

'The Asylum'

(c) Jan. 10, 2008 Michael Shire

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**EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE, 1970 - SUMMER DAY**

ESTABLISHING SHOT - Outside the house somewhere in the country - no neighbors are close by. The yard is big, with tall grass around, near dusty dirt road. A yellow school bus speeds down this road and comes to a stop at the houses driveway (200 feet to the house). Two boys, CHRIS 11, and STEVEN 10, get out and wave to the driver, then walk up the driveway. Their spotted black and white dog, PIRATE, runs up to greet them barking. As the bus leaves, Pirate runs after it, biting at the tires, and barking. The two boys shout for the dog to come back.

**CHRIS**

One of these days he'll get run over if he keeps that up.

**STEVEN**

(shouting at dog)  
Come here boy!

Finally the dog leaves his chase and runs back to the kids. Chris pulls out something and shows it to Steven.

**CHRIS**

Look what I got in town today.

He opens a brown paper bag and shows Steven a round tin of air rifle pellets.

**CHRIS**

Let's go target practice.

**EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE, BACKYARD - DAY**

Past some brushes, hidden from the house, the two boys are laying down, with an air rifle and Chris takes good aim, firing it into a log some 50 feet away. The target is a plastic figure of a GI-Joe doll, tied up. When it's Steven's turn, he loads a pellet, takes aim, and fires too. He hits it and it jumps a bit.

**CHRIS**

Good shot!

A neighbor kid, older than them, MARK, 13, comes walking up to them carrying a brown paper bag.

**MARK**

Hey, you guys, wanna have some fun?

Chris and Steven turn to see him, and have to shade their eyes from the sun.

**CHRIS**

Hey Mark. What's up?

**MARK**

You know how we got so many frogs around here, that some are even run over on the road? Well I caught one and thought we should give him the firing squad.

Chris and Steven stand up and look into the brown bag.

**STEVEN**

Yeah. Why don't we put him on that log there?

**MARK**

Sure. Let's do it.

Mark takes the large frog, possibly a toad, and goes to the log where the doll is, removes the strings and ties him up. Meanwhile Chris lies back down and loads the rifle again. When Mark is finished he runs back to them.

**MARK**

Go ahead.

Chris aims and fires. CLOSE UP on frog, he splatters a bit. Steven and Chris just say, "Yeah!"

**MARK**

(whoops the loudest)  
You got him! Woohoo.

**EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE, WOOD SHED - DAY**

Chris is in this wood shed, beside a large stack of logs. He has a single headed axe and is using a bench grinder to sharpen the axe face. For safety he wears a very dirty goggle set.

Steven comes in and sees him.

**STEVEN**

Chris, I'm bored. Can I try sharpening the axe too?

**CHRIS**

No need right now. It's already sharp.

Chris stops the motor, takes off goggles, turns around and places axe leaning up against large cutting stump in the middle of the room.

**CHRIS**

You can help me carry some wood into the house. I have to fill the bin today.

Chris motions to the stack of already cut wood, and then grabs a large log himself with two hands, places it on the center stump, then grabs the axe. Steven stands back as Chris swings the axe down hard and splits the log in two.

Just then, they hear their mother calling from the house. Chris stops to listen.

**GRACE**

Boys! Come on into the house and clean up for supper.

Chris takes the axe and slams it into the stump hard enough to stay there - stuck. Steven and he both grab a large armful of cut wood pieces, and leave the shed. CAMERA ON axe.

FADE OUT:

**INT. YOUNG STEVENS ROOM - NIGHT**

Late night, dark, simple 10 y.o. boy's room, wall-papered, photos of space travel, and blacklight velvet posters! Steven is sleeping. He is awakened by hearing his name called by a little girl's voice 10 yo.

**ALICE (o.c.)**

Steven... Steven ....

He wakes up. Pulls back blankets. Looks around, worried. Steven hears SCRAPING, and DRAGGING of AXE sound. He looks at the foot of his bed. Nothing there.

**ALICE (o.c.)**

Steven... Steven ....

CLOSE UP on Axe, dragged. Then through the closed door, he see little ALICE, a young girl in simple dress coming through the door as a ghost.

**ALICE**

Steven. Wake up. Come and play with me. You can help me.

'Alice' looks like 'Alice in Wonderland'. Simple black and white striped dress. She's 10 years old, innocent clean face, a bow in her hair. Steven looks over his blankets, scared.

**STEVEN**

What do you want from me?

**ALICE**

Remember what your dad did to you? Well, I'm going to pay him back.

She walks up slowly to his side. Young Steven is covering under his covers, just peering over. She reaches out her hand and grabs his hand in hers. She pulls his hand and helps him to get up. He stands up, walks with her to the door. She walks through door as a ghost.

**ALICE**

Come on.

He releases her hand, turns and leans up against door, closing his eyes hard. He puts his face in his hands. He Starts to hear screaming. It's his family being killed by this axe murderer. He turns to face the door and slams his fists on it.

**STEVEN**

NO. Don't do it.

After another moment, it is quiet again. He pauses. He puts his ears to the door to listen. It is very quiet. Then he hears ....

**ALICE (o.c.)**

Steven. You can come out now.

He closes his eyes and grits his teeth, hoping that what he hear is not real. Then it is quiet again. He opens his bedroom door slowly, and looks into the corridor. No one there. He takes a big breath and walks towards the end room - his parents room. He opens the door.

**INT. PARENTS ROOM - NIGHT**

On the floor is a lot of blood that pools in front of the open door and then touches his feet, the going into the hallway. Steven feels dread. He steps into the blood pool and opens the door further. Its dark and he can't see much.

Alice is standing there at the foot of the bed with the bloody axe on the floor. He looks slowly around. Blood everywhere - on walls, on the sheets, dripping from the bed. He steps further in to look at the bed. Seeing his parents killed on the bed, he feels a bit nauseous and dizzy. He staggers backward to a wall.

Slumps down to sitting position, he goes to put his head in his hands, but they're covered in blood, dripping. He pulls them back from his face and looks at them in horror, then stares into space.

**INT. PARENTS ROOM, LATER - NIGHT.**

Red and blue flashing lights from police cars light up the dark room. We hear faintly the sounds of the police kicking down the front door downstairs. Then two officers move through the house and secure the premises, eventually coming upstairs to investigate with guns drawn. OFFICER BILL, 40, is ahead of OFFICER NICK, 25.

We hear them walk into the parents bedroom.

**OFFICER NICK**

Hey. Get over here. My god. You're not gonna believe this.

Officer Bill arrives too.

**OFFICER BILL**

What the hell happened here?

**OFFICER NICK**

Shit. There's a kid here. Keep checking around. Make sure it's secure up here.

Officer Nick goes over to Stevens side, kneeling down to look him in the eyes. He shines his flashlight in his face a moment. Steven is sitting against wall, blood in hands, and staring straight ahead - not responding. Officer Nick looks around with his flashlight.

**NICK**

No one else here! Whoever it was must have left.

OFFICER SHARON, 25, comes into room with gun drawn too.

**SHARON**

(shines light in

Nicks face for a flash)

Officer. I'm your back-up. What's going on here?

**NICK**

Just arrived to find these people murdered in their bed. This boy... was just sitting here. Must have came across them killed.

**SHARON**

Looks like this house is secured.  
Let's get the kid out, but don't  
disturb any evidence.

Nick nods, then looks over to Steven.

**NICK**

Hey kid. What's your name?

Steven is still in shock, looks at him blankly, and then  
back to staring at the bed.

**STEVEN**

Steven.

**NICK**

Come on. You can't stay here. This  
is no place for a kid to be.

Nick stands up, reaches out his hand to Steven, who rises  
to his feet without thinking.

**INT. LIVING ROOM , STEVENS HOUSE - NIGHT.**

Steven is sitting downstairs in living room with overhead  
light on. A few officers come and go upstairs with cases,  
and bags.

Steven's face is still in blood. He looks around in shock.

Dr. Grey, 30 yo., comes down the stairs with a medical kit  
for taking samples. He comes into the living room and  
addresses DETECTIVE FLYNN, 35, who wears a black business  
suit and tie.

**GREY**

Please forward a second print of  
all the photos to my office.

Grey hands him a card, and Flynn reads it quickly.

**FLYNN**

Alright Doctor... Grey.

**GREY**

I'll take Steven directly to the  
Sanitarium. He's in my care now.

Dr. Grey squats down in front of young Steven.

**GREY**

You can tell me son... Was it you?

Steven looks from the doctors face to the floor.

**GREY**

Why was there blood all over your hands? You know we're going to fingerprint the axe. Are we gonna find your prints on it?

**STEVEN**

It was the little girl.

**GREY**

What little girl? Your sister, Mary?

**FLYNN**

What do we know about his sister?

**NICK**

(checking his  
little note book)

We called some numbers. She's on a sleep-over at a friends house. Been there all night.

**GREY**

What little girl, Steven?

**STEVEN**

I don't know her name...

**EXT. DOCTORS CAR - NIGHT**

Steven is sitting in passenger seat of Doctor's car. Dr. Grey gets in car, and drives off. CAM on house.

FADE OUT:

**DR. GREYS OFFICE - DAY**

Young Steven, sits in the office without restraints in a nice chair. He looks over at the video camera pointed at him. In 1970, it was a big clunky camera and suitcase sized VCR - the same they had in schools.



**GREY**

Don't worry about the camera  
Steven.

Steven looks calmly over to the Doctor.

**GREY**

Steven? You know why you're here?  
It was your fingerprints all over  
the axe. Can you tell me... what  
happened?

Steven is silent. Looks up at doctor.

**GREY**

Saying nothing does not help your  
case. At the rate you're going,  
you're gonna be with us for a long  
time.

Steven finally has to say something.

**STEVEN**

Doctor. You gotta help me. It was  
a little girl, I think she was a  
ghost ... She came from the  
basement.

**GREY**

Basement?

**STEVEN**

I don't even know her name...

**GREY**

What do you mean came from the  
basement?

==== FLASHBACK SCENE ====

**INT. BASEMENT STAIRS - NIGHT**

Steven is sitting at the top of basement stairs in the dark  
- looking down the basements steps in horror. He crouches  
down low and looks under the door with his face lit by a  
horizontal crack of light. He looks into the darkness in  
terror, whimpering quietly.

**STEVEN**

Let me outta here.  
Let me - out - of - here.

DISSOLVE:

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - NIGHT**

In the darkness, we see Steven in a bed. He gets up and goes to the bottom of the door. There is a beam of horizontal light from outside coming in. Steven gets up real close and puts his eye right down to look.

INSERT - OUTSIDE door. We see his eye looking under the door.

**STEVEN**

(back inside)

Daddy. Let me out of here. I'll do my chores. I'll be good. Get me out of here!

He's ignored. No one comes to hear him.

FADE TO BLACK:

**INT. COMMON ROUND ROOM - DAY**

Young Steven is sitting in a chair in a large room with eight or so other insane patients. Most just sit in their chairs, drugged, but one looks like he's chasing a fly around the room.

CLOSE up on Steven, he blinks a couple of times and a tear comes out. An orderly, FRANK, 30, comes to talk to him.

**FRANK**

Steven, your visitor is here. It's your sister, Mary.

Steven looks and sees a young girl, MARY, 14 yo. She stands just outside the room as she's been instructed. Frank wheels the chair with Steven and takes him to see her.

Steven has a crooked smile and is happy to see her. Frank parks the wheelchair beside a bench in the corridor, leaves, and Mary sits down. They now have a bit of privacy.

