.

DAVID
You were right. It's beautiful here.

JEFF
Yep. We're finally doing it!

DAVID
(Yelling)
Done with school! Forever!

King gets a bit more agitated.

JEFF
What's the matter King? What is it
boy?

DAVID
He probably smells a skunk.

King is totally focused as he looks over towards a hill. He doesn't move.

JEFF
What are you looking at boy?

Both David and Jeff look over at the hill.

DAVID
I don't see anything.

King starts to take some steps towards the hill.

JEFF
What is it?

King starts to move faster.

JEFF (CONT'D)
King! Stop!

King stops and looks back at Jeff. Then he looks back at the hill. He makes his choice. The hill.

Just as he starts to move, Jeff runs up with King's leash and attaches it to King. Using a rope, he attaches King to a tree.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

The three of them are in their tent. David and Jeff lie in their sleeping bags.

DAVID
Ok. Can you tell me now?

JEFF
Yep. We're here to solve a mystery.

David laughs.

DAVID
This better be good.

Jeff pulls out a letter.

JEFF
I found this letter going through my parent's stuff. It's from my great uncle's cousin. He and his wife lived here in Amber. One day his wife just disappeared.

DAVID
Ok?

Jeff pulls out another letter.

JEFF
A few months later he sent another letter.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)
He claimed others disappeared before
his wife did. So we're here to find
out what happened.

DAVID
So when were these letters written?

Jeff laughs.

JEFF
About 50 years ago.

DAVID
You're kidding, right?

Jeff holds out the letters.

JEFF
Here's the proof man.

DAVID
What happened to your uncle's
cousin?

JEFF
No idea.

David thinks about it.

DAVID
Before I forget. I got you a
graduation present.

David pulls out a small box from his pocket and hands it to
Jeff.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Happy graduation.

Jeff opens the box. It's a beautiful necklace with a cross.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's 14 carat solid gold.

Jeff's eyes widen. He put's it around his neck. He hugs
David.

JEFF
Thanks man. It's amazing. I'll never
take it off.

Jeff grimaces.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Sorry I didn't get you anything.

DAVID
That's ok. Your presence is my
present.

Jeff just rolls his eyes and shakes his head.

JEFF
Hey man. I just can't tell you
enough how grateful I am for
everything you and your family have
done for me.

DAVID
Of course!

JEFF
Anyway... Couldn't have done it
without you. Thanks man.

DAVID
Actually... You movin' in was the
best thing that ever happened to me.

JEFF
Really now.

DAVID
Yeah. I think you're the only one
who knows how much of a screw up I
really am.

JEFF
Don't say that.

DAVID
Well. You kinda set me straight. You
know?

JEFF
Just trying to help. You can be such
a pain in the...

DAVID
I know. Believe me I know.

JEFF
Love ya man.

DAVID
Me too.

They hug. Jeff yawns.

JEFF
Well. Good night.

DAVID
Night.

INT. TENT - NIGHT - LATER

They are all sound asleep in the tent. King suddenly whines.

JEFF
You need to go out boy?

Jeff attaches the leash to King, grabs a flashlight and they exit the tent.

EXT. TENT - NIGHT

King pulls hard on his leash.

JEFF
Ok. Ok.

Jeff moves forward with King pulling him. He suddenly trips and lets go of the leash. King takes off.

JEFF (CONT'D)
King!

Jeff takes off after him, holding the flashlight.

EXT. TENT - MORNING

We focus on the tent. It's morning and there is complete silence. No birds chirping. A campfire smolders.

INT. TENT - DAY

David sleeps. He's alone. He opens his eyes, looks around. He exits the tent.

EXT. TENT - MORNING

David looks around.

DAVID
Jeff!

He looks around some more.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Jeff. Where are you?

Silence. David stumbles around. He looks over at the hill that King was interested in.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(panicking)
Jeff!

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

David stands outside a small building that looks like it is 100 years old. On the outside of the building is a sign "Amber Sheriff". David enters the building.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

David walks up to the counter. He spots a bell on the counter and rings it. Nothing. He rings it again. A door opens in the back of the office and the SHERIFF emerges.

He's an older man with a mustache. He looks disheveled and holds his head with one hand and a cowboy hat with the other. He puts the hat on his head and walks up to the counter. He's not used to being bothered.

SHERIFF
What the hell you want so early in the mornin'?

DAVID
My friend is missing! We need to find him! Now!

SHERIFF
Who's your friend?

DAVID
Jeff Sanders. We were camping...

The Sheriff raises his hand up for David to stop.

SHERIFF
Hold on.

The Sheriff grabs a pad of paper.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
Jeff Sanders?

DAVID

Yes.

The Sheriff makes some scribbles on the paper.

SHERIFF

What happened?

DAVID

We were camping outside town, I think right off road B...

SHERIFF

You got a permit?

DAVID

Yes.

SHERIFF

Go on.

DAVID

He took his dog out in the middle of the night. They never came back.

SHERIFF

You try his cell?

DAVID

Yes. Multiple times. No answer.

SHERIFF

Ok.

DAVID

Please! Can you help? We need to find him!

The Sheriff looks at his watch and sighs.

SHERIFF

I can't help you.

The Sheriff turns around to head back to his room.

DAVID

Hey!

The Sheriff keeps walking.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I need your help! Please!

The Sheriff stops. He turns back to David.

SHERIFF

I told you I can't help you.

DAVID

What kind of Sheriff are you?

He walks back to David. He gives a big sigh as he thinks about it.

SHERIFF

Ok. Be here in a couple hours.
We'll get a search party going.
Sound good?

DAVID

Ok.

SHERIFF

You should probably check into the
hotel. Only got one in town.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

A group of people stand right inside the barricade on Road B. Many of them are elderly. A bunch of cars are parked right outside the barricade. The sheriff addresses the people.

SHERIFF

Ok. Gather around people.

The Sheriff opens a box that contains a bunch of walkie talkies. People come up and grab one.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

You know the drill. Stay in groups
of two and holler if you find
anything. Got it?

The people nod their heads. An elderly lady, GERTRUDE, grabs David by the arm. In her hand she holds a walkie talkie. She wears a backpack.

GERTRUDE

You come with me young man.

Gertrude points to a cluster of trees.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

Let's go this way.

They start to walk towards the trees.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Oh! How rude of me.

She extends her hand. David takes it.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
I'm Gertrude.

DAVID
I'm David.

GERTRUDE
Nice to meet you David.

Suddenly a VOICE comes over the walkie talkie.

VOICE
I got somethin in quadrant 4. Over.

Gertrude changes direction.

GERTRUDE
Let's go.

Gertrude begins to walk fast. David can barely keep up with her.

EXT. QUADRANT FOUR - DAY

David and Gertrude arrive in a small clearing. Several groups are already there. The Sheriff arrives. A man holds a flashlight that is still on. He hands it to the Sheriff who turns to David.

SHERIFF
This his flashlight?

DAVID
Yes... It is.

More people arrive as the Sheriff addresses the group.

SHERIFF
Ok. Looks like he was heading east.
Focus on quadrants 16, 17, and 18.

Gertrude takes off.

GERTRUDE
Follow me.

Gertrude smiles.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

You better hope we don't find him.

David is flabbergasted.

DAVID

What?

Just then they come across a dog leash attached to a collar. There is also evidence of a struggle with grass trampled down. Gertrude picks up the leash.

GERTRUDE

This his?

They examine the dog tag on the collar. It says "King".

DAVID

Yes!

David looks around.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Jeff!

He cups his mouth.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(louder)

Jeff!

No answer.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

David stands at a quaint hotel counter. The ATTENDANT helps David check in.

ATTENDANT

I'll just need to get a credit card.

David reaches towards his back pocket.

DAVID

My wallet! Crap. I must have left it
at the campsite.

(to the Attendant)

Do you have a flashlight?

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

David walks through the dark woods holding the flashlight. He arrives at the campsite. On the side of a tree he spots his wallet.

DAVID
There you are.

He picks up the wallet. We hear a loud SNAP of a branch. David shines the flashlight out. He stands, motionless.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Hello?

We hear another crack, this time quieter. David slowly heads towards the noise. He shines his flashlight through the trees. He stops. Listens. Nothing.

He shines the flashlight at the bottom of a nearby tree. He slowly shines his flashlight up the tree. Shock!

His flashlight illuminates a grinning skull! On the skull sits a red cap. David jumps!

He hears another snap nearby. He spins around. Winston Grove stands about ten feet from David.

DAVID (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Winston talks slowly and deliberately.

WINSTON
Stay outta these woods.

Winston turns around and walks away.

INT. DAVID'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

David sits on the bed. He talks on his cell phone.

DAVID
No. You don't have to!...Mom! We'll find him!...Yes. I texted some of them. They're going to pray...I'll keep you up to date...I love you too. Bye.

David hangs up. He looks towards his window and sees a shadow. He quickly goes over to the window and looks out. He spots someone walking away.

EXT. SKELETON LOCATION IN WOODS - DAY

A whole group of people stand beneath the tree with the skull. On the skull rests a red cap. It's the man who died thirty years ago. We can see parts of a skeleton in the branches.

A YOUNG MAN climbs the tree. David stands next to Gertrude as they both stare at the skeleton.

DAVID
We better find Jeff soon!

Gertrude just smiles and shrugs.

The young man reaches the skeleton. He reaches into a coat pocket and pulls out a wallet.

YOUNG MAN
Looks like his name's Jake McDowell.

SHERIFF
Jake McDowell? He disappeared about
30 years ago.

Gertrude chuckles at David.

GERTRUDE
I never thought to look in a tree
before.

Gertrude looks up at the skeleton.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Oh. I almost forgot.

Gertrude opens her backpack and takes out a camera. She holds it up to the Sheriff.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Sheriff?

SHERIFF
Go ahead.

Gertrude practically runs over to the tree and effortlessly climbs it.

DAVID
Be careful.

Gertrude positions herself over the skeleton in the tree. She pulls out the camera and snaps a picture of it.

EXT. WOODS - DAY - LATER

Gertrude and David walk through the woods together.

DAVID

I could of sworn someone was
watching me last night at the hotel.

GERTRUDE

Really now. Well you could always
stay with me. I got room.

DAVID

That's awful nice of you.

GERTRUDE

It's no problem at all.

DAVID

Thank you.

They walk into the woods. David stops.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What did you mean by what you said
yesterday?

GERTRUDE

And what did I say yesterday?

DAVID

You said I better hope we don't find
Jeff. We better find him!

Gertrude stops walking. David stops too.

GERTRUDE

Can I ask you a question?

DAVID

Ok? Sure.

GERTRUDE

Was Jeff a believer in the good
book?

DAVID

Jeff and I are both seminary
students. So the answer to that
question is yes.

GERTRUDE

Well... We ain't gonna find him
then.

