

LIMBO

Written by

Jeremy Fluker

jkinfluker@gmail.com

A PHOTO ALBUM flips open, revealing a series of pictures featuring a happy couple (DAN and WHITNEY).

PICTURE #1

They're cheek to cheek in a photo booth.

PICTURE #2

Whitney laughing, Dan crying on a roller coaster ride.

PICTURE #3

Dan as Boba Fett, Whitney as Princess Leia at Comicon.

PICTURE #4

Dan and Whitney at a baseball game awkwardly locking lips on a Kiss Cam.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. SAVE-A-LOT PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Everything's grainy, like an old school exploitation film.

A pair of SNEAKERS slap the pavement. They're attached to a young man ((think Anton Yelchin) running for his life. This is DAN RAIKE. The same guy from the photo album.

Dan looks over his shoulder

SEES

a ZOMBIE chasing after him.

Dan slides over the hood of a car, ducks down. The zombie scans the parking lot, growls. Dan crawls to the back of the car. He peeks around it. The zombie stares back at him. Dan screams, runs towards the supermarket.

INT. SAVE-A-LOT - MOMENTS LATER

CHEDDAR, 20s, a slacker in a green apron, eats chips behind the register. Dan runs inside, out of breath.

DAN
You have to help me!

CHEDDAR
Dude, make it quick. We're closing in ten.

DAN

You have to lock the doors or it'll
get in!

CHEDDAR

Fuck you talking bout?

The zombie bangs on the glass, salivates.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)

What. The. Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuck?!

The zombie makes its way to the automatic doors and enters.

ZOMBIE

Brains!

The zombie's getting closer and closer... It suddenly trips
over a mop bucket, eats a floor sandwich.

ZOMBIE (CONT'D)

Frack!

DAN (O.S.)

Cut!

As the guys finally break character, we shift to a more
traditional style of filming. The zombie, OWEN, pops out his
contact lenses.

OWEN

Thank God. These things burn like a
mother and I can barely see.

DAN

Cheddar, don't leave mop buckets in
the middle of the floor.

CHEDDAR

My bad.

Cheddar moves the bucket.

DAN

Owen, you good?

OWEN

I'll live.

DAN

Okay, guys, we're on a shoe string
budget. Let's go again. Owen, don't
talk. Talking zombies suck.

OWEN

I'll pretend I didn't hear that.

DAN

And don't overact so much, Cheddar.

CHEDDAR

Dude, my take was perfecto.

DAN

Let's take it from the top.

Dan turns, almost bumps into LIZZIE, a Goth wearing a tilted top hat. She holds a CLAPPERBOARD.

DAN (CONT'D)

Lizzie, don't scare me like that.

LIZZIE

Is it my fault that you fear that which you don't understand, muggle child?

Lizzie reaches behind his ear, pulls out a joint. She brings her hands together, opens them. Nothing. Owen and Cheddar clap.

DAN

The hell? Whatever. Everyone take your places.

LIZZIE

"The Revenger" act one, scene seven, take four. And action!

DAN

(to Cheddar)

You have to lock the doors or it'll get in!

CHEDDAR

(Jamaican accent)

What the fuck you talking bout, mon?

DAN

Cut! Cheddar, what the hell?!

CHEDDAR

(Jamaican accent)

Calm down, white boy and have some o' this ganja.

LIZZIE

"The Revenger" act one, scene seven, take five. And action!

DAN

You have to lock the doors or they'll get in!

Owen growls. He sneezes.

DAN (CONT'D)

Cut!

OWEN

Sorry.

DAN

Let's go.

LIZZIE

(through gritted teeth)
"The Revenger" act one, scene
seven, take six! And action!

DAN

We have to board this place up!
There are zombies everywhere!

A CREEPY GUY in a baseball cap, trench coat, sneakers and nothing else steps up to the counter.

CREEPY GUY

Where are the condoms?

DAN

For fuck's sake. Cut!

LATER

The Creepy Guy walks out of the store with a bag of condoms.

DAN

I know it's later than we thought
we'd be shooting, but let's get a
few more takes. We can do this.
Lizzie?

LIZZIE

"The Revenger" act one, scene yada
yada, take who gives a shit.

She drops the clapperboard, walks off.

DAN

Lizzie? Lizzie, come back!

LIZZIE

Fuck off! I'm going to smoke a
joint.

She walks out the door.

DAN

Damn it!

CHEDDAR
Not gonna lie, dude. I want to
smoke a joint too.

DAN
Fine. Let's call it a night.

Dan starts putting his equipment away. Owen pops out the
contact lenses. Cheddar passes by Owen, stops.

CHEDDAR
(to Owen)
Dude... Are you wearing make-up?

OWEN
No, Cheddar, I'm just really sick.

CHEDDAR
You want me to call someone?

DAN
Crap! It's almost time for our
double date.

CHEDDAR
I'll drop you off. Me and Lizzie
have other plans.

DAN
Do I want to know what those plans
are?

Cheddar smiles, shake his head.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DORM ROOM - LATER

WHITNEY CEDARS, early 20s, beautiful, kind eyes, slow dances
with Dan to romantic music.

DAN
I love you.

WHITNEY
You said that already.

DAN
Well, I'm saying it again. Whitney,
I love you.

Whitney pulls away from him, turns the music off.

WHITNEY
Dan, are you coming out? I know
they say better late than never,
but...

DAN

It's just... You never say it back.

WHITNEY

But you know I do, right?

DAN

"I love you". There, just said it.
Three words. Eight letters.

WHITNEY

I... have great affection for you.

DAN

Super duper.

Lizzie appears out of the darkness. Dan screams.

LIZZIE

Awkward.

Dan smiles sheepishly.

WHITNEY

Lizzie, what are you doing here?

LIZZIE

I'm always here.

Lizzie hisses, backs up into a dark corner.

WHITNEY

Watch out for --

A lamp turns over.

LIZZIE

Shit!

Lizzie walks back out of the darkness.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

My bad.

DAN

I thought you and Cheddar were
going to...

LIZZIE

Strip naked and give ourselves to
the spirits of the grave?

DAN

Yeah... that.

LIZZIE

I was totally going to, but then I
read my horoscope and... You know.

WHITNEY
Flaccid city?

LIZZIE
Flaccid city.

DAN
I didn't need to know any of that.
Wait a minute... Where's Cheddar?

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Cheddar, in nothing but his underwear, stands among tombstones.

CHEDDAR
Lizzie? Should I just go ahead and get started?

Owls hoot. Branches snap. Cheddar screams, takes off.

NASTY NICK (a hobo dressed as Santa) and his HOBO GIRLFRIEND walk out of the woods, start getting undressed.

HOBO GIRLFRIEND
Do it, baby!

Nasty Nick gives her a toothless grin, performs a strip tease.

NASTY NICK
(singing)
HERE COME NASTY NICK / BETTER GET
YOUR CHIMNEY READY / GOT A BIG OL'
DING-A-LING / BABY, LET'S ROCK
STEADY!

INT. DORM ROOM - LATER

Lizzie shrugs. She glues the lamp back together.

LIZZIE
Good as new.

Lizzie plugs the lamp in. It sparks, falls apart. Lizzie shrugs.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
I tried.

DAN
That's twenty-five percent of the battle.

LIZZIE

That's funny. Tell Cheddar I'll be coming for him. Later, bitches.

WHITNEY

Aren't you going out the d--

Whitney looks towards the open window. Lizzie's gone.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

I hate it when she does that.

DAN

Me too. Who knew my witch cousin would make such a good assistant director?

WHITNEY

I gather you'll still shooting "The Revenger"?

DAN

No. Now we're doing "The Revenger 2: Retaliation is Payback".

WHITNEY

That's... cool.

DAN

It's a work in progress.

WHITNEY

I'm sure it'll get a bazillion hits.

DAN

Sure. If no one posts any cat videos.

WHITNEY

You are so screwed.

DAN

I know.

WHITNEY

I ran into Amber today. Word on the street is that she still has feelings for you.

DAN

What street? Sesame?

WHITNEY

Dan... Wasn't Amber at one of your bad movie marathon nights?

DAN

I guess.

Whitney raises an eyebrow.

DAN (CONT'D)

I don't remember. How do you even --

WHITNEY

She posted it on every single one of her social media accounts.

DAN

It's not a big deal, Whit. I barely saw her at all. It's not like I still have a thing for her.

WHITNEY

Are you sure about that?

DAN

You're jealous? Amber's just a miserable bitch. Don't worry about her. We okay?

She throws her arms around him.

WHITNEY

We're okay.

The couple lock lips. Dan starts to move down her, when her cell phone rings. Whitney pulls away, answers it.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hey, Dad. I'm... at the... library.

Dan leans over.

DAN

Hi, Mr. Cedars!

Whitney hits his shoulder.

WHITNEY

And I was just leaving. Yes, Sir. You too. Bye.

She puts her phone away.

DAN

You think he knew I was here?

WHITNEY

He does now. I have to go.

DAN

Do you really?

WHITNEY

Yeah. You know how strict my dad is. He says he's fine, but he never got over my mom's death.

Her fingers moves to her cross necklace.

DAN

And you? Are you alright?

WHITNEY

I'm fine.

DAN

Which is code for?

WHITNEY

Dan, I'm okay.

DAN

Good. Then I'm okay too.

He gives her a kiss.

DAN (CONT'D)

Can you come over tomorrow night? We're watching "The Room" and "Troll 2" back to back. We might need some medicinal help to get through "Manos: The Hands of Fate."

WHITNEY

Aw. I wish I could, but I can't. My dad's taking me to New York.

DAN

I miss you already.

WHITNEY

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

DAN

Whoever said that wasn't dating to the most beautiful girl in the world at the time.

WHITNEY

Flattery will get you...

She kisses him, gets to her feet.

DAN

Flattery's awesome.

WHITNEY

See you soon, lover boy.

DAN
Careful. You almost said it.

WHITNEY
Babe, your needy meter's starting
to cross over into the red zone.

DAN
Sorry.
(can't help it)
I love you.

WHITNEY
I know.

She exits. Dan hangs his head, sighs. Lizzie peels the skin
off a piece of chicken, eats it.

LIZZIE
That was rough.

Dan jumps to his feet.

DAN
Are you trying to give me a heart
attack?!

LIZZIE
Do you see a voodoo doll?

DAN
How the hell are we related again?

LIZZIE
Never mind that. There's bad mojo
afoot. I can feel it.

DAN
Whatever you say, Lizzie. Try not
to raise the dead, okay? Goodnight.

He walks to his room, exits. Lizzie stares out the window.
Thunder rumbles.

EXT. SOUND STAGE - NIGHT

LANESSEM, a Criss Angel wanna-be, rocks out. He's in the
middle of an awesome guitar solo.

The hypnotized crowd sways to the music. They turn their
heads from side to side, following Lanessem's every move as
he prances around on stage. The crowd sings along.

LANESSEM
 (singing)
 BLOOD FOR THE LADY / SPIDERS
 SWIMMING IN MY VEINS / MAGGOTS IN
 MY TEETH / YES I AM INSANE!

Lanessem throws the guitar behind him. It floats in mid air, plays by itself. Lanessem dances, puts a hand on his crotch. He removes his hand, revealing a huge boner. A row of women faint.

His singing turns into screeching. The crowd holds their ears.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)
 No, wait! Worship me!

The guitar falls to the ground. Lanessem's boner DEFLATES. He ages at least forty years.

CROWD
 Ew! He's all gross. I'm not blowing him now! I mean... I was never gonna. I still might. Give us our money back, you fraud!

LANESSEM
 Show's over. Get out!

The crowd boos. Some climb on stage. JULIO, 20s, agitated, steps up to Lanessem, shoves him hard.

JULIO
 I want a refund and I fucking want it now!

Lanessem takes a step back, drops his head, and begins to chant.

LANESSEM
 Ozima dorema damballa! Give me the power I beg of yo

JULIO
 What the fuck? This dude's cray-cray.