**MARY**

Steven. I'm glad to see you. I hope you're doing well.

**STEVEN**

Hi Mary.

**MARY**

Steven. I know why you did what you did. Dad made you do this. I think we all hated him.

**STEVEN**

No. I never did nothin! I just got some blood on my hands.

**MARY**

It doesn't matter. You were pushed.

**STEVEN**

(shaking his head in denial)  
It was the little girl.

**MARY**

What little girl?

**STEVEN**

(looking down)  
Then you never saw her either...

**MARY**

Well I brought you some treats. Cooked them myself.

She opens a large napkin and reveals a few tarts. Steven sees Chris standing back down the corridor.

**STEVEN**

Hey. Chris came with you? Why doesn't he come over here?

**MARY**

Chris doesn't want to see you right now.

Steven keeps staring past her at Chris, who casts occasional glances at him. She watches him eat a tart, but she sees he's paranoid and worried.

**MARY**

Well. You take care of yourself.  
I'll visit again. I'll be here  
when you come out of it. Maybe you  
(CONT.) can come and live with me  
with uncle Gord's family.

**STEVEN**

But Mary. Without Chris ...  
without you... I'm all alone.

**MARY**

Sorry, Steven. I hope the Doctor  
can help you. I'll come again - I  
promise.

Mary gets up and leaves him there. As she walks away, young  
Chris follows after her, looking back in disgust at him.

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - NIGHT**

Steven is laying on his bed in near pitch dark.

**ALICE (o.c.)**

Hey...

Steven flicks his eyes open. His eyes dart around the room.  
He focusses on one spot and out of the darkness ALICE walks  
up to him, to his bedside.

**ALICE**

You notice? Chris didn't even want  
to see you?

**STEVEN**

He's just scared. Of you.

**ALICE**

Chris will just leave you here ...  
you know ... and there's nothing  
Mary can do for you here.

Alice goes around from one side to the next. She stops and  
smiles.

**ALICE**

You're on your own.

**STEVEN**

But you ... you're here.

**ALICE**

Of course. I'll stay with you to the end, Steven.

Steven is finally upset enough at this ghost that he shouts at her.

**STEVEN**

Why? Why did you kill them?

Steven looks back and she is gone. He looks panicked and worried and shuts his eyes tight.

**INT. COMMON ROUND ROOM - DAY**

Steven is in wheelchair in common room and wheeled up by a NURSE RITA, 35, next to a window to look out at the grey skies. Another nurse comes over and gives RITA a small paper cup with meds. She waits beside him with a small cup of water. RITA takes the cup with meds, turns and kneels down in front of Steven. She takes Stevens free hand, turns it over, and puts the meds in it. RITA turns to get the water from the other nurse.

**RITA**

Come on Steven. This is what the doctor wants for you. It'll make you better.

Steven looks over at his open hand, and slowly brings up the meds to his mouth. RITA gives him the water, and Steven drinks it.

**RITA**

That's a good boy. If you're not any trouble to us, then we'll give you no trouble.

RITA leaves and goes to next patient, a catatonic woman.

==== FLASHBACK MEMORY ====

**EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE, WOODSHED - DAY**

Big kid Mark is here with the two brothers Chris and Steven. They're walking together to the wood shed.

**MARK**

You know in the olden days, they used to execute people by cutting off their heads.

**CHRIS**

Wow. That would be horrible.

They stop outside the wood shed.

**MARK**

I've got another frog in here. He needs to be executed.

Mark opens the door. They see frog tied up on the center stump, and staked out by strings and small nails. Steven and Chris react like they are worried someone will see them.

**STEVEN**

What are you gonna do?

The three all go inside the shed and Mark grabs the axe.

**MARK**

Well, the criminal must be killed, and I want to see what it looks like to cut it's head off.

**CHRIS**

I hope you're a good aim. Don't let him suffer.

**STEVEN**

(wincing)

Think it'll make a big mess?

**MARK**

Yeah. It'll probably make a mess, but we'll get you to clean it up.

Mark lifts the axe over his head.

**MARK**

Here goes.

He drops the axe down, a little blood splats and hits Steven in the face. He cracks and starts to cry a bit.

CUT:

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - NIGHT**

It is dark in his room, except a little night light above the door beside the camera. Young Steven lies in his bed, in the middle of the room, crying.

He begins to hear a series of WET FLAPPING sounds. He looks to the barred window. It is raised up just a bit to get fresh air. He sees a frog leap up onto the sill, then several more, and they begin to jump down into his room on the floor. He hears this sound get louder and louder, so he closes his eyes tight. After a long while the sound stops and he opens his eyes, looks over at the window and sees no frogs.

CAMERA above the bed, the entire floor is filled with frogs. Steven hears a small croak below his bed, so he goes to the edge and looks at the floor. He sees them all down there.

Suddenly ALL the frogs jumps onto his bed and cover him. He fends them off with his arms but they cover him up. He starts screaming.

**STEVEN**

Get me out of here... get me out of here... I gotta get out of here.

**INT. ASYLUM CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HIS ROOM - NIGHT**

A nurse and two orderlies come running up to the room and unlock the door by a simple lever.

**NURSE**

Sounds like he's being killed in there. Open it up quick.

Orderly opens the door, they flick on a stark light and see no frogs at all, but his face is bleeding from scratches and he is looking at them with wild eyes in horror.

**NURSE**

We can't let him scratch himself.  
I'll give him this shot. You...  
give me a hand.

One of the male orderlies leave and the other holds down young Steven's arm as the nurse gives him a needle. Steven starts to calm down after the needle is pulled out. Then the other man returns with a straight jacket.

**NURSE**

I hate to do this, but he needs  
it. Let's get it on him.

They all three start to put the straight-jacket on him.

**INT. ASYLUM CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HIS ROOM - NIGHT**

The last orderly is just leaving the room and switches off the light and then closes the door. He leaves and goes down the hallway.

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - NIGHT**

Moonlight coming through the window on Stevens face. His face is not bleeding but some scratches are showing. He stares up at the moon and speaks druggedly.

**STEVEN**

Don't let them come back. Hey, you  
didn't close the window.  
(then shouting)  
You HEAR ME?

**ALICE (o.c.)**

I won't let them do anything to  
you Steven. I'll kill them first.

Steven's eyes go wide and look around the room quickly, not seeing anything. He shuts his eyes to make it go away.

**ALICE (o.c.)**

You can't see me unless I want you  
to. No one can see me except you.

**STEVEN**

I don't want to see you....



(then shouting)  
Get the HELL OUT OF HERE.

He curls up in some sort of ball on his bed and stares ahead. A tear comes down his cheek.

**STEVEN**

(quietly)

I don't need you as a friend. I  
don't need anyone.

Then he sees a shadow cast on the wall of a black widow spider coming down a thread. He looks over at the spider in the window.

**STEVEN**

Yes. Yes. A web will block the  
window. Keep them out.

He's not afraid of it. He smiles at it and laughs quietly.

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - DAY**

Morning. Steven is on the floor in his straight-jacket, sleeping, head on the floor. CAMERA PANS to his face, then hold.

EFFECT: We see his face change from 10 yo. young Steven to 30 yo. old Steven.

The door opens, an orderly JOEY, 25, comes in, we see his arms help Steven to get up from the floor.

**JOEY**

Come on. We'll get you out of the  
jacket if you promise to behave  
like a human - not an animal.

He helps dizzy Steven to stagger out of the room.

**INT. COMMON ROUND ROOM - DAY**

OLDER STEVEN, 30 yo. sitting in wheelchair looking out the window. The clouds are passing fast then slow down and STOP. Steven notices a dead fly on the window and reaches over to pick it up. He studies it.

**STEVEN**

Yeah. I think it's fresh enough  
for my charlotte.

He puts it into his shirt pocket.

It's a normal day, and orderlies carry blankets, one rolls an empty bed, and one comes to get a patient sitting and remove him from the room with a wheelchair.

ON STEVEN. Time becomes normal.... Steven's eyes change from lifeless to aware. He is finally out of his drugged state, for once. He looks around, wondering what he's doing here. He looks at the clock. It is 3pm.

An orderly comes over - DAN, 30 yo., he's frustrated at these crazies and doesn't have a lot of patience. He comes up to Steven, carrying a small paper cup to give him his 3pm pills. Steven takes them in his palm, puts in mouth and swallows water. Dan leaves, Steven spits out pills into hand, then puts them in his shirt pocket. Steven sits there in his chair and watches the orderlies give drugs to other patients. Steven watches his friend NATHAN, (30 yo.) get meds. Then Dan makes some wisecrack to JOEY, the other orderly.

**DAN**

I was just thinking that Nathan here would be a janitor if he wasn't here.

**JOEY**

Oh... he wishes. Nah. He'd be more like a security guard.

They both have a laugh at the patients.

SAME ROOM , LATER -

Steven is watching GAME show on the TV, which is mounted six feet up, and the volume is pretty low. He is studying everything happening, watching nurses at a central area behind glass windows for security. The men orderlies go in to flirt with them. Steven just looks back and forth at the TV, thinking.

DAN and JOEY come out of the glass windowed room and come to get two of the patients. Dan comes up to Steven, grabs his wheelchair handle.

**DAN**

Come on Steven. You gotta be hungry, let's go.

He wheels him down corridor toward the cafeteria. Clock says 5pm.

**INT. ASYLUM CAFETERIA - DAY**

It is supper time. Steven is wheeled into a medium size room with tables, already twenty others are seated at their tables to eat. Steven is placed in front of a table to eat, and watches as NATHAN is brought to the same table as him.

A FOOD SERVER, in white uniform, pulls up to the table with a rolling cart. He places two plates down and serves boiled hot dogs and potatoes. After serving Nathan's plate, the server leaves. Steven looks at his food, then the other patients there. He notices the women are all to one side from the men.

Most patients are eating. Some eat with their hands, one puts LOTS of butter on, and is chided by a nurse. One must have his food spoon-fed to him. A woman patient takes her plate and turns it right over, another spoons the potaoes into a glass, then pockets it for later.

Stevens observations are suddenly interrupted by Dan -

**DAN**

Steven! You aren't eating! Come on, dig in.

Dan leans down close to Steven, looking him in the face.

**DAN (cont.)**

You OK? You're acting different today.

Steven looks at him, says nothing, smiles, then digs in to his food. Joey notices and comments to Dan.

**JOEY**

Well if he loses his appetite... don't worry about it. More for everyone else.

Steven speaks clearly to DAN in between bites on his cut up hot dogs.

**STEVEN**

Excuse me. I'd like to see Dr. Grey. I think I'm feeling better.

This seems so strange to Dan that he is actually creeped out, and looks around at Joey. Joey shakes his head.

**INT. DR. GREYS OFFICE - DAY**

Dr. Grey, 40 is standing, looking out the window, when Steven, in a wheelchair, is brought in by Dan.

**DAN**

Here he is Doctor. He seems quite awake now. I think he's been somehow not taking his meds.

**DR. GREY**

(not turning)

Thank you, Dan. Please close the door for some privacy.

Dan leaves the wheelchair and walks out of the office, closing the door. The Doctor still doesn't turn to face Steven.

**DR. GREY**

I remember when you came to be with us Steven. That was quite a while ago. For all that time, I've only had interviews with you on your anniversary.

(pauses, and turns) So what do you wish to talk about today?

**STEVEN**

Well... I feel a lot better. I don't know ... like I'm noticing everything now.

**DR. GREY**

You've been taking your medications, right?

**STEVEN**

Well...

