FADE IN:

INT. THE ALCOVE

Tonight, we find the display case hidden behind black curtains draped across the alcove.

As we approach -- with a cheesy "TA-DAA!" of horns from somewhere -- the curtains suddenly spread to reveal --

TANIS, seated on her wooden chair -- with a ventriloquist dummy in her lap.

The dummy wears a small pair of denim jeans and a tiny shirt that reads, "Ladies Man!"

TANIS

You come on a special night
tonight. Seems Tanis got herself a visitor...and his name be Kenny.

She looks down to the doll, and turns its head so as to meet her eyes.

TANIS

Say hello, Kenny.

Kenny's voice is simply a squeaky, high-pitched version of Tanis -- and when Kenny speaks, Tanis moves her lips.

Tanis is not a very good ventriloquist.

KENNY

Hello, Kenny!

TANIS

Ho-ho...silly Kenny.
(nods to us)
I mean say hello to our guests.

Now Kenny slowly turns his head to us. His eyebrows rise in surprise.

KENNY

Now who would come be seein' us?

TANIS

Why, it be folks wantin' to hear a story. Maybe we tell them a story 'bout you?

KENNY

Oh, Kenny be likin' that. Tanis turns back to face us.
TANIS
So, what can we be sayin' 'bout grown people playin' with dolls?

MOVING IN ON KENNY'S FACE

TANIS (O.S.)
Pretendin' they be human...
somethin' alive. But if they start to believin' it...well...
then who really be pullin' the strings for who?

CLOSE ON KENNY'S FACE

The sounds of APPLAUSE filter in, growing louder -- and tonight, Kenny introduces our story.

KENNY
And this tale be called...
"Davinci's Doll."

SUPER: DAVINCI'S DOLL

And pulling back from Kenny's grinning visage reveals...

INT. THEATRE - DAY

THE GREAT DAVINCI, dressed all in black with a cape and a fedora. He carries his puppet, KENNY in one hand and a cane in the other.

Kenny is also dressed all in black with a cape and fedora. The only difference is that Kenny has a permanent smile on its face.

A crowd of a dozen fans surround him and another half dozen security guards keep them from getting too close.

In the crowd is DALE OLIVER, (25) dressed in cargo pants and a Great Davinci shirt. He carries a book titled "Being Great, Like Davinci"

The Great Davinci sits at a table set up with books for sale and 8x10's.

The crowd soon forms a line at the table.

Davinci signs books & 8x10's as Dale gets closer.

FAN
Yo Davinci, you the man.
Davinci looks up with a scowl at the fan who yelled out. Dale finally gets to Davinci and sits the book down.

DALE
Can I get an 8x10 as well, sir?

GREAT DAVINCI
Name?

DALE
Dale Oliver... You're my idol.

GREAT DAVINCI
I know.

Davinci signs an 8x10 to Dale, flips open the cover of the book and signs again.

DALE
You know, I am something of a ventriloquist myself. Not as good as you but one day I hope to...

Davinci hands him the book with the picture tucked inside and ignores him.

As Dale walks away the puppets eyes follow him. It catches Dale's eye and he stops.

DALE
How did you do that?

Davinci ignores him and continues signing.

A security guard taps Dale on the shoulder causing him to jump and then smile out of embarrassment.

SECURITY GUARD
Move along.

Dale continues toward the door looking back every so often as he does.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

The basement has a washer dryer off to one corner and a futon up against a back wall with lots of storage boxes and beat up stands.

Dale sits on the futon with JASON, his beat up old puppet sitting on his lap in front of a standing mirror.
The puppet is missing an arm.

DALE
How's it going Jason?

JASON
You know, my arms been missing for a few days now and I haven't been able to play any video games.

DALE
What do you mean missing? You don't just misplace something like that.

JASON
I was sitting here like I always do watching the same bad cartoons and all of a sudden out of the blue your dog attacked me and ripped off my arm. I was in shock at first and by the time I was able to give chase he had already buried it.

DALE
Where's the arm now?

Dale watches himself perform and his mouth moves slightly. He smiles proud of himself and pats the doll on the back.

THE NEXT DAY

Dale is asleep on his futon with his arm around the puppet.

Standing over him holding some mail is his MOTHER.

MOTHER
Dale! Wake up. It's twelve thirty. You have some mail.

Dale waves his arm for her to go away.

DALE
Go away.