The sky crackles with thunder.

LANESSEM
 Ozima dorema damballa! Give me the power I beg of you!

Julio raises his fist. Lanessem stretches his hand towards him.

JULIO
 That supposed to scare me?

Lanessem grins wickedly. His hand shakes. Julio grabs his chest, coughs up blood. Blood pours from his every orifice. The crimson liquid seeps through Julio's shirt. Julio slumps to the ground, dead. The others scream, make a run for it.

LANESSEM

Yes! Flee, mortals! Flee!

Lanessem makes guns with his hands, points at each of them, "fires". One by one their heads EXPLODE.

Lanessem blows his fingers like revolvers. He levitates off the stage.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

I am a rock god!

He crashes to the ground, groans. He crawls on his hands and knees, ages again.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

What's happening to me?

He crawls towards Julio's body, dips a finger in his blood and marks him. Lanessem claps three times. Julio sits up, turns towards him. Julio chews at the air. Hits his throat.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Of course.

He paints another symbol on Julio's forehead.

JULIO

(demonic voice)

Lanessem, why have you summoned me, motherfucker?

LANESSEM

I need more souls!

Julio lifts Lanessem by his throat.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Please?

JULIO

We had a deal. I gave you the souls and what have you done in exchange, motherfucker? Nothing!

LANESSEM

I can still make it right!

He opens his mouth, leans close to Lanessem, and breathes green smoke into him. Lanessem twitches, de-ages.

JULIO

Do not fail me, motherfucker.

Julio's body contorts, falls back to the ground, dead.
Reinvigorated, Lanessem fades into the night.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Children laugh and play while their parents converse.
Lanessem whistles nonchalantly, steps over to a child on a
swing.

LANESSEM
Greetings, child.

KID ON SWING
Hi.

LANESSEM
How would you like a shiny new
bike?

KID ON SWING
You look funny.

LANESSEM
(dryly)
Yes. Now about that bike --

A YOUNG BOY runs over, finger in his nose.

YOUNG BOY
I'll take a bike!

LANESSEM
Splendid.

Lanessem reaches into his pocket... The Teen Mom screams.
Lanessem whirls around.

TEEN MOM
Help! A pedophile's after my child!

The parents form an angry mob.

LANESSEM
No! Wait! I just wanted their
souls!

TEEN MOM
(gasps)
Did he say assholes? Get him!

The parents beat Lanessem down.

YOUNG BOY
Mommy, do I still get a bike?

TEEN MOM
We'll see.

INT. DORM ROOM - LATER

Cheddar and Dan sit on the couch, pass a joint back and forth, watch Scooby-Doo.

CHEDDAR
Would you fuck Velma? I'd fuck
Velma.

DAN
Daphne's not bad.

CHEDDAR
That's a fucking given. Would you
ruck Rooby?

DAN
I'm not that high.

CHEDDAR
What if you could have infinite
Scooby Snacks afterward?

DAN
No way.

CHEDDAR
I'd consider it if there was peanut
butter involved.

Dan makes a disgusted face.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
What about Amber?

DAN
That's... Not relevant.

CHEDDAR
So you won't mind if I hook up with
her?

DAN
We're ancient history. What about
Lizzie?

CHEDDAR
She had her chance.

LIZZIE (O.S.)
So did you.

Cheddar and Dan jump to their feet. Lizzie rises from behind the couch. She hisses, showing off vampire fangs.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
(re: fangs)
You like?

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)

Hit this shit and your journey
towards the high side will be
complete.

OWEN

Frack you.

Owen opens the laptop, sits on the couch.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Check this out.

He taps the screen and a video plays.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN

We see the word "THEN" followed by short clips from a variety
of classic horror films.

"NOW"

Clips from the latest (fictional) horror movie franchises
play.

CLIP #1: JETHRO FAGAN: NIGHTMARE MAN -- A murderous SCARECROW
raises its sharp, blade-like fingers, stabs some unlucky
teenagers.

CLIP #2: FRIDAY the 31st -- ROCKY, a fearsome, undead
medieval armored umpire, bashes baseball players with his
spiked bat.

CLIP #3: THAT AIN'T SPRINKLES -- GLAZE, the ice cream man
from Hell, runs over his victims in his ice cream truck.

CLIP #4: MALICIOUS MALPRACTICE -- DR. BUTCHER, Leatherface in
a lab coat, sews a cat inside its owner.

LUCAS (V.O.)

These films paved the way for a new
generation of horror filmmakers.
Now, it's your turn.

LUCAS PAYNE, 40s, built like a linebacker, appears from
behind a poster of "Friday the 31st".

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Lucas Payne here. Who the hell am
I? You'll recognize me best from
the "Friday the 31st" series. Still
nothing? Maybe this will help.

He puts on an umpire mask.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Batter up! Those movies changed my
life.

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

And if you think you've got what it takes, I encourage you to enter the Bloody Good Gorefest Short Film Contest. Send your film to bggorefestcontest dot com.

Lucas takes the umpire mask off.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

The top three contestants get an autographed replica of Rocky's signature bat.

Lucas takes a moment, reads the Teleprompter.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

And the grand prize winner? Your short film gets turned into a feature length horror film with a cameo from yours truly. Good night, good luck, and good nightmares.

Back in the DORM ROOM, Owen closes the laptop.

OWEN

How cool is that?

CHEDDAR

We gotta enter it, right?

LIZZIE

Absolutely.

OWEN

What do you think, Dan?

DAN

Let's do it.

Dan holds his hand out. Owen places his hand over Dan's, followed by Cheddar and Lizzie.

DAN (CONT'D)

Three, two, one...

ALL

Fear fighters!

MONTAGE - DAN AND THE GANG MAKE A MOVIE

INT. COLLEGE LIBRARY - DAY

Dan stretches his fingers, types the script. Cheddar massages his shoulders. Owen and Lizzie bring him chips and soda.

The Creepy Guy sits at a computer next to them and downloads porn. He pants like a dog. Dan and the gang move away from him.

INT. COSTUME SHOP - DAY

Owen and Lizzie try on different outfits.

AT THE REGISTER

Dan hands over a credit card.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Lizzie's in a bloody prom dress running through a foggy graveyard. Owen, dressed as a zombie, chases after her. Lizzie "trips" over a cardboard headstone.

Dan and Cheddar follow the action behind, film everything.

Lizzie screams like a queen. Zombie Owen shuffles after her, goes for the kill.

DAN

Cut! Awesome, guys.

They all take a bow.

END MONTAGE

INT. DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Dan stands in front of a projector. Owen's holding a bowl of popcorn. Lizzie's head rests on Cheddar's lap. He feeds popcorn to her.

DAN

Before we get started, I just want to thank you guys for all the hard work you put into this.

THE OTHERS

Boo! Get on with the movie! Show us your man tits!

The gang throws popcorn at him.

DAN

Okay. Fine.

Dan presses play, grabs a chair.

ON THE PROJECTOR

The movie starts up. STOCK FOOTAGE of a prom from the '70s plays. The screen cuts to a green screen of the prom minus the people. Lizzie wanders into the building.

LIZZIE
Sorry I'm late. Huh? Where is
everybody?

The green screen literally turns green for a few seconds. Lizzie walks in place over to Owen, who's biting a mannequin.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Charles, is that you?

Owen's head whips towards her. He has spaghetti sauce around his mouth.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
(weakly)
Ahh!

Lizzie runs in place. Owen shambles after her. The green screen changes to different locations. Some actually make sense. The green screen cuts to a snowy ridge.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Cheddar, what the fuck am I
supposed to do with this?

CHEDDAR (O.S.)
We'll fix it in post. Work with it.

Sound of a bong being used. Lizzie pretends to ski. Owen sighs, skis behind her.

The screen cuts to the Creepy Guy masturbating.

CREEPY GUY
Come on, Paul!

THE OTHERS
Ew! I'm blind! Interesting
commentary.

Dan shuts the projector off. Lizzie claps slowly.

DAN
Was that a joke?

OWEN
You see us laughing? What the hell
happened, Cheddar?

DAN
Didn't you edit the video?

Cheddar blows out some pot smoke, scratches his head.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Cheddar blows out some pot smoke, passes the bong to the Creepy Guy.

CHEDDAR
You sure you can help with this editing thing?

CREEPY GUY
Piece of cake.

CHEDDAR
Cool. I'm gonna take a nap.

Cheddar lies down, goes to sleep. The Creepy Guy opens his coat, looks down.

CREEPY GUY
Ready to become a star, Paul?

BACK TO PRESENT

Cheddar shrugs, takes a another hit off his joint. Dan paces the room.

OWEN
Do we have time to shoot something else?

DAN
What's the point?

LIZZIE
When I am getting paid?

DAN
When you learn how to act!

CHEDDAR
Hey, don't talk to her like that!

DAN
I'm not afraid of her putting a curse on me. Unlike somebody.

Lizzie stands up on the couch, aims a finger at Dan.

LIZZIE
Pay me now or cousin or not, I'll make your nuts shrivel up and turn your dick into a useless husk!

Owen covers his privates, moves away from her.

DAN

I don't even know why I thought
this would work.

OWEN

Let's just regroup and shoot
something new.

DAN

Brilliant idea, Owen. Oh, wait...
We don't have any more fucking
money!

CHEDDAR

Let's just send in what we have.

DAN

Are you nuts? We can't send in that
garbage!

CHEDDAR

That guy at the end sure scared the
hell out of me.

Dan shakes his head, opens the door.

OWEN

Dan, where are you going?

DAN

I don't know.

He walks out, shuts the door behind him.

LIZZIE

I better get my fucking money,
Daniel!

OWEN

(to Cheddar)

Congrats on being the worst editor
ever.

CHEDDAR

(to Lizzie)

I'm sick of his lack of faith.
Baby, shrink his nuts.

Owen gets up, runs into the bathroom.

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Dan sits against a tree. He gets his phone out, dials
Whitney. After a few rings...

WHITNEY (V.O.)

Hi.

DAN

Whit? You're not going to believe what...

WHITNEY (V.O.)

Sorry, I'm not in right now. Leave me a message and I'll call you back. Promise. Bye.

Dan drops his phone, lies down. AMBER, sexy and she knows it, stands over him. She puckers out her perfect, surgically enhanced lips.

AMBER

Heard you made a movie. Why didn't you ask me to be in it?

Dan sits up. Amber sits beside him.

DAN

Hi, Amber. The movie, it, uh... turned out to be a disaster.

AMBER

Maybe you can film another one. Just you and me.

She puts two fingers on his shoe, walks them up his leg. Dan giggles nervously.

AMBER (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you haven't thought about us picking up where we left off.

DAN

Where we le-- You screwed my former roommate. In my bed. On my birthday!

AMBER

And baked you a delicious cake.

DAN

Cake doesn't negate shit like that. I'm with Whitney anyway. Check out the bling.

Dan shows off his promise ring.

AMBER

Still such a boy scout. Promises are made to be broken.

She grabs his ring hand, sucks his promise ring off. She smiles, dances seductively, starts to unbutton her blouse. Amber accidentally swallows the ring, chokes.

DAN
Oh my god!

He gives her the Heimlich. She spits up the ring.

DAN (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Amber nods, holds out the ring.

DAN (CONT'D)
You keep it. I'll get another one.

INT. BAR & GRILL - LATER

Patrons lie dead all over the bar. A dead regular's overturned beer leaks onto the floor.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

Lanessem drinks his sorrows away.

LANESSEM
After almost two-hundred years,
it's come to this. At the stroke of
midnight, I'll be dragged to a
fiery abyss kicking and screaming.

Lanessem pushes over the dead bartender. Dan walks in.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)
We're closed!

DAN
Fucking figures. I'd sell my soul
for an ice cold brew right about
now.

Lanessem steps over the dead body of the bartender, pushes him underneath the counter.

LANESSEM
Wait!

DAN
Yeah?

