

THE EASTER BUNNY HATES YOU

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FADE UP ON:

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EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT.

A rickety AC unit rattles in the distance. Greenridge Mall sits quietly in the night. Your average shopping mall. 4 big box stores. The mall's SIGN flashes in the dark, creating a strobe effect. But we're not focusing on the outside.

FADE TO:

INT. GREENRIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL - NIGHT.

It's eerie in here. There's not a soul in sight. The only sound is the slight HUM of the AC.

An ominous music cue begins...it grows LOUDER...and LOUDER.. until:

A mall SECURITY GUARD (mid 50's, slightly graying, pudgy), slightly out of breath but giving it his all, comes TEARING around the corner.

He nearly knocks us (the camera) over. It only takes a MOMENT to realize there's something chasing this guy.

FOOTSTEPS thunder down the corridor, and we decide to RUN.

The camera BOUNCES slightly as we run from the noise. We STOP when we catch up to the guard.

He's WRESTLING with the DOUBLE DOORS that lead to the mall, as the FOOTSTEPS grow louder, and closer.

SECURITY GUARD

C'mon! Oh, fuck!

He GLANCES behind him as he grabs his WALKIE TALKIE off his BELT and fishes his KEYS out of his pocket with the OTHER.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

(Into radio)

Officer Hodgson to office! Come in, office!!

Whatever's CHASING Officer Hodgson is nearly on top of him. We WHIP around to catch a SPLIT SECOND of something BIG, WHITE, and... furry?

OFFICER HODGSON
(Screaming, into radio)
Jesus H. Fuck, pick up please! I've
got a ...

His next words are drowned out when he KICKS the door, which,
to his horror, doesn't BUDGE.

OFFICER HODGSON (CONT'D)
...on my ass!

The FOOTSTEPS are nearly deafening. His KEYS turn in the
LOCK, but the door still doesn't open!

OFFICER HODGSON (CONT'D)
Shit!

Hodgson readies his SHOULDER, dropping his KEYS, and SLAMS
the door OPEN. He SPILLS out into:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - MAIN CORRIDOR.

Officer Hodgson STOPS once he's sure there's enough SPACE
between himself and the double doors he just came from, he
turns...

And realizes they're STILL OPEN!

OFFICER HODGSON
SHIT!

Just as the THING reaches the door, he SLAMS them shut! He
struggles with the LOCK LATCH for a second, then takes a few
steps BACK.

The thing on the other side POUNDS, but doesn't get through.
Hodgson breathes a SIGH OF RELIEF, and raises his walkie
again

OFFICER HODGSON (CONT'D)
Office, are you there?

STATIC. He frowns, SHAKES the WALKIE. He's about to TRY
AGAIN, when the THING from the HALL, shrouded in the DARKNESS
of the night, BURSTS OUT from the double doors!

Lightning FAST, white and FURRY hands GRAB Hodgson around the
middle, and DRAG him back into the HALLWAY. Hodgson SCREAMS
bloody murder. The walkie falls to the FLOOR.

This time, we're able to make out what looks like...EARS on top of the thing's HEAD. The doors close, muffling Hodgson's screams as they get weaker and weaker.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - MAIN CORRIDOR - DAY.

SUPERIMPOSED: A TITLE: **Three Days Earlier.**

The mall's not that much more cheerful in the DAYTIME. Music pipes in over the PA, echoing down the hallways. Most storefronts sit DESERTED, with the few lit signs shining like a MIRAGE. The hallways feel like they're MILES LONG.

Save for a few OLD LADIES walking in a group, the mall is practically deserted. We DRONE through the mall, as a voice belonging to NOAH (Late 20's, bored, your average Joe), NARRATES.

NOAH (V.O.)
Welcome to Green Ridge Mall.
Population? Usually, zero.

We've now reached:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

The mall's CENTER COURT. A large open space, surrounded by empty stores, with a long-dry FOUNTAIN.

Smack dab in the middle of the court, like an OASIS in the desert, is a massive, 10-foot-tall golden THRONE topped with two EASTER EGGS. We can only see the BACK of it, obscuring the occupant.

NOAH (V.O.)
Stores? Closed. Customers? Nowhere.
Employees? Less said about them the
better. But do you know who somehow
managed to show up?

We ROTATE around the throne and eggs to reveal: The Easter Bunny. Tall with white fur, gold rimmed glasses and wearing a FANCY SUIT

Positioned at the camera in front of the Bunny, leaning back in his chair, is NOAH. He talks to the CEILING as he continues narrating.

NOAH

Yup. The Easter Bunny. Or as we like to call him...Tom.

The guy in the BUNNY SUIT, TOM (Mid 20's, messy appearance), groans. Tilts the head up so Noah can hear him.

TOM

Stop talking to the fucking ceiling.

NOAH

You see anything else to do around here?

TOM

Yea, you could go f...

Before he finishes the word, a little girl runs up to him. He instantly switches to a more cartoony BUNNY voice.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Bunny voice)

...Find some eggs so our friend here can have a happy Easter!

Noah smirks as he messes around with the CAMERA equipment. He takes the little girl's photo, and she interacts with the bunny some more.

NOAH (V.O.)

Ok. Confession? I never liked the Easter Bunny. It always gave me chills. Just the thought of some random dude holding your kid...

We see a FLASH of the BUNNY suddenly GRABBING the little girl and pulling her away! Noah BLINKS, looks UP FROM THE CAMERA, and the scene resumes as normal. The little girl is JUST FINE.

NOAH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...no thank you. But hey, a job is a job.

As the little girl leaves, we PAN to the Bunny's face, up close it's kind of eerie. Almost creepy.

SUPERIMPOSED, in a HAPPY, CHEERFUL font: **The Easter Bunny.**
Fading up UNDER IT is, in a darker font: **Hates You**

The Bunny stands as the text VANISHES and walks over to Noah.

TOM

I'm going for a smoke. You coming?

NOAH

Nah, but be sure to take the costume off this time. Remember how much Greenridge threw a fit last time?

Tom looks around to make sure there aren't any KIDS, then raises the middle finger at Noah before walking away.

Watching him leave, Noah looks around the empty mall, and walks over to the FOUNTAIN in the center of the court. He stares into it, sadness creeping in his eyes.

*
*
*

He reaches in and removes a few pieces of trash from the basin. He's lost in his thoughts, until, from behind him:

*
*

MALE VOICE (O.C.)

Excuse me?

Noah turns to find MITCHELL CHARLES. Mitchell is in his Mid-30's, tall, skinny, dressed in a fine SUIT. He looks down at Noah, making him seem more IMPOSING than needed.

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NOAH

Can I help you?

MITCHELL

I'm looking for Mr. Greenridge's office. Might you know the way?

NOAH

Down the hall, on the right.

Mitchell NODS, turns, and walks away down the HALL. His footsteps ECHO on the tile. Noah blinks, watching him GO. There's something OFF about this guy, but Noah can't tell what.

NOAH (V.O.)

That's the problem with working in a mall like this. Too much thinking time. Really plays around with a person's head. For example, that guy could just be a normal guy. Or part of The Matrix. Or a murderer. It all seems possible here.

At the end of the hall, Mitch slips through a door, vanishing. Noah shakes his HEAD, rubs his eyes. He checks his WATCH, waiting for Tom to return.

*
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He walks over to the THRONE the Easter Bunny sits on, and closes his eyes, back in his thoughts. He fails to notice...

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*

A SHADOW falling over him. It's large. Too large to be HUMAN. It LOOMS for a moment before speaking:

TOM (O.C.)
(Bunny voice)
Get off my throne, human!

Noah JERKS awake, to find a CHUCKLING Tom above him, Bunny head clutched under one arm.

NOAH
Dude, put it back on! There could be kids around!

Tom looks up and down the HALL, putting his hand over his EYES like a sailor looking for LAND.

TOM
Don't see any.

NOAH
Smartass. Hey, did you see that guy? In the suit?

TOM
I'm the only guy in a suit in this mall.

NOAH
No, there was a weird guy in a suit. He said he was looking for Greenridge.

Tom SCOFFS.

TOM
Probably another buyer. Green's been looking to have this place off his hands for a while.

NOAH
No way. Greenridge? Sell the mall? Nah, he loves this place too much.

TOM
Pfft. Nobody loves this piece of shit.

SLAM TO:

A GOOGLE EARTH VIEW OF GREEN RIDGE MALL.

NOAH (V.O.)
*I know it doesn't seem like it,
 but Green Ridge wasn't always a
 piece of shit.*

SUPRITITLE: 1970

We see the MALL from above. The parking lot is PACKED.

Traffic SPILLS into the STREET. We HEAR the sounds of a SHOPPING MALL: MUSIC, SHOPPERS, CHATTER, CASH REGISTERS. The noises are nearly DEAFENING.

NOAH (V.O.)
*In it's heyday, Green Ridge was the
 talk of the town!*

WE PUSH IN.

TITLE: 1980.

The mall gets a little CLOSER. The parking lot is still FULL, but now, there's an EMPTY ROW around the edges. Traffic no longer spills into the STREET.

The MALL SOUNDS get a little QUIETER.

NOAH (V.O.)
But like all talk...

PUSH IN AGAIN.

TITLE: 1990

Now there's an entire SECTION of the PARKING LOT clear, surrounding a CLOSED DEPARTMENT STORE.

The sounds get QUIETER AGAIN. It's gone from a roaring crowd to a couple of talking groups.

NOAH (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*Talk about the mall faded. Until
 eventually...*

PUSH IN AGAIN.

TITLE: 2000

Two CLOSED DEPARTMENT STORES. The parking lot is 3/4 EMPTY. The shopping noise is barely a WHISPER.

PUSH IN FOR THE FINAL TIME.

TITLE: 2023

Three CLOSED DEPARTMENT STORES. There's only TWO ROWS occupied by CARS. The shopper noises are completely GONE, replaced by SILENCE.

NOAH (V.O)
All that's left is silence.

FADE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - EASTER BUNNY SET - PRESENT.

Tom shrugs. He wasn't listening to what Noah just said.

TOM
Well, whatever happens, I won't be wearing this piece of shit ever again.

He holds up the BUNNY HEAD. Wiggles it around a little like it's doing a DANCE. Noah ROLLS his EYES as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - ROBERT'S OFFICE

ROBERT GREENRIDGE II (60's, large, wearing a suit), sits at his DESK, looking over a CONTRACT. On the other side of the DESK, Mitchell sits, arms crossed, confident things will go HIS way.

Greenridge LICKS his LIPS, looks up.

GREENRIDGE
Well, this mall, as you know, has been in my family since day one. My father opened the mall on May 17...

MITCHELL
1970. Yes, I read it on Wikipedia.

Greenridge raises an EYEBROW. 'Do you want me to end this discussion?' Mitchell goes SILENT.

GREENRIDGE
But yes, May 17, 1970. And I inherited it from him on October 2nd, 1992. And I intend to give it to my son, someday.

MITCHELL
(Riffles his lips)
Like that'll ever happen

GREENRIDGE

I beg your pardon.

MITCHELL

There won't be anything for him to inherit at this rate. Let's face it, your mall is fucked.

Greenridge sits in SILENCE for a moment, letting these words sink in. He knows it's TRUE. But he's not going to ADMIT IT.

GREENRIDGE

Well, yes, the mall is struggling. But I wouldn't exactly say fucked.

MITCHELL

Pretty bold claim for a mall with only, what, 8 stores left? Out of what, a hundred?

Greenridge pauses a moment.

GREENRIDGE

Six. Out of one hundred thirty.

MITCHELL

(Feigning shock)
Woo, you sure proved me wrong.
(Returns to normal)
Now then, have you considered my offer for the mall?

GREENRIDGE

I have. And I have decided...

Mitchell LEANS forward, abandoning any PRETENSE of BUSINESS BEHAVIOR. He's like a CHILD staring over the counter at an ICE CREAM store.

GREENRIDGE (CONT'D)

...Not to accept.

This STINGS Mitchell. He drops back, MOUTH agape. Greenridge slides the CONTRACT back across the TABLE.

GREENRIDGE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Mr. Charles, but I cannot let you tear down my mall to build a... church of some sort, according to these papers.

In a HURRY, Mitchell SNATCHES the paper back from Greenridge. Now the friendly BUSINESS tone is GONE.

MITCHELL

A Church? A *Church*? It's more than
a church, you stupid old man!

He realizes he's said the last part out loud. He INSTANTLY
clams up. He shoves the CONTRACT into his SUIT POCKET and
storms out of the office without another WORD.

The DOOR slams. Greenridge reclines in his CHAIR. He's glad
to have that guy gone.

GREENRIDGE

Good day to you too, Mr. Charles.

He looks to a FRAMED PHOTO of ROBERT GREENRIDGE SR. (90's,
extremely frail), standing in front of the MALL, back in the
80's.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CORRIDOR/CENTER COURT.

Noah and Tom, who has now fully TAKEN OFF the Bunny suit, sit
on the FLOOR in front of the THRONE playing cards.

NOAH

Go fish.

Right before Tom can make his move, Mitchell's FOOTSTEPS echo
back through the corridor. They can HEAR him muttering
rapidly, and FURIOUSLY as he approaches.

MITCHELL

(To himself)

Just a church. Just a church. I'll
show that old fuck. He can take
this crumbling shithole to his
grave for all I care.

Noah and Tom exchange a look, 'Well that didn't go well' as
Mitchell STORMS past the set, then STOP at the sight of the
BUNNY SUIT on the FLOOR.

His EYES light up as he POINTS at the COSTUME.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

The Lepus...The Lepus!

Noah and Tom look up at Mitchell. He realizes they heard him.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Would it be ok if I took that
costume off your hands? I'm sure
it's not getting much use here.

TOM
Not for sale man. Now, get a
picture or get out.

MITCHELL
(Getting desperate)
I'll give you cash for it! Right
now! Good old American dollars!
Look, here's old Frankie.

He holds up a \$100 BILL.

NOAH
Did you seriously just say 'old
Frankie?'

MITCHELL
Two hundred! However much you want!
Please. It's urgent! My child...is
sick...and having a birthday...on
Easter?

Noah SHAKES his HEAD again. Mitchell RESIGNS!

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
Fine, fine! A photo! I'll do a
photo!

The entire photo session is SILENT. After throwing a \$20 on
the table, Mitchell storms off with his PHOTO.

NOAH
What a weirdo.

Tom tosses the BUNNY HEAD on the floor again, and they resume
their game.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - LATER.

Mitchell, driving a pickup truck, pulls up to an average
looking HOUSE. Nothing about the outside would give away
what's inside. He SLAMS the door shut and RUNS inside.

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - FOYER.

Mitchell BEELINES for the BASEMENT, shuts the DOOR behind
him, and flips on the light.

The room illuminates to reveal:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT.

Photographs of various RABBITS cover the WALLS. Books on MYTHOLOGY are stacked around the ROOM. He runs right past all of it, reaching:

A candle-lined ALTAR to a rabbit-like figure drawn in the style of an ANCIENT GOD. Tall, white fur, and very WISE looking.

This is THE LEPUS. Depicted as bringing GRAIN to a starving village. Providing RABBIT MEAT. Digging a TRENCH for a tribe's shelter.

Mixed in with the photos of it looking GOOD, are also depictions of it doing HORRIBLE things. Ripping people in half, eating souls, etc...

Carved on a piece of WOOD above this scene is: *'Mox lepores omnes erimus. Sicut Lepus pro nobis semper cogitavit'*

Subtitle: 'Latin: Soon we'll all be rabbits. Just like The Lepus has always planned for us'

Mitchell excitedly rushes to the LANDLINE phone on the WALL. Breathing heavily, he punches in a NUMBER, and holds it to his EAR.

After a few BEATS:

MITCHELL

(Into the phone)

Cindy? It's Mitch...nah the old man didn't sell...but listen to me, it's the perfect place! Get everyone else to my house ASAP!