(then blurting it out)

I don't think I need them anymore.

**DR. GREY**

Your medications are important. It helps you to cope.

**STEVEN**

You sure I need them?

**DR. GREY**

You have had disturbing visions, memory loss, serious anxiety, and even angry outbursts.

**STEVEN**

I don't feel like I would do those things.

**DR. GREY**

What about Alice?

**STEVEN**

Alice? I don't think I have seen her for a long time.

**DR. GREY**

If you've really forgotten about her then that's a good sign. Maybe she's out of your life now.

**STEVEN**

I just feel - like I'm not dreaming anymore. You know?

**DR. GREY**

That's very good. Let me observe you for awhile. You know your sister is coming tomorrow. Let's see how that goes.

**EXT. ASYLUM GARDENS - DAY**

Steven is sitting outside the asylum on a bench, near his wheelchair. He looks up at the sky, listening to birds. When he looks back down, he has a euphoric vision.

==== STEVENS GARDEN VISION ====

**EXT. GARDEN MEADOW - DAY**

He sees that he's alone in a large meadow, similar garden plants, sitting on the same bench, but just no asylum in sight. From a distance he sees a young woman, MARY, 30, his sister walk toward him. She's wearing professional blazer and pants. She walks a ways to get to him, then stops, and addresses him.

**MARY**

Steven? The doctor said you seemed a lot better. I really hope so.

**STEVEN**

Hello Mary. I know you've been coming to see me. Can you tell me how long I've been here? The doctor won't tell me.

**MARY**

You've been here almost 20 years now. We've been waiting to for you to come out of your shell - your world.

**STEVEN**

I think I have. I remember ... how Dad used to be so mean to us.

**MARY**

It's so good that you remember. It's your first step to recovery.

**STEVEN**

I remember happy times we had together, Mary.

**MARY**

We did have some happy times didn't we?

**STEVEN**

And how has Chris been? I don't think he even came to visit me.

**MARY**

Chris doesn't want to see you.

**STEVEN**

But... I only have you and Chris.

**MARY**

What about little 'Alice'?

Steven looks at her, then looks at the sky. It is quickly becoming dark and cloudy. It becomes darker.

**STEVEN**

Now I remember. A little girl lying to me. Alice. Would that be you?

**MARY**

Steven - you're scaring me. I thought you'd forgot about Alice. She's just a figment of your imagination. The doctor...

Steven looks at the skies, they turn red. He looks up again, and when he looks down, he sees Alice standing in front of him.

**STEVEN**

It IS you - Alice. You fucking bitch ... You ruined my life!

Steven reaches out quickly and grabs Alice's throat. He chokes her and holds tight as she slips to the ground. The life in her fades away. He sees her finally lifeless in his hands.

Then his two hands are grabbed by an orderly's hands. Steven looks up and sees -

**EXT. ASYLUM GARDENS - DAY**

Behind him is DAN, the orderly, who has pulled Steven away from MARY, who is dead, lying on the ground. Steven staggers back and sits on the ground a few yards away.

**DAN**

Oh my God! Steven, what did you do?

Dan calls over some others to help him.

**DAN**

HELP! Call a doctor. Maybe we can revive her.

Steven looks and sees Mary. He is horrified at himself. He crawls to the stone bench and starts hitting his forehead on it.

**STEVEN**

NO, no, no, no...

The doctor, DR. GREY comes comes running from the asylum into the gardens and rushes up to Mary, kneeling beside her. He sees the red marks on her neck and quickly tilts her head back and blows air into her mouth for a few moments. Then he stops. She's still lifeless as he checks her pulse on her wrist, finding nothing.

He looks over and sees Steven, with blood on his face from hitting it on the bench. The Doctor is very angry with DAN, who stands right beside him.

**DR. GREY**

I can't believe it. This should never have happened. You DON'T leave a patient without supervision - for any reason. Damn it!

CLOSE UP on Steven, bloody face, tears in his eyes.

FADE OUT:

**INT. STEVENS ASYLUM ROOM - DAY**

Steven is in straight-jacket again, this time chained up against wall, and the bed is pushed up against a wall. The overhead light is humming, pulsing a bit. Steven wakes up from sleeping and looks around groggily.

CAMERA PANS around room, and second time around it is slightly different. It is a jail cell in a max security prison.

**INT. STEVENS PRISON CELL - NIGHT**

There is no daylight coming into this dimly lit jail cell. Steven stares at the room like it's a hallucination.



**STEVEN**

HEY! What's happened to my room?  
What's going on?

Now we see his DOOR. It is solid steel with a barred window near the top. There's a cover over it right now.

STEVEN struggles to get to his feet with the straight-jacket on. He goes up to the door and shouts.

**STEVEN**

HEY? I gotta see Chris. I gotta  
see him one more time.

Suddenly the cover over the bars slides to one side. We see a prison guard, DAN, same person as the orderly.

**DAN AS GUARD**

Shut up in there or we put a  
muzzle on you. Just go back to  
sleep. Tomorrow is your special  
day, psycho.

The door slides closed again. Then the light is put out. Steven is in the dark. He looks down and sees a sliver of light under the door, so he gets to the floor, puts his face right down, and looks under the door the best he can.

**STEVEN**

(whining, emotional)  
Sorry. I'll be be good. Don't lock  
me down here.

Behind him in room, we suddenly see ALICE, the 10 yo. girl again.

**ALICE**

Don't be such a baby, Steven.

Steven is startled at hearing this voice. He turns his head and looks at her frightened.

**ALICE (cont.)**

We did what we had to do to get  
rid of Daddy.

**STEVEN**

But Mom did nothing... why did you  
kill her too?

**ALICE**

She did nothing to help us.

**STEVEN**

She was scared of dad too. You ruined my life, and my family. But why? WHY?

Steven turns away from her and puts his head down on the floor looking at the light under the door.

**STEVEN**

Oh Mom. I love you. I'm sorry ...

He closes his eyes.

GO TO BLACK:

**INT. PRISON DEATH ROW CORRIDOR - DAY**

A corridor of 10 doors within a max security prison. Each steel door here holds a death row inmate. At each end of the corridor are large barred security doors, and security cameras. Two guards come to Stevens door. When they get to the door they look up at the security camera. They Guards look like Dan and Joey.

**JOEY**

Open up on six.

They hear the heavy CLUNK of an electric deadbolt being opened. Joey stands back and lets Dan past him, who enters.

**INT. STEVENS PRISON CELL - DAY**

Steven sits on the edge of his bunk, with a table in front of him. His food plate and water glass are empty.

**DAN**

Today's the day, psycho. How was your last meal? Steak, with a glass of wine even ... to be so lucky!

Dan looks at the table. He sees a fork but no knife.

**DAN**

OK. Give me the knife. Nothing you can do with it. JOEY - come here, Steven thinks we won't miss the knife.

Steven stands up and brandishes the steak knife. He circles around the table, becoming very agitated.

**STEVEN**

Don't touch me. How the hell did I get here? It's not fuckin right! Get way from me.

**DAN**

(shouts loudly)

SECURITY. We need another man here, and bring Steven a jacket.

Now Joey and Dan are crowding him into a corner. They wait until a third guard FELIX, 40, shows up at the cell door. Steven is distracted when he sees the white straight-jacket. Dan and Joey rush in, grabbing his wrist. The KNIFE comes very close to stabbing JOEY.

**JOEY**

Get a hold of him, damn it.

With FELIX's help they overpower him. Joey and him wrestle him to the ground, face down.

**DAN**

You fucking psycho. You're not going to ruin our day. It's back into the jacket for you.

They struggle with Steven but are able to start to get the jacket on him, while Steven screams 'NO' and makes a lot of noise.

**INT. STEVENS PRISON CELL - NIGHT**

Steven's cell door opens. Joey enters the cell. He holds down Steven, who is still in straight-jacket, as a male MEDIC is giving Steven a hypodermic needle. Steven sits balled up on his bed in the corner, looking around wildly. The medic finishes and quickly leaves the room. Steven starts to relax a bit, and looks blankly at Joey.

**JOEY**

That's a lot better, isn't it? Now you're ready to take your last walk.

Joey helps him to his feet, and exit the cell.

**INT. PRISON DEATH ROW CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Steven is escorted out of his cell, and met by Dan. FELIX closes the door behind them. Joey and Dan walk on either side and as they pass the other closed cell doors we hear shouts from other death row inmates.

**INMATE VOICE 1 (o.c.)**

See you in the next life buddy.

**INMATE VOICE 2 (o.c.)**

Don't worry Steven, it's your last day of bullshit from the MAN. You're free!

**INMATE VOICE 3 (o.c.)**

You're not crazy, man. It's the world that's gone fucking crazy.

Steven and his guards are buzzed through the next doors, then another set of bars slide open.

**INT. PRISON ELECTRIC CHAIR CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

ON Steven - he's being escorted down another hallway. He starts shaking his head and swearing under his breath.

**STEVEN**

This is a fucking dream. It can't be real. It can't be real.

They go up to the final door, which is open, and a doctor is standing there. They enter the room.

**INT. PRISON ELECTRIC CHAIR ROOM - NIGHT**

Dan and Joey escort Steven into the chair. After struggling a bit, they sit him down, strap his legs in, then undo his jacket arms and roll up his sleeves to put his arms onto

the chair arms, strapping them down. At this time Steven notices a window onto a darkened room. He can see people watching him, and his reflection in the glass.

Steven sees Dr. Grey, his dad, and mom.

**STEVEN**

Mom. I knew you were alive. I never killed you. And who's that you're with? Dad?

The guards leave the room and the door closes behind them. Steven notices this and then looks back.

**STEVEN**

(shouts to the ceiling)  
I can say something before I'm killed.

INSERT OBSERVATION ROOM -

Dr. Grey looks at Steven through the glass, then turns to look down at the others sitting with him. There are men and women who look similar to Steven's relatives, but they are strangers.

BACK ON STEVEN -

**STEVEN**

I have this last chance to set the record straight! I know I've done some really bad things. I killed you mom, and dad. But you must believe me - it was little Alice who made me do it.

(then starting to shout, agitated).

I don't fucking know who she is!  
I'm going to be killed and I don't even know who put me here!!

Suddenly electric current goes through him, and he convulses. The power drops down for a moment, as Steven is stunned. Then the power goes on a second time - longer and more powerful. We see some arcing in his gritted teeth, and he writhes and contorts. The power drops a second time. Steven slumps in the chair.

CLOSE UP - He is just able to open his eyes the last time.

ANGLE BEHIND chair, as we see the last surge of electricity go through him for a long time, reflected in the window glass. The faces through the glass are shocked and most turn away. The electric power is finally cut again.

FAST FADE TO BLACK:

**EXT. CEMETERY - RAINY DAY**

DISSOLVE TO GREY SKIES, TILT DOWN: At cemetery, small gathering of only ten people beside open grave. Dr. Grey is standing nearest the elevated coffin, ready to be lowered.

**GREY**

We remember Steven, a troubled child who came to us all those years ago, but was a good friend even to his fellow patients here.

PAN to see who else is here. Steven's father and mother are both here, comforting older Mary. Four other men patients in patient uniforms and borrowed rain slickers stand a few yards away, escorted by two orderlies, Dan and Jake. The patients are STEVEN, NATHAN, LARRY, 50 (a small guy), and HANK, 25 (a large guy). Dr. Grey steps back and addresses the family.

**GREY**

Any last words you'd like to make, you should do so now.

Mary is not crying but she's red-eyed and sad looking.