LATER

Several shots glasses have been arranged at the counter. Lanessem watches the clock on the wall. Dan sits on stool, takes another shot. He picks up another.

DAN

My sexy ex is after me as soon as my girlfriend steps off to another state, my film's complete trash, and I'm in debt. Bottoms up!

Dan takes the bottle, drains it. He reaches for another and Lanessem grabs his wrist.

DAN (CONT'D)

Closing time?

LANESSEM

What you said before... Did you mean it? Would you sell your soul?

DAN

Yeah. Why not? But not for a pint.

LANESSEM

Then what? If you could have anything.

DAN

How about a good horror story?

Lanessem stares intensely at Dan. Dan blinks drunkenly.

LANESSEM

Swear it.

Dan puts a hand over his heart, raises his hand mockingly.

DAN

I, Daniel Raike, pledge my soul to...

LANESSEM

Lanessem.

DAN

To Lanessem in exchange for...

Lanessem's eyes move to the clock. Just a few ticks until midnight...

LANESSEM

Yes? Say it!

DAN

In exchange for the scariest horror story of all time.

Lanessem reaches into his cloak, produces a scroll of parchment and a knife.

DAN (CONT'D)

What the--

Lanessem pricks Dan's finger, presses it to the parchment.

LANESSEM

It is done!

Dan sucks on his bleeding finger, stares around the room.

DAN

The fuck? Yeah... Thanks for nothing.

Dan tosses his last buck on the counter, gets to his feet. He turns around and SEES... a blood-covered DEMON right in front him.

DAN (CONT'D)

(to Lanessem)

What the hell is in your beer?

The Demon roars.

EXT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Dan runs out of the bar. It's pitch black outside. No moon, no stars, no street lights.

He looks back over his shoulder. The demon chases after him. Dan screams, runs smack into a bicycle rack. Dan finds an unlocked bike, hops on. A motorcycle engine revs in the background.

DAN

No fucking way!

The demon rides a badass hog, closes the distance between them. Dan pedals as fast as he can. The demon circles Dan like a vulture stalking its prey.

Dan takes a detour past a street sign marked "Hell Bound." The demon stops short. Dan keeps pedaling.

DAN (CONT'D)

It stopped? It stopped!

He raises his arms in victory. The road disappears in front of him. He falls into darkness. The Demon, now a giant, opens its mouth, swallows Dan.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LATER

Dan screams, falls out of a tree. His video camera lies beside him. Dan picks it up, hurries off.

INT. DORM ROOM - LATER

Dan places the camera on a table, walks into a bathroom. The projector springs to life. Dan leans his head out of the bathroom, slowly backs into the main room.

DAN
Cheddar? Lizzie?

Dan takes a seat on the couch.

ON THE SCREEN

Amber applies lipstick. Amber puckers up, kisses at her reflection.

DAN (CONT'D)
Amber?

BACK ON THE SCREEN

The door swings open behind Amber. She looks back, sees no one. The demon's HAND breaks through the mirror! It grabs Amber's hair, pulls her down onto the jagged glass.

Amber falls to the floor. Shards of glass stick out of her eyes, blinding her. She cries tears of blood, crawls towards the door. The door slams shut. The demon appears, grabs Amber by the head.

Dan shuts the video off. He opens the camera. He lets it drop to the floor. There's no film inside...

INT. DORM - HALLWAY - DAY

Cheddar and Lizzie kiss, giggle, and walk down the hall. After repeating this process a few times they finally get to his dorm door.

CHEDDAR
That was wild.

LIZZIE
I told you it was possible to do it underwater.

CHEDDAR
Yeah, but upside down like that?

LIZZIE
Later, bitch.

She ruffles his hair, disappears down the hall.

INT. DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cheddar enters the room. A disheveled Dan holds a homemade lightsaber.

CHEDDAR
Dude, chill!

Dan shuts and locks the door behind him.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
What's your ish?

DAN
I have to show you something, but
you have to promise not to tell a
soul.

CHEDDAR
When have I ever...

Dan stares pointedly at him.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
I pinky swear.

DAN
That's no good.

CHEDDAR
I swear on the grave of my cat,
Buttons!

DAN
Wasn't Buttons a golden retriever?
That you traded for some hash?

CHEDDAR
What's your point?

Dan sighs, takes a seat on the couch.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
Okay. Fine. I swear on my life.
Cross my heart and hope to die.

DAN
Okay then.

Dan dims the lights, sets up the projector.

ON THE SCREEN

Someone crawls upside down on the ceiling.

DAN (CONT'D)
Huh? That's not right.

CHEDDAR
Creepy effect, dude.

DAN
That's not what was --

Dan moves closer to the screen.

DAN (CONT'D)
Is that our hallway?

ON THE SCREEN

The demon leaps down from the ceiling, creeps up to Dan and Cheddar's dorm door. Cheddar shuts the film off. Dan grabs the lightsaber, heads for the door.

CHEDDAR
(whispers)
Dude, are you crazy?!

Dan shushes him, turns back to the door. Cheddar pulls a blanket over him, hides underneath. Dan opens the door, peers out.

Nothing's there. He closes the door, sits on the couch next to Cheddar.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
I'm so scared I'm thinking of going
to class.

He gets to his feet, runs into the shower. Dan opens a laptop, types something in.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN

The Bloody Good Gorefest Short Film Contest site pops up. The CURSOR hovers over the submit button.

DAN
It's just a joke. Right?

Dan takes a breath, clicks submit.

INT. LIZZIE'S DORM ROOM - LATER

Lizzie opens a bag, takes out a black cat. She pets it, sneaks it into her room. Lizzie knocks on the bathroom door.

LIZZIE
Hey, Alpha Bitch, open up. I have
to pee. Alpha Bitch?

Lizzie opens the door. She screams.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATER

Students take down notes. Dan's occupied with his phone, looking at pictures of him and Whitney. Cheddar and Owen talk in whispers.

PROFESSOR GOETHE, bespectacled and thin, clicks a button.

The projector just behind him switches to an image of a classic red devil with a pitchfork.

PROFESSOR GOETHE
Anyone recognize this fellow?

STUDENT #1
I think I met his daughter.

Students snicker.

STUDENT #2
Bet that freak Lizzie Borden would know.

CHEDDAR
I heard that!

STUDENT #2
I said it loud, Cheesy.

CHEDDAR
It's Cheddar!

STUDENT #2
Fuck you.

CHEDDAR
No, fuck you!

PROFESSOR GOETHE
Are you two finished?

Professor Goethe turns back to the screen.

OWEN
That's the devil, right?

PROFESSOR GOETHE
A good guess, Mr. Todd. However, this is Mephistopheles. Mr. Raike.

Dan puts his phone away, looks up.

DAN
Yes?

PROFESSOR GOETHE
What was the name of the German
fellow who sold his soul to
Mephistopheles?

Dan looks down, eyes wide. A disfigured Amber lies under his
seat. She waves at him.

AMBER
(demonic voice)
Tell him, baby.

Dan screams, runs out of the classroom.

PROFESSOR GOETHE
Incorrect.

Owen raises his hand.

PROFESSOR GOETHE (CONT'D)
Yes, Mr. Todd?

OWEN
Faust. Or Faustus if you want to be
old school about it.

PROFESSOR GOETHE
Excellent. Gold star.

Students throw crumpled pieces of paper at Owen.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Fictional movie posters line the wall. Two executives, STEVE
HUNTLEY and MORISSA DAVIS, sit at a table. Steve holds a
thick movie script. He flips through it.

STEVE
Just under five hundred pages,
covered in glitter, and... the
title's spelled wrong. Fucking
hell. Someone drop this piece of
shit into the nearest furnace.

Morissa drums her fingers on the table, bored.

STEVE (CONT'D)
What's the tally so far, Morissa?

MORISSA
Five maybes. Two-hundred and
seventy abominations.

STEVE
How the hell did Lucas talk his way
out of this?

MORISSA

I think it's in his contract not to be involved with tedious crap.

STEVE

Good contract.

MORISSA

At least we haven't seen any scripts written in crayon.

STEVE

Thank the Lord for that.

MORISSA

Here's another video.

STEVE

Goody.

Steve unscrews a bottle of Pepto-Bismol, pours himself a cup. He offers some to Morissa who politely refuses and taps the tablet.

ON A LARGE SCREEN

We see the same upside-down POV. This time, it's outside the studio office.

MORISSA

Steve, isn't that --

STEVE

Yes. Clever.

MORISSA

It may be clever, but it raises serious security issues.

The demon drops down from the ceiling, approaches the door.

STEVE

Great effect. I don't see a zipper. Remember the Ryan Clarkson incident?

MORISSA

Hard to forget a thing like that.

STEVE

Where is Ryan now?

MORISSA

He's doing softcore.

Steve looks at her, amused.

MORISSA (CONT'D)
Or so I hear.

The demon's right outside the door.

MORISSA (CONT'D)
This is too weird. I'm shutting it
off.

STEVE
Wait! Let's see where this goes.

The door swings open. Morissa gets to her feet, backs to the wall.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Hello?

A SECURITY GUARD pokes his head in the room.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Did you submit this film?

The guard shakes his head.

MORISSA
What do you want?

The demon's bloody hand grips the door. It walks in, holding the guard's head by his spine.

STEVE
Bloody hell!

The demon swings the guard's head onto the table. The doors slam shut.

OUTSIDE THE ROOM

We hear chairs being thrown against the wall, tables overturning. And Morissa screaming bloody murder.

EXT. DORM ROOM - LATER

Someone moves down the hall at SUPER SPEED.

INT. DORM - DAN'S ROOM - LATER

Dan reads a bible. He hears someone open the door and walk in. Something scratches at the door.

AMBER (O.S.)
Let me in, Dan. I know you're in
there. So open up. Please?

A bead of sweat runs down Dan's forehead.

DAN
Amber? That video was... How did
you get my camera anyway?

AMBER (V.O.)
I'll tell you everything you need
to know. Just let us in.

Dan's eyes all but pop out of his head.

DAN
Us?

Amber pounds on the door.

AMBER (V.O.)
(demonic voice)
Let us in! Open this fucking door
right now, motherfucker!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR

Amber rams her head against it. She leaves bloody scratch
marks on the door.

AMBER
(shrieking)
I SAID OPEN THE FUCKING DOOR! OPEN
THE FUCKING DOOR!

BACK IN DAN'S ROOM

Dan holds the bible out in front of him like a shield. His
room door opens.

DAN
Be gone, demon! The power of Christ
compels you!

Cheddar and Owen stand before him. No sign that Amber was
ever there.

OWEN
Dan?

CHEDDAR
Just us, dude. Didn't you hear us
calling you?

DAN
No, I didn't... I didn't hear
anything.

OWEN

I'm seriously starting to worry about you. You're never too young to have dementia.

DAN

That's good to know.

CHEDDAR

(to Dan)

Why'd you run out like that?

OWEN

Yeah, mid-terms aren't till next week.

CHEDDAR

Shit, really?

OWEN

You'd know that if you went to class and didn't smoke weed all the fracking time.

CHEDDAR

What do you think college is?

OWEN

I bet you're high right now, aren't you?

CHEDDAR

(laughs)

Yeah. A little bit. Got anything to eat?

DAN

Cheddar, remember that video I showed you?

CHEDDAR

Hell yeah. It was the creepiest shit I ever saw.

OWEN

Can I see it?

DAN

Trust me, it's better you don't.

CHEDDAR

What about it?

DAN

I submitted it to that contest.

OWEN

That's great... Isn't it?

Lizzie walks into the room, black tears streaming down her face. Cheddar moves to her, hugs her.

CHEDDAR
What's wrong, my demented little
black rose?

LIZZIE
Amber's dead.

Dan's eyes go wide.

OWEN
How?

LIZZIE
I don't know. I found her in the
bathroom. She was... She looked
like she tried to go down on a buzz
saw.

CHEDDAR
That sounds like her.