He HANGS UP and rushes to something OC and we:

FADE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM - LATER -NIGHT.

Tom throws the BUNNY HEAD into a LOCKER with one arm and slings a GYM BAG over the OTHER.

TOM

See ya tomorrow.

He leaves, and Noah is ALONE, staring at the empty costume. A SHUDDER runs through him involuntarily.

NOAH
Whoever buys this place, I hope
they take you with it.

After another moment staring at the Bunny, Noah grabs his own
BACKPACK off the counter, and heads into:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALLWAY.

The service hallway is nearly pitch black. Noah turns on his
PHONE FLASHLIGHT, cutting a slight wedge out of the darkness.

NOAH
For someone who supposedly loves
this place, he can't even keep the
lights on.

He makes his way down the HALL, jumping at every little
noise. Finally reaching the DOORS, he pushes them open to
reveal:

His BIKE chained to a POST outside. He SIGHS and HOPS ON. As
he BIKES away we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER.

Noah pushes his BIKE through the door, sets it down and TURNS
to find his girlfriend, EMILY (Mid 20's, blonde, pretty),
sitting on the couch. She looks up when he enters.

EMILY
You're home. How was work?

NOAH
You know. The usual. Sat around,
felt my soul leave my body a few
times, knitted a pair of socks for
Bigfoot, and learned to divide by
zero.

Noah walks into the BEDROOM to change from his work outfit.

EMILY
That dead, huh?

NOAH (O.C.)
Two customers all day.
(Remembers)
(MORE)

NOAH (O.C.) (CONT'D)
*Oh yeah, and some weird guy who
 wanted to buy the mall. And the
 bunny suit.*

Emily GIGGLES.

EMILY
 Should've given him the costume!
 Made some extra cash. Did he sell
 the mall?

Noah RETURNS.

NOAH
 Greenridge? Nah. He'll hold onto it
 forever and the only way they'll
 get the deed is physically prying
 it from his cold, dead hands at his
 funeral.

He MIMES prying open a HAND that he HOLDS to his CHEST.

EMILY
 Gross.

She mimes DISGUST, but it's over a LAUGH. Noah sits down next
 to her.

EMILY (CONT'D)
 I don't even know why you keep
 going back to work at that mall.
 I'd probably kill myself from
 boredom.

NOAH
 I mean, yeah it's boring, but it's
 not bad! Honestly. I'm getting paid
 to sit around and do nothing all
 day! Plus...

He trails off, deep in thought. Emily makes an 'I understand'
 face, then thinks about her next words.

EMILY
 It's just so weird there! All those
 stories you tell. Like what
 happened with that homeless guy
 last month!

NOAH
 Who? Scary Harry? Nah, that was
 technically the night janitor's
 fault. They left the door open.
 I'll be fine.

EMILY

I dunno. Malls are getting pretty dangerous these days.

NOAH

Yeah, but c'mon hon, it's Green Ridge. Nothing's gonna happen at The Ridge. The mall's gone, how long without something big? 50ish years?

Noah pauses and chooses his next words.

NOAH (CONT'D)

We're too boring to have anything happen to us. Look, Once Easter and the photo gig end, I'll get another job, alright? I'm sure Wal-Mart's hiring.

EMILY

Alright, but I want you to promise. My job can't hold us here forever. **Maybe like another month or two.**

*

Noah RAISES a HAND in a mock salute, then crosses his HEART.

NOAH

This work for you?

Emily's SMILE returns. Noah RELAXES.

EMILY

So, what'd the guy want the costume for?

NOAH

No idea. He just called it The Lappy, or something like that, and asked to buy it.

EMILY

The Lappy? Maybe that's his drug dealer or something. How much'd he offer, anyway?

NOAH

Tom thinks it's a furry thing. Offered one hundred bucks. Or as he called it, Old Frankie.

EMILY

Did he seriously say Old Frankie?
 (off Noah's nod)
 And you didn't accept? *

NOAH

Greenridge probably wouldn't
 appreciate selling mall property at
 work.

EMILY

Probably be the only money that
 place makes all month. *

Noah SMIRKS again.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - MORNING.

Mitchell sits on the floor, hunched over a GRIMY LAPTOP. He clearly HASN'T slept, changed, or showered. His face TWITCHES from a mix SLEEP DEPRIVATION and EXCITEMENT.

Surrounding him are several NOTEBOOKS, some of them have entire pages SCRATCHED out, some are in English, some are in another LANGUAGE.

MITCHELL

(To himself)
 No...no this won't
 work...yes...no... but if
 only...well...

There's a knock at the FRONT DOOR. Mitch BOLTS upright and stares at the ceiling

CINDY (O.C.)

(From outside)
 Mitch? You in there?!

Mitchell begins frantically running around the BASEMENT, throws on a change of CLOTHES, drinks half a RED BULL, and tries to somewhat ORGANIZE his research.

MITCHELL

(Calling)
 One minute!

When he thinks the room is PRESENTABLE, he bolts UPSTAIRS.

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - FOYER.

Mitchell throws open the DOOR, to reveal:

Six extremely CREEPY people. You know that person in the grocery store who makes you feel like you need to switch aisles? THESE people make that person seem HUGGABLE.

SUPERIMPOSED UNDER EACH PERSON: Their NAME.

*

In the FRONT of the group is CINDY (Tall, looks like a HUMAN VULTURE).

Behind her are:

HAWK (Short, stocky, like if POPEYE was a GANGSTER)

PETEY (Avg. height, shifty eyes)

ANNABELLE (Mid 40's, dangerously PRETTY)

HECTOR (A little-person who looks as tough as any normal size BOXER)

HANS (Who bears an uncanny resemblance to HENRICH HIMMLER).

MITCHELL

Ah, hello. Come in. Please.

As each person steps into the house, a GOLD RABBIT PIN attached to their clothing over the HEART flashes in the light.

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The group gathers in the BASEMENT, around Mitchell's laptop.

CINDY

This better be good.

MITCHELL

Oh, trust me, it is good.

He DRAWS HIMSELF up to full height, puffs out his chest and announces to the room:

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

I've found both the cloth, and a place to summon Him!

The people in the room MUTTER amongst themselves excitedly.

HAWK

And what makes you say that?

Mitchell holds up the photo of him and the Easter Bunny. For a man holding a photo of himself with the Easter Bunny, he's oddly proud of it.

The mood is KILLED almost instantly. The others grumble among themselves.

Hector steps forth menacingly.

HECTOR

OK, so? It's you and a fucking Easter Bunny!

MITCHELL

Yes, but...

HECTOR

I ought to bash your head in right fuckin' now for wastin' my time.

MITCHELL

Not just the costume. Look *closely* at the photo. Behind us.

The PHOTO is passed around and examined by each person.

Some understand, some DON'T. Those who DO light up like it's the HAPPIEST MOMENT of their LIVES. Cindy is nearly BREATHLESS.

CINDY

My God...there it is.

Mitchell NODS.

MITCHELL

(Reading his notes)

'I shall return to you when the moon is right to provide crops...

Everybody UNDERSTANDS NOW. Annabelle finishes the quote.

ANNABELLE

...resting upon a golden throne!'

MITCHELL

Exactly! This will be our best chance to bring HIM back! What we've been working towards all of these years!

PETEY

And then we'll be rich! Famous! All powerful! And most importantly...

ALL

(In unison)

.... Rewarded as His most loyal followers.

They all TURN to face the ALTAR. Mitchell SMILES wider than EVER before. He SWITCHES OFF the LIGHT.

Now the light is ILLUMINATED by the CANDLES lining the ALTAR.

MITCHELL

The future looks bright, ladies and gentlemen. OUR future.

The group DROPS to their KNEES, facing the PAINTING of The Lepus. We ZOOM on the painting's FACE as the group CHANTS:

ALL

(Chanting)

Oh Lepus, hear us. Give us strength to do what is needed to bring You back to our world so we may all be Rewarded, as you intend.

*

HOLD on the PAINTING, illuminated only by CANDLE LIGHT as we:

SLAM TO:

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING.

Noah stumbles into the living room, throwing on his photographer vest. He grabs a piece of TOAST off the counter and heads towards the door.

EMILY (O.C.)

You leaving?

NOAH

Yeah. I'll be back tonight.

Noah wrestles his BIKE out of a closet as Emily walks into the LIVING ROOM.

EMILY

Remember, look for something else. Something good this time.

*

NOAH

I'll do that on lunch.

EMILY

Your entire job's practically a
break. *

NOAH

Fair point. *

He kisses her on the forehead and HEADS OUT. We hear the few
few notes of Electric Light Orchestra's MR. BLUE SKY.

FADE TO:

EXT. STREET - MORNING.

Noah navigates his BIKE through the heavy traffic, oddly
cheery despite everything that happened the night before. We
watch as he BIKES to work, past cars, houses, etc...

The thought of Easter Bunnies, malls and weird people are
temporarily OUT OF HIS HEAD.

That is, until he reaches:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - LOADING BAY.

The door to the SERVICE HALL is slightly AJAR. He stares at
it with a dawning fear as he dismounts and locks the BIKE to
a pole.

ELO fades away, replaced by a SUSPENSFUL MUSIC CUE. Noah
slowly NUDGES open the door.

NOAH

(Muttering to himself)

It was locked when I left last
night. Great...Scary Harry's back.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

Now we're following Noah as he walks down the HALL. The scene
is very reminiscent of the one we saw EARLIER. He stops only
to pick up a BROOM.

NOAH

(Calling)

Harry? That you again? We told you
last time we'd call the cops if you
came back!

Holding the broom like a SHIELD, he advances down the hall.
STOPS at the door to the STAFF ROOM.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM

We're now INSIDE the staff room, looking at the CLOSED DOOR.
Noah opens it slowly, then SCREAMS!

We WHIP around to reveal:

The Easter Bunny costume sitting straight up in a CHAIR and
STARING at him as he enters.

Noah FALLS, and tries to SCRAMBLE BACKWARD out of the room,
when TOM jumps out from the dark corner.

TOM
Gotcha!

NOAH
Jesus H Fuck!

Tom helps Noah up and then walks over the BUNNY SUIT. Picks
up the HEAD to reveal it's just being propped up on a COAT
RACK.

TOM
Hoo-boy, I sure got you that time!

NOAH
No you didn't. Just startled me,
that's all. No sleep, skipped
breakfast, thought Scary...

TOM
Didn't get you? Bullshit. Dude, you
went whiter than our fuzzy friend
here!

Still CHUCKLING, Tom puts the HEAD ON, and begins comically
LURCHING towards Noah like Frankenstein's Monster.

TOM (CONT'D)
(Monster voice)
Grrrrr...here I come to eat you!

Noah, despite the FEAR he felt a MOMENT AGO, begins to laugh
as well. The two laugh for a while until:

GREENRIDGE (O.S.)
Gentlemen...

Greenridge strolls into the OFFICE, his hands clasped behind

his BACK. He looks STRAINED, more so than he did YESTERDAY.

TOM

Hey

NOAH

Morning, Mr. G

GREENRIDGE

Please don't damage Wendell.
Although he doesn't see many of
them, the children still love him.

NOAH

Wendell?

*
*

Both look down at the BUNNY HEAD in Tom's hands.

*

TOM

Oh noooo, I'd never dream of
harming Wally.

Noah and Tom both CHUCKLE at this. Then STOP when they see
Greenridge's serious expression. They both shut up at once.

NOAH

(Changing the subject)
So...did you find a buyer yet?

GREENRIDGE

Nope. The man I had in yesterday
was, well, a tad odd to say the
least. Wanted to tear down the mall
to build a temple of all things.

NOAH

Oh, so that's why he was so upset
yesterday.

GREENRIDGE

You saw him?

NOAH

Yeah, right as he was leaving your
office. Stormed past, tried to buy
the Bunny...

GREENRIDGE

(Correcting)
Wendell. His name is Wendell

NOAH

Right. He tried to buy Wendell for
\$100, then stormed out.

GREENRIDGE walks over to Wendell's head, now resting on the TABLE. He strokes the FUR, almost LOVINGLY.

GREENRIDGE

I could never part with Wendell. He is part of this mall's history, just as much as I am. Did you know my father made our original Bunny costume?

Both Noah and Tom SHAKE THEIR HEADS.

FADE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - MALL OFFICE - FLASHBACK.

GREENRIDGE (V.O)

It's true.

ROBERT GREENRIDGE SR. sits at the desk, holding a PIN COUSHIN in his mouth as he SEWS a SMILE on the original EASTER BUNNY costume for the mall.

GREENRIDGE (V.O) (CONT'D)

We used that bunny for the better part of 40 years. Even after he died, we kept it. Throwing that costume out was still one of the hardest choices I had to make in all my time at this mall.

He sews the FINAL SEAM, sets the head down, and ADMIRES his HANDIWORK. HOLD on the costume's FACE. There's something almost DISTURBING about it.

FADE BACK TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM - PRESENT.

Greenridge stops stroking Wendell's FUR, then looks back up.

GREENRIDGE

Other malls have a costume. Ours has personality. And with that, it's time for Wendell to go out and greet the children. So, off you go gentlemen.

Greenridge LEAVES the room. Then POPS back into the DOORWAY.

GREENRIDGE (CONT'D)

By the way, put your minds at ease.
I'm not going anywhere, and more
importantly, this mall isn't going
anywhere.

He leaves the DOORWAY, and this time DOESN'T RETURN. Noah
watches the empty door frame a moment.

TOM (O.C)

*Wasn't worried about it. Nope. Not
at all.*

Tom, now wearing the WENDELL COSTUME, sans HEAD, strolls
into frame. He picks up the HEAD, and looks into it's EYES
for a MOMENT. Then he ROLLS HIS EYES, lifting the HEAD over
his OWN.

TOM (CONT'D)

Of all names, he calls this
fucking thing Wendell?!

He LOWERS Wendell's HEAD onto his own, then glances at the
costume in the MIRROR.

TOM (CONT'D)

Does this look like a Wendell to
you?

CUT TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT

We see WENDELL'S FACE, close up. PULL BACK to reveal it's one
of MANY new Polaroid pictures hung up around the ROOM.

Mitchell HANGS UP an AGED piece of paper next to it, and
excitedly reads off this PAPER.

MITCHELL

(Reading)

When the time is right, we who have
been faithful to You, oh Lepus
shall be rewarded by your Goodness.
Those who believe you farce will be
crushed under thy power.

He turns to the GROUP behind him. Hector, despite his TOUGH
APPEARANCE, raises his hand like a SCHOOL BOY.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
 (Looking up from his
 paper)
 What?

HECTOR
 You sure this is gonna work?
 Remember what happened last time
 summoning Him failed?

The other cultists GRUMBLE in agreement again.

HANS
 Our lives will be over!

HAWK
 We'll be fucked up the ass harder
 than a pornstar

ANNABELLE
 Must you always be so dramatic?!

PETEY
 I sure as shit ain't goin' through
 what 'dat guy did!

SLAM TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK.

A BURNING MAN drops to his KNEES, with a RABBIT SNOUT pushing
 horribly through his FACE. He screams and begs for his LIFE.
 The flames are BRIGHT WHITE.

In the BACKGROUND, we see an ALTAR similar to the one
 Mitchell has, but nowhere near as POLISHED. It's sloppy, and
 thrown together.

BURNING MAN
 Forgive me, oh Lepus! I was not
 making a mockery of your good name!
 I was trying to bring you back so
 that...

He SCREAMS again as the FLAMES grow BRIGHTER, fully engulfing
 him and we:

SLAM BACK TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT.

Mitchell WAVES a HAND at Petey, dismissing his concern.

MITCHELL

That man was a fool! Thinking he could summon The Lepus after one night's preparation, when we have worked months on this. He was not loyal. WE, however, are His most devoted.

Cindy NODS, approving.

CINDY

The Lepus has given us the signs that he is ready to return. We will be rewarded.