DAVID

Of course we'll find him. King ran off... And Jeff probably just got injured or something.

GERTRUDE

Nah... He's gone for good. So is King.

David is shocked.

DAVID

What?

Gertrude lowers her voice.

GERTRUDE

People been disappearing around here for nearly 100 years. We ain't gonna find him.

DAVID

I already heard this. But it's ridiculous.

Gertrude stops and looks at David suspiciously.

GERTRUDE

Who told you?

DAVID

Jeff had some letters from some relatives. They said that people disappear here.

GERTRUDE

Well... It's true.

DAVID

I don't believe it. People don't just disappear into thin air.

They start to walk through the woods again. They spot two others searching. Gertrude points to the side.

GERTRUDE

Let's head this way.

They continue walking towards where she pointed.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

Seminary student, huh?

DAVID

Yes. Jeff wants to pastor a church.
He wants me to help him... But I'm
not sure.

GERTRUDE

Well then you must study the word of
God, right?

DAVID

Yes.

GERTRUDE

Ever heard the story of Elijah?

DAVID

Of course.

GERTRUDE

You remember what happened to him?

David is getting a bit frustrated.

DAVID

Just say what you need to say.

GERTRUDE

Ok. God took him right up into
heaven. One moment he was standing
there. The next moment he was in
heaven.

DAVID

Ok?

Gertrude smiles.

GERTRUDE

(quietly)

Here. In Amber. The angels take
people right up into heaven. Just
like Elijah.

DAVID

The angels? Do you even hear
yourself?

David thinks about it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

There's gotta be a logical
explanation. You sure there aren't
any cliffs or something around here?

GERTRUDE

Not that I'm aware of. And I've been through every inch of these woods.

DAVID

Is this where it happened before? In the woods?

Gertrude shrugs her shoulders.

GERTRUDE

I don't know.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

David sits with Gertrude at a table. They both eat lunch.

DAVID

How much do I owe you?

GERTRUDE

Owe me? Nothing!

David thinks about it.

He goes into his bag and brings back a beautiful Bible. He hands it to Gertrude.

DAVID

Here. Take it. As payment.

Gertrude takes it and opens it up. Engraved on the inside cover are the words "Jeff Sanders".

DAVID (CONT'D)

Oh! That's Jeff's Bible! I forgot I had it.

Gertrude's eyes go wide. David starts to grab it back. Gertrude holds onto it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I can't give this to you.

She tries to pull it back.

GERTRUDE

Please! Can I have it?

DAVID

No. He'll need it. I'm sorry.

Gertrude stares at David for a moment. Then she let's go.
Disappointed.

GERTRUDE

Ok.

David smiles. He puts the bible back into his bag.

DAVID

Who was that guy? The one they found
in the woods.

GERTRUDE

Jake McDowell?

DAVID

Yeah.

GERTRUDE

Well. He used to own the only bar...
er tavern in town. I can't remember
which it was...People used to get
drunk there. It was awful.

DAVID

And he just somehow ended up in a
tree?

GERTRUDE

Looks that way.

DAVID

But you said that people aren't
found...

GERTRUDE

Excuse me? I don't think that Mr.
Jake McDowell was one who had faith
in God.

DAVID

Are you saying...

Gertrude interrupts David.

GERTRUDE

All I'm saying is that the Lord
works in mysterious ways. It's not
for me to question him.

DAVID

Look. Jeff didn't just disappear!
Ok? He...

Just then a little miniature dachshund runs into the room.

GERTRUDE

Dinky!

Dinky goes over to some papers on the floor and pees.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

Come here girl.

Dinky runs over to Gertrude and she puts her face down and Dinky licks her face.

DAVID

Hi Dinky.

Dinky runs over to David and licks him in the face. David points to the papers that Dinky just peed on.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What's with the papers?

GERTRUDE

Dinky's an indoor dog.

DAVID

She never goes outdoors?

GERTRUDE

Of course she does. She just prefers the indoors. I'm fine with that.

Gertrude smiles.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

You know what Dinky taught me?

DAVID

What?

GERTRUDE

Animals are naturally drawn to God. Whenever I worship God through song, Dinky loves it.

Gertrude looks at her watch.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

DAVID

Where?

GERTRUDE
We got work to do.

INT. FOOD PANTRY - AFTERNOON

David and Gertrude stand in a building. Lots of people scurry about. There is food all over the place.

DAVID
What is this place?

GERTRUDE
I run the food pantry. Well. It
pretty much runs itself by now.

The workers prepare packages of food. A LADY approaches Gertrude.

LADY
We're ready Gertrude.

GERTRUDE
(to David)
Follow me.

They exit the pantry.

EXT. FOOD PANTRY - AFTERNOON

A long line of cars sits outside the pantry. Gertrude and David walk towards the cars. She points to a box of food.

GERTRUDE
Grab that.

David picks up the box. They approach a car driven by an elderly woman named SAMANTHA.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Hello Samantha. How are you?

SAMANTHA
Who's this handsome young man?

DAVID
I'm David.

Gertrude opens the back door of the car. David puts the box of food in the back seat and closes the door.

GERTRUDE
God bless you Samantha.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

Gertrude and David walk back towards the food bank.

GERTRUDE

The food pantry's kinda my thing. In this town, everyone's got their own thing.

DAVID

Where do you get all the food from?

GERTRUDE

Some of it's donations. I pay for most of it. My husband left me an awful lot of money. Got to put it to good use serving the Lord.

Gertrude looks at her watch.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

We got one more thing to do.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Gertrude and David stand at the front door of a house. David holds a box. Gertrude holds a tray of food.

GERTRUDE

(quietly)

Just don't bring up his brother. It's a sore subject.

She rings the doorbell. Winston Grove answers the door.

WINSTON

I told you never to come here!

Winston slams the door.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

David talks on his phone.

DAVID

Something's not right here...Well I think they're hiding something. I'm going to find out what it is...Don't worry mom. I'm sure we'll find him...Ok. I'll file a missing person's report.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

David sleeps peacefully in bed. A loud THUMP! David moves, still asleep. We hear another THUMP. David's eyes shoot open. He turns on the lamp by his bed and looks at the clock. It reads 1:26. We hear yet another thump. David strains to listen.

We hear someone making noise downstairs. David turns off his lamp and slowly and quietly walks to the door.

He opens the door and walks down the hall. The other bedroom doors are all closed. He slowly and quietly walks down the stairs.

He walks up to the kitchen door. The noise comes from the kitchen. Light shines through from under the door.

DAVID

Gertrude?

The light suddenly goes off and all is quiet. David slowly opens the door and enters the kitchen.

It's pitch black in the kitchen. David turns on the light. Surprise! Standing right in front of him is a pretty GIRL holding a knife! She approaches David.

GIRL

Who are you?

Startled, David steps back. The girl takes a step forward. The kitchen door opens behind David and Gertrude enters the kitchen. She quickly puts her hand up.

GERTRUDE

It's ok Sadie.

SADIE puts down the knife.

DAVID

What's going on here?

GERTRUDE

This is my granddaughter Sadie.
(to Sadie)
I wasn't expecting you until
Saturday.

SADIE

I finished finals early.

Gertrude and Sadie hug. Gertrude turns towards David.

GERTRUDE
She's not technically my grand
daughter. She's my great great grand
daughter.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - MORNING

Gertrude, David and Sadie sit at the table eating breakfast.

SADIE
This is the final day of the search?

GERTRUDE
No. It's tomorrow.

DAVID
What happens if we don't find him?
Tell me!

Gertrude ignores David and gets up.

GERTRUDE
That reminds me.

Gertrude opens her backpack and pulls out her camera. She
uses a USB cord to hook it up to her computer.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
I'm the official police
photographer.

After a few moments, Gertrude prints out a couple of full
color pictures of the skeleton body of Jake McDowell.
Gertrude grabs the pictures off the printer.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
I've got to run these over to the
Sheriff. Just a couple blocks away.
Be right back.

Gertrude grabs a folder, writes the word "Sheriff" on it and
inserts the pictures into the folder. She leaves through the
front door holding the folder. David goes over to the window
and watches Gertrude. He turns to Sadie.

DAVID
Will you join us?

SADIE
What?

DAVID
In the search.

Sadie trembles violently.

SADIE
No.

DAVID
Why not?

Sadie looks terrified. Something is wrong.

SADIE
Please... Stop.

DAVID
Are you ok?

SADIE
I... Don't like the woods. Ok?

DAVID
Ok.

David watches Gertrude approach a church that is about a block away. As she reaches a side door of the church, she looks back.

David quickly closes the curtains and then barely cracks them open. Gertrude enters the church. David turns back to Sadie.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Is it true? People have just disappeared here?

SADIE
What? I don't know what you're talking about.

David tries another approach.

DAVID
Ok... This town... Did you grow up here?

SADIE
Yes.

DAVID
What was it like?

SADIE
I don't know. A lot of really nice people.

DAVID
Looks like a lot of older people
live here.

Sadie nods her head.

SADIE
For as long as I can remember...

David looks back out the window and stares at the church.

SADIE (CONT'D)
What about you?

DAVID
What about me?

SADIE
Why are you here? People... Don't
really come here... Much.

DAVID
We just came here to go camping. It
was Jeff's idea. I never heard of
this place. It's crazy.

SADIE
Talk about crazy. They even have
some sorta club... But you gotta be
like 100 years old to be a member.

DAVID
So there's a lot of people over 100
years old in this town?

SADIE
Yes.

David shakes his head.

DAVID
That doesn't seem possible.

SADIE
Well it's true. And people don't get
sick here. There's no clinic in
town.

DAVID
Yeah right.

SADIE
You don't believe me?

Gertrude emerges from the side door. We focus on her hand. She holds a single picture with no folder.

DAVID
What the...

SADIE
What?

He continues to watch Gertrude walk away from the church.

DAVID
Didn't she have a folder?

Sadie laughs. A nervous laugh. As David continues to look out the window, Samuel Prophet emerges from the same door that Gertrude came out of. Samuel suspiciously looks around and walks away from the church.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Gertrude, David and Sadie eat in a restaurant. David is agitated as he glares at Gertrude.

GERTRUDE
Tell me more about Jeff. You mentioned before that he lived with you?

DAVID
I'll tell you about Jeff if you tell me where he is. Tell me the truth!

Gertrude is angry.

GERTRUDE
I already told you David. Why do you keep asking me?

David sighs.

DAVID
His parents were killed in a car accident our senior year. He wanted to graduate at our high school...

GERTRUDE
So you took him in?

DAVID
Yep. Best thing that ever happened to me. He pretty much turned my life around.

GERTRUDE

Really.

SADIE

I'd like to meet him.

Gertrude looks at Sadie and shakes her head.