Dan, Owen, and Lizzie punch his arm.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
Ow! Too soon?

DAN
That's my dead ex your talking
about.

OWEN
Mine too.

Dan looks at Owen, surprised.

LIZZIE
We had a thing too.

Dan and Owen look at Lizzie, then at Cheddar.

CHEDDAR
What? I'm not surprised. Shit
happens. Did I ever tell you bout
that time I hooked up with
Cinderella at Disneyland?

OWEN
Only a thousand times. How long are
you banned?

CHEDDAR
For life. But it was worth it.

LIZZIE
Do you guys know what this means?

OWEN

Cheddar likes animated Disney films for all the wrong reasons?

LIZZIE

No. There could be a serial killer on the loose!

OWEN

Then I'm out of here. Have you seen any horror movie ever? Black guy bites it first.

CHEDDAR

Yeah, but we're not in a horror movie, Owen. Owen?

They catch the tiniest glimpse of Owen as he runs out the door. Dan backs against the wall, slides to the floor. Cheddar puts his arm around him.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)

Don't worry, Danny boy. Lizzie and I have your back. We're the three amigos. Right, Lizzie?

Cheddar looks around the room. Lizzie's gone.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)

Shit!

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LATER

Dan and Cheddar walk past a gurney with a body bag on it. Medical Examiners push the gurney to an ambulance. Cheddar and Dan walk to Cheddar's ride -- a MINIBUS with a psychedelic paint job. Dan looks back at the gurney. The body bag unzips. Amber sits up, turns towards him.

EXT. SAVE-A-LOT - NIGHT

Dan gathers a few loose carts. The wind blows a cart across the parking lot. Dan chases after it. He grabs the handle, moves to the cart holder. Dan groans. The cart's gotten heaver...

Behind him, Amber sits cross-legged in the cart. She blows in his ear. Dan makes a run for the store, leaves the cart behind. Amber chases after him.

AMBER

It's your fault I'm dead!

Dan looks over his shoulder. Amber merrily skips after him. She walks backwards, disappears into the darkness.

A moment later, Amber comes back. She's wearing roller skates! She skates towards Dan. He runs towards the store, smacks into the door.

DAN
Cheddar, open up!

INT. SAVE-A-LOT - CONTINUOUS

Cheddar counts cash, dances to loud rock music.

EXT. SAVE-A-LOT - CONTINUOUS

Dan tries to pry the doors open. Someone's coming up behind him fast. A hand grabs his shoulder.

DAN
I'm sorry! Don't eat me!

WHITNEY
I wasn't planning on it.

Dan hugs her tightly, kisses her forehead.

DAN
I have so much to tell you.

WHITNEY
Dan, what's wrong?

DAN
Let's go.

Still hugging, the couple move away from the store. Cheddar opens the doors, looks out.

CHEDDAR
You guys hear something? Wait up!

He walks out, locks up the store, moves after them. We see the demon's reflection in the GLASS DOORS.

INT. WHITNEY'S HOUSE - LATER

Cheddar slumbers on the couch, talking in his sleep.

CHEDDAR
Don't worry bout Freddie, Daphne.
Just show me that ascot. Smoke it,
Velma. It's good for you.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Dan sits at a table across from Whitney. He holds a cup and saucer in shaky hands.

WHITNEY

Dan, you're shaking like a leaf.
What's the matter?

DAN

You know how nervous coffee makes
me.

WHITNEY

It's water.

Dan sets the empty cup and saucer down. Whitney grabs his hand.

DAN

I did something bad. And I don't
know how you'll feel when I tell
you.

WHITNEY

Oh no... Amber?

DAN

It's not what you think. There was
this guy and I was drunk and...

WHITNEY

Okay, now I'm confused. Were belts
involved? Oh gosh, don't tell me!

DAN

I sold my soul.

WHITNEY

Did you sign a contract? Meet at a
crossroads?

DAN

I signed in blood. It was at a bar.

WHITNEY

Can't you get it back?

DAN

What, get a refund? I don't know!
It's not like any of this makes
sense!

WHITNEY

Dan, it was just some crazy guy.
It's not like you'll ever see him
again.

The doors flies open. A gust of wind blows everything off the table. Lanessem hovers in backwards. He turns to face them, descends to the ground.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Want did you do, Dan?!

DAN

That's the guy! Mr. Lanessem, I'd like to make a refund.

LANESSEM

Our deal is done, boy. Come with me.

Lanessem grabs Dan's wrist, heads for the door. Whitney steps in front of him.

WHITNEY

Not so fast.

LANESSEM

I don't have time for --

WHITNEY

Wait just a damn minute!

Dan recoils in surprise.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

That's my boyfriend and if you don't get your hands off of him right now, we're going to have a problem!

LANESSEM

Who do we have here?

WHITNEY

Whitney Cedars. Daughter of Mark Cedars. Attorney at law.

LANESSEM

He made a deal. His soul in exchange for a horror story.

Whitney shoots Dan a look.

DAN

I was young and I needed the money. At least I thought I did.

LANESSEM

His soul is to be delivered to my employer.

WHITNEY

You pick up a thing or two when
your father's a lawyer. For
example, you can't own Dan's soul.

LANESSEM

I've no time for your theatrics,
girl. His soul is to be delivered
to my master!

Lanessem reaches into his cloak, produces the parchment with
Dan's bloody print on it. He points a finger at Dan.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Dan magically glides towards him. Dan reaches onto the table
as the invisible force continues to pull at him.

DAN

Help!

Cheddar rushes in, grabs Dan by the arm. The force pulls at
Cheddar too.

CHEDDAR

What the hell's going on?!

DAN

I fucked up bad!

CHEDDAR

I can tell!

LANESSEM

It's over. I said let's go!

Lanessem yanks on an invisible rope, pulls Dan towards him.
Dan's shoes fly off. His pants slip down.

WHITNEY

Dan, hold on!

DAN

What do you think I'm trying to do?

Whitney runs out the room, heads upstairs.

INT. WHITNEY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Whitney opens a drawer, tosses things over her shoulder. She
finds a photo album, flips it open. She takes out a letter,
runs back out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Dan, now in his underwear, spins around in the air. Cheddar beats Lanessem with a broom.

CHEDDAR

Had enough?

Lanessem raises a hand, flings Cheddar high into the air. The broom snaps into. The sharp, wooden edges pierce into Cheddar's arms, pinning him to the wall.

DAN

You bastard!

Whitney runs back in, letter in hand. Lanessem whips his head towards her, sends her into the wall.

LANESSEM

No more games. He's coming with me.

WHITNEY

That's what you think.

(re: letter)

Read it.

Lanessem glares at her. He snatches the letter, opens it.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Dan's pledged his soul to me.

Lanessem laughs, crumbles the letter in his hand. The letter smokes, catches fire. Lanessem blows the ashes from his palm.

LANESSEM

You think I or my master cares about a promise made by a child? It means absolutely nothing.

Dan jumps on Lanessem's back. The scroll falls out of his cloak. Lanessem backs him into the wall.

Lanessem reaches behind him, grabs Dan by the hair, flips him over hard. He boots Dan in the chest, grinds his heel into his neck.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

I've been at this for hundreds of years. Do you really think you can weasel your way out of this?

Lanessem turns to Whitney, who lights the scroll on fire.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

No!

He makes a run for her, but Dan trips him. Lanessem looks up just in time to see the rest of the parchment burn.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

What have you done?!

WHITNEY

I just saved my boyfriend's ass.

She helps Dan to his feet. Cheddar falls to the floor.

CHEDDAR

Ow!

WHITNEY

It's over.

LANESSEM

Silly, girl. It's only just begun.

The tea and saucer shake. Cheddar pulls the broom handles out of his arm.

CHEDDAR

Did you guys feel that?

The house rumbles. Dishes and paintings crash to the floor.

WHITNEY

What is this?

LANESSEM

The master cometh.

CHEDDAR

Let's get the fuck outta --

The demon appears behind Cheddar. It grabs him by the neck and RIPS his head off. Blood SHOTS out of Cheddar's headless neck like a perverse geyser.

DAN

Cheddar!

Dan reaches for a broom handle, comes at the demon. The demon grabs Dan, tosses him out the window!

WHITNEY

No!

The demon puts a hand over Whitney's head. She passes out.

THE DEMON

You have failed me, motherfucker!

LANESSEM

It wasn't my fault!

The demon grabs him by the throat. Blood pours from Lanessem's eyes.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

The other souls! I can get them for you! I know where they are!

The demon releases him.

THE DEMON

Where?

LANESSEM

Hiding in plain sight.

THE DEMON

Very well. I must return to the Abyss. Bring the girl, motherfucker.

EXT. WHITNEY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Dan lies among shattered glass. He comes to, sees Lanessem carrying Whitney over his shoulder.

DAN

(weakly)

Whitney!

Dan crawls after them, passes out.

THE NEXT DAY

Lizzie kicks Dan's foot. Dan wakes up swinging.

DAN

Whitney!

LIZZIE

Easy, tiger. There's been bad mojo here. I can feel it.

Dan finds Whitney's necklace on the ground. He picks it up, puts it around his neck.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

The judges you sent that creepy video to are dead! It's all over the news. Dan, what the fuck's going on?

Dan buries his head in his hands, weeps. Lizzie spots Cheddar's minibus.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Where is he?

DAN

Lizzie, Cheddar...

LIZZIE
 Don't. Don't you fucking say
 another word!

Lizzie takes a cigarette from behind her ear. She lights it,
 takes a puff.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
 He's just getting back at me for
 standing him up at the cemetery.

She flicks the cigarette to the ground, stomps it out.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
 It's not fucking funny and I'm not
 fucking falling for it!

Lizzie raps on the minibus's window, peers in.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
 Come on out, Cheddar. Cheddar!

She storms past Dan into the house. Moments later, she walks
 back out in a daze. Lizzie breaks down. Dan moves to her. She
 hugs him, cries on his shoulder.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Lizzie paints symbols on the minibus. A few feet away, Owen
 stares in disbelief at Cheddar's wrapped body. A shovel hits
 the dirt. Dan's dug a deep hole.

OWEN
 Dan?

Dan keeps right on digging.

OWEN (CONT'D)
 Dan!

DAN
 What?

OWEN
 Aren't we going to... talk about--

DAN
 What's there to say? He's dead.
 Gone. Whitney's God knows where and
 I'm stuck here with a walking
 target and a chick who thinks she's
 a witch.

Dan goes back to shoveling.

OWEN

We've been boys a long time, Dan.
We're in this together.

DAN

My fault. My problem. You and
Lizzie get out of dodge while you
still can.

Dan stops digging, climbs out of the hole.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'll stay here and try to explain
to the cops and everyone else why
my college roommate is missing his
head and why my girlfriend
disappeared from the face of the
earth!

OWEN

Get over yourself.

DAN

Why? I started this mess. That's
why we're all in the shit. Three
amigos. Three musketeers. Three
blind mice dropping like flies!

OWEN

We lost Cheddar too!

LIZZIE

Chester.

Owen and Dan turn to her.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Chester McNair III.

Lizzie unwraps the body, places a bong in Cheddar's hands.
Owen and Dan wrap his body, place it in the hole.

INT. MINIBUS - LATER

Dan, Lizzie, and Owen. Wide awake in the back of the minibus.

LIZZIE

The point of one of us staying up
is so the other can go to sleep.

OWEN

No way in hell I'm going to sleep.
That's when they get you.

DAN

I couldn't if I wanted to.

LIZZIE

We're protected, if that's what you're worried about.

DAN

Because you did some art work?

LIZZIE

For someone related to a practitioner of the dark arts, you display an alarming lack of faith.

DAN

What the hell. Magic is real. Whoop-dee-do. I feel better. Owen?

OWEN

Nope, still hopelessly depressed.

LIZZIE

Maybe this will help.

Lizzie opens a bag, takes out a large joint.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

The last joint Cheddar ever rolled. With my own personal ingredients.