HAWK

If 'dis fails, it's your ass on the line, Mitch, not mine.

He points an accusing finger at Mitchell. The gesture is IGNORED by Mitchell. He now speaks like one of those TV PREACHERS.

MITCHELL

Tomorrow is the Harvest Moon. At exactly midnight, we summon Him. The new ERA begins! Now, there's two final things we must take care of.

He holds up a new POLAROID:

It's GREENRIDGE.

HAWK

Who the fuck is that?!

MITCHELL

This is the man The Lepus will receive first. He refused to sell the mall to us so we may use it as Headquarters!

The group BOOS.

ANNABELLE

He refused?!

MITCHELL

Correct. And it gets worse! Much worse! He then had the nerve to call our headquarters a temple! We are more than a temple! We are a superpower!

The groups CHEERS. Mitchell SAVORS the GROWING EXCITEMENT as he continues:

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
He will be used to feed The Lepus!
Speaking of...

He pulls up a SECOND POLAROID. It's the photo of him and Wendell we saw earlier.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
This will be the vessel for The
Lepus! It will hold his spirit.

THIS doesn't have the desired effect. Many just look at Mitchell like he's going nuts. Hans steps forth, nearly nose to nose with Mitchell.

Mitchell stares Hans down for a moment. Finally Hans breaks the silence, his voice rising.

HANS
Mitchell, I believe you are playing a joke. A simple costume a suitable vessel for The Lepus? Nonsense. The Lepus demands power! Something important! Something grandiose!

MITCHELL
Hans, you know as well as anyone that I do not play around or joke when it comes to The Lepus. If you have a problem, you're more than welcome to back out.

HANS
Mitchell, I believe that using that... thing to call Him back, will cause nothing but trouble. We could be punished for this!

Mitchell responds calmly, the exact opposite of a man who was just screamed at.

MITCHELL
By all means, leave if you'd rather bow out, save your own skin, be a coward, be disloyal, be a traitor, and throw two year's planning out the window.

Being called each of those things STINGS Hans, but he refuses to show it.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

If you, or anyone here, wish to do that, the door's upstairs. But, what stops me from telling The Lepus of your treason? Nothing, not a thing. What that would mean for you is ... not pleasant. You know he does not forget. Or forgive.

There's ANOTHER STANDOFF. Mitchell and Hans stare each other down. Hans, feeling the pressure, blinks, then holds up his hands in a 'I give up' gesture.

Mitchell NODS.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Now then, to the van! Phase one begins now!

The group begins to SPLIT, each member putting the final touches on the PLAN. We see a brief MONTAGE of them getting READY:

Mitchell and Petey carry several armfuls of BOOKS and PAPERS up the stairs...

...Cindy pulls up to the house in a JCPENNEY MAINTINANCE TRUCK....

...Hans emerges from the BATHROOM, wearing a MAINTINANCE vest...

...Finally, all members help carry pieces of the ALTAR up the stairs and into the VAN.

We watch from the neighbor's LAWN as the VAN takes off down the road, watching as it VANISHES.

FADE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE - MID DAY.

Greenridge sits in his office, reading a sheet of paper. We can see that it contains a graph, with the arrow pointing DOWN.

It doesn't take ROCKET SCIENTIST to figure out the news isn't GOOD.

Greenridge sets the PAPER down, then sighs, looking at the framed photo of his father. Picks up the PHOTO.

GREENRIDGE

Well, this doesn't look good Dad.
As much as I hate to admit it, this
mall may very well be...

He searches for the right word.

GREENRIDGE (CONT'D)

...Fucked.

Looking down at another PAPER, he sighs, defeated.

He crumples up his PAPER, and THROWS it at the WALL. It
bounces off and lands in the WASTEBASKET. A perfect 10
pointer. Greenridge smirks at this, then gets up.

As he does so, the OFFICE PHONE rings. He looks at it,
hesitant. Probably another business calling to say the rent
will be late. Something he doesn't need to hear right now.
The phone RINGS for a few more moments, then goes SILENT.
SLAM TO:

INT/EXT. JCPENNEY VAN/ LOADING DOCK.

Hans lowers his CELL PHONE from his ear. Turns to Petey,
sitting in the truck's driver's seat next to him.

HANS

No answer. Should I call again?

PETEY

(Sarcastic)

Nah, I say we just go home.

HANS

Really?

PETEY

NO! Call him back you fuckin'
idiot!

Hans FUMBLES, nearly drops the PHONE, then hits REDIAL.

SLAM BACK TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE.

RIIIINNGGG.

Greenridge SIGHS, and walks over to the PHONE. He can barely
stand to LOOK at it as he picks up.

GREENRIDGE
 (faking happy voice)
 Greenridge Mall, this is Robert.
 How may I direct your call?

HANS (V.O.)
 (Faking a German accent)
 Hello, this is Franz with J-C-E-
 Penney Store. I was sent to, er,
 how you say, inspecting work on the
 store? I must be sorry for the bad
 English.

GREENRIDGE
 (Puts hand over the
 mouthpiece, to himself)
 JCPenney is still open? Yes, it is.
 (Back to phone)
 Err, yes. You can park in Dock 5.
 The code to get in is 6-1-0-1. If
 you need me to come over to sign
 anything I can be there in about 10
 minutes...

HANS (V.O.)
 Zat will not be needed sir.
 Corporate approved off on this
 project. It is nothing major, just
 pipes for water and such.

Greenridge SHRUGS. If JCPenney is handling this, it's one less thing to worry about for him.

GREENRIDGE
 Suit yourself. If you need
 anything...

INT/EXT. VAN/ LOADING DOCK.

GREENRIDGE (V.O.)
 ...Just give the office a call or
 stop in.

Petey listens in on the CONVERSATION, writing everything down in a small NOTEBOOK.

HANS
 Of coursing. And where is this
 office located, Rubber, err,
 Robert?

He LISTENS intently as Greenridge gives him the route, Petey scribbling away.

HANS (CONT'D)
Very well good. Thank you.

He HANGS UP. Hans quickly snaps a PHOTO of Petey's notes. Petey gives him a 'You serious?' look.

PETEY
Franz? You couldn't think of anything better than Franz for a name?

HANS
(Normal voice)
Shut up. It worked, didn't it?

He picks up a WORK BAG from the floor beneath him, then JUMPS out of the VAN.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - JCPENNEY.

Hans quickly HURRIES over to the DOOR, then punches the CODE Robert gave him into the LOCK. The lock flashes GREEN and the door OPENS an inch.

BEAMING, Hans quickly gives PETEY a THUMBS UP before slipping inside.

SLAM TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT.

Mitchell and the OTHERS wait around the PHONE eagerly, watching it like it could start SHOOTING GOLD from the receiver. It RINGS.

MITCHELL
(Picking up)
Hans get in?

PETEY (V.O)
He's in. And I've got our ticket in!

The group erupts in CHEERS again. Mitchell GRINS and HANGS UP.

MITCHELL
Excellent. This is moving along better than I expected.

ANNABELLE

It is the work of The Lepus. He is blessing us with the fortune needed to bring Him back.

HECTOR

A-fucking-men.

FADE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

Noah sits by the CAMERA EQUIPMENT, as Tom, still dressed as Wendell, does a LAP around the BUNNY SET.

TOM

Shift over yet?

NOAH

Nope. Only been about 30 mins.

TOM

Tomorrow you're wearing this stupid costume.

NOAH

In your dreams, man. Read the schedule, does it say 'Bunny'?
Nope.

TOM

Asshole.

They start BICKERING, and they fail to notice:

HANS approaching the set from down the HALL. Hans walks slowly, as if in AWE of the costumed rabbit.

He stops by a COLUMN, and leans against it, trying to play it COOL. When he's POSITIVE Tom and Noah aren't looking, he pulls out his PHONE and snaps a PIC of them.

On NOAH. He's shaking his HEAD, when he notices Hans on his phone in the distance. He STARES for a moment, worry starting to become evident on his FACE.

He tries to put on a more BUSINESS APPROPRIATE face, then walks over to Tom.

NOAH

Hey Bunny, 5 o'clock.

TOM
That's the time?

NOAH
No, I mean look.

Tom looks over at Hans, stuffing his phone back in his POCKET.

TOM
What? Just a maintenance guy. Let me guess, he's coming to eat our souls and drag us down to hell, right?

NOAH
No! It's just...this place is weird, all right?

TOM
I know it is, but what are you?

NOAH
Not how that works.

They watch as Hans, still turning around every so often to LOOK at them, walks away down the hall.

NOAH (CONT'D)
I'm thinking of telling Greenridge.

TOM
What, that a maintenance dude watched us for 10 seconds? Pfft. Grow up. No need for daddy Greenridge to come save us.

Noah SHAKES his head.

NOAH
I don't know man, there's something off about that guy.

He then realizes what Tom just said, and GRIMACES.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Never. Say. Daddy. Greenridge.
Again.

*
*
*

Noah and Tom continue their CONVERSATION, and we're now in front of HANS as he walks down the HALL, still peering back every few second.

HANS
 (Muttering to himself)
 Mitchell was right. And so on the
 Golden Throne, I shall return...

Noah and Tom fade into the BACKGROUND. Hans lets out a
 GRIN, 'This could actually work'. He pulls out his PHONE and
 begins texting MITCHELL.

HANS (CONT'D)
 (As he texts)
 Found it...just like you said.
 Tomorrow...at...

WHAM!

He's so distracted by his PHONE, he walks straight into
 OFFICER HODGSON, as he rounds the corner! The two of them
 tumble to the FLOOR.

As they GET BACK UP, Hans' face goes from ANNOYED to 'OH
 SHIT' as he realizes he walked into a SECURITY GUARD. He
 tries to look APOLOGETIC as he faces Hodgson.

HANS (CONT'D)
 (Fake German accent)
 Excuses me sir. Sorry for that.
 Working, you know.

OFFICER HODGSON
 That's alright. Just be more
 careful, alright? Not many people
 left here, but the ones who do just
 kinda jump out at ya.

He chuckles, and Hans TRIES to do the same.

HANS
 (Trying to lighten the
 mood)
 So I am under resting?

OFFICER HODGSON
 (Laughing harder)
 Nah, I don't have that kinda power.
 That's my boss.

HANS gives one more chuckle, then picks his workbag back up.

HANS
 Well, I must be leaving. Good day
 Officer....

OFFICER HODGSON

Hodgson. Joe Hodgson. You take it
easy, and be careful, alright?

Hodgson walks off. Hans THINKS a MOMENT, his face falling
again.

Hans walks slowly until he's sure HODGSON is out of sight,
then BOOKS it down the hall.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

BAM!

Kicking open the door, Hans pulls out his PHONE again leans
against the WALL as it dials.

INT. JCPENNEY VAN.

Petey plays SOLITAIRE on the dash of the van, when suddenly,
the first few notes of Hanson's MMBOP begin playing from his
pocket.

He JUMPS in his seat, scattering his game everywhere.

PETEY

(Pulling out his phone)

Who th' fuck set this as the
ringtone?! I swear to God I'll kill
'em.

(Picking up)

What?

HANS (V.O.)

(Over the phone)

Petey? Problem. Big problem.

PETEY

The fuck'd you do?!

HANS (V.O.)

*I didn't do anything. Mitch failed
to inform us this mall's got a
security guard!*

*
*
*
*

Petey's eyes go WIDE.

PETEY

Shit.

HANS (V.O.)

That's what I said.

Petey drums the steering wheel NERVOUSLY. After thinking for a few seconds:

PETEY
I'll call Mitch. You just do your
job.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

HANS
Right.

He HANGS UP and heads back into the MALL.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - JCPENNEY ENTRANCE.

Hans emerges from the SERVICE HALLWAY, and tries to compose himself. Then he SLINGS his WORKBAG over his shoulder, and heads back down the HALLWAY.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - FOOD COURT.

Noah and Tom sit at a TABLE, eating their lunches. They see Hans walk by again.

NOAH
There he is again.

TOM
(Overly dramatic)
He's coming to get you!!!
Or...maybe he's coming to kidnap
scrawny paranoid nerds.

NOAH
Shut up.

TOM
Seriously man, what's up with you?
You've been acting pretty strange
today.

NOAH
It's nothing.

TOM
Bull. Shit. All day you've been as
jumpy as, well, an Easter Bunny.

Tom slips into his WENDELL VOICE.

TOM (CONT'D)

(Wendell)

What's wrong Mr. Noah? Is someone sad they didn't get enough candy in the basket this year? Is that it?

NOAH

Alright! Fine! It's just, this mall's fucking weird. I guess it's just getting to me. You know malls are generally fucked up nowadays, right? Shootings? Robberies? Scary Harry? Hell, didn't Plaza Town get robbed last month? Remember that? They're only 30 minutes from here!

*
*
*

TOM

Wouldn't exactly call 'dead' fucked up, but I guess so. Plus, Plaza Town had nothing to steal, either.

*
*
*
*

NOAH

I mean you hear more and more about shit going down in malls. Do you ever stop to wonder if the Ridge is next? What if we're...

Tom SCOFFS, cutting off Noah's next words.

TOM

Puh-leese! You seriously think someone's gonna attack this place?! Yeah, they're coming to rob all our wonderful merch. All six stores worth! And don't forget Wendell! I'm sure a photo with him is gonna start a riot that'll destroy the mall! Not to mention that one toilet in Penney's! Why the things I've heard that thing say will get us cancelled in a heartbeat!

Noah can't help but LAUGH. He grows SERIOUS after a moment.

NOAH

I guess it's just that Em's getting worried about the possibility of something happening. You know how it is with her. You have a girlfriend, right?

*
*

TOM proudly double thumb points at himself.

TOM

Bachelor life baby! Look, I get ya love her and all, but you've gotta lighten up! She probably read it in one of those grocery store magazines. The same ones that say Elvis is alive in Alaska! Or that Bigfoot is at Walmart right now! Trust me man, nothing is gonna happen here. We're just too...boring.

*

NOAH

That's what I said!

SLAM TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - BASEMENT

Mitchell stands at the phone, LIVID. Grinding his TEETH in a SNARL, he listens to what Petey's telling him on the other end.

PETEY (V.O)

...And this ain't no trainee! I know you've got this planned but I really think this could fuck us up real bad!

Mitchell takes a few DEEP BREATHS in a failed attempt to compose himself, then without another word, LASHES OUT. He throws EVERYTHING within arm's reach at the wall.

The phone receiver, the notepad in his hands, a water bottle off a table, which is then KICKED OVER.

He then picks up the PHONE again. His tone is CALM.

MITCHELL

Petey? You there?

PETEY (V.O)

I'm here.

MITCHELL

Get Hans back to the house. NOW.

PETEY (V.O)

Got it. Be there in about 30.

CLICK. Petey hangs up. Mitchell INHALES DEEPLY, then FLINGS the receiver as hard as he can at the wall again. It SPLITS open.

CINDY

What happened? Did something go wrong?

MITCHELL

There's a security guard. After all the planning we did, to think a simple security guard could bring this whole plan crashing down.

CINDY

You didn't know this?!

MITCHELL

I didn't see him at any point I was in the mall!

(Seethes again)

I knew we should've had Hans plant cameras!

CINDY

It's ok. We shall think of something.

She turns towards the main painting of The Lepus.

CINDY (CONT'D)

The Lepus would not let something as trivial as a security guard stand in His way! What is it the Book says he would do?

Mitchell thinks, then:

MITCHELL

'And so He tore those who opposed him apart and sent them to an eternal hell'

At these WORDS, Mitchell thinks...then SIGHS. He doesn't want to do what he's about to.

CINDY

Idea?

MITCHELL

Yes. Hector!

Hector walks over.

HECTOR

What'cha need?

MITCHELL

Go to Party Land. Buy the first
Bunny costume you can see. One with
a mask. Now!

