

Devil's Peak  
by  
Stewart Wadwell

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

It's a dark, foggy night.

A FULL MOON peeks through some clouds, illuminating a forest clearing.

A feminine figure moves through the clearing, bends down and stakes a long halogen light into the ground. She twists the top and it LIGHTS up the campground. This is one of a dozen similar lights around the clearing.

Satisfied, she untwists it and walks towards a tent. Various research supplies are stacked around the clearing.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

DR. TOM THOMPSON finishes writing in a journal. His wife, LEA appears at the front flap. Tom looks up.

LEA

The camera is set and the lights are a go.

Tom SIGHS and drops his journal next to an unloaded shotgun.

DR. THOMPSON

It's been a week, Lea and still nothing.

LEA

I know, honey.

DR. THOMPSON

Years of research. Gone.

LEA

It's late.

DR. THOMPSON

How many tagged bears?

LEA

All of them.

DR. THOMPSON

Vanished without a trace.

LEA

Why don't we get some sleep?

DR. THOMPSON

Give me a theory. Something. Anything?

Lea picks up the journal and flicks through the pages.

LEA  
I don't know, Tom.

A shadow darts across the tent, unseen by the occupants.

LEA  
If anything is out there, we'll find out.

DR. THOMPSON  
I just don't get it.

The lights flick on outside.

LEA  
I'll go see.

She gets up and clambers out into night.

After a pause, Lea pops her head back in.

LEA  
It's nothing. Just--

Lea is violently pulled away from the opening.

DR. THOMPSON  
Lea?

Shadows dart around the tent. Tom grabs the shotgun and the case of shells.

He dashes out of the tent.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Tom leaps out into the dark night, shotgun loaded.

Laying only a few feet away are the remains of his wife -- well -- what's left of her. Lea's upper torso, still twitching, spews entrails and innards onto the dirt floor. Body parts litter the ground. There is no sign of her lower half.

DR. THOMPSON  
(stuttering)  
Lea?

A shadow darts across the tree line. A moment later TWO DARK RED EYES appear, observing Tom for a second before merging back into the darkness.

Tom fires two shots, hitting the tree line off in the distance. The smoking gun slides from his hands and he turns in a panicked run away from the campsite.

He runs through the forest. Two dark shadows dart in and out of the foliage on either side of him.

Tom CRASHES into something that knocks him onto his back. Winded, he opens his eyes and looks up in absolute TERROR. He tries to scramble away, but a GIANT PAW tears down upon his face.

Something strikes down upon his exposed neck, tearing into his jugular. Suddenly, with a great force, Tom's left arm is RIPPED away from its socket, blood spurting everywhere. Something rips into his right side, digging into his ribs.

The moon re-appears and lights up the forest. COUGHING up blood, the last of Tom's life drains away. Eyes wide open.

A long, blood curdled HOWL echoes through the dark forest as long sharp claws protrude from HUGE BLACK PAWS and dig deeply into the corpse. A pool of blood forms around the kill.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

A blue Jeep speeds down a mountain road on a sunny afternoon. The driver is ADRIAN WEATHERS, a healthy, good looking man in his early forties. He is accompanied by his DAUGHTER KATIE. She is a beautiful, vibrant teenager with long dark brown hair.

The radio plays C.C.R's "Bad Moon Rising" as Katie intently looks out at the magnificent valley below them. The palet of green trees and mountain peaks make for a breathtaking view.

Adrian looks over at Katie. He goes to speak, but decides not to.

The Jeep slows down, and turns off onto a small dusty road.

A faded sign reads "*Devil's Peak 10 miles.*"

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

The Jeep drives up a long gravel driveway and comes to a halt in front of a grand old house. The sun is slowly settling in behind the old house, casting long shadows over the huge lawn.

KATIE  
This is it?

Katie is far from happy.

ADRIAN  
Okay, so it's not home, but wait 'till  
you see what it's like inside.

KATIE  
We do have electricity and running water,  
right?

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

The door swings open and the two new residents enter.

Moving boxes and new furniture are scattered amongst old  
antique furniture. Everything has a layer of dust on it.

Katie looks left to right. To the right are the KITCHEN and  
DINING ROOM. To the left are the STUDY and LIVING ROOM. A  
HUGE STAIRCASE leads to the second level.

Beneath the staircase is a BAY WINDOW.

Katie walks over and picks up an antique lamp. She gives it a  
look over and lays it back down.

KATIE  
How old is this stuff?

The phone RINGS out in the study.

ADRIAN  
It's antique!

KATIE  
It's a little tacky.

She wipes a coat of dust off a table with her finger.

Adrian enters the study to answer the phone.

ADRIAN  
Hello?

DEXTER  
(filtered)  
You've arrived.

ADRIAN  
Dexter.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A big burly African American sits behind a desk filled with papers and books. He fidgets with his tie.

DEXTER

My favorite author. I hope those idiots got everything set up for you.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE STUDY - DAY

Adrian looks into a box.

ADRIAN

Yeah, everything looks good. Hey, thanks again, Dex. You're an agent who cares.

DEXTER

(filtered)

Anytime for a buddy. How's Katie?

ADRIAN

Still not happy.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Katie looks through the bay window out into a meadow. She unlocks the huge window and pushes it open. The window swings open halfway and begins to fall off the hinges. Katie grabs the frame and pulls it closed.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - DAY

Adrian wanders around the study unpacking things, cordless phone pressed to his ear.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DEXTER

Understand Adrian, she's lost her mother and now you've taken her away from her friends.

ADRIAN

I know, Dex, I know.

DEXTER

That Ridlow fellow called again. Confirm that you were on the way.

ADRIAN

Again?

DEXTER

Yeah. He's a weird cat, that one.

ADRIAN

I'm sure I'll hear from him soon enough.

DEXTER

So...

ADRIAN

Don't, Dex.

DEXTER

Look, friends aside. I've got my boss comin' down on me hard. They want to know when to expect something.

ADRIAN

Don't they know I just lost a wife?

DEXTER

That's what I told them. Money talks old buddy and they want a return on their investment.

ADRIAN

I haven't even given it a thought yet.

DEXTER

Yeah, I figured. Told them that you had a couple of chapters written.

Katie pops her head in the study and points upstairs. Adrian clasps the phone in his hands.

KATIE

(whispers)

Is my stuff upstairs?

Adrian nods, yes.

ADRIAN

Okay, no wait... what? When?

DEXTER

End of the year.

ADRIAN

Dexter.

DEXTER

Look, take it easy. Relax. Get Katie sorted out. Get back when you're ready, I'll hold the fortress here.

ADRIAN

Thanks buddy.

DEXTER

Hey, maybe I'll take trip out to see you. Even if you are in Butt-Fuck nowhere.

ADRIAN

Talk to you soon.

DEXTER

Speak to you soon buddy.

CLICK.

Adrian hangs up the phone and mutters to himself.

ADRIAN

End of the year?

INT. KATIE'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Katie and Adrian sit on boxes eating pasta out of plastic bowls. The kitchen is a mess of boxes, utensils and food.

Katie finishes and gets up.

ADRIAN

Katie.

Katie turns towards her father.

ADRIAN

You do know this is for the best. It was time to get away.

KATIE

(abruptly)

Get away from what? My friends? My life? Or anything that you can't handle?

ADRIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

KATIE

You know what it means, dad.

Katie storms out of the kitchen.

ADRIAN  
That's a low blow, kiddo.

He tosses the bowls into the sink.

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Katie lays on her bed, tears of frustration escape her eyes. She listens to her father storm back and forth, LOUDLY unpacking boxes.

She gets up to go downstairs, but decides against it.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - NIGHT

Adrian unpacks a stack of books and places them on shelves. He sorts through the stack and pulls out a hardback. He flips the book around and looks at a smiling and confident picture of HIMSELF, the author of the book.

Katie enters the room and quietly speaks.

KATIE  
Can I take the Jeep?

ADRIAN  
I don't know, kiddo.

KATIE  
I just want to drive into town and take a look around.

ADRIAN  
Fine, just don't be long.

She takes the keys from on top of a box and heads out of the front door.

Adrian shoves his book back into the stack and continues unpacking.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Katie gets into the Jeep and heads off down the driveway. As the Jeep pulls away, a leaf falls from a huge tree. It flutters to the ground and lands inside a giant PAW PRINT.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Katie pops out the CD and puts something more appropriate on.

She drives down a dark road towards the center of town. She passes a grocery store called "Mac's", a burger joint, some businesses and a church and graveyard.

She turns onto a small road and passes a few houses. The houses become sparse as she drives on.

KATIE

That's it?

Katie reaches a main road and turns onto it. After a few moments, a big building comes into view.

EXT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Katie pulls into the parking lot of the local school.

She jumps out of the Jeep, takes a look around and then reads the school sign.

KATIE

Devil's Peak High.

Suddenly, a set of headlights appear behind her.

A hot rod pulls into the parking lot, carrying THREE DRUNK TEENAGERS. They guzzle beer and listen to heavy ROCK MUSIC.

The hot rod circles the stranded Katie and comes to a stop.

The driver, KALVIN, jumps out.

KALVIN

What do we have here?

He WHISTLES, looking her up and down.

RANDY and JACOB, the two other passengers, jump out of the hot rod.

RANDY

All alone?

JACOB

What's a pretty little thing like you doing out this late at night?

Randy laughs, finishes a beer and tosses it aside.

Kalvin moves his hand along the top of Katie's Jeep.

KALVIN

Pretty nice ride.

JACOB  
If you want to experience a nicer ride...

KATIE  
Is that why your buddy's all smiles?

Randy looks to Jacob in shock and laughs.

RANDY  
She gotcha' there, dude.  
(realizes)  
Wait a minute.

JACOB  
Shut up, Randy.

KATIE  
Why don't you boys jump back into your  
fancy little car and head on back to  
town.

RANDY  
We ain't no freaks from the Peak.

Kalvin looks at the New Jersey license plates on Katie's  
Jeep.

KALVIN  
Cool it boys. She ain't from around here.

Kalvin joins Randy and Jacob.

JACOB  
Tell you what. Why don't we help get you  
acquainted?

Jacob steps towards Katie. Katie doesn't budge.

KATIE  
Why don't you shove your--

Suddenly, a HOWL stops everyone in their tracks.

RANDY  
What was that?

KALVIN  
Let's break it up boys.

Kalvin and Randy run to the hot rod.

Jacob backs away from Katie.

JACOB

Bitch.

Jacob turns and jumps into the hot rod.

The hot rod screeches off into the darkness, leaving a trail of laughter, empty beer bottles and insane rock music.

Katie is left alone in the parking lot. A chill runs down her spine and she jumps into her Jeep and drives away.

EXT. DARK ROAD - NIGHT

Katie turns back onto the dark road.

A tow truck speeds by, towing a station wagon. Katie peers through the rear view mirror and reads a bumper sticker.

KATIE

We... brake for... bears.

The Jeep veers off the road.

Katie turns to see a FIGURE stranded ahead of her.

KATIE

Shit!

The Jeep comes to a screeching halt.

EXT. DARK ROAD - NIGHT

After a moment to collect herself, Katie jumps down from the driver's seat.

KATIE

Hello? Are you hurt?

The figure gets up, brushing himself off. This is ERIC. Short dark hair, dark eyes and a chiseled face.

KATIE

Are you okay?

ERIC

Just a scratch.

He picks dirt from his elbow.

KATIE

I didn't see you.

ERIC

I can see that. You should watch your speed. Never know what may jump out in front of you.

KATIE

You're telling me. Can I offer you a ride home?

ERIC

I'm just out for some fresh air.

KATIE

Is it safe out here by yourself?

ERIC

Well, it was.

KATIE

Sorry. I'm from--

ERIC

The city. I know.

KATIE

That obvious, huh?

ERIC

Small town.

KATIE

I guess.

Eric turns to continue on his walk.

ERIC

Well, I'll catch you around.

KATIE

Sure. Sorry again.

ERIC

Just watch your speed on the way home, okay?

KATIE

I'll try. See ya.

Katie climbs back into the driver's seat and speeds off, ignoring Eric's point of driving carefully.

Eric stands, watching the Jeep disappear over the hill.

EXT. ROAD PULLOUT - NIGHT

The hot rod sits idling at the side of the road. The passenger door is open and the music blares.

Randy leans out of the open door.

RANDY

Come on man. You pissin' a river or what?

Jacob stands taking a leak into the darkness of the trees.

JACOB

Jesus Randy, don't pressure me.

Kalvin sits at the wheel, looking around nervously.

KALVIN

Zip it up, Jacob. Let's get out of this shithole!

JACOB

(mocking)

Zip it up, Jacob.

Something MOVES in the bushes ahead of Jacob. He leans over and peers in to the bushes.

Something GROWLS.

JACOB

Hey guys, I think there's some--

A WEREWOLF'S HEAD ROARS out, grabs Jacob by the groin and pulls him into the trees with a SCREAM.

RANDY

Holy Shit!

Kalvin turns the car off and they both step out.

KALVIN

Jacob?

RANDY

Dude, this is so not cool.

It's eerily quiet. Not a sound.

KALVIN

Go see where he is.

RANDY  
Fuck that. You go.

KALVIN  
Jesus, Randy.

The bushes shake and branches break.

Kalvin walks past Randy to where Jacob was standing.

KALVIN  
Jacob. Dude. You alright, man?

He walks into something WET and GOOEY. He slowly looks down to see a piece of Jacob laying on the ground. Calvin GAGS.

RANDY  
What is it?

KALVIN  
(shocked)  
I think it's his...