MOTHER
Get up. Stop ordering junk, go out and get a job so you can move out. Get a life.
DALE
Go away. I didn't order anything.

MOTHER
You're 25 and you still need me to do everything for you. All you want to do is sit down here and play with your dolls.

DALE
They're not dolls.

Dale sits up and wipes the sleep from his eyes.

DALE
I entered a talent competition with my puppet. This is what I want to do.

MOTHER
Whatever. At least you're going outside for once.

She throws the mail down and storms off.

Dale picks up a shipping slip from the pile and looks at it. He stretches and gingerly gets out of bed.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

DALE'S FATHER (45) is bent over in the corner setting a mouse trap.

Dale enters and walks over to him with the shipping slip in hand.

DALE
Dad, did you order anything from eBay?

FATHER
Nope. Not this time but I did see something I may order though.

DALE
Weird, I didn't order anything either but got this.

He shows it to him.

DALE
Anyway, can I borrow the car.
FATHER

No problem. If your mom asks I will take the blame. She just needs to complain about something every day. Try not to let her bother you.

DALE

Thanks.

Dale hops in the car.

His father watches him leave and goes back to setting traps.

INT. POST OFFICE -

Dale walks up to the counter with the packing slip.

DALE

I'm here to pick up my parcel.

The girl takes the slip and walks into the back area. A few moments later she returns push ing a large box on a dollie.

DALE

Are you sure this is mine?

GIRL

That's what it says on the tag.

Dale signs for it and takes it with him.

INT. CAR -

While driving with the parcel in the backseat he looks through the rearview mirror at it.

The box is quiet, ominous in the seat.

INT. BASEMENT -

Dale sits on the futon with the parcel in front of him.

He rips open the box to reveal an old fashioned trunk. He unlatches it and pushes it open to reveal KENNY, The Great Davinci's puppet.

Dale pulls it out of the trunk and a letter falls from its mouth. The puppets fingertips are red on both hands.
He picks up the letter.

DALE
I am Kenny, your new best friend.
Let's make some magic happen at
the Think Fast Talent Competition.

He places the puppet back in the trunk and takes the note with him upstairs.

INT. KITCHEN -
Dale's Father sits at the table reading the paper.
Dale enters and sits across from him.

DALE
If you got something you shouldn't have, would you keep it?

FATHER
This about that package?

DALE
Yeah. It was a brand new puppet.
The same one as The Great Davinci has.

FATHER
Who?

DALE
The best ventriloquist in the world.

FATHER
That’s good then. Now you can go to your competition and have a fresh new puppet.

Dale shrugs.

DALE
I'm going to call the post office to see who sent it. I can't accept something like that. Those things are expensive.

FATHER
It's up to you what you do with it but if someone wanted you to have it they may be insulted if you try and give it back.
DALE
At least I would like to say thanks.

FATHER
I'm sure they would appreciate that.

Dale grabs the phone and exits the kitchen.

In the living room Dale dials the number from the packing slip.

DALE
(On phone)
Who brought in the parcel for Dale Oliver? I picked it up this afternoon but it is nothing I ordered and it has no return address. A gift? I don't know anybody who would send me a gift like this. Any idea who brought it in? A young man? Okay, well thanks for the help.

Dale hangs up and heads back into the kitchen.

FATHER
Any luck?

DALE
The lady said it may have been a gift. Was it you? Along with the puppet and other than you and mom nobody knew about my involvement in the competition.

FATHER
You finally told your mom?

DALE
It kinda slipped out when we were arguing this morning.

Dale sits the phone down on the table. He scoffs and throws his arms up.

DALE
Erin! Of course. I was talking to her the other day online about the possibility of entering and she must have... I gotta go thank her. Thanks dad.
Before he can reply Dale is gone down to the basement.

INT. BASEMENT -

Dale sits on the futon redressing Kenny in new clothes. The clothes include denim jeans, a shirt that says "ladies man" and jeans.

On the floor lays the old puppet. Naked, sad and alone.

With a smile on his face he places the puppet on the futon and walks toward the stairs carrying the old ragged one.

He turns back looking at Kenny.

DALE
Don't worry, I'll take care of this one.

He leaves. Kenny sits on the futon with the same smile on his face.

EXT. GARAGE -

The garage door opens to reveal Dale standing with the old puppet in his hands.

DALE
I'm sorry old friend. I never intended it to be like this. You've been replaced by someone bigger and better for our career. I know it was you and I who were going to be famous some day like The Great Davinci but...