DAVID

I got mixed up with the wrong crowd. We ended up having long all night discussions about where I was going with my life. The funny thing is, he had just lost his parents and all he could think about was helping me.

GERTRUDE

He sounds like a wonderful person.

DAVID

He's the kindest person I've ever met. He'd do anything to help you. Anything!

SADIE

I still think we'll find him.

Gertrude glances at Sadie and shakes her head again.

DAVID

He has such a strong faith. He believes that with God all things are possible. I wish I could be more like him.

Samuel suddenly shows up and kisses Gertrude on the cheek. He extends his hand to David and they shake hands.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's good to see you again Mr. Prophet.

SAMUEL

Please. Call me Samuel.

DAVID

Ok Samuel...Can I ask you something?

SAMUEL

Sure. Anything.

DAVID

Are you really 102 years old?

Samuel laughs.

SAMUEL
That I am.

DAVID
Amazing.

There is a bar in the restaurant. At the bar sits the Sheriff having a drink.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I need to talk to the Sheriff.

David jumps up.

SAMUEL
Wait!

Samuel leans over and talks quietly.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Gertrude told you, right?

DAVID
About people disappearing?

SAMUEL
Yes.

DAVID
Ok?

SAMUEL
I wouldn't bring it up around the Sheriff. He thinks it's us.

DAVID
Is it?

SAMUEL
Of course not.

DAVID
What does he think?

SAMUEL
He thinks we murder people. We would never do that. Thou shalt not kill. It's a commandment.

David just shakes his head.

GERTRUDE

David! His son disappeared. He
thinks we killed him!

David gets up and approaches the Sheriff.

DAVID

Can I talk to you?

The Sheriff points to an empty bar stool.

SHERIFF

Sit down.

David sits.

DAVID

What is going on around here? You
know. Don't you. Tell me!

The Sheriff gets angry. He stands up.

SHERIFF

Didn't I tell you to stay at the
hotel?

DAVID

I did. For one night.

David discreetly points at Gertrude and Samuel.

DAVID (CONT'D)

They know where he is, don't they.

The Sheriff walks over to the table.

SHERIFF

I think it's time for you people to
go.

GERTRUDE

I beg your pardon?

SHERIFF

Shut up Gertrude.

SADIE

What do you have against my
grandmother?

DAVID

Are we breaking any law here?

The Sheriff points at David.

SHERIFF

Why don't you just go home now.
Leave town!

DAVID

I'm not leaving until we find my
friend.

SHERIFF

Ok... Here's how it's gonna be.
You... And I mean all of you... Are
gonna walk outta here so I can enjoy
my time here in peace. Understood?

David stands up.

GERTRUDE

David, sit down.

David sits.

SAMUEL

Ok. We're leaving.

They all stand up. Samuel flags down the waiter.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Waiter. We'd like our bill please.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

It's the final day of the search. David and Gertrude walk.

DAVID

What's between you and the Sheriff?

GERTRUDE

I don't know. Guess he doesn't like
us church goers. Got something
against us.

DAVID

What do you think of him?

GERTRUDE

All I know is the Bible says to love
your neighbor. And he's my neighbor.
Everyone in this town is.

They walk for a few moments in silence.

DAVID

What's so special about Amber?

GERTRUDE
I have a theory.

DAVID
Ok?

GERTRUDE
Every believer in this town has a powerful ministry. Can you believe that?

DAVID
And?

GERTRUDE
Well there comes a time when they've done what they were supposed to do on this earth. So God sends down his angels and calls them to their eternal home.

DAVID
That's not how God works!

GERTRUDE
You know what he says to them? Well done good and faithful servant.

They continue to walk in silence. David is agitated.

DAVID
But why here? Why would this happen only in Amber?

GERTRUDE
The Lord works in mysterious ways.

DAVID
No.

GERTRUDE
Did you file a missing persons report?

DAVID
Yes.

David stops.

DAVID (CONT'D)
This is our fourth day in the woods. I would expect to see a deer or something. We haven't even seen a squirrel... Or any animals at all.

GERTRUDE
Hmmm. Perhaps...

David looks up towards the sky.

DAVID
I don't remember seeing any birds.
Listen.

GERTRUDE
What?

DAVID
It's so quiet here. Not a sound. No
birds chirping... Nothing.

Gertrude suddenly takes off running.

GERTRUDE
Race you!

David takes off running after her. They finally stop, out of
breath.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Not bad for a 96 year old!

DAVID
You're 96?

GERTRUDE
Almost 97.

DAVID
I think you have more energy than I
do.

GERTRUDE
You free tonight?

DAVID
Yes.

GERTRUDE
I want to show you something very
special.

Gertrude looks him over.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Hmmm... I need you dressed up. I
think you can wear my late husband's
clothes.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Gertrude, David and Sadie enter the church that is one block from Gertrude's home. David and Sadie are dressed up and looking great.

DAVID

Why are we dressed up? What do you want to show me?

GERTRUDE

Patience David.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Gertrude and David and Sadie walk down a hallway in the church. In the hallway are many pictures of men.

GERTRUDE

These are our former pastors.

She stops in front of one of them.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

John Davis. He was my pastor when I was just a little girl.

They all look at his picture.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

He didn't stay around that long though. He left and founded the "Evangel Missions" ministry. They sent missionaries all over the world. He came back to visit when I was a teenager. Then one day he just disappeared. The angels took him.

DAVID

No.

GERTRUDE

Please follow me.

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - NIGHT

In the church sanctuary they walk towards a wall covered with murals.

GERTRUDE

We call this the "Wall of Angels".

They come to the first picture which is a picture of an old man along with a hooded man.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
The Angel of the Lord with Abraham.

The second picture shows a man following another man through an open prison door.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
The angel that freed Peter from prison.

The next picture shows two men fighting with swords.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
The angel Michael... Fighting with the Prince of Persia.

The next picture is a man talking to a young woman.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Gabriel telling Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

The next picture is of a man standing there with horses and chariots of fire surrounding him on the hills.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
One of my favorites. Elisha surrounded by the angelic armies of the Lord.

The last picture is of a man sitting in a chariot of fire that is in the air and being drawn by horses of fire with men riding on their backs.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
My very favorite. Elijah being taken to heaven in the flaming chariot driven by the Angels.

DAVID
Why do you have this? Do you worship angels?

GERTRUDE
I beg your pardon!

SADIE
David!

DAVID

You have pictures of angels... but
no pictures of Jesus.

GERTRUDE

(slowly and deliberately)
People have seen angels in our town
many times over the years. They're
the ones that take us to heaven.
Just like Elijah.

DAVID

That's bull.

SADIE

David! Please!

DAVID

Are you even listening to what she's
saying?

GERTRUDE

It's alright Sadie. David... You
think you know everything. But you
still have a lot to learn.
Especially about God.

Gertrude turns and starts to walk away.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)

Please follow me.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Gertrude, David and Sadie descend stairs and enter into a
large room full of tables. Many elderly dressed up people sit
at the tables.

They approach one of the tables. At the table sits Samuel
Prophet, MELBA, SARAH, and MAX. Melba and Max look like they
are in their 60's and Sarah looks like she is in her 80's.

They sit at the table which has place settings for a dinner.
Gertrude sits by Samuel.

SAMUEL

Welcome David.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

(to Sadie)

Sadie. You look beautiful.

Sadie blushes. David looks her over.

DAVID

She does.

GERTRUDE

Sadie! You thank someone when they compliment you.

SADIE

Thank you.

DAVID

What is this anyway?

Everyone at the table chuckles.

MELBA

This is the Centurion Club. And you are our special guests tonight. Oh. I'm Melba.

She points to Sarah.

MELBA (CONT'D)

This is my mother, Sarah. She's a prophetess.

SARAH

Hello David.

She points to Max.

MELBA

This is my husband, Max.

MAX

Nice to meet you.

DAVID

So all of you are really 100 years old?

GERTRUDE

Ok. I already told you I'm only 96. But I'm an honorary member. My husband William passed away last year at 102.

Sarah raises her hand.

SARAH

I'm the oldest at this table.

DAVID

And how old are you?

GERTRUDE

David! You never ask a woman her age!

David takes a drink from his cup of water.

SARAH

That's ok. I'm 118 years old.

David spits out water.

DAVID

Excuse me?

Sarah points over at a man sitting at another table.

SARAH

See that man over there?

DAVID

Yes.

SARAH

That's Michael. He's almost 130 years old.

DAVID

What? That's impossible.

GERTRUDE

David! He is.

Melba holds Sarah's hand.

MELBA

This is a big year for me. I finally get to join my mother at the club.

SARAH

David. I have a word from God for you.

DAVID

What?

SARAH

Let his peace rest upon you. You will find what you are looking for.

DAVID

I'm looking for Jeff! I...

Samuel Prophet stands up. He bangs his knife onto his glass. All the chattering at the tables stop.

SAMUEL

Good evening ladies and gentleman.
As you know we have some very
special guests here tonight, David
Moller and Sadie Johnson. I know you
have a lot of questions, but let's
make sure we start the evening off
right with a prayer. Please bow your
heads.

Everyone bows their heads.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Dear Lord, thank you for this time
we have tonight as members and
guests of the Centurion Club. Thank
you that we are saved only by our
faith in Jesus. Please bless this
evening and bless the food we are
about to eat. In Jesus name, amen.

EVERYONE

Amen.

SAMUEL

Before we eat tonight, I know that
you are all dying to find out more
about Jeff Sanders.

He turns towards David.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

David. Could you please stand and
tell us about your friend Jeff
Sanders?

DAVID

What?

SAMUEL

The members of the club would like
to hear about Jeff. Think of it as a
way to honor his memory.

DAVID

Ok. I guess.

David stands up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Um... Jeff Sanders... he was... is
my best friend... He's more than a
friend. He's like a brother to me.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
We just graduated College... and now
he is... gone.

David sits down and starts to sob.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I can't do this.

Sadie hugs David.

SADIE
It's ok David.

A lady named RACHEL raises her hand. She seems angry.

SAMUEL
Rachel?

RACHEL
What made Jeff so special?

SAMUEL
I think we're about done here
Rachel.

RACHEL
Why would the good Lord take Jeff
into heaven... and not one of us?

There is a lot of murmuring among the people.

SAMUEL
Rachel. Now is not the time.

David regains his composure and stands up.

DAVID
What is wrong with you people? Are
you all crazy or something?

SADIE
David!

DAVID
I mean it. My best friend is gone
and you people are jealous.

A lot of murmuring.

SAMUEL
David please sit down.

SADIE
David! Stop!

David stays standing up.

DAVID
I can't believe this.

Samuel raises his hands in the air.

SAMUEL
Please calm down.

GERTRUDE
David. Be gracious.

David sits down and shakes his head.

DAVID
If you ask me, this whole town is
off it's rocker.