Kalvin turns and runs past Randy. He jumps into the driver's side and CALLS out.

KALVIN  
Let's go!

Randy LEANS in.

RANDY  
What did you see?

He hardly finishes his sentence when he is PULLED up into the air, disappearing from the passenger door.

Kalvin SCREAMS like a girl.

He fidgets with his sweater pouch, looking for his keys.

WHAM!

Randy's bloody body hits the windshield face first.

THUMP! THUMP!

Something is on the roof!

KALVIN  
Oh God, Oh God, Oh God!

He can't find his keys!

Randy's body is pulled up the windshield, leaving a bloody smear.

Crying, Calvin finds his keys but drops them.

Fiddling around he finds them and pulls them up from under his feet.

Hands shaking, Calvin goes to turn the ignition, but stops. He slowly turns to the passenger side to see the drooling, bloody face of the WEREWOLF.

The werewolf leaps towards him.

EXT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cars are parked in the large parking lot. One car in particular is the familiar HOT ROD.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Devil's Peak High School is a big modern day building.

In the busy, small cafeteria the students sit eating their lunches. Most are quite similar in appearance; dark hair, dark eyes, dark clothing. They interact easily with each other.

In the corner, a segregated group of people quietly eat their food. Unlike the rest of the population, there is a fair mix of appearances; blondes, brunettes, red heads.

Katie stands in line to pay for her lunch. She finishes paying the clerk, steps out of the lineup and CRASHES into the back of someone. Spilling her food onto the floor.

ERIC

Goddamnit. Watch where you're going.

Eric turns to Katie.

KATIE

Oh God. I'm so sorry.

ERIC

You again. That's twice now.

Eric bends down and helps Katie clear up the mess.

KATIE

I wasn't looking where I was going.

ERIC  
Again.

KATIE  
Again.

ERIC  
Look, why don't you chill with us before  
you do some real damage?

KATIE  
Wait. I still don't know your name.

ERIC  
I'm Eric. Your Katie. Let's eat.

KATIE  
How do you know my name?

ERIC  
Small town, remember?

KATIE  
Right.

Eric takes Katie to a table in the back where TWO STUDENTS  
sit, talking.

ERIC  
Hey, Romeo and Juliet. This is Katie.

CHRISTIAN  
The new girl!

ERIC  
Romeo here is Christian. And his  
forbidden love, Louise.

LOUISE  
Have a seat.

CHRISTIAN is a handsome, fair haired, blue eyed jock. He has  
a very friendly, welcoming personality.

LOUISE is a quiet spoken girl, wearing a little too much dark  
makeup.

CHRISTIAN  
So what brings you out here?

KATIE  
We just bought a place. My dad and I.

CHRISTIAN  
Welcome to hell.

LOUISE  
What does your father do?

KATIE  
He's an author.

CHRISTIAN  
Anything we know?

KATIE  
Probably not.  
(sarcastic)  
We're still waiting for that breakthrough  
novel so we can spend the rest of our  
lives in luxury!

ERIC  
What about your mother?

Katie pauses for a moment.

KATIE  
She passed away a few months ago.

ERIC  
I'm sorry.

KATIE  
Don't be. Everybody's sorry.

They all eat quietly.

Suddenly a commotion begins. OLD JOE, the school janitor, is surrounded by a group of dark clothed students.

Eric gets up and walks over to the group. He pulls one of the students away from the janitor and tosses him into the group.

Eric grabs the ringleader and says something. After a moment, the group backs down and disperses.

Eric returns to the table, shaking food from his clothes.

CHRISTIAN  
Playing hero again?

ERIC  
Unfair advantage.

CHRISTIAN

And here I thought you had gone all warm  
and fuzzy inside.

KATIE

So, I'm quickly coming to realize  
something here.

She points around the room with her eyes.

CHRISTIAN

The segregation?

KATIE

I don't get it?

Eric points to the dark clothed students.

ERIC

Them over there. Born and raised in  
Devil's Peak.

LOUISE

The rest; outsiders and newcomers.  
Despised by the locals.

CHRISTIAN

Despised by everyone except Eric and  
Louise here.

ERIC

I can't help it. I'm a likeable guy.

KATIE

But why?

CHRISTIAN

Well, you see. Many people are moving  
into the surrounding areas. Mainly due to  
the lumber industry.

LOUISE

It's an old town, set in old ways. They  
feel the newcomers are an intrusion into  
their privacy and history.

CHRISTIAN

They don't like us, and we don't like  
them. One piece of advice, Katie. Don't  
go wandering out at night by yourself.

Katie turns to Eric.

KATIE

Is that so? Would I run into someone like you at night?

ERIC

You never know what you might run into.

Eric smiles.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - AFTERNOON

Adrian walks around in a robe eating a piece of toast. He randomly looks into boxes, and picks out this and that.

He sits down in front of a laptop on his desk. It is open to a blank page. Nothing is written on the screen.

He types then pauses. He looks to a picture of his WIFE, himself and Katie.

The phone RINGS.

A startled Adrian answers.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The Mayor sits in his office, a large room full of black and white pictures, old dusty books and file cabinets.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

ADRIAN

Hello?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Mr. Weathers?

ADRIAN

Yes.

MAYOR VENGLOS

My name is Josef Venglos. As Mayor of Devil's Peak, let me be the first to welcome you.

ADRIAN

Thank you.

MAYOR VENGLOS

It's not too often we get a famous person here in town.

ADRIAN

Well, I'm not that famous.

MAYOR VENGLOS

I would love it if you could come down to my office. It's in the center of town. Not too big, but I like it.

ADRIAN

Ah.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Just this once. After that, I'm sure you'll have your privacy.

Adrian turns to the blank page on the laptop.

ADRIAN

Come to think of it, I do have to get some groceries.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Adrian walks down a short hallway. He is flanked on either side by old black and white pictures of farmers and hunters.

He rounds a corner and passes TWO STATE TROOPERS who nod their heads and continue on.

Adrian approaches the door to the Mayor's office and it swings open.

Standing there is ISABELLA. A pretty 9 year old girl wearing a homemade papier-mache wolf mask.

She greets Adrian with a playful GROWL.

Adrian bends down to her height.

ADRIAN

And what are you supposed to be?

ISABELLA

I'm a wolf!

ADRIAN

I love your mask.

Isabella removes the mask and smiles wide.

ISABELLA

Really! I made it myself.

The gentle faced JOSEF VENGLOS appears at the doorway. The old, grey haired Mayor places his hand on Isabella's shoulder.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
Isn't she adorable?

ADRIAN  
Very much.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
(to Isabella)  
Run along now, Isabella.

ISABELLA  
(to Adrian)  
It was nice to meet you.

ADRIAN  
The pleasure was all mine.

Isabella puts the mask back on and skips down the hallway.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Mayor Venglos and Adrian enter the office.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
My cousin's niece. Very smart.

Mayor Venglos takes a seat at his desk.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
Have a seat.

Adrian sits.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
If it's one thing that I have learned in my old age, is that the future lies with the youth. Scotch?

ADRIAN  
I'd love one.

Mayor Venglos pours a scotch from a decanter and hands it to Adrian.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
And that we must do everything in our power to protect them.

Adrian sips his scotch.

MAYOR VENGLOS

A conversation for another time. I hope you have found everything satisfactory?

ADRIAN

No complaints.

MAYOR VENGLOS

We are a small, private community. But I am hopeful your stay will be pleasant enough.

ADRIAN

I'm sure it will.

MAYOR VENGLOS

I just thought I'd introduce myself. And to let you know that we've had some unfortunate incidents recently.

ADRIAN

Oh?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Nothing serious, I can assure you. We've just had some resistance to our expanding ways.

ADRIAN

I'm sure we won't cause any problems.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Of course, of course. I am working hard with my council to open up more land for people like you to come and settle here in Devil's Peak.

ADRIAN

It's a beautiful place. I'm sure we'll be happy.

Adrian finishes his scotch.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Good, good. Are you planning on writing anything soon?

Adrian chuckles.

ADRIAN

As soon as we get organized.

MAYOR VENGLOS

(sober)

Oh, of course. I forgot to give my  
condolences about your wife. Very tragic.

ADRIAN

She was a great person.

The phone RINGS to break the awkwardness.

MAYOR VENGLOS

One second.

The Mayor picks up the phone.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Hello? Yes. When are you due back?

Adrian looks around at all the old books, pictures and  
artifacts.

MAYOR VENGLOS

(to Adrian)

I'm sorry, I'll have catch up with you  
later. If you should come into any  
problems, please don't hesitate to call.

ADRIAN

Got it.

Adrian smiles and gets up and walks out of the door.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Ridlow, we need you back here now.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Katie stands in the darkened lobby looking out of the bay  
window. A mountain overlooks the town of Devil's Peak, and is  
the backdrop for Katie's new residence.

Somewhere in the house, a grandfather clock strikes ten.

Adrian walks into the lobby.

ADRIAN

Honey?

KATIE

I think I saw something out back.

ADRIAN

Want me to go look?

KATIE

No. It's probably just me.

Adrian stands next to Katie.

ADRIAN

It will take awhile to adjust. I really need you on my side for this one, kiddo.

KATIE

Why are we here, dad?

ADRIAN

You know I needed to make a decision. For both of us.

Something CRASHES out in the backyard.

Katie grabs her dad by the arm.

KATIE

What was that?

EXT. KATIE'S BACKYARD - EVENING

Adrian steps out of the back door. They have a large garden that blends into the long grass of the meadow.

In the far corner of the lawn sits a garden shed. A piece of timber rolls off a collapsed pile of firewood.

Adrian and Katie walk over. Adrian picks up the piece of wood.

ADRIAN

Must have been the wildlife.

They swing around and come face to face with PAUL, a nervous looking teenager. He has deep, dark eyes with bags around them. His hair is messy, with a grey strip just above his left ear.

Katie jumps back and steps beside Adrian.

ADRIAN

What the hell are you doing on our property?

PAUL

I'm sorry.

Paul looks around. Adrian follows his gaze, trying to figure out what he's looking for.

PAUL

I was just strolling through the meadow.

He points to the porch light, still looking around.

PAUL

Saw a light. House has been empty for a while. Thought I'd check it out.

ADRIAN

Well, it's not empty now.

Paul finally looks at them, spots Katie and smiles.

PAUL

Right. Sorry to bother you.

Paul turns around and walks away. He stops and speaks over his shoulder.

PAUL

(to Katie)

I like your hair.

Paul disappears into the long grass of the meadow.

Adrian and Katie walk back to the porch.

KATIE

Jesus. Are all the natives around here, this crazy?

ADRIAN

Language.

KATIE

Well. I've been here a few days and already I've been circled by a hot rod full of drunks, I go to school full of EMO clones and now I've got freaks obsessed over my hair.

ADRIAN

Circled by a hot rod?

KATIE

Nevermind.

Adrian and Katie step onto the porch and disappear into the house.

Back at the firewood, something in the bushes GROWLS.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

It's another foggy night.

A FIGURE walks through the trees, shining a flashlight. It stops every so often, and then moves on.

A GROWL echoes out of a rolling mist and fog.

The figure is a MICHAEL. A forestry worker, clad in boots, plaid shirt, pants and a yellow hard hat. He tags a tree to be cut down, marks it on his sheet and then moves to the next one.

He stops at a large tree and looks at the trunk. There are fresh claw marks all the way down it.

He pulls out his CB radio and talks into it.

MICHAEL  
 (into CB radio)  
 Have there been any reports of bears in  
 the vicinity? Over.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
 That's a negative.

Michael moves on. A branch SNAPS behind him. He spins around.

He pauses and then talks into his CB radio again.

MICHAEL  
 (into CB radio)  
 Are you sure?

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
 You've got bear spray, right?

MUFFLED LAUGHTER comes from the CB radio.

MICHAEL  
 (into CB radio)  
 Thanks for the assurances, guys.

Michael holsters his CB radio and continues on.

He moves to the next tree. A huge dark shadow moves just beyond him.

He scans the trees with the flashlight.

MICHAEL  
 Hello?

Nothing.

Michael tags the tree and marks it on his sheet while fingering a can of bear spray hanging on his belt.

A LARGE PAW slowly settles into the dark soil, its claws slowly emerging.

Michael moves on, scanning the woods with his flashlight.

A shadow darts in front of him. He backs away a few paces, turns around and stops in horror.

Michael drops his flashlight and fumbles for the bear spray. He fidgets and fidgets, but can't get it out, so he turns to flee.

Something grabs his leg and knocks him to the ground. He is dragged into the fog, SCREAMING.

Michael is left in a clearing. Dark shadows circle all around. He attempts to scramble away, but something snatches his arm and pulls him back.

Michael closes his eyes and curls up in fear.

He pulls out his CB radio and re-opens his eyes. A LARGE BLACK PAW stands inches away from his face, CLAWS slowly rising. It strikes down, tearing into his neck.

Blood spurts from the wound as Michael tries to call for help into his CB radio.

MICHAEL  
(into CB radio)  
Help me.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
Can you repeat that? Over.

MICHAEL  
(into CB radio)  
Please.

The CB radio falls from Michael's hand. He looks up at two red eyes that move towards him.

Through the fog, his SCREAMS are cut short by the CRACKLING and CRUNCHING of bones.

Behind the killing, another SHADOW moves through the trees and disappears.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)  
Michael? Are you there? Michael?

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie bolts upright, only to hear the distant echo of a HOWL.  
The full moon shines through her bedroom window, so Katie gets up and closes the curtains.