**MARY**

Steven ... wasn't dealt a fair hand. He was never really wanted, but he made what he could out of his life.

**MOM**

Don't say that. I respected him. But of course Chris was always the important one.

**DAD**

That's right, Grace. But you know he never listened very well, and ...

**MARY**

Stop saying bad things about him. It's our last chance to say something good about him. He wanted to be a part of our family - a good brother to Chris and me, and a good son to you two. I don't know why he went insane but we should still remember him.

**DAD**

I remember he tried to kill all of us - with the help of ALICE ... well every one EXCEPT Chris of course.

**MOM**

Only because of his hallucinations - his sickness. Most times he was quiet. I remember a pretty good boy before all this happened.

**DAD**

Yes, you're right Grace.

**MARY**

We can't fight here. Let's just make a little prayer for him and then we can leave.

Dad and Mom look to her questioningly. They don't have a prayer for him. So she makes up something.

**MARY**

(closing her eyes)

I pray to God that Steven can rest in peace. May the angels in heaven embrace him and welcome him. We are all sorry for the struggle he had in his life, and will always remember him for the good things he did. Amen.

Mary then puts her bouquet of flowers on his low-cost plain coffin and steps back. Grace and George do not have flowers so they remain back. Mary comes to them, turns to listen to Dr. Grey, who then steps forward.

**GREY**

We commit this soul to God. May he finally be at peace.

Dr. Grey steps back. The family of three turn and walk away slowly. Grey motions to Dan to come forward. Dan then motions the four patients to come ahead too. A rain drizzle starts, and we see Dr. Grey pull out an umbrella and open it for shelter. Dan comes up to him.

**GREY**

OK. Let's put him in the ground before it really starts to come down.

**DAN**

Yes sir.

Dr. Grey walks away as Dan and Joey get organised on the ropes to lower the coffin into the ground. They get one patient on each end of two ropes, and Joey and Dan get the center rope (three ropes in total).

**DAN**

Alright, LIFT!

The patients pull on ropes and the coffin lifts, and Joey and Dan remove the two heavy beams holding up the coffin over the hole. Then they grab the center rope too pulling it tight.

**DAN**

OK. Let's lower it ... EVEN! .. steady ...steady, keep it level.

The coffin goes down into the ground in a rainy drizzle, finally hitting solid ground. Dan and Joey instruct them to get the ropes out, and then they go for their shovels.

**DAN**

Let's get it covered up. With all of us, it shouldn't take too long.

**JOEY**

I'm glad I get extra pay for this work! This is not exactly gravy work.

**DAN**



Not easy for any of us.  
 (then to the patients)  
 Remember, you boys'll get extra TV  
 time and outside time.

**NATHAN**

I don't mind. At least I get out  
 of the SAN for a while.

Another patient puts his face up to the light rain,  
 smiling. CAMERA finally finds the last quiet grave digger  
 patient. It is STEVEN. He sees one flower on the ground  
 that fell out of the bouquet. He sneaks it into his jacket  
 so no one sees it. As he is kneeling, he hears a voice  
 within the coffin - it is ALICE.

**ALICE** (v.o.)

It's me, Alice. Don't forget me.  
 I'm the only friend you got. You  
 heard your family, didn't you?

Steven just shakes his head and gets to work.

**STEVEN**

You're not real. Just shut up.

He looks out in the distance and sees his dad, mom and  
 sister under umbrella going into their cars. Dr. Grey goes  
 to Mary and gives her a hug.

**INT. MORGUE HALLWAY , ASYLUM - DAY**

Steven is the last of all the workers entering the Asylum  
 out of the rain. This lower back door, goes directly to the  
 Morgue - where the doctors can examine patients who've  
 died.

He closes the door behind him, walks down a short corridor  
 following the others to the examination room.

**INT. MORGUE EXAM ROOM , ASYLUM - DAY**

Steven enters with four inmates and two orderlies. He pulls  
 back his rain hood. There are four large body drawers here,  
 inset along one wall. This room is cool.

There is a body in the center of the room with a sheet over it. No one else seems to notice it as they all leave out the doors. Steven finds himself alone. He MUST look at the body.

Steven goes slowly to the body and reaches out to lift the sheet. He sees Mary lying here (with slip), and her face is almost blue.

**STEVEN**

Mary! I always loved you. You're  
the only one who really knew me.

But just then the body sits up. He stops in fear. He trembles and backs up. She turns her head to face him. She opens her eyes and looks at him in sadness.

**MARY**

If you love me, why did you kill  
me?

**STEVEN**

It didn't ... it was ALICE!

==== SNAP BACK to reality ====

In MORGUE EXAM ROOM, Steven is with the others here with Dan and Joey. They have removed their rain slickers, hung them up on pegs and are ready to go upstairs.

**JOEY**

Good job. You boys did good. We'll  
give you extra TV time tonight.  
Now let's get upstairs - it's  
supper time.

Steven sees ALICE nearby.

**ALICE**

This is your chance to kill him.  
Do it!

Steven gets a shovel from leaning against the wall and runs up to DAN and smashes him in the head with it. Dan goes down, presumably dead. Joey looks at him in fear...

**JOEY**

Steven! What the hell are you doing??

==== SNAP BACK to reality again ====

Steven has his hand on shovel, and puts it against the wall. He looks over, Alice is nowhere around, so he follows the others out the door.

**INT. CAFETERIA , SPECIAL SUPPER - EVENING**

Steven is sitting quietly with the three others, ready for supper. Him and the others are all brought their pills first. Steven's given his pills and he takes them and drinks them down with water. Then they bring steak for the four special patients.

**JOEY**

This is our thanks for your special work today. Dig in.

**NATHAN**

This is great. I'll be getting more TV time too - my special shows, you know.

**STEVEN**

Hardly ever get steak. I feel like the president.

The two other patients are LARRY, 50, a small guy, and HANK, 25, a large guy.

**LARRY**

Ahhh. Meat! I feel like a wolf!

**HANK**

(neurotic)

You should be careful not to eat too fast. You could choke.

Hank eats slowly and carefully, While Larry gobbles it down, smiling.

**LARRY**

It's like our last meal!

**STEVEN**

No way! No way! It is NOT the last meal.

**LARRY**

OK, Steven. It's just an expression.  
(laughing)  
What's with you? You crazy?

Steven glares at him a bit, frowning, but the others laugh at the joke, with strange expressions.

When the meal is over, two servers come and pick up their plates. CLOSE UP on Stevens empty plate, a fork and spoon - no KNIFE. Then Joey comes over with a wheelchair. He sets it aside to get Steven to his feet.

**JOEY**

You did good today. You're gonna be a good patient here. Come on. I'll take you to your room.

**STEVEN**

I want to walk.

**JOEY**

(a bit surprised)  
OK. A little exercise is good.  
Let's go.

The two of them leave as DAN comes to the table and helps Nathan to the wheelchair.

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - EVENING**

Steven is laying on his bed looking up. He pulls out the flower from earlier. He looks at it smiling.

**STEVEN**

I love you, Mary.

Suddenly he hears the voice of Mary, mockingly.

**MARY**

I love you too, Steven.

Steven is shocked and sits up suddenly. He sees her across the room, sitting in the chair. She is white and ghostly.

**STEVEN**

What do you want? Get out!

Steven stands up, angrily shouting at her, as she sits smiling.

**STEVEN**

You're ALICE, aren't you?

Back to where mary was sitting, she's change to Alice now.

**ALICE**

I told you I'll be with you to the end.

OUTSIDE CORRIDOR - From outside the room, Joey hears this:

**STEVEN (o.c.)**

I DON'T WANT YOU HERE! GET OUT you little bitch.

Joey comes up and unlatches the door to enter.

**INSIDE STEVEN'S ROOM -****ALICE**

You know I want you to be free.  
The only way is to kill them  
before they get to you.

**STEVEN**

No more KILLING! I want to go home!  
I want to go home!

Joey enters, looks around and sees only Steven here, talking to himself. Joey comes up to him...

**JOEY**

Come on Steven. Just settle down for the night.

As Joey reaches for him, Steven whips out a dinner steak knife. Joey sees it and reacts too slow. Steven stabs Joey in the gut, leaving the knife there. Joey reels back, looking at the knife in his gut. The room spins for him as he staggers back towards the door.

DAN now enter the room and helps support Joey as he's backing up. Joey leans against a wall and Dan sees the knife handle too.

**DAN**

(shouting into  
the corridor)

HELP! Help! We need help here.

The two of them back up out of the door, as Steven stares in confusion at why they are acting so scared of him. Dan gets the door shut, and latched. Steven hears a commotion outside his door. He looks over at Alice, standing back in the shadows.

**STEVEN**

See what you made me do? You  
always get me into trouble.

**ALICE**

I only help you to do what you  
already want to do. What you need  
to do.

Then the door opens again. DAN and another orderly, DEREK, 20, enter with a straight-jacket in their hand.

**DAN**

Steven? You were doing so good.  
Now you'll never get out!

**ALICE**

(to one side)

You didn't kill him. How are you  
gonna get out of here unless you  
kill them?

**STEVEN**

(talking to no one)

They might let me out! They could!  
I just gotta show them I'm not  
crazy!

**DEREK**

Come on. Let's get him tied up  
tight!

**DAN**

I'd say he's a prime candidate for more SHOCK therapy.

The two of them get Steven onto the ground, with a lot of force.

**DAN**

(angry, agitated)

Yeah. You fuckn' stab one of us?  
... you looney! You're gonna go  
get juiced up. That'll cure ya.

The two of them get Steven secured into the straight-jacket.

**INT. INSANE TREATMENT ROOM, ASYLUM - NIGHT**

Dan is here, looking out the window at the night, as the ambulance takes Joey away. He turns and sees Steven strapped in straight-jacket in a chair. The two are alone.

**DAN**

I hope for your sake he lives, you  
maniac. Now ... don't say a word.  
I'm gonna play doctor here.

Dan gets out a wooden box, opens it on a nearby rolling cart, and pulls out electric wires with clips on the ends. There's a leather headpiece, with steel buttons on it. He straps it onto Stevens head, as Steven resists.

**STEVEN**

No. Don't kill me. I'll be good.

**DAN**

I'm NOT going to kill you. It's  
just electric therapy.

**STEVEN**

No. It's murder. Why do you want  
to murder me?

**DAN**

It'll do you good. It's doctor  
recommended.

Dan takes a chin strapped mouthpiece and puts it over Steven's face to muzzle him, tightening it up. Then he

gathers each wire carefully and hooks a wire clip to an electrode on the leather skull cap, one at a time until they are all hooked up.

Then Dan goes to the wooden box, reaches behind and plugs it into the wall. A light goes on the front, showing amperes and volts on two lit dials. Dan puts both dials down to zero and then flips a switch that lights up a light indicating 'ON'.

**DAN**

Now you'll learn not to hurt anyone again. You hear me Steven? Are you in there? See how you can handle some of this....

Dan turns the dial and the sound of SURGING ELECTRICITY comes from the device. The indicators go up, and then Stevens face is convulsed, with his eyes shut.

**DAN**

Just a good jolt - not enough to kill ya.

Steven's eyes open after the jolt subsides, and we see red bloodshot eyes, wild and crazy. He tries to shout but the muzzle is locked up tight. Then the electricity is applied again. He jolts and shuts his eyes again. When he opens them a second time he's in another place .....

**EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE, WOOD SHED - DAY**

Young Steven, 10 yo. follows his dad to the woodshed. He stays at the open door as George goes inside and gets the axe.