Hector STARES at Mitchell, tilting his HEAD.

HECTOR

You ok boss? I mean, aren't
costumes slanderous to 'im, as you
always say?

MITCHELL

(Tone: We've been over
this)

No you fool. It's only slander if
it's used to imitate Him, not used
to serve him. Now, go.

HECTOR

Alright, I guess I'm on it.

MITCHELL

Good.

He TURNS to the PAINTING.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Your return will not be halted Oh
Lepus. I will see to it myself!

SLAM TO:

INT/EXT. VAN/ROAD - MINUTES LATER.

Petey and Hans SPEED away from the mall.

HANS

What's the plan?

PETEY

No idea. But I guess Mitch thought
of something.

'MMMBop' plays again.

PETEY (CONT'D)

(re: ringtone)

I swear to fuck if this was you...

HANS

It wasn't.

PETEY
 (Picking up)
 Yea? I got Hans. We're on our way
 back now.

MITCHELL
 Good.

He HANGS UP.

SLAM TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE - FOYER - LATER.

Mitchell paces by the window, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the VAN. The rest of the group stand behind him, nobody daring to MOVE.

HAWK
 (Speaking up)
 So...what's the plan boss?

MITCHELL
 I've told you, I'll explain once
 they get back!

HAWK
 Alright, alright! No need to be a
 dick.

Mitchell angrily STEPS FORWARD, ready for a FIGHT. Hawk SQUARES UP. There's a tense STAND OFF. Nobody DARES to move a muscle.

Outside, we hear an ENGINE. The standoff is DROPPED when Mitchell spins to see the VAN pulling up in the drive.

MITCHELL
 Oh thank God!

Petey and Hans LEAP from the VAN, and sprint for the door, which Cindy OPENS. They STOP when they see the rest of the GROUP upstairs.

PETEY
 Are we too late?

MITCHELL
 Not at all. I was about to begin.

Hans and Petey join the CIRCLE. Hector steps forth and tosses a PARTY LAND bag to Mitchell, who reaches into the bag and pulls out a party store quality BUNNY COSTUME.

It's pretty corny looking. Big floppy ears, long whiskers. The group STARES at in disgust. A big price tag reads: \$5.00

PETEY

The fuck? Now we're gonna summon Him with that piece of shit? You trying to get all of us killed?!

MITCHELL

No, no. Don't worry. The vessel he will use is still at the mall. This is for a new step in the plan.

ANNABELLE

A new step?

MITCHELL

Yes. Because, and I must admit, a mistake was made. Our friend Hans here had a run-in with the mall's security guard.

HECTOR

Oh shit!

MITCHELL

Well, as he always does, The Lepus guided me on how to deal with this little snag.

He gestures to the CHEAP COSTUME.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

And we shall act upon The Lepus' words!

The group isn't impressed. They look between MITCHELL and the COSTUME for a few seconds before Mitchell pulls the GROUP close, like football players going in for a huddle.

We can only hear the first few words of the plan, before we begin to PULL BACK, watching the group get SMALLER and SMALLER.

Whatever the plan is, the group likes what they hear, and they're all LIGHTING UP with a malicious delight as we:

FADE OUT.

FADE IN.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

We're in Noah's POV as see the MALL slowly come into focus. The sky blazes in through a SKYLIGHT. There's a dark figure over us.

GREENRIDGE (O.C.)
Well, look who's finally awake.

Regular POV.

Greenridge, looking extremely sad, stands over Noah and Tom, who are both taking a NAP on the floor of the Bunny Set. Noah STANDS, and nearly knocks Greenridge over as he does so. Tom sleeps on.

NOAH
Mr. Greenridge! So sorry sir, I think the food court did it to us -
-

GREENRIDGE
It's alright. Nobody came to visit anyway.

NOAH
(Under his breath)
Just weird maintenance guys.

GREENRIDGE
I beg your pardon?

NOAH
It's nothing! Really. Just a maintenance guy who was giving off a weird vibe.

GREENRIDGE
Well, I did have someone coming from JCPenney, so that was just business. Now, the reason I wanted to talk to you two is--

He's interrupted by Tom waking up behind him. He JOLTS awake and throws his HANDS in the air.

TOM
(Panicking)
I surrender!

Greenridge turns to STARE at him, confused. Tom realizes where he is and tries to do damage control.

TOM (CONT'D)

Sorry.

GREENRIDGE

Anyway, I wanted to tell you both that I have made up my mind. After this month's lease is up, I'm out of here. The gig, as you young kids say, is out.

NOAH

Think the phrase is 'The gig is up'. But you're serious? You're letting the mall go?

GREENRIDGE

(Nodding glumly)

I may have tried to save this place for my father, but I'm no fool. We're sunk. I just got off the phone with a relator. He says by 4th of July this mall should be on the ground and a new high rise, or whatever he wants to do with it, goes up.

*
*
*

Greenridge looks around the COURT. The silence is nearly crushing. There's not a SOUL in SIGHT, not a STORE open. Greenridge wipes a tear from his eye.

TOM

Does anyone else know?

GREENRIDGE

They should by tonight. I've been on the phone with corporate offices all morning. I'm sure they'll be passing the news along to their employees. Well, good day, gentlemen.

*
*
*
*

TOM

See ya.

He gathers his composure, then begins walking away down the hall. Noah and Tom watch him LEAVE. Each footstep seems even LOUDER now that the mall's fate is sealed. Like footsteps in a TOMB.

GREENRIDGE

(Muttering to himself)

Fucking high-rises.

Noah turns to Tom. Tom immediately raises a hand for a HIGH FIVE. Noah leaves him HANGING.

TOM

Dude, this is great! We're gonna be free! He did it! The old bat finally sold the place!

NOAH

I wouldn't really count it as 'free'. Just means back to the job hunt for us.

TOM

Speak for yourself. I'm going to Cali. Gonna par-tayy!

NOAH

Please. Never say it that way again. But come on, aren't you gonna miss this place?

TOM

Nope. I mean, what's there to miss?

Noah sadly looks down the DESERTED HALLWAY. As he does so, we:

FADE TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - FLASHBACK.

It's 1999. The mall is bustling with shoppers. Every store has a LINE to get in. Everything has a colorful, warm, almost safe feeling to it.

NOAH (V.O)

I know it's just a mall to him, but to a lot of people, it's more. Where he just sees stores and clothes, for example, I see...

We focus on a LITTLE BOY and his PARENTS standing by the fountain. It's 6-year-old NOAH. He tosses a COIN into the FOUNTAIN. Mom and Dad CLAP.

NOAH (V.O) (CONT'D)

Mom and Dad.

FADE TO:

*

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - PRESENT.

The COLOR drains from the scene. The shoppers and DAD vanish. Stores are now SHUTTERED. The FOUNTAIN is now bone dry. Noah stares off into the distance, past TOM.

NOAH (V.O.)

All that was left...was me.

The warm feeling is GONE. Now everything is COLD, LIFELESS, and EERIE again. *

TOM *

Hello? Earth to Noah. Anyone in there? *

Noah composes himself. *

NOAH

(Out loud, to Tom)

...You know, that sense of childhood wonder that you know, maybe Santa and the Easter Bunny were real.

TOM

Do we really need to have The Santa Talk right now? Well, after you go bed on Christmas..

NOAH

It's just an example. You know, how the kids come to visit us? I mean, used to come visit us?

Noah SIGHS and looks around again. There's absolutely none of that warm childhood charm in the air anymore.

TOM

(Shaking his head)

Look, I hate to poop on the parade but it's time to face it man. Malls are over.

Noah's watch beeps, drawing him out of the MOMENT.

NOAH

Yeah, so is break.

TOM

I'll break you if you make me put that damn suit on again.

NOAH
Come on Tom! We've gotta...
(Pause for emphasis)
Hop to it!

Tom PUNCHES Noah in the shoulder as they head to the double doors leading to the SERVICE HALL.

TOM
That pun sucked.

NOAH
Really? I thought it was quite...
(a beat)
Egg-cellent?

Tom storms off, leaving Noah looking mildly pleased with himself. He follows Tom through the DOUBLE DOORS, and we:

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL - NIGHT.

It's now NIGHT. Tom and Noah make their way to the staff room. Noah's uneasy again, and Tom notices.

TOM
There's nobody else here but us
man.

NOAH
I know.

TOM
Then stop walking like you're about
to get mugged.

NOAH
What can I say? This mall's
terrifying at night.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM.

The two enter the room and Tom takes one last look at Wendell's HEAD resting on a SHELF.

TOM
One more week until we're done with
this shit. No more bunnies, no more
mall. LITERALLY. No more
Greenridge!

*

NOAH

Yeah.

TOM

Chin up, Sad Bunny. Soon we'll be,
as you put it, hopping along to
better things!

Noah STARES at him for a moment.

NOAH

(Air quotes)

'Sad Bunny'?

Tom shrugs before looking at Wendell's head again. When it's
resting on a SHELF, the head no longer looks cheerful or
ALIVE. It looks sinister, cold, DEAD.

TOM

(Fluent Spanish)

*Y a ti mi buen amigo, vete a la
mierda. Buenas noches.*

**SUBTITLES: And to you my good friend, go fuck yourself.
Goodnight.**

NOAH

Didn't know you speak Spanish.

TOM

Saw that in a movie once.

*

Slinging his GYM BAG over his shoulder again, Tom throws a
half wave to Noah, and walks out of the room. Noah, once
again, is alone with Wendell.

He too turns to leave, but turns back to Wendell, shivering
slightly.

*

Noah steps forward...reaches for the head....and... TURNS it
so it's facing the WALL. Once the eyes are off him, Noah
breathes a SIGH OF RELIEF.

NOAH

Much better.

FADE TO:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT/LOADING BAY - NIGHT.

Creak!

The doors swing open SLOWLY, methodically. Noah peers out,
spotting his BIKE.

As he makes his way OVER to it, we ROTATE, to reveal, way back in the PARKING LOT, hidden in the SHADOWS:

THE JCPENNEY VAN.

All windows are DARK. The engine's OFF. There's not a single soul near or inside it.

A moment later, Noah BIKES past, his headlamp beam missing the van by a fraction of an INCH. We HOLD as Noah's light is swallowed up by the NIGHT.

Once its black again, the VAN LIGHTS come on. The BACK DOORS OPEN.

We watch as Mitchell, Petey, and Hans climb out of the back of the van. Hans is now dressed in a FUZZY JUMPSUIT. White with a pink belly. White fuzzy GLOVES.

It's the cheap BUNNY COSTUME we saw earlier.

Mitchell passes him the bunny mask, and Hans slides it over his face.

MITCHELL

Remember, do not leave the mall
until it is done.

HANS

Right.

From his POCKET, Mitchell pulls out a BOX CUTTER. He makes sure the blade is SHARP, then holds the knife up so it glows in the MOONLIGHT.

MITCHELL

Oh Lepus, bless this tool with the
strength to do Your bidding--

*

Hans clears his throat; 'I'm here too'.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

(Irritated)

And give Hans the courage to do
Your bidding. In your name Lepus,
we perform this act.

He closes the knife, and hands it to Hans, who nods once, then scampers off into the DARK. Petey HUFFS.

PETEY

Still don't get why you're sendin'
him for that part.

MITCHELL

Because he alerted me to the issue,
it is his job to remove the issue.
Besides, you have your own task to
do.

PETEY

Yeah, yeah. I know. *But don't you
think I'm better at...*

*
*

Mitchell shoots him a GLARE, 'Don't push me'

Petey sighs, then jumps out of the van and follows Hans
towards the mall, pulling a black SKI MASK over his head.

SLAM TO:

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - *AT THE SAME TIME.*

*

Noah sits on the couch, explaining the day to Emily. She
looks SHOCKED about the news that the mall's being sold.

EMILY

So...he actually sold it?

NOAH

That's what he told us.

EMILY

So that means you've got to find
another job. Like, right now. *I
mean it.*

*
*

NOAH

*I know. And don't worry, we're not
gonna get shot up or anything
before I do.*

*
*
*
*

Emily shakes her head.

*

EMILY

*That's not what I'm talking about
right now and you know it. If
Greenridge sold the mall, you and
Tom are probably gonna get laid off
at some point.*

*
*
*
*
*
*

NOAH

*I'll just ride out Easter, and then
go somewhere else.*

*
*
*

EMILY

You might not even be there for Easter! If the mall is so far in the shit that Greenridge, who you said yourself would only get rid of it at gunpoint or something, is throwing in the towel, do you really think they're gonna keep the fucking Easter Bunny around of all things?!

NOAH

You're right. But until I find another job, I'm staying at the mall, alright?

EMILY

The moment you find something better, leave the mall. I'm serious.

NOAH

I know you are. And I'm serious too.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

We watch HANS, box cutter in hand, creep down the HALL. He's careful to stay in the SHADOWS, and FREEZES when he hears FOOTSTEPS behind him.

He SPINS to see Petey coming down the hall. He sort of RELAXES, but FROWNS at the same time. They both WHISPER frantically to each other.

PETEY

Don't shit yourself. It's just me.

HANS

I know it's you. Do you remember your task?

PETEY

Yeah. Get to the office....
(a beat)
Where'd you say it was?

HANS

Past the court with all the bunny stuff. On the left.

PETEY

Thanks.

(a beat)

You look ridiculous.

HANS

Just go do your task.

Hans VANISHES down another branch of the service hall. Petey continues forward.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Petey slips down the HALL to Greenridge's office. There's a faint LIGHT coming from under the DOOR. He sneaks up to the WINDOW to see:

INT. GREENRIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE.

Greenridge is FAST ASLEEP at his DESK. His computer screen glows in front of him, casting him in a BLUE/GREEN LIGHT. Petey draws a DEEP BREATH, then jiggles the door handle.

It's LOCKED, so he pulls a SCREWDRIVER out from his jacket POCKET.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM.

Hans peeks his HEAD into the STAFF ROOM. When he doesn't see Hodgson, he ducks back out and continues. He fails to spot Wendell's head in the darkness.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - HALLWAY

Petey jimmys the LOCK of the OFFICE, then catches the DOOR so it doesn't make a SOUND. He stands with the DOOR in one hand, waiting for JUST the right moment to strike.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

Officer Hodgson pushes open a door leading from a STORE. At the end of the hall, Hans sees him and dives behind some boxes.

The boxes SHAKE and Hans GRABS them to make them stop.

Hodgson doesn't notice any of this, and begins walking the OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

*
*
*
*
*

Stepping out, Hans readies the blade, takes a DEEP BREATH, and begins CHARGING at Hodgson! Yes, it's the scene we saw in the OPENING!

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Greenridge SNORES on. The WALKIE on his DESK lights up.

OFFICER HODGSON (V.O)
(Over radio)
 Officer Hodgson to office! Come in office!!

Greenridge isn't phased by the cry. He just adjusts himself in his CHAIR and SLEEPS ON.

Outside, Petey perks up when he hears the RADIO. This is his CHANCE. He pushes open the door, and advances on Greenridge. He's in STRIKING DISTANCE, when:

OFFICER HODGSON (V.O) (CONT'D)
(Screaming, into radio)
 Jesus H. Fuck, pick up please! I've got a hostile in a bunny suit on my ass!

Greenridge adjusts again, and is on the verge of STIRRING. Petey raises the SCREWDRIVER like a dagger. He watches Greenridge's EYELIDS start to FLUTTER.

OFFICER HODGSON (V.O) (CONT'D)
 Office, are you there?

Now SLIGHTLY awake, Greenridge turns to the RADIO, and begins to reach for it, when:

SKLURSH!

Petey drives the SCREWDRIVER into his HAND. BLOOD sprays like a GYSER. Greenridge's eyes FLY open as he SCREAMS, and on the other end of the line, so does Hodgson.

PETEY
 Your blood must flow to please The Lepus.

SKLURSH! SKLURSH! SKLURSH!

