FADE IN:

EXT. THE AFTERLIFE - DAY

A vivid astral landscape. Verdant hills lead to a stream. We hear the laughter of several GHOST CHILDREN playing a joyous game of tag before we see them. All ages, carefree, unaffected by what sent them to this corner of heaven.

AINSLEY is the prettiest among them. She is five years old and wears a dress from Colonial America. She laughs and smiles freely as she runs from the rest, hiding her eyes against the far side of a tree.

AINSLEY
(English accent)
Five four three two one! Ready or not here I come! And I shall find you all!

Ainsley emerges from behind the tree, eyes searching for the others. They've fled to their hiding places. She sees something in the sky above the hills and frowns.

A dark, seething cloud approaches. Deep rumbles from it.

Ainsley looks down. The ground shakes beneath her feet.

The other children emerge from their hiding places and look up in fear.

The air grows darker. A dense black fog settles upon them. They see something horrific and turn to flee screaming.

Something big, black and hideous with sharp teeth, claws, cloven hooves and batwings swoops out of the fog to attack the children. Ectoplasm shreds and dissolves as the flying nightmare devours them one by one.

The remaining children desperately flee past Ainsley's tree. She watches the monstrous demon thing lunge from the black fog, pluck up more victims and wolf them down.

It stops, braced on its haunches, sensing Ainsley. Pivots toward her and stares her down with its black insect eyes.

Ainsley turns and runs with an echoing shriek...

INT. KITCHEN - POV CAMCORDER - NIGHT

Everything tinted green. Someone carries an infrared camcorder eye-high through the kitchen of a modest home. A smartphone voicemail plays back from another room.

DAVE (O.S.)
Now understand I got nothing personal against you guys. You're a nice bunch of college kids. My bosses -- whole 'nother story. They see ratings and ad revenue and other nasty stuff like that.
The camcorder moves into the DINING ROOM

An open laptop, screen blank, rests on a table. Dave's voice comes from the lit smartphone next to it.

    DAVE (O.S.)
    You probably know how the show's been doing lately. Dismal is putting it kindly. All we're getting from you is footage without the substance. I'll do one more episode, Adam. One more and that's it. Find some ghosts or you're all history. Later.

Dial tone. The smartphone goes dark.

DINING ROOM - NORMAL VIEW

Pitch black. The laptop screen lights up, revealing ADAM, 20s, founder and leader of the Carling College Paranormal Society. He is seriously troubled by Dave's words. He sets the camcorder down on the table as he studies the screen.

    ADAM
    Thanks for all your support, Dave.

The screen displays the greenish infrared image of CASEY, 20s, seated cross-legged on a bedroom floor. Studious, glasses halfway off her nose, slightly overweight. She holds a lit flashlight, and she's really bored.

Adam leans on the table's edge a little pissed. So far tonight's investigation is spiraling straight to hell.

    ADAM
    Tell me you weren't asleep, Casey.

Adam's voice in her headset startles her.

    CASEY
    That so tempting, Adam. I wasn't. Yet.

    ADAM
    Good girl. I knew I could count on you. Anything?

Casey switches her flashlight off. Back on.

    CASEY
    Do drippy faucets count?

    ADAM
    Stay alert. Please? We need stuff. In the worst way. Ben?
BASEMENT

Very dark here. Team techie BEN, 20s, emerges from behind the furnace wearing night vision goggles. Energetic, headstrong, geek to his core. He holds an infrared camcorder in one hand. Adjusts his headset with the other.

BEN
What is up, my friend?

DINING ROOM

Adam takes a seat. Taps a function key. The screen splits into four infrared image frames:

- Casey on the bedroom floor
- Lovely ANNIE, 20s, sprawled on a bed
- The attic, deserted, full of storage junk
- Ben in the basement

For an instant a wispy cloud flits across the attic frame accompanied by a barely audible thump. Adam doesn’t catch it.

ADAM
Any sign of the little girl?

Ben's image turns toward Adam.

BEN
That's a negative. There's a couple of cold spots down here. Could be drafty windows. They're next on my to do list.

ADAM
We're sliding from disappointing to disastrous. Did you check the crawl space? The homeowner said she heard sobs coming from there.

BASEMENT

Ben walks over to the crawl space access hole. Reaches in. Taps a microphone there. We hear that.

ADAM (O.S.)
(in Ben's headset)
You forgot to say mike check.

BEN
Mike. Check. Mike placed itself in crawl space. Feelings hurt.

ADAM (O.S.)
(in Ben's headset)
Geek.

BEN
What did you just call me?
DINING ROOM

ADAM
I said geek. I did not say dork.

BEN (O.S.)
(in Adam's headset)
I'm still waiting, my friend.

ADAM
Thanks for the damn mike.

BEN (O.S.)
(in Adam's headset)
Apology accepted, captain.

Annie's laptop image stretches languidly on the bed.

ANNIE
What time is it?

ADAM
Annie, perk up. I really can't handle two cases of terminal boredom.

ANNIE
And what about a case of you -- in front of your fireplace?

ADAM
Poetic, love. I'd join you but I'm working. It's 1:15. Let's all break for coffee.

BASEMENT

Ben walks along the foundation holding up an EMF meter.

BEN
I'm good!

ADAM (V.O.)
(in Ben's headset)
Everybody, Ben. That's an order.

ANNIE IN BEDROOM

Annie unsprawls. Sits up, dislodging her headset. She's new on the team. Not her thing and she's so tired. She pushes the headset back on.

ANNIE
There was a weird sound before.

ADAM (V.O.)
(in Annie's headset)
Annie, you're supposed to tell us! What did you hear?
ANNIE
A thump. From upstairs.

BASEMENT

BEN
The attic! Cue it up, Adam! Wait for me!

DINING ROOM

The lights are on now. A videocam set on a tripod watches the room. The team sips coffee, focused on the laptop.

The laptop shows the attic frame fullscreen. The wispy cloud drifts across. A tinny thump from the speakers.

BEN
Loop it.

Adam taps a function key. The image of the wisp and the thump repeat a few times.

BEN
Shit, man! We got her!

ADAM
We live to film another week.
Let's move!

STAIRS

The team storms upstairs to the attic carrying their equipment. Casey trails last. She stumbles. Drops her flashlight. Watches it tumble downstairs. Turns back. Looks up at the attic. She's alone.

CASEY
Don't leave me here, you guys!

Casey hears something. She tilts her head, listening. The sobs of a little girl echo softly.

Adam appears at the top of the stairs.

ADAM
What's up?

CASEY
I dropped my flashlight.

ADAM
Not important. You got the EMFs. Need help?

CASEY
No.

Casey reaches the attic landing lugging her equipment bag. She glances downstairs with a concerned look.
ATTIC

The team explores the cluttered attic taking EMF readings. Ben looks up from his meter.

BEN
Zilch. We lost her.

CASEY
She's scared. She won't show herself.

The others stop. They turn to Casey.

BEN
Did you see her?

Casey purses her lips. Shakes her head.

BEN
Then how do you know?

CASEY
I know.

The others look at her. It's what she didn't say.

ADAM
Casey's right. We need to calm down and wait for her. We may have blown our chances already.

ATTIC - LATER

The team lays propped up on attic stuff. It's really late and they've nodded out. Casey holds the only lit flashlight. Annie's head rests on Adam's shoulder. Ben snores.

A little girl whimpers. Casey opens her eyes. Listens.

Quiet again. Casey thinks. Bites her lip. She switches the flashlight off.

An eerie glow bathes the team. Casey gasps. Something is in the attic besides the four of them, a just few feet away.

Frightened, cowering Ainsley.

Casey slowly reaches out to shake Adam awake. She points meekly across the attic. Adam sees the luminous spirit.

Annie opens her eyes. Lifts her head up. Sees the ghost. She grips Adam but he shushes her.

Ben brings his camcorder up slowly. Starts filming. Everybody speaks in hushed tones.

ADAM
Keep your lights off.
The team crawls toward the little girl. They gather close to her. She’s frightened at first, but gradually settles.

   ANNIE
Does she see us?

   ADAM
I think so.

Adam extends his hand toward the child. Ainsley reaches out to touch it. Ben looks at his EMF meter.

   BEN
I'm picking up a stronger reading.

   ADAM
You should be. Our auras are mingling.

The trembling child looks so sweet. She smiles timidly. Adam smiles in return, pleased he’s calmed her down.

She gazes up at him, finding human comfort at last...

Adam slowly loses his smile. He appears troubled. His face takes on the spiritual glow of a clairvoyant.

WHAT ADAM SEES

A vision of Ainsley's astral home. Ainsley's spirit friends flee screaming from the hideous bat-winged thing.

ATTIC

Startled Adam releases Ainsley's hand, frightening her.

The others stare at him with alarm. Adam gestures for calm.

   ADAM
Keep it cool! Don't lose her!

Ainsley relaxes again. Ben films her.

   AINSLEY
Why do you all look so strange, pray tell?

   CASEY
We're your friends, sweetheart. We're just from a different time.

   AINSLEY
It feels safe in your home. May I stay and enjoy your hospitality?

   CASEY
It's not our h--
ANNIE
You can be our guest as long as you like. What's your name?

AINSLEY
Ainsley.

ANNIE
That's such a pretty name. Do you miss your mommy and daddy?

The little girl's face grows sad.

AINSLEY
They've gone away.

ANNIE
And what happened to them?

AINSLEY
Lenape people. We were friends. Bad ones came and made a lot of noise. Two of them hit Mother and Father very hard. They got bloody and they never woke up.

ANNIE
That's terrible. Did they hit you too?

AINSLEY
No. I fled to the river. The bad ones came after me, but I wouldn't let them hurt me.

ANNIE
And how did you manage that?

AINSLEY
I drowned myself.

CASEY
Oh my God.

BEN
Jesus...

ANNIE

Annie reaches out to hug Ainsley. The child doesn't respond. She casts anxious glances around the attic -- -- sees something behind Annie that fixates her -- -- and screams in absolute terror.

Ben looks down at his EMF meter.
CLOSE ON its digital readout going max.

Ben glances over to Adam, freaked as hell.

Ainsley recoils, frantically seeking shelter in the attic junk. She whimpers and weeps as she cowers.

ANNIE
What's wrong, Ainsley? What do you see?

Ainsley shakes her head over and over. Kneels. Bows her head. Clasps her hands together. Quickly mumbles a prayer.

AINSLEY
Our Father Who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name Thy Kingdom
come Thy will be done on earth as
it is in heaven--

CASEY
What's happening?

Adam stands. The others too. Fear fills their faces.

ADAM
Damned if I know!

BEN
I have an extremely bad feeling about this!

An ominous approaching rumble. Slowly the team looks down...
...at the floor rattling. Dust rises. Little toys skitter.

An evil black fog pours into the attic.

Ainsley sobs and moans, rocking on her knees, face hidden by her quivering hands.

BEN
Shit! This is serious!

ANNIE
Adam, do something!

Adam thinks feverishly.

ADAM
Switch your lights on!

Annie tries first. Her flashlight's LEDs explode. She yelps. Quickly drops it.

Ben works his, forcing the switch over and over. It's dead.

Casey's light smolders in her hand. She flings it away with a cry.
Adam slowly looks over his shoulder. Stares at something horrible that fixates him. He turns to confront it.

His flashlight slips from his fingers. Drops to the floor.

The monstrous astral demon swoops in fast on leathery batwings, right through the attic eaves. A terrifying ghostly creature the size of a grizzly bear. Gnashing jaws filled with sharp teeth. An obscene mass of flexing appendages tipped with reptilian claws and cloven hooves hang from its belly.

It hovers. Black glistening insect eyes find its prey.

Ainsley. Her clasped hands drop to her sides. She stares back, shaking, face riveted with fear.

Annie lunges in to rescue the little girl. Adam yanks her back. She pummels him hard.

ANNIE
What are you doing!

ADAM
You can't help her!

ANNIE
Let -- go of me!

Ainsley screams desperately. Everyone turns at once.

The demon passes right through the team, headed straight for Ainsley --

-- and pounces upon her as she tumbles to the attic floor.

The team watches in helpless horror as the demon noisily feeds on her.

The glutted demon wings away and is gone. The black fog disperses. The team rushes over to where Ainsley stood.

Everyone watches her pooling, glowing ectoplasmic remains flicker and fade.

ANNIE
God help you, Ainsley.

Ben tries his light. It works. He checks his camcorder.

CASEY
Oh Lord -- oh Lord -- what the holy fuck was that?

ANNIE
Ainsley wasn't haunting this house.
She was hiding in it.

They look at each other. No one wants to go there.
ADAM
Did we get it?

BEN
Every last pixel. There's just one thing, my friend.

ADAM
And what is that?

BEN
Who the hell is gonna believe it?

Everyone but Adam gathers equipment. He stares into space.

SUBLIM:
The astral demon reaches out of the fog to grapple one of the spirit children in the afterlife.

END SUBLIM.

ADAM
As many as we can get.

EXT. BIG FRANK'S ROADSIDE TAVERN - DAY

The team's van pulls into the parking lot. On its side panel, the show's airbrushed logo supered on the posed team:

POLTERTECHS
Where Technology meets Ghostology.

INSIDE THE TAVERN

Bartender EDDIE, 30s, cleans glasses behind the bar. A football game plays silently on a big flatscreen behind him.