INT. SMALL MEETING ROOM - MORNING

Eight individuals sit around a large oval table. All of the gatherers are looking up towards Mayor Venglos, standing with his back turned. After pause, he speaks.

MAYOR VENGLLOS  
There was another unauthorized killing last night. I thought I made it perfectly clear that there will be no more killings. There is no need.

FOUR individuals sit near the head of the table. They are the senior council members: LUCJAN, DAMAN, DARIUS and CASIUS.

LUCJAN  
What do you expect us to do?

MAYOR VENGLLOS  
We have worked long and hard to conceal ourselves from the rest of the world. But times have changed, and we have to accept the fact that the surrounding areas are becoming inhabited.

LUCJAN  
A decision that was made in part by you.

MAYOR VENGLLOS  
A decision that had to be made. The world around us has changed, and so must we. If we can learn to live in harmony, we may have a chance to survive. But these continued killings won't help our situation.

DAMAN  
There are some of us who feel a change is needed. There is talk that we can end this curse and become normal again.

MAYOR VENGLOS

You should not speak of things that you do not fully understand.

DARIUS

What I understand is that if there is ever a chance to release us from this disease, then we should snatch it with all our might.

CASIUS

Let's say that happens, what do you expect to do? Fade away into human life?

Mayor Venglos places his hand on Casius' shoulder, calming him.

MAYOR VENGLOS

It can't be done. You can't kill them in one hand and want to be like them in the other. There is no cure!

LUCJAN

We sit here like cowards waiting for the next full moon while you open up our lands to the unwanted, jeopardizing our way of life. If there is no cure as you say, then we must stay isolated.

MAYOR VENGLOS

You are not listening! There is no isolation anymore.

He looks at each and every one of them.

MAYOR VENGLOS

And a warning to anyone who steps out of their jurisdiction again. I will come down with all my fury on the next person who puts our community into jeopardy.

From the far corner of the room, a door slowly opens. A dark cloaked FIGURE emerges into the meeting. He walks in with his head held low.

The figure speaks out, it is RIDLOW.

RIDLOW

Leave us.

Some realize who has entered, and get up to leave. The rest wait for a signal.

MAYOR VENGLOS

You may go.

The rest depart except for Casius.

MAYOR VENGLOS

It's okay, Casius.

Casius stares at Ridlow as he exits.

MAYOR VENGLOS

It's about time you returned. You leave,  
but not before putting dangerous thoughts  
into uncontrollable minds.

RIDLOW

Has he arrived?

MAYOR VENGLOS

The writer? Yes.

RIDLOW

And his daughter?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Yes. Yes. Just what is going on, Ridlow?

RIDLOW

I have discovered a great deal on my  
travels. Things that until now were  
deemed lost.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Are you talking about that book again?

RIDLOW

It has been found and has been given to  
us who need it the most.

MAYOR VENGLOS

What are you saying?

RIDLOW

The book can help us. We can become one  
again. We just have to do its bidding for  
the time being.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Those are dangerous subjects, Ridlow.

RIDLOW

We can lift the curse. I can do it. I have learned everything I need to know to cleanse us... to cleanse everyone. You can have your community. Think about it.

MAYOR VENGLOS

The book is dangerous Ridlow. It was made with evil intent and can only do harm to us all. It should go back to the church where it belongs.

RIDLOW

I can control the book.

MAYOR VENGLOS

The book will control you before long. There is a reason it has been hidden and protected for so long. It has destroyed anyone who has ever touched it.

RIDLOW

But it has never been in the hands of the likes of us.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Mark my words, Ridlow. If you use this book, it will destroy us, not cure us.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Christian, Katie, Eric and Louise sit on a small set of bleachers.

CHRISTIAN

My parents said they've halted operations until they determine what happened.

ERIC

He shouldn't have been out there by himself, without protection.

LOUISE

Especially around here.

KATIE

No one deserves to die like that.

ERIC

I'm not saying he did. I'm just saying that the blame should lay with the company that sent him out there in the first place.

CHRISTIAN

You know my parents work for the same company. They're good people.

ERIC

Good at getting people killed.

CHRISTIAN

Don't tell me you're siding with the town on this one?

Eric and Christian are agitated with each other. Katie breaks the ice.

KATIE

What could do that kind of damage?

CHRISTIAN

Bear. Cougar, maybe.

KATIE

Can I ask you guys a question?

CHRISTIAN

We're all ears.

KATIE

Have you ever had the feeling that someone is watching you?

Eric looks out at the sports field. Seemingly miles away.

ERIC

Being surrounded by miles and miles of trees will do that.

CHRISTIAN

(to Eric)

Stalking the new girl are we?

Christian smiles. Eric eventually relaxes and smiles back at him.

ERIC

(laughing)

Wouldn't you like to know, Romeo?

(beat)

Let's change the subject. It's time we should get together. Present company included.

LOUISE

It has been a while.

ERIC

There's the upcoming party in Devil's Peak. We go to that, then head up the Ridge. We can hang out at the old place?

LOUISE

Sounds good to me. I know I need to let lose, especially after these exams.

CHRISTIAN

I still find it a little odd that there's gonna be this party. I mean, we all know we ain't wanted, yet we're all invited to this shindig? What gives?

LOUISE

Maybe they're finally coming around?

ERIC

Louise is right. I think you'll find that we'll be welcomed with open arms.

KATIE

So, where are we going after?

CHRISTIAN

(to Katie)

There's an abandoned house up on the ridge. A hotspot for the troubled youths of Devil's Peak.

ERIC

I'll clear it with them.

(to Katie)

You in for a little drinking session?

KATIE

To see how you guys party out here? Count me in.

ERIC

My kind of girl.

Eric turns to Christian.

CHRISTIAN

I guess so. First sign of trouble and we're outta there.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

A TEACHER stands at the chalkboard. He turns back towards the small class.

TEACHER

I want the assignment on my desk by next week.

A collective MOAN.

TEACHER

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Now shoo!

The end of class bell RINGS.

Katie walks out of the classroom. She is tapped on the shoulder by Paul.

PAUL

I hate assignments.

Katie smiles and moves on.

PAUL

Howd'ya like Devil's Peak so far?

Katie decides to face Paul and get it over with.

KATIE

A little creepy to be honest.

PAUL

Yeah. I asked to put that on the sign. "Devil's Peak, creepy as hell."

Paul nervously laughs.

PAUL

If you ever want to hang out sometime, just let me know. I'm the creep sitting in the corner of English.

KATIE

Sure.

PAUL

Paul.

KATIE

Sorry?

PAUL

My name.

KATIE

Well, see ya around, Paul.

Katie turns and walks away from Katie. Paul calls out after her.

PAUL  
I'm sorry for the other night. I didn't  
know you lived there!  
(whispers)  
I like your hair.

He turns away and spots Eric looking at him. Paul smiles and ducks into the crowd of students.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - AFTERNOON

Adrian is passed out on his desk. A small bottle of Jack Daniels accompanies him. There are a few words typed on the screen.

DREAM SEQUENCE

Adrian has been knocked to the ground in an alley.

Above him is a woman, struggling with a strange looking man.

A knife falls and lands on the ground in front of him.

Adrian sees it... he yearns for it... he reaches for it, but he... can't... quite... get... to... it.

The man picks it up, and looks Adrian square in the face. He then turns his attention back to Adrian's wife. He pulls back the collar of her jacket to expose her neck.

He turns back to Adrian, wife still struggling. For a moment, his face becomes distorted and disjointed. Almost canine. With dark red eyes it snarls down at Adrian as it slices his wife's neck.

The mugger drops the lifeless body and disappears into the night. The wife lays motionless, eyes fixated on a stunned Adrian.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - AFTERNOON

Adrian JOLTS upwards, knocking the Jack Daniels off the table.

ADRIAN  
Damn it!

He gets up, holding his head.

ADRIAN

I can't do this.

He sits back down at the table, and grabs the photograph of his wife.

ADRIAN

What am I supposed to do without you?

The front door to the house opens.

Adrian wipes the tears away with the back of his woolly cardigan, and picks the bottle off the floor.

Katie arrives at the door.

KATIE

Everything okay?

ADRIAN

I'm fine, kiddo.

Faking it.

ADRIAN

How was your day?

Still faking it.

KATIE

It was all right. Got invited to a party.

ADRIAN

That's good. I'm going for a shower.

He walks past Katie, and up the stairs.

Katie walks over to the desk, and picks up the picture of her deceased mother.

She gently places the picture back on the desk, and turns the laptop towards her. She reads out the few typed words.

KATIE

I miss you.

She flops down onto the chair.

KATIE

Oh, dad.

The pipes start to RATTLE somewhere in the house, indicating that Adrian has turned on the shower.

She exits to the lobby, and shouts up to her father.

KATIE  
I'm going for a walk. I'll eat when I get  
back.

No answer.

EXT. MEADOW - EVENING

Katie strolls through the long grass, running the long blades through her fingers. A single LIGHT shines from her porch, somewhat in the distance.

The FULL MOON above her lights the way. As she slowly walks home, a slight RUSTLING sound from behind her catches her attention.

She turns quickly, but nothing is there.

With a shake of her head and a grin, she continues on her meandering walk.

Another RUSTLE followed by a SNAP of a TWIG stops her still.

She spins around, nothing follows.

A small GUST of wind SWAYS the long grass around her. A small PATCH of grass starts to SWAY the opposite way.

With a quickened pace, Katie heads home.

Something GRUNTS. Her walk now turns to a DASH.

Katie CHARGES onto her property, house full in view.

KATIE  
(shouting)  
Dad!

As she gets to the lawn, she trips on a fallen piece of wood, sending her crashing to the ground.

Something GALLOPS through the grass towards her.

INT. GARDEN SHED - EVENING

Katie THROWS herself into the garden shed, SLAMMING the door shut. She quickly LOCKS it and backs up. After a brief moment, she slides a workbench over in front of the door and backs into the corner.

The shed is dark inside, the only light coming from the full moon shining through the dirty window.

She fumbles in the darkness and manages to pick up a rusted pair of garden sheers.

With a CRASH, the door SHUDDERS but does not break. Katie covers her mouth to stop from screaming.

Something charges into the side of the shed, shaking the foundations. Dust and debris filter down upon Katie.

Then SILENCE.

The only sound is Katie, BREATHING HEAVILY.

She slowly moves toward the window. From outside comes a GROWL, and it forces her back into the corner.

Something SNIFFS around the shed.

A voice calls out.

ADRIAN (O.S.)

Katie!

KATIE

Dad! I'm in here!

A few seconds pass. Katie decides to move towards the window.

She peers to the right. Nothing.

She peers to the left. Nothing.

Back to the right. Adrian's FACE flashes before her.

ADRIAN

Katie, are you okay?

KATIE

Dad!

Katie quickly slides the bench away and opens the door.

Adrian stands outside with a fire poker in his hand.

Katie falls into her father's arms.

ADRIAN

What the hell is going on?

KATIE  
Something chased me through the meadow.

Adrian looks towards the meadow.

ADRIAN  
But you're okay?

KATIE  
Yeah.

ADRIAN  
What was it?

KATIE  
Can we go inside?

The BREEZE has picked up and the grassy meadow sways eerily in the night.

ADRIAN  
Sure.

As they walk away from the shed, RED EYES back away into the long grass.

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie lays with her head on her arms. Adrian talks on the phone downstairs.

Katie moves to the door and opens it.

ADRIAN (O.S.)  
No, she never saw what it was. It chased her into our shed.

A pause.

ADRIAN (O.S.)  
A cougar? I see. How often?

Another pause.

ADRIAN (O.S.)  
Okay, thanks again, Mayor.

Katie lays back on the bed.

KATIE  
It wasn't a cougar.

INT. SMALL MEETING ROOM - AFTERNOON

A group of council members including Lucjan, Darius and Daman sit around the table talking. The door bursts open and Ridlow storms in.

He grabs a NERVOUS LOOKING COUNCIL MEMBER by the neck and slams him down upon the table. He walks to the far end, dragging the member along the table. A PURPLE HAZE wraps around the Ridlow's hand.

When he reaches the end of the table, Ridlow throws the council member against the wall and lifts him up by the throat.

RIDLOW  
(to the room)  
When I ask for a job to be done, I expect  
it to be done correctly.

NERVOUS MEMBER  
(flustered)  
I... I thought you wanted her dead?

RIDLOW  
When I ask for someone to keep an eye on  
a person, I expect that to be the case.  
Not to chase them through a bloody field.

The council member chokes. Ridlow lets him fall to the ground.

He turns and looks at another member.

RIDLOW  
I expect you to be more careful.

The scared council member nods in agreement.

LUCJAN  
Is it true?

RIDLOW  
I have returned with the book. We can use  
it to rid us of the curse.

DAMAN  
Then what are we waiting for?

RIDLOW

We have to be cautious. There are those among us, those who are not here who will oppose us. Some members of the council will side with Venglos.

DARIUS

Then we start with them.

RIDLOW

All in due time, Darius.

DAMAN

And the marked one?

RIDLOW

When the time is right, we will strike.

DAMAN

How did you find the book?

RIDLOW

We have friends. Even in the church.

DAMAN

And the one?

RIDLOW

The book showed me where to look.

LUCJAN

Then what is our plan?

RIDLOW

Tomorrow night. We take the marked one and perform the killing. In return, the curse will be lifted.

LUCJAN

What about Venglos and humans?

RIDLOW

I'll take care of Venglos. I leave the humans in your capable hands. Enjoy your last cursed hours.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Katie walks down the hallway to her locker. A student PUSHES by her towards a gathering crowd. As she jostles through the chanting, cheering crowd, she notices what is causing the ruckus.