Petey delivers a volley of VICIOUS body-blows. Chest, face, neck, arms, legs, ect.. Doesn't matter. If Petey can reach it, he STABS it.

Finally, after a stab to the forehead, Greenridge SLUMPS forward, barely twitching. Petey STANDS, and, after THINKING a moment:

STABS Greenridge right in the HEART. Greenridge STRUGGLES for only a moment, before his lifeless body falls to the floor.

That's the end of ROBERT GREENRIDGE.

Petey stands, and then bends to wipe the outline of a RABBIT HEAD on Greenridge's face.

PETEY (CONT'D)
Let this blood please you, Oh
Lepus.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

Hans DROPS the lifeless corpse of Hodgson. He draws the RABBIT SYMBOL onto Hodgson's face.

HANS
Praise Lepus.

He then draws the same symbol Petey did on Hodgson's face, and pulls a RADIO out of his pocket.

SLAM TO:

INT. JCPENNEY VAN.

Mitchell's radio buzzes, and he stares at it, excited.

HANS (V.O.)
It's done.

PETEY (V.O.)
Me too.

MITCHELL
Excellent! The Lepus is pleased.
Now, Petey, remember to kill the
footage. Hans, get back here.

He pulls out his PHONE and dials.

SLAM TO:

INT. MITCHELL'S HOUSE.

Annabelle picks up the phone.

ANNABELLE

Is it done?

MITCHELL (V.O.)

Both are dead.

ANNABELLE

(Shocked)

Hans and Petey?! DEAD?!

We can hear Mitchell SIGH before answering.

MITCHELL (V.O.)

No, the guard and the manager. Now, nothing will stand in our way! Load the second van, and be at the mall at 8:45am. Sharp.

ANNABELLE

Of course.

Mitchell HANGS UP. Annabelle whirls to face the group. The members of the group, however, now wear UNIFORMS of places in the mall: H&M (Hawk), Disney Store (Hector), Bath/Body Works (Cindy). Annabelle herself pulls a Mall Security uniform out of her bag.

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

Phase 3 is a go!

The group rejoices as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING.

The sun is barely peeking through the CURTAINS as Noah throws on his work uniform.

The ALARM kicks in, this time ELO's 'Don't Bring Me Down'. Emily stirs at the sound.

EMILY

Heading to work?

NOAH

The pesky money job calls, so I answer.

EMILY

Well, right now you have two options.

(MORE)

*
*
*
*
*

EMILY (CONT'D)

A) Stay in bed, call Greenridge to quit, and find something better. Or B). Go stare at Tom for 9 hours.

NOAH

Tempting, but I answer the call of the money, honey.

He kisses her on the CHEEK, grabs his bike, and heads out. As he does, he grumbles under his breath;

NOAH (CONT'D)

Money? Yeah, right.

EXT. CITY - VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

'Don't Bring Me Down' continues as we follow Noah to work again.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL

Noah and Tom walk down the hall. They're deep in conversation.

NOAH

...So how many kids do you reckon we'll get today?

TOM

None. But we'll be attacked by a horde of ninja janitors so we won't be bored.

NOAH

Very funny.

They reach the double doors.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - MAIN COURT.

Hans, freshly cleaned up, back in his maintenance outfit, pushing a MOP across the floor. He looks up when he sees Noah and Tom.

HANS

Ah, gentlemen. Pleasantly good day, is it not?

NOAH

I guess so.

HANS

Well, then. I shall be letting you
leave. Pleasant day Lep-- Bunny.
Sir.

Hans walks the OPPOSITE DIRECTION. Noah and Tom begin
walking to the BUNNY SET.

As they pass the DISNEY STORE, Noah catches a glimpse of
Hector watching them from behind a 10 foot MICKEY MOUSE
statue. Noah freezes, backtracks a few paces, and looks into
the STORE again.

No sign of Hector

TOM

What?

NOAH

Nothing.

TOM

No one in there but Mickey. Is
Mickey Mouse coming to get you now
or something?

NOAH

I thought I saw...never mind.

They arrive at the THRONE, and find that Hans is sweeping in
the distance. Noah positions himself behind the camera, when
a VOICE distracts him.

VOICE (O.C.)

Hey, don't want to interrupt, but -

Noah turns. A Disney Store employee strolls over.

TOM

Didn't you hear the new rule? No
photos for the employees.

Noah ROLLS HIS EYES.

NOAH

What's up?

DISNEY STORE EMPLOYEE

Might sound a bit strange, but have
either of you seen Greenridge
anywhere?

QUICK CUT OF Hans PERKING UP when the DS Employee says the name 'Greenridge'. He freezes. Did they find him? Do they know it was him?! His mind RACES.

NOAH
Greenridge? Not yet. But we also just got here. He's probably in his office or something.

Hans relaxes and resumes his task, now with small SMILE on his face.

DISNEY STORE EMPLOYEE
That's the weird thing. My supervisor went to his office earlier, but there was no sign of him. And nobody else in the mall has seen him. You don't think something happened to him, do you?

TOM
Let me guess, you think a black hole swallowed him. He's fine. Ever hear of a sick day? You're starting to sound like him.

He gestures to NOAH.

NOAH
I'm sure he's fine.

DISNEY STORE EMPLOYEE
I'm sure too, but isn't a little odd? The day after he sells the mall there's no sign of him?

NOAH
Now that you mention it, that is a little strange.

TOM
For all we know, a horde of conga lining Yetis marched in and ate him. Or he died of a broken heart that H&M is leaving.

DISNEY STORE EMPLOYEE
(To Noah)
Is he always like this?

NOAH
Usually.

DISNEY STORE EMPLOYEE

Well, if he comes by here, tell him
Sam needs to talk to him at the
Disney Store.

The employee leaves. Noah turns to Tom.

NOAH

He was not eaten by a horde of
yetis.

TOM

That's what you think. It's true. I
saw them.

NOAH

Whatever. I'll be right back.

TOM

But you're gonna miss the rush of
kids! Think of the kids man!

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL

Noah paces back and forth, phone in hand, trying to think of
what to say.

NOAH

(To himself)

'Hey babe. So Greenridge is
apparently AWOL so I'm just
thinking of walking out....' no no
no. 'Hey babe, Greenridge just
fired my ass like you said he
would'... hmmm...

He pauses a moment.

NOAH (CONT'D)

This is ridiculous. Greenridge
doesn't show up once and you wanna
run off? Get a fucking grip.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS

Tom lays on the THRONE, fast asleep. Head drooped backwards,
arms folded, barely moving.

Footsteps echo ominously BEHIND HIM. Cindy enters the PHOTO
AREA and walks AROUND the throne, looking at the costume
almost LOVINGLY.

CINDY

Sleep well, my Lord. You'll have
alot of work to do soon.

She takes a step FORWARD. Her arm reaches out to feel the
costume's fur. Tom JERKS AWAKE. His arm FLIES up and SLAPS
Cindy across the FACE.

She STAGGERS BACK, fear and anger in her eyes.

TOM

Oh shit! Sorry lady! Uh, you,
uh...startled me! I'd never hit a
woman. Honest to God, uh, please
don't tell Gre...uh...Noah!

Cindy rubs the spot on her CHEEK. She can't keep her eyes of
WENDELL.

CINDY

No, it's my fault. I very clearly
startled you.

Cindy STARES for a few more moments. In a flash, she LEAPS
onto Tom and begins running a HAND all over Wendell's FACE,
almost trying to PULL Wendell's HEAD OFF.

CINDY (CONT'D)

Let me... let me feel you! I must
feel the fur of my King...

TOM

Bitch I ain't nobody's king! Get
off me!

Noah walks up, and all he can see is Cindy climbing on top
of Wendell. He STOPS at the gated entrance to the area,
wondering what the hell is happening. From his angle it looks
like two TEENAGERS making out.

NOAH

(Clears throat)
Don't mind me.

Cindy's head JERKS back, staring DAGGERS into Noah. She
climbs off Tom and begins stepping toward Noah. He GULPS, and
starts to take a few steps back, ready to FLEE.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Don't...uh...let me...interrupt. I
mean. You both were uh....

Tom makes a THROAT SLITTING 'NO' gesture behind Cindy. Noah
sees this, and can't figure out what to say next.

Thankfully for him, he doesn't need to, because from BEHIND, he hears:

MITCHELL (O.C.)
Problem, gentlemen?

Noah SPINS, nearly falls over, and watches Mitchell, back in his neat SUIT, step out from behind a pillar.

TOM
This bitch attacked me!

MITCHELL
Don't talk about my employee like that.

TOM
'Your' employee?!

Mitchell's eyes WIDEN for a fraction of a second. How's he gonna get out of this? He blinks, then puts on his BUSINESS FACE.

Every single word he says next is BULLSHIT. *

MITCHELL
Yes. She's my employee. I'm from Bath and Body Works' corporate office. *

NOAH
Wait, I recognize you. Weren't you just trying to buy the mall? A few days ago. *

MITCHELL
What? No. I was merely making a rent agreement with Mr. Greendridge. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll just take Cindy here and we'll get back to work.

He leads Cindy, arm-over-shoulder, away. Tom and Noah watch them go.

TOM
You know...you're right. This place is really fucked up.

NOAH
That was the guy who wanted to buy Wendell.

Tom tears Wendell's HEAD OFF. He's BRIGHT RED from a mix of

sweat and anger.

TOM
He can have it. Permanently.

NOAH
What do you mean?

TOM
I mean...

He shakes off Wendell's jacket.

TOM (CONT'D)
He can have....

Wendell's GLOVES are tossed onto the growing PILE of costume parts on the FLOOR.

TOM (CONT'D)
This fucking...

Tom KICKS Wendell's shoes off to finish the PILE.

TOM (CONT'D)
...Costume for good. I quit.

NOAH
You serious? Dude, we have like two days left! Literally! This Sunday's Easter!

TOM
Don't fucking care. You wanna stay and deal with the crazy furry bitches who wanna fuck the bunny? Be my fucking guest. But I'm not. Fuck this place.

He FLIPS OFF the costume.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREENRIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE.

Mitchell PACES the small room, throwing the occasional GLARE at Cindy, who sits on Greenridge's DESK. *

After a few paces, Mitchell EXPLODES.

MITCHELL
The fuck was that for? You wanna give us away?

CINDY

I'm sorry! But I could feel the power of The Lepus. He's ready to come back Mitchell! This must work!

MITCHELL

I know that! And we will succeed. But...

He picks up a LETTER OPENER off the desk and points at Cindy MENACINGLY.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

If you fuck anything else up, then your blood will the next shed for Him.

CINDY

You wouldn't...you know I am your loyal...

Cindy can barely hold back her FEAR. Mitchell has the BLADE nearly at her NECK.

MITCHELL

If you stand in the way of The Lepus, even your loyalty will not save you. Or any of them.

We cut between Mitchell's COLD, DARING eyes, and Cindy's terrified ones. She finally NODS. Mitchell retracts the BLADE.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Good. Let's pray to Him that nobody else fucks the plan up.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

Noah is nearly JOGGING to keep up with Tom, who marches towards the DOORS outside. They reach the doors, and Tom STOPS.

*
*

He turns to face Noah.

NOAH

So this is it, huh? You're just running off?

TOM
 Guess so. Gotta say, as far as
 coworkers go, we were pretty...

NOAH
 Unique?

TOM
 I was gonna say crappy.

Noah DEFLATES slightly.

NOAH
 Whatever. Have fun in Cali.

TOM
 Will do. Tell Em' I said hey.

He pushes open the door, then STOPS. Turns back towards Noah.

TOM (CONT'D)
 Hey, man. One last favor?

NOAH
 What is it?

TOM
 (Sly, 'Your secret's safe
 with me')
 She got any friends? Single
 friends?

It takes Noah a MOMENT to register Tom's request: Emily.

NOAH
 Like I'd tell you that.

Tom shrugs, defeated.

TOM
 Fair enough.

There's another pause. For a moment, it seems like Tom might
 STAY. Then he turns towards the open door.

TOM (CONT'D)
 So long, Sad Bunny.

Tom LEAVES, and the door SWINGS SHUT. The SLAM echoes around
 the EMPTY CORRIDOR.

NOAH
 Fuckin' 'Sad Bunny'.

He TURNS and heads back down the hall.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT.

Tom strolls MERRILY through the LOT, nearly dancing with his newfound FREEDOM. He doesn't notice the VAN pulling up BEHIND HIM. It moves slowly, methodically.

Like a PREDATOR.

OMINIOUS MUSIC begins.

The van moves CLOSER...closer...and closer. Tom puts in his EARBUDS. The SHOTGUN WINDOW rolls down. PETEY leans OUT. Tom bops his HEAD along to the MUSIC.

The van is nearly on top of him. It SWERVES a little closer, Petey reaches out, and is about to GRAB TOM, when:

CRACK!

The van's REARVIEW MIRROR whacks TOM in the back of the HEAD.

Tom is KNOCKED OUT, and drops like a sack of BRICKS. Petey GRABS for the THIN AIR where Tom's HEAD just was. He looks around, 'where'd-he-go?' then looks down.

PETEY

Ya got too close, idiot. The mirror hit him.

ANNABELLE

Oh, shut up and get him in the back!

The van STOPS, and the two LEAP OUT, and quickly STUFF TOM into the back trunk of the van.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CORRIDOR/CENTER COURT.

Noah walks down the HALL once again. He reaches the BUNNY SET and looks at the empty costume on the floor. Gathering his COURAGE, he steps TOWARDS IT.

He knows what has to happen. Does he like it in the slightest? No.

Noah slides into Wendell's big PANTS...stuffs on his SHOES...pulls up his GLOVES.

Noah HESITATES a moment, holding Wendell's head above his OWN. He takes a DEEP BREATH, then lowers it onto his HEAD.

NOAH
(Muffled)
Smells like bigfoot's ass in this thing.

Noah/Wendell begins pacing the small SET. We PULL BACK, so the photo set gets SMALLER, while the mall feels LARGER.

Suddenly, we're looking at the set through the SECURITY CAMERA FEED. Pull back to reveal:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SECURITY OFFICE.

Hans watches Noah pace the area. He's nearly DROOLING with excitement. He raises a WALKIE.

HANS
He's alone.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE

Mitchell looks at the clock: 3pm. Mitchell gets even MORE excited.

MITCHELL
'For nine hours He labored for us...and so for nine we shall labor for him'

Mitchell reaches for the WALKIE TALKIE on the DESK. He can barely LIFT it in his JOY. After a few comical FUMBLES, he manages to lift it to his MOUTH.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
Hans? You know what to do.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - MOMENTS LATER.

Hans's voice cuts into the SILENCE.

HANS (V.O.)
If you were brought in to cover the work shortage today, please clock out for the day...

Noah, Wendell's HEAD resting on the floor, looks up, confused at what's going on.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - DISNEY STORE.

HANS (V.O)
Your services...

Hector sprays the giant MICKEY with a blast of WINDEX, but stops upon hearing the message.

Tossing the bottle over his shoulder, he heads for the back exit of the store. The other employees watch him go, confused.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - BATH BODY WORKS

HANS (V.O) (CONT'D)
*Are no longer required for the day.
Thank you and...*

Cindy beelines for the back exit. An employee tries to FOLLOW her, but she rudely SHOVES them back.

CINDY
Special workers only.

BATH BODY EMPLOYEE
Special my ass.

Cindy IGNORES HIM and KICKS open the back door. She vanishes into the HALLWAY.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL/H&M.

Hawk strolls through the DOOR from the STORE, and LOCKS the door behind him.

HANS (V.O)
*Have a nice night. Regular
employees must work the remainder
of their shifts.*

Hawk is quickly joined by Hector and Cindy. They're now no longer walking, more MARCHING.

HAWK
Oh man, it's almost time. Isn't it?

CINDY
Certainly.

They march RIGHT INTO the CAMERA and we:

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

Silence settles around the mall. Noah continues looking around. There was something OFF about the announcement he just can't put his finger on.