The Poltertechs enter and approach the bar.

EDDIE
Frank!

BIG FRANK, 50s, hefty and jovial, comes out of a back room.

BIG FRANK
Look at that, Eddie! We got some real TV stars in the house!

Big Frank offers his hand. Everyone on the team shakes it.

BIG FRANK
What are we having? Beer?
On the house, kids.

The team looks at each other.

ADAM
Sure.
BIG FRANK
Anybody hungry?

CASEY
Thanks. We just ate.

BEN
Yeah, thanks anyway.

The team slides onto barstools. Eddie fills four beer glasses and serves them.

Big Frank goes behind the bar. He leans on the counter.

BIG FRANK
So -- who starts this thing?

ADAM
Tell us about your ghost.

BIG FRANK
Okay -- this joint's been haunted since before I was born. The building's really old, but the ghost, you can tell he's from the 1940s by his uniform. Second World War. Eddie here's seen him more times than he can count.

BEN
Does he do anything? Break things? Turn off the lights?

EDDIE
He gets shot.

BEN
That's it? He gets shot?

BIG FRANK
What the hell do you want, a Broadway dance number? The guy gets shot. It's all in the news archives. A regular joe, just back from overseas, and he gets nailed right at home in my bar.

ADAM
Any idea why?

BIG FRANK
He had a shitload of gambling debt. The paper 'speculated' a mob whack. 'Hey -- this is New Jersey! So what else is new?'

ADAM
Thanks. We have a back story. You say you caught him on video?
BIG FRANK
Eddie, roll that security tape!

Eddie reaches down. Starts the video.

ON THE FLATSCREEN

The football game switches to a black and white CCTV image of the deserted bar area. A smoky shape drifts into view. It takes on a more solid form -- a serviceman, 20s, dressed in a 1940s army uniform. He's backing away from someone.

THE BAR

BIG FRANK
Now listen close. The poor bastard supplies his own gunshot.

BEN
This can happen. The entity's energy combines with the room's residual --

ON THE FLATSCREEN

A gunshot. The ghost doubles over and falls to the floor. Glowing ectoplasm oozes from under it. Ghost and ooze fade away.

THE BAR

BEN
Awesome!

BIG FRANK
Hey, show some respect! You get off on that shit? The guy had a family!

Adam gestures for calm.

ADAM
Ben gets carried away sometimes. He's our techie. He meant the quality of the video.

BIG FRANK
Okay! No harm done, right? Jeez.

ADAM
So, when do you want us to set up?

BIG FRANK
You mean tape a show?

ADAM
That's what we do.

BIG FRANK
Wait a minute. You mean to say that's all you do?
ADAM
We never claimed otherwise. Who
told you -- ?

BIG FRANK
I spoke to some lady when I called.
She went through all the stuff you
offer besides an investigation.

Adam turns to Casey. She shrugs. Annie sighs. Adam slides
off his stool. Pulls Annie off hers. He turns to Big Frank.

ADAM
Excuse us one second.

Adam leads Annie by the hand over to a corner.

ANNIE
I'm sorry. I was just trying to --
I played back Dave's voicemail.

ADAM
I get it. You know the show's
hanging by a thread. You didn't
want to risk losing a client.

ANNIE
Guilty as charged. Can you blame me?

ADAM
Debatable, given the circumstances.
What did you sell him?

Annie glances at the bar. Turns back to Adam.

ANNIE
The guy asked if we perform any --

ADAM
Exorcisms?

ANNIE
Just the opposite. Conjuring was
more like what he was pushing for.

ADAM
And you said...?

ANNIE
I told him we're a full service shop.

ADAM
(exasperated)
A full service shop? Annie, I'm
in love with you but --

ANNIE
I was trying to save the show!
ADAM
And so was Dave, when he suggested you join the team wearing skinny jeans a size too small! My mistake!

ANNIE
Thanks a lot! You know what? Let me handle it.

ADAM
What are you gonna tell him?

ANNIE
I got us into this. I'll get us out.

Adam and Annie return to their stools.

ANNIE
So, Frank. What can we do for you today?

Big Frank puts his meaty hands on the bar.

BIG FRANK
What do you think? I want my ghost back.

ANNIE
I thought you wanted us to get rid of it.

BIG FRANK
Get rid of it? Hell no!

ANNIE
Maybe I misunderstood you...

BIG FRANK
Well, understand me now. This place used to be packed to the rafters every weekend just to watch that guy replay his own shooting. Like clockwork he appeared -- my best damned employee!

Eddie throws his boss a dirty look.

BIG FRANK
After you, Eddie! After you!

ADAM
Wait a minute. Your ghost left?

BIG FRANK
Three weeks ago. After seventy years of on-time performances. Didn't even give me any notice!

ADAM
Ball's in your court, Annie.
Annie sits there stymied. Big Frank slaps the bar.

BIG FRANK
You need convincing? Maybe you can figure out what happened to the poor guy. Eddie, play that other one!

ON THE FLATSCREEN

Another security video with a more recent timestamp shows the deserted bar. The soldier backs away like before.

A black fog envelops the room. The soldier grows alarmed. Sees something up in the rafters. He backs away, horrified.

The astral demon swoops down and rends the soldier to ectoplasmic shreds before devouring him.

THE BAR

The team sits and stares with the shock of recognition.

BEN
Holy shit, man.

BIG FRANK
You kids know what the hell that thing was?

The team looks at each other.

ADAM
No. We're not Ghostbusters.

BIG FRANK
Well dammit, how much do you charge to bring the guy back? You can do that, right?

EXT. THE HAUNTED BARN - NIGHT

A crowd of KIDS and TEENAGERS line up at a ticket booth. A teenage VAMPIRE GIRL collects their money. A mummy BARKER, 30s, works the crowd.

BARKER
Step right up, everybody! Three bucks earns you the right to die of fright! Step this way!

ANDY, 11, and BILLY, 10, wait in line. Little smartasses.

BILLY
Is this gonna be any good?

ANDY
Should be. I heard two high school dudes talking about this place. They said it was ten times spookier than last year.
BILLY
Oh yeah?  How so?

ANDY
A new monster.  It scared the piss out of them.

BILLY
One new monster?  Give me a break.

ANDY
I meant it about the piss.  One of them wet his pants!

BILLY
(giggles)
Get outta here!

ANDY
The guy told it dead serious.  He didn't see me listening so I know it's true.  They said something else about this place too.

BILLY
Yeah what?

ANDY
The field we're standing in used to be an Indian burial ground.

BILLY
Come on!  You believe that?  Every haunted house tells you that!

The kids in front of them pay and go inside.

ANDY
Well look, we're about to find out for ourselves.

BILLY
Right.  You bring a diaper?

ANDY
(shoves Billy)
Screw you!

Spooky sound effects.  Scary lighting.  Kids and teenagers walk down a hallway lined with black curtains.  They don't get very far before some Frankenstein or mummy or vampire or zombie leaps out moaning or growling at them.

Andy and Billy spend most of their time laughing at the teenage actors scaring the younger kids.  They round a bend.

BILLY
Hey look at that!

Andy stares where Billy is pointing.
A back door with a sign over it, too dark to read.

Andy pulls out a flashlight. Points the beam at the sign and reads it.

ANDY
The monster from black hell. From whence it comes, no one knows. Enter at your own risk.

BILLY
Why isn't this part open? We found the new monster!

ANDY
We paid our three bucks. We're entitled to see it.

Andy checks behind them. The hallway's deserted.

He tries the door. It's unlocked. He swings it open.

The boys step outside onto a field. Noise blares from inside the barn. They look around nervously.

The door slams closed, startling them. Now it's dead quiet. They turn back to field. Billy's a little spooked.

BILLY
What now?

ANDY
Follow me.

The boys start walking out into the field. A full moon watches them through the mist. They grow more frightened with every step. Then they stop dead.

BILLY
What the heck is that?

ANDY
Beats me.

They gawk at a mound of shells and bones, circled by ancient flat stones.

Clouds move across the moon.

The field darkens. The boys stare at the mound, petrified.

Out of the circle of stones rise FOUR GHOSTS:
-- an old Native American tribesman
-- another tribesman
-- a Native American woman
-- a Lenape warrior in battle dress.

The boys turn tail and run hollering back to the barn. Andy pulls desperately on the door. It's locked.
A deep, ominous rumble, getting closer. The boys slowly look down.

The ground vibrates under their sneakers.

Out in the field the warrior ghost looks up. He's the only one in the group who's aware of the rumbling sound.

The astral demon soars right through the barn wall over the boys' heads, flying straight toward the circle of stones.

The warrior ghost sees what's coming at it. He whips out a ghostly tomahawk. Flings it at the demon.

The tomahawk sinks into the demon's shoulder. It lets out a blood-curdling shriek like nothing of this earth.

The furious demon lands in front of the warrior, claws clutching, teeth gnashing. Black blood wisps out of its wound.

The warrior whips out a ghostly knife, ready for battle.

The demon grabs the tomahawk with a claw. Yanks it out and tosses it away. Glares hatefully at the warrior. Snarls. Swoops off into the night.

The boys stand hugging each other in fright. They look down at the same time. They've both peed in their pants.

THE HAUNTED BARN - LATER

Closed up and deserted. The exterior lights shut off.

The barker exits the back door. He looks around for stragglers.

The flickering beam of a movie projector streams out of a hole in a wall plank. He opens a small disguised door next to the hole. Reaches in and switches the projector off.

Out in the field by the stone circle, the ghosts of the two tribesmen and the tribeswoman vanish -- but not the warrior. He's busy searching for something.

The barker goes back inside the barn and shuts the door.

The warrior ghost finds his tomahawk. Bends to pick it up. Sniffs the stone end and grimaces in disgust.

The warrior turns. Walks out into the field grasping the tomahawk. He dissolves into ectoplasmic smoke and vanishes.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

DAVE, 40s, the Poltertech TV show's producer, pulls his BMW up to the curb. Sleazy, smug, well-groomed. His uptight LAWYER, 50s, rides with him.

Dave gets out of the car looking down his nose at the house. Small town New Jersey -- not his preferred turf.
The lawyer opens the passenger door grasping an attache case. He follows Dave. This doesn’t look good.

When they approach the house they activate some Halloween props. The lawyer jumps back startled. Dave just shakes his head. He’s familiar with Ben's handiwork.

DAVE
Come on, let's get this over with.
I'm frigging starved.

LIVING ROOM

CLOSE ON a smartphone screen. Pac-Man chases ghosts through his virtual maze.

CASEY (V.O.)
They're here!

Ben sits on a sofa playing the Pac-Man app. Casey sits beside him looking out the window, a Stephen King novel in her lap. Annie sits on a love seat sketching Ainsley on a pad. Adam sits next to her nervously sipping coffee.

The doorbell rings. Adam looks up like his executioner has just arrived. He stands quickly. Spills hot coffee on his hands.

ADAM
Aaah!

Adam rushes to the door still holding the cup. He wipes his free hand on his pants. Opens the door. Invites Dave and the lawyer in.

Casey and Ben acknowledge them. Annie continues drawing.

CASEY
Hello Dave.

BEN
How goes it?

Dave and the lawyer sit on another sofa. The lawyer opens his attache case. Dave gestures for him to hold off.

DAVE
No need yet, Barry.
(to Adam)
Show me the goodies, buddy.

The lawyer shuts the briefcase. Adam reaches for the open laptop on the coffee table. Starts the attic video. Turns the laptop for Dave and the lawyer to see.

Dave and the lawyer watch the video with deadpan faces.

The team waits with grim expressions. Casey wipes a tear when Ainsley starts talking. Soon the sounds of the demon invading the attic and its attack on Ainsley fill the room.
The video ends. The team waits for a reaction from Dave. He's silent for a long moment.

DAVE
Finally you guys have come up with some sweet shit, and it's going to save your asses. I want the final edit on my desk by Monday.

Dave and the lawyer stand up and head for the door.
Casey, Ben and Annie show their relief. Adam stands up.

ADAM
Dave?

Dave and the lawyer turn back.

ADAM
We don't know what that thing was.

DAVE
Do I look like I give a crap? Just keep filming it!

Dave and the lawyer leave. Adam turns to the team. He puts an exasperated hand to his forehead.

ADAM
Just keep filming it. Like we know where it's gonna show up.

Ben comes up to Adam.

BEN
I've been thinking. This entity is a predator. Predators are guided by hunting instinct and their ability to locate food. It's gonna go where a lot of ghosts live, like a lion tracking a herd of gazelles on the Serengeti.

ADAM
The Serengeti. So where might that be?

BEN
Cemeteries, man!

Adam nods in satisfaction. He grabs Ben by the shoulder.

ADAM
Stroke of genius, dude.

BEN
The thing stalks ghosts. We stalk it. At its feeding grounds, week after week. How many cemeteries in this part of New Jersey?
ADAM
And what better time than --

BEN
Halloween. Dave wants a spectacle?
We'll give him much more than he
bargained for, my friend.

EXT. HIGHWAY INTERSECTION - DAY

Vehicles lined up behind an accident. Weary, impatient
drivers. Police cars, fire rescue trucks, ambulances, roof
lights flashing. Wailing sirens in the distance.

Near the head of the line MICHAEL, 30s, a pleasant-looking
priest, leans out his car window to see what's going on.