Paul is being THROWN up against the lockers by Eric.

Katie runs to intervene.

KATIE  
Eric! Stop it!

ERIC  
(to Paul, quietly)  
You need to back the fuck off.

Eric throws Paul to the floor.

ERIC  
(to Katie)  
He won't bother you again.

KATIE  
When was he ever bothering me, Eric? And  
to be honest I don't need a bodyguard.

Paul climbs to his feet.

PAUL  
(wincing)  
I told you I wasn't bothering her.

Paul grabs his backpack and staggers down the hall. The students slowly disperse.

ERIC  
He's been eying you since day one. He's a  
creep, Katie.

Christian arrives on the scene.

CHRISTIAN  
Jesus H. Christ, what's gotten into you?

ERIC  
Not you too.

Louise arrives.

LOUISE  
What's going on?

ERIC  
Just drop it.

Eric storms off.

LOUISE  
What's up with him?

KATIE  
Not sure.

CHRISTIAN  
Yeah, that's not like the king of cool.

LOUISE  
Look, I've gotta go.

Louise gives Christian a peck on the cheek and heads off after Eric.

CHRISTIAN  
Need an escort?

Katie smiles.

KATIE  
Sure.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Katie and Christian meander down the hallway.

KATIE  
So what's with Romeo and Juliet?

CHRISTIAN  
She's from Devil's Peak. I'm from out of town. Her parents are old school. My parents work for the lumber industry.

KATIE  
You make a good pair.

CHRISTIAN  
Sort off, I guess. I mean, sometimes we're hot, sometimes we're not. It's complicated.

KATIE  
Aren't we all?

CHRISTIAN  
What about you and Eric?

KATIE  
Me and Eric?

CHRISTIAN

Sure. He seems interested.

KATIE

And a little over-protective.

CHRISTIAN

I think, once you get to know him, you'll find he's a nice enough guy.

KATIE

Yeah, he is kinda cool. In that weird, try and figure me out if you dare, kind of way.

They pause to pass some students.

KATIE

So, you don't live here?

CHRISTIAN

Nah. We live about thirty minutes away.

KATIE

Do you hang around in town?

CHRISTIAN

Not if I don't have to.

KATIE

(smiles)

So, you think a girl like me can survive in a place like this?

CHRISTIAN

(smiles)

If you can survive the first few weeks, you'll be all right.

KATIE

I guess I just need to get comfortable.

CHRISTIAN

It's hard to feel comfortable in a place where no one wants you.

JOE

A place where no one wants you, yet a place where everyone needs you.

Katie and Christian look at each other.

Old Joe, the janitor, cleans up a mess with a bucket of water. A small flask sits in his shirt pocket, almost falling out with every sweep.

KATIE

Excuse me?

JOE

Old Joe sees things. Things that would make a sane man go crazy. This is a dark place, best you spend as little time as you can here in Devil's Peak. Something mighty evil is brewing here.

With that said he continues on down the hallway, cleaning as he goes. Christian and Katie look at each other again.

CHRISTIAN

The only thing brewing around here is his next batch of liquor.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Christian stands at the sink, grooming himself. Eric walks in and over to the urinal. Christian spots him in the mirror.

CHRISTIAN

What the hell did Paul do?

ERIC

The guy has a hard-on for Katie. I was just putting him in his place.

CHRISTIAN

That's it?

ERIC

Yeah, man. That's it.

Eric finishes up and comes over to wash his hands. He looks stressed.

CHRISTIAN

Look. You can't go around beating up every guy she lays eyes on.

Eric relaxes against the wall.

ERIC

I could. I'm strong enough.

CHRISTIAN

That's not the way to win her over.

ERIC  
Then spill your secrets, Romeo.

CHRISTIAN  
First. You really need to apologize.

ERIC  
Noted.

CHRISTIAN  
Then you need to chill. Before you scare her away.

ERIC  
Yeah. I guess I'm a little on edge, huh?

CHRISTIAN  
A little?

ERIC  
I'm sorry, man. Trouble brewing in the homestead, if you know what I mean.

CHRISTIAN  
Just relax. Be yourself. You can be yourself, right?

ERIC  
I guess it depends on who I am.

EXT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Katie, Christian and Louise sit outside. Eric finally comes through the doors and approaches Katie.

ERIC  
Sorry about earlier.

KATIE  
No worries.

Christian and Louise are laughing together. Having a "hot" moment.

ERIC  
Look, let me make it up to you.

KATIE  
How?

ERIC  
Tonight. Burger and fries on me.

KATIE  
I don't know, Eric.

ERIC  
And in return, I'll only be an asshole to  
the people you want me to.

KATIE  
Well, when you put it that way...

They smile and turn to Christian and Louise.

ERIC  
Good news. I got the all clear for  
tomorrow night. We should hopefully be  
left alone.

CHRISTIAN  
That sounds re-assuring.

LOUISE  
Christian, you're my ride, right?

CHRISTIAN  
At your service, ma' lady.

Eric checks his watch.

ERIC  
Look, I gotta rush.  
(to Katie)  
So, we're on for tonight?

KATIE  
As long as you don't screw up in the  
meantime.

ERIC  
I'll take that as a yes.

Eric dashes off.

Christian turns to Katie.

CHRISTIAN  
Ooooh. Someone's got a date!

INT. WALLEY'S DINER - EVENING

Katie sips on a cola and munches on a burger and fries. Eric  
looks on, not smiling, but not hating things either.

ERIC  
I'm sorry.

KATIE  
It's okay, she was a good person.

ERIC  
So what did your mother do?

KATIE  
I'm not sure to be honest. She never talked about it much. Always shrugged it off and told me that she would explain it to me all in due time.

Katie's smile fades with the remembrance.

KATIE  
I guess that won't be happening anytime soon. So, what about you?

ERIC  
I have family here, but I've travelled. Soon I'll be able to explore all four corners of the world. Free to do whatever I want, whenever I want.

KATIE  
Sounds exiting!

ERIC  
Yeah well, everything comes at a price.

KATIE  
Whatcha' mean?

ERIC  
(quickly)  
Nevermind. How's the burger.

KATIE  
Great!

ERIC  
Thanks.

KATIE  
For what?

ERIC  
This.

KATIE  
(giggling, food in mouth)  
Why?

ERIC  
Ah, you know, it's rare to see me with a  
girl.

Katie laughs.

KATIE  
What!

ERIC  
(smiling)  
Don't laugh.

KATIE  
(smiling)  
I'm not. Honest.

Both of their smiles fade. There's a quiet moment as Katie  
plays with her food.

KATIE  
Have you ever thought about why we are  
here?

ERIC  
Tonight?

KATIE  
In life. Our purpose. I mean, why am I  
here in Devil's Peak. With you.  
(beat)  
Why did my mother die?

Eric thinks before answering.

ERIC  
My father says we all have a purpose. But  
it's defined by the actions we take.

Eric looks into Katie's eyes. After a moment, she smiles.

KATIE  
Those are deep words.

Eric is suddenly flustered.

ERIC  
 (awkward)  
 Yeah, well. Father knows best. Look, we must go.

KATIE  
 Oh, sure.

Eric gets up, leaving his half eaten food. Katie quickly grabs her stuff and takes one more quick sip of her soda. Eric makes a dash for the door. Katie tries to keep up.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - EVENING

The Phone RINGS and Adrian picks it up.

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

Dexter is at his desk, fidgeting with another tie.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

ADRIAN  
 Hello?

DEXTER  
 My main man.

ADRIAN  
 Dex, how are you?

DEXTER  
 Good, good.

ADRIAN  
 What can I do you for?

DEXTER  
 Business call today. I'm flying into Denver tomorrow afternoon. I have some papers you need to sign. You know, the normal contract shit.

ADRIAN  
 Tomorrow?

DEXTER  
 'Fraid so. I'd come visit, but I only have an hour stop over.

ADRIAN  
 I guess I'll be making a road trip.

DEXTER  
Bring Katie, make a weekend out of it.

ADRIAN  
I think she's got plans for tomorrow night.

DEXTER  
Oh well. Look, gotta rush. Plane lands at noon. It's flight SW101 from New York.

Adrian jots down the information on a notepad.

ADRIAN  
I'll meet you at arrivals then?

DEXTER  
Check ya later.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Eric's car pulls up and Katie gets out.

KATIE  
Thanks for the burger and fries. And the shoulder.

ERIC  
I had a good time, Katie. See you tomorrow night?

KATIE  
Sounds great.

Eric smiles, slams the car in gear and with a quick wave, is halfway down the driveway.

Katie stands there with a pondering look. She shakes her head and quickly enters.

INT. KATIE'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Adrian sits looking into a raging fire. He has a glass of whiskey in his hand, and a bottle close by.

Katie walks in and sees her father. She notices the notepad with the flight information scribbled down.

KATIE  
Dex coming to town?

ADRIAN  
I've gotta go to Denver tomorrow to meet  
him.

KATIE  
Long drive.

ADRIAN  
Yup.

KATIE  
Are you going to be okay?

ADRIAN  
Like how?

Katie picks up the empty whiskey bottle.

KATIE  
Like how much have you had?

ADRIAN  
I'm okay.

KATIE  
So, you're going to drink it all away?

ADRIAN  
Not now.

KATIE  
Well?

ADRIAN  
Well what? What do you want me to say,  
Katie? Do you want me to say that I could  
have stopped it? That I stood by and  
watched it happen?

KATIE  
No, it's not that.

ADRIAN  
(interrupting)  
Then what is it, Katie?

KATIE  
It's nothing.

ADRIAN  
You blame me.

KATIE

No I don't.

ADRIAN

You blame me, I can see it.

KATIE

That's not true.

ADRIAN

Goddammit, say it!

KATIE

Fine, you know what? I do blame you!

Silence.

KATIE

You let her down. Mom died because of you, and you did nothing. You were her husband. You were supposed to protect her. Now, we're in this shitty little town, spinning our wheels for what? So you can finally write that masterpiece or so you can run away from your problems again?

Adrian doesn't respond.

KATIE

Yeah, I thought so.

She storms out of the room. Adrian finally speaks.

ADRIAN

Feel better?

EXT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - EVENING

Along a gravel driveway sits a beautiful old house. With a huge lawn littered with water fountains and neatly trimmed hedges, it certainly reflects power and wealth.

A person walks up to the door and knocks. The door is opened and two people talk for a second before the person disappears inside. The door closes.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE STUDY - EVENING

Mayor Venglos sits by a raging fire talking to Casius.

CASIUS

It's true. They met today, and Ridlow has drummed up the support he needs.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Thank you, Casius.

CASIUS

You still have a few backers, but the lure of ridding us of this evil is not lightly ignored.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Indeed.

CASIUS

Can I ask you a question cousin?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Yes, it's true.

CASIUS

So, by tomorrow night, we could be one again?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Yes, but the book will want more. This will only be the beginning.

CASIUS

What about the marked one. What about the church?

MAYOR VENGLOS

The marked one is here, unknown to the church. They will be searching for the book and will find Ridlow before too long. For our sake we must try and stop Ridlow before it's too late. I have your nephew keeping an eye out on the child.

CASIUS

Paul?

MAYOR VENGLOS

I need the extra set of eyes. Can you talk to him, make sure he doesn't become involved.

CASIUS

He is a hard boy to control, but I will try.

Mayor Venglos gets up and pours himself a drink.

MAYOR VENGLOS

I don't think Ridlow realizes what he has started.

CASIUS

If the book is so dangerous, how come the church did not destroy it when they found it?

MAYOR VENGLOS

They tried on many occasions, but could not. That's why the decision was made to have it taken away and guarded.

CASIUS

There is a group of us. We will stand by you and try to stop him. After that, we can move on. There are many other places where we can go in peace.

MAYOR VENGLOS

We must make sure the book is returned to the church.

CASIUS

Rumor is that he has already used it for his own good.

MAYOR VENGLOS

For what?

CASIUS

He has handed out some liquid wolfsbane.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Thank you, Casius.

CASIUS

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to be free?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Many times. I know that there is no going back for us. We are what we are. I worry more about the book and the consequences of using it.

He looks out of the window and sighs.

MAYOR VENGLOS

It will be a pity to leave this place. It  
has been a good home for all of us.

(beat)

We better get ready.

They shake hands.

INT. KATIE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Adrian sits at a small table, eating breakfast. He has his  
briefcase sitting next to him and is already dressed.

Katie enters, yawning.

She shuffles over to the kitchen counter.

ADRIAN

I left some eggs and toast for you.

Katie grabs a plate and tosses the cold food onto it.

ADRIAN

Are you sure you don't want to come  
along?

KATIE

Maybe next time. Tell Dex I say hi.

ADRIAN

All right then.

He gets up and leaves the kitchen. Katie takes a seat at the  
table.

A moment later, Adrian returns with his keys.

ADRIAN

Well, I'm gone then.

KATIE

Okay.

There is still a quiet awkwardness.

ADRIAN

I should be home later tonight.

KATIE

Yeah.

He gets one step out of the kitchen before Katie calls out.

KATIE  
Dad!

ADRIAN  
What?

KATIE  
Pick me up one of those large chocolate bars?

She looks up and gives him a smile. A smile which is sincerely returned.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Katie is in a tracksuit and locks the front door. She puts on some headphones, and runs down the driveway. DARK clouds loom overhead as thunder RUMBLES off in the distance.

As she takes off down the driveway, she doesn't hear the phone RING inside.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The Mayor and Casius sit in his office.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
No answer.