The PA buzzes to LIFE again, cutting off his THOUGHTS.

HANS (V.O.)

*Will the individual wearing the
Le...Easter Bunny suit please
return the costume to the staff
room? Your services are no longer
needed for the day.*

Noah BLINKS, unsure of what he just HEARD. After a moment, it SINKS IN. Like before, we see GHOSTLY VISIONS OF:

Mitchell shouting 'The Lepus' at the Wendell costume....The conversation with Emily about 'The lappy'... Hans EARLIER slipping up and nearly saying 'The Lepus' when seeing TOM dressed as Wendell...and CINDY climbing on Tom....when finally:

NOAH

Wait...that's like the 4th guy to
call Wendell Lappy or something.
The hell is going on?

HANS (V.O.)

Now, Mr. Bunny.

Chills run through Noah. Are they WATCHING HIM? He gathers up Wendell's HEAD, and hurries away from the SET.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM.

Noah pushes the DOOR to the STAFF ROOM open. He takes a slow, cautious STEP inside. He sets Wendell's HEAD on a table, and begins to examine the ROOM. Everything seems the same. He SHRUGS, and is about to turn to LEAVE, when:

SLAM!

The door SLAMS SHUT!

NOAH

Hey!

He practically SPRINTS across the room, and tries the doorknob. It's LOCKED. He WRESTLES with the KNOB, but it doesn't BUDGE.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - REMAINING STORES.

All at ONCE, every GATE to the open stores SLAM SHUT as well.

SLAM! SLAM! SLAM! SLAM!

Employees try to run to the back exits, but they're LOCKED as well. Some pull out PHONES, but there's no SERVICE.

DISNEY STORE EMPLOYEE
The fuck's going on?

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM.

Noah throws his SHOULDER into the DOOR, to no avail. After a few KICKS, he pulls out his PHONE, and tries dialing 911. All he can hear is that 'Not in service' tone.

NOAH
C'mon...c'mon....

He tries a few more TIMES, and finally SLUMPS to the floor in DEFEAT. Taking a few CALMING BREATHERS, he seems to gather his THOUGHTS.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Alright...think. The door's probably...nah. Someone's behind this.

He tries his PHONE again. No luck. He SLUMPS again and we:

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - HOURS LATER -NIGHT. *

Every member of the CULT work to set up the ALTAR we saw in Mitchell's basement around the BUNNY THRONE.

Tied to a chair, T SHIRT stuffed into his MOUTH, struggling FRANTICALLY a few feet away, is TOM.

Mitchell inspects the altar, beaming.

MITCHELL

Well done. But we have more work to do. Much more. The Lepus will not return to this.

CINDY

Speaking of, I believe we need the Cloth?

Mitchell SNAPS HIS FINGERS, 'right'.

MITCHELL

Of course! Go fetch it at once!

CINDY

It is an honor.

She leaves, and Mitchell returns to his PLANS. When from off-screen:

MALE VOICE (O.C.)

Alright everybody, welcome to our 500 sub special, Green Ridge at Night! Woah....

Mitchell WHIRLS around to find a MAN, wearing TOURIST GEAR (tropical shirt, cargo shorts, flip flops, ect...) walking towards the ALTAR, with a camera in his HANDS. The man is STUNNED at the sight of the altar.

The entire cult STARES in shock, and Mitchell nearly GLIDES over to the man, grabbing him by the THROAT. The MAN instantly begins GASPING for AIR.

Mitchell STARES into the man's eyes, almost RABID with anger.

MITCHELL

Who are you?

MAN

(Gasping for breath)
Gr-Greg. Of the channel Greg the M-m-Mall Man.

MITCHELL

Well, Greg, how did you get in here?!

*
*

GREG

S-Si-de entrance. P-pl-please le-

*

Greg's face begins to go PURPLE. His EYES buldge. He struggles FEEBLY against Mitchell's VICE-LIKE GRIP.

MITCHELL
 (Calling to the group)
 Block the entrance!

Annabelle leaves. Mitchell returns his attention to Greg.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
 You will not be let go. You will
 not tell the world what you've seen
 and risk ruining His return.

GREG
 I swear....I won't tell! Please
 man!

Mitchell DROPS Greg, who begins to CRAWL away feebly. Pulling
 out a DAGGER and a SMALL JAR, Mitchell begins advancing on
 Greg.

MITCHELL
 Your blood will flow to please The
 Lepus.

He drives the DAGGER into Greg's skull with every bit of
 STRENGTH he's got. Greg SCREAMS and feebly tries to pull the
 BLADE out, as Mitchell collects some of the BLOOD in the jar.

Setting the JAR down, he RAISES one FOOT high above Greg,
 and:

SKLRUSH!!!

Brings his foot down on Greg's CHEST, which CRUMPLES. Ribs
 SNAP. Greg coughs up BLOOD, then goes LIMP.

That's the end of Greg.

Calmly, Mitchell picks up Greg's camera, and STOMPS that too.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM.

Noah HEARS Greg's SCREAM echoing through the MALL. He SPRINGS
 up like someone kicked him, and desperately tries his PHONE
 again. STILL NOTHING.

Suddenly, he hears FOOTSTEPS echoing down the hall. His eyes
 dart around the room, looking for anything to protect him.
 They eventually land on a POSTER for 'Run Hide Fight'. He
 rolls his EYES.

NOAH
 (Muttering to himself)
 Of course.

In a FLASH, he takes off the WENDELL COSTUME, throwing it into a PILE on the floor. Then he grabs a FIRE EXTINGUISHER, and crouches under a TABLE.

The door slowly CREAKS open. Cindy leans into the room, scanning it. Her eyes pass right over Noah's table. As they do, Noah clenches his TEETH together in fear.

Spotting the costume on the floor, Cindy ignores the table. She drops to her knees and HOWLS in SORROW.

CINDY

My lord! Who did this to you? Who dares besmirch the Holy Cloth of The Lepus!

CLOSE ON Noah's eyes. They land on Cindy's RABBIT PIN as she says 'The Lepus'.

Noah FLASHES to his encounter with Hans this morning. This time Han's PIN flashes. Mitchell? Same pin. NOW it all comes together.

NOAH

A rabbit cult?!

As soon as the words are out, he COVERS HIS MOUTH, praying to God Cindy didn't hear him. He CLOSES HIS EYES. TENSES. Assumes the fetal position.

THUD!

The CHAIR obscuring Noah is WHIPPED AWAY. We take NOAH'S POV as Cindy's FACE obscures the screen! Up close, she's absolutely TERRIFYING.

CINDY

Ah, a lurker. Good. Good. I'm sure The Lepus will have a use for you.

NOAH

Please don't hurt me. I just work here. I was the guy wearing the bunny suit. Honest. I don't know anything about a Lepus or anything...

CINDY

Now now, don't resist. The Lepus won't like it.

Cindy REACHES to drag NOAH out from under the table, Noah cowering FURTHER BACK. Cindy begins to CRAWL under the table when:

FWOOOOSSSHHHH!!!!

Noah blasts her in the face with EXTINGUISHER FOAM. Cindy flies back, HOWLING again, this time in RAGE, PAIN, and HATRED.

Seizing his one chance, Noah DARTS out of the room! He's never ran faster in his LIFE!

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL - DOUBLE DOORS.

Noah STOPS at the double doors to the outside. He's a MESS. Breathing heavily, clutching his SIDE, sweat pouring down his face.

He pulls his PHONE out again, and still no SERVICE. He tries the DOORS. They're locked. On the outside, a PADLOCK shakes as he tries again.

Giving the door a few feeble PUNCHES, Noah THINKS hard. His brow furrows. He rubs his CHIN. His mind RACES.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

The altar is FINISHED. Mitchell draws a circle on the seat with Greg's BLOOD. Anabelle and Hans half lead, half DRAG Tom to the foot of the THRONE. Hawk and Petey light a ring of CANDLES. Hector FLIPS a SWITCH.

The entire MALL is plunged into DARKNESS! The only light coming in is from the MOON outside.

QUICK CUTS of Noah, as well as the other employees reacting to the BLACKNESS. Some begin to WEEP, others SCREAM, and some double down on shaking the GATES.

Noah pulls out his PHONE and flicks the FLASHLIGHT on. *

Back on the ALTAR, it's now lit only by the CANDLES. The SHADOWS dance around the EMPTY COURT. Mitchell turns to the others.

MITCHELL

Dress. The moment draws near.

HAWK

Shouldn't we wait for Cindy?

MITCHELL

She is getting the Cloth. She will be here. Do not make me repeat myself. I am not in a forgiving mood tonight.

Hawk moves DOUBLE SPEED as he, along with the others, pull BLACK ROBES out of a BAG. Each robe is embroidered with the words *Nos qui exspectamus* (SUBTITLE: We who wait) in gold above the heart.

Now DRESSED and lit by the CANDLES, Mitchell NODS. He slips his HOOD UP.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Fetch the others. Hans, back to the office. Nobody even crosses the street outside. Nobody will mess this up for us.

HANS

But I want to see The Lepus! Why do I have to miss His arrival?

MITCHELL

One more word and I will sacrifice you to Him. I am done with nonsense tonight.

*
*
*
*
*
*

The other cultists DEPART. Mitchell DROPS to his knees, facing the THRONE.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - DISNEY STORE/BATH BODY/H&M/JCPENNEY

One by one, a CULTIST reaches each store, and open the GATE.

Some employees begin to PROTEST, but each cultist holds up a KNIFE, silencing them.

HAWK/ANNABELLE/PETHEY/HECTOR

(In unison)

Approach. Let us welcome The Lepus.
Resistance will get you killed.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

They LEAD each store's group of employees to the ALTAR, place a BAG over their HEAD, and line them up on either side of the ALTAR.

Mitchell rises to his feet, still facing the altar. At that moment, Cindy, red faced and full of RAGE, storms over.

Despite her rage, she carries the Wendell costume like someone would hold FINE CHINA.

MITCHELL
You're late. Why?

CINDY
I have brought The Cloth.

MITCHELL
You didn't answer. Why are you late?

CINDY
...Someone was waiting to sabotage us. A man. In the staff room. He attacked me!

TOM
(Behind his gag)
Nmah!

Nobody HEARS HIM.

Mitchell nearly EXPLODES when he hears this. He SEETHES, clenches his FISTS, and then...

MITCHELL
(Screaming)
WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS! HE MUST ARRIVE! NOW!

CINDY
Yes...but....

MITCHELL
(Nearly roaring)
SHUT! UP!

Mitchell takes a few moments to COMPOSE HIMSELF.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
Hector will find him. And when he finds him...

Hector GRINS. There's no HUMOR or JOY in the smile, only BLOODLUST. He makes a THROAT CUT gesture, and departs.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)
Now, dress and assume your place!

Cindy BOWS, and hurries OC. The tension is THICK as Mitchell lays the COSTUME on the FLOOR, spread out like a SNOW ANGEL. Tom's eyes WIDEN at the sight.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE. *

Noah PUSHES open the door SLOWLY. The door being open makes no DENT in the DARKNESS. Noah creeps into the room, and pulls out his PHONE and flicks on the FLASHLIGHT again.

The beam traverses the ROOM, from the cabinet, to the floor, to the DESK. Noah hurries over to it, and begins pushing stuff around, until he finds the DESK PHONE.

NOAH
(Muttering)
Come on...come on...

He nearly SLAMS his finger into the buttons for 911, then holds the PHONE to his ear, breathing HEAVILY.

There's NOTHING. No tone, no power, nothing. Noah drops the receiver, and watches it BOUNCE on the floor.

It hits the WALL and Noah can see, next to it, there's an unplugged CORD. Squatting down, Noah inspects the CORD only a moment, before plugging it in.

The PHONE display LIGHTS UP.

NOAH (CONT'D)
(Dialing)
Of course.

SLAM TO:

INT. TOWN POLICE OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

RIIIIIINNG.

The DISPATCHER (mid 30's, female, sleepy eyed), barely looks at the phone as she picks up.

DISPATCHER
911, what's your emergency?

NOAH (V.O.)
Oh, thank God. I'm at Green Ridge Mall. There's this cult that's trying to summon the Easter Bunny, or something, and...

The dispatcher can't hold back a LAUGH.

DISPATCHER
The...Easter Bunny?

NOAH (V.O.)
Please! This is serious! They've cut the power. Please. You have to send someone!

DISPATCHER
Wasting police time is a federal offense.

NOAH (V.O.)
Wasting... I'm not wasting your time! Honest!

DISPATCHER
Besides, kid, prank calls are so 90's.

CLICK. The dispatcher puts down the phone and LAUGHS. Two officers walk over, wondering what all commotion is.

DISPATCHER (CONT'D)
Just a prank caller who thinks the Easter Bunny's on a rampage or something.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GREENRIDGE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Noah punches in ANOTHER NUMBER. He holds the PHONE to his EAR.

QUICK CUT OF - Emily's PHONE ringing on her desk. She sees 'Unknown Number' and ignores it.

BACK ON NOAH.

EMILY (V.O.)
Congratulations. You've reached my answering machine. You know how these things work.

Noah rolls his eyes before talking quickly:

NOAH
Babe! It's me! Look, I don't have much time, so I'll keep it quick. Remember the crazy guys I've been telling you about? Turns out - they're an Easter Bunny cult...
(MORE)

*

NOAH (CONT'D)

They have us on lockdown. I don't know what their plans are. They've killed someone. I don't know who it is, but I need help! The police think I'm a prank caller! You're my only hope. I love you, call me, er rather, the mall, when you get here!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

He HANGS UP, and right as he does, something MOVES in the OFFICE. It's the POTTED PLANT. The leaves rustle OMINOUSLY! Noah MISSES this.

*

From the HALLWAY outside, Noah can hear: SINGING?

No, not singing...chanting! The cult has begun CHANTING in a language Noah doesn't recognize.

He begins to hurry to the DOOR, and we take his POV. The door gets CLOSER, when:

WHAM!

Noah is sent SPRAWLING across the OFFICE, his head THUMPS against the desk.

Through his DAZE, we can see HECTOR, shaking off the DIRT from the PLANT, advancing menacingly.

BOX CUTTER in hand, a big GRIN spreads across his FACE.

HECTOR

Now this He's really gonna enjoy.
Three in one day? Fuck, He's gonna LOVE this.

Hector advances closer, and closer. Noah backs up into GREENRIDGE'S DESK and reaches BEHIND HIM for ANYTHING to use as a weapon. Stack of paper? No. File folder? Not happening. A stapler? Noah clutches it TIGHT.

NOAH

Look... I don't want to hurt you...and I don't want you to hurt me, either. I just work at the mall. So, please let me leave.

This DOESN'T WORK. Hector LEAPS into the air, box cutter ready. Noah SWINGS the STAPLER wildly, holding his OTHER ARM in front of his face.

When he LOWERS his arm, he sees Hector SCREAMING as he pulls a STAPLE out of his CHEEK.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Oh shit.

HECTOR

I'll fuckin' kill you for that! He won't need to!

Using Noah's ARMS almost like monkey bars, Hector LATCHES around Noah's HEAD, clawing at him and landing PUNCH after PUNCH.

Noah STUMBLES around the OFFICE, trying to pry Hector off, to no avail. There's nothing nearby he can REACH without Hector attacking his ARMS, and he can't exactly call for HELP.

Out of options, Noah seems to GIVE UP. He stumbles forwards, and Hector bumps into the WALL. This gives him an IDEA.

He takes a DEEP BREATH, braces himself, and SLAMS his FOREHEAD into HECTOR'S. Yes. A good old HEAD BUTT. Hector's head SNAPS back, and, CRACK. Hits the wall.

Hector stops FIGHTING at once. He goes LIMP, and his arms retract from Noah's throat. He FALLS to the floor, a trickle of BLOOD spilling onto the floor.