SAMUEL
David! We told you. Here in Amber
people have been disappearing for
nearly 100 years.

David shakes his head.

DAVID
I don't believe you.

GERTRUDE
It's true.

Sadie glances at David. Then back at Gertrude.

SADIE
So it's true? Why didn't I know
about this?

GERTRUDE
It hasn't happened for awhile.
That's what makes this so unusual. I
think it's been about 15 years or
even more. You were just a little
girl. And then David and Jeff come
into town and...

DAVID
Whatever. I'm still not buying it.

Samuel stands up again.

SAMUEL
Why don't we eat now.

He looks at a man named JACK.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Jack. Can you let them know?

Jack jumps up from his table.

JACK
Sure.

Jack goes through a door. A few moments later the servers start to bring in the food. All conversation stops.

DAVID
So how long...

Gertrude puts her finger to her mouth.

GERTRUDE
Shhhh.

She talks quietly.

GERTRUDE (CONT'D)
Conversation is for the ears of members and guests only.

DAVID
Ok.

The servers leave the room and everyone begins to eat. Melba suddenly speaks.

MELBA
They're here.

DAVID
Who's here?

MELBA
The angels!

David and Sadie look at each other then look around the room.

SADIE
The angels?

MELBA
Yes. They're in the room with us.

DAVID
Really now. What do they look like?

MELBA
They're tall. And they're all
holding swords.

DAVID
I don't see anything.

MELBA
Only I can see them.

David and Sadie exchange glances.

SADIE
Really?

MELBA
Yes. One day the Lord opened my eyes
to see them. Angels protect our town
and everyone in it.

GERTRUDE
It's true. They protect us.

DAVID
From what?

GERTRUDE
From everything. I've never even
been sick a day in my life.

DAVID
How is that?

GERTRUDE
It's the Devil who causes sickness.
And the Devil can't get anywhere
near us in this town.

DAVID
Because of the angels?

GERTRUDE
Yes. That's why we live to be so
old. We don't get sick so we live
longer. Get it?

David shakes his head.

DAVID
Have you ever seen them?

GERTRUDE
Um... No. But Melba can. And that's
good enough for me.

MELBA

Yes. Seeing the angels is kind of my thing.

GERTRUDE

Remember when I told you that everyone in this town has their own thing?

DAVID

Yes. Like your pantry?

Gertrude points towards Jack.

GERTRUDE

See Jack over there?

They all look at Jack.

SADIE

What about him?

GERTRUDE

You wouldn't know it by looking at him, but he heads a world wide ministry that supplies clean drinking water to third world countries.

SADIE

Wow.

She points to a lady.

GERTRUDE

You see Lisa over there? She heads a ministry that provides free housing to poor people all over the world. I could go on and on.

DAVID

This is pretty hard to believe.

GERTRUDE

This little town has even produced a Nobel Prize Winner!

SADIE

Well. My "thing" is to hopefully be a doctor and provide free medical care to poor people. Just like my father and grandfather.

(to Gertrude)

And my great grandfather?

GERTRUDE

And your great great grandfather
too. I used to go with him all over
the world.

DAVID

Really?

SADIE

I'll just go wherever God sends me.

Melba looks around.

MELBA

They just left.

DAVID

The angels?

MELBA

Yes. Sometimes they like to remind
us that they're here to help us.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

David and Sadie shop in the very quaint grocery store in
town. Winston Grove suddenly appears and grabs David by the
arm.

WINSTON

You don't really believe their crap
do you?

DAVID

What?

SADIE

I know you. You're Winston Grove. I
went to school with your son.

Winston ignores Sadie.

WINSTON

This is for your own good. Stay away
from them. They're not who you think
they are.

DAVID

What are you talking about?

WINSTON

I would leave here before something
really bad happens to you.

DAVID
Is that a threat?

WINSTON
No. It's a warning.

DAVID
Something bad has already happened.
My friend vanished. Gone without a
trace.

Winston shakes his head.

WINSTON
Well... A lotta bad things happen in
this town. Gotta do something about
it... the sooner the better.

DAVID
Do you know what happened to my
friend Jeff?

WINSTON
Just don't believe their crap.

DAVID
Where is Jeff?

WINSTON
I reckon he's probably dead.

DAVID
No! I don't believe you!

WINSTON
Bad things happen here. Don't say I
didn't warn you. They're thieves.
They're murderers... Cold blooded
killers.

The thought of Jeff possibly being dead hits David like a ton
of bricks. He starts to sob.

DAVID
No. He's not dead! He can't be.

WINSTON
Believe what you want.

David regains his composure a little bit.

DAVID
You really honestly think they
killed him?

WINSTON

Yep. Sure do. Put the body somewhere where you'll never find it. I told you. They're murdering bastards.

David takes a chance.

DAVID

What... What happened to your brother?

Anger comes over Winston's face. He storms out of the store.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

David and Sadie walk in the store parking lot towards David's car. Suddenly we hear the sound of a loud car.

As they reach the corner, they are surprised to see a car driven by an elderly person heading right towards them! There is no time to get out of the way.

Without warning, a man jumps out of nowhere and pushes both David and Sadie out of the way. They both fall hard to the ground. The car stops. David jumps up.

DAVID

Are you ok?

Sadie lies on the ground bleeding from a gash in her leg.

SADIE

I think so.

David helps her up. They both look around. An elderly LADY exits the car.

LADY

I'm so sorry. Did I hit you?

DAVID

No.

(to Sadie)

Who was that man?

SADIE

I don't know.

The lady is very shaken up.

LADY

I had to have hit you!

DAVID

You didn't. Someone pushed us out of the way.

David looks around.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Where is he?

SADIE

I don't know. I've never seen him before.

DAVID

Let's see your leg.

Sadie tries to hold her leg up. There is a pretty deep gash in it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It doesn't look good. We need to get you to a hospital.

SADIE

Good luck with that. It's at least 20 miles away.

Sadie examines her wound.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I can just stitch it up myself.

DAVID

You're not a doctor yet.

David stares over at some bushes where we see somebody hiding. David takes off towards the bushes. The person takes off.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hey!

David runs to the bushes but there is nobody there. He looks around. Nothing. He returns to Sadie.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Somebody's been following me.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT

David and Sadie drive in his pickup.

DAVID

Tonight was just... unreal. I don't know who to believe.

SADIE

I told you there's lots of old people in this town.

DAVID

I'm talking about what that guy in the store said. What's his name again?

SADIE

Winston. Winston Grove.

DAVID

I need to talk to him again. Who knows. Maybe he's right about them... I mean... that lady sees angels? Come on.

SADIE

Well... She might...

David interrupts.

DAVID

I just took a class in Angelology. Angels don't work that way. People think that we can command angels but we can't. They only follow orders from God.

SADIE

Ok? Can't God send Angels as an answer to prayer?

DAVID

Of course it's possible. I mean... He's God.

SADIE

You can't put God in a box!

David sighs.

DAVID

I don't know what to believe.

SADIE

You seem to know a lot in your head. I'm not so sure it's in your heart.

They drive along in silence for a few moments.

DAVID

You know. There's more questions than answers. What really happened to Jeff? People don't just disappear. And where are the animals? How do they live to be so old? And why don't they ever get sick?

SADIE

You're overwhelming me.

DAVID

And that Samuel is over 100 and still travels to India? And they have all these big time ministries? Weren't you aware of any of this?

SADIE

Well...Some of it...Maybe...

DAVID

Do you believe that God actually just takes people into heaven?

SADIE

I suppose it's possible. I mean, anything's possible with God, right?

DAVID

It happened like once or twice in the Bible. That's it! You know what I think? I think it's some kind of cult. Oh... They know what happened to Jeff alright. I'm sure of it. I'm going to get to the bottom of this. Are you with me?

SADIE

I really don't want to cause any trouble. I mean, I have a free place to live...

DAVID

It's Gertrude!

SADIE

What?

DAVID

She knows what's going on. She's in the middle of it all. That's why she chose me...

SADIE

Chose you?

DAVID

She chose me as her search partner. Knowing we wouldn't find Jeff. She knows exactly what's going on... I don't trust her at all.

SADIE

She's my great great grandmother. She's the kindest person I've ever known.

They drive along in silence.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Do you... Trust me?

David sighs.

DAVID

To be honest. I... don't know.

SADIE

What? Really?

DAVID

Why are you helping me?

SADIE

Why? Because I want to find out what's going on too. I think they've lied to me about things.

DAVID

I think that everyone in this town is lying about what happened to Jeff.

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT - LATER

David and Sadie drive through the town of Sulphur Springs. The town is rundown and bars and taverns and porn shops align the streets.

They stop at a stop light. Suddenly there is a loud "bang"! on the car. Some drunk who just left a bar banged his hand hard on the car. Both David and Sadie jump.

SADIE
Take the next right.

The light changes and David pulls forward.

DAVID
What is this place?

SADIE
We're not really supposed to come here.

DAVID
I don't like it here.

David turns right.

SADIE
Take the next left.

DAVID
You seem to know your way around this God awful town.

SADIE
Yep. But I'm not usually here at night.

DAVID
I can see why.

They see some drunks staggering on the street. A few people shout at each other. David turns left.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Why did you say you come here?

SADIE
I didn't say. But I see a doctor here. No big deal.

David is puzzled.

DAVID
You said people don't get sick in your town of Amber.

Sadie ignores him.

SADIE

It's up here on the right.

They turn into a parking lot and park. The sign on the building reads "Sulphur Springs Emergency Clinic". They get out of the car. Sadie's leg is all wrapped up. She limps.

DAVID

Let me help you.

David puts his arms around Sadie and helps her walk. For a moment they stop and look at each other. Then they continue to walk.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What is that horrible smell?

SADIE

Why do you think they call it
Sulphur Springs?

They enter the clinic.

INT. CLINIC - NIGHT

People are all over the clinic taking up all of the chairs and benches. They wait behind a few people waiting in line at the main desk. Another LADY comes into line behind them.

LADY

(rudely)

Excuse me?

DAVID

Yes?

LADY

I was here first.

DAVID

I'm sorry. But we were.

David looks back at Sadie and shakes his head and rolls his eyes. The lady taps him on the shoulder.

LADY

Are you making fun of me?

DAVID

No. Of course not.

SADIE

I'm sorry ma'am. Please go ahead of us. I can wait.

LADY

What's your problem?

SADIE

Excuse me? I said you could go ahead of us.

LADY

I heard you. I'll just stay here.

David and Sadie glance at each other.

LADY (CONT'D)

Would you stop doing that?

SADIE

Please just go ahead of us ma'am. I insist.

The lady shoves David.

LADY

Get away from me!

David puts his hand up to cover his mouth and mutters to Sadie.

DAVID

I think she's demon possessed!

David and Sadie both burst out laughing. This makes the lady even more mad.

LADY

I heard that!