His expression changes. He's seen something odd. He wipes
his eyes, but what's disturbing him up ahead persists.

His hand seeks something in a jacket pocket. His fingers
pull it out and grasp it.

A silver cross.

Michael stares out the windshield. His eyes fill with an
ethereal light. The spiritual glow of a clairvoyant.

WHAT MICHAEL SEES

Firemen frantically pry apart a crumpled minivan with the
jaws of life. Its front end is T-boned deep into the
passenger door of a sedan.

A bloodied WOMAN lays slumped behind the minivan's steering
wheel, its air bag burst. She looks dead. An INFANT wails
from the back seat. FIREMAN #1 touches the woman's neck.

FIREMAN #1
She's gone. Go for the baby!

Struggling FIREMEN wrench open the minivan's side door with
their tools. Abruptly the infant stops crying.

MICHAEL

lifts his luminous gaze a little higher.

FIREMAN #2 (O.S.)
Get that kid out!

WHAT MICHAEL SEES

Two firemen lunge for the infant. We ascend above the roof.
The dead woman's soul floats there serenely. She wears the
same bloody clothes. She looks down smiling with an
incredible expression of love. She beckons with her arms.

The infant's soul rises into its mother's outstretched arms.
She cradles it lovingly. They drift off and disappear.
MICHAEL
leans back exhausted and shaken. His eyes lose their spiritual light.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)
Father?

Michael's totally drained. He doesn't respond.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)
Excuse me -- Father?

Michael slowly turns to the window.

A middle-aged POLICEMAN stands there. He removes his cap.

POLICEMAN
Forgive me, Father. There's another victim, and she's not going to last. She's wearing a cross...

MICHAEL
Of course.

Michael follows the officer to the driver's side of the sedan. Two PARAMEDICS tend to an ELDERLY WOMAN pinned against the passenger seat by the crushed-in door.

The elderly woman lays in her seat moaning softly. The minivan's impact has sent a wide shard of metal from inside the door through her torso.

One paramedic turns toward Michael. She taps her partner. He turns and comprehends. They withdraw, leaving an IV of plasma attached to the elderly woman's arm.

Michael grimaces when he sees how much blood has drained out of her. It lays pooled in the passenger floor well two inches deep. Her face is ashen, and she is barely conscious.

Michael slides into the driver's seat. He leans close to the dying woman and takes her hand.

MICHAEL
I'm Father O'Cleary. I will comfort you, and deliver you.

ELDERLY WOMAN
(faint whisper)
Bless you Father.

Michael crosses himself, takes the woman's hand and helps her make a cross. He pulls a small bible out of his jacket pocket. Centers it on her chest. Places her hand on it.

As Michael gently recites the last rites, we gradually descend to the pool of blood in the floor well.
MICHAEL (O.S.)
May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His countenance shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn His countenance to you and grant you peace...

The surface of the blood pool starts to vibrate.

MICHAEL (O.S.)
...Blessed is our God, always now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. May the Lord Jesus protect you and lead you to eternal life.

Michael hears an approaching rumble, deep and ominous. He turns to look through the windshield with a puzzled look.

WHAT MICHAEL SEES

PARAMEDICS tend to the injured ELDERLY HUSBAND. POLICEMEN direct traffic. Two FIREMEN carry a covered stretcher bearing the mother's body to an ambulance. Above it all...

...the sky is bright and clear.

MICHAEL

turns back to the woman. She has passed. He presses her cross to her lips.

The rumble grows louder. Michael leans out of the car, searching for the source of the noise.

While he looks away, the woman's soul gathers like smoky gossamer. It pours out of her chest, forming a floating ethereal balloon that gradually takes on her appearance.

A thin strand of ectoplasm tethers her soul. It breaks. Her soul rises through the car roof.

Michael gets out of the car. The rumble is very loud now. He turns toward the sky.

A churning black fog forms above the intersection.

Michael's face grows confused, then horrified.

The astral demon descends swiftly out of the fog. Dangling claws and hooves pass right through the tops of emergency vehicles. EMTs and FIREMEN go about their business.

Michael wheels around. Sees the elderly woman's soul ascending above the car. He turns back to the demon --

-- swooping down beating its leathery batwings. Michael is forced against the car by the malevolent force emanating from the demon. It buffets his hair and clothes.
The demon's teeth and claws gnash and thrash as it hovers watching the elderly woman's rising soul.

Michael quickly pulls out his cross and holds it aloft.

The entity hisses furiously. Like a hawk snubbing its prey, it flies off with a shriek. The rumble ceases, and the black fog dissipates.

The middle-aged policeman returns. He sees the elderly woman's body in the passenger seat.

POLICEMAN  
Did she go peacefully, Father?

Michael glances at the clear blue sky.

MICHAEL  
Yes, officer. She did.

INT. MICHAEL’S CHURCH OFFICE – LATER

A very old book open to full-page medieval illustrations of demons. Captions under the images identify them.

Michael's fingers slowly turn the pages, revealing more demons of varied shapes and sizes.

He sits at his desk reading the book. Shelves of religious books line one wall. A knock at the door.

Michael snatches a silver letter opener off the desktop and bookmarks the page. He quickly shuts the book and hides it in a drawer.

MICHAEL  
Come in!

A NUN enters humbly, holding a sheet of paper. A sweet lady. Michael watches her approach the desk.

WHAT MICHAEL SEES

The nun approaching, surrounded by a pure white aura.

NUN  
Good morning to you, Father.

MICHAEL’S OFFICE

MICHAEL  
And a good morning to you, Sister. This is?

NUN  
That approval for you to sign.
MICHAEL
(sighs)
I'm sorry. The morning drive was a bit harrowing.

NUN
The outside collection box. It needs to be more secure. I've gotten a few estimates, and here is the best one.

MICHAEL
Of course.

He reaches for a pen as she hands him the form. He signs it. Hands it back to her.

MICHAEL
Done. A small investment protects the larger.

She smiles and leaves. As soon as the door closes...

Michael wastes no time opening the drawer. He pulls out the book and resumes reading the chapter on demons.

His desk phone rings. Still reading, he answers it.

MICHAEL
Father O'Cleary.

EXT. PARK -- CONTINUOUS

A rustic setting. Adam on a bench holding his smartphone.

INTERCUT – ADAM AND MICHAEL

ADAM
How's my favorite exorcist?

MICHAEL
Adam! How's my favorite ghosthunter?

ADAM
Living on a prayer like yourself. Have you been going around cleaning up the neighborhood? My team is encountering a severe shortage of ghosts.

MICHAEL
God only made one of me, Adam. Besides, I would never intrude upon your turf unless you asked me to. What's troubling you?

ADAM
A whole lot of stuff. Can you get away? The usual place.
MICHAEL
Be there soon, God and traffic willing.

END INTERCUT.

EXT. PARK - LATER

Michael sits next to Adam on the bench. Michael finishes watching the attic footage on Adam's smartphone. The priest takes a moment to digest what he's just seen.

MICHAEL
We're in the End of Days, Adam. Demons will be unleashed from hell to snatch up the sinful souls of the unrepenting.

ADAM
Including an innocent child?

MICHAEL
Yes, God pity her, because she took her own life.

ADAM
God is harsh sometimes. If you'd seen her...

MICHAEL
She might have found her way to purgatory. God is merciful too.

ADAM
Her soul was destroyed. Does the Bible have an explanation for that?

MICHAEL
It's all I have to work with, Adam. You on the other hand...

ADAM
Have what? The psychic world? The world you rejected? We both share --

MICHAEL
-- the gift. Yes -- the gift. You chose to use it to help others. I embraced the Church instead.

ADAM
The Church doesn't seem to have a way of comforting tormented spirits. They suffer far more than those they frighten. You exorcise them at my request -- but that only boots them out of whatever house they haunted.
MICHAEL
Even a lost spirit can turn to God.
And God will lead them to heaven.

ADAM
Or annihilation. Did God send this creature?

MICHAEL
God is ultimately responsible for the work of the universe. He has many servants.

ADAM
Hard to imagine that monster serving God. There's something big going on, Michael. All these ghosts -- they're fleeing in terror from this thing. Since the dawn of humanity, spirits have called the shots scaring the bejesus -- scaring the pants off of people. Now the tables are turned.

MICHAEL
We're in the End Times, Adam. The Bible clearly describes --

ADAM
Cut me a freakin' break, Michael! Give me one original thought for once that doesn't come from your precious book!

Michael goes silent. Adam gestures regret.

ADAM
Michael I'm sorry...

MICHAEL
You're absolutely right about me.

ADAM
How so? You chose your path in life. I dropped out of the seminary because I couldn't swallow the dogma. The Bible is your instruction manual. I guess I was just an asshole.

MICHAEL
No more than myself.

ADAM
Why do you say that?

MICHAEL
Sometimes I give hard thought to leaving the priesthood. You see my paranormal vision as a blessing, but to the Catholic faith it is a curse -- a curse to be exorcised.
ADAM
Exorcised?

MICHAEL
Another priest must do it, but I fear excommunication should I confess.

ADAM
Why do you call it a curse? God has graced us! Clairvoyance is not a sin!

MICHAEL
Perhaps God is testing us.

ADAM
I can't look at it that way.

MICHAEL
And I need to. I want to give it up. I want to return this so-called gift.

ADAM
Please. Don't, Michael. There aren't many like us. The world needs us.

MICHAEL
I just can't go on.

ADAM
Fight it!

MICHAEL
It's too painful! I want peace!

Now Adam is silent. Michael's words penetrate. Adam gently grasps Michael's shoulder.

ADAM
You'd become a sacrificial lamb, Michael. I won't allow you to throw yourself to the wolves. They owe you for all you've done.

MICHAEL
Sweet brother Adam. The Church owes me nothing more than my meager salary. All my service, I've done in the name of love.

ADAM
Then talk to them! Explain how much more you could help the world with your talent!
MICHAEL
They will ask me how long I've had this ability, and I will not lie. I entered the priesthood with it. Harbored it secretly all this time. Things will not go well.

ADAM
So I'll testify on your behalf! I'll tell them about all the people you've comforted! Is it so vital what methods you applied bringing peace to those homes?

MICHAEL
Adam, you don't know the Church.

ADAM
You're right. I don't know the Church. (an awkward beat) I'll call you.

Adam starts to walk away.

MICHAEL
Wait!

Adam swings around.

MICHAEL
I've seen your demon.

Adam quickly walks back to Michael.

ADAM
Where? Why didn't you tell me?

MICHAEL
Out on Highway 9. There was a terrible accident. Two women and a baby were killed. As I administered last rites to one of them, the thing came, like a shark drawn to blood.

ADAM
And did it feed?

MICHAEL
The demon almost took her. When I held up my cross it turned away.

ADAM
And you say God only made one of you? He's gonna need a few more!

Adam goes to leave. He pivots back to his brother.

ADAM
A whole lot more!
Michael sits alone. He ponders for a moment. Pulls the book of demons from his pocket.

His fingers turn through the pages of medieval illustrations until they reach a full page drawing of a large demon. It looks exactly like the hideous fiend from the attic. He reads aloud the caption printed below it.

MICHAEL (O.S.)
Bezaliel. The Shadow of God.

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Little TRICK-OR-TREATERS stroll up and down the sidewalk with their PARENTS. The team quickly loads the van with equipment. They jump in, slam the doors and speed off.

Several costumed kids walk up to the house. They squeal when props activate. More kids find a big plastic tub heaped full of candy bars on the doorstep. A sign taped to it reads:

HELP YOURSELVES. ONE APICE.
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

EXT. PRISONER'S CEMETERY - NIGHT

Rows of tombstones bathed by a full moon. Gusts of wind whip up fallen leaves. A creaking sign over a rusted gate:

PRISONERS CEMETERY

The Poltertechs van pulls up. Ben is driving. He slides his window down and looks at the sign.

BEN
Feeding frenzy, here we come.

PRISONER'S CEMETERY - LATER

The team is set up near the woods surrounded by equipment. They sit on camping chairs waiting for some ghostly action.

Several luminous orbs flit around the tombstones. Ben films them cavorting like fireflies.

BEN
Someday the world will understand what those things are.

CASEY
Dave hates orbs. He says they're not the real deal. Don't waste your time, Ben.

BEN
Who says this is for him? I like orbs. They're cute little critters. Hey -- maybe one's your great-grandmother.
CASEY
I seriously doubt that.

ANNIE
Is something gonna happen soon?

BEN
Yes. You're gonna fall asleep.

Annie makes a face at Ben. The team waits. The cemetery stays peaceful. Adam sees something.

ADAM
Heads up, Poltertechs!

A dead-looking YOUNG MAN, staggering across the grounds.

Ben aims his camcorder and starts filming. Casey takes EMF readings. Ben lowers the camcorder in disgust.

BEN
No way is that a ghost.

CASEY
It's not. Damn it!

Two dead-looking YOUNG WOMEN run up from behind the young man. They all laugh. More YOUTHS join them.

ADAM (O.S.)
Forget it.

CASEY (O.S.)
Leave leave leave leave leave.

Eventually the partying teenagers do. All is quiet again.

More orbs circle playfully. Ben films these too. Suddenly all the orbs swoop away at once.

BEN
You guys see that?

A much larger flock of orbs flies out of the woods behind them, headed across the cemetery full speed. The team watches the spectacle of fleeing orbs in awe.

BEN
Son of a bitch!