That's the end of Hector.

Noah stands, rubbing the spots Hector had punched. He GRIMACES as he looks down at the body on the floor.

NOAH

Hello, therapy.

He walks away from Hector's body and out of the office towards:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - MINUTES LATER.

Mitchell PACES back and forth before the throne, raising and lowering his HANDS. His eyes land on the GAP in the circle where Hector should be. He wants to say something, but can't stop his PRAYER.

MITCHELL

...Oh Lepus, hear us, and give us eternal life, eternal glory, eternal wealth, with this sacrifice to you.

On the word 'sacrifice', Annabelle and Hawk prop TOM up on the GOLDEN THRONE. He struggles against them, but they're too strong for him.

The two turn toward Mitch, who NODS. In a flash, Hawk pulls out a BLADE and SLICES Tom's throat with it! All watch as blood pours, covering the throne.

That's the end of Tom.

The silence is only broken by a muffled scream.

SLAM TO:

NOAH, crouched behind a PLANTER, eyes wide and biting a KNUCKLE trying not to SCREAM at the sight of Tom's death.

SAME SCENE - ON THE CULTISTS

Annabelle's HEAD snaps toward the SCREAM. She makes momentary EYE CONTACT with Mitchell. He nods once again, Annabelle BOWS to the costume, and TAKES OFF running at the lanter.

ON NOAH.

Noah looks up and sees Annabelle sprinting towards him. He screams, scrambles to his feet, and RUNS down the hall.

ON THE CULTISTS.

They watch for a moment as Annabelle CHASES Noah, then resume their ceremony.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

The moment draws near, our Lord
nears. Allow us to welcome him!

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - HALLWAY

Noah runs down the hall, clutching his SIDE again. He can't run any farther. He slows to a STOP, and catches his breath, when he hears Anabelle's FOOTSTEPS getting louder.

NOAH

Motherfucker.

After looking for anywhere else to hide, Noah DIVES into the only open store in sight - THE DISNEY STORE.

He SLAMS the GRATE behind him just as ANNABELLE rounds the corner. She BEELINES for the Disney Store.

INT. DISNEY STORE

Noah, breathing heavily, FREEZES as he sees Annabelle reaching for the bottom of the GATE.

In Noah's POV, the camera SWERVES wildly, as he searches for OPTIONS. The camera tilts UP, to reveal a CATWALK decorated with statues of various DISNEY CHARACTERS (Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy, ect...)

Regular view as Noah scrambles up a shelf, knocking merchandise to the floor. When he reaches the top shelf, he hears the gate begin to OPEN.

Out of time, Noah LEAPS, arms flailing, legs pumping, towards the CATWALK.

On the ground, Annabelle becomes fully visible as the GATE opens. She takes one step into the store, then STOPS, looking UP.

ANNABELLE

You have got to be joking. You think this is a challenge?

The camera ROTATES to reveal that Noah is comically SQUATTING behind a Donald Duck statue. He's not hidden at all.

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

Very well. If that's how you want to do it...

She begins to walk towards the SHELF to climb up herself, when:

CRACK!

Donald's HEAD crashes into the SHELVES, mere inches from Annabelle's HEAD. She turns and sees Noah raising Donald's body above his head, ready to toss it.

NOAH

(Confident)

One more step...

Annabelle HALTS. CLOSE ON Noah's face and his heavy breathing.

Before we can see what happens next, we:

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

Mitchell and the others KNEEL in front of the THRONE, where the Wendell costume has been draped over Tom's body.

Mitchell stands, and raises his HANDS to the MOON. He says the next words with every bit of strength in him:

MITCHELL

The time has arrived. Oh Lepus,
cross into our world and bless us
with Your presence! Part your
wisdom on us so we may serve you in
This world. Let The Lepus return.

The last word is SCREAMED to the empty mall.

A BLINDING LIGHT begins to shine through the THRONE. The cultists seem to BASK in this light.

CINDY

He's here!

Mitchell NODS as the light obscures the body, throne, and costume. Smoke pours. We can hear CLATTERING. Then, HEAVY, ALMOST GROAN like breathing.

We're on the CULTISTS as the light fades away. They all STARE for a moment, then drop to their KNEES.

The camera ROTATES to face the THRONE. Sitting on it, is the WENDELL COSTUME, now fully possessed by THE LEPUS. Tom's body is gone, absorbed by the costume. The Lepus slowly, jerkily, STANDS, and inspects his BODY.

MITCHELL

Oh Lord Lepus, We welcome you back
to our world. There was never any
doubt that You would return. We who
were your most loyal have brought
You back.

The Lepus sniffs the air, LONGINGLY. HUNGRILY. From inside the COSTUME, a deep, low voice, almost like THUNDER, echoes.

THE LEPUS

I am hungry.

*

Mitchell looks at the BOUND MALL EMPLOYEES. He turns back to The Lepus and SMILES.

MITCHELL

Of course, My Lord. Feast. We have
brought food for you.

INT. DISNEY STORE

Annabelle, all the way up the SHELVES, is just climbing onto the catwalk towards NOAH, who's backed himself to the very EDGE of the catwalk.

ANNABELLE

Nowhere for you to go.

She flashes a GRIN at Noah. Like Hector's before, there's no JOY, HUMOR, or HAPPINESS in this smile. There's only POWER. Almost a BLOODLUST.

She LUNGES for him, and Noah SCREAMS as she GRABS his leg and tries to PULL HIM DOWN! Annabelle DANGLES from Noah, who grasps the CATWALK with all his might.

Instinctively, Noah begins KICKING at Annabelle's HAND. This isn't enough, she's still PULLING on his LEG.

Suddenly, The Lepus' VOICE echoes through the mall. Annabelle's head turns toward the SOUND. Then she GRINS at Noah again.

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

H-him! He is back! And you shall feed him!

The Lepus' voice ECHOES again, and as Annabelle TURNS to face the sound, Noah uses this momentary distraction to nudge the Goofy statue off the catwalk. CLONK!

It lands straight on Annabelle's HEAD, and her eyes CROSS for only a moment, before they lose FOCUS.

Her grip loosens, and she PLUMMETS, cartwheeling to the GROUND, landing straight on her HEAD. CRUNCH! She folds like a piece of PAPER.

That's the end of ANNABELLE.

Noah BREATHES HEAVILY, and CLINGS to the CATWALK, like a SLOTH on a BRANCH.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS

The Lepus has its head bent over a DEAD EMPLOYEE, chowing down. Every employee has been EATEN. Suddenly, it looks up. Blood stains the costume's white fur.

THE LEPUS

I want...more.

Cindy and Mitchell exchange a 'SHIT!' look. Mitchell clears his throat and begins...

MITCHELL

That's all of the food we offer.
There will be more after we lea...

CINDY

(Cutting in)
M...my Lord.

The Lepus turns to her, a piece of meat falling off its mouth.

CINDY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

M-my Lord. There is - another for
you to feast on.

THE LEPUS

Another?

Cindy NODS. Mitchell gives her a curious look, before cutting her off and continuing FOR HER:

MITCHELL

Yes! Yes! He is in the staff room.
He is the only one who can properly
prevent you from returning. The
only one who dares stand in your
way!

The Lepus PAUSES. Almost like it's THINKING. Then:

THE LEPUS

Bring me to him.

Mitchell begins to step forward, but Cindy catches his arm. He looks FURIOUS as she explains.

CINDY

I found him, I shall bring him.

Mitchell CALMS, then NODS.

MITCHELL

Go to him.

SLAM TO:

INT. TOWN POLICE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Exactly as before, the PHONE RINGS. A different DISPATCHER (Younger, more alert, better at their job) answers.

DISPATCHER

911. What's your emergency?

*EMILY(V.O.)**Please, you have to help! My boyfriend is trapped at the mall and...*

DISPATCHER

(Off her silence)

Take a breath, ma'am. It's OK. What's wrong with your boyfriend?

*EMILY (V.O.)**He's at Greenridge, and he says he's trapped by a cult trying to raise the Easter God or something.*

DISPATCHER

Oh, him? Yeah, he called earlier. If this is another prank call...

*EMILY (V.O.)**It's not a prank call! Please! You have to believe me! They already killed someone!**
*
*

That gets the dispatcher to perk up. They begin SCRIBBLING on a peice of paper.

DISPATCHER

Alright. That's Greenridge Mall, right? I'll send a car or two over to check it out. But if this is a prank, you and your boyfriend are in trouble. Understood?*EMILY (V.O.)*

Y-yes.

CLICK. The dispatcher reaches over and hits the RADIO BUTTON.

DISPATCHER

I need a unit to Greenridge Mall on a possible 10-79 and 10-54. Urgent.

*

SLAM TO:

EXT. - GAS STATION PARKING LOT.

A POLICE CAR sits idly, watching the TRAFFIC. We can hear the receptionist's call come through the radio. The LIGHTS come on and the SIREN wails.

The police car BURNS RUBBER as it peels out of the PARKING LOT.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

Cindy and The Lepus make their way down the HALLWAY. The combined thumping and clicks of The Lepus's feet and Cindy's shoes are the ONLY SOUND.

They reach the STAFF ROOM DOOR. Cindy looks back at The Lepus. The Lepus NODS 'Go ahead' so she KICKS open the door to reveal...

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - STAFF ROOM.

A completely EMPTY staff room. There's not a SINGLE SIGN of Noah anywhere.

THE LEPUS

Where is he?

CINDY

He was...in here. He must be!

The two step into the room, and The Lepus scans the room, then, LIGHTNING FAST, reaches out and GRABS Cindy by the NECK, hoisting her in the AIR.

She kicks and struggles but it's no use. The Lepus' grip is like a VICE. Her FACE begins to go BLUE.

CINDY (CONT'D)

(Choking for air)

M-m-my Lor-lord. P-please let me-me go.

The Lepus stares into her eyes as he SPEAKS. Even the normally friendly eyes of Wendell seem cold and harsh. Like they're made of STEEL, not mesh.

THE LEPUS

You are not loyal. You tricked me. Telling me lies. You know I am not a forgiving God.

CINDY

N-no m-my Lord. N-not a trick. N-not a lie.

Her face goes PURPLE. Her eyes BULGE. They begin to ROLL UP, when The Lepus TIGHTENS his GRIP. Snap! Cindy goes LIMP in his grip, a trickle of BLOOD running from her mouth.

That's the end of Cindy.

THE LEPUS
You failed me.

He DROPS the body in his hand, and turns to walk towards the DOOR.

SLAM TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - HALLWAY

Noah slips out from under the DISNEY STORE gate and begins planning his NEXT MOVE. He spots a DISPLAY for a school sports program in a store window. In the mannequins' HAND is a BASEBALL BAT.

After SHATTERING the GLASS, Noah wrestles for a moment as he PRYS the bat from the mannequin. Once it's in his HANDS, he grows more CONFIDENT.

NOAH
'Do or do not. There is no try.'
And I am do gonna get out of here.
Wait...hang on.

He shrugs this off and bends down to DOUBLE KNOT HIS SHOES.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Track don't let me down.

He takes the starting position, and is about to start RUNNING, when from outside he hears:

A POLICE SIREN.

*

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT.

The POLICE CAR screeches to a STOP outside. Two police officers GET OUT. One carries a MEGAPHONE, the other a PISTOL.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT.

*

Mitchell and The Lepus stand face-to-face, in the middle of an ARGUMENT. Hawk and Petey watch them argue.

MITCHELL

She was one of Your followers! She would never deceive You!

The Lepus is about to reply, but FREEZES when he hears the SIREN. His HEAD snaps towards it. The entire mall lights up in RED AND BLUE.

MITCHELL (CONT'D)

Fuck.

He fumbles for the RADIO on his belt.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SECURITY OFFICE.

Hans watches the POLICE approach on the monitor. His face is PALE, almost PAPER WHITE. His radio buzzes.

MITCHELL (V.O)

We've got company.

HANS

I see them. What should I do?

MITCHELL (V.O)

Go out there and make them go away. Use force if you have to. The Lepus gives you strength to take them both on.

Hans GULPS, then NODS. His eyes land on a pair of SCISSORS on the desk.

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT - MINUTES LATER

Hans steps out into the night, squinting against the bright POLICE LIGHTS. The second cop draws a PISTOL. Hans PUTS UP HIS HANDS.

HANS

(Fake accent)

What is seeming to be the issue, offices? Er, officers?

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - GLASS ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Noah crouches behind a PLANTER, watching out the window as Hans approaches the COPS. It seems to be going in Han's FAVOR, as the police seem to RELAX.

The moment the cop lowers his PISTOL, Hans POUNCES at the POLICE, holding a pair of SCISSORS in one hand.

Noah's EYES go WIDE.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS

The Lepus STARES Mitchell down as the POLICE LIGHTS continue to FLASH.

THE LEPUS
(re: Police)
Why are they here?

For the first time, the cultists show true FEAR as they scramble to answer.

MITCHELL
I do not know, My Lord. I had no way of knowing they were...

HAWK
We swear to You, none of us called 'em!

PETHEY
Please, My Lord. Have mercy on Us. This was not our doing!

The Lepus IGNORES THEM as he starts advancing towards Mitchell.

THE LEPUS
You lie to me. Your follower deceives me. Is this why you brought me back? To mock me? To be false followers? To assume that my gratitude for being returned will overlook your other wrongs?

MITCHELL
My Lord, absolutely not!

Before he can get any more out...

BANG! A gunshot. Mitchell's head SNAPS to the sound again. His eyes meet those of The Lepus. He barely has time to BLINK before...

THE LEPUS BRINGS HIS CLAWS DOWN ON MITCHELL'S FACE. Mitchell CRUMPLES to the ground, and The Lepus RIPS into his FLESH.

And that's the END of Mitchell.

The Lepus turns to Petey and Hawk. Before we can see what happens...

SLAM TO:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT.

The first cop screams into his RADIO as the second keeps his gun trained on Hans' BODY.

POLICE OFFICER.

I need backup at the Mall. 10-71.
Be ready to enter to check for any
10-59.

*
*
*

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - MOMENTS LATER

Noah SPRINTS to the service hall doors, then stops and takes a few deep breaths. This is it. He's getting out of this mall once and for all once he gets through these doors.

NOAH

Alright, just out the
doors...explain everything, you're
the hostage here..

He's so focused on hyping himself up doesn't notice that The Lepus behind him, silently sneaking into one of those Four-Photo booths, using it like a hunter uses a DEER BLIND, hiding from its prey. Waiting for the right moment to STRIKE.

NOAH (CONT'D)

... and now, to freedom!

He assumes the RUNNER POSE again. CLOSE UP of his sneaker pressing hard on the tile. He's really giving it all he's got.

SLOW MOTION as:

Noah launches himself at the door at the EXACT same time The Lepus POUNCES at him. The two COLLIDE in MID-AIR. Noah barely has time to register what HIT HIM before we resume NORMAL SPEED and they crash to the GROUND.

The two ROLL to the base of the fountain. Noah punches feebly at The Lepus, who easily dodges every blow. When Noah regains his focus, he realizes what tackled him.

NOAH (CONT'D)

(Shouting)

Tom, you piece of shit! Do you not
(MORE)

NOAH (CONT'D)
 realize what's happening?! We're in
 danger and you're here fucking
 around with the Easter Bunny suit?

Noah reaches for Wendell's HEAD to attempt to pull it off. It
 doesn't budge.

NOAH (CONT'D)
 I thought you had been...

He TRAILS OFF. We see a FLASH of Tom's MURDER again, this
 time from Noah's POV. Noah's eyes WIDEN. He lets go of
 Wendell.

NOAH (CONT'D)
 (Trailing off)
 Killed by...

It sets in for Noah; THIS THING IS REAL.

The Lepus raises a HAND, and CLAWS extract from the COSTUME
 GLOVES.

THE LEPUS
 Correct.