OWEN

Cat heads and chicken bones?

LIZZIE

Ew. No.

DAN

What's in it?

LIZZIE

Special herbs. We were saving it for a special occasion, but...

OWEN

I say we light it up.

DAN

Come again?

OWEN

Like it or not, we're in a horror situation. I might as well be an extra in a red shirt on the set of Star Trek right about now.

LIZZIE

I think he'd want us to.

Lizzie lights up the joint, takes a hit. She passes it to Owen. Owen takes a hit, coughs. Lizzie grins, watches him pass it to Dan. Dan looks it over, holds it high.

DAN
To Cheddar.

LIZZIE & OWEN
To Cheddar.

Dan takes a big hit. Everything SLOWS to a crawl.

OWEN
(distorted)
Did anyone else see those spiders?

Dan falls backwards in SLOW MOTION. Lizzie leans over him.

LIZZIE
(distorted)
Good shit, right?

Cheddar, paler than usual, stands next to Lizzie.

CHEDDAR
Hey -- Pass that shit!

Dan and the others scream.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

ADRICUS, a fierce, battle-hardened warrior, stands among the bodies of his former challengers.

ADRICUS
No more squires shall taste the
blade of my sword! I, Adricus,
challenge the Emperor, Hysaero!

A dramatic drum beat. Adricus clears his throat.

ADRICUS (CONT'D)
I, Adricus, challenge the Emperor,
Hysaero!

The dramatic drum beat sounds off again.

ADRICUS (CONT'D)
Face me, Hysaero!

An intoxicated Lucas rides out on a warhorse. He slurs his lines, unintelligible.

ADRICUS (CONT'D)
What?

LUCAS
Hrr mfff lykg tgday.

Lucas groans, falls off the horse.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)
Cut!

A frustrated DIRECTOR makes a beeline for Lucas.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
What was that?!

LUCAS
Method?

DIRECTOR
Is that alcohol on your breath?

Lucas vomits over the Director's shoes.

LUCAS
Maybe.

DIRECTOR
You're fired! Get this hack off my set.

LUCAS
Fuck you.

ADRICUS
Nice going, asshole.

LUCAS
Go swallow a razor blade, buddy.
Down it with some bleach.

EXT. STUDIO - NIGHT

Lucas is on the phone, walking to his super expensive car.

LUCAS
(into phone)
No. They misquoted. I didn't say "I don't care." I said "I don't give a flying fuck." Big difference. You do that.

He opens the door, tosses the phone inside. Lanessem's behind him.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You're either here to get a selfie, have me sign your tits, or kill me for some arbitrary reason no one but you can understand. Whichever it is, could you make it quick?

LANESSEM

It's time to pay up.

LUCAS

Do I know you?

LANESSEM

How quickly we forget. Allhallows Eve? 1980.

QUICK FLASHBACK

-- TEENAGE LUCAS and three other teens stand in the middle of a CROSSROADS.

-- Teenage Lucas claps three times.

-- Lanessem appears before them.

BACK TO SCENE

Lucas stares at Lanessem, horrified.

LUCAS

I... don't know what you're talking about. I gotta go.

Lucas gets into his car, slams the door. Lanessem leans down, grabs the steering wheel.

LANESSEM

Lord Damballa will have your soul. How he gets it is up to you.

Lucas bats his hand away, speeds off. Lanessem laughs manically, raises his hands above his head.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Ade due damballa. Give me the power, I beg of you.

An ominous, dark cloud forms above him.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Leveau mercier du bois chaloitte. Secoise entienne mais pois de morte. Morteisma lieu de vocuier de mieu vochette.

A gust of wind lifts movie posters off the wall. The posters swirl around the wicked warlock.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Endenlieu pour du boissette
damballa! Endenlieu pour du
boissette damballa! Endenlieu pour
du boissette damballa!

Razor sharp, blade-like fingers rise out of a poster. A SCARECROW with an evil grin climbs out of its movie poster. Red-eyed CROWS fly out behind it in droves. The crows land on its shoulder, cawing in mad delight.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Morteisma lieu de vocuier de mieu
vochette. Endenlieu pour du
boissette damballa! Endenlieu pour
du boissette damballa! Endenlieu
pour du boissette damballa!

A haunting ice cream song plays. From another movie poster rises a diseased hand holding an ice cream cone with eyes, a nose, and sprinkles on top.

The grotesque ICE CREAM MAN's head spins around, turning his neck into a coiled spring. His face is covered in rainbow-colored zits. He takes a bite of his cone, blood drips from his mouth.

Someone tosses a heart and a brain from yet another poster. DR. BUTCHER, the surgeon from Hell, climbs out of his poster. He lights a finger, smokes it like a cigar.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

You know what to do.

The creatures file out, into the night. A hulking brute walks towards Lanessem.

ROCKY, a fearsome, medieval armored umpire wielding a spiked baseball bat, spits acid onto his poster, melting it.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

Sic him.

Rocky nods, stalks off to carry out his murderous mission.

INT. MINIBUS - LATER

Dan and the others scream. Cheddar reaches for the joint, but can't grasp it.

OWEN

G-g-g-g-ghost!

CHEDDAR
Really, dude?

LIZZIE
Cheddar?

CHEDDAR
Hey, baby. Lookin' pretty fly for a
dead guy, huh?

He tries to put an arm around her, passes through her.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
That's new.

LIZZIE
Let's remember that for later. What
are you doing here?

CHEDDAR
I don't know. Guess I must have
some unfinished business.

DAN
Cheddar, I'm so sorry. This is all--

CHEDDAR
Danny, would you shut the fuck up?
I've got something to tell you.

DAN
Yeah. Sure. But shouldn't you be in
Heaven?

OWEN
Or...

CHEDDAR
That's just mean.

LIZZIE
What do you want to tell us?

CHEDDAR
Good news and bad news. Good news
is I know where Whitney is.

DAN
You do?!

Dan stands up, hits his head on the roof.

DAN (CONT'D)
Where?

CHEDDAR
That's the bad news, bro.

INT. LIMBO - LATER

The Demon carries a still unconscious Whitney up invisible steps, places her on a sacrificial altar. One of her shoes falls off, dropping over the edge into the endless oblivion. Lanessem appears behind him.

LANESSEM

I've done as you asked, Lord
Damballa. If you'll excuse me, I
shall take my leave.

Lanessem heads for a portal back to Earth. The portal closes. Lanessem turns back, trembling.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)

We had a deal!

THE DEMON

I've decided to renege,
motherfucker!

The demon grabs him by the throat, sucks out green mist. Lanessem, old and frail, falls to the ground. The Demon waves a hand and Lanessem disappears.

EXT. WOODS - CROSSROADS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A sign with multiple arrows pointing every which way blows in the wind. Teenage Lucas runs past it. The demon pursues him. Lucas trips over a log, falls to the ground.

TEENAGE LUCAS

Help me!

The demon leaps atop him.

EXT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Lucas bolts upright in his car. He slaps himself awake, opens the car door.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

MEN of all races, classes, watch in awe as breathtaking WOMEN dance and strip. Some utilize the poles, putting most gymnasts to shame.

Lucas sits in a chair and drinks a beer. He rubs sleep from his eyes.

CANDI, a cock-eyed waitress with one breast noticeably smaller than the other, sidles up to him.

CANDI
Hey, handsome.

Lucas nearly spills his beer.

LUCAS
Hello... beautiful?

Lucas tries not to stare at her bit-sized booby. Candi stares at Lucas and at the table behind him.

CANDI
Need a refill?

Candi grabs at the beer, missing it twice before finally getting it.

LUCAS
I'm okay. Thanks for asking.

CANDI
They call me Candi.

LUCAS
That right?

CANDI
And this is Lucky.

She bites her lip, touches her small breast.

OWEN (PRE-LAP)
This has bad idea written all over it.

INT. WOODS - LATER

Owen hands Dan a flashlight.

OWEN
Fracking Limbo?

DAN
Where's your sense of adventure?

OWEN
Since when did adventure mean no chance in hell of surviving?

Cheddar sticks a ghostly hand through Owen's chest.

OWEN (CONT'D)
Boundaries!

Cheddar giggles, removes his hand. Lizzie gets out of the minibus, puts on her top hat.

LIZZIE
I think it's romantic. In a dark
sort of way. Dan's a modern day
Orpheus risking it all to find his
beloved Eurydice.

CHEDDAR
(chuckles)
Orifice.

LIZZIE
Let's do this.

Lizzie holds up a bong that looks like a saxophone.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
(chanting)
Om balla nizzala rah! Om balla
nizzala rah! Om balla nizzala rah!

The bong GLOWS. Lizzie offers it to Dan.

THE GUYS
Holy shit!

Dan takes the bong.

CHEDDAR
Hold up!

LIZZIE
What's wrong?

CHEDDAR
My ghosty sense is tingling.
Someone's coming.

OWEN
I hope those two things are
unrelated.

Lanessem staggers out of the dark, gasping for air.

CHEDDAR
Oh shit! It's a gremlin!

Lizzie and Owen pick up large rocks to attack.

LANESSEM
Wait!

DAN
This is the guy who took Whitney!

LIZZIE
Which one?

DAN
The human one.

Dan grabs Lanessem by his collar.

DAN (CONT'D)
Is she okay? If you've hurt her...

LANESSEM
She's safe for now.

DAN
What's that mean?

LANESSEM
Lord Damballa... He's going to
sacrifice her just before midnight
on Walpurgisnacht.

DAN
Huh?

LIZZIE
Walpurgis Night.

OWEN
What?

LIZZIE
Hexennacht?

Dan, Owen, and Cheddar look to one another, shrug.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Witches' Night!

OWEN
Was that so hard?

LANESSEM
Once he completes the sacrifice, he
and the others will be able to stay
in this world forever.

LIZZIE
Others? What others?

LANESSEM
(groans)
The movie monsters!

Lanessem grabs Dan's arm, croaks like a hoarse bullfrog.

LANESSEM (CONT'D)
Water...

DAN
You think I'm going to help you
after what you did?

Dan breaks away from Lanessem.

OWEN
Dan, he's dying.

DAN
Yeah right. It's probably just
another trick.

Lanessem dry rots into a skeleton, then into dust.

DAN (CONT'D)
Or not.

LIZZIE
So that's what happens when you
don't drink enough milk.

They all turn, look at her.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
I'm really high.

OWEN
What are we supposed to do about
the movie monsters?

CHEDDAR
What do you think?

Dan looks at the glowing bong.

LIZZIE
May the spirits ensure you have a
quick and safe travel.

Owen offers Dan the Vulcan salute.

OWEN
Live long and prosper.

DAN
I'll try.

CHEDDAR
Just relax, dude. You got this.

Dan takes a hit from the bong. His PUPILS instantly dilate.

DAN
I don't think this is --

Dan stands in the middle of an endless CROSSROAD.

DAN (CONT'D)
 -- Working? Hello?

Dan's voice reverberate. R.J., black, in a tailored suit, plays the blues on a flaming acoustic guitar. Dan crosses to him.

R.J.
 You must be Dan. I've heard a lot of goods things about you.

DAN
 Who are you?

R.J.
 R.J. will do just fine.

HAIZMANN, a painter from the seventeenth century, stabs at his magnum opus, unsatisfied. He mutters insults to himself.

R.J. (CONT'D)
 Don't mind Haizmann.

Haizmann shouts, throws the canvas to the ground.

DAN
 I'm looking for someone actually.

R.J. tunes the guitar.

R.J.
 A bird, right?

DAN
 Bird?

R.J. smiles, slaps the guitar.

R.J.
 A girl.

DAN
 Right.

R.J.
 Bird got a name?

DAN
 Whitney. Have you seen her? Or a demon on his period?

R.J.
 N'all. I think I'd remember something like that.

DAN
 You said you heard good things?
 From who?

Professor Goethe steps out of the shadows.