CASIUS  
He moves tonight. What do we do?

MAYOR VENGLOS  
We need to find them.

INT. RIDLOW'S HOUSE LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ridlow sits in his living room, talking to Lucjan and Daman. They are in an animated discussion.

RIDLOW  
Well, we need to find them, send someone out.

LUCJAN  
And Venglos?

RIDLOW  
We take him tonight. I have Darius setting up the meeting place. Something a little special for the occasion.

LUCJAN  
And the humans?

RIDLOW  
As I've said before, kill them. Once we are finished here, we leave nothing behind.

DAMAN  
(unsure)  
Do we kill them all? I mean, won't we be human too?

Ridlow snaps back.

RIDLOW  
I have no interest in them. We do what is needed and what is asked for by the book.

The council member looks concerned.

LUCJAN  
Do you have more wolfsbane?

RIDLOW  
We have enough for what is needed.

EXT. ROAD - AFTERNOON

Katie runs along the road. A drop of rain spots down upon her as she stops to take a breather.

She opens her palm upwards to feel the droplets.

KATIE  
Ah, crap.

Around the bend, a truck passes. It stops and does a U-turn. Katie spots this, and waits for the approach.

The truck slowly pulls up beside her and the door pops open. Katie leans in to see who it is.

KATIE  
What are you doing here?

CHRISTIAN  
I have to drop some documents off at the Mayer's office for my parents. Something to do with the accident.

KATIE  
Always the helping hand?

CHRISTIAN

It's in my nature. Hop in. Looks like  
it's gonna pour down. I'll drop you home.

KATIE

Sure.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Eric knocks on the door. No response. He steps back and tries to look in the windows. He knocks again. Still, no response.

He walks back to his car, muttering.

He steps into the car and drives down the driveway.

At the end of the driveway, Eric's car turns left and disappears.

After a few moments, Christian's car turns into the driveway.

It stops and Katie gets out. She leans into the window.

KATIE

Thanks. Wanna hang for a bit?

CHRISTIAN

Can't. Gotta pick up Louise.

KATIE

It never ends.

She gets to the front door, unlocks it and enters.

Christian heads back down the driveway.

The rain POURS down.

INT. SMALL MEETING ROOM - EVENING

Ridlow sits at a desk in a dimly lit room. He talks on the phone.

RIDLOW

(into phone)

Continue on with the plan. Yes. We are  
almost ready. Is the barn ready yet? Well  
get it finished!

INT. KATIE'S BATHROOM - EVENING

Katie pulls a top on over her head.

On her neck is a small mark. It's quickly covered with her top.

Thunder ROLLS outside as a FLASH of lightning temporarily lights up the room.

There is a KNOCK at the door downstairs.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Katie opens the door.

Eric stands in the pouring rain. He wears dark clothes and a long wool trench coat.

KATIE  
You brought the rain.

Eric looks up to the sky, distant.

ERIC  
Where were you earlier?

KATIE  
Out.

Eric snaps out of it and looks to Katie and smiles.

ERIC  
You look great.

KATIE  
Thanks.  
(beat)  
Well, let's get this party started.

Katie runs to the car, Eric follows behind.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - EVENING

Eric and Katie slam the doors shut.

ERIC  
Chris and Louise are meeting us there.

KATIE  
Cool.

ERIC  
Where's your dad?

KATIE

Oh, he had to go to Denver for the day.  
He should be back later.

ERIC

Oh.

KATIE

Looks like this is gonna go on all night.

ERIC

I won't let it dampen our adventure.

INT. ADRIAN'S JEEP - EVENING

Adrian drives along a dark twisty road. The wipers are on full force as he strains to see the curves in the road.

Adrian has his cell phone lodged between his shoulder and ear.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - EVENING

The phone RINGS in the darkness of the study.

A SHADOW passes by the window, inside the house.

INT. ADRIAN'S JEEP - EVENING

Adrian hangs up the phone, and throws it onto the passenger seat.

He passes a road sign, partially hidden by trees.

It reads "*Devil's Peak 100 miles.*"

EXT. STREET - EVENING

The rain continues to pour down upon Devil's Peak.

Eric's car pulls up opposite a huge house.

Loud TECHNO music echoes out of the house as kids drink, sing and groove to the beat. Though most people have moved inside, a few brave dancers continue the fun on the front lawn.

As if on cue, Christian and Louise arrive next to Eric's car.

CHRISTIAN

Looks like the rain isn't letting up.

KATIE

What are we waiting for?

ERIC

Let's go.

The four of them dash across the street and up the pathway to the house.

As they get to the entrance of the house, TWO LOCAL COPS are on their way out.

The officer smiles and tips his hat to Eric. The couples move into the house.

KATIE

Do you know them?

ERIC

Friends of my father.

KATIE

Do you think they'll shut the party down. Especially with so many of us from outta town?

ERIC

They're cool. I don't think anyone's gonna care tonight.

Just before they enter, Christian grabs Eric by the arm.

CHRISTIAN

Remember, first sign of any trouble and we're outta here.

EXT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Two HEADLIGHTS turn up the driveway.

INT. KATIE'S HOUSE - EVENING

The door swings open as Adrian bursts in, shaking down his wet clothes.

He dumps his briefcase onto the floor and enters kitchen. He returns a moment later with a beer.

INT. KATIE'S STUDY - EVENING

Adrian walks in and places the beer onto his desk, sits down and turns on his computer.

Something MOVES behind him.

Adrian spins around him.

ADRIAN

Hello?

A figure moves out from the shadows.

CASIUS

Your daughter is in trouble.

ADRIAN

Who the hell are you?

CASIUS

We're here to help.

ADRIAN

Where's my daughter?

CASIUS

Please, we must go.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - EVENING

The music continues to blast through speakers all around the house.

Christian, Louise and Katie sit talking. Eric looks out of a window at the stormy weather.

Christian wanders over.

CHRISTIAN

Hey dude, don't worry. The storm is moving out. Won't ruin any plans.

ERIC

Plans. Right.

Louise joins them.

LOUISE

Eric, relax. Everything's going well.

ERIC

I know it is.

Eric steals a look at Katie, sitting, watching people dance.

CHRISTIAN

Well, I'm treating myself to a cold one.

The front door swings open.

More locals walk in. They all wear dark clothes and long trench coats. They are greeted and disperse amongst the crowd.

ERIC  
Wait here.

Eric walks over and talks to one of the locals.

Katie joins Christian and Louise.

KATIE  
Anything wrong?

LOUISE  
Everything's fine.

After a moment, Eric returns.

CHRISTIAN  
You know him?

ERIC  
We go back.

Christian and Katie seem at unease.

ERIC  
We should go.

CHRISTIAN  
Excellent idea.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - EVENING

The music continues in the background.

Christian and Louise lean into the window of Eric's car.

CHRISTIAN  
So, we're gonna head up to the hangout?

ERIC  
That's the plan.

CHRISTIAN  
Well, let's roll.

Christian and Louise make a dash through the rain to Christian's car.

Eric starts to fumble around in the glove compartment.

ERIC

Hmm.

He quickly pads himself down.

He looks all around in a panic.

KATIE

What's wrong?

ERIC

Open the glove box.

KATIE

What?

ERIC

The glove box. Is there anything inside?

Katie opens it up and rummages through it.

KATIE

Nope, just some papers.

Eric, seemingly not believing her, reaches over and stuffs his hand into it.

ERIC

Shit.

KATIE

(worrying)

Are you okay?

Eric is not listening, just cursing under his breath.

ERIC

Shit, shit, shit.

KATIE

Eric?

After a pause, he winces to himself.

ERIC

We need to go to the school.

KATIE

What?

ERIC

The school. I've forgot something.

KATIE  
Can't it wait?

ERIC  
No! It can't wait.

Katie is taken back by the snap in his voice.

ERIC  
(apologetic)  
Sorry. It's medicine. I need it.

KATIE  
Medicine?

ERIC  
We need to get it. Right now.

KATIE  
You never mentioned--

ERIC  
(interrupting)  
I don't like to talk about it.

KATIE  
What's wrong?

Eric is agitated with the conversion.

ERIC  
It's a blood disorder. My grandfather had  
it, my father has it, I have it.

Eric slams the car into gear and shoots off down the road.

Back across the street, the party continues.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE - EVENING

The Mayor moves to answer a KNOCK at his front door. He opens  
it to see Adrian and Casius.

Adrian barges in.

ADRIAN  
Where's Katie?

MAYOR VENGLOS  
Thank you for coming.

He motions towards Casius.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Get us a drink.

ADRIAN

I don't want a Goddamn drink. I want to know where the hell my daughter is.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Please sit down.

Adrian, agitated, sits down.

ADRIAN

Please.

MAYOR VENGLOS

What I am going to tell you may not make sense. But, for the sake of Katie, you must understand.

ADRIAN

Go on.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Katie's life is in danger.

ADRIAN

How?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Where to begin, where to begin.

Casius hands them drinks.

MAYOR VENGLOS

During one of the many Crusades, crusaders found startling evidence of a new form of religion. A black church. This church swore allegiance to Lucifer and Lucifer only. Through a book, Lucifer spoke of a portal to a new life. A world without religion, war and poverty. The church, fearing that these worshippers would open a gateway to hell, burned all the evidence they could find and killed any heretics that they crossed. They found the book and quickly took it to the Vatican for safe keeping.

Adrian sits, shaking his head.

ADRIAN

I don't get it?

MAYOR VENGLOS

The church couldn't destroy the book, so they ordered a family to guard it. The church told them that every generation of the family would bear a child with a mark. This child would be taken in by the church and taught to protect the book. Sure enough, the family's next born had a mark on its neck.

Adrian gets up.

ADRIAN

I don't need this shit.

CASIUS

Hear us out. Please.

MAYOR VENGLOS

This community is not what it seems. There is a dark secret that lies here. Ridlow has somehow found the book and it has promised to rid us of our curse. In return, Ridlow must kill the marked one.

EXT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL - EVENING

Eric's car comes to a stop in the parking lot of the school. There are no lights on inside, but there is a small, rusty car parked near the entrance.

KATIE

No lights.

ERIC

We need to get in.

KATIE

Can't we call someone?

ERIC

We don't have time.

Eric pauses and looks around, spotting the car.

ERIC

Looks like old Joe might be here. That's his car.

The couple get out of the car and walk over to the front doors. They give them a shake, but they are padlocked.

They wander around back to see if there are any other ways in. Eric is getting increasingly frustrated.

KATIE  
What about there?

Katie points to a window, partially open. The window is on the second level, above a ledge.

The ledge is just high enough to propel someone up upon.

KATIE  
I take it there's no alarm?

ERIC  
Unless you call Joe the alarm.

KATIE  
Well then, it's settled.

ERIC  
I'll go first.

Eric easily propels himself up the wall onto the ledge. To the astonishment of Katie.

He peers into the window before opening it even wider. He is about to step in before turning back to Katie.

KATIE  
Are you gonna pull me up?

Eric reaches down with one hand to pull her up. Katie gives him a skeptical look.

ERIC  
We don't have time. Come on!

She reaches up with one hand. Eric grabs her, and easily pulls her up onto the ledge.

ERIC  
Let's go.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - EVENING

The first silhouette emerges through the window and drops to the floor. The second, more feminine figure follows.

Both intruders make their way past desks to the closed door. With a RATTLE of the doorknob, they come to realize it is locked tight.

Eric is about to break it down when Katie holds him back.

KATIE

Wait.

Katie looks around the classroom, and walks over to the teachers desk. She rummages around until she comes across something she likes.

KATIE

Perfect. Some things you learn in a big city.

She stands in front of the door, and fiddles with the doorknob. After a moment, the lock clicks and the door is open.

She produces a PAPERCLIP.

KATIE

Voila.

Eric pushes past Katie into the DARK hallway.

ERIC

It would have been quicker to smash it down.

KATIE

(under her breath)  
You're welcome.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE STUDY - EVENING

Adrian paces around the room as Casius stands by. The Mayor sits in his chair telling the story.

ADRIAN

I still don't understand what this has to do with Katie?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Ridlow is planning to sacrifice the marked one tonight. With the family deceased and the book out of the church's reach, they plan on opening the gates to hell. Whether Ridlow knows that or not.

ADRIAN

And Katie?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Your wife grew up in Rome and worked for the church, correct?

ADRIAN

Yes.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Once you married her, you moved to Italy. You had Katie and began raising her there.

ADRIAN

How do you know this?

CASIUS

When you arrived, the Mayor asked me to look into your past.

MAYOR VENGLOS

Have you ever noticed a mark on Katie's neck?

Adrian stands up.

ADRIAN

Katie is the marked child?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Your wife was a protector and Katie was next in line. There was no coincidence about your wife's death and Katie is next.

ADRIAN

They killed my wife?

MAYOR VENGLOS

Yes. Ridlow hopes by sacrificing Katie tonight that the book will help lift a curse that has plagued us.

ADRIAN

What curse?

The mayor looks at Casius.

MAYOR VENGLOS

You could say we have been cursed with an alternate life. Something that is uncontrollable when the moon is full. We get a thirst that is unspeakable.

(MORE)

MAYOR VENGLLOS (CONT'D)

A pain that is unbearable. There is a reason that we live in this small town.

ADRIAN

Wait a minute.

CASIUS

(interrupting)

We can't help it. We were born with it, or we were been bitten and survived.

ADRIAN

That's it.

He gets up and points to the mayor.

ADRIAN

You're fucking crazy.

Turns and points to Casius.

ADRIAN

You're fucking crazy.