He SLASHES at Noah's neck! Noah dodges just in time, and the
 blow only manages to slash Noah's SHIRT.

THE LEPUS (CONT'D)
 Your friend provided the blood
 needed so I may return to this
 world. This world which has
 suffered much in my absence. But
 that will change. That will change.
 With your death, I will leave this
 temple.

Clambering to his FEET, Noah doesn't even GLANCE at The
 Lepus as he turns and SPRINTS down the HALLWAY again.

The Lepus isn't bothered in the SLIGHTEST as he turns and
 FOLLOWS Noah.

SLAM TO:

INT. CENTER COURT - MOMENTS LATER.

Noah runs into the COURT and almost VOMITS at the sight of
 PETEY, HAWK, and MITCHELL all TORN TO PIECES on the FLOOR.
 He can't help himself but STOMP right on Mitchell's FACE as
 he RUNS past.

NOAH
(To the corpse)
Fuck you.

He doesn't SLOW as he approaches the DOUBLE DOORS again. This time he readies his SHOULDER, and like before, tries to RAM them, but they're LOCKED again!

Noah tumbles to the FLOOR, and looks up to find The Lepus standing over him again. *

THE LEPUS
You are not leaving.

He GRABS Noah by the ARM, and hoists him to his FEET. Noah SCREAMS as The Lepus twists his ARM around. He's at the POINT OF BREAKING IT, when the sound of more POLICE CARS outside distract him.

The Lepus' grip loosens, and Noah YANKS his arm out of The Lepus' grasp. He uses the bunny's distraction to PUNCH him in the FACE. The Lepus RECOILS.

THE LEPUS (CONT'D)
You will pay for that.

NOAH
You're just a fucker in a suit.
What're you gonna do about it?

THE LEPUS
You are mistaken. Do you not see what I can do to those who oppose me? I am Lepus. The spirit of Easter.

Noah looks at the SHREDDED BODIES, then at The Lepus, and SPRINTS out of the COURT. We follow as he runs through the MALL, back to where his BASEBALL BAT lays on the FLOOR.

The MOMENT he picks it up, The Lepus steps up behind him again.

THE LEPUS (CONT'D)
I told you. You are not leaving.

NOAH
Fuck off.

THE LEPUS
Very well...

The Lepus steps forth, reaching for Noah again. This time Noah SWINGS his bat and WHACKS The Lepus' arm out of the way.

A close up on EACH FIGHTER's FACE. Each expression is clear; 'Only one leaves'. Noah is now fighting for his life.

The music starts, the slow build up to Lynyrd Skynyrd's 'Free Bird'. SLOW MOTION AGAIN as:

The arriving POLICE OFFICERS climb out of their cars...

... The Lepus unleashes his CLAWS AGAIN...

...Noah readies his BAT...

...The Lepus' foot slides back, ready to POUNCE...

*

...Both sets of EYES NARROW again...

The song's SOLO cuts in. We CRANK back to REGULAR SPEED as, once again, The Lepus POUNCES. It's ON NOW. The following fight is shot FAST and CHAOTIC.

Noah SWINGS from the HEELS like Babe Ruth and CRACKS The Lepus across the JAW. This barely phases The Lepus, who GRABS the BAT FROM NOAH, tossing it aside.

The two GRAPPLE on the tile floor, trying to get a GOOD GRIP on one another. The Lepus CHOMPS down onto Noah's SHOULDER. Noah SCREAMS and grabs The Lepus by the EARS, yanking his HEAD BACK.

Noah uses his EARS to sort of SHOVE The Lepus away from him. The Lepus LOSES it's balance, and falls.

Noah grabs his BAT again as The Lepus rights himself.

SLAM TO:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The police officers gather RIOT GEAR and more WEAPONS. It's quite clear they intend to STORM THE MALL.

The lead officer raises his MEGAPHONE.

POLICE OFFICER.

This is the police. Come out with your hands up.

There's no reply.

SLAM BACK TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS.

Noah scrambles over to his bat, and takes another SWING at The Lepus. The Lepus recoils, before grabbing the BAT from him.

Noah SCREAMS as The Lepus LAUNCHES the baseball bat him like a JAVELIN. Noah DODGES, and we crank to SLOW MOTION as the bat JUST BARELY misses his head.

NORMAL SPEED as it crashes into a storefront, causing Noah to WINCE at the sound. In his moment of distraction...

CRACK!

The Lepus PUNCHES Noah in the face, and he goes FLYING backwards. He SLAMS into a vacant HOT DOG STAND and rolls over the COUNTER.

ON NOAH

Under the counter of the stand, Noah reaches for anything he can use to SAVE HIMSELF. He finds a HAMMER under a fryer.

NOAH
Hammer time.

He searches for a few moments, but before he can pull anything else out:

The Lepus reaches the KIOSK and GRABS NOAH, pulling him to his FEET.

LAPUS POV.

Noah FLIES up, then SPINS swinging the HAMMER right into the CAMERA!

REGULAR POV.

The Lepus CLUTCHES its face where the hammer hit it, drops Noah and goes to SLASH him again with it's CLAWS. Noah dodges this, and in return, SMASHES The Lepus' HAND against the counter with the wrench.

The GLASS SHATTERS, and The Lepus SHOVES Noah's face against the BROKEN GLASS with his FREE HAND. Noah SCREAMS!

SLAM TO:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT.

The SCREAM echoes from inside the MALL. The police begin advancing forward when they hear it. At the same time, a pickup truck pulls into the PARKING LOT. Emily jumps out.

She sees the police, then Noah's BIKE.

EMILY

Dear God...

HOLD on her face as Noah SCREAMS again from inside the MALL.

SLAM BACK TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS

Noah plucks the BROKEN GLASS from his FACE, letting out another scream. Blood running down his FACE like an action hero in an 80's film, he screams again, this time it's a BATTLE CRY instead of pain.

He FOOTBALL TACKLES The Lepus to the ground, and, pinning it's ARMS DOWN with his KNEES, begins raining punches down onto it's head.

THE LEPUS

You think you can beat me? I am going easy on you. I could have killed you twelve times over by now. Each in ways more gruesome and painful than the last. Perhaps you would prefer I just ended you now?

*
*
*

NOAH

Shut the fuck up.

Punching with one hand, he reaches behind him for the HAMMER.

Once he gets a GRIP on it, he alternates PUNCHES and HAMMER BLOWS.

CLOSE ON The Lepus as the child-friendly image of Wendell the Bunny is pummeled, maimed, and dented by the WRENCH.

Golden BLOOD begins to leak from the costume.

WHACK! The costume's NOSE is torn off! CRUNCH. One of its EARS.

Finally, giving one final PRIMAL BATTLE CRY, he CLUBS The Lepus upside the head with the hammer with everything he's got. There's a SPLATTER of golden blood on the TILE.

The Lepus goes still, limp.

Noah climbs off the costume, and throws the hammer aside. He won't be needing it anymore. Skynyrd FADES.

SLAM TO:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - LOADING BAY.

The police are at the edge of the bay, making their way to the DOUBLE DOORS. One pulls a pair of BOLT CUTTERS out and clips the padlock on the door.

SLAM BACK TO:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - CONTINUOUS

Noah takes a STEP away from The Lepus, and just when he turns his back to it:

ROAR!

The Lepus LEAPS BACK UP. Noah SPINS to see it, and is so shocked he FALLS TO THE FLOOR.

The Lepus is truly a hideous sight now, with its deformed outfit, evil grin, and blood dripping to the floor.

The Lepus LOOMS over Noah and we look UP at its hideous face.

THE LEPUS

You actually thought that would stop me? I have been through the fires of time! The trials of...

THUMP!

A plaster EASTER EGG the size of a football hits The Lepus clean in the FACE. It growls, and foam begins running down its CHIN like a rabid animal.

Noah, clambering to his feet, drops the second egg and instead decides to RUN. The Lepus is HOT ON HIS HEELS.

Noah can hear the POLICE moving through the BUILDING. He SMILES, which is the strangest thing to do in his predicament.

The smile doesn't LAST, as The Lepus LEAPS at him again. Again the two TUSSLE, and eventually reach the GOLDEN THRONE.

Noah scrambles UP on the SEAT and uses the slight advantage to KICK The Lepus again.

The throne WOBBLER, which gives Noah an IDEA. Picking up a third EGG, he FLINGS it at The Lepus like the others.

The Lepus dodges the EGG, and leaps onto the SEAT of the THRONE, which Noah DIVES off of and tuck-and-rolls to the floor, kicking the LEG of the throne as he rolls.

The throne TEETERS, then falls to the FLOOR, sending The Lepus ROLLING across the FLOOR. There's a satisfying CRUNCH as The Lepus lands hard on its LEFT ARM, which SNAPS.

Broken arm non-withstanding, The Lepus LUNGES again at Noah, managing to GRAB HIM around the NECK with his RIGHT HAND.

Noah struggles much like CINDY did earlier, swatting at The Lepus' hand in a feeble attempt to RELEASE HIMSELF.

THE LEPUS (CONT'D)

I have told you, there is no way
for you to defeat me. I told you, I
am The Lepus. I am the spirit of
Easter. Of resurrection.

His face going PURPLE, Noah, with his remaining strength, BITES The Lepus' hand. His TEETH sink in like a DOG biting STEAK.

The Lepus recoils like a bee stung him, dropping Noah. Noah, gasping and clutching his NECK, tries to CRAWL away.

The Lepus shakes off the PAIN in its hand, and LEAPS high in the AIR, aiming RIGHT FOR NOAH. He's going to land RIGHT ON HIS HEAD!

Noah only sees The Lepus right as it BEGINS TO COME BACK DOWN!

NOAH

Shit.

He ROLLS to one side, and that's enough to make The Lepus MISS. CRUNCH! The Lepus' LEG SNAPS. It CRUMPLES to the floor, roaring in PAIN and FURY just as Noah reaches his own feet.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Ow!

He looks around and sees that he's POKED himself with the edge of a GIANT METAL CARROT PROP.

CLOSE ON Noah's face. He's got an IDEA.

After a second on the floor, The Lepus LEAPS back up at Noah again. We CLOSE UP on it's face as it goes from RAGE to SHOCK. There's a loud SPLAT. The Lepus SLOWS, then STOPS, limp.

We pull back to reveal:

Noah has IMPALED it right in the CHEST with the pointed end of the CARROT! There's a sickening sound as The Lepus SLIDES off the pole, crumpling to the floor again.

This time it stays STILL longer. This could be it. Dropping the carrot, Noah slumps but stays standing. He stares down the seemingly DEAD Lepus again, but this time he won't be fooled by the rabbit's TRICKS.

His suspicion is CORRECT, as The Lepus, although weaker, SITS UP again. It TURNS and stares at Noah. We FOCUS on The Lepus' disfigured COSTUME FACE.

He's barely clinging to LIFE.

THE LEPUS

I told you...I am the spirit of
Easter. I cannot die. You could say
I am...the Easter Bunny himself.

NOAH

Well, I've got news for you,
fucker...

Completely in charge, Noah KICKS The Lepus to the FLOOR one last time and STANDS on top of him. He RASISES the CARROT like a SPEAR.

NOAH (CONT'D)

There is no Easter Bunny.

SKLRUSH!!!! Noah drives the carrot straight through The Lapus' FACE. Golden blood SPRAYS like a GYSER as the rabbit TWITCHES, and FLAILS one final time, then goes limp.

And that's the end of The Lepus.

Noah drops the carrot, falls to his KNEES, looks up at the SKY, and lets out a PRIMAL VICTORY SCREAM. A moment later the COPS arrive. Noah NODS, and puts his HANDS UP.

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT - MINUTES LATER.

Emily pushes against the POLICE TAPE set up, trying to get into the mall. She PLEADES with the cop nearby.

EMILY

Please! You have to find him! He could be hurt, or even dead!

POLICE OFFICER.

Ma'am, for the last time, we will find your boyfriend.

Emily's about to PROTEST again when... WHACK!

The DOUBLE DOORS slam open. NOAH, covered in sweat, golden blood, along with his own, steps out holding...

WHAT REMAINS OF WENDELL'S HEAD like a battle trophy. He raises the HEAD above his own, then TEARS it in HALF.

Emily GASPS, then runs forward and HUGS HIM, not caring what he's covered in.

The POLICE exit the building and take NOAH aside for questioning. He goes with them and we:

*

CRANE UP.

The mall gets SMALLER AND SMALLER, until it's just a SPECK in a much larger Google Maps style view of the AREA. Over this, a NEWS REPORTER speaks:

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O)

...three more bodies were discovered today at the Green Ridge Mall. Not only those of several mall employees, but those of what seems to be an organization ...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

A montage of NEWS FOOTAGE of the aftermath of what happened, as the reporter continues speaking.

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - SERVICE HALL.

EMTs PUSH several gurneys containing the CULT MEMBERS down the hallway. At the head of the line is Mitchell's body.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Well Eric, it's believed the cult worshipped an Easter God, one who seemingly came to life...

INT. HOSPITAL

Two doctors compare the bodies of MITCHELL and PETEY. They seem to be in disagreement, as they point out various wounds on each body. *

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O)
*Medical officials are still baffled
 by what could have possibly caused
 these sorts of wounds.*

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - LOADING DOCK *

Police open the GARBAGE COMPACTOR, and nearly vomit at the sight of Greenridge's BODY stuffed inside. In the CARDBOARD COMPACTOR right next to it is the body of HODGSON. *

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
*...Among the victims was mall owner
 Robert Greenridge, who had sold the
 mall just two days before his
 murder, leading police to
 investigate the finances of the
 mall in case of any corruption...* *

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT. *

A police officer GRIMACES as he wipes GOLD BLOOD off his shoe. Behind him, more police shove pieces of Wendell into EVIDENCE BAGS. *

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY.

Noah, Emily, and a LAWYER all rejoice as the JURY reads out a sentence. Emily and Noah HUG, tears of joy streaming down both of their FACES. Hold on NOAH for a MOMENT.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
*...A mall custodian was initially
 blamed for the deaths, but was
 found not guilty on all charges
 today. We'll have more details
 later.*

FADE OUT.

We hear the sounds of a DEMOLITION SITE. Loud crunches, machinery moving, alarms beeping, men talking.

FADE IN:

INT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - CENTER COURT - A MONTH LATER.

SUBTITLE: **A month later.**

Greenridge Mall is being TORN DOWN. A bulldozer DRIVES through the corridor. Empty storefronts are RIPPED DOWN. Glass and bricks are piled into DUMPSTERS.

We DRONE through the mall backwards, out the FRONT DOORS, until we reach:

EXT. GREEN RIDGE MALL - PARKING LOT.

We PULL BACK to reveal the NEWS ANCHOR standing outside the CHAIN LINK FENCE around the area. A cameraman gives a THUMBS UP and they begin their spiel.

NEWS ANCHOR

...Well Jeremy, as you can see behind me, Greenridge Mall is coming down. The city ordered the mall closed after the violent attacks that took place here last month, and it's said the developers have big plans for this property. What's in store? Well, when we have the new owners on at 2, we'll tell you then. From 36 Action News, we'll see you later.

(To the cameraman.)

Come on. Let's get out of here.

The cameraman LOWERS the CAMERA, and the reporter and cameraman scramble to leave the FENCE as a portion of the ROOF is brought down.

Hold on the former mall. There's something emotional about the mall coming down. Something very FINAL.

The FRONT WALL of the mall teeters, then SLAMS to the ground, causing the remaining WALLS and ROOF to CRUMBLE.

Greenridge Mall is gone.

After holding on the dust cloud for a moment, a person approaches the fence. The stranger watches the dust settle, before turning around to reveal...it's NOAH.

NOAH

And to you my old friend, go fuck yourself.

*
*
*
*
*
*

Noah takes one last look at the former mall, before
departing.

*
*

FADE TO BLACK.

Over sappy MALL MUZAK, we ROLL CREDITS.