ADAM
What the hell scared them like that?

The last of the orbs scatter. Casey points.

CASEY
Look!
Ghosts of DEAD PRISONERS rise from their graves. Hangman's nooses dangle from the crooked necks of two. Another has a burnt shaved circle in the middle of his scalp. The striped uniforms of several others are riddled with bloody holes.

Adam snatches up a second camcorder and starts filming.

**ADAM**

Get it -- get it --

A deep, distant rumble. Everyone looks down at the ground. The earth, shaking under their feet.

The rumbling draws closer. The team looks around in fear as black fog pours down on the cemetery.

**BEN (O.S.)**

(Cuban accent)

Say hello to my little friend...

Annie is terrified. She edges up close to Adam.

**ANNIE**

Something looks different.

**ADAM**

You're right. There's a whole lot more fog!

The team cowers as a horde of astral demons wings over them with a rush of beating batwings, smaller versions of the attic demon leading them.

The demons fly straight for the tombstones. Claws unfurl from their bellies next to dangling hooves. Jaws snap open.

**GHOSTS** turn toward demon shrieks and beating wings. Demons swoop down and massacre male and female ghost prisoners in droves. Ectoplasm shreds and explodes everywhere.

The team watches in horror and fascination. Ben doesn't stop filming. Adam stares at the attack, camcorder forgotten.

A **MALE PRISONER** stands frozen with fear. A large ghostly cross hangs from his neck. A demon pounces on him --

Adam stares at the demon --

-- ferociously devouring its victim. The ghostly cross is ripped off his neck. It drops onto his grave.

**ADAM (O.S.)**

It wasn't your cross, Michael!

A lone **ELDERLY WOMAN'S GHOST** stands bewildered and untouched. The frenzied carnage continues all around her.
ANNIE (O.S.)
Why aren't they attacking her?

ADAM (O.S.)
Wrongful conviction. My brother was right. The demons only hunt sinful souls!

Demon shrieks fill the air as we ascend slowly above the cemetery until it is a tiny swath of green against a patchwork of dark New Jersey landscape.

INT. CARLING COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - NIGHT

Packed full with murmuring college STUDENTS. The team sits at a long table on the stage, mikes in front of them. The Poltertechs logo is projected on the big screen behind them. A CAMERA CREW films everything. Adam stands. Grabs a mike.

ADAM
We'd like to thank you all for coming. This must mean you like the show.

The audience applauds and cheers. The other team members smile or wave.

ADAM (CONT'D)
As you may have figured out, our renewed popularity was brought about by an interesting phenomena we can only classify as...strange and violent. Like your last party date.

The audience laughs.

ADAM (CONT'D)
For those of you who have been following the show of late, you know that the team is investigating nothing less than ectoplasmic slaughter, week after week. We've filmed interviews with demonologists, mediums and members of the clergy, whose insight we will broadcast in upcoming episodes. But tonight is an unprecedented event.

Fascinated students in the audience watch Adam.

ADAM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Tonight we're going to reveal new footage during a special live show that not only sheds light on the increasing attacks, but will also educate us in the workings of the world of ghosts.

Adam steps to the front of the stage.
ADAM (CONT'D)
First let's start our question
and answer segment. Audience?

Dorky MALE STUDENT #1 stands up.

MALE STUDENT #1
How do we know those demons aren't
just CGI? It's so easy to do.

ADAM
For the answer to that I turn to
Ben, our technical expert.

BEN
That holds true for every show
about psychic investigations. Any
footage can be faked. You just have
to be there and experience it for
yourself. Short of that, trust your
investigators. If you can't, why
are you watching our show?

Some audience members near male student #1 grin and applaud.

MALE STUDENT #1
Is that all you got?

BEN
Far from it, my friend. Visited
any haunted houses lately?

MALE STUDENT #1
No...

BEN
Okay, how many in this room have
seen a ghost?

Roughly a third of the audience raises their hands.

BEN
Awesome! Now, how many in this
room have seen a ghost -- lately?

No one raises their hands.

BEN
I rest my case.

Excited audience members murmur to each other.

ADAM
What Ben means is there's a feeding
frenzy going on in New Jersey. A
feeding frenzy where ghosts are the
prey. They don't have time to haunt
houses anymore. They're too busy
trying not to get eaten!
Someone in the audience imitates the Pac-Man sound effect.

ADAM
Exactly!

BEN
Maybe there’s just too many ghosts. The thinning of the herd. We really don't know.

FEMALE STUDENT #1
Could this be the Jersey Devil?

CASEY
We thought of that. Aside from the wings there no similarity. Besides, the Jersey Devil has a solid form and eats livestock. Our attackers are astral by nature and subsist entirely on ectoplasm.

MALE STUDENT #2
Any reports of this phenomena outside of New Jersey?

ADAM
Nothing yet. Check our website for postings. But we're not going to keep you guys waiting any longer. The Carling College Paranormal Society is really excited about this new footage, and now it's time to lay it on you. What you are about to see is not pleasant. The faint-hearted should look away or change the channel. Lights please.

The room darkens. Footage begins on the lecture hall screen:

EXT. LAKEWOOD CEMETERY - POV BEN'S CAMCORDER - NIGHT

Everything greenish infrared as the Poltertechs march through the cemetery carrying equipment on a cold night.

ADAM (O.S.)
Tonight we report from Lakewood Cemetery, one of the few places left in the county with a sizable ghost population. The phenomenal slaughter we see happening all over the Garden State is taking its toll. Spirits are vanishing at an alarming rate.

BEN (O.S.)
We got one!

The team advances quickly toward a tombstone where the spirit of a WELL-DRESSED MAN rises from a grave.
A deep rumble approaches.

BEN (O.S.)
Hear that? Incoming!

Ben's camcorder lens swings over to the graves, capturing more spirits rising from the ground.

ADAM (O.S.)
Annie, what are you picking up?

ANNIE (O.S.)
EMF increasing!

Ben's camcorder zeroes in on the EMF meter Annie holds up. Its digital readout goes max.

BEN (O.S.)
Off the charts. Demon fog cometh!

The lens swings up. Black fog pours into the cemetery.

BEN (O.S.)
Right on schedule!

CASEY (O.S.)
Two more, Ben!

The lens quickly approaches two GHOSTLY OLD WOMEN rising eerily from the ground holding hands. They turn fearfully toward the billowing fog.

Demons rush in, all gnashing teeth and raking claws. The women turn to flee. They're quickly devoured.

BEN (O.S.)
Party's just getting started!

A lot more demons descend upon the graves. Their claws penetrate the ground, digging feverishly like wild dogs.

CASEY (O.S.)
Oh -- my -- God...

ADAM (O.S.)
This is unprecedented! The demons have learned how to burrow for prey!

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dave, munching popcorn, lounges on a luxurious couch watching the live show on a big flatscreen.

DAVE
Way to go!

EXT. LAKEWOOD CEMETERY - POV BEN'S CAMCORDER

Demon entities drag RESTING SOULS from their graves and rip them to shreds.
ADAM (O.S.)
We are witnessing firsthand a
horrifying scene. The dead
have no rest tonight...

With a final hideous shriek the horde departs, leaving the
cemetery dead quiet. We hear Annie sobbing.

The lens turns to her. Adam consoles her. Casey comes over
too. Annie's staring at something. She points at it.

ADAM
What?

ANNIE
Over there. By that tombstone.

The camcorder swings to the tombstone. A GHOST FARMER lays
on the ground in front of it.

ADAM (O.S.)
Go! Go!

The team rushes over. They kneel by the mortally wounded
ghost of an old man dressed in 19th century farm clothes.
His ectoplasm lays in tatters. Glowing liquid pools out
onto the ground. Annie tries to comfort him, but her hand
goes right through him. He coughs several times.

CASEY
Were you at peace, sir?

GHOST FARMER
My peace...was stolen from me...

ADAM
You weren't resting in your grave?

GHOST FARMER
No...I lived in the hereafter.
I fled back to my grave...to escape.

ANNIE
What were you running from?

GHOST FARMER
Those fiends! They slaughtered my
family. Shredded them up like
scythes. My wife Jenny -- she'd just
crossed over. My two little girls,
died of diphtheria. My brother,
kilt by a rebel's musket ball.
Like wild hounds they done chased
us! Hundreds of families wiped out --

The farmer coughs harder. Ectoplasm spurts from his mouth.

GHOST FARMER
Into God's bosom...at last...
He lays still. His glowing ectoplasm dissolves and fades.
The video ends.

LECTURE HALL

The lights come up. The silent audience is stunned. Students wipe their eyes. Adam stands holding his mike.

ADAM
And that ends our show. We hope to have more for you next week...

FEMALE STUDENT #2 stands up, visibly upset.

FEMALE STUDENT #2
Maybe it's wrong, what you're doing! Maybe it's time you stopped!

Some of the audience nods agreement. The crowd murmurs. Adam's smartphone hums. He looks down at it.

CLOSE ON the phone. A text message from Dave: Wrap it up!

Adam texts his reply: Fuck off!

ANNIE
Who was it?

ADAM
Dave. He said the show went great.

Adam stands up and walks to the front of the stage. The audience grows more restless and disturbed.

ADAM
Please tell me all your concerns.

MALE STUDENT #3
You're making snuff films for ghosts!

MALE STUDENT #4
He's right! You've lost this fan!

Students talk amongst themselves. Many get up and leave.

ADAM
Do we have an opposing viewpoint?

FEMALE STUDENT #3
Your demons do!

Laughter and boos from the audience.

ADAM
Well -- thanks for coming. Stay tuned to our next show...

MALE STUDENT #5
Yeah don't count on it!
Boos fill the room. Adam looks back at his team. The Poltertechs are having a very awkward moment.

INT. ABANDONED PLAYHOUSE - NIGHT

The neglected stage a shadowy ruin. A GHOST ACTOR drifts onstage dressed as Hamlet.

GHOST ACTOR
Angels and ministers of grace defend us! Be thou a spirit of health or goblin damn'd, bring with thee airs from heaven or blasts from hell, be thy intents wicked or charitable, thou comest in such a questionable shape that I will speak to thee...

A deep rumble approaches. The stage floor vibrates, kicking up dust. The ghost looks down, confused. Black fog pours onto the stage. The ghost grows alarmed. He starts to recite nervously.

GHOST ACTOR
Save me, and hover o'er me with your wings, you heavenly guards! What would your gracious --

An astral demon attacks him. Another swoops down to battle the first demon over possession of the wounded ghost. Ectoplasm shreds and explodes. More demons join the frenzy, tearing at the ghost and each other like hungry lions fighting over a carcass.

LAP DISSOLVE TO:

The stage, deserted. A relay clanks. Spotlights come on.

TROY, 40s, the gay, snobbish caretaker here, escorts Adam and his team out of the wings. Casey films the action. Annie takes EMF readings.

TROY
Pervis Clement was his name. Lived by himself right up the street until he died of a stroke in 1928. Shakespeare was his first and only love. Pervis never auditioned for anything else. A few weeks later he was back haunting the place like he never left, performing his favorite parts. And he loved Hamlet. I swear he's heard me applaud him.

Troy crosses his arms dramatically and shakes his head.
TROY (CONT'D)
Now he's gone. Hasn't returned in a fortnight. Something scared Pervis right out of his tights.

BEN
How long is a fortnight?

TROY
Fourteen days to you. Sorry. The theater rubs off.

ADAM
Do you have security cameras here?

TROY
No, only motion detectors. They signal my smartphone. That's how I discovered there was an intruder. As you folks well know, Pervis couldn't possibly set one off.

ADAM
Anything stolen or vandalized?

TROY
Nothing was even touched. All the entrances were locked. We got broken into a couple of years ago. A bunch of kids had themselves a party and a half. They left one hell of a mess. This time the place was intact. Except for the scratch marks.

BEN
Show us these scratch marks.

TROY
Actually, folks, you're standing on them.

Adam and Ben look down at the stage. Ben kneels for a closer look. He swipes away the dust, revealing multiple grooves apparently made by claws. He runs his fingers across them. His eyes follow the random patterns all the way to the wings.

Ben sees something there. He walks over to it.

ADAM
Casey! Get this!

CASEY
Already on it.

Casey films the stage floor. Troy talks with Annie. Ben returns from the wings. Adam turns to him.

ADAM
What the hell are we looking at?
BEN
Rats, probably.

ADAM
Are you kidding me? Rats never get this big.

BEN
Okay, wolverines. Velociraptors. I don't know, man! Why are we filming it?

ADAM
Because we've got nothing else. The whole damn county is wiped clean. There's no ghosts left, Ben. No ghosts, no TV show -- my friend.

BEN
You speak to Dave lately?

ADAM
Not since the live broadcast. But he wants to see me tomorrow.

BEN
What about?

ADAM
One never knows with Dave. He could be pissed at our last conversation.

BEN
What did you talk about?

ADAM
Actually we texted. Best not repeated.

BEN
Are you keeping shit from me?

ANNIE (O.S.)
Adam? Troy wants to know if we're gonna do an investigation tonight.

ADAM
No. There's just not enough here.

Adam joins the girls and Troy.

Ben checks if anyone is looking and turns away. He pulls an object out of his back pocket. Stares down at something that fills his entire hand.