A SECURITY GUARD approaches David and Sadie.

SECURITY GUARD

Is there a problem here?

DAVID

No. We're just waiting in line...

He turns to the lady.

SECURITY GUARD

Rose. I'll handle this.

He turns back to face David.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
I don't want any trouble. Do you
understand me?

DAVID
We're not trying...

SECURITY GUARD
Do you understand me?

DAVID
Yes.

Sadie points to her leg.

SADIE
I just need to get my leg looked
at...

SECURITY GUARD
You need to leave now.

David is flabbergasted.

DAVID
Excuse me?

He grabs David's arm.

SECURITY GUARD
Come with me.

David resists.

DAVID
No.

SECURITY GUARD
Ok. Have it your way.

The security guard let's go and walks away. David and Sadie
look at each other and shake their heads. By this time they
are at the front of the line. There is a RECEPTIONIST. She
does not even look up.

RECEPTIONIST
How can I help you?

SADIE
I gashed my leg pretty bad. I think
I might need stitches.

RECEPTIONIST
Hey. I know you.

SADIE
You look familiar.

RECEPTIONIST
I work for your doctor. Doctor
Collins.

SADIE
Oh. That's right.

She looks up at David.

RECEPTIONIST
I'd run if I were you. This ones got
some big issues. She's a real
screamer this one.

The receptionist laughs sarcastically. Sadie puts her finger
to her lips.

SADIE
Shhhh...

RECEPTIONIST
He's bound to find out one way or
another.

Sadie is angry.

SADIE
Quiet! Please!

RECEPTIONIST
As you wish.

She points to an empty place on the wall.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
Go stand over there. A triage nurse
will call you.

SADIE
About how long will it be?

RECEPTIONIST
Are you dying?

SADIE
Of course not.

RECEPTIONIST
Look around you.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Sadie has just finished putting a stitch in her leg.

SADIE

I told you I could do it myself.

DAVID

I should have listened to you.

He grabs her hand and helps her up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Come with me.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

David and Sadie approach the church.

SADIE

Why are we going to the church?

DAVID

I'm going to show you.

STALKER'S POV

A STALKER eyes them from behind some brush.

We see a hand move some bushes out of the way.

BACK TO SCENE

David and Sadie approach the church.

SADIE

Show me what?

DAVID

I'm not sure exactly. I saw Gertrude
go into this room.

They arrive at the door at the side of the church. David
tries the door but it's locked.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It's locked.

They walk around to the entrance. They push open the main
door which creaks.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

They enter the church and approach the wall of the church where the room should be.

DAVID
There must be a door.

David continues to look for a way into the room. He uses the flashlight on his phone. Suddenly someone from behind him taps him on the shoulder. David jumps. Then he turns. It's Samuel Prophet.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You startled me.

SAMUEL
What are you doing here?

DAVID
I just wanted to see the church.

Samuel looks at his watch.

SAMUEL
At 11:00 at night?

DAVID
Why are you here?

SAMUEL
Just getting ready for tomorrow.

SADIE
What's tomorrow?

SAMUEL
Come to the service tomorrow at 9 AM
and see for yourself.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Inside the old church. All of the pews are full with people of all ages, including many elderly people. David and Sadie sit with Gertrude right smack in the middle of the church.

Everyone sings a hymn accompanied by a full choir and an elderly organist who plays an old pipe organ.

The hymn ends and Samuel Prophet walks up to the pulpit as the choir members file out.

SAMUEL

Welcome my friends. Today is a very special day. I'm glad you can be here today for us to share it together.

Samuel looks at David.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

For those of you who are new, or too young to remember, you are going to hear a very interesting story. Perhaps it's a story you won't ever forget. I know I haven't.

Everyone laughs.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Well. Let me get right to it. Today is the 90th anniversary of the mysterious disappearance of my parents, Joshua and Rachel Janson.

Samuel laughs.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Ok. I know my last name is Prophet. I changed it when I started my Trials and Tribulations radio show a long long time ago.

Samuel thinks for a moment.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Oh. I almost forgot. Another member of my family disappeared that day. He was of course our beloved hound dog Baxter. Now Baxter was a bit of a mischievous dog, always chasing rabbits, chasing birds. Chasing anything that moved. He must have chased something else that day.

Everyone laughs again.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

For on that day, exactly 90 years ago today, my parents went out for their morning walk with Baxter... and never returned.

Samuel clears his throat.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Now it seems hard to believe, but I had just turned 12 the week before. Yeah. Do the math. I just turned 102 last week and I feel great!

Everyone claps.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

I'm a raring to go! Still doing the Lord's work.

Louder clapping.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

My parents were the first of many to vanish without a trace. I suppose this is our little town secret. People been disappearing around here for 90 years now!

Samuel hesitates.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Now I know it's been awhile since someone vanished.

Samuel smiles.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Well... Of course the sheriff's not with us in church today.

Everyone laughs.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Much to the Sheriff's disappointment, about 20 years ago his son John put his faith in Jesus, was forgiven for his sins, and received eternal salvation.

Everyone claps.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Shortly after, John just disappeared without a trace. He was the last one.

Samuel looks at David again.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Until these two young men come a
waltzing into our little town and
one of em up and disappears.

Everyone claps again. David looks around confused and angry.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

David. I know how you feel. I really
do. I never saw my parents again. I
was devastated. But we believe that
our little town is actually blessed.
We believe that God takes our
parents, our relatives, our friends,
straight up into heaven. They are
all in the presence of the living
God!

Everyone claps and cheers. Samuel takes a sip of water.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Ok. Before I begin the sermon, I
just wanted to say something...

Samuel looks up.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Mom... Dad... I love you and miss
you. I wish... I wish I could have
grown up with you in my life. But I
know that you're in a better place,
smiling down on me from heaven. Soon
I might be joining you... or maybe
not.

Everyone laughs. Samuel looks back at the people.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Ok. We like to preach a special
sermon on this anniversary. Please
open your Bibles to second Kings
chapter 2, verse 11.

Samuel waits for a few moments.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

And it came to pass, as they still
went on, and talked, that behold,
there appeared a chariot of fire,
and horses of fire, and parted them
both asunder; and Elijah went up by
a whirlwind into heaven...

EXT. CHURCH - DAY - LATER

David and Sadie wait outside the church. Samuel exits the church and David approaches him.

DAVID

How many?

Samuel puts his arm around David.

SAMUEL

How many people have disappeared?

DAVID

Yes.

SAMUEL

With Jeff, that makes 25. No. 26 God fearing souls. Each one saved by the blood of Jesus.

DAVID

How come nobody knows about this?

SAMUEL

Well David, It's not like we want a bunch of outsiders coming here and sticking their noses in our business.

Gertrude joins them.

GERTRUDE

David, we quite enjoy our peaceful way of life here. Gives us a chance to do our things like I told you before.

David shakes his head.

DAVID

There's gotta be more to this. I'm gonna find out what it is.

Samuel and Gertrude glance at each other.

SAMUEL

We're not trying to hide anything here David. We're just trying to make sense of things. Just like you.

DAVID

What do the disappearances have in common?

SAMUEL

I told you. All were believers in Jesus.

DAVID

You said your dog disappeared along with your parents. The same thing happened to Jeff. Is that how it happens?

(to Gertrude)

Why do you keep Dinky inside?

GERTRUDE

(slowly and deliberately)

I just don't want him to run away. Sometimes they do that.

SAMUEL

David. Some people have disappeared along with their pets. Most haven't.

David sighs.

DAVID

I filed a missing persons report. I think that the the state police might come here.

SAMUEL

And we will welcome them with open arms and help them in any way that we can.

GERTRUDE

David. I already told you. God rewards us if we live our lives for him.

DAVID

So why does it only happen here and nowhere else? You can't answer that, can you?

SAMUEL

No. I can't.

INT. SAMUEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Samuel sits on a chair in his living room. An open Bible sits on an end table on one side of the chair. We focus on a picture behind the Bible. It's of a middle aged woman smiling with a young lady in her twenties.

Samuel glances at the picture. Then we notice that he holds a half empty bottle of whiskey in his hand. He takes a long swig from the bottle.

EXT. MAX AND MELBA'S HOUSE - DAY

David and Sadie stand outside the front door of Max and Melba's home. David rings the doorbell. Melba answers the door.

MELBA

David. Sadie. Welcome. Please come in.

David and Sadie enter the house.

INT. MAX AND MELBA'S HOUSE - DAY

David and Sadie stand in the living room.

MELBA

Would you like some tea?

SADIE

Sure.

Melba points to the couch.

MELBA

Please sit down.

David and Sadie sit. Melba goes into the kitchen. Max enters the room.

MAX

David. Sadie. What brings you here today?

DAVID

I'm trying to understand what's going on here...

Max leans forward and talks quietly.

MAX

David... You need to leave here. The sooner the better.

David is startled.

DAVID

Why?

MAX

Just be careful... Who you trust.
Some of us aren't so sure about
these so called angels. We think it
could be someone... Or something
else.

DAVID

I'm not leaving until I find out
what happened to Jeff.

MAX

Just be careful. There's a false
teaching about the punishment of
sin.

Melba enters with a pitcher of tea and pours it into their
cups.

MELBA

Ice tea. It's almost summer.

SADIE

Thank you.

MELBA

I know why you're here.

DAVID

Of course you do... I need to know
about the angels.

MELBA

What do you want to know?

DAVID

What do they have to do with Jeff's
disappearance?

MELBA

They took him to heaven. He must
have been ready.

David shakes his head and looks around.

DAVID

Are they here right now? In the
house with us?

MELBA

Oh no. They guard the town. They
keep the other ones out. You know,
the ones with the glowing eyes.

DAVID

Demons?

MELBA

Yes.

DAVID

You see demons too?

MELBA

No. They don't come around here.
Been to Sulphur Springs? It's full
of them.

DAVID

Why... This town?

Melba shrugs.

MELBA

I don't know. It must have been an
answer... To someone's prayer.

Suddenly Max starts clutching his chest and groaning. He
begins breathing fast.

SADIE

Are you alright? Max! What's wrong?

We catch a glimpse of Melba. She sits on the coach with a
strange smile on her face.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I think he's having a heart attack!

MELBA

It's ok Sadie. Don't worry about it.

Max collapses on the floor face down.

SADIE

(to David)

Turn him over!

David turns Max over. Sadie begins to pound his chest. Then
she puts her ear up to his chest.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Nothing.

Sadie plugs his nose and begins mouth to mouth. David shouts
at Melba.

DAVID

We need to get him to a hospital!

MELBA

Hospital? Why?

SADIE

Melba. He's had a heart attack. His heart has stopped!

MELBA

Really? Are you sure?

Melba opens a drawer and pulls out a stethoscope of all things. She hands it to Sadie still with that strange smile on her face.