His eyes well up as he holds the puppet over the garbage can for a long moment.

INT. PARK - DAY

The park is surrounded by a fence and a housing complex. It has a swing set, slide, teeter totter and a few other fun toys for kids.

Dale swings back and forth on a swing.

ERIN (24) walks in through the opening in the fence passing by the bench.
She sneaks up behind Dale. He continues to swing not knowing she's standing behind him.

As he comes back she pushes him forward scaring him off the swing.

DALE
You scared the sh... Erin... You shouldn't sneak up on people.

ERIN
No need to cuss. I was just having a little fun.

Erin sits on a swing. Dale joins her taking back his spot.

They swing back and forth at a slow pace to keep up with each other.

ERIN
Do you remember when we came here as kids and play for hours without a care in the world.

She looks at the slide and smiles.

ERIN
I still remember when you fell off that. You cried for hours.

DALE
Thanks for the memory.

They share a laugh.

ERIN
So what was it you wanted to talk about?

DALE
Just wanted to thank you for the gift. Thanks.

Erin thinks for a moment.

ERIN
I never sent you anything.

DALE
Stop playing.
ERIN
Honest. I didn't know it was a special occasion.

DALE
I mean, it's not. I just thought for my competition you sent me a new puppet.

ERIN
Someone sent you a puppet? That's good news.

DALE
It's similar to The Great Davinci's. I already feel my confidence rising.

ERIN
Good for you, Dale.

DALE
I need to know who sent it to me. I can't let it go unknown.

ERIN
I don't know what I can do but I'll do what I can to help.

Dale smiles at her. She looks to the bench and sees Kenny sitting there looking at her.

Startled she gets to her feet and turns her attention to Dale.

ERIN
Did you see that?

She looks back and he is gone.

DALE
Nobody is there.

Erin wipes her eyes a moment. She sits back down and grabs Dale's hand.

DALE
You alright?

ERIN
Yeah. It was nothing. What can I do to help?
DALE

Well...

As Dale talks she focuses her attention on the bench which is empty but she stares anyway.

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

Dale's Mother is cleaning up the floor and moving boxes around.

Kenny has disappeared.

Dale renters the room and stops at the sight of his mother ransacking his belongings.

DALE

Mom.

MOTHER

Dale, oh hi. I was just tidying up while I waited for you to get back.

DALE

Why are you going through my things?

MOTHER

I need my keys back and your father is not here so I figured you had them.

DALE

I gave them back to Dad after I went to the post office.

Dale looks at the empty spot where Kenny was.

He slams his fist into the wall. It starts to bleed but he does not acknowledge it.

DALE

(Yelling)
Where is he!

His mother shakes her head.

MOTHER

What is wrong with you, Dale? I put the filthy old thing in the closet, it creeps me out. That smile on its face.
Dale walks over to the closet, grabs Kenny and places him back on the futon.

DALE
He likes it there.

MOTHER
This isn't healthy.

She walks away as he sits down petting Kenny's head shushing him.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Dale has Kenny on his lap.

DALE
She doesn't mean it. She just hasn't got to know you like I have. Of course, after the talent competition she will be proud of us. Don't worry, our friendship will last forever.

Dale smiles as he looks at the puppet.

His mother enters and the smile leaves his face.

MOTHER
Who are you talking to?

DALE
Just practicing.

MOTHER
Your father hasn't been home all day, did he say anything to you? I'm worried.

DALE
Maybe he went fishing with Mr. Johnson again. Last time he didn't tell you till he got back.

MOTHER
I was just talking to him.

DALE
I don't know what to tell you, then.

She shrugs and exits.
INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Dale enters from the basement carrying the trunk.

DALE
Mom! You around? I'm taking your car.

He pulls the keys from his pocket and exits the house.

EXT. THEATRE -

Dale parks in a crowded parking lot beside a large old building.

A sign reads "Think Fast Talent Competition Parking"

INT. THEATRE -

About 30 people crowd the stage area practicing many different talents. They sing, dance, play an instrument, do comedy and so on and so forth.

Three talent scouts sit in the front row watching people prepare.

Dale enters and walks backstage.

BACKSTAGE

Dale sits on the trunk with Kenny on his lap.

He spots a female ventriloquist. She is ROBIN (24) A beautiful red/black haired woman carrying a puppet that wears a wife beater and black pants and has a stupid look on its face.