PROFESSOR GOETHE

From me.

DAN

Professor Goethe? What the Scooby-Doo?!

PROFESSOR GOETHE

Goethe is one of my many names.

DAN

What are you doing here?

PROFESSOR GOETHE

As part of my newly arranged deal I'm required to return from time to time. It's always the fine print that gets you in the end.

R.J.

Amen to that.

PROFESSOR GOETHE

I've spent my whole life trying to prevent others from making the same mistake I did. You don't know how much it irks me to hear "Faustian bargain." I wasn't even the first to sell my soul!

DAN

No offense, but shouldn't you be... You know... Slow roasting over open Hellfire?

PROFESSOR GOETHE

We all had the best lawyers. Not good enough to get into Heaven, mind you, but good enough.

R.J.

This here is where otherwise damned souls go. Roaming the endless roads forever and a day.

DAN

What about Whitney? Can you take me to her?

PROFESSOR GOETHE

It's not that simple, young man.

DAN

Could you give me a crash course? I'm in a hurry.

R.J.

Yes, you are. And people in a hurry
make mistakes.

PROFESSOR GOETHE

Trickery or not, this mess is yours
to clean up now, Dan.

DAN

I don't have time to --

PROFESSOR GOETHE

You still have three days. What you
need to do right now is stop those
monsters.

DAN

I'm not leaving Whitney behind!

PROFESSOR GOETHE

You'll never reach Limbo if you
don't stop them!

DAN

Why the hell not?

PROFESSOR GOETHE

Those dark spirits posing as movie
monsters have pieces of a key. Once
assembled, it will unlock the door
to Limbo.

DAN

Okay. So how do I stop them?

PROFESSOR GOETHE

The answer lies before you.

DAN

A cryptic riddle? Fucking awesome.

PROFESSOR GOETHE

Go, quickly!

He puts his hand on Dan's head, pushes him over backwards.

INT. MINIBUS - NIGHT

Lizzie twists Dan's nipples. He stands, hits his head on the
roof of the minibus.

CHEDDAR

Told you that would work.

Dan rubs his sore nipples.

DAN
I know what to do.

BARRY (PRE-LAP)
Are you sure?

EXT. NEW YORK - BROADWAY THEATER DISTRICT - NIGHT

A billboard advertises the latest Broadway show "CANDYMAN the MUSICAL." A cab's parked outside the theatre.

INT. CAB - CONTINUOUS

A young CABBIE stares hard at his fare.

CABBIE
One-hundred percent.

BARRY LEAF, late 40s, an avid diva and recovering camera whore, rolls his eyes dramatically, face meeting palm.

CABBIE (CONT'D)
You're Glaze!

The Cabbie whips out his phone, snaps a selfie. Barry peers out the window at the billboard.

BARRY
Was Glaze.

CABBIE
Huh? You're not doing the movies no more?

BARRY
I am in no way, nor shape nor form involved in that reboot, slash re-imagining, slash rehash abomination! I have no desire to suffer for my art with that skin rash inducing cheap make-up on.

CABBIE
The CGI's pretty good though.

Barry sighs, slips cash to the Cabbie.

BARRY
This should cover it.

CABBIE
Thanks.

Barry steps out of the cab, walks with a cane.

CABBIE (CONT'D)

Wait a minute.

BARRY

You have your selfie. My autograph is useless at this point.

CABBIE

Could you say the line?

Barry shakes his head, limps towards the door of the theater.

CABBIE (CONT'D)

Sell out!

Barry turns back, gives a mocking bow. The cabbie speeds off. Barry gets out a set of keys.

The haunting ice cream tune plays. A rusted ICE CREAM TRUCK pulls up behind Barry. Glaze points at him, cackles. Unnerved, Barry gives him a wave. Glaze makes the cut throat sign.

BARRY

Go troll someone else.

Glaze revs the engine, speeds towards him! Barry drops the keys. No time to pick them up and unlock the door, he races down a narrow alley.

INT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Glaze leans out the truck, honks the horn as sparks fly from the side of the truck. Barry runs into...

INT. SUBWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Barry backs away from the stairs, a train whooshes past behind him. He turns, startled. Barry peers around him. The subway's completely deserted.

GLAZE (O.S.)

Ice cream... You scream... They all scream... For ice cream.

Glaze crawls down the stairs, contorting at impossible angles.

BARRY

That's pretty convincing. I'll give you that.

Glaze unhinges his jaw, steps closer. Barry raises his cane.

BARRY (CONT'D)

Don't you come any closer!

Glaze raises his arms in surrender. He reaches up, pops a zit. The foul juice squirts into Barry's face. Barry trips backwards over the edge and onto the tracks.

He wipes the succus from his face, rises to his feet, and limps away. He looks behind him. Glaze is gone. The ice cream truck appears in front of him.

BARRY (CONT'D)

No! It's not possible!

Glaze sounds the music, steps on the gas. The truck runs Barry over. Glaze stops the truck, throws it in reverse, and runs back over the body again.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Lucas, in bed, arms behind his head. Candi lies on top of him.

CANDI

That was wonderful.

Lucas nods in agreement.

CANDI (CONT'D)

Did you like it?

LUCAS

Absolutely. Especially the parts I remember.

CANDI

Be right back.

Candi climbs out of bed, wrapped in a bed sheet. She smiles at him, walks into a door. She gropes for the door handle, finds it, enters the bathroom.

LUCAS

I've had worse. Stacy from Monte Carlo.

He shudders, laughs to himself. His phone rings. Lucas searches the nightstand. Under the pillow. He picks up a pair of panties, takes his phone out.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Speak.

He sits up, serious.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Are you fucking threatening me? Do you know who I am? How many skulls I've broken just this month alone?!

DAN (V.O.)
Mr. Payne, your life is in danger!
I'm trying to help you.

LUCAS
How the fuck did you get this num --
Doesn't matter, cause if you ever
fucking call here again you're
gonna be the one who needs saving!

Lucas terminates the call. The toilet flushes multiple times.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Damn, Candi. What did you eat?

The toilet flushes again. Lucas gets out of bed, knocks on the door.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Candi? You alright in there?

Someone knocks hard on the door of the hotel room. Lucas silently makes his way towards it, peers into the keyhole. Rocky stands outside the door.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Why do I always meet the crazy sons
of bitches who don't know when to
quit?

Lucas stands, cracks his knuckles, swings open the door. No one's there... Lucas shuts the door, dumbfounded.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Candi, I gotta go.

He pushes the bathroom door open.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lucas' mouth drops open. Candi's headless body lies in the shower. Her head's in the overflowing toilet.

LUCAS
Shit!

Lucas trips over a filthy baseball, falls flat on his back. Rocky looms over him, bat raised.

Rocky brings the bat down RIGHT AT US! Blood covers the LENS.

EXT. MINIBUS - DAY

Rain pelts the minibus's windshield. Wipers hold the rapidly forming rivulet at bay.

INT. MINIBUS - CONTINUOUS

Dan gazes at Whitney's necklace. Lizzie's behind the wheel. Cheddar and Owen are on a laptop.

OWEN

Dan?

Dan puts the necklace back on, turns his attention to Owen.

DAN

He's dead. I heard you.

CHEDDAR

So what are we gonna do now?

Dan stares out the window at the rain.

DAN

We try to save the others. Who's closest?

Owen checks the laptop.

OWEN

Ben Tregorlund. He's shooting a romantic comedy.

DAN

Step on it, Lizzie.

OWEN

Oh crap.

DAN

What?

OWEN

What about Kellen Myers?

LIZZIE

Reclusive, nobody alive knows what he looks like behind his mask Kellen Myers?

DAN

That's the one.

OWEN

We'll need to split up.

DAN

Good idea. Owen and I'll try to find Tregorlund.

CHEDDAR

Great. Leave us with a modern day Boo Radley.

OWEN
Cheddar, you're already dead.

CHEDDAR
Oh yeah.

LIZZIE
Let's do it.

DAN
Three, two, one...

ALL
Fear Fighters!

INT. CABIN - LATER

A cell phone vibrates on the nightstand of the dimly light cabin. An unseen man facing a fireplace snores in a rocking chair.

KELLY (O.S.)
I don't suppose you'll be getting that?

KELLY, 40s, with an hour-glass figure, picks up the phone.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Yes? Just a moment.

She looks to the man in the rocking chair.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Mr. Myers? It's the head of Parallax, Eric Stein. Mr. Myers?
(into phone)
It's no use. He's dead to the world. Yes, I'll tell him. Good night.

The phone rings again.

KELLY (CONT'D)
(answering)
Hello?

Static whispers. Kelly hangs up the phone, heads towards the bed. The phone rings again. Kelly sighs, picks it up.

KELLY (CONT'D)
I realize that it may be happy hour where you are, but here it's past midnight. How about you save us both a lot of trouble and get a life?

Kelly slams the phone down. She looks back at the snoring man in the rocking chair.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Times like these I wish I slept as
heavy as you.

She rocks the chair from side to side.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Nothing short of the end of the
world would wake you up, would it?

The man's hat falls off, revealing a DUMMY. The dummy's hooked to a noise machine. Kelly puts the hat back on the dummy. The phone vibrates again. She picks it up.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Someone's sent us... you a message.

Kelly opens the video file.

ON THE PHONE...

...a picture of Kelly stares back at her. She swipes to the next picture. Someone's standing just out of frame. Kelly's hand shakes as she dares to swipe to the next one.

She swipes to the last picture. In it, Dr. Butcher's SEWING her eyes shut. Kelly drops the phone, backtracks to the bed. She hides underneath. The phone vibrates loudly.

The phone jumps in the air. Kelly covers her mouth to keep from screaming. The phone spins around. Blood squirts out from it like a sprinkler.

After a moment, the impromptu horror show subsides. Kelly's eyes move to the door. She crawls out from under the bed a few feet, stops when she hears...

SQUEAK.

Kelly makes another small crawl. The bed squeaks again. She shivers, slowly turns. Dr. Butcher crouches on the bed. He reaches inside a black bag, takes out a pair of pliers.

DR. BUTCHER
Say ahh!

Kelly runs towards the door. Dr. Butcher tackles her, beats her head into the wooden floor. Kelly turns over, tries to fight back. Dr. Butcher forces the pliers inside her mouth, yanks a tooth out! He eats it, sucks the blood from his fingers.

DR. BUTCHER (CONT'D)
No cavities? Shame on you!

Kelly grabs a lamp, breaks it over his head. The demented doctor falls backwards. The light fades from the room. Kelly reaches up, turns on a swinging light fixture.

She runs, grabs a hunting rifle on a gun rack above her. She makes sure it's loaded, whirls around. Her adversary's gone. There's no sound except the swinging light. She grabs it, listens.

There's someone hiding under the covers. Kelly takes aim, FIRES. She moves past the rocking chair, puts the gun to her assailant's head, removes the covers and finds...

...the dummy.

Dr. Butcher breaks the rocking chair over Kelly's head. She crashes to the floor. The gun slides under the bed. Dr. Butcher climbs atop her, sticks his thumbs into her eyes. Kelly screams. Dr. Butcher chuckles.

Cheddar floats into the room, flies into Dr. Butcher. Dr. Butcher's hands fall to his side. Lizzie bursts into the room, AXE in hand.

LIZZIE

Kellen Myers?

KELLY

Who are you?

LIZZIE

I'm a fan.

Dr. Butcher rolls around on the ground like Curly from the Three Stooges.

KELLY

What's happening to him? How is he here?!

LIZZIE

It's a long story.

DR. BUTCHER

(in Cheddar's voice)

It worked, but you need to hurry! I don't know how much longer I can hold him!

Lizzie turns to a very confused Kelly.

LIZZIE

How'd you kill Dr. Butcher in the movies?

KELLY

I don't know! You said you were a fan!

LIZZIE
You were in the films!

KELLY
 There were different ways.

Dr. Butcher slaps himself, runs into the walls.