He takes two steps towards the door and turns back towards them.

ADRIAN

Werewolves? This whole town needs to be turned into a goddamn asylum. I'm getting my daughter and I'm getting the hell out of here tonight.

Adrian turns to leave but is stopped by Casius.

CASIUS

Believe us or not, but as soon as that moon appears you will see for yourself. Ridlow is dangerous and he has a tool of destruction. It won't be easy getting to Katie.

From behind them all, a pair of hands CLAP. All three turn around.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - EVENING

Sleeping bags are sprawled out around a dusty floor of an old living room. Ancient wallpaper peels off the walls and the windows are boarded up.

A mini stereo plays a slow song in the background.

Christian and Louise sit laughing. Empty bottles of beer lay here and there and a joint sits in an ashtray.

CHRISTIAN  
Where are they?

LOUISE  
Eric will take care of her.

Christian gets up and peers out through a space in the boarded up window.

CHRISTIAN  
Looks like the clouds are moving on.  
Finally.

LOUISE  
Already? We should go for a walk.

CHRISTIAN  
A walk. Now?

LOUISE  
Please... for me?

CHRISTIAN  
Well, I guess we could.

Louise turns on the charm. She moves close to him.

LOUISE  
Let's go where it's a little more  
romantic.

She hugs him, but there is a darkness in her eyes.

INT. MAYOR'S HOUSE STUDY - EVENING

Ridlow and TWO HENCHMEN walk into the meeting.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
Ridlow!

Adrian gets up to confront him.

ADRIAN  
Where is my daughter?

RIDLOW  
In good hands.

Adrian is held back by Ridlow's henchmen.

RIDLOW  
I take it you've been filled in about  
tonight's activities.

ADRIAN  
If you lay your hands on my daughter.

RIDLOW  
(interrupting)  
You'll do what? Save her like you saved  
your wife?

Ridlow walks over to the huge window and looks out to the slowly dispersing clouds.

RIDLOW  
In a few moments, things are gonna get a  
little hairy.

Ridlow nods to a henchman.

The henchman grabs a candlestick and hits Adrian on the back of the head, knocking him to the floor.

Casius makes a move to intervene, but Ridlow SWINGS around lighting quick and in a cloud of purple haze, thrusts out his arm.

Casius looks down in horror as he sees Ridlow's arm plow through his chest, right through his heart.

Blood splutters down from his mouth as he crumples to the floor.

The other henchman grabs the MAYOR and pins him down on the couch.

Ridlow walks over to him.

RIDLOW  
We can't have you changing on us.

Ridlow produces a small box from his coat. He opens it up to reveal a needle. He takes it out and inserts it into the struggling Mayor.

Outside the window, the FULL MOON appears.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - LATE EVENING

In a long dark hallway full of lockers, two figures fumble their way down the corridor. They stop every so often to JIGGLE with a lock.

ERIC  
(whispering)  
I think this is it.

KATIE  
You said that twenty--

She whispers.

KATIE  
Twenty lockers ago.

Eric yanks at the locker.

ERIC  
Damn it. Think!

They both walk around the corner before Eric stops. He looks over, counts to himself and walks back six lockers.

ERIC  
This one.

He fiddles with the lock, and it pops open. Eric quickly reaches in, and produces a pouch.

ERIC  
Gimme a second.

Almost instantaneously, Eric falls to the floor grabbing his chest.

KATIE  
Eric!

He manages to get the pouch open, and pulls out a needle. He quickly rolls up his sleeve and inserts the needle.

KATIE  
Eric, are you okay?

The initial pain seems to have subsided, and Eric climbs to his feet.

ERIC  
I'm fine.

Eric puts the pouch into his pocket.

ERIC  
Let's go.

He closes the locker. Katie grabs his arm.

ERIC  
What?

KATIE  
Did you hear that?

They both pause. Nothing.

KATIE  
That.

Again, nothing.

KATIE  
Sorry, must be me.

Somewhere in the school, a window SMASHES.

KATIE  
You must have heard that?

ERIC  
Must have been Joe. Drunken fool.

KATIE  
Can I ask you a question?

ERIC  
The needle?

KATIE  
What is it?

ERIC  
I'll tell you later.

Eric looks around the corner.

CRASH.

A wastebasket is knocked over. This time a little closer.

ERIC  
I heard that, let's go.

The two quicken the pace.

BANG.

Again, something else falls. The noise is closer than before.

The two grab hands and turn their quick pace into a light jog. They hurry down the corridor and hang a sharp right, after a few feet they slow to a walk.

ERIC  
Keep moving.

They continue walking down the hall.

CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

The sound of nails on tile flooring.

Eric and Katie spin around.

Nothing.

They walk again.

CLICK. CLICK.

Again, they spin around.

Again, nothing.

CLICK.

They burst into a run down the hallway. First LEFT, second RIGHT, down a long dark hallway. No exit signs yet.

They come to an intersection of hallways. Eric stops them, then steps out into the middle. He slowly spins around.

Nothing but their heavy BREATHING.

A GROWL shatters the silence.

Another louder GROWL. Closer.

CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

The GROWL is almost on top of them...

It stops.

SILENCE.

Eric looks around, looks at Katie and slowly motions her over. She tiptoes over to meet Eric.

Katie looks over his shoulder, nudging his elbow.

At first it's not clear, but sure enough at the end of one of the hallways, a DARK SET OF EYES emerge.

For a second, they disappear. But only for a second.

ERIC  
(whispering)  
Run.

They explode in a RUN down the opposite hallway. They hit a sharp RIGHT. Something behind them overshoots the turn and CRASHES into lockers.

Again they hit another corner. Finally, ahead of them is a glowing EXIT sign. They burst through some double doors.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - LATE EVENING

Katie and Eric burst in the gymnasium.

They dart across the basketball court to the far corner where a set of doors lead outside into the night. They both CRASH into them.

They don't budge.

Again, they push at them. Again, they don't budge.

Katie looks down. The doors are padlocked.

Something enters the gym from the far left hand corner where they had just come from.

KATIE  
Eric. Oh shit.

They both back up against the doors. Katie's left arm is outstretched against the wall. Inadvertently, she hits a light switch.

Suddenly a set of lights buzz into life. The far side of the gym slowly lights up.

KATIE  
What the hell is that?

A huge GREY WEREWOLF strides into the gym.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - LATE EVENING

Two kids stand outside of a bathroom BANGING on the door.

RAVER #1

Come on man. I've been waitin' ten minutes already.

RAVER #2

Come on dude.

They bang again.

There is a COMMOTION inside. They look at each other, and one of them presses his ear against the door.

CRASH.

The door is sent SHATTERING down upon the kid. His friend STAGGERS back.

RAVER #1

What the fuck!

A WEREWOLF pounces out and rips a chunk out of his neck. Blood SPURTS up against a family portrait on the wall.

There are SCREAMS beginning to ECHO downstairs as the other WEREWOLVES complete their transformations and start rampaging through the house.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - LATE EVENING

A WEREWOLF CRASHES through the front window of the house. It brings with it a bloodied corpse.

People are trying to escape through the backyard and front door of the house. The WEREWOLVES are teaming up, blocking and cornering escapees.

The FULL MOON shines through the parting clouds.

The night has begun.

INT. CAR - LATE EVENING

The car speeds down a dark dusty road, heading up towards the center of the small town.

Riding in the front of the car is Ridlow and the DRIVER. Sitting in the rear is the unconscious Adrian and the Mayor, flanked on both sides by Ridlow's henchmen.

They skid around the corner towards the light of town.

Ahead they can see what looks like total chaos. There are buildings BURNING, with smoke rising up into the night.

Every so often a person dashes out of the shadows and disappears, chased by a werewolf.

As the car drives on, a werewolf JUMPS out in front of the car, startling the passengers and driver.

The car hits the werewolf, knocking it into a ditch. It careens across the road and rams into a power pole. The pole sways a little before crashing down.

Instantaneously the lights go off around town. Devil's Peak is in complete darkness.

The back door opens and one of the henchmen slides down, unconscious. Adrian clambers out of the car, his head BLOODIED.

He staggers to his feet, and limps to the closest building, Mac's Convenience.

He stands outside for a moment and reads the sign:

*"We Also Carry Hunting Supplies!!"*

Something has been smeared in blood on the door:

*"Die!"*

He pushes it open and stumbles in.

INT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - LATE EVENING

The grey werewolf strides towards Eric and Katie.

It moves right up to Katie and SNIFFS her hair.

ERIC  
(under his breath)  
I told you to back the fuck off.

The grey werewolf turns and GROWLS at Eric.

ERIC  
(to Katie)  
There's a door to the right. When I make a move, you run towards it.

Over in the far right hand corner, there is another door leading out of the gymnasium.

KATIE  
I can't.

ERIC  
Do as I say.

The grey werewolf focuses on Eric and GROWLS at him.

ERIC  
When I say go, you run your fucking heart  
out.

Katie is weeping.

ERIC  
GO!

CRASH!

Just as Katie is about to make a move towards the doors, they  
SMASH open.

A second, huge BLACK WEREWOLF emerges from the shadows onto  
the court. The grey werewolf turns around with a CRY.

Eric sees this and stops in his tracks.

ERIC  
Okay, we can get out of here.

Katie slams herself back to the wall.

ERIC  
Come on!

The black werewolf ignores Katie and charges the grey  
werewolf.

It hits the grey werewolf with full force and sends it  
skidding across the court into a padded wall.

The grey werewolf climbs to its feet. They look each other up  
and down, then CHARGE!

Eric and Katie are back in the corner of the gym, next to the  
exit doors.

ERIC  
We have to make a run for it. We'll be  
okay.

The two werewolves hit each other head on. The grey werewolf  
takes the brunt of the attack and is sent hurdling into the  
bleachers.

The black werewolf swings around and looks at Katie and Eric.

It turns again and jumps into the bleachers.

Eric fiddles with the padlocks on the door.

A FACE appears. Old Joe peers through the small windows, and waves them away from the doors.

Katie and Eric step to the side of the doors.

BANG! BANG!

Old Joe shoots the door, piercing the padlocks. Eric takes a final charge at the door and knocks them open.

Back at the bleachers, the black werewolf strides along looking for the grey werewolf. From the top of the seats the grey werewolf pounces down and sends them crashing onto the floor.

Its a lucky shot. The grey werewolf bears down upon the neck, piercing the strong black skin and ripping into the arteries.

When they finally come to rest, the black werewolf is dead. The grey one gets up, shakes off the contest and gives out a long victorious HOWL.

EXT. DEVIL'S PEAK HIGH SCHOOL - LATE EVENING

Katie and Eric are met by Old Joe. They dart around the parking lot towards Joe's car.

JOE  
Here, quick!

From within the school, they hear the HOWL.

INT. JOE'S CAR - LATE EVENING

Joe, Katie and Eric jump into Joe's car. Joe tosses the keys to Eric.

JOE  
Drive!

Eric gets the car into gear just as something emerges from the corner of the building. Katie looks back at the werewolf.

KATIE  
Eric, step on it!

The car screeches out of the parking lot.

The grey werewolf stops under some floodlights. The light fixtures flicker and go out.

The grey werewolf heads out into the woods in the same direction.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE - NIGHT

Christian and Louise walk up over the mountainside. The clouds break above them.

Louise looks up to the sky, then behind where they came up.

                  LOUISE  
We should be safe here.

                  CHRISTIAN  
What was that?

Louise suddenly grabs her side.

                  LOUISE  
I gotta go.

                  CHRISTIAN  
Go where?

                  LOUISE  
You know, go.

                  CHRISTIAN  
Are you okay?

                  LOUISE  
Yeah. Just give me a second.

Louise moves in behind some rocks.

                  LOUISE (O.S.)  
I'll just be a moment!

Christian heads up a little more.

                  CHRISTIAN  
(shouting)  
I'm just gonna take a look over the edge.

No answer.

The FULL MOON illuminates the way for Christian as he heads up to a little overhang where he can see the town.

There is a glow coming from below.

CHRISTIAN  
What the...?

Christian steps over some boulders and jumps down to a plateau.

He walks to the edge in awe.

Below, half of Devil's Peak is BURNING. There are no lights but for random BEAMS from car headlights disappearing in and out of sight.

CHRISTIAN  
(shocked)  
What the hell is going on?

He quickly turns back and climbs up again.

CHRISTIAN  
Louise?

He steps down the ridge.

CHRISTIAN  
Are you there?

Still no answer.

Christian returns to where he left Louise.

CHRISTIAN  
Where are you?

There is a painful moan.

CHRISTIAN  
(quietly)  
Louise?

Christian turns around to see Louise, or what seems to be her, leaning against the rocks.

A BROKEN NEEDLE PROTRUDES from her skin, blood spurting out onto the rocky floor. She looks painfully up at Christian with dark, red eyes. Blisters and sores cover her face. Her right arm is much longer than before.

She GROWLS at him.

LOUISE  
Get out of here!

CHRISTIAN

Oh my God.

Christian steps towards her. Louise's throat starts to GURGLE and she spits out blood.

LOUISE

Run!

CHRISTIAN

Holy shit.

Christian backs away. Louise speaks one last time.

LOUISE

I'm sorry. I tried to protect you!

Christian turns and FLEES.

Something below makes its way up towards them.

Christian turns the corner and comes face to face with a WEREWOLF.

He slides to a halt. The werewolf blocks his path.

CHRISTIAN

Not good.

Someone moves behind Christian. He spins around just as the werewolf pounces.

EXT. DARK ROAD - NIGHT

Joe's car comes careening around a corner.