CASEY WRENN (24) dressed similar to the puppet walks up behind Robin and hugs her.

CASEY
Hey sexy, ready for this?

ROBIN
Yeah. Not nervous at all.

CASEY
Good, good. Look, I have to get back to the park. Gotta tidy up for those filmmakers.
ROBIN
Alright, hun. See you at home.

They kiss and Casey walks off.

Dale walks over to Robin with his puppet in hand.

DALE
I'm Dale Oliver.

ROBIN
Hi. I'm Robin.

DALE
What's his name?

ROBIN
Casey, after my boyfriend. What about yours?

DALE
Kenny.

ROBIN
He looks familiar.

DALE
I get that a lot. He's mine now.

ROBIN
Well, good luck out there.

They shake hands.

DALE
Yeah, you too.

Dale walks back to his spot looking back at Robin as he does.

AFTER THE SHOW
Dale carries a trophy and his trunk.

Robin approaches him.

ROBIN
Congratulations on your win.

DALE
Your set was pretty good too. That male voice you do is perfect.
ROBIN
I have had lots of practice.

DALE
Your day will come.

She kisses him on the cheek and walks away.

ROBIN
Don't spend all them winnings in one place, cutie.

DALE
I won't.

He blushes a bit.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Dale walks in the house carrying the paper. He throws it down on the table unfolding the front page.

DALE
Mom? Dad? I'm home. I won the competition, not that anyone cares.

He looks down at the paper and falls down into a chair.

On the cover is a picture of The Great Davinci with the title "A Great Man, Found Dead."

INT. BASEMENT -

Dale sits on the futon with a laptop on his lap.

He searches the internet for "The Great Davinci Death" and finds hundreds of different searches.

He clicks one that has to do with cause of death.

DALE
(Reading)
The death of The Great Davinci has shocked the magic world and many suspect foul play. Funeral Services will be held tomorrow.

Dale grabs a post-it note and pen and writes down the address.

He sticks the post-it on the wall by the stairs.
EXT. CEMETERY - NEXT DAY

A few people stand around a grave site where a Priest says a prayer.

A woman, MS. CARLSON (40) dressed all in black is crying over the grave. She wipes her tears away and new ones replace them.

Dale stands off in the distance watching the woman.

As she walks away to a waiting cab Dale runs to catch up to her. He places his hand on her shoulder startling her.

    DALE
    I'm sorry ma'am but do you know
    The Great Davinci?

    MS. CARLSON
    Please, no interviews.

    DALE
    I'm not a reporter. I received The
    Great Davinci's puppet and I could
    use some help from someone who
    knew him how this could have
    happened.

    MS. CARLSON
    How can I help you.

    DALE
    Please. Anything.

She turns with a smile and touches his face.

    MS. CARLSON
    His puppet, you say?

Both Ms. Carlson and Dale get in the cab.

INT. HOUSE - LATER

The furniture is draped in plastic and the entire room looks old fashioned.

Dale sits on one of the plastic chairs trying to stay comfortable but cannot.

Ms. Carlson enters from the kitchen with a tray and two cups of tea. She sits down beside Dale and sets down the tray on a table.
DALE
The day after Mr. Davinci died I got his puppet in the mail with no return address.

MS. CARLSON
I know nothing of that. I am in charge of his estate and the puppet is not part of that. It is possible he liked you when you met and wanted you to have it...

DALE
I never really met him. Just got his autograph and went on my way.

Ms. Carlson takes a sip of her tea.

DALE
When I was walking away the puppet's eyes followed me. Then it came to me the next day. Anything about Kenny strike you as odd?

Ms. Carlson raises her eyebrows.

MS. CARLSON
A few times when I was over there for dinner I caught him talking to the puppet as if it were real but when I asked him about it he just said he was practicing. Never thought much about it. Drink your tea.

Dale drinks some tea.

MS. CARLSON
I have a few of his things you can look through if you want.

DALE
Why not.

Ms. Carlson gets up and leaves the room. Dale adjusts in his seat to stay comfortable and still cannot pull it off.

After a few moments Ms. Carlson returns with a box and places it in front of Dale.

Dale looks through the box and finds a tape recorder.
MS. CARLSON
He would record hours and hours of material on that.

Dale smiles.

DALE
Yeah, we all have one of these.

MS. CARLSON
You can take it and listen if you want. I have no use for it.

DALE
Thanks. So, how did Mr. Davinci get Kenny?