KELLY (CONT'D)
 Oh! Electricity!

Kelly runs and grabs the black bag. She takes out charging pads.

KELLY (CONT'D)
 Hold him down!

Lizzie trips Dr. Butcher, holds him down.

DR. BUTCHER
 (in Cheddar's voice)
 I'm losing him!

LIZZIE
 Hold on!

Cheddar flies out of Dr. Butcher. He pants, exhausted. Dr. Butcher throws Lizzie off of him, advances towards her. Kelly turns on the pads, traps Dr. Butcher's head between them.

KELLY
 Clear!

Dr. Butch explodes, covering Kelly and Lizzie in black sludge. Cheddar looks on, unaffected.

CHEDDAR
 Shit like that is why I'm glad I'm dead.

KELLY
 Who said that?

LIZZIE
 Don't worry about him. That's just my dead boyfriend.

Lizzie picks up a large KEY PIECE, wades through the sludge and out the door.

EXT. PARK - LATER

MARIGOLD, a district attorney possessing the unmistakable graceful movements of a seasoned ballerina, leaps into the arms of KING LEON. He's an actor in a lion costume wearing Levi's.

King Leon holds her high above his head, spins her around. He lowers her to the ground, dips her.

BOTH
(singing)
And even though we're from two
different worlds...

KING LEON
I'll be your mane man!

MARIGOLD
And I'll be your main girl!

BOTH
If only here right now!

King Leon and Marigold lean in for a kiss. A CROW drops a DEUCE on them. King Leon drops Marigold.

TREGORLUND (O.S.)
Shit. Cut!

BEN TREGORLUND, 50, born "too old for this shit", leaps out of the director's chair.

MARIGOLD
(Jersey accent)
Someone get me out of this fucken
thing! Don't birds carry all kinda
diseases?

KING LEON
I think some got in my mouth!

TREGORLUND
Someone clean them up please. And
who do we have to call to get rid
of these shittin' pigeons? Crows?
Whatever. Fuck it. Everyone take
five. I'm going for a smoke.

He walks toward a PARK BENCH, lights up. He spots something out the corner of the eye. A nightmarish Scarecrow hangs from a street lamp.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)
Fuck's sake. Who put --

He sighs, takes another puff.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)
If you want something done right...

A flock of crows land all around him.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)
Damn vermin.

Tregorlund crosses to the street lamp. Crows cover the Scarecrow.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)

Shoo, damn you!

The Scarecrow raises its head. Tregorlund drops the cigarette, backs away. The Scarecrow slides to the ground, wiggles its blade-like fingers. Dan and Owen are within earshot.

DAN

Mr. Tregorlund, run!

Distracted, Tregorlund turns toward them. The Scarecrow slashes his chest. Tregorlund hits the ground, shirt ripped. The Scarecrow smiles. Black saliva drips down its chin.

Dan passes a MAN walking his dog and holding a Frisbee. Dan snatches the Frisbee.

MAN WALKING DOG

Hey!

Dan launches the Frisbee at the Scarecrow. It SLICES the disk in half.

MAN WALKING DOG (CONT'D)

What the frankfurters?!

The Man picks up his dog, takes off. Owen helps Tregorlund up, uses a trash can lid as a shield. The crows fly around them, trapping them in a VORTEX of black feathers. The evil Scarecrow stabs at them.

TREGORLUND

Any more bright ideas?

OWEN

I'm afraid not.

OUTSIDE THE VORTEX

Dan answers his ringing cell phone.

DAN

How'd it go? That's great. Us? Not so much.

LIZZIE (V.O.)

Dan, listen up. You need to find out its weakness. Just like from the movies.

DAN
I'm drawing a blank. I never paid
much attention during them. Cheddar
and I were always baked! Hold on.

Dan moves closer to the VORTEX.

DAN (CONT'D)
What was Jethro Fagan's weakness!

INSIDE THE VORTEX

Owen continues to fend off the Scarecrow's attack.

TREGORLUND
Sorry, kid. I was stoned out of my
mind back then.

OWEN
He could only be killed by... um...
fire!

DAN (O.S.)
On it!

OUTSIDE THE VORTEX

Dan runs around the park. He spots a sleeping WINO, grabs a
bottle of whiskey.

INSIDE THE BLACK WHIRLPOOL OF BIRDS...

...the Scarecrow jabs at Owen's crouch. He blocks the strike
just in time.

OWEN
Hey!

The maelstrom of malicious crows tightens. Tregorlund reaches
out, instantly withdraws his cut hand.

OUTSIDE THE VORTEX

Dan tosses the bottle high over the avian twister.

DAN
Guys, catch!

BACK IN THE VORTEX

Tregorlund looks up, watches the bottle of whiskey fall past
the vicious crows. The Scarecrow stabs at Owen.

Its finger gets caught in the trash can lid. The Scarecrow pushes Owen to the ground, raises its other bladed hand.

Tregorlund catches the whiskey, tears off a piece of his shirt. He assembles a Molotov cocktail, lights the wick.

TREGORLUND

Hey, shitface!

The Scarecrow cocks its head up at Tregorlund.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)

Never remake a classic!

Owen rolls out of the way. Tregorlund tosses the bomb at the Scarecrow. It bursts into flames.

The crows drop out of the sky, dead. The Scarecrow stops, drops, and rolls to no avail. It silently screams until it's little more than burnt hay.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)

What the hell just happened?

DAN

You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

A dead crow lands on Dan's head. He brushes it off, moves the remains of the Scarecrow around with his foot. He picks up another piece of the key.

LATER

The minibus drives up to them. Lizzie and Kelly exit, cross to them. Lizzie shows Dan her key piece.

LIZZIE

Two down, two to go. Meet Kellen Myers.

KELLY

It's Kelly actually.

TREGORLUND

Kelly? After all these years... Why the hell didn't you say something?

KELLY

You'd be surprised how much more cash you can make if people think you have a penis. I just got comfortable living the lie. Until I wasn't living much at all. Did you tell them?

OWEN

Tell us what?

TREGORLUND

Me, her, Barry, and Lucas were part of a failing improv group. One day we heard about some witch that could grant you your wildest dreams. For the hefty price of your soul.

KELLY

We were young and stupid. We weren't thinking about the future. About the day he'd come to collect. Is that why you're doing this?

DAN

I fucked up, bad. But this isn't about me. It's about my fiancée. I have to get her back. Even if it's the last thing I ever do.

KELLY

You saved my life. I'll help anyway I can. You in, Tregorlund?

Tregorlund lights up a cigarette.

TREGORLUND

You mean put the hurt on the fuckers who took out Barry and Lucas? Thought you'd never ask.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Lizzie hops over a chain-linked fence, followed by Kelly, and Tregorlund. Lizzie carries her axe. Tregorlund holds a duffel bag.

KELLY

Are you sure this is the place?

LIZZIE

Cheddar said he felt a great disturbance in the Force.

TREGORLUND

Who's that?

KELLY

Her dead boyfriend.

TREGORLUND

Oh... Right.

LIZZIE

Do you have any weapons?

TREGORLUND

We're covered.

He unzips the duffel bag, hands Kelly a machete. He takes out a pair of razor gloves, straps them on.

TREGORLUND (CONT'D)

Just like riding a bike.

KELLY

How do we do this?

LIZZIE

We need Rocky's bat. But first we need to find him.

TREGORLUND

That won't be a problem.

Rocky hoofs it out of the darkness, past third base. He's headed for home plate and coming in hot.

EXT. ROAD - SAME

The minibus speeds past an old barn, down a rustic road.

INT. MINIBUS - CONTINUOUS

Dan drives, glances up at the rearview mirror. Owen slumbers in the back, drooling. Dan grins, turns to Cheddar in the passenger seat.

DAN

I don't want to jinx anything, but I think we may actually pull this off.

CHEDDAR

Dude, you're going to Limbo for a chick.

DAN

What can I say, I'm whipped.

Cheddar laughs, he tries to use a bong, but can't.

CHEDDAR

Shit I miss getting baked. And boobies. Also nachos.

Cheddar lightly brushes Owen's face. Owen slaps himself in his sleep. Cheddar snickers. He momentarily fades from view.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)

Trippy. Must be close to finishing my unfinished.

DAN

Cheddar, what are you going to do?

CHEDDAR

What do you mean?

DAN

After this is over? You can't hang around forever, can you?

Cheddar thinks long and hard.

CHEDDAR

I'm gonna head to that big spliff in the sky. Hang out with J-Dog and smoke some funny looking clouds.

DAN

Hell yeah you are.

Dan turns back to the road, wipes tears from his eyes. A horn HONKS behind them. Owen awakens with a start.

OWEN

Who the hell?

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Glaze leans out of his ice cream truck, races towards the minibus.

INT. MINIBUS - CONTINUOUS

Owen leans forward, taps Dan on the shoulder.

OWEN

Do something, Dan!

DAN

Don't worry. I know a couple of manu--

The ice cream truck rams into them. The passengers lunge forward.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Glaze cackles, revs his engine.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - SAME

Tregorlund claws at Rocky. Unfazed by the attack, the undead umpire grabs him, tosses him into the air, and bats him into the night sky.

KELLY

Tregorlund!

Tregorlund lands with a thud. Kelly slashes at Rocky. She stabs him in the head. Rocky bats her into the stands, removes the machete.

Rocky taps the bat on his boot, points it at Lizzie. Lizzie raises her axe, all alone against the monster.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Glaze whips the steering wheel hard, tries to force the minibus off the road. The vehicles grind together, going well over the speed limit.

A SEMI-TRUCK rolls towards them. Dan and Owen scream. Glaze kisses them goodbye. Cheddar flies into the ice cream truck, wrenches the wheel at the last moment.

The semi crashes into the ice cream truck, launching it over the side of the road. It rolls in the air, lands near the back of a farm.

EXT. FARM - MOMENTS LATER

Dan pulls into the dirt driveway. He and Owen get out. They run to the overturned truck.

DAN

Cheddar?

Owen motions for Dan to be quiet, approaches the front of the truck.

OWEN

There's no one in--

Glaze kicks the back door open, climbs out.

GLAZE

(sing-song)

I'm gonna kill you!

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT

Lizzie cuts Rock's arm off. She dodges his spiked bat, leaps up and over the fence, runs into the stands. Rocky takes them two at a time, bat high over his head.

Lizzie reaches the top, stares over the edge. Rocky strikes her in the back with the bat. Lizzie falls, grabs the edge.

Rocky tries to bash her fingers, but Lizzie moves them, barely holding on by a single hand each time. Rocky puts the bat to her head, knighting her for a brain bashing.

Sharp blades stick out of Rocky's neck.

TREGORLUND

Remember me, bitch?!

Tregorlund wrestles with the evil umpire. They tumble over the side of the stands, to the ground. Lizzie's fingers start to slip. Kelly leans over, grabs her hands just in time.

LIZZIE

Thanks.

KELLY

Let's go finish the bastard.

BEHIND THE STANDS

Rocky lies next to Tregorlund. He sits up, looks for his bat. He crawls towards it. Kelly chops his arm off! Rocky attempts to trip her and she cuts his legs off too. Rocky squirms around pitifully. Lizzie picks up the bat, knights Rocky's head. WHAM! HOME RUN!

EXT. FARM - NIGHT

Blood flies out of Dan's mouth. He hits the ground. Owen punches Glaze in the jaw, hurts his hand. Glaze kicks him in the groin, nails him with a spinning kick.

Glaze reaches behind him, produces NUNCHUKS made of ice. He flips them behind his back like Bruce Lee.

DAN

What the shit?

Glaze yowls like a scalded snowman. Owen and Dan run, disappearing into the cornfield.

INT. CORNFIELD - SECONDS LATER

Dan cuts through the maze of corn, stops.

DAN

(whispers)

Owen? Owen!

The corn stalks bend in the wind. A ripple goes through them like a tidal wave. Dan backs up, hits a scarecrow. Glaze smashes the scarecrow's pumpkin head. Dan scrambles away.