A demon's talon in solid form, ripped out by its roots.
INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - DAY

A luxury suite high up a Manhattan office building. Dave's on his smartphone facing the window. Adam enters. He seats himself at a chair in front of Dave's desk.

DAVE
(into phone)
Make it five hundred. That'll pull 'em in. Talk at you later.

Dave hangs up, but doesn't immediately acknowledge Adam. The wait could freeze water in a glass.

ADAM
Okay. I'm sorry about the text. Heat of the moment.

Dave swivels in Adam's direction. Lights a cigarette.

DAVE
You really think I'm pissed at you for that? It shows again you really don't know me, Adam. I'm not the cruel bastard you think I am. It's those damn numbers. But it doesn't matter. We went to commercial when the shit hit the fan.

ADAM
Stuff like that only reinforces what I'm about to tell you.

DAVE
I heard this coming from across the Hudson way before you got here. Go ahead. Lay it on me.

ADAM
Fine. I quit. The team and I talked last night. We're all leaving the show.

DAVE
Contract, contract!

ADAM
Which you were about to rip up when we weren't delivering the goods.

DAVE
But now you are. Viewership has bumped up quite nicely since the live show. Controversy makes for the sweetest ratings.

ADAM
It's mostly bullshit now, Dave. We've been faking it.
DAVE
Jesus, Adam...Let me hang this one out to dry. You're short on material, so you start bringing me phony shit every week and don't even tell me?

ADAM
You wouldn't understand the real reason why if I did!

DAVE
You know what? Give me the crap! I don't care! Cut up sheets and put eyeholes in them! Shake them up and down and film them in your goddamn closet! How's that?

ADAM
Yeah? Well how's this?

Adam leaps up pissed as hell. He flips a double bird at Dave and heads for the door.

DAVE
You really ought to sit down, Adam.

Adam ignores Dave. He keeps going.

ADAM
I am really outta here! Stuff your contract where the sun don't shine!

DAVE
The same place you hid your last student loan?

Adam stops dead, his back still to Dave.

DAVE
That's right. The one you spent on spook equipment instead of a dorm room, before I came into your life. You shacked up with your girlfriend instead. Explain that to the Ocean County DA. I believe it's known as fraud. A felony in the beautiful state of New Jersey.

Adam turns to Dave like he's just been punched in the gut.

DAVE
So like I said. I'm not really such a bad guy. Look at my perspective for once. I like my job, I really do. If my bosses decide to shitcan the show, it's out of my hands and you guys walk. Right now Poltertechs is providing a revenue stream. Let your audience decide. There, you're off the hook.
ADAM
So what do you want from me?

DAVE
Same as always. Footage. If it's fake, make it look real. I know you can do that. Now take a hike. I got things to do.

Adam storms out and slams the door behind him.

Dave reaches for his cellphone. Drags on his cigarette. Shakes his head while he dials.

DAVE
Damn college kids.

EXT. NEW JERSEY PINE BARRENS - NIGHT

A battered pickup truck bounces along a moonlit dirt road somewhere in the Pine Barrens. It pulls to a stop.

Highschoolers LENNY, ANGIE, and BO sit in the cab. Angie sits between the boys holding a camcorder.

BO
We ain't findin' nothin' with them lights on. And kill that damn noisy engine. You're gonna wake the dead!

Lenny shuts the headlights and the engine.

ANGIE
Don't talk like that. I'm already scared and we didn't even start yet!

BO
Oh, man! Told you we shouldn'ta brought her.

LENNY
She's the only one who owns a decent camcorder, asswipe. That Poltertechs show wants a real video, not some crappy cellphone shit!

ANGIE
Can we get this over with?

The boys look at her.

BO
Damned if you don't look just like Snooki in that outfit.

LENNY
It's the hair.
ANGIE
Well, don't get any ideas out here.
I'm wearing panties.

LENNY AND BO
Whoa!

Both boys stare luridly at Angie. Awkward moment.

ANGIE
Please? Can we do this thing?

DIRT ROAD - LATER

They walk along the road deeper into the forest.

ANGIE
What are we looking for exactly?

LENNY
Somethin' about four feet high
with bat wings an' a horse face.

BO
Mrs. Orbach!

They all burst out laughing.

LENNY
It's called the Jersey Devil. Lotsa
people seen it, but nobody's come up
with any kinda decent picture of it.

BO
We're gonna find it. Snooki's gonna
film the damn thing. Hey -- what's
five hundred divided by three?

ANGIE
You call me Snooki one more time and
you're gonna be swallowing my fist.

Lenny notices something strange up ahead.

BO
Oooh! Scare me!

LENNY
Hey guys -- what's that?

They stop dead in their tracks. Stare down the road.

BO
(whispers)
Start the camera!

They come up on what they saw. Angie grabs Lenny's arm
while she films. They're shocked. Angie stares open-mouthed.
The moonlit carcass of a buck, freshly disemboweled. Steam rises from its scooped-out innards.

LENNY
What animal did that?

BO
The Jersey Devil done this. Gotta be him!

ANGIE
Oh God. What am I doing here? I could be safe in my room doing my frigging homework!

Grunting and snarling grabs their attention.

A little past the buck's carcass, a big dark hunkered-over shape with bat wings, feeding on something it's pinned to the ground.

Angie's had more than enough. She turns, all set to run.

BO
Where you goin', girl? There's our Jersey Devil! He bagged himself a double whopper tonight!

She shoves the camcorder into Lenny's hands and runs full speed back toward the truck.

BO
Little chickenshit. Hey, point that thing at our moneymaker, not your friggin' feet!

Lenny swings the camcorder up and films. They stand there, uncertain what to do next.

BO
You scared?

LENNY
N-no.

BO
On the count of three we start walkin' up to it. Ready?

LENNY
N-no.

Bo punches Lenny in the shoulder.

BO
Ready now?

LENNY
S-sure.
Bo steps behind Lenny. Shoves him forward.

**BO**

*Three!*

They come up on the hulking thing. Lenny films it. Bo's lost his bravado up this close. They stare petrified.

The beast doesn't notice them. It's too busy feeding on what it's pounced on.

Lenny crosses himself with his free hand.

Abruptly the creature stops with a deep grunt. It turns slowly to the teenagers into full view under a bright moon.

The astral demon, in solid earthly form. Big black insect eyes glisten like coals. Dripping jaws soaked with green blood. Multiple claws and black-hoofed appendages line its belly, some twitching. The nightmare coldly studies them.

**WHAT THE DEMON SEES**

Solarized demon vision: Lenny, surrounded by a pure white aura. He gasps with fear. The demon's gaze shifts to Bo. His aura is gray, tattered like old dirty linen.

**LENNY AND BO**

Bo gets what's behind the demon's stare. He backs away.

**BO**

*Not my fault they died! It was an accident!*

The demon snarls and leaps at Bo, revealing the Jersey Devil's gutted corpse sprawled on the ground!

Lenny stares in shock at the Jersey Devil's remains. As he moans in fear, Bo screams horribly somewhere behind him. Lenny turns toward Bo --

-- and gets showered with a gout of Bo's blood.

Angie runs panting back to the truck. A deep rumble. She stops and turns around.

A black fog descends over the road. Dark demon shapes appear in it, flapping toward her.

She flees in a panic for the truck. Pulls hard on the passenger door handle. Locked! She looks back.

The shrieking horde of demons draws closer.

Angie cries out. Yanks desperately on the locked door. Runs over to the driver's door. Pulls it open. Quickly jumps inside. Slams the button down.
Demons surround the truck. They pounce on the back bed, the hood and the roof, looking for a way in. The truck sways and bounces under their weight.

Inside the cab, Angie screams her guts out.

Demons shatter both side windows with their hooves, covering Angie with glass shards. They lunge for her, jaws gnashing.

Angie slides to the middle of the seat screaming. Covers her face and sobs.

ANGIE
I've been good I've been good
I've been good I've been good --

The cab goes dead quiet. Angie whimpers and shakes. Opens her eyes. Peeks through her fingers.

The demons are gone.


LENNY
Don't even ask!

ANGIE
Where's Bo? Where's Bo?

LENNY
Shut up! Just shut up!

ANGIE
We gotta go get 'im!

LENNY
There's nothin' left to get!

The pickup truck roars down the road. Above, a foreboding sky. The horde of demons wings past the rising moon.

EXT. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - NIGHT

Perched like a sentinel of peace on a hilltop. Soft light glows out of stained-glass windows.

CONFESSION BOOTH


CONFESSIONER
Forgive me, Father. I have sinned.

MICHAEL
Have you offended God?
CONFESSIONER
In a big way, Father.

MICHAEL
Are you ready to confess your sin?

CONFESSIONER
Oh God yes. It's been years, Father. I can't take this any more. I should've come to you sooner...

MICHAEL
You are here now, and for that God is grateful. He loves you.

CONFESSIONER
I don't deserve God's love.

MICHAEL
Everyone does. We just don't realize it sometimes. You can speak to me whenever you're ready.

CONFESSIONER
I killed -- I killed my own mother!

MICHAEL
Take your time.

CONFESSIONER
She had cancer. After the docs gave up on chemo I took care of her at home. My mother hated hospitals. She'd beg me to end her life. I'd give her pain medication and hope she'd fall asleep quick so I didn't have to hear her moaning.

Michael gazes compassionately through the lattice.

CONFESSIONER (CONT'D)
I started drinking a lot, and then my sister was gonna lose her house after the crash. Do you see where this is going, Father?

MICHAEL
You have to tell me yourself.

The confessioner lowers his face into his hands.

CONFESSIONER
Jesus forgive me. I kept feeding her more and more pills. One night I came home and she wasn't breathing. The cops never bothered me. They knew.

MICHAEL
She could have died of her cancer.
CONFESSIONER
Right after I gave her half the bottle? Not a chance, Father.

MICHAEL
You have committed mortal sin in the name of love. It is sin nonetheless.

CONFESSIONER
(sobs)
My mother's life for a foreclosure! I'm gonna burn in hell!

MICHAEL
You came here today. You've not turned away from Christ, your redeemer. You entered His house. Therefore you want salvation.

CONFESSIONER
I'm a good man! She was in so much pain! Oh God. Pray for me, Father!

A muffled crash, somewhere outside the booth.

MICHAEL
Let the blood of Christ wash over you. Let Jesus embrace you. Open your arms to the mercy of the Lord --

The door to the confessioner's side of the booth rips away. The man looks up horrified. The hulking astral demon fills the doorway, jaws slavering.

SUBLIMS:
- The astral demon attacks Ainsley in the attic.
- The astral demon attacks the soldier in the security video.
- The astral demon menaces Michael as he holds up his cross.
- The astral demon pivots off the Jersey Devil's carcass.
- The astral demon's illustration. CLOSE ON the caption: BEZALIEL. The Shadow of God.

END SUBLIMS.

CONFESSION BOOTH

This hellish being is BEZALIEL. For a moment more the demon sizes up the confessioner...and lunges into the booth to devour the screaming, struggling man.

Michael stares through the cage in shock. The booth rocks violently as Bezaliel feeds. Michael braces his hands on the booth walls, struggling for balance. He rushes out.
Bezaliel emerges from the other side of the booth splattered with the confessioner's blood. Michael confronts him.

MICHAEL
How dare you enter a house of God?

The engorged demon glares at Michael, breathing heavily. Michael pulls out his cross. He holds it up to Bezaliel.

MICHAEL
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, I cast you out of my church!

Bezaliel is unaffected. It stares Michael down and speaks to the priest in a deep, resonating voice not of this world.

BEZALIEL
Useless trinket. I leave of my own free will.

The demon raises up. Unfurls its batwings. Turns to go.

MICHAEL
Wait!

The demon hesitates. Turns its head back slightly.

MICHAEL
Are you named Bezaliel, the Shadow of God?

The demon barely nods. It strides toward the entrance with its splintered doors cast aside. Michael quickly follows.

MICHAEL
You are fallen! Accept God's grace!

The demon stops.

BEZALIEL
Far too late.

Bezaliel pivots. Takes wing back across the church toward a tall stained-glass window of Christ gazing down serenely.

Bezaliel smashes right through it. Shattered glass showers everywhere.

Michael leans against the pulpit in shock and anguish. He crosses himself. Looks up and stares at -- the empty, sharded window frame, open to the night cold.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLING - NIGHT

A JOHN pulls up in his car. His passenger-side window slides down.

THE JOHN
Ladies! Who feels lucky tonight?

PROSTITUTE
You lucky I don't whip yo ass! You got cash money? We don't take no plastic.

THE JOHN
Right here next to my lightning rod.

PROSTITUTE
Yeah well let's see it.

THE JOHN
(snickers)
The rod or the money?

PROSTITUTE
The green, losa! I seen plenty enough of the other!

THE JOHN
Yeah, sure, dollface. You don't look old enough.

PROSTITUTE
Old enough to keep you outta jail! Cost you one twenty five.

THE JOHN
Bullshit! I'll give you seventy-five.

PROSTITUTE
Take yourself a long hike, dreama!

She steps away disgusted.

THE JOHN
I was kidding, baby doll! Come to papa, sweetheart.

She swings back flashing a big grin, opens his passenger door and jumps in.

So do four demons in a rush of wings, claws and teeth. The car rocks violently as the demons devour the two screaming humans inside.

Pumping blood splashes against the windshield.

The other prostitutes stare horrified at the car. They turn and start to run. Demons pounce on them and devour them.