MS. CARLSON
That is the mystery, right? He never talked about his work and the ventriloquism stuff was his life so he said very little.

DALE
I guess you have to be a little obsessed when you`re as famous as he was.

Dale gets up.

MS. CARLSON
You didn`t finish your tea.

DALE
I should go. Call me if you find anything else.

MS. CARLSON
If you learn something, call me.

Dale shakes her hand and walks to the door.

INT. KITCHEN -
Dale enters the house, grabs the phone and dials.

DALE
Erin, look up this Ms. Carlson. I don't know her first name either. She's somehow connected to Davinci but she acted quite weird when I brought up the puppet. Call me later. Alright, bye.
Dale hangs up and heads to the basement.

INT. BASEMENT -

Dale sits on the futon with the tape recorder in hand. He hits play and the audio begins.

GREAT DAVINCI
Earlier at the autograph signing
HE found a new host. I am worried
HE may leave me so I may have to
kill the kid. If HE leaves me my
career is over...

Dale`s eyes close and he slumps over on the futon.

GREAT DAVINCI
The kid must die. I will go to
that talent competition and find
him and kill him.

Davinci laughs on the tape and continues to laugh even
when the tape recorder falls from Dale`s hand to the
floor.

The phone rings. Dale is completely out of it and doesn`t
budge while it rings.

THE NEXT MORNING

Dale is asleep with Kenny sitting on his chest and on the
floor his old puppet has been dismembered and the foam
insides are all over the place.

Kenny`s hands are stained red.

Dale wakes up staring Kenny in the eyes. His eyes shift
to see the dismembered puppet.

DALE
What did you do? I wasn`t hiding
him from you, I just couldn`t
throw him out. We spent so much
time together... I know you are my
new best friend but we had a bond
that you and I haven`t got yet.

Dale pushes Kenny off his chest and gets to his feet.

DALE
What is your problem? You had
nothing to be jealous of.
Dale kneels down picking up the pieces of his old puppet.

DALE
Why? Why do you want to know about Erin? She's just a good friend that supports me unlike my parents.

Dale finishes picking up the pieces of the puppet and places them on top of a box in the corner.

DALE
I am not throwing him out. You can go to hell, Kenny. Get out of my head!

He falls to his knees grabbing his hair.

DALE
What have you done to Erin? Then why do you keep asking about her? She was here... what did she want?

Dale looks under the futon and around the room quickly and stops. He looks at Kenny.

DALE
She took the recorder? Why? I don't care. I'm not listening to you anymore.

He storms out of the room.

INT. POLICE STATION -

Erin walks up to the desk with the tape recorder in hand. Her eyes are filled with tears.

ERIN
My friend needs help. You need to go pick him up now before he hurts someone else.

She places the recorder on the desk and sits in a chair.

EXT. STREET -

Dale exits the house, gets in the car and drives off.
EXT. HOUSE -

Dale drives up to the end of the driveway and hops out of his car. He frantically and clumsily runs up to the door.

He begins banging on the door and notices the door is unlocked. He enters.

INT. HOUSE -

Dale falls as he enters the house.

DALE
Ms. Carlson! You here?

He looks around and sees the open basement door.

INT. HOUSE - BASEMENT -

Dale cautiously walks down the steps. When he hits the bottom he finds a small lamp on a desk and turns it on.

On the wall is a board full of pictures spanning about a hundred years of different ventriloquists with "Kenny" sitting on there laps and a subsequent article of their deaths.

Dale backs away from the board and hears a scratching sound coming from a closet that can barely be seen in the darkness even with the lamp.

He walks over to the closet and sticks his hand out to grab it when the door pops open and a black cat jumps out.

He laughs it off when Ms. Carlson's body falls out knocking him to the ground. They are face to face.

He shrieks and pushes her off.

Bright lights flood the basement blinding Dale.

Police Officers with guns drawn flood the basement and arrest Dale.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM -

Dale sits in the middle of a bright room in a chair at a metal table.
An INTERROGATOR enters the room, sets a tape recorder on the table and sits down across from Dale.

INTERROGATOR
Dale, we have evidence linking you to four murders.

DALE
I didn't kill anyone.

INTERROGATOR
Your parents were found dead as well. If your friend Erin hadn't come to us you may have gotten away with it...

Dale starts crying when he hears it.

DALE
I had nothing to do with any of that, why don't you believe me?