MELBA (CONT'D)

Have a listen.

Astonished, Sadie takes the stethoscope and puts it on Max's chest. She listens.

SADIE

Nothing! He's dead Melba. Oh my God. He's dead.

MELBA

No. He's only dead if God wants him to be dead. It might not be his time yet.

SADIE

David! Can you carry Max to your car? We can take him to the hospital in Sulphur Springs.

DAVID

I think so.

MELBA

Wait! I said It might not be his time!

Melba is angry.

MELBA (CONT'D)

Did you not hear me?

SADIE

What is wrong with you?

MELBA

Stand aside.

Melba slowly walks over to Max. She puts both her hands on him.

MELBA (CONT'D)

Rise! In the name of Jesus. Rise!

David and Sadie look at each other and shake their heads.

SADIE

Melba.

MELBA

Wait.

Shock! Max sits up! He looks around a bit confused.

MAX

Where am I?

MELBA

You're back with us dear.

David and Sadie sit there with their mouths open. Max stares at David.

I MAX

I have a message for you. From God.

DAVID

What?

MAX

You are not long for this world.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - DAY - LATER

David and Sadie sit and talk. David is a bit agitated.

DAVID

Was he really dead?

SADIE

Yes. His heart had stopped beating.

DAVID

That's hard to believe.

SADIE

You don't believe he was dead? Or you don't believe that God can heal people?

DAVID
This is way more than a healing.

SADIE
You need to have faith David.

Sadie touches David on the chest.

SADIE (CONT'D)
In your heart.

DAVID
You know. The answer to all this craziness... Is in that room in the church. We've got to get into it.

SADIE
No David. You need to leave here. Today! You heard what Max said.

DAVID
I'm not leaving until I find Jeff!

Sadie hugs David. She keeps her arms around him.

SADIE
I'm worried about you. I don't want anything to happen to you.

They look each other in the eyes. Are they going to kiss?

DAVID
That's why we need to get into that room.

Sadie pushes hard away.

SADIE
Why is that again?

DAVID
Do you remember when Gertrude took the pictures to the Sheriff?

SADIE
Yeah. So?

DAVID
She left a picture in the church. In that room. She must have a key somewhere. Do you know where she keeps her keys? She doesn't carry a purse.

SADIE

No.

DAVID

Can you get her out of the house so
I can try to find them?

SADIE

Can't you just ask her?

DAVID

No. I don't want her to know.

INT. GERTRUDE'S BEDROOM - DAY - LATER

David searches Gertrude's bedroom for the key. Several dresser drawers are open and clothes are scattered all over the floor.

He opens up another one and quickly looks through it. He looks out the window and sees Sadie and Gertrude approaching the house.

DAVID

Oh crap!

David starts scrambling to put things back.

EXT. GERTRUDE'S HOUSE - DAY

Gertrude and Sadie walk towards the house.

Sadie looks up at the bedroom window and makes eye contact with David. David shakes his head. Gertrude spins around and looks up at the window. David is gone.

GERTRUDE

Where's David? Is he in the house? I
need to talk to him.

SADIE

I think so.

GERTRUDE

Good. I need to tell him something.

Sadie grabs Gertrude's arm.

SADIE

Hey. Do you know how to play the
organ?

GERTRUDE
Of course. I used to play it during
the church service.

SADIE
Can you show me?

Gertrude looks over at the church. Then she looks at her house.

GERTRUDE
Later. I need to talk to David
first.

Gertrude bounds over to the front door and enters the house.

INT. GERTRUDE'S HOUSE - DAY

Dinky comes running up to Gertrude. She turns to Sadie as Sadie enters the house.

GERTRUDE
Don't let him out!

SADIE
I won't.

Sadie closes the front door. David emerges from a door at the top of the stairs. Gertrude spots him.

GERTRUDE
What were you doing in my room?

David comes bounding down the stairs. Angry. He holds a small object in his hand.

DAVID
Where did you get this?

GERTRUDE
What?

David holds it up to see. It's a wallet.

DAVID
It's Jeff's wallet. Where did you
get it?

GERTRUDE
Um...I found it.

DAVID
Where? In the woods?

GERTRUDE

Yes.

DAVID

I was with you in the woods.

GERTRUDE

You have no right to go searching through my room for things. I trusted you.

David laughs sarcastically.

DAVID

You trusted me?

GERTRUDE

I let you stay in my house.

DAVID

And you have no right to take Jeff's wallet. Where exactly did you find it?

GERTRUDE

I spotted it... near the dog leash... and picked it up. You didn't see me.

DAVID

Why didn't you tell me?

GERTRUDE

I don't know...

DAVID

Oh yes you do know.

GERTRUDE

Ok. I forgot I had it. Is that a crime?

DAVID

Yes. It's evidence. We need to tell the Sheriff.

GERTRUDE

No! It doesn't matter.

DAVID

Yes it does matter. Why'd you keep it?

Gertrude blurts it out.

GERTRUDE
Because I wanted to know more about
Jeff. Ok?

DAVID
(sarcastically)
Because you want to know why God
took him to heaven? And not you?

Gertrude hesitates.

GERTRUDE
Yes... Ok?

DAVID
You and I both know that's not what
happened. What really happened to
Jeff? You know, don't you.

David is about to explode.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Tell me now!

Gertrude shakes her head. She calms down.

GERTRUDE
I told you before. The angels took
him to heaven. Why don't you believe
me?

DAVID
Because that's not what happened.

Gertrude points to the dining room table.

GERTRUDE
Please sit down David. I need to
talk to you about something very
important.

They sit at the table. David takes a deep breath and lets it
out slowly.

DAVID
Ok?

Gertrude blurts it out.

GERTRUDE
David. I lied to you before. And
lying is a sin. And sin must be
punished.

DAVID

What? What are you talking about?

Gertrude's whole demeanor changes.

GERTRUDE

Sin must be punished! Severely!

SADIE

Grandma!

DAVID

And what did you lie to me about?

GERTRUDE

Do you remember when I told you that
I never saw angels?

DAVID

Yes.

GERTRUDE

Well I lied. I have seen them. Many
times. Can you ever forgive me?

DAVID

That's it? You need me to forgive
you for that? Keeping the wallet is
way worse than this.

GERTRUDE

You're right. Please forgive me for
lying and... and taking Jeff's
wallet.

David thinks about it.

DAVID

Ok. I forgive you. But it was still
wrong of you.

Gertrude is relieved.

GERTRUDE

Thank you.

DAVID

So tell me about them.

GERTRUDE

Who?

DAVID

The angels that you see.

Gertrude brightens up.

GERTRUDE

They look just like you and I but...
they're strangers that suddenly show
up in town and help us. God sends
them to us in our time of need.
Sadie told me that one pushed you
out of the way of a car...

David contemplates this and slowly talks.

DAVID

Hmmm... He did appear out of nowhere
and disappeared right after he
pushed us.

SADIE

Oh my God. He was an angel.

GERTRUDE

I'm sure of it.

SADIE

Remember what Jeff says.

DAVID

With God all things are possible.

Sadie touches David on the chest.

SADIE

Faith in your heart.

David nods his head and as he looks at Gertrude, he notices
for the first time that she wears a necklace that contains a
key.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

David, Sadie and Gertrude sit at the table eating.

DAVID

I really have to be leaving. I've
totally overstayed my welcome.

GERTRUDE

So you finally believe me? That the
angels took Jeff?

David sighs.

DAVID
I've been thinking about it.

GERTRUDE
And?

DAVID
An angel did help us and... I did
see Melba raise Max from the dead.

Gertrude smiles.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I guess there's a lot I don't really
know... about God's ways.

GERTRUDE
You can't fit God in a box.

SADIE
David... Please stay a little
longer. We like having you here.

DAVID
I really need to get back.

Gertrude gets up and enters the kitchen. Immediately David
takes a small amount of powder and puts it into Gertrude's
tea. With a spoon he mixes it up.

SADIE
(Quietly)
Are you sure about this?

DAVID
Just wait.

Gertrude emerges from the kitchen with a cake.

GERTRUDE
A special dessert.

She cuts the cake and gives each of them a slice.

SADIE
Looks delicious.

Gertrude takes a sip of her tea.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

David and Sadie sit at the table. Gertrude is slumped over,
fast asleep.

DAVID
Your Xanax did the trick. How much
of that do you take?

SADIE
That's none of your business.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

David and Sadie stand outside the side church door. David holds the key to the door.

DAVID
Now the moment of truth.

David inserts the key into the lock. He opens the door and it swings open with a loud creak. David grabs Sadie's hand and they enter the room holding hands.

INT. CHURCH ROOM - NIGHT

David turns on the light switch. As they enter the room we get a view of the wall to the right. On the wall is the word "SAINTS" in large letters.

Under the word are pictures of the 26 people who have vanished. Under each picture is a card taped to the wall with their names. The last one says "Jeff Sanders". By the picture of Jeff is a picture of King.

DAVID
Just as I thought.

David looks closely at Jeff's picture.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I think this is his Facebook profile picture.

They travel along the wall and look at the names and pictures of the others until they come to the pictures of Joshua and Rachel Janson along with their dog Baxter.

On the far wall opposite the door is an empty desk against the wall. They turn around and see that the opposite wall is also filled with pictures! On the opposite wall in large letters is the word "SINNERS".

DAVID (CONT'D)
What the...

They walk at an angle back towards the corner closest to the door they entered by. The first picture they come to is the skeleton of Jake McDowell.

They approach the second picture. Shock! The picture is of a bloody body lying in the woods. Under the picture is the name: "Henry Grove". As David starts to look at many pictures of bloody bodies along the wall Sadie screams with a loud and ear shattering scream.

She stands in front of the bloody picture of Henry and begins to scream hysterically and uncontrollably. She crumbles sobbing into a ball on the ground. David rushes over to her and tries to console her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Sadie!

EXT. WOODS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Young Sadie, about five years old, walks through the woods. She has her hands over her eyes.

SADIE

27...28...29...30...Ready or not -
here I come.

Young Sadie uncovers her eyes and bounds off through the woods. She walks around a tree and comes face to face with the bloody dead body of Henry Grove, lying there with his blank eyes staring right at her. Little Sadie screams hysterically.

INT. CHURCH ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Sadie has totally regressed to being a terrified child as she continues to sob and shake and cry. David looks up at the wall of bodies again.

Each one is a picture of a very bloody body lying in the woods with a name under the picture. There are at least 30 pictures. David helps Sadie up and they exit the room, leaving the door open.

EXT. CHURCH ROOM - NIGHT

Sadie continues to sob and cry and shake as he escorts her towards the house.

DAVID

Let's get you home.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Sadie grabs some pills from her purse and pops them. She continues to shake and cry but slowly starts to calm down.

DAVID
It's gonna be ok.