A horde of demons soars down on the neighborhood attacking and devouring PEOPLE hanging out on the street.
EXT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The back door opens, releasing loud heavy metal music. A COOK heads for the dumpster with a large bag of trash. He opens the lid. Goes to toss the bag in.

A demon lunges out of the dumpster like a huge trapdoor spider, locks its jaws around the cook's upper body and drags him back inside. The lid slams shut.

INSIDE THE SPORTS BAR

A HEAVY METAL BAND performs. BARGOERS party it up.

Demons fly through the open back door. They seek and find bargoers, who go down screaming as they're devoured.

Demons scuttle quickly toward the stage. The shocked band stops playing. They try to flee as demons attack them.

A musician wields his guitar like an ax as demons lunge for him. Before he can land a blow he is overrun.

His blood-soaked guitar smashes against the back wall, leaving a red smear as it drops to the stage.

One demon stalks a TERRIFIED WOMAN, forcing her into the ladies' room. She falls backward onto the toilet in a sitting position. The woman grabs the cross dangling from her neck. Holds it up defiantly.

The demon bites off her head without hesitation, leaving her body still holding up the cross. Blood gushing from her neck showers the demon as it gulps her head down.

EXT. CARLING BUSINESS DISTRICT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Demons swoop down, seek out VICTIMS along the sidewalk and devour them.

Demons fly toward a hotel entrance. The automatic doors slide open, allowing a horde of them to wing into the lobby.

Outside a conference room a sign reads:

CREDIT CARD FEES AND
HOW TO CREATE NEW ONES
A Two Day Seminar For
Banking In Hard Times

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Flying demons burst through the conference room doors. They devour the screaming, cowering BANKERS inside.

EXT. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Michael rushes out of the wrecked entrance. Grimly looks down at the town. Cries of mayhem drift up to him.
INT. CARLING POLICE STATION - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A COP quickly unlocks the caged basement arsenal. Other COPS rush in, gathering up assault rifles and ammo. All rush away but COP #1 and COP #2. They snatch a rifle apiece off the rack.

COP #1
I heard the damn radio reports. These things pass right over one person and rip ten others apart.

COP #2
They're after the sinners, Mac.

COP #1
Who the hell told you that?

COP #2
You pick up a bible lately? Or are you too busy grabbin' something else?

The COP #1 hesitates. Turns to his partner.

COP #1
Now what the fuck was that supposed to mean?

COP #2

COP #1 grapples COP #2.

COP #1
You shut up about that! I take care of my family!

Heavy breathing interrupts them. The cops slowly turn toward it.

A demon fills the arsenal gate with its evil bulk.

The cops look at the assault rifles they hold. They look at each other. Grin. Raise their rifles and pull the triggers. Click. Click.

COP #2
Nothing's loaded in the arsenal!

They drop their rifles. Pull their handguns out. The demon pounces. Starts devouring COP #1. He screams his guts out.

COP #2 pumps seven rounds into the feasting demon.

The demon turns to him unharmed. Its sharp teeth drip with human blood. The demon reaches out with a claw.
It grabs the handgun. The cop is too terrified to let go.
The handgun turns red-hot.
The cop gasps and releases the gun. Grabs his burnt hand.
The gun turns white hot in the demon's claw. Molten steel drips to the floor.
The demon flings the gun away. It scuttles out of the arsenal. Cop #2 stares at the wall.
Seven bullet holes in a cluster there. He looks down.
Seven spent bullets sit in a pool of his partner's blood.

OUTSIDE THE POLICE STATION

Demons swoop down and attack COPS as they fire rifles at them without effect.

Cops turn to using rifles as clubs. Their blows do nothing. Demons attack whatever humans they want.

A COP jumps into a squad car. Grabs the radio mike.

    COP
    All points! All points! Bullets
don't hurt them! I repeat! Bullets
do not hurt them! We need the
National Guard, with flame throwers!

A demon reaches into the squad car. Drags the cop out kicking and bellowing. Tosses the cop onto the sidewalk.

WHAT THE DEMON SEES

Solarized demon vision: the terrified cop laying on the sidewalk, surrounded by a pure white aura. The demon loses interest, turns and starts walking away. We continue seeing its solarized POV as it progresses down the street.

    COP (O.S.)
    YO!

The demon stops. Pivots slowly, revealing the defiant cop.

    COP
    I got you muthas figured out! I live
clean and I'm proud of it. Eat that,
you nasty pile of shit!

The cop's aura withers to gray, deteriorating to tatters.
The cop cocks his head and starts to worry. He backs away.

    COP
    What did I say? What did I say?
THE DEMON
scurries back. Pounces on the screaming cop and devours him.

EXT. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - NIGHT - LATER

The Poltertechs van screeches to a stop. The team leaps out. Rushes up to the entrance. Michael waits there.

MICHAEL
Quickly!

The team follows Michael through the entrance. They glance with alarm at the wrecked doors. On their way to the back of the church, Ben hesitates at the smashed, bloodstained confession booth.

MICHAEL
Don't even think about it!

Ben turns away. At the altar Michael addresses the team.

MICHAEL
All of you kneel! Accept the Prayer of Absolution!

The team falls to their knees.

CASEY
I'm Jewish, Father!

MICHAEL
We are all God's children. Cross yourselves!

They comply. Casey's never done it and fudges up. Ben guides her and she's done. All of them bow their heads.

MICHAEL
May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you and by His authority I absolve you from every bond of excommunication and interdict so far as my power allows and your needs require.

Michael gestures the Sign of the Cross.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Thereupon I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Rise, all of you. You are protected.

The team stands up. Ben turns to Adam.

BEN
Is this gonna work?

ADAM
That was the real deal, my friend.
Loud knocking at the entrance. Michael turns to the team. He smiles confidently.

MICHAEL
My private army.

Michael welcomes a group of PRIESTS, MINISTERS, a HINDU PANDIT, a MUSLIM CLERIC, and a RABBI holding a copy of the Kabbalah.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CARLING - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

An Apache helicopter swoops low. Its machine guns strafe demons chasing people. Bullets pass harmlessly through demons, ripping up cars and shattering store windows.

An Army truck screeches to a stop further up the street. SOLDIERS leap out wielding flame throwers. They ignite them and advance on demons defiantly charging them.

Flames envelop two demons. They open their jaws wide and swallow the flames like they were lapping water. The demons lunge for the soldiers right through the flames.

Soldiers drop their flame throwers and flee. Fire-lapping demons pursue them. Other demons quickly follow.

One demon stays behind toying with a discarded flame thrower, trying to make it work. In the distance a soldier screams. It abandons the flame thrower and joins the feast.

SOLDIERS grab military rifles. Fire at oncoming demons. Bullets have no effect. Demons attack screaming soldiers.

Michael and his band of clergymen approach from the other end of the street.

Demons pull PEOPLE from cars and attack them as Bezaliel oversees. It senses the clergymen. Whips around.

Michael stops and gestures for the clergymen behind him to halt. All of them obey.

The attacking demons stop their feasting, turn and gather up behind their leader.

The priests raise their crosses. Michael turns to them.

MICHAEL
This one has no fear of Christ.
I'll speak to it.

Michael notices something unusual about one of the priests.

WHAT MICHAEL SEES

A FALLEN PRIEST amongst the clergy, surrounded by a gray, tattered aura, gazes at Bezaliel.
MICHAEL

stares at the fallen priest a moment more. He turns to confront Bezaliel. Demons behind Bezaliel writhe, cower and grimace, disturbed by Michael's goodness.

MICHAEL
Why do you torment our world?
Who sent you?

BEZALIEL
Your all-knowing God.

The clergymen murmur amongst themselves.

MICHAEL
You jest, Bezaliel. Satan commands you.

The shocked rabbi hears Bezaliel's next words in Hebrew.

BEZALIEL (O.S.)
(Hebrew, subtitled)
My lord Satan has always obeyed Jehovah.

The surprised pandit hears Bezaliel's next words in Hindi.

BEZALIEL (O.S.)
(Hindi, subtitled)
As it has been since the lotus birthed.

MICHAEL
The devil speaks in many tongues!
Why do you seek vengeance upon God's children?

BEZALIEL
It is not vengeance. It is the duty of the Fallen to fulfill prophecy.

MINISTER #1 holds up his bible.

MINISTER #1
The prophecy of the Revelations?
How can you follow the word of God?

BEZALIEL
Ten thousand wayward souls! Then my small army rests, glutted with sin.

The fallen priest steps forward.

FALLEN PRIEST
Only ten thousand? The world holds so much more, demon.

BEZALIEL
We are just the beginning.
Bezaliel eyes the fallen priest hungrily. Several demons creep forward and do the same.

BEZALIEL
A jackal mingles with the sheep. 
No finer morsel.

Michael rushes up to the fallen priest and shields him.

MICHAEL
He is of God!

BEZALIEL
No longer.

Lesser demons flank Bezaliel as he advances toward his prey. Michael turns. Grabs the fallen priest protectively.

MICHAEL
(quickly)
May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve you and by His authority I absolve --

The lesser demons attack. They tear the screaming fallen priest from Michael's grasp and devour him on the spot.

The priest's severed head tumbles toward Bezaliel. Bezaliel scoops it up in his jaws and crunches it down.

BEZALIEL
Your army is weak, with defectors in the ranks.

The rabbi fearlessly steps up close to Bezaliel.

RABBI
By the light of Enoch, I command you to leave this earth as you found it.

Bezaliel rises up in a smoldering fury.

BEZALIEL
Not even the Chosen Ones shall deter us.

Bezaliel unfurls his wings. His minions gather close. The demons launch themselves into the night sky.

Michael and the other clergymen watch them depart. FATHER THOMAS, a young priest, joins Michael.

FATHER THOMAS
We've failed, Father.

MICHAEL
No, Thomas. We've gained knowledge. And in knowledge there is strength.
FATHER THOMAS
But we have no weapons against them!

MICHAEL
Quite the contrary.

As the two priests gaze out at the night sky...

On soundtrack: the opening strains of the third movement of Pink Floyd’s A Saucerful of Secrets (bent guitar note and church organ intro chords)

...as the demon horde drifts across the moon...

EXT. THOMAS’ CHURCH - NIGHT - LATER

On soundtrack: the main church organ theme bursts upon us.

A line of Catholic PARISHIONERS spills out the front doors of the church and trails out along the street.

INSIDE THOMAS’ CHURCH

Kneeling parishioners accept the Prayer of Absolution from Father Thomas.

INT. METHODIST CHURCH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Seated CHURCHGOERS let their PASTOR’S blessings wash over them.

INT. SYNAGOGUE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The rabbi recites blessings over a crowd of repentant JEWS.

INT. HINDU SHRINE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The Hindu pandit bestows blessings upon solemn HINDUS.

INT. MOSQUE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The Muslim cleric kneels with his praying, reverent FOLLOWERS.

EXT. ADAM’S HOUSE - NIGHT

The van sits in the starlit driveway. Light glows from a basement window. On soundtrack: The church organ fades.

BASEMENT

At a workbench Ben, wearing lab gloves and safety goggles, holds up the demon’s talon and gazes at it.

Adam watches Ben drop the talon into a glass tray.

Ben picks up a container labeled ‘HCL’. Opens it. Pours acid over the talon. The acid sizzles but has no effect.

Ben coughs as he waves away the fumes.
BEN
That was full strength hydrochloric, man. We're gonna need a bigger boat.

ADAM
We can't give up. There's got to a way to hurt them.

Ben pulls off his gloves and removes the goggles.

ADAM
These demons are a breed apart. Not your average Linda Blair variety. Satan sent his best.

BEN
Your brother called it the End Times. Maybe we can't really do anything to stop them.

Ben turns to Adam.

BEN
I am thoroughly out of ideas.

Adam runs an exasperated hand across his scalp.

ADAM
Let's checklist this again. Bullets pass right through them. We just tried acid. Fire they like. That rules out napalm or nuclear bombs.

BEN
And anything else in your average military arsenal. Swords? Knives?

ADAM
Same as bullets. Steel and lead feel like gummy bears to them.

BEN
As I attempted earlier, my friend. Watch this.

Ben clamps the talon into a bench vise. Picks up a hacksaw and starts sawing the talon. The blade snaps, leaving the talon unmarred.

BEN
I'm not done.

Ben picks up a hammer. Swings it with all his strength against the talon. The head recoils. Ben drops the hammer. Shakes his hand in pain.

BEN
Stupid idea! I could've just told you.
Adam is lost in thought.

ADAM
Remember that hand game we all used to play?

BEN
What game is that, my friend?

ADAM
Paper beats scissors...

BEN
No, that's not how it went. Scissors cuts paper. And paper --

BEN AND ADAM
Beats rock!

ADAM
Actually paper covers rock. Scissors are steel. Been there, done that. Paper is the Bible and prayers. Good luck with that. What's left?

BEN
Rock beats scissors.

They look at each other. Epiphany strikes.

BEN
Shit.

Ben heads for the foundation wall. With a mighty effort he pulls out a flagstone. Carries it over to the talon.

Ben raises the rock over his head. Strikes the talon with a loud grunt.

The talon shatters. Fragments of it fall to the floor, flame up and disappear.

BEN
That's so medieval, man!

At the top of the stairs the basement door swings open. Annie and Casey step across the threshold.