**GEORGE**

I see you've kept it sharp. That's good, Chris.

**STEVEN**

I'm Steven.

**GEORGE**

Oh, Sorry. Just bring the largest stump you can find. Yeah. That one there.



Steven grabs a log, very heavy for him, and carries it to follow his father out past the shed and garage.

**EXT. CHICKEN COOP - DAY**

George stops outside the chicken coop door. He motions to Steven about the log he carries.

**GEORGE**

Put that down right there. Now I'm gonna show you how to be a man. Back in the old days when you wanted to eat chicken for supper you had to kill it yourself. Well, same thing today. I didn't get these chickens just to have eggs you know. Go inside there and bring out a hen. Come on, let's do this.

Steven goes inside and returns quickly carrying a hen in his arms.

**GEORGE**

Now, you can wring its neck or we can cut it off. I don't think you're strong enough to do either, so you'll just help me. I want you to hold the chicken down on that log there, and keep its neck down flat.

**STEVEN**

I'm not sure how to hold it.

**GEORGE**

Grab her really good by the legs. And hang on so she doesn't twitch.

Steven holds her carefully and puts the neck out on the block. He closes his eyes as George raises the axe high. The axe comes down and WHUMP. Steven opens his eyes and looks at the headless chicken spurting blood from its neck. He freaks out a bit and lets go. Suddenly the chicken is now twitching on the ground and blood spurts into the air, hitting him and his dad. George is angry with him.

**GEORGE**

I TOLD YOU... hang on to the fuckin' bird. Now you got blood on me ... and you too.

**STEVEN**

Sorry dad. I'll clean it up.

**GEORGE**

That's good. Maybe you'll learn to listen.

**INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

CLOSE up on Young Steven's eyes. PULL back slowly to reveal - he's 10 yo. and in his bedroom, sitting up after a bad nightmare. He looks left and right, and is confused. He lays back down to rest, looking up at the ceiling. The moonlight comes through. He goes through a few large exhales as he tries to relax.

He looks to the wall and sees a shadow of a large spider coming down a thread. It is a black widow spider. He's not really afraid as it is just at the window.

The he hears some muffled sounds coming from another room. Possible talking and a door closing. He starts to be a bit afraid. <TENSE MUSIC>

He decides to get up out of his bed, in his pajamas, and goes to his own closed door to listen. Now he hears nothing. He opens it to investigate and goes into the hallway.

**INT. HALLWAY UPSTAIRS STEVEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Steven pokes his head out, looking both ways. He then leaves the doorway to go to his parents room. BEHIND him, in his own room, we see another boy sleeping in his bed!

As Steven goes down the hallway to the last door, he finds it will not open. Then he hears his name called...

**ALICE** (o.c.)

Steven ... Steven.

Another door opens slowly (Mary's room), creaking. Steven looks back down the corridor. From the open door Alice

pokes her head out. She steps into the hall and drags the axe behind her, then lifts it up to carry it - and present it to Steven.

**ALICE**

Here you go Steven. Just what they deserve.

**STEVEN**

No! NO! You can't do this again. You're just a nightmare. Get out of my head!

Steven goes to Alice, pushing her back. She is able to be pushed, so he keeps pushing her back into her own room. She falls backwards.

**STEVEN**

Now I know what to do. You killed my parents before. I can't let that happen again. You ruined all our lives.

It is very dark here, but we see him choke the life out of her as she slumps to the floor. Finally, she becomes lifeless in Steven's hands. He releases her, sitting back on the floor. Then he falls over to one side and looks out through the window into the night.

**STEVEN**

I got you this time Alice. You can't hurt my family.

Steven closes his eyes to sleep.

**INT. MARY'S ROOM - MORNING**

Steven is here, sleeping on the floor. Near him is the body of someone dead. Steven's mom GRACE, 30, goes up to the open door and peers into the room.

**GRACE**

(shouting)

Oh my god. What happened here?

Steven wakes up at this shouting. He looks over at his mother, Grace, cradling a girl in her arms. He sits up on

the floor and then notices that the girl is not Alice but it is MARY, who he strangled last night.

ON STEVEN - He reacts in terror, realising that this time his parents are alive but Mary is dead.

**GRACE**

What did you do Steven? What did you do. My little Mary!

The Father, GEORGE, 30, comes into the room, glancing at Steven and then kneeling down to examine Mary.

**STEVEN**

I didn't do it.

**GEORGE**

Who else is here, you little creep. Why would you kill your sister?

He kneels down too and they weep over her dead body.

**INT. DR. GREY'S OFFICE , ASYLUM - DAY**

Young Steven is sitting in chair in this office. Dr. Grey looks at him sternly from across the large desk. This time a large reel-to-reel tape-recorder records the session.

**GREY**

Tell me exactly what happened.

**STEVEN**

I was sleeping - having a nightmare. I thought I heard a noise so I went down the hallway to my parents room, but the door wouldn't open for me. That was when I heard Alice calling my name.

**GREY**

Yes ... Alice - you told us that before.

**STEVEN**

She brought an axe. I don't know why, but she wanted me to kill my family.

**GREY**

An axe? (he checks his notes)  
There is no mention of any axe.

**STEVEN**

She had already killed both my mom and dad before... I knew she would do it. So I had to stop her - you understand?

Dr. Grey looks very thoughtful at this statement. He stands up and looks out his window.

**GREY**

You were the only one in the room Steven. You thought Mary was someone else and you killed her.

**STEVEN**

That's not true.

**GREY**

Until we get to the truth, you are a danger to your family, even society. The reality is that ... you'll have to stay here with us, until sometime in the future when you're actually cured.

**INT. DR. GREY'S OFFICE , ASYLUM - LATER**

Steven's mother GRACE, and father GEORGE comes to visit him. Young Steven sits in chair and sees them come in through the door. Dr. Grey shows them in and remains outside.

**GREY**

We're just outside the door, in case you need us.

Grace nods to them and they close the door after them. She comes forward to Steven, and sits across from him.

**STEVEN**

Mom. They're gonna keep me here.  
What's wrong with me?

**GRACE**

You're confused, son - having  
nightmares and don't know what is  
real and what is a dream. The  
doctors can help you.

George stands apart and looks at Steven skeptically.

**GEORGE**

Steven. I can't say anything good.  
You killed your sister Mary.  
You're a murderer now. I just hope  
they can help you...

**GRACE**

Just cooperate with them. What  
ever the doctor asks, try to do  
it. We want you home.

**STEVEN**

Thanks mom.

Grace looks to the dad, but he has nothing to say.

**GRACE**

Well, I guess nothing much else to  
say. Except I will try hard to  
forgive you ... for your acts,  
son.

**GEORGE**

You mean for taking away our only  
daughter.

**GRACE**

I can't say it.

Grace breaks down crying, and George goes to her. She  
stands and they go towards the door to leave. Steven sits  
not knowing what to say. Then something occurs to him.

**STEVEN**

Where's Chris?

**GEORGE**

What are you talking about? Why would Chris want to be here?

**STEVEN**

Because he's my brother.

**GEORGE**

But you killed his sister. He may never talk to you again.

The two parents leave the room and close the door. Steven sits there in confusion. He then hears a voice beside him. He looks over and there is young Chris, 11 yo.

**CHRIS**

Steven. It's me.

**STEVEN**

Why aren't you with mom and dad?

**CHRIS**

I don't want them to know I'm here. But I'm here for you. Me and ... ALice.

Chris looks behind Steven and ALICE comes forward, going past Steven. Chris puts his arm around Alice as if they are good friends.

**ALICE**

We'll always be with you Steven.

CLOSE UP - Steven in office chair, really confused and shaking his head. He sits back in chair and closes his eyes, and puts his hands over his ears to shut out the world. He starts to spin in the chair. Around and around a few times.

**INT. DR. GREY'S OFFICE , ASYLUM - 18 years later**

EFFECT - PAN the room to rotate 360 room twice - CHANGE from Steven 10 yo to Steven 30 yo. Steven stops the chair and takes his hands from his ears, and opens his eyes. The entire office is remodelled. He looks around as if he's seeing it for the first time.

Dr. Grey enters his office. He talk to Steven as he makes his way to sit behind his desk.

**GREY**

Steven. Today's your review.... I have a chance to see if you've made any improvement. Now, we didn't give you any drugs this morning, so we can see how your mental health is. I'm gonna ask you a few questions.

Dr. Grey sits and looks through his notes.

**GREY**

Do you know where you are?

**STEVEN**

State Sanitarium.

**GREY**

Good. Do you know how long you've been here?

**STEVEN**

No. Ten years?

**GREY**

Even longer than that. Do you know why you're here?

**STEVEN**

I think my family was killed.

**GREY**

That's right. Can you remember anything about that?

**STEVEN**

(lying)

I remember an axe murder, then my sister was strangled. I don't know what happened to Chris.

The conversation falls quiet.

**GREY**

We have no choice but to keep you here until you can come to a realisation of exactly what happened all those years ago.



**STEVEN**

Wasn't there a little girl? I think she has the axe.

**GREY**

Same old story, Steven. I hope for your sake that you'll realise that there was no little girl. You were the only one they found in your house.

**STEVEN**

There must have been someone else. Can't you help me find out who the little girl was?

**GREY**

We're done with that discussion. I'm not going to get into that with you again. You're still not ready to face what really happened.

Steven starts to get angry at this questioning.

**STEVEN**

What the fuck do you want out of me? You keep me here for all these years and it wasn't even me who did it!

Dr. Grey shakes his head - no comment.

**INT. COMMON ROUND ROOM - DAY**

Simple room with a TV set up on a wall bracket. Steven is sitting here looking out a window. There are six other insane people sitting in wheelchairs, and drugged to a catatonic, unresponsive state. The TV is on some re-run of a comedy show. He is wearing regular issue pajamas.

EFFECT: Steven looks out window at sky, the clouds in the sky travels fast and time goes from morning to night. Then the speeding stops, it is just sunset, and DAN comes to get him and wheel him away.

**DAN**

Steven. Must have forgot about you here. Come on. You must be hungry. Let's go get some food.

He wheels him down the hall. Steven is the last patient anywhere to be seen.

**INT. STEVENS ASYLUM ROOM - NIGHT**

Steven is laying down on his bed. He stares up at the light and camera there. While he looks up he then hears a CAT meowing. He's not sure of what he heard so he turns his head to listen. He hears MEOW again and hee looks to the window.

He gets up and goes to the window. He sees the big spider web here, so he does not ruin it. He calls out the window.

**STEVEN**

Kitty. Kitty.

From BEHIND him in the room he hears MEOW. He turns fast to see a tabby cat on the floor looking up at him.

**STEVEN**

How'd you get in here?

Steven reaches down to get the cat but it walks away.

**STEVEN**

Come here.

The cat goes under the bed. Steven kneels down to get it. He looks at it and he can see glowing eyes looking back at him.

**STEVEN**

You're just like 'Ginger'.

He starts to have another vision memory.

==== MEMORIES OF CATS ====

Steven and Chris are in the bedroom closet looking at the cat in a cardboard box.

**STEVEN**

Ginger's in there, with her kittens.

**CHRIS**

Dad says we can't afford to have anymore cats around here. Either we give them away or we'll have to kill them.

**STEVEN**

I don't know who can take them.

**CHRIS**

Nobody I asked wants them. Dad says that it's easier to kill them before their eyes even open.

**STEVEN**

I don't want to do that.

**CHRIS**

I don't want to either, but dad might lay a whippin' on us if we don't.