INTERROGATOR
We also have you on tape admitting to your crimes.

Dale looks at the tape recorder.

DALE
That was Davinci's recorder, not mine. This is a set-up!

Dale jumps up from the chair and is quickly put back down by an officer.

The Interrogator presses play on the recorder. He places it on the table in front of Dale.

DALE
(On recorder)
I met Davinci today. What a complete asshole. I made up my mind and decided that I must have Kenny. He is the key to my success. I won't let anyone stand in my way, not even my parents. I'm going to be rich and famous...

Dale stops the tape.

DALE
I can't listen to anymore of this garbage. All of this is a set-up...
a government conspiracy to cover up the existence of extra terrestrial life.

The Interrogator laughs.

INTERROGATOR
Settle down Mulder. You're going away for a long time. Maybe Skinner will help you out but I doubt it.

Dale lowers his head. A few moments later he raises it with a wide grin on his face.

FADE OUT.

10 YEARS LATER

INT. INSTITUTION - NIGHT

Erin stands outside an open door with a DOCTOR.

ERIN
How is he doing?

DOCTOR
He has been this way since he came here ten years ago. All he does is smile and hold that puppet.

ERIN
Will he ever be himself again?

DOCTOR
Dale is in some kind of hypnotic trance.

Erin looks in the door.

INT. INSTITUTION ROOM -

An ORDERLY exits closing the door revealing Dale sitting in bed with Kenny beside him. Both have a similar smile.

Without moving his head his hand reaches under the mattress and pulls out a noose made from a bed sheet.

FLASHBACK #1
EXT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dale with a wide smile on his face knocks on the door in a robotic way.

The door opens revealing The Great Davinci.

BACK TO.

While in a trance looking forward he hooks one end on the bedpost.

FLASHBACK #2

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Dale walks in the garage while his father is bent over in the trunk rearranging his fishing equipment to make more room.

FATHER
Hey son, hand me the pole.

Dale has that smile on his face again. He grabs a shovel and walks toward his father.

BACK TO.

He now has the noose fastened tightly around his neck.

FLASHBACK #3

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

With the same smile on his face he stands over his mother as she sleeps in bed.

BACK TO.

Dale grabs Kenny’s hand holding it tightly.

FLASHBACK #4
INT. HOUSE BASEMENT -

Ms. Carlson is looking at her wall of all the ventriloquists who have had "Kenny" and have since met their demise.

She lifts up a picture of Dale and Kenny and tacks it onto the board.

She sighs and turns right into Dale smiling even bigger than before.

BACK TO.

Dale hangs from his bedpost with the smile forever engraved on his face looking toward the window.

Kenny still sits on the bed holding Dale's hand.

CLOSE UP: Kenny's Face

For a long moment nothing happens, then he winks.

DISSOLVE TO:

KENNY'S FACE

Oddly menacing. Oddly benign.

TANIS (O.S.)
When we toss aside somethin' old, wantin' better things with somethin' new...sometimes we be leavin' behind pieces of ourself.

WIDER ON TANIS AND KENNY

Tanis still sits with Kenny cradled in her lap.

TANIS
The things we care 'bout...we give them their voice. We give them life.

She lifts one of Kenny's arms, then lets it fall.

TANIS
Sometimes...without us...they ain't nothin'.

Kenny turns to face Tanis at this.
KENNY

Nothin'! And just who you be
callin' nothin', you Medusa-
lookin' Halloween reject!

Tanis snaps her head towards Kenny, annoyed at the
interruption.

TANIS

Hush, you vile chunk of wormwood.
Maybe Tanis ought to whittle you
up into toothpicks!

KENNY

Just try it, mountain-girl!

WIDER

Tanis stares at Kenny with wide-eyed contempt.

TANIS

Tanis don't think she be likin'
you much no more.

She stands and plops Kenny unceremoniously into the
chair.

TANIS

Tanis be havin' her fill of you
tonight.

But now Tanis gives a sly grin as she grips the curtains
that flank her makeshift stage.

TANIS

Say goodnight, Kenny.

And Kenny turns to face us. No hand in his neck.

His eyes blink of their own accord -- and he speaks with
a new voice -- his OWN VOICE -- the malevolent croak of a
sickly child.

KENNY

Goodnight Kenny!

And now Kenny laughs a maniacal laugh -- as Tanis snaps
the curtains closed.

Kenny's insane laughter continues to echo from behind the
black curtains as we...

FADE OUT.