ANNIE
What are you guys doing?

Ben looks up at them, still holding the flagstone.

BEN
Saving the fucking world.
EXT. CARLING - AERIAL SHOT - DAY

Encamped ARMY TROOPS, tanks and military equipment encircle the entire town. Apache helicopters patrol above.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Dave smokes a cigarette and watches a local news report on his laptop: Adam and Ben being interviewed by REPORTERS in front of their house.

DAVE'S LAPTOP SCREEN

ADAM
I'm saying Poltertechs has found a way to defeat the creatures terrifying Carling. Any weapon made of stone will harm them.

FEMALE REPORTER
Have you attempted this on any of the demons?

BEN
Not...as of yet. We're just getting the word out to save lives.

ADAM
Okay listen people. Everyone is advised to use extreme caution when attempting to defend themselves...

DAVE (O.S.)
Adam, what the fuck are you doing?

EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Adam and Ben talk to the reporters. A CAMERA CREW videos them. News trucks line the curb. Adam's smartphone hums.

ADAM
Excuse me one second.

Adam reads the text message on his cellphone. Ben glances at it too. Adam looks up at the cameras.

DAVE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - CONTINUOUS

ADAM
Obviously you're watching this, Dave. In response to your request that I retract my irresponsible claims...

Adam hesitates. Will he say it on the air?

Ben leans in to the mike and looks at the camera.

BEN
Dave? Sue us, man.
ADAM'S HOUSE

Adam grins. He high-fives Ben. Reporters crowd up to them with more questions.

EXT. MOTORCYCLE ROADHOUSE - DAY

A ton of Harleys parked outside. The sign over the door:

NEW JERSEY NATIVE AMERICAN MOTORCYCLE CLUB
Peace On The Road -- Before There Were Roads

In front of the roadhouse a makeshift memorial of flowers and teddy bears surrounds side-by-side photos of two male fallen bikers.

A felt-tipped poster board reads:

WE REMEMBER OUR FALLEN BROTHERS
SNATCHED FROM THEIR HOGS
BY A GANG OF DEMONS
VENGEANCE FOR OUR RIDE BUDDIES
(AND THEIR WRECKED HARLEYS)
IS OURS AND OURS ALONE

INSIDE THE ROADHOUSE

Lenape Native American BIKERS and their LADIES hang out at the bar watching Adam and Ben's interview on a big retro TV.

Prominent among them is JIMMY, 30s, the club's charismatic leader. He watches the news report with rapt attention.

JIMMY
Stone, huh?

Jimmy heads out the back door like a man possessed.

BEHIND THE ROADHOUSE

Strewn with old Harleys and lots of motorcycle junk. Jimmy strides purposely through the yard with a spade in his hand. He comes to the base of a very old tree. Searches the ground. Kneels. Digs until his spade strikes something.

He shovels dirt off of a large rusty chest. Drops to his knees and clears dirt off the lid. He pulls mightily on the handles but can't lift the chest out of the ground.

TINY BEAR shows up. A humongous muscled Lenape in a cutoff denim shirt and blue jeans.

Tiny yanks the chest out of the ground all by himself and sets it down.

TINY BEAR
You sure you wanna do this?
JIMMY
Never been more certain about anything in my entire fucking life. It's our destiny, man.

TINY BEAR
That's pretty by me. You gonna open the sucker? Honor's yours.

Jimmy snaps the clasps. Throws back the lid, revealing dozens of 300 year old stone-tipped tomahawks, enough for everyone in the club.

TINY BEAR
It's showtime!

EXT. CASEY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Close to sunset. The Poltertechs van pulls up quickly. Adam's driving, Ben next to him. He honks the horn.

Annie and Casey rush out wearing bicycle helmets. They head for the side door of the van. Ben leans out his window.

BEN
What's with the helmets?

ANNIE
They can't eat us but they're sure gonna get pissed trying.

Ben grins. He reaches back. Unlatches the side door.

Annie slides the door open, revealing four homemade wooden-handled bludgeons with sharp rocks twined to one end of each. Two of the bludgeons are smaller sized.

The girls clamber inside. They take the bench seat.

ANNIE
What's up with these?

BEN
Flintstones war clubs. I made them myself. You two get the smaller ones.

CASEY
These better work -- Barney.

BEN
Yabba-dabba-doo, man.

Casey shuts the door. The van pulls away from the curb.

INT./EXT. POLTERTECHS VAN - DAY - TRAVELING

Sunset. The van surges out onto Highway 9 northbound. Casey practices swinging her weapon.
ANNIE
You guys have any idea where the
demons might show up next?

ADAM
They follow their stomachs.
They're gonna go where the sin's
most concentrated.

ANNIE
The prison!

ADAM
Nice try, Annie. What are prison
walls made of?

ANNIE
Point taken.

ADAM
They'll be looking for some wide
open space with lots of free food.

ANNIE
So where's that?

The van roars past a roadside billboard. LINGER ON IT:

FREEHOLD RACEWAY
HARNESS RACING SINCE 1853
12 MILES

EXT. FREEHOLD RACEWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS
Sunset. Harness racehorses burst out of the gate and down
the track. An announcer describes the action over the PA.
SPECTATORS cheer in the stands. GAMBLERS place their bets.

INT./EXT. POLTERTECHS VAN - TRAVELING - CONTINUOUS
Adam drives the van up Highway 9. Jimmy's Harley growls up
alongside Adam's door. Jimmy shouts at Adam.

JIMMY
Poltertechs!

Adam and Ben look over. Jimmy's Harley is deafening.

JIMMY
Name's Jimmy! Could you folks
use a little help?

ADAM
I can't hear you!

JIMMY
(louder)
I said, could you folks use
a little help?
Adam glances at Ben. Annie and Casey lean forward to see.

**BEN**
Whadduya got?

Jimmy reaches back into a saddlebag. He pulls out a tomahawk and brandishes it.

Adam nods his approval.

**ADAM**
Now we're talking! How'd you hear about this?

**JIMMY**
Your Twitter feed! We're big fans of the show! You asked for volunteers, right?

**ADAM**
Right! Welcome aboard!

Jimmy gestures a thumbs up. He shoves the tomahawk back into the saddlebag. Ben leans over to shout at Jimmy.

**BEN**
Who's the 'we'?

Jimmy flips two fingers forward. Dozens of LENAPE BIKERS on their Harleys roar up and surround the van, pacing it.

**JIMMY**
I brought a couple of hand-picked warriors! See you at the battlefield!

Jimmy roars ahead to the lead position in front of the van.

**BEN**
Son of a bitch! You see their jackets? Those are Lenapes, man!

**ADAM**
Defending their homeland again. Only this time they just might win!

The van and Jimmy's motorcycle club roar on to Freehold.

**EXT. FREEHOLD RACEWAY - DUSK**

In the night sky above the raceway, the distant demon horde flies across the full moon and starts to descend.

The van and a mess of Harleys pulls into the parking lot by a chained gate next to the racetrack. Bikers shut off their engines and pull off their helmets.

Adam and the team join them carrying their stone bludgeons. Bikers proudly pull out their tomahawks.
Adam watches the demons as they wing in. Jimmy and Tiny Bear approach him.

ADAM
Thank God I was right. What were the chances?

JIMMY
You a gambling man?

ADAM
When it comes to saving lives.

JIMMY
You're pretty damn noble for a whiteskin. I'm honored to stand next to you. Our dead ancestors still walk this land. You show them respect.

Jimmy shakes hands with Adam, then Ben. Tiny Bear offers his huge paw to Adam.

JIMMY
And this is Tiny Bear.

Tiny Bear engulfs Adam's hand with a meaty paw.

RAINFLOWER, a tough, defiant Lenape beauty, steps up to Jimmy.

RAINFLOWER
Jimmy!

She tosses her head at the sky.

The horde descends, surrounded by black fog.

JIMMY
Time to rock and roll! Find your guts, warriors!

Rainflower plants a quick kiss on Jimmy's cheek as he heads for his bike.

Adam glances up.

ADAM
They're too close! The gate!

Tiny Bear strides up to the gate. He heaves on it. His muscles strain and quiver. The taut chain snaps and drops heavily to the ground.

Tiny Bear quickly swings the gate open. Riders restart their Harleys. Tiny Bear runs over to his hog, mounts it and starts it up.

All the bikers gun their Harleys through the gate swinging their tomahawks and whooping war cries.
A harness race is in progress. Harleys speed onto the track. Demons fly toward the packed stands just above ground level. Cheering spectators notice the bikers. Many stand up bewildered. Some shout protests.

**SPECTATOR #1**
Hey! Get the hell off the track!

Spectators express shock when they see the demons approach. They react in terror as black fog engulfs the stands.

Horses panic as black fog reaches them. Some rear up and gallop in all directions pulling their jockeys.

A flying demon snatches a jockey off his harness and devours him screaming in midair. The horse gallops off alone.

Bezaliel wings toward the stands. Many demons follow.

**JIMMY**
(sees this)
Split off! Help those people!

Some of the bikers behind Jimmy veer toward the stands.

Bezaliel and his horde land on fleeing, screaming spectators. They start devouring them.

Jimmy, Tiny Bear and the toughest-looking bikers roar full speed toward more of the demon pack flying at bike height straight for them.

Jimmy is in the lead. He readies his tomahawk. Guns his Harley at the front demon. Veers at the last second. Strikes the demon in the head.

The demon collapses spewing black blood. First kill!

Jimmy circles back whooping a war cry, swinging his tomahawk.

Tiny Bear's turn. He heads for a demon full tilt. Instead of veering he rams it. The demon collapses, dazed but unhurt.

Tiny Bear skids, flats his bike and storms in for the kill.

The demon rushes at him shrieking. The shriek stops abruptly as Tiny Bear smashes his tomahawk into the top of its skull, burying the stone tip out of sight.

Black blood showers Tiny Bear. He gags and wipes his mouth.

**TINY BEAR**
Tastes like shit, man!
The Poltertechs and a bunch of bikers rush the feasting demons in the stands. They smash demons with bludgeons and tomahawks, rescuing people along the way.

Hollering Casey charges a demon holding her bludgeon over her head double-handed. The demon jumps up snarling, sending Casey cowering back.

Annie hard-kicks the demon from behind. It quickly turns hissing toward her.

ANNE
That was really rude.

Annie clobbers the demon between the eyes with her bludgeon.

A valiant BIKER swings his tomahawk at demon after demon, felling them in droves. A demon attacks him, drags him to the ground and goes to finish him.

A loud chunk. The demon stops midway. Keels over dead with a tomahawk in its back.

His BIKER GIRL stands there. Shaky but gutsy. She grins her triumph at her boyfriend. He tosses his head.

In an instant she yanks the tomahawk loose and pivots to swing it into the face of a demon attacking from behind her.

Biker warriors do wheelies on the field, racing toward demons, smashing tomahawks into them.

Several dismounted bikers fight demons one on one.

A flying demon grapples a TOUGH BIKER by the neck with a claw as he roars past. The biker drops his tomahawk. The demon lifts the struggling biker a few feet into the air.

He lunges for the tomahawk laying below, but can't reach it.

He pulls out a flint knife. Severs the claw strangling him.

Shrieking demon and biker drop to the ground. The claw twitches wildly as the biker picks up his tomahawk and steps in for the kill, smashing the writhing demon in the throat.

He puts a boot on the corpse. Yanks out the tomahawk. Spits triumphantly in the dirt.

HORSE STABLE

Bezaliel retreats into the stable. Horses whinny and panic. They hoof and batter their stall gates trying to escape.

Adam storms up to the stable in pursuit. Horses stampede out of the entrance, nearly trampling him. He heads inside.

Bezaliel turns to confront furious Adam. Black blood oozes from the demon's multiple wounds.
ADAM
It's over, you fiend!

Adam advances. He readies his bludgeon to strike Bezaliel.

BEZALIEL
Wait! I offer a pact!

Adam doesn't miss a step. He keeps coming.

ADAM
You're kidding, right?

BEZALIEL
Stop! In the name of Jehovah!

ADAM
Blasphemer.

Adam raises his bludgeon high above Bezaliel. The demon cowers, shielding itself with a batwing.

BEZALIEL
My life saves your brother's!

Adam hesitates, bludgeon poised.

ADAM
My brother is pure. You'll never harm him!

BEZALIEL
Be not so sure!

Ben rushes in with Annie and Casey, bloody weapons in hand.

BEN
Adam, it's a trick! He buying time! Remember who sent him!

Bezaliel rises up, looking more evil than ever.

BEZALIEL
I can already taste his flesh.

Bezaliel snaps its wings open. Launches straight at Adam. Adam falls backward onto the straw-covered floor.

Bezaliel flies out of the stable and escapes.

The others help Adam up. He bolts for the entrance. The rest follow him.

They rush outside. The team watches Bezaliel flying up to join the few surviving demons already winging away.

ADAM
My brother is toast.
Jimmy and his exhausted bikers congregate on the floodlit race field. The black fog has dissipated. Demon corpses lay all around them. One by one the corpses turn to heaps of black dust, flame up and disappear.

The weary Poltertechs walk up to the bikers. Jimmy strides up to Adam with tears of joy and pride in his eyes. He hugs him fiercely and releases him.

JIMMY
This! This is the battle my ancestors lost! The defending of our ancient lands! Their spirits stand with us rejoicing!