**STEVEN**

So what should we do?

**CHRIS**

I was thinking. We should call Mark over. He doesn't mind killin' things.

Steven reaches in and picks up one new-born kitten - it's eyes not open yet and it meows quietly.

**STEVEN**

Oh boy. Poor kittys.

**EXT. BEHIND WOODSHED - DAY**

Steven follows Chris who carries a cardboard box with the kittens in it. Mark comes walking up behind them.

**STEVEN**

Why do we have to do this?

**CHRIS**

That's right. Why doesn't DAD do this? I hate him for making us do this.

**MARK**

That's OK. I'll do it. My dad says for this job, we just use a heavy stick and just smack 'em hard on the head. That should do it.

Chris and Steven give the box to Mark who sets it down. They hear meowing. Mark grabs a heavy stick, and whips it a couple of times to make sure it's good and solid. The boys stand back as they see Mark pull out a kitten, and put it on the ground.

**MARK**

Sorry little guy.

Steven looks at Chris and they avoid watching. They hear a loud CRACK.

**MARK**

OK. That's one down. This isn't so bad.

They hear Mark pull out a kitten, then it cries, then a loud CRACK of the stick.

Steven and Chris look at each other and wince.

**INT. COMMON ROOM , ASYLUM - DAY**

Older Steven is sitting there remembering this. He looks down and talks to himself.

**STEVEN**

Poor Ginger. Poor kittys.

He looks out the window and sees the clouds are still, then notices that it has become quiet here. There is silence.

He snaps out of his thoughts, wakes up and looks across at everyone here. They are frozen in time. He gets up out of his chair, walks slowly through people, past the orderlys, nurses, and patients.

He goes to the nursing station, behind a glass window, through a security door, and gets up close to two nurses sitting there frozen in time. One is NURSE VANESSA. He focuses on their breasts. NURSE BETTY is wearing her outfit a little low-cut. He puts out his hand and grabs her breast. He then kisses her too. There is no reaction from her as she is frozen.

Steven changes his attention and looks to the security cameras and pushes some buttons to find his room. It says 'STEVEN - ROOM 10' on a label. There is nobody in his room. ON STEVEN's face - he is relieved. Then he looks to find 'COMMON ROOM' on camera. Everyone is still, and as he looks carefully he can see himself, Steven, there.

The vision goes spinning and we focus and zoom deep into the security camera until we see REALITY:

LIVE ACTION - starts again, and the nurses are looking through charts. Steven stands beside them, but he's invisible to them.

**BETTY**

Steven's a lost cause. Just like the others. Just keep giving him his medication.

**VANESSA**

I suppose the doctor knows best.

**BETTY**

Well, after all - we're only nurses.

Steven gets up CLOSE to their faces.

**STEVEN**

Hello.

But he's a ghost figure now. They have no reaction to him there and they just walk past him.

**STEVEN**

I want to know what's in the meds?

Steven goes back to the central round room that has windows looking out onto the garden. Dan and Joey are here. Steven is surprised to see himself in electric chair.

**STEVEN**

(to Dan)

Why do I get that chair? You're trying to kill me?

No one reacts to his comments.

**DAN**

I've had it with Steven's moods. I think he need a wake-up call. Time for an accident.

Joey looks over and laughs. Steven walks down the long corridor towards the office. Steven is invisible to everyone he passes - a nurse, an orderly. He comes upon an open door to Dr. GREY's OFFICE, and steps in.

**INT. DR. GREY'S OFFICE - DAY**

Steven steps in and sees Dr. Grey talking with his SECRETARY, HANNA, 25 yo., a mousy librarian type.

**GREY**

(to secretary)

Steven will stay here all his life. We can't release him - he's too dangerous.

Steven shouts loudly to the doctor, who can not hear him.

**STEVEN**

Doctor! DOCTOR. I'M HERE!

Steven backs up, unsure if the doctor may have heard him.

**GREY**

Hanna. Why don't you leave me for a while?

Dr. Grey looks into the air, and around him like he heard a voice. Hanna heard nothing and leaves, closing the door, leaving only Steven's ghost, and Dr. Grey.

Dr. Grey looks angrily towards Steven. AS he watches steven fades in like a ghost.

**GREY**

You can't be loose like this.  
Where's your straight-jacket?

Steven immediately has on a straight jacket. He is shocked.

**GREY**

And why are you yelling at me?  
SIT DOWN! And go back to where  
you belong.

Dr. Grey throws his hand out to PUSH Steven. And Steven is invisibly thrown backwards into a wheeled office chair. The chair is set in motion and it wheels backwards to the door. The door opens and the chair rolls backwards down the corridor all the way back to the round room.

**INT. COMMON ROUND ROOM - DAY**

AWAKE Steven is sitting in the chair with straight-jacket on, as his chair rolls up to a stop beside HIMSELF in this room. Steven looks over at drugged Steven.

**AWAKE STEVEN**

Wake up! You can do it.

AWAKE Steven struggles with his straight jacket.

ON DRUGGED Steven - he is calm, drugged, sitting in electric execution chair with his arms strapped. There is no head piece, and no wires, but AWAKE Steven is panicking.

**AWAKE STEVEN**

Don't let them kill you!

DRUGGED Steven starts to wake up. He looks at his wrists bound to the electric chair.

**AWAKE STEVEN**

They're gonna fry you ... again.

**DAN**

It's getting dark in here, can you  
flip the light on?

**JOEY**

OK.

DRUGGED Steven lifts his head up - and looks to the wall switch, that Joey is about to switch on.

**DRUGGED STEVEN**

Oh, God. Not again.

In slow motion , Joey goes to the light switch and flips it on. Drugged Steven in electrocution chair starts to freak out and convulse. Joey looks over and sees him shudder and have an epileptic fit.

VISION - Drugged Steven in Electric chair with wires from his head and body, getting zapped.

REALITY - Drugged Steven in WHEELCHAIR ONLY, with his wrists tied and bound is foaming at mouth and acting as if he's being shocked.

**JOEY**

What the hell is wrong with him? I just turned the light on.

Dan comes over.

**DAN**

He's having another episode. Looks like his mind is fried.

They both get to him and open his mouth to check if he swallowed something, they wheel him out of the room, to the well lit medical exam room.

**INT. INSANE TREATMENT ROOM, ASYLUM - DAY**

Orderly Dan wheels Steven into the room. A nurse is with another patient who is lying on the exam table.

**DAN**

Nurse? Vanessa? Should we get the doctor? He's had another fit.

Vanessa comes up and examines Steven. She's a nice girl and wants to be helpful.

**VANESSA**

I'll examine him while you go and get the doctor.



Dan leaves, and Vanessa checks him over with stethoscope, he's breathing but unresponsive but twitching. She opens his eyes and snaps her fingers and gets no reaction. She gets up to go get some supplies. He's left alone in exam room.

Then ALICE is here in the room with him.

**ALICE**

Don't you hate how they treat you?  
Like you're some kind of  
vegetable?

Steven has no reaction, staring into space.

**ALICE**

You can do something about it. You  
know you can.

STEVEN sees here and shakes his head side to side.  
Then Doctor Grey comes in.

**GREY**

Lucky for Steven here that I was  
working late.

Alice looks over the doctors shoulder. Dr. Grey uses  
flashlight to get a response in his eyes.

**GREY**

Steven, can you hear me? Are you  
in there?

Steven acts unresponsive to the world - catatonic.

**GREY**

He's had another system shock.  
Let's give him 50 cc's of metho-  
carbomal.

**VANESSA**

(unlocking a cabinet  
with bottles)  
Like talking to a carrot.

**GREY**

That's not true. He can hear us.  
We got to respect him, nurse.

The Doctor rolls back on his chair and stands up.

**GREY**

(to Vanessa)

I'll probably have to upgrade his medications again. Nurse, make a note to take a blood test first thing tomorrow morning when he's rested and without drugs.

**VANESSA**

(administering a  
needle to Steven)

OK , Doctor.

Dr. Grey leaves, and Dan enters the room to take him to his room. He comes up and slowly turns him in his wheelchair. To one side is little girl ALICE, still in Steven's world.

**ALICE**

It's alright Steven. You passed.  
They think you're still crazy.

Steven comes out of his dream just enough to swear at Alice.

**STEVEN**

(to Alice)

I'm crazy because of you..."

Dan hears that and looks around.

**DAN**

No. You're crazy because you talk to yourself.

**INT. STEVEN'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT**

Steven wakes up in his bed, looking around. It is dark, and some outside light comes in. He tries to move his arms and they are strapped down tight. He can lift his head, but can not see too much in his room. He tries to move his legs too and they are strapped down.

**STEVEN**

Shit...

Then he hears some strange SHUFFLING sounds. He looks over and sees a large Black widow spider. It's his old friend.

**STEVEN**

At least you're still here. I got someone to talk to.

He watches as it has made a web in a corner. The smaller male finishes working on the web, when the female comes and fights him - kills him and starts to eat him.

ALICE is in another corner of his room.

**ALICE**

It's kill or be killed in this world Steven. Do you want me to free you?

He looks over at her. He wants her to go away.

**STEVEN**

I don't know...

**ALICE**

Of course you want to be free.

She raises her axe high and comes toward him.

**STEVEN**

(terrified of her)

No! Don't kill me!

She comes closer and swings the axe hard down on him! ON LEG STRAPS - she misses and hits his right leg hard, cutting deeply.

**STEVEN**

(screams loudly)

Ahhhh! My fucking god!

**ALICE**

Don't worry. I'll get it this time

She hits the strap this time, and frees his right leg. He can hardly move it because it's bleeding. She goes around to other side... raising it high.

**STEVE**

NO!

She slams it down - this time severing his left leg off at the ankle.

**STEVEN**

(screaming)

FUCK! AHHH.

**ALICE**

Well, at least you're free. Now.  
What about your arms?

She comes toward his left side to cut his left arm strap. She raises the axe - WHAM! Cuts his left arm OFF!

**STEVEN**

AHH. Help me. She's fuckn' killing me. Help me....

==== SNAP TO REALITY: ====

**OUTSIDE CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Steven shouts so loud that the orderlys come running. We hear the door being hurriedly unlocked.

**BACK INSIDE STEVEN'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Dan comes in first. he sees him lying there strapped down, all in one piece, but freaking out and yelling. The other orderly DEREK comes right after him.

**DAN**

What the hell's going on Steven?  
Sounds like you were dying or something.

Steven looks at them in tears.

**STEVEN**

Oh, thank you. Thank you God. You saved me from Alice. She's a murderous little bitch.

Dan and Derek and the nurse BETTY get to him to console him as he rambles on.

**STEVEN**

She killed my family - and killed my sister, and now she's after me.

Dan has had enough of crazy Steven.

**DAN**

She's just in your head! Just get her out of your head - you crazy fuck!

Nurse BETTY sticks Steven with needle - more drugs. Derek holds him down as the needle goes in.

**DEREK**

OK take it easy Dan . Nothing we can do will help him - except more drugs.

Steven then relaxes and passes out of consciousness.

**DAN**

Looks like a good dose Betty. He should be out all night. At least he'll stop waking everyone up and upsetting the whole ward.

They leave him unconscious in his bed and leave the room. We hear it latched shut.

ON STEVEN - in shut up room. Black widow spider comes down on thread and lands on the table. It climbs up onto his chest, and then onto his face. He's unconscious.

CAM TILT UP TO WINDOW - Time turns from night to morning. Steven lies there in the morning, and we hear the door unlatched. Dan enters room, and nurse.