INT. TOOL SHED - LATER

Dan opens the doors, runs inside. He searches for a weapon, finds a pitch fork. He braces himself. Nothing.

DAN

Come on.

There's no sound save for the wind. Suddenly Glaze crashes through the side of the shed like the Kool-Aid Man on steroids.

Glaze chuckles, wraps a nunchuk around the pitchfork. A loud whirling momentarily distracts the both of them. Owen stands near a wood chipper. Cheddar appears in front of Glaze.

CHEDDAR

Boo!

Dan uses the distraction to stab Glaze. He and Owen and push him into the machine. The wood chipper makes chum out of him. Dan turns off the machine, reaches in, grabs the key piece. His phone rings.

DAN

(into phone)

Lizzie? You did? I've got it right here. Meet you in a few. Bye. They've got the final piece. Guys, this is it!

Dan hugs Owen and Cheddar. Cheddar fades in and out.

CHEDDAR

I think it's time, bros.

Cheddar's feet disappear, followed by his legs.

OWEN

I'm going to miss you, man.

CHEDDAR

And you're thinking who's gonna pay you for your Lit notes now.

Cheddar's arms and torso are the next to go.

OWEN

That too.

DAN

Cheddar...

Only Cheddar's head is visible now.

CHEDDAR

Don't. I partied, I banged. Smoked
a shitload of hash. I lived a good
life, dude. Now you go and get
Whitney back. Get married. Tell
Lizzie--

Cheddar disappears. Owen puts a hand on Dan's shoulder. They
exit out the barn door.

EXT. CROSSROADS - NIGHT

Dan hugs Lizzie. They're standing next to the minibus with
Owen and Kelly. Lizzie dries her eyes, hands her key piece to
Dan.

OWEN

Are you sure you don't want us--

DAN

I couldn't ask for a better team,
but this I have to do alone. I'm
getting her back, no matter what.

He assembles the large key, runs to the center of the
crossroads. He looks back at his friends, gives them an
unreadable smile, strikes the key into the ground.

The asphalt spreads back as if Moses stood before it. A large
KEYHOLE appears. Dan sticks the key in, turns it
counterclockwise.

A dark HOLE resembling a door opens. Air and fog whoosh out
of the hole past Dan. He throws a leg over, climbs in. The
door snaps shut behind him.

INT. LIMBO - SECONDS LATER

Dan falls into darkness. He screams, but no sound comes out.
Dan plummets into black water, swims towards a series of
lights. He heaves himself onto dry land, drags himself to his
feet.

FARTHER ALONG THE PATH

Dan searches for the source of the light that illuminate his
every step. High above a lighted staircase, Whitney lies
unconscious on an altar.

DAN

Whitney!

Dan runs up the staircase, stares lovingly at her. He brushes her hair out of her face. Her eyes slowly open.

WHITNEY

Dan? Is it really you?

DAN

It's me. We have to get out here.

WHITNEY

(demonic voice)

Can't we just stay a little longer?

"Whitney" punches him. The blow sends Dan rolling down the stairs. The possessed bride to be "spider walks" down the stairs. Dan wipes blood from his face, pushes himself up.

DAN

Get out of my fiancée, you son of a bitch!

Whitney's head spins around like a vinyl record.

POSSESSED WHITNEY

I don't think so. It's been a long time since I was in a virgin. Feels good. Damn good.

"Whitney" does a dance number up and down the stairs.

POSSESSED WHITNEY (CONT'D)

You should try it some time.

She licks his face, then scratches him.

POSSESSED WHITNEY (CONT'D)

In a few minutes, I'll devour her soul and be able to escape this prison for good.

DAN

Whitney, you've got to fight it!

She slams his head onto the round.

POSSESSED WHITNEY

She's not here right now! Don't you get it?

(normal voice)

Dan!

The demon barks, makes Whitney pull her hair.

POSSESSED WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Shut up, girl!

She slams Dan's head into the ground again. Dan spits up blood. He weakly reaches for the cross necklace, holds it high.

POSSESSED WHITNEY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

DAN
Your mom... She gave it to you.
Remember?

Whitney puts her hands over her ears.

DAN (CONT'D)
You never took it off. Ever. It's why you can't say those three words, isn't it? Because the last time you did... your mom died.

POSSESSED WHITNEY
Shut up! I'll bite her tongue off!

DAN
Remember that summer at the lake? We did cannonballs and when you swam back to the top the necklace was gone? I spent half an hour searching until I found it.

POSSESSED WHITNEY
Shut the fuck up, you cocksucking son of a whore! Do you want me to bite her tongue off? Here I go! I'm about to do it!

She opens her mouth wide, sticks her tongue out.

DAN
I deserve this. But I came all this way for you... Don't let it win.

Dan crawls towards the now writhing bride to be. He takes the necklace off, puts it on her.

DAN (CONT'D)
I'm with you until the end, Whit.

Dan reaches out to hug her. Whitney leaps on him, takes him to the ground. She growls.

POSSESSED WHITNEY
Aw, so sweet! Too bad your girl's about to eat your fucking guts!

She opens her mouth wide, comes at him.

DAN

Whitney Sharona Cedars. When I first saw you I knew. That you were the one.

Whitney holds her mouth open over Dan's neck awkwardly.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm nothing without you. You have my heart, my body. My soul.

Tears well in Dan's eyes.

DAN (CONT'D)

You are my friend, my lover, and my muse. I will always be there for you. I'll always love you. Yesterday... Today... Tomorrow. And forever.

Whitney collapses. Dan shuts his eyes tight.

WHITNEY

I love you too.

Dan opens his eyes. Whitney smiles at him, tears in her eyes. She throws her arms around him.

DAN

I'm here to rescue you. How am I doing?

WHITNEY

My hero. Let's go.

The ground rumbles. The now GIANT demon rises up behind them.

DAN

You've got to be fucking kidding me!

Whitney grabs Dan by the hand, runs.

THE DEMON

No one gets away from me!

Whitney and Dan run down the lighted corridor. The demon stomps behind them.

WHITNEY

How do we get out here?

DAN

I don't know.

WHITNEY

What do you mean you don't know?!

DAN

We could try clicking our heels together.

THE DEMON

Here I come, motherfucker!

Whitney and Dan scream, hug one another. They suddenly rise up, as if in an elevator. The demon climbs up after them.

EXT. CROSSROADS - DAYBREAK

Lizzie, Owen, and Kelly wait by the minibus.

KELLY

I'm sorry, but I think--

The door pops open, spits Whitney and Dan out.

LIZZIE

They're back!

The demon grabs Dan's ankle, drags him back towards the hole.

WHITNEY

Go to Hell already!

She kicks it in the face, removes the key from the key hole. The demon falls back into Oblivion. The key shatters into a thousand pieces. Golden SPARKLES land all around Whitney and Dan.

They interlock hands, share a kiss against the backdrop of the rising sun.

EXT. BUSY HIGHWAY - DAY

PERRY, a clean shaven Cheddar look-alike dressed like a Mormon missionary, stands with his back towards the highway.

Another missionary, FRANKLIN, watches him, eyes wide.

FRANKLIN

Brother Perry, do you think this is wise?

PERRY

Where's your faith, Brother Franklin?

He turns, addresses the passing crowd and a few just waiting to safely cross the street.

PERRY (CONT'D)

Brothers and sisters, witness a miracle!

He leaps out into the traffic. A car almost hits him.

DRIVER (O.S.)
What the fuck is your malfunction?!

Perry heads for the sidewalk. A car slams into him.

INT. MORGUE - LATER

Perry lies on a medical slab. A MEDICAL EXAMINER eats a bologna sandwich. A piece falls to the floor. He bends to pick it up.

Cheddar's ghost falls through the roof, lands in Perry's body. The Medical Examiner eats the piece of bologna. The body sits up.

CHEDDAR
Sweet. Five second rule, right?

The Medical Examiner runs out of the room. Cheddar picks up the sandwich, take a bite. Lizzie walks in, a spell book in her hands.

CHEDDAR (CONT'D)
Lizzie? How--

LIZZIE
It had to be someone who could be your twin.

CHEDDAR
But--

LIZZIE
I told you, I'm a fucking witch.

Cheddar shrugs, finishes the sandwich.

CHEDDAR
There's something I meant to tell you. Lizzie, I--

She puts a finger to his lip, ruffles his hair.

LIZZIE
I know.

CHEDDAR
I'm... not wearing any underwear am I?

LIZZIE
Nope. Wanna do it?

CHEDDAR
Freaky Friday post resurrection
sex? Yeah, why not?

Cheddar pushes the medical items to the floor.

INT. CHURCH - BACK ROOM - DAY

Dan wears a tux, plays with his tie.

DAN
Damn it. Should've gone with the
clip-on.

OWEN
Let me.

He ties it correctly for Dan.

DAN
Thanks.

OWEN
Don't mention it.

DAN
What if she doesn't show?

OWEN
She'll be here. If she wanted out
she would've told you a long time
ago.

DAN
They're called runaway brides for a
reason.

Cheddar enters the room.

CHEDDAR
You guys clean up nice.

DAN
Cheddar?

Cheddar hugs Dan and Owen.

DAN (CONT'D)
I thought--

CHEDDAR
Witch girlfriend, remember?

OWEN
You realize how illogical this all
is, right?

CHEDDAR

Tell me about it. Dudes, I think
I'm uncircumcised.

OWEN

That's an image I needed.

INT. CHURCH - LATER

Dan stands at the altar. Kelly wheels a bandaged Tregorlund into the church. They sit next to Owen, Lizzie, and Cheddar.

OWEN

Mr. Tregorlund?!

TREGORLUND

It'll take more than having nearly
every bone in my body broken to
keep me down. No offense, son, but
I'm surprised you're alive too.

OWEN

Yeah. So am I.

The classic wedding march theme plays. Out walks Whitney in an immaculate wedding dress. Her father walks her down the aisle.

KELLY

This is so beautiful.

TREGORLUND

My nuts itch.

Everyone moves away from Tregorlund.

AT THE ALTAR

Whitney stands next to Dan. Professor Goethe, dressed as a minister, beams at the young couple. R.J. plays piano. Haizmann paints portraits.

DAN

Professor Goethe?

PROFESSOR GOETHE

It's Reverend Hillhouse, actually.

DAN

My mistake.

REVEREND HILLHOUSE

We are gathered here today to join
these two in holy matrimony.

(MORE)

REVEREND HILLHOUSE (CONT'D)
Yada, yada, yada, do you Daniel
Raik take Whitney Sharona Cedars
to be your lawfully wedded wife?

DAN
I do.

REVEREND HILLHOUSE
And you?

WHITNEY
I do.

REVEREND HILLHOUSE
By the power bested in me, I know
pronounce you man and wife. You may
kiss the bride.

Dan lifts Whitney's veil. She dips him, kisses him
passionately.

DAN
Hot diggity damn.

Everyone cheers and claps.

OWEN
That a boy!

CHEDDAR
Yay!

LIZZIE
Alright!
(whispers to Cheddar)
Can we get high now?

Cheddar nods.

EXT. CHURCH - LATER

Lizzie screams. Seconds later she bolts out the church doors,
covered in blood. She trips over Cheddar's dead body, turns
and stares at something behind her.

Dan and Whitney lurch out of the church, followed by
zombified wedding guests. Lizzie backs away. Cheddar rises
up, grabs her.

Everyone suddenly freezes. A kick-ass song plays. Maybe
"Thriller" by Michael Jackson.

The "zombies" strut their stuff. There are insane flips here,
break-dancing there. Even Tregorlund gets in on the act,
rotating around in his wheelchair.

Everyone claps as the bride and groom steal the show. Whitney leaps into Dan's arm.

FREEZE FRAME ON DAN AND WHITNEY.

A hand places this STILL IMAGE in a photo album. The PHOTO ALBUM closes.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END