SADIE
No.

David hugs Sadie.

DAVID
I'm here.

Sadie continues to cry softly. David hugs her tighter.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's ok.

Sadie continues to breathe fast. David looks into her eyes. Then he kisses her on the forehead.

DAVID (CONT'D)
It's ok.

David pulls back a bit and speaks softly.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Who are those people?

SADIE
I knew... him.

DAVID
Who?

SADIE
Henry.

Sadie whimpers.

SADIE (CONT'D)
I found him... Oh my God... I found him!

Sadie buries her face in her hands and sobs.

DAVID
Did you know about the others?

Sadie attempts to look up.

SADIE

No.

Sadie gets angry.

SADIE (CONT'D)

Oh my God...Just leave me alone!

David puts his arms around her again.

DAVID

It's ok.

SADIE

Just shut up. Will you. Shut up!

David holds her tighter. Sadie starts to sob uncontrollably.

DAVID

Oh crap.

David heads to the front door.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I think I might have left the door open.

SADIE

Don't leave me.

David bounds out the door.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

David stands outside the door. It's closed. Hiding behind a tree we see the Sheriff watching David. The Sheriff is the stalker!

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - MORNING

David and Sadie talk in the dining room.

DAVID

I googled it. Henry Grove was murdered 15 years ago. His brother Winston, the guy from the store, accused Samuel Prophet of the murder. But there was no evidence linking him to the murder so it went officially unsolved.

SADIE

I don't wanna even think about it.

DAVID

You're in this whether you wanna be or not. It's hard to find anything, but it appears that the murders have been going on as long as people have been disappearing. All unsolved.

SADIE

I don't care. Just... Stop.

DAVID

Sadie. You need to get with it. Nothing in this town makes any sense. We need to get the truth out of Gertrude.

SADIE

Please... Leave us out of it.

DAVID

She knows way more than she's letting on. We're gonna hear what she has to say. Then we're going to the police. I told you that it's some sort of cult.

David looks at his watch.

DAVID (CONT'D)

The Xanax should have worn off by now.

Sadie bounds up the stairs and opens Gertrude's door.

SADIE

She's not in her room!

EXT. CHURCH ROOM - DAY

David and Sadie walk with Samuel towards the room on the side of the church. David and Sadie hold hands.

DAVID

We've searched the whole town. I doubt she's in the woods. This is the last place to look.

He glares at Samuel.

DAVID (CONT'D)
We know all about this place.

Samuel nearly snarls.

SAMUEL
You don't know anything.

They reach the door which is ajar. David pushes on it. The door swings open on a broken hinge.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
Damn. Looks like somebody kicked
this door in. Was it you?

David holds up the key to the door.

DAVID
No.

David and Samuel enter the room.

INT. CHURCH ROOM - DAY

Sadie waits outside. David reaches through the door and grabs Sadie's hand.

DAVID
Come on.

SADIE
I can't go in there.

DAVID
It's ok. Just don't look at the
wall.

Sadie hesitates and sighs.

SADIE
I'll... Try.

David pulls Sadie into the room. She immediately walks to the back of the room towards the desk. Some pictures are missing from both sides of the wall. Samuel goes up to the missing space on the Saints side. He's fit to be tied.

SAMUEL
Did you take that picture?

DAVID
No. I didn't touch anything.

On the Sinners side the picture of Henry Grove is missing along with a few others. Samuel touches the wall where the picture of Henry Grove should have been.

SAMUEL

Damn. Somebody's been in here.
That's not good.

He turns to David.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

When did you say you last saw her?

DAVID

Last night. I saw her before she
went to bed.

SAMUEL

We're not gonna find her. You know
that.

DAVID

I don't know that.

Sadie turns around by the desk and faces them.

SADIE

No! We WILL find her.

SAMUEL

I'm afraid we won't. It's all
starting again. It's a good thing.

David points at the "Sinners" wall.

DAVID

You found all of these people dead
in the woods?

SAMUEL

Yes.

DAVID

Who are they?

SAMUEL

The ones that don't believe in God.
The ones that are not saved by the
blood of Jesus. The sinners.

DAVID

You're saying that believers in Jesus just disappear and the ones that don't are found dead in the woods?

SAMUEL

Yes. Exactly.

DAVID

Who killed them?

SAMUEL

They deserved to die. Sin must be punished!

David is getting angry.

DAVID

Who killed them?

SAMUEL

God! God killed them!

SADIE

No!

DAVID

God doesn't just kill people for not believing in him. That's not what he does. And you know it!

SAMUEL

It was the angel of death! He did it.

David grabs Samuel's arm.

DAVID

That's bull! You know who killed them, don't you? Was it you?

SAMUEL

No! Murder is a sin! And sinners must suffer the wrath of God!

David is disgusted.

DAVID

You sound just like Gertrude.

Sadie puts her hands over her head.

SADIE
Stop! Just stop!

DAVID
We need to tell the Sheriff.

SAMUEL
No. He's against us.

DAVID
What?

SAMUEL
If you're not with us in this
town... you're against us.

Suddenly Sadie cries out in anguish. She is clearly in distress.

DAVID
Sadie?

Sadie begins to breathe rapidly. She looks like she is ready to pass out.

SADIE
Oh no... Oh my God.

DAVID
What is it?

Sadie pushes on the desk. The desk is on some sort of hinge and it swings to the side. There is an open trap door under the desk with a ladder leading under the room. David walks over and looks down into the hole.

SAMUEL
I would not go down there if I were
you.

David turns towards Samuel. Then he turns towards the trap door. He pulls out his cell phone and turns on the flashlight. He descends the ladder.

INT. SECRET ROOM - DAY

David shines his flashlight forward. Shock! In a glass case is a dead body! On the glass case is the name of the body. David shines his light into the room. There are many glass cases that contain bodies. David shines his light back towards the ladder. Samuel stands there, startling David.

SAMUEL
I warned you.

DAVID
Are these...

SAMUEL
Yes. The ones we found in the woods.

David goes up to the first body and shines his light on it.
It's well preserved in the glass case.

DAVID
Are they embalmed?

SAMUEL
Yep.

He walks up, shining his light on the bodies in the glass cases.

DAVID
Why?

SAMUEL
It's hard to explain.

DAVID
Try me.

SAMUEL
Their loved ones thought we buried them, but we brought them down here.
I really regret doing this. It's wrong not to give someone a proper burial.

David shines his light on the skeletal remains of Jake McDowell. On the outside of the glass case is his name.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
That's Jake McDowell. The one we just found.

DAVID
I know.

David stares at the body.

DAVID (CONT'D)
How were they killed?

Samuel sighs.

SAMUEL

We believe the angel of death struck them down. They weren't stabbed or shot or even bludgeoned to death. The autopsies were always inconclusive. It's like their bodies just fell out of the sky.

They look at another body.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

We started finding the bodies around the same time people started disappearing. But we don't know how or why. It's been a big mystery. Just like the disappearances. So we kept them hoping we could get some answers...

DAVID

Answers?

SAMUEL

At least at first. Then it became more of a ritual to bring them down here...

DAVID

A ritual? Really?

SAMUEL

Yep. Lot's of rituals in this town.

David walks down the middle, shining his light on the bodies. He comes to the end where there are the bodies of two women. One of them looks like she is in her forties and the other in her twenties. There are no name tags on the glass cases.

DAVID

Where are the name tags on these two?

Samuel stays near the ladder and does not move. He looks a bit distressed.

SAMUEL

I... I don't know.

David walks back towards Samuel.

DAVID

I think I've seen enough.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - DAY

David and Sadie and Samuel talk in Gertrude's house.

DAVID
(to Sadie)
How did you know?

INT. SECRET ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Five year old Sadie and Gertrude stand in front of the body of Henry Grove in the glass case. Sadie has her hands over her eyes. Henry looks peaceful with his eyes closed. Gertrude pulls Sadie's hands off her eyes and forces her to look at the body.

GERTRUDE
You see Sadie. He's only sleeping.

INT. GERTRUDE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

David, Sadie and Samuel talk.

DAVID
I'm sorry. I really am.

SADIE
I'm ok. Really.

David hugs Sadie.

SAMUEL
Be at the church tonight at 7. Both
of you.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Inside the old church, many people sit in the pews chatting. David and Sadie sit in a middle pew. David has an arm around Sadie. Sadie leans her head on David's shoulder.

Suddenly all of the lights go out and it is pitch black in the church. All talking stops and it's quiet as a mouse. Up at the pulpit, a candle is lit. It's Samuel and he holds the candle up.

SAMUEL
We beseech thee O Lord, to help us
to remember and honor our cherished
one.

EVERYONE

We beseech thee O Lord, to help us
to remember and honor our cherished
one.

SAMUEL

Let this candle be a symbol of a
life well lived, a life we shall
never forget.

Silence.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Please rise.

Everyone rises.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

(loudly and with force)

The all merciful. May your name be
blessed forever and ever.

EVERYONE

The all merciful. May your name be
blessed forever and ever.

SAMUEL

The all merciful. May your mercy
extend forever and ever.

EVERYONE

The all merciful. May your mercy
extend forever and ever.

SAMUEL

The all merciful. Consoling the
afflicted and raising up the
oppressed.

EVERYONE

The all merciful. Consoling the
afflicted and raising up the
oppressed.

SAMUEL

The all merciful. Great in love and
mercy, granting gifts and blessings
beyond anything that we deserve.

EVERYONE

The all merciful. Great in love and
mercy, granting gifts and blessings
beyond anything that we deserve.

SAMUEL

Please remain standing.

Everyone grabs a candle and rises. Samuel walks down and lights the first candle of the first person in each row. Each in turn light the candles of those who are next to them until everyone is holding up a lit candle. Samuel walks back up to the pulpit.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

May this candle symbolize the life
of our beloved one, Gertrude
Johnson.

EVERYONE

May these candles symbolize the love
and joy that has been spread during
the lifetime of Gertrude Johnson.

SAMUEL

May this candle serve as a
remembrance that our beloved one was
loved by you and that in your mercy
you chose to bring her into the
eternal kingdom while she yet lived.

EVERYONE

Amen!

Samuel motions with his hands.

SAMUEL

Be seated.

Everyone sits down and extinguishes their candles. The lights go back on.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Friends. We are here tonight to
celebrate the life of Gertrude
Johnson. I would like to take some
time to go over her many
accomplishments to further the
kingdom of God. Let's begin with...

Just then the church doors crash open with a loud BANG and in walks a drunk Winston Grove along with several other men. Winston holds a shotgun in his hand and the others hold rifles. People in the church scream. A few stand up in order to leave.

WINSTON

Stay where you are or you die! Sit
down!

Everyone sits down. Winston turns towards TOM and another man and points to the door.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Nobody gets out Tom. You got it?

TOM
I got it.