Adam glances behind Jimmy.

WHAT ADAM SEES
Three apparitions of LENAPE WARRIORS from Colonial times in full battle dress, standing proudly.

RACETRACK

ADAM
Tell me about it.

Jimmy beams. Rainflower comes up and leans on him.

TINY BEAR
Let's not forget our ride buddies. We avenged them in spades, man.

ADAM
They're right behind you.

Tiny Bear turns to where Adam is staring.

WHAT ADAM SEES
The FALLEN BIKERS GHOSTS stand there smiling serenely.

RACETRACK

Tiny Bear squints.

WHAT TINY BEAR SEES
The racetrack, minus the fallen bikers.

RACETRACK

TINY BEAR
I can't see nothing, man!

Biker ladies high five Annie and Casey. Ben hugs Jimmy.

BEN
Thanks, dude. We couldn't have done this without you, man.
Jimmy and Ben release.

**JIMMY**
Drop by anytime, white friends. Our longhouse is yours.

**ADAM**
We're grateful, guys. We gotta go.

Jimmy and Adam bump fists. Bikers nod approval and cheer.

**EXT. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - NIGHT - LATER**

A thunderstorm approaches. The Poltertechs rush up to the ruined entrance -- through it -- into the church, where Ben immediately starts dragging pews across the entrance. The rest join in. Soon they've formed a barricade.

**MICHAEL (O.S.)**
Don't forget the window.

The team turns to see Michael standing at the pulpit. His eyes have a strange faraway look. He glances at the tall frame that once held the stained-glass window of Christ.

The team follows Michael's gaze. They head that way.

Michael steps off the pulpit.

**MICHAEL**
It's no use. Let them come.

**ADAM**
Bezaliel threatened to harm you. I couldn't be sure he was bluffing.

Michael comforts Adam with a hand to his shoulder.

**MICHAEL**
Ben was right. He's as crafty as his commander. I was never in any danger.

**ADAM**
How did you know Ben said that?

**MICHAEL**
God is breathing a little stronger through me now.

**ADAM**
Michael, what's wrong? You don't look so good.

A loud noise at the entrance. Everyone turns toward it.

The pews barricading the entrance burst into flames. Bezaliel and the surviving demons storm their way through.
Lightning strikes somewhere close by. Bezaliel strides up to the humans at the altar. The surviving horde follows him, a small roughed-up bunch splattered with black gore.

BEZALIEL
This world harbors armies of strange shapes.

MICHAEL
You bring the fight, Bezaliel.

Michael steps closer to Bezaliel.

MICHAEL
Bezaliel, can't you see? Fighting and killing will not grant you peace. Only repentance will. You are filled with hate, and hate has blinded your heart.

BEZALIEL
Hate is all I know, and I will kill you now with some of it.

MICHAEL
Make the attempt.

Adam moves to protect his brother. Michael restrains him.

Bezaliel advances. Comes within a hand breadth of Michael's face. Opens jaws wide enough to fit Michael's head and shoulders. Michael stands firm. The demon withdraws.

BEZALIEL
You are all too wise, priest.

MICHAEL
As you are devious. It was a trick, to make me boast of my invulnerability. My guts would have warmed your gullet after that. Now tell me. Why do you and your minions crave human flesh?

BEZALIEL
For the lack of wandering souls.

ADAM
He's talking about ghosts. The demons ran out of food, morphed into solid form --

BEN
-- and multiplied their food supply a thousand fold. Souls wrapped in pig blankets. All you can eat buffet!

MICHAEL
So you've come back to my church to torment me, which is all you're capable of here.
BEZALIEL
Torment comes as easily as breath
to a human...

For the first time Bezaliel sets his gaze on Annie. The
demon's eyes glare with hunger.

She grows fearful. Adam stares at her confused.

MICHAEL
Don't waste your time. These four
are pure!

BEZALIEL
Three.

ADAM
What's he talking about? Annie!

Annie stares at Bezaliel with terror in her eyes.
The horde behind Bezaliel edges closer, jaws widening.

CASEY
Our weapons are still in the van!

Annie thinks back.

FLASHBACK:
Annie battling demons in the racetrack stands. She sees
something at her feet.

A fat wad of cash held in a clip. Annie pockets it and
returns to the battle.

END FLASHBACK.

ANNIE
I found some money! I was gonna
give it to the team! I swear, Adam!

ADAM
Annie, you committed greed!

The demons advance on Annie. Michael blocks them.

MICHAEL
In the name of Christ, no more
killing!

BEZALIEL
I've destroyed your Lord.
Step aside.

Bezaliel and the other demons skirt Michael and close in on
Annie. She drops to her knees sobbing in fear.

ANNIE
I'm sorry --
Adam rushes in to shield Annie. He glares at Bezaliel.

**ADAM**

You'll have to kill me first.

Bezaliel steps up to Adam. Knocks him across the church floor like a doll with a powerful sweep of a batwing.

Michael stares grimly at doomed Annie. His hand reaches into his jacket pocket. His fingers pull out...

...the silver letter opener.

**MICHAEL**

Goodbye, Adam.

Adam, still sprawled on the floor, turns toward Michael.

Michael puts the blade under his sternum, angling the point upward.

Adam's expression turns confused.

**ADAM**

Michael?

Michael forces the letter opener into his chest. He gasps. Collapses to his knees. Stares in shock, his heart pierced. He topples over, taken by death.

**ADAM**

NO!

Bezaliel restrains the slavering demons behind him.

**BEZALIEL**

Wait on the female. A priest takes his own life! The sin of sins! Gaze upon the succulent plate!

Agonized Adam, face lit by second sight, pushes himself off the floor. He stares sobbing at prone Michael.

**WHAT ADAM SEES**

Wisps of ghostly gossamer gather from all over Michael's body. A bright globe of light rises from there and floats gracefully above him, connected by a tenuous cord. It forms Michael's bright peaceful soul...

...which suddenly turns gray and tattered.

**INSIDE THE CHURCH**

Bezaliel and the demons advance hungrily on Michael's body.

**BEZALIEL**

Quickly! Before it departs!

Adam struggles to get up.
BEN
(points)
Look! The window!

All the colored glass shards swirl up from the ground below the Christ window frame, miraculously reforming --

-- the intact stained-glass image of Christ.

A golden beam of light flows from the Christ figure to Michael's body, turning his soul visible to all.

Annie, Casey and Ben stare at Michael's floating soul in awe. Adam comes up to Annie. She grasps his arm.

Michael's soul turns pure white again -- and transforms dramatically into a powerful armored warrior angel with spreading white wings. It descends to the church floor.

Ben crosses himself. Casey stares astonished.

CASEY
Michael the archangel...

The golden beam dissolves. The angel stands serene, larger than a human, glowing with his own radiance.

The angel turns to Bezaliel and the demon horde. Crouches into a fighting stance.

The lesser demons back away in fear.

Bezaliel hunkers down and snarls.

The angel launches himself at Bezaliel.

A ferocious battle begins. The inside of the church is slowly wrecked by the fierce fight as the thunderstorm rages outside.

The team barely escapes being crushed by Bezaliel's bulk as the demon struggles with the archangel. They take cover on the floor between the pews as the foes tumble over them, splintering pew backs. The battle rages on.

Bezaliel overwhels the angel. Lowers yawning jaws toward his face. Demon saliva rolls harmlessly down the angel's chest and --

-- splatters to the floor where it sizzles and burns.

Adam rips a wood plank from a wrecked pew. He goes to defend the angel with the plank, but Annie restrains him.

ANNIE
You can't help him! This is heaven's fight!

Slowly and with great effort, the angel manages to grapple Bezaliel's jaws just as they draw closed around his head.
With the tremendous power of his muscled arms, he forces the dripping jaws wider...wider...


Bezaliel twitches and dies. The angel releases the demon.

Bezaliel's lifeless body collapses to the floor, where it disintegrates into a mound of black dust.

The lesser demons stare in confusion at their fallen leader's remains. One by one they collapse into mounds of black dust.

A supernatural wind blows in through the entrance. The heaps of black dust swirl, caught in the updraft. They flame up and disappear. The thunderstorm calms.

The angel turns to Adam, who stands overcome with awe. The holy being gazes at him lovingly. Adam reaches out with heartbreaking pathos.

ADAM
   Michael...

The angel gazes a moment more. Abruptly takes wing...

...heading for the stained-glass window of Christ...

Instead of shattering it, the angel passes right through it with a burst of beautiful golden light that fills the church like divine liquid pouring from a heavenly fountain. The stained-glass Christ remains, gazing serenely down.

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - DAY - A YEAR LATER

Morning light filters beautifully through the stained-glass window of Christ. The restored church is filled with CHURCHGOERS. Their attention is on the pulpit.

A priest's hands close a bible on top of the pulpit.

   ADAM (THE PRIEST) (O.S.)
   And that concludes our Sunday service.
   May the Good Lord watch over all of you.

Churchgoers get up to leave.

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN and an ELDERLY MAN remain seated in a back pew.

A YOUNG WOMAN lingers in a pew close to the front. She is distraught, with the gaunt, hollow look of an addict.

The priest's hands gather up the bible and some reading notes from the pulpit. His face is revealed. It's Adam. He looks down kindly at the young woman.
WHAT ADAM SEES

She sits troubled. A dark and tattered aura surrounds her.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

Adam steps off the pulpit, walks to the pew and sits by her. She stares at the floor downcast. He takes her hand in his and speaks comforting words to her. Eventually she turns to him and smiles sweetly.

They stand and walk out of the pew. The young woman leaves. Adam turns to the two churchgoers seated quietly in the back.

ADAM

Come back. You're welcome anytime.

The elderly man in the back pew fades away and disappears. Soon after that, the middle-aged woman turns to ectoplasm, drifts off and dissolves.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

The church bulletin board sign reads:

WE'RE A FULL SERVICE SHOP

EXT. NEW JERSEY PALISADES - DAY

High above a desolate cliff. Sullen clouds diffuse a ruddy sunset. November wind ruffles a desolate field of dead grass rising up to the cliff edge overlooking nothing but empty gray sky.

Near the cliff's edge hundreds of what appear to be very large birds squat on the ground. Their attention is fixed on something in the distance beyond the precipice.

As we drift closer it's apparent these aren't birds at all, nor are they any creatures of this earth.

Dark gray, scaled, tentacled, their dripping jaws lined with very sharp teeth. Some unfurl leathery batlike wings.

Demons. A multitude of them. They cling to the grass tufting the cliff's edge. Several snarl and moan with hunger and longing. Something across the Hudson River captivates their red glowing eyes...TILT UP and we see...

The towering, brightly lit skyline of Manhattan.

INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT


The garage is deserted and dead silent. Dave's Gucci shoes echo when they strike the concrete. He approaches his BMW.
A noise makes him stop. He turns toward it.

Nothing there.

Dave lights a cigarette. Takes a puff and frowns. He inspects the cigarette.

CLOSE ON the cigarette. The end has gone out.

Dave re-lights it. Puffs. Frowns. Looks at it again.

CLOSE ON the cigarette. The end has gone out again.

Dave tosses the cigarette away in disgust. He starts walking to his car again. Swings toward the sound of flapping wings.

A dark gray shape flits through the shadows across the garage. Hints of gray tentacles and leathery batwings.

Dave grows more nervous. He speeds up his pace.

An overhead light pops and goes out. Dave freezes.

    DAVE
    Who's there? Fuck!

Silence.

    DAVE
    I'm warning you! I've got nine one
    one on speed dial!

More silence.

Dave rushes a little faster to his car.

Another overhead light pops and goes out.

    DAVE
    Is that you Adam? Ben? You guys
    prank me? Not funny! I'll sue
    your little asses!

Dave walks a lot faster. He reaches for his car remote.

A dark gray flying shape topples him to the cement. His keys fly out of his hands.

They skitter across the concrete.

Dave frantically searches for his keys. Finally he locates them. Looks around. He sees his car and breaks into a run.

Dave squeezes the remote as he rushes toward his car.

Dave yanks the door open. Leaps inside. Slams the door. Quickly presses the lock. Sits panting. Gradually relaxes.

He inserts the ignition key and starts the car.
Dave listens to the engine purr. He lights another cigarette and this time it stays lit. He starts to relax, letting the radio soothe him. He reaches for his seat belt.

It won't pull out far enough. Dave yanks the belt over and over. It's stuck. He gets pissed off.

DAVE

Come on! Goddamn belt.

He lets the belt retract. Reaches for it again...

...and pulls a slimy dark gray scaled tentacle across his chest. Dave goes to clip the end of the tentacle into the buckle. Sees it's not a seat belt. Lets go with a yelp.

The tentacle remains there. Dave stares at it wide-eyed.

The tentacle slithers further out of the back seat. Dave moans in terror. The tentacle curls around, sliding up between his face and the window.

In a full shaking panic now, Dave leans toward the passenger seat to avoid the tentacle...

...encountering the enormous wide-open jaws of a cliff demon leaning in from the back seat. Green saliva drips out...

...sizzling and burning the center console.

The demon lunges out of the back seat and attacks Dave.

The car rocks violently as Dave screams bloody murder inside.

As the demon feasts voraciously on Dave its tentacle tip probes for the master window button, locates it and depresses it.

All the car windows slide down at once. More flying cliff demons land on the car, slither inside and join the feast.

FADE OUT.