

BENEATH THE SURFACE

FADE IN:

EXT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE - DUSK

A murky, black pond whose waters are surrounded by tall, skeletal trees and dank undergrowth sits in front of an isolated, two storey, ramshackle house in a rural backwater.

This is a place that has its own time, its own separate existence.

INT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE, BEDROOM - DUSK

Inside the stark and decaying wooden house,

ANDY, a fourteen year old kid with that worn down look of the old man trapped in the youngster's body, grips the windowsill as MAMA beats him with a cane.

MAMA'S sallow skin and her red, alcoholic eyes make her appear far older than her forty three years and her face is a mask of anger and concentration as she unleashes another blow on her son.

Andy gazes out of his dirty, cracked, bedroom window at the dark, misty pond below.

ANDY (V.O.)

There's a place I go to, when Mama
beats me...

EXT. POND - DUSK (DREAMSCAPE)

Andy walks down a narrow, gnarled and twisted path, past leafless trees till he comes to stand, surrounded by bull-rushes and reeds, next the pond.

ANDY (V.O)

...I imagine walking to the Pond, and
stepping into it.

Andy steps into the pond and sinks beneath the surface.

He floats in the Grey murk, illuminated only by the magic hour rays of dusk.

ANDY (V.O.)

I go deep into the darkness. I focus only on the water. I imagine I am the water and float in the cold stillness where there is no pain, only numbness. You can't hurt water.

(BEAT)

But today...today something is different.

A huge, vague shape moves around him, part black mist and part primeval monster.

ANDY (V.O.)

There is something else here. Deep, deep down in the darkness. I can sense it all around me. I hear it calling to me.

A huge pair of red, Demonic eyes amidst the great, black mist. LEVIATHAN.

ANDY (V.O.)

It shows me things in my mind. Horrible, beautiful things.

A SERIES OF IMAGES:

A broken vodka bottle on a wooden floor, covered in blood.

Mama's face, eyes wide in fear.

The house burning against the night sky.

ANDY

What are you?

LEVIATHAN

I am what I am. I was here at the beginning, I will be here at the end. I can set you free.

ANDY

How?

LEVIATHAN

Open the door, and let me in.

INT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE, BEDROOM - DUSK (END DREAMSCAPE)

Mama CRACKS the cane against Andy's behind one last time then walks away.

She pauses inside the doorway, a frail but intimidating figure partially silhouetted by the light behind her.

MAMA

You're your Daddy's seed, and I'll
beat him out of you if it's the last
thing I do.

She slams the door shut.

Andy stretches gingerly to the window and gazes out at the pond.

ANDY (V.O)

I am the water, and the water is me.
I go deeper inside myself. Into parts
I didn't know existed. Till I reach
the Well, the Source. I can feel the
anger, the hatred bubbling up. The
darkness rising from the deep.

He watches as the sun moves over the sky and sinks beneath the horizon behind the pond and as the setting sun turns the surface of the pond as red as a Lake of Blood.

Then darkness falls.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Andy creeps down the stairs...

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

...and gently opens the lounge door. He tiptoes across the floorboards to his sleeping mother who is lying on the couch with an almost empty vodka bottle clutched to her chest.

He reaches for her inner pocket.

Her eyes open in a drunken haze and she glares with hatred at her son...

MAMA

You're just like your father. I guess
it's true what they say. You don't
get clean water from a poisoned well.

...then slips back into unconsciousness.

Andy takes a set of keys from her inner pocket.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Andy stands at the front door before a series of unusually large and complicated locks.

Andy uses the keys to open them.

The front door creaks ajar, and Andy pushes it more widely open and stares out at the pond.

ANDY

(Whispering)

The door is open.

EXT. POND - NIGHT

At first, nothing.

A faint mist hangs over the watery surface. The air is quiet and still.

Then...ripples spread across the water; Something large moves beneath the surface.

Something huge and black that swells the surface of the water. Two huge red eyes stare out into the night from the huge, horned head.

The Leviathan lifts itself out of the water, dragging itself onto the embankment.

INT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy leaps back inside the house and leans back against the wall, scrunching his eyes up in fear.

ANDY (V.O.)

...For a second I regret what I have done. I try to send it back where it came from. I try to stop it. But it's too strong...

EXT. POND - NIGHT

The huge form of the Leviathan lumbers up path outside the house.

INT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy remains pinned against the wall with his eyes closed.

ANDY (V.O.)

...And it's getting stronger and closer. The darkness. Closer and closer. Oh God...It's here.

INT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy, eyes and hands clenched, cowers against the wall as the Leviathan squeezes itself through the front door, a vague mass of black, red eyes, teeth and scales.

The Leviathan continues its journey, dragging its enormous bulk through the hallway and into the lounge...

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

...Where it stands over Mama's sleeping form, her bottle of vodka still clutched to her chest.

INT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Andy remains fixed to the spot as the sounds begin.

The terrible, stabbing and tearing sounds and the loud screams of Mama as she is ripped apart.

The tears run from beneath Andy's closed eyes and he covers his ears to block out the sound.

EXT. RAMSHACKLE HOUSE - LATER

From the far bank of the black, misty pond, we look back through the bull-rushes and reeds at the isolated house and watch a blood-covered Andy stagger from the open door, as the first flames start to lap at the windows of the house like hungry red tongues.

FADE OUT.