**VANESSA**

Strap him down and we'll get a blood sample. I'll help you.

Dan goes and pulls on the bed, wheeling it out from the wall. He reaches down and gets the chest strap, hands it Vanessa over sleeping Steven. When the strap starts to tighten, Steven wakes up a bit, looking around. The two quickly put a strap across his forearms. Dan tightens it.

**DAN**

Don't worry Steven. We're just getting a blood sample.

Vanessa gets out the needle, and jabs it into Steven's arm. Steven jumps and jerks, and looks over at his arm. He thinks he sees the black widow spider stinging him while they hold him down.

**STEVEN**

Oh. That's OK. It's only my charlotte.

The nurse looks over at Dan at his delirious remarks. She continues to take a blood sample in a vial. Dan walks around and helps her with a cotton patch and tape.

**VANESSA**

Thank you Dan.

Then Vanessa leaves. Dan starts undoing the straps.

**DAN**

I'm gonna let you up Steven.  
You're not gonna act up now are you?

**STEVEN**

No .....

Dan unties his straps, letting him loose. He helps him sit up in the bed. Dan wheels over a wheelchair for him.

**INT. COMMON ROUND ROOM - DAY**

Dan brings Steven into the round room to sit by the window.

**DAN**

It's your favorite spot.

Dan then leaves him there and goes to attend other patients.

Steven meanwhile looks over at his other inmates here. He sees NATHAN, 30 yo., in another chair. He tries a conversation with him.

**STEVEN**

Nathan. How are you feeling?

**NATHAN**

They don't want to play my show.  
And the nurses are trying to give  
me extra meds.

**STEVEN**

Don't take all your meds then.  
Just spit them out.

**NATHAN**

(defensively)

That's what I did! But they were  
watching...

**STEVEN**

I know. They're watching me too.

**NATHAN**

Quiet! They're listening. I think  
they're making my pills stronger.  
And I can't spit them out. They'll  
see.

**STEVEN**

Hey. I'll vote for your show.  
(loudly to nurse)  
NURSE. I want to see 'Price is  
Right.'

**NURSE BETTY**

You just want Nathan to get his  
show. Until he takes all his meds,  
he's not getting his show.

**STEVEN**

Sorry. She's ...

**NATHAN**

I told you to be quiet! Now they  
know.

**STEVEN**

OK. That's my fault.

They sit there together quietly for a while until the  
nurses leave to go to rooms. Nathan gets up out of his  
wheelchair. He goes over to the TV and reaches way up,

changing the TV channel to 'The Price is Right'. He comes back to wheelchair, saying nothing to Steven.

Nathan watches it for a bit, when a commercial comes on. He says to Steven (not looking at him):

**NATHAN**

You're gonna be in trouble.

**STEVEN**

That wasn't me...

**NATHAN**

I WAS you. They're NOT gonna blame it on me! You tell them... it was YOU!

**STEVEN**

It wasn't ANYONE. The show just came on.

**NATHAN**

(panicking)

There gonna think it was me. I'm going.

Nathan pushes his wheelchair and scoots out of the room. Steven sits there still watching the TV. Nurse BETTY comes back.

**BETTY**

Hey - who changed the channel?  
Steven?

Steven just sits there and shrugs. Betty goes up and turns the TV OFF. Then she goes after Nathan.

**BETTY**

Nathan! Come back here.

Steven looks worried for his friend and watches her go down the corridor after him. He is now alone in the room, except one other catatonic patient.

=====

HORSE VISION -

Steven is sitting looking around when suddenly the TV comes on without anyones help. It's a western movie. Horses and



shooting. Steven watches more and more closely, shutting out the world. All other sounds fade out. He sees someone leading a horse by it's halter.

ON STEVEN in his chair - he hears something more. All sounds fade but sound of the hollow echo of a HORSE HOOVES in hallway. Then he SEES a horse come around corner, looking at him only. It comes up to him sniffing in his lap for oats or something.

**STEVEN**

I don't got nothing for ya.

He sees something that marks it as special. It has a nice bridle. He watches as some other people come and go in this room. Patients and workers move from the nurses station to the washrooms, etc. , everyone walks around the horse - they don't see it.

==== REALITY: ====

- From DAN's view - Steven is in his wheelchair. And he is petting the air in front of him - as if there was a horse there. Dan looks over at nurse and motions to look at Steven.

**DAN**

Look at that - he's got an imaginary friend.

Dan comes over towards Steven.

**DAN**

Who's your friend, Steven?

Steven sees Dan walking toward him. The vision of the horse quickly fades out.

**STEVEN**

Nobody. I was just watching TV.

**DAN**

(warning Steven)

Stay out of trouble, you hear me?

Steven watches Dan walk away.

**INT. BATHING ROOM IN ASYLUM - DAY**

Steven is sitting in bathtub attended by DAN. Nearby is JOEY who is attending JERRY, 40, as he takes a bath. There are four bathing areas here, with simple screens between them for privacy.

**DAN**

You only get this every two weeks, buddy. You better appreciate it. I know I do. It's the only time you don't smell like an animal.

Steven is daydreaming, smiling, and sits there propped up. Dan hands him a sponge. He doesn't want to wash him if he doesn't have to.

**DAN**

Just wash yourself good Steven.

**STEVEN**

I can do it. I like to have a bath.

**DAN**

Just soak for a while Steven. You know... I don't know why we take have to care of you.

**STEVEN**

(repeating something  
he's heard before)

Because we can't take care of ourselves.

**DAN**

(irritated)

That's right. You're kinda useless. We keep you drugged so you won't flip out. Without drugs you scream like someone's killing you.

Joey is next to him with JERRY.

**JOEY**

Ah, don't worry about it Dan. The way I see it, they're kinda like big pets. Can't do much for themselves, but sleep and eat.

**DAN**

If the stupid doctors would do something about them...

**JOEY**

I'm sure he's doing his best.

**DAN**

Doesn't look to me like he's doing anything at all. The only way they get better is when they decide themselves to get better.

**STEVEN**

I want to get better.

**DAN**

I don't think you really want that.

**JOEY**

We've seen a few get better ...

**DAN**

So few. There's gotta be a better way for them. Think about it... would you want to spend all your life in this fucking place - just looking out the window?

**STEVEN**

You're swearing Dan. Are you mad at me?

**JOEY**

What can we do about it? That's just the way it is.

**DAN**

Don't worry about it Steven. But I wonder what you'd do if you really had a choice.

Joey finishes with his patient, puts robe around him. Patient JERRY tries to dry off a bit, Joey helps.

**JOEY**

I'm glad at least I don't have to bathe them all. With two of us it makes it a lot better.

**STEVEN**

Joey likes to help you Dan. So you won't get so mad at us.

**JOEY**

I'll help Jerry here get dressed and be back with the last one for today.

Joey helps him get dressed.

**DAN**

I think I'll leave Steven here for a minute and get my last one too.

**JOEY**

You sure that's alright? He won't hurt himself or something?

**DAN**

Nah. I'll just be a minute.  
(to Steven)

You're OK right Steven? Just don't move. I'll be right back.

Dan leaves, then Joey leaves the room. Steven is now alone. Steven sits up in the bath, then slowly slides into the water. And he stays under the water.

==== DREAM VISION ====

**INT. BATH ROOM IN YOUNG STEVEN'S HOUSE - EVENING**

Two arms reach into the water for him and pull him out. It is Young Steven, 10 yo. The arms are his mother's. He wipes away the water from his eyes and sees his MOM'S (GRACE) smiling face.

**GRACE**

OK Steven, don't stay under the water too long, you know how I worry.

Steven's is smiling and nods OK. She gets up and holds out a towel for him to wrap himself.

**GRACE**

I think you're ready to come out.

He goes to step out when he slips and accidentally goes back into the tub, splashing lots of water. Steven sits up catching his breath when his DAD shakes him. His father GEORGE is beside the tub, and grabbed an arm.

**GEORGE**

OK. Get out of there. You don't have to soak me.

Stevens face is soaked and a little afraid of him. George stands up and puts the towel on the fuzzy toilet seat lid.

**GEORGE**

There's other people in the family want to take a bath tonight too.

Steven looks away from his fathers gaze, looking down. When he looks up again he now sees ALICE beside the bath. She speaks very meanly to him.

**ALICE**

You're still filthy. And you're disobedient. Get back under the water.

His legs are invisibly YANKED and he goes back under the water. She stands over him and holds him down under water. Steven look through water to see someone, we don't know who, holding him down into the water. He struggles, then finally becomes still. Camera over him under water.

SUDDENLY - Steven is alone in tub and he sits up out of water - a large gasp for breath.

**INT. BATHING ROOM IN ASYLUM - DAY**

This is one of Steven's moments when he's actually become aware or awake. He looks around catching his breath, trying to remember if it was real or not. He settles down and goes still. Dan comes back in with a new patient and also Joey with a patient for bathing.

**DAN**

How's your bath Steven?

Steven looks a bit around, but does not want to say anything.

**DAN**

Look like he's OK. Just sitting here.

**INT. ASYLUM CAFETERIA - DAY**

Steven is sitting in the cafeteria - eating some food slowly. He is distracted by the other 20 or so patients all eating. Steven is sneaking glances at them all. Some are pretty crazy, and some have to be fed with a spoon. Steven is disgusted by it, and doesn't have much of an appetite.

**DAN**

(surprising him)

Hey buddy. You gonna eat it up?  
Come on. I don't want to get  
behind schedule.

**STEVEN**

I think I'm full.

**DAN**

Good. Let's get going then.

Dan grabs hold of his wheelchair and wheels him off down the hallway, down to the lavatory. Dan turns and back through the door, then takes the wheelchair in backwards.

**INT. ASYLUM LAVATORY - EVENING**

Dan is leaning up against a wall waiting for Steven. He pulls out a small joint and lights it and smokes it, looking around to make sure no nurses or doctors see him. After a large exhale he talks to Steven behind the stall door.

**DAN**

And clean yourself up please. I  
don't want to come in and help you  
if I don't have to.

**INT. STEVEN'S ASYLUM ROOM - NIGHT**

Dan takes Steven back into his room, turns the light on as it's getting dark outside. He helps him get into his pajamas. Steven takes off his shirt and Dan gives him a Pajama shirt, and Steven puts it on.

**DAN**

Here you go.

**STEVEN**

(putting on shirt)

OK. OK. I'm a good boy.

**DAN**

Yes. You're a good boy. You know you got it made here.

Dan hands him his pants. Steven puts them on.

**STEVEN**

(smiling)

I'm all clean now.

**DAN**

Yes, all clean. Steven? Don't you have nothing else to look forward to? - You've been here forever.

**STEVEN**

I don't know ... what you're saying to me, Dan.

Steven gets into bed, and pulls blankets up to his neck.

**STEVEN**

(like a 10 yo.)

Leave the night light on please.

**DAN**

Steven, you know we always leave a light on.

Dan leaves the room, turns of the overhead light, and a small light goes on. CLOSE UP on camera. Dan then closes the door. As soon as it's mostly dark, Steven talks to himself in bed quietly.

**STEVEN**

Dan says I've got it made. Yeah. I got my bed made. And my pajamas are made. And my food is made.

He's closed his eyes for a minute. Then opens them.

**STEVEN**

Where's my Spider?

He gets up and looks all over the place. He comes upon the spider web with some dead flies in it.

**STEVEN**

Where are you?

Finally he sees the big black widow just beside the web in a ball.

**STEVEN**

Oh. Just sleeping? Oh yeah. I got some flies saved for you.