The car comes to a stop in front of FLASHING LIGHTS.

A police car sits blocking the road ahead and OFFICER ROBERTS, a cocky cop from the next town stands in the road.

Eric turns off the car and steps out. Katie and Joe follow.

OFFICER ROBERTS

Sorry folks, this is as far as you can go.

KATIE

What do you mean?

OFFICER ROBERTS

Looks like a landslide. The whole road's washed out. I was on my way back to Hope Falls.

Eric looks at the squad car. Hope Falls P.D.

OFFICER ROBERTS

I guess I won't be getting anywhere near home tonight.

Katie steps out from behind Eric.

KATIE

Look, something terrible is happening. I need to get to my father.

The Policeman shines his light onto Eric and Joe.

OFFICER ROBERTS

Is there a problem here?

He recognizes Joe.

OFFICER ROBERTS

Is that you Joe? Have you been on the bottle again?

JOE

(stuttering)

No... no sir.

OFFICER ROBERTS

If you've given these kids alcohol...

JOE

Haven't done a thing, sir.

Joe looks nervous.

KATIE

You have to listen. There was something back at the school. It attacked us. We need to warn people.

OFFICER ROBERTS

Okay, just settle down. Tell me what's happening.

Eric looks around.

ERIC  
(under his breath)  
We don't have time for this.

The policeman shines his light onto Eric, then back to Katie.

KATIE  
Some kind of beast attacked us. It's  
still out there.

Officer Roberts smirks.

OFFICER ROBERTS  
A beast, you say?

KATIE  
Yeah. It looked like a bear, no, a wolf --  
or -- I don't know?

The cop chuckles.

JOE  
It's true. I saw it with my own eyes,  
yup.

OFFICER ROBERTS  
(sarcastic)  
Okay, and then what happened?

ERIC  
(to the others)  
Look, we don't have time for this shit.  
We'll head the other way.

The CB Radio in the cruiser CRACKLES to life. Officer Roberts bends down to answer it.

Eric turns back towards Katie and Joe. His eyes grow wide in terror.

Katie GASPS and turns to Joe.

A horrible look overcomes Joe as he realizes that both Katie and Eric are looking over his shoulder.

There is HEAVY BREATHING and a GROWL.

From behind Joe, the grey werewolf rises above him and crashes down, sending Joe's gun hurtling along the road.

Eric and Katie fall onto their backs SCREAMING. The grey werewolf clamps down onto the head of Joe and rips it clean off. Blood gushes into the air.

The BEAST shakes the head off, and sends it into the darkness.

KATIE  
Shoot it! Shoot it!

Officer Roberts drops his CB radio in mid conversation. He stands frozen.

ERIC  
Shoot it. Now!

OFFICER ROBERTS  
I... I...

Eric and Katie shuffle back towards the cop car. Eric leans up against the back passenger door, Katie next to him.

The officer still hasn't moved.

OFFICER ROBERTS  
What the hell is it?

Officer Roberts panics, and makes a dash for the trees.

KATIE  
No!

The grey werewolf starts for Katie and Eric, then decides to take out the cop.

ERIC  
Inside the car.

The grey werewolf pounces over a dozen feet and brings down Officer Roberts, face first.

The cop hits the road hard with the werewolf on top of him. It makes quick work and snaps the neck instantly.

INT. OFFICER ROBERTS POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Eric is in the back of the cruiser. Katie is in the front.

ERIC  
Drive!

Katie goes to turn the ignition. It's empty.

KATIE  
Oh shit. No keys.

EXT. OFFICER ROBERTS POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Officer Roberts' keys DANGLE from the open trunk of the car.

INT. OFFICER ROBERTS POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Eric watches Katie fumble around the front of the cop car, looking for an extra set of keys.

ERIC  
Grab the gun.

Eric points to the shotgun between the seats.

ERIC  
And the ammo.

Katie grabs the gun and the ammo next to it.

The headlights of the car shine on the werewolf chomping down onto the dead officer.

ERIC  
Get out of the car and let me out.

Katie climbs over the seat and climbs down onto the road.

EXT. DARK ROAD - NIGHT

Katie slowly opens the passenger door for Eric. He drops onto the road.

ERIC  
The gun.

Katie gives Eric the shotgun, and he quickly loads two shells in, snapping it shut.

They both look at each other.

SILENCE.

They look across the road and see the dead officer's body. No grey werewolf.

A ROAR from behind sends them spinning around. The grey werewolf is in mid-flight towards Eric. He falls back, firing the shotgun.

BANG!

The BEAST falls motionless on top of Eric.

He fights to get from beneath it.

KATIE

Eric?

Eric climbs free.

ERIC

Get back.

Katie steps away as Eric turns to the beast. It is still alive, despite the huge gapping hole in its mid-section.

Eric steps on its head and lowers the shotgun.

ERIC

(to the beast)

Nice try...

He pulls the trigger.

BANG.

Blood and guts spray all over Eric's face.

An evil look quickly passes over Eric's face as he looks up at Katie. Blood drips from his nose.

KATIE

(slowly, quietly)

Eric...?

Eric walks over to Katie.

ERIC

We gotta go.

He grabs her elbow and leads her away. Just as they get to Joe's car, Katie breaks free.

KATIE

We need more ammo.

ERIC

Katie!

Katie rushes back to the police car.

She leans in to pick up some more shells, but notices a human form laying on the ground where the beast fell.

KATIE

Paul?

She reverses quickly out of the car and bangs into Eric. She turns around.

KATIE  
Oh my God.

She bursts into tears. Eric shows no emotion.

ERIC  
Come on. We gotta go.

INT. JOE'S CAR - NIGHT

Eric heads back past the school towards the center of town. Katie sits, weeping in the passenger seat.

KATIE  
What's going on?

ERIC  
My dad will know what to do.

KATIE  
Why was Paul there?

ERIC  
I don't know.

KATIE  
I don't understand. We should go to the police.

ERIC  
No, they won't believe us. My dad will.

KATIE  
(to herself)  
Dad...

INT. MAC'S CONVENIENCE - NIGHT

Adrian steps into the darkened store. Door CHIMES ring out above him.

The store is medium size, with half a dozen aisles. Adrian spots a counter at the back.

A couple of emergency lights FLICKER on and off.

From outside the store, Adrian can hear a HOWL.

ADRIAN  
Jesus.

He puts his hand to his head and feels blood, but not enough to worry him.

He heads to the back of the store. He picks an aisle and walks down it, stepping over carts and smashed produce. As he continues, he steps in something GOOEY.

Adrian stops and looks down. An arm lays in a pool of blood. The hand is still holding a can of corn.

The store is EERILY quiet. There is a glass counter with various tools and fishing gear. He wanders down until he gets to a display of various flashlights, lit by the emergency lights.

Adrian jumps over the counter and grabs some flashlights from the counter. He CLICKS various flashlights until one finally turns on.

He walks down the counter looking for weapons, stepping around a mess of things.

He gets to a locked display. It houses rifles and guns of all sizes. He uses the back of the flashlight to smash it open and grabs a shotgun.

Adrian opens drawers and pulls out boxes of ammo. He loads two shells into the shotgun.

STORE OWNER (O.S.)  
Who's there?

ADRIAN  
Hello?

Adrian shines the flashlight around. Nothing.

STORE OWNER (O.S.)  
Down here.

Adrian shines the light along the floor until he sees an elderly man crouched behind the counter. This is the STORE OWNER.

STORE OWNER  
Are you alone?

ADRIAN  
Are you okay?

STORE OWNER  
They killed my wife. They took her away.

ADRIAN

Do you have a safe place to go?

STORE OWNER

I have a back room, it can be bolted shut... if that's what you mean. We can hide there.

ADRIAN

I need to get to my daughter. Hide and don't come out until the authorities arrive.

Their conversation is interrupted as the front door CHIMES.

ADRIAN

(whispering)

Get in the back room, lock yourself in.

The store owner sits, rocking back and forth.

ADRIAN

Did you hear me? Go!

SMASH.

Somewhere up front, a display is knocked over.

ADRIAN

You have to leave, now!

The store owner gets up and moves to the door.

Adrian climbs onto the counter for a better view. The shotgun is cocked and ready for action.

A GROWL breaks the silence.

The store owner fiddles with the door to the back room. He tries to open it, but something blocks the door. He looks down to see what is causing the problem.

He GASPS out when he sees HALF OF A CORPSE.

STORE OWNER

No! No! No! Why?

The store owner SNAPS.

STORE OWNER

You bastards! Come out and fight!

He turns towards the darkness of the store.

STORE OWNER  
Come out and fight like a man!

ADRIAN (O.S.)  
Hush!

The owner steps out from behind the counter.

With a BLUR, the owner is knocked down. Blood splatters on the back room door.

Adrian hears the commotion, and jumps down from the counter. In one hand the flashlight, the other, the shotgun.

He shines the light ahead, and sees the old man dragged around a corner.

He can hear the old man screaming at the beast. Store produce falls to the ground in the commotion.

ADRIAN  
Come and get me you son of a bitch!

The commotion stops.

Adrian pauses, then swings around the corner of the aisle.

BAM!

He blows away a display for bug repellent.

He does a quick 360.

A GROWL comes from the next aisle to his left. Adrian turns.

Or is it his right?

A can rolls down the left aisle.

He exits the aisle and turns to his left.

He takes two steps and quickly spins around firing the shotgun.

BAM!

He hits something and it falls heavily to the ground.

The flashlights falls from his hands onto the floor, illuminating a large werewolf with a gaping hole in its head. Adrian walks over to the werewolf. It is still BREATHING, but barely.

Adrian spots a mop and broom display. He grabs a broom and SNAPS the bottom off with his foot.

He lifts the broom over his head and thrusts it into the heart of the werewolf. It SCREECHES out in pain. Its breathing slows until the chest stops moving.

He picks up his flashlight and notices something in the counter. He SMASHES the glass and picks up something and slides it down the back of his jeans.

Adrian moves to the front of the store. He looks outside and after a moment, steps out.

EXT. MAC'S CONVENIENCE - NIGHT

Adrian steps out of the convenience store.

WHAM!

Adrian is knocked to the ground, his shotgun falls from his grasp.

Adrian looks up and sees Ridlow standing over him. He is pulled up by one of the henchmen. The other henchman holds Venglos.

ADRIAN  
I guess I killed one of your furry little friends.

RIDLOW  
A moot point, Mr. Weathers.

Ridlow SIGHS and looks up to the clear night sky.

RIDLOW  
Now, if we could only find your daughter.

At that moment, Joe's car comes screeching around the corner and SKIDS to a stop.

RIDLOW  
Well then, what do we have here?

Eric steps out of the car. Katie follows.

ADRIAN  
Katie!

KATIE  
Dad!

RIDLOW  
Really?

ADRIAN  
Run Katie! Run!

Katie is hesitant, she doesn't know what to do. Eric brings out the shotgun.

KATIE  
Don't shoot, Eric. They'll kill my dad.

ERIC  
Don't worry.

Eric turns the gun on Katie.

ERIC  
I'm sorry, Katie.

KATIE  
What are you doing?

ERIC  
My father's bidding.

Eric shuffles Katie over to Ridlow and company.

RIDLOW  
Look at this. One big happy family.

Ridlow turns to the Mayor.

RIDLOW  
Well, I have all my pieces. No need for you anymore.

The henchman steps away from the mayor.

MAYOR VENGLOS  
You won't succeed, Ridlow.

RIDLOW  
It's not for you to judge anymore.

Ridlow thrusts his arm into the chest of the Mayor and rips out his still-beating heart. Again, a purple trail follows his lightning quick reflexes.

Mayor Venglos crumples to the ground.

Ridlow turns to Katie and Adrian. He lets the heart slide from his hand onto the corpse.

RIDLOW  
Enough of this. We have a long overdue  
appointment, you and I, Katie.

He clasps Katie's chin in his hand.

RIDLOW  
You look just like your mother.

ADRIAN  
I swear, if you touch my daughter, I will  
kill you.

Katie shakes her head free.

RIDLOW  
Take them to the car. It's time to  
gather.

He turns.

RIDLOW  
And kill the father.

KATIE  
No!

Ridlow drags Katie away from Adrian. Eric follows with the  
other henchman.

INT. JOE'S CAR - NIGHT

Katie is thrown into the backseat with the henchman. Eric and  
Ridlow jump in the front.

Just as they are leaving, there is a series of gun shots.

BANG! BANG!

Katie can't bear to look out of the window.

INT. FARMHOUSE BARN - NIGHT

Ridlow emerges into a LARGE BARN. Dozens of torches and  
candles light up the proceedings. He stands on an elevated  
wooden stage, looking down upon a sea of RED EYES.

He moves to a pedestal and round table. On the pedestal sits  
the now famous black leather BOOK and a dagger.

Ridlow speaks.

RIDLOW  
Tonight, we end the curse.

This stirs a commotion.

RIDLOW  
For so many years we have been living in  
the shadows. Now, thanks to this book we  
have a chance to kill the dark half.

He puts his hand on the book.

RIDLOW  
The book told us how to find a child, and  
for that we must be thankful. We will be  
one again, and in return we will do  
everything the book asks.

Ridlow picks up the dagger and walks to the table.

RIDLOW  
With one thrust, our pain will be over.  
There will be no more suffering.

He walks in front of the table and points into the crowd of  
eyes.

RIDLOW  
This will be the last dark night for us  
all.

From the far side, a gagged Katie is dragged onto the stage  
by TWO BIG HELPERS. She is lifted up onto the table and tied  
down.