Tom and the other man stand at the door with their rifles ready. A man stands up in the pews.

WINSTON
Sit down!

The man sits. Winston bounds up to the pulpit and puts his shotgun on Samuel. He pulls out the bloody picture of Henry and shoves it in Samuel's face.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Murderer! You murdered my brother in cold blood! Look at him!

SAMUEL
You're drunk. Leave this place. Now!

Winston holds the shotgun up to Samuel's head.

WINSTON
Shut up! You say another word and I'll blow your head off!

Winston turns around and addresses everyone.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
You people been killin my people for too long. Tonight it ends!

Winston laughs. An evil laugh. He points to a large picture of Gertrude.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
You think that old lady just up and vanished? Is that what you think?

SAMUEL
It's none of your business.

Winston turns around.

WINSTON
I told you to shut up!

Winston addresses everyone.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
That's the way it is. That's the way
it's been for a long time... You
kill one of ours, we make one of
yours disappear. Tonight it all
ends.

A lot of murmuring.

SAMUEL
You're a liar!

WINSTON
Bull crap. You're the liar!

Winston spots David in the pews.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
I told you to stay away from these
murdering bastards!

He points at David.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Stand up!

David stands up.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
I wanna know right now. Are you with
me or with them? Well?

DAVID
Um...

SAMUEL
David! Don't!

WINSTON
Shut up old man.

...Turns to David.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Well?

DAVID
I'm... trying to figure out what's
going on...

WINSTON
Come up here. Now! I'll prove to you
he's a murderer.

David walks up to the pulpit and stands by Winston. Winston talks to Tom by the door.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Ok Tom. Now.

Everyone watches the church door as it opens. Several men enter the church carrying the glass cases that contain the bodies of the two unidentified women that David saw in the room under the church that Samuel did not want to talk about. They prop both cases up with the bodies upright. Everyone gasps. Samuel sobs.

SAMUEL

No! Please no!

WINSTON

You are pathetic!

Samuel covers his eyes with his hands.

SAMUEL

Get them away. Please. Get them away!

Winston sneers and looks at David.

WINSTON

He murdered his wife and daughter in cold blood!

SAMUEL

No!

WINSTON

Did they sin too much? That why you killed them?

SAMUEL

I didn't. Oh God. I didn't.

WINSTON

You did!

He turns to David.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

He did. He murdered them and dumped their bodies in the woods. And he got away with it. Just like he got away with killing my brother!

Samuel starts to sob and covers his eyes.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
They saved all of the bodies! Every
last one of them!

Everyone gasps. Winston pries Samuel's hands away from his eyes.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Look at them!

SAMUEL
Please... No.

WINSTON
You've been killing people for a
long time and dumping the bodies in
the woods. Your wife and daughter...
Their pictures should be on your
sinner's wall. They're the sinners!
They died and went to hell. Isn't
that where all the sinners go?

SAMUEL
No!

Samuel collapses on the ground.

WINSTON
Get up!

Samuel doesn't move. Winston looks at two of his men.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Get him up!

Two men come up and force Samuel to stand up.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
We're not done yet. Killer!
Murderer! Bastard!

Winston holds up another bloody picture of a woman. He holds it up in front of Samuel's face.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
You know who this is?

SAMUEL
No.

WINSTON
It's my grandmother. Murdered. Found
dead in the woods. You killed her...
and you kept her body! You dumb ass!

He shoves it into Samuel's face.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Look at her!

Winston holds it up for everyone to see.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Murdered before I was even born. I
found it on your sinners wall. In
your little room.

He points his finger at everyone.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
You are the sinners!

Winston is in full rage mode now. He puts the shotgun into Samuel's back.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Move!

Samuel walks down towards the pews. Winston points to a side wall.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Get up against the wall.

Samuel walks towards the wall.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
Face the wall!

Samuel stands with his face against the wall.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
(to David)
You. Come here. Now.

David approaches Winston.

WINSTON (CONT'D)
I'm gonna ask you one more time. Are
you with me or them?

DAVID
Uh...

WINSTON
You're either gonna help me kill
them... or you're gonna die today.
You got that? Your choice.

Winston pulls a pistol out of his pocket and holds it up to David. David hesitates.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Take it.

DAVID

No...

Winston shakes his head in disgust.

WINSTON

So you're one of them.

Winston aims the pistol at David's head. He smiles, an evil smile. He pulls the trigger. Click! It wasn't even loaded. He points at Samuel.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

We'll start with their ringleader.

(to David)

You're next.

Winston raises up his shotgun. Tom by the door cries out.

TOM

No Winston! Don't do it.

WINSTON

Shut up!

Winston turns towards the people.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

Don't you people have a saying? An eye for an eye or something like that?

He turns back towards Samuel. We focus on David who looks mortified. David prays very quietly.

DAVID

Please God. Send your angels...

WINSTON

Die!

Surprise! At that very moment the shotgun is yanked out of Winston's hands by an invisible force and is flung across the room. The same exact thing happens to the others holding the rifles. Each rifle is yanked from their hands and thrown across the room.

WINSTON (CONT'D)

What the...

We hear what sounds like a loud rushing wind in the church. An invisible force knocks Winston and the other men onto the ground. Samuel turns around.

SAMUEL

Go! Leave us alone! Don't ever come back here!

Winston and the others get up and run out the church door. David and Sadie hug. Samuel goes back up to the pulpit.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Our God is a good God.

David approaches Samuel on the pulpit. He is in shock.

DAVID

It's all true. The angels... everything.

SAMUEL

Yes it is.

DAVID

What happened to Jeff? Did they... Kill him?

SAMUEL

No. The angels took him to heaven.

They glance over at the two bodies in the glass cases.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

I didn't kill them.

David approaches Samuel and puts his hand on Samuel's shoulder.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

They didn't believe. I thought they did. I really thought they did.

DAVID

God struck them down because they didn't believe in Jesus?

SAMUEL

No. God is loving. He's just. I really don't understand. We found them dead in the woods. Just like the others.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

We should have given them a proper burial.

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff sits at his desk in his office drinking some coffee. The news is on the TV. He turns off the TV. He pulls out a key, and unlocks the door to the jail cells.

He slowly walks down the hall with the cells until he arrives at the last one. There, sitting in the last cell, is Gertrude. He unlocks the cell and enters it. He holds up a picture of his son that was taken from the "Saints" side of the secret room.

SHERIFF

I'm gonna ask you one more time.
What happened to my son John?

GERTRUDE

I don't know.

SHERIFF

Look. He got mixed up with you and your church. I get it. He became one of you... Jesus freaks. Then he just vanished into thin air.

He grabs Gertrude.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Tell me what happened!

GERTRUDE

That was a long time ago.

The Sheriff slams his fist down on a table.

SHERIFF

I don't give a crap if it was a long time ago. What happened to him?

GERTRUDE

You know what happened. He was taken by angels.

SHERIFF

That's bull!

The Sheriff takes a big swig from a bottle. He grabs Gertrude.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Get up!

He handcuffs her. Then he pulls her hard by the arm.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Come on!

EXT. CHURCH ROOM - NIGHT

They walk over to the side of the church. The door to the room is unlocked and the Sheriff opens the door and shoves Gertrude into the room.

INT. CHURCH ROOM - NIGHT

Inside the room, the Sheriff takes the picture of John and holds it up in the blank space on the wall on the "Saints" side.

SHERIFF

I'm gonna ask you one more time.
Where is he?

Silence. He grabs Gertrude and shoves her over to the "Sinners" side and makes her look at the pictures of the bloody bodies.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Who killed them?

GERTRUDE

The angel of death!

SHERIFF

Bull!

He grabs her violently.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Come on!

He yanks her back up through the door to outside.

EXT. CHURCH ROOM - NIGHT

They walk towards Gertrude's house.

SHERIFF

If you don't tell me I'm gonna kill
Sadie!

The Sheriff pulls out his pistol. Suddenly Gertrude breaks free from the Sheriff and kicks him hard in the balls. The Sheriff crumbles to the ground. Gertrude dashes to her house and even though her hands are handcuffed she bangs on the door. Sadie opens the door and Gertrude enters the house.

INT. GERTRUDE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gertrude stands in front of Sadie.

GERTRUDE
Get out of here! Now!

SADIE
What?

The Sheriff bursts through the front door, pointing his gun directly at Sadie's head. He yells at Gertrude.

SHERIFF
Tell me or she dies!

Just then, David emerges from the kitchen and he hits the sheriff over the head with a vase. The sheriff collapses in a heap. Dinky runs down the stairs and out the open front door.

GERTRUDE
Get him! Please get him!

David and Sadie rush out the front door after Dinky.

EXT. GERTRUDE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Sheriff suddenly emerges from the house and chases them too. Dinky rushes through the woods and past the place where David and Jeff camped with David and Sadie behind him.

SADIE
Dinky! Stop!

Dinky continues to run towards a hill that is covered in vines. It looks like there is no place for him to go. Dinky runs right through the vines as there is a hidden cave! David and Sadie stop at the vines.

DAVID
Come on!

David and Sadie push through the vines. Something is glowing in the cave. As they move forward, they are astonished to see an incredibly beautiful large glowing door.

They watch as Dinky runs right through the door and disappears. They stop in front of the door. David and Sadie look at each other. Then they hold hands and enter through the door. Behind them, the Sheriff enters the cave just as they enter the door.

INT. HEAVEN - NIGHT

In front of David and Sadie is a beautiful staircase going up. As they start to ascend the staircase, two huge angels holding swords descend the staircase. One of the angels nods to them. They continue to ascend towards a brightly glowing light.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

The Sheriff hesitates in front of the door. Then he starts to enter. BLAM! The Sheriff is blasted out through the vines. He flies through the air and his bloody and lifeless body lands in the woods.

INT. HEAVEN - NIGHT

David and Sadie continue to walk up the stairs. At the top of the Jesus hugs both of them.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

We see the angels emerge from the glowing door. We follow them as they leave the cave and walk and take up positions among many other angels holding swords that are guarding the town.

INT. HEAVEN - NIGHT

Back in heaven at the top of the stairs, David and Sadie continue to walk into the wonders of heaven. We hear beautiful music and see amazing colors. Jeff suddenly appears wearing a white robe and David and Jeff hug. David gestures towards Sadie and Jeff hugs her too.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

We focus on the church, then into the locked room, where we see David and Sadie's pictures up with the Saints. Then we focus on Dinky's picture up with the Saints.

We then move to the other wall and see the Sheriff's picture up with the Sinners. We go down into the room below the church and see the Sheriff's embalmed body in a glass case.

EXT. CAVE - DAY

A young man walks in the woods outside the vines that conceal the cave. Suddenly two beautiful deer come bounding through the woods and go straight through the vines. The young mrweq43poiuan follows them through the vines.

FADE OUT.