Steven goes to one side of the window and picks up one dead fly and then carefully places it in the web, shaking it a bit. He watches as the spider wakes up and comes over to find the fly. He's happy to help the spider.

Steven then hears laughter outside his door. He pulls up his blankets close around his neck. He's a bit worried. He listens harder, turning his head. He hears his name ... 'Steven' in the conversation, so his eyes go wider and he is curious. He then jumps up out of bed and goes to listen at the door, pressing his ear up against it. He hears only small parts of the conversation outside. Is he paranoid?

**VOICES (o.c.)**

Steven ... 15 years ... I know ...  
 don't you think he's incurable?  
 ... treatments for all patients  
 ... he'll never get out of here  
 ... what about depression? ... how  
 many suicides a year? ... Suicide  
 is real ... definitely not unheard  
 of ...

Suddenly the door is being unlocked. Steven then quickly goes back to his bed. The door opens and it is Doctor Grey. He leaves the door open and comes to sit near Steven, on



his bedside. He calls his name but Steven pretends he's asleep.

**GREY**

Steven? Steven? Listen. You ever think about ending your life? Do something for the rest of us, and then we can all have peace.

Steven opens his eyes and looks at the doctor. Dr. Grey has a large heavy rope and is tying it into a hangman's noose.

Then ALICE appears in his room off to one side. Steven looks over and is frightened.

**ALICE**

I think he wants you to kill yourself, Steven. That's not right.

**GREY**

You'll live to be ninety and still be insane. Why go on living?

**ALICE**

You can't give up Steven. I'll be here. I'll always be here.

**STEVEN**

Help me Alice...

**GREY**

I'm going to help you.

**ALICE**

Don't let him do this Steven.

**STEVEN**

Then YOU can kill him Alice. I won't do it for you.

Dr. Grey is a bit shocked at this statement.

**GREY**

You can't kill me Steven. I'm a part of you.

**STEVEN**

Alice will kill you.

**GREY**

There is no Alice. It's just you.

Then Dan enters the room. He has a big needle in one hand. Steven is worried, looking at it. The room spins a bit in anxiety of getting drugged. Dr. Grey hold Steven's arms down and Dan gives him the big needle. Steven goes limp but he is still awake.

**DAN**

It's such a shame. So much you could have done. But what happened to you? Just stuck here, drugged out, never getting better. When you're gone, the world will be rid of a useless slug of human flesh.

**GREY**

He's right. You've been nothing but a disappointment since you've been ten years old.

The rope is ready, and Dan loops the rope over a heavy hook in the ceiling used to lift patients. He struggles but gets Steven to sit up, puts the noose around his neck, and pulls it tight. Grey stands right beside them as this is happening.

**GREY**

Steven. Do you think you'll go to heaven or hell?

**ALICE**

Come on Steven. You can wake up - stop him. Shout for help.

Steven finds it hard to talk because he's being choked. He tries to gab the rope around his neck but it is too tight.

**STEVEN**

Why don't you kill them?

**ALICE**

It's not up to me.

**DAN**

Ever think about what it's like to go to hell? For someone like you -

a murderer - you're sure to go  
there you know. Killed your  
mother, your father, your sister.  
Now it's your time. You aren't  
worth living. We'll finally be rid  
of you!

Dr. Grey is standing back watching as Dan pulls very hard,  
yanks the rope, and pulls him up to stand on his bed.

**STEVEN**

ALICE! DO something!

Alice takes up her axe, raises it high above her head and  
runs at Dan, but she is only a ghost to him and passes  
through him. He does not even know she's there.

Steven starts to jerk, grabbing at the rope and Grey goes  
to help DAN to pull the rope up high enough that Steven is  
now suspended. There is real horror on Stevens face. His  
face turns red, he chokes hard and spits, and his eyes bug  
out. DAN and Grey tie off the rope onto the wall radiator.

**DAN**

Looks like Steven committed  
suicide.

**DR. GREY**

Just another minute and it'll all  
be over.

Steven gets weaker as he chokes and eventually his eyes  
flutter shut. He goes unconscious. The doctor and DAN  
leaves the room, with him hanging there, arms limp at his  
side.

==== MEMORIES OF PIRATE ====

**EXT. STEVEN'S HOUSE FRONT YARD - DAY**

Chris is pushing Steven to try to ride a bicycle. Steven is  
wobbling but getting the hang of it. They go up toward the  
house, and Pirate the dog is chasing them wagging his tail.  
Then Steven falls off the bike, hurting his hands on the  
dirt, and hurting his knee too. He has no helmet on.

**CHRIS**

Don't worry about it. That happens  
to everyone trying to ride a bike.

They turn the bike around and Chris starts to help him to ride toward the road, down a gentle slope. Eventually Steven's bike goes faster than Chris can push him, and he is riding on his own. Pirate runs along side the bike, barking. Steven sees a car coming down the road.

**CHRIS**

(yells to him)

CAR!

Steven finds it hard to stop, and glides down closer to the road. Finally just past their fence, he jumps off the bike and falls into some tall grass. The bike falls, and Steven stands up to wave to Chris as the car passes. The car has a loud radio playing and the man driving waves to the boys as he passes.

Then Pirate, being a tire-chasing dog, runs after the car, barking and snapping at the wheels. Steven calls after him, and so does Chris. They watch the car go a hundred feet down the road before they hear the YELP of the dog. The car does not hear and keeps going like he always has done.

**STEVEN**

CHRIS! I think he hit Pirate.

**CHRIS**

I'm coming.

They both run onto the road and run to where Pirate was last seen. Steven reaches the dog on the side of the road first. They see blood on him all over his hind quarters. He's still breathing and looks over to Steven. When Chris comes up he is out of breath and upset.

**CHRIS**

Damn it! Pirate. We told you not  
to chase the cars!

**STEVEN**

Oh my God. What are we going to  
do?

**CHRIS**

Remember the army movies on TV? We need to make a stretcher and bring him back to the house.

**STEVEN**

We can't leave him here though.

**CHRIS**

Yeah. You're right. Let's use my jacket, and we'll both carry him in it.

**STEVEN**

OK.

Chris takes off his jacket and kneels down beside the dog. He lays out the jacket on the ground and then moves the dog onto it slowly.

**CHRIS**

Come on boy. You can make it to the house.

**STEVEN**

He can't die out here.

They manage to get him onto the jacket. And then get ready to lift him.

**EXT. HOUSE , FRONT PORCH - LATER**

The boys walk the last ten feet carrying the dog in Chris's jacket. They take him beside the house in the shade of a tree.

**CHRIS**

Let's put him in the shade here.

They set him down carefully. The dog yelps and they then see his leg is really mangled.

**STEVEN**

He's not going to live.

**CHRIS**

I know. I hate to see him suffering.

**STEVEN**

What can we do? Should we call dad?

**CHRIS**

Yeah. With mom not home either, I guess we'll have to. You watch over him and I'll call dad.

Chris leaves and runs into the house. Steven is alone with Pirate. He's almost in tears.

**STEVEN**

Oh, buddy. Why didn't you listen to us?

Then up from the driveway he sees Mark come walking. He watches him for a moment, then looks to Pirate, who is now whimpering and laying on his side, shaking.

**MARK**

What's going on Steven?

**STEVEN**

Pirate ran after a car and was hit. I think he's gonna die. His wounds are too big.

**MARK**

Let me see.

Mark comes up closer and kneels down to look at him too.

**MARK**

Oh, yeah. He's shaking, and lost a lot of blood. WE should put him down.

**STEVEN**

No way. All you want to do is kill.

**MARK**

I like Pirate too. I just think he shouldn't suffer.

Then Chris comes out of the house with a rifle. He walks over to the shade and the dog.

**CHRIS**

What are you doing here, Mark?

**MARK**

Came by just to see what you guys were doing. Too bad about Pirate.

**CHRIS**

Well I gotta put him down. That's what dad says.

**MARK**

(to Steven)

See? I told you.

(to Chris)

You sure you can do it?

**CHRIS**

Yeah. He's my dog. It's my responsibility.

**MARK**

You gonna use that 22? Make sure you get him right in the head.

**STEVEN**

Shut up Mark. Just let him do it.

Chris pulls out a few long bullets and loads them in the rifle. Then he stands back a few feet and aims at Pirate.

**MARK**

You might miss like that. You better go right up to his head.

**CHRIS**

Just let me do it.

Chris then shakes a bit and has a tear in his eye.

**CHRIS**

(to Pirate)

Sorry old boy.

He pulls the trigger and BLAM. He looks down and the dog yelps but is still alive looking up at him, panting.

**MARK**

I told you!

**CHRIS**

OK! I'll do it!

Chris gets right up close, the barrel only inches away and then pulls the trigger.

Steven's reaction is shock at what he witnessed and he quickly closes his eyes tight.

=====  
VISION, DREAM OF HELL .....

**INT. FIREY TUNNEL IN HELL -**

Older Steven is standing in burning coals in a very long tunnel. He looks both ways and sees it go forever. He is at an intersection. He's in his hospital clothes and bare feet. He looks down, seeing the coals, and shouts :

**STEVEN**

Ahhh. That burns...

He starts running around looking for somewhere to stand. He's screaming.....

SPECIAL EFFECT - A FLAME MAN appears right beside him and puts his hand over Steven's mouth. This man is animated and made entirely out of flames.

**FLAMEMAN**

You can stop screaming.

Immediately Steven stops screaming. After the hand is taken away from his face, we see that Steven's mouth is closed over - no mouth at all and there is a red mark of a hand print over his face. Steven looks down at this feet still in flames - he panics but he is not burning up.

**FLAMEMAN**

You should have brought asbestos boots.

Steven looks back down and his feet are all black and grey up his knees. His pajamas pants are burned up to his crotch. He has tears in his eyes from the pain. He looks at his hands. His pajama shirt is also burned black up to his



shoulders. His hands are black and grey and charred up to his elbows.

**FLAMEMAN**

Don't worry. You won't just die.  
That would make Hell pointless.

Then his mother is suddenly in front of him. GRACE - She is a GHOST figure in white.

**GRACE**

Why did you kill us Steven? I always  
thought you were a good boy.

His father GEORGE arrives. He is also a FLAMEMAN, but we recognise his face.

**GEORGE**

I know why. You hated me. And now  
you've condemned me to Hell for  
eternity.

Steven can't say anything as his mouth is completely gone.

**GEORGE**

At least your brother and sister  
are still alive.

Steven tries to talk and is panicking. He brings up his hands to try to feel his mouth. He claws at it, but his mouth is gone. More flame men are coming to see him.

**FLAMEMAN**

Steven. You must be purified in  
the fire before you can go on.

Now Steven's mother's GHOST is gone, his FLAMEMAN father is joined by others. Steven looks down, and the blackness of burning has covered his legs and arms, and on his feet and hands are now grey ashes and flames start to grow out of these.

He takes his flaming fingers and tears away at his mouth space until it bleeds. He finally forces an opening and screams through it. "AHHHHHHHH". This gets him to WAKE UP.

**INT. YOUNG STEVENS ROOM - NIGHT**

Young Steven WAKES UP, sitting up sharply in his bed. He's 10 yo. again and sweating from his nightmare. It is unbelievable - he thought it was real. Then he hears the little girl Alice calling his name...

**ALICE** (o.c)

Steven ... Steven ..

He lies back down in his bed, covering his face with his hands.

**STEVE**

No, no, no, no, no... I won't let it happen.

He bundles up his courage and whips the blankets off, standing up, as