Eric, still in human form, emerges from the left to watch the  
procedure.

RIDLOW  
Prepare to be free.

Ridlow walks over to Katie and pulls back her collar to  
reveal the mark on her neck.

EXT. MAC'S CONVENIENCE - NIGHT

Laying on the ground with two bullet holes in him is the  
henchman.

Adrian lays flat on his back next to him. He looks over to  
the shattered front window of "Mac's."

The store owner stands, covered in blood. Smoke rises from a shotgun in his shaky hands.

STORE OWNER

Bastards...

The store owner falls to his knees and dies.

Adrian jumps through the broken window and checks the pulse of the old man. He takes the gun from his hands and throws it into the darkness of the store. He closes the store owner's eyelids and gets up.

Adrian walks out of the store and over to an overturned bin outside of "Mac's" and grabs a shovel.

He walks over and stands over the body of the guard.

THWAMP!

The shovel is thrust into the neck, severing the head completely.

Adrian walks back into the store and after a few moments emerges with the boxes of ammo he had found earlier. He grabs his shotgun and shovel and heads back to the car that Ridlow had crashed.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Adrian tries the ignition once. Nothing.

ADRIAN

Come on you son of a bitch.

A couple more turns then it finally sputters to life. He reverses out of the ditch and back onto the road.

The car picks up speed and heads off in the same direction as Ridlow.

EXT. DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

The battered car drives past the opening to a dirt road. It screeches to a halt and reverses back. Adrian spots the big farmhouse barn up on a hill with Joe's car parked outside.

EXT. FARMHOUSE BARN - NIGHT

The two big helpers now stand outside of the barn entrance.

TORCHES have been set up in two lines to form a walkway leading up towards the barn.

BOOM!

The first helper is knocked off his feet, a huge hole in his chest.

Reacting, the other helper steps out into the lit walkway GROWLING, fangs showing.

BOOM!

The side of his face EXPLODES away, sending him crashing to the dirt floor.

Adrian appears in the walkway, smoking gun in one hand, shovel in the other. He quickly walks over and SLAMS the shovel down into the necks of the guards...

Blood splattered, Adrian attempts to slide the barn doors open, but can't.

He rushes around to the side of the barn. Lined up along the sides are barrels marked "FERTILIZER". There is a small side door to the barn. Adrian shakes it, but it doesn't budge.

He takes a step back from the door...

INT. FARMHOUSE BARN - NIGHT

Ridlow stands at the pedestal reading from the black leather book. He speaks in Latin.

Katie turns and looks at Eric. Eric tries to focus on other things, but his eyes keep returning to her.

RIDLOW

(Latin)

Quod per is somes quod is cruor,  
 permisum nos obduco vobis, nostrum  
 donum. [And with this body and this  
 blood, let us pass to you, our gift.]

Ridlow steps down and walks to the table.

RIDLOW

(Latin)

Quod iam commodo recipero is vita quod  
 cruor! [And now please accept this life  
 and blood!]

He places two hands on the dagger and raises it up over his head.

SMASH!

The side door BURSTS open and Adrian enters, gun in hand.

ADRIAN

Katie!

He aims his shotgun at Ridlow and tries to shoot...

CLICK.

The gun is empty.

Adrian drops the gun and charges Ridlow. Seeing this, Ridlow stabs downwards towards Katie.

An arm grabs Ridlow's hand and pulls it away from Katie. He strikes the table instead. Ridlow looks up to see Eric.

RIDLOW

What are you doing?

ERIC

I'm sorry, father.

Ridlow and Eric jostle.

The dagger falls from Ridlow's hands onto the floor.

RIDLOW

You're no son of mine.

With a surge of strength, Ridlow throws his son against the wall.

He looks for the dagger.

Adrian stops a few feet short as the dagger falls in front of him.

Ridlow sees the dagger and charges. Adrian pauses for a second and dives for it.

The first pair of hands on the dagger are Adrian's. Ridlow's reaction is lightning quick, and before Adrian can react, Ridlow is choking him with both hands.

Eric gets to his feet and rushes to Katie.

KATIE

Save my father. Please.

Eric turns and rushes at Ridlow. He knocks him away from Adrian, sending him crashing to the floor.

This causes a STIR with the werewolves watching, but they do not start towards the stage.

Ridlow is on his back. He looks up at his son, betrayed.

ERIC  
I can't let you do this.

Eric turns with the dagger and runs to Katie. He slices the rope around her hands.

ERIC  
(to Katie)  
Forgive me.

RIDLLOW  
(growls)  
No!

Ridlow jumps up and pounces over a dozen feet towards Eric. He crashes down upon his son.

RIDLLOW  
You fool!

Katie unties her feet.

Ridlow seizes the dagger from Eric. Eric staggers back against the wall as his father towers over him.

RIDLLOW  
This ends now!

Ridlow moves towards Katie.

ERIC  
Katie!

Eric grabs his father from behind and swings him around.

They both stop in horror and look down.

Ridlow has thrust the dagger into Eric's chest.

RIDLLOW  
Son?

Katie jumps down from the table and rushes to Adrian.

KATIE  
Dad!

ADRIAN

Katie!

They quickly embrace.

RIDLOW

What have you done?

Eric falls to his knees, coughing up blood.

Ridlow removes the knife from his son and turns towards Katie and Adrian.

RIDLOW

What have you done!

There is a swirl of PURPLE LIGHT and FOG. A supernatural force swirls around the barn.

Katie rushes to Eric. Blood trickles from his mouth.

ERIC

(sputtering)

Remember. We are judged by our actions.

Katie embraces the lifeless body of Eric.

Ridlow is lifted off the ground as ANGRY VOICES bounce off the walls. Ridlow drops the dagger onto the table.

Adrian grabs Katie.

ADRIAN

Come on!

Adrian and Katie run out of the barn.

The black leather book lifts up from the pedestal, SLAMS shut and falls to the floor.

Ridlow comes crashing down and everything becomes eerily quiet.

EXT. FARMHOUSE BARN - NIGHT

Adrian and Katie burst out of the barn in full run. They run past Joe's car and Adrian stops.

ADRIAN

Get behind the car. We're going to bring the barn down.

Adrian reaches in and grabs Eric's shotgun which was sitting on the front dashboard. He takes aim at the barrels of FERTILIZER stacked against the barn.

KATIE

Wait! Eric!

ADRIAN

He's gone, Katie! Get behind the car.

Adrian fires the shotgun.

BOOM!

The first shot hits the barrels. Nothing.

He aims again and fires.

BOOM! BANG!

The barrels IGNITE, blowing the barn roof into the air. The force knocks both of them ten yards back.

Adrian covers Katie from the falling debris.

Other EXPLOSIONS rock them as each barrel ignites. The barn is a raging inferno.

KATIE

(somber)

He wasn't like the rest.

ADRIAN

We've got to get out of here!

He tugs at Katie who just stares at the inferno.

Adrian sees both cars completely destroyed by layers of wood and dust.

He turns to Katie, still looking at the barn.

Ridlow, now a GHASTLY, GROTESQUE figure, emerges from the fire. Limping at first, he slowly gains agility. He SNAPS down onto all fours and runs at them.

ADRIAN

Get behind me.

Adrian steps in front of her.

Ridlow is coming right for them. He CRIES out in sheer anger. His wails echoing throughout the valley.

Ridlow pounces...

WHAM!

He is knocked flying out of sight as a TRUCK comes out of nowhere.

A familiar figure leans out of the window.

CHRISTIAN  
Get in the truck!

A shadow crosses the beams of the headlights.

INT. CHRISTIAN'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Adrian and Katie jump into the cab and join Christian.

KATIE  
Christian!

ADRIAN  
Go. Now!

KATIE  
Where's Louise?

CHRISTIAN  
She was one of them. She saved me.

There is a THUD from the back.

KATIE  
What was that?

They all look at each other. Christian moves the rear view mirror around to see if he can see anything.

The truck chugs down the main road.

CHRISTIAN  
I can't see anything.

ADRIAN  
Don't stop, keep driving.

Katie looks in the side view mirror. At first she sees nothing, but then she looks again and sees the werewolf.

KATIE  
It's in the back!

CHRISTIAN  
Put your seat belts on!

They all do.

CHRISTIAN  
Brace yourselves.

Christian SLAMS on the brakes. The truck fishtails to a stop.

Ridlow is thrown from the back and lands in the bushes ahead of them.

Katie SMASHES her head on the dashboard and is knocked out. Adrian looks stunned, Christian is okay.

ADRIAN  
Katie?

He shakes her shoulders, but she doesn't respond. Christian shakes his head, and feels for blood.

ADRIAN  
She's out cold.

CHRISTIAN  
Where did it land?

ADRIAN  
Somewhere in the bushes.

CHRISTIAN  
What do we do?

ADRIAN  
We both get out and finish him off.

CHRISTIAN  
Katie?

ADRIAN  
We lock her in here.

EXT. DARK ROAD - NIGHT

Christian opens the door and steps out of the truck. Adrian locks the side passenger door, and slides over to the driver's seat and climbs down. He locks the door behind him.

ADRIAN  
Do you have any weapons?

CHRISTIAN  
Check the back.

They move to the back of the truck. Christian grabs a pitch fork.

ADRIAN  
That's it?

Something moves rapidly through the trees.

CHRISTIAN  
Do you see it?

ADRIAN  
No.

CHRISTIAN  
There.

Christian points into the trees. A shadow moves from the trees onto the road a few dozen feet ahead of them.

Ridlow, now fully transformed, emerges from the mist. He limps towards Christian and Adrian.

He GROWLS and SNARLS as he approaches.

CHRISTIAN  
Jesus, it's big.

ADRIAN  
Here, take this.

Adrian hands Christian the pitch fork and reaches into the back of his jeans to pull something out, but there's nothing there.

ADRIAN  
Shit.

Ridlow charges them.

KATIE (O.S.)  
Dad?

Katie is awake and looks through the window of the truck.

ADRIAN  
Katie, get on the floor!

Christian tries to repel Ridlow using the pitch fork.

Ridlow easily knocks the pitch fork out of his hands and sends Christian into the ditch.

He turns back towards Adrian. Katie is not at the window of the truck, but the door is ever so slightly ajar.

Ridlow, the werewolf, backs Adrian into the side of the truck. He comes face to face with Adrian, SNARLING and SPITTING. He sniffs around his face, his dark red eyes never leaving Adrian's. Sweat pours down Adrian's face, as he tries to turn away from the werewolf.

KATIE (O.S.)

Get the fuck away from my father!

Ridlow turns and knocks an advancing Katie away.

Something falls to the ground as Katie is sent tumbling.

Adrian reaches down and grabs what Katie dropped. He lunges onto Ridlow and stabs him with a HUNTING KNIFE.

The werewolf turns back towards Adrian and knocks him to the ground. With the knife sticking out of his side, Ridlow moves to finish off Adrian.

Suddenly the pitch fork is RAMMED through the other side of the werewolf by Katie, burying deep into its body.

A deep GURGLING sound comes from Ridlow's throat. With one final breath, the werewolf collapses, dead.

ADRIAN

We better make sure.

Adrian removes the knife from its side.

CHRISTIAN

I've seen way too many werewolf movies.

Adrian is about to finish the job, but a POLICE CAR screeches to a halt next to them. Two OFFICERS step out.

OFFICER

Drop your weapon and step away from the body.

Adrian looks down to the now bloodied human form of Ridlow.

OFFICER

Step away, sir.

KATIE  
You don't understand!

Both police officers cock their weapons. Adrian concedes and drops the knife, shaking his head.

Another police car approaches with its sirens blazing.

ADRIAN  
It's over.

Katie rushes over and gives her dad a big HUG.

Ridlow lays motionless in a pool of blood.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

TV crews hustle for positions in front of a police barricade. Many ambulances are moving in and out of the town of Devil's Peak.

REPORTER #1  
So far, no one is commenting on last night's events.

REPORTER #3  
There seems to be bodies literally everywhere. Firefighters are finally bringing the blazes under control. I've never seen anything like this before, I'm lost for words.

REPORTER #4  
Survivors are being escorted away to private locations. Police are not releasing any names at the moment, and are refusing to comment. Back to you, Bob.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - DAY

Katie and Adrian huddle together. Katie has a blanket over her head and is held tightly, lovingly by her father. Christian, meanwhile, is being herded away into another cruiser. Katie looks up at her bruised and cut father.

KATIE  
I'm sorry.

ADRIAN  
For what?

KATIE  
Everything I said.

ADRIAN  
No apologies needed, kiddo.

KATIE  
You saved my life, Dad.

ADRIAN  
Your mother would have been proud of you.

KATIE  
Same here.

They both smile as they are taken away to a police car.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Katie and Adrian sit in the back seat of a police car. There is a knock on Katie's door and it opens up.

STATE TROOPER  
I believe this belongs to you.

An officer hands down a book, wrapped in a blanket. Katie unwraps the blanket and pulls out the black leather book. Covered in ash, but undamaged.

The State Trooper gets into the front seat and takes off his hat. He removes a cross attached to a beaded necklace from around his neck.

He kisses the cross and hangs it on the rear view mirror.

The State Trooper turns to Katie.

STATE TROOPER  
I've taken care of everything. It's time to take you home, my child.

He smiles at Katie and Adrian, turns and starts the car.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The police car drives by Christian's truck. There is no sign of Ridlow. They drive through the barricade and pass all the TV crews. A sign to the left reads:

*"Now leaving Devil's Peak. We hope you had a great stay!"*

FADE TO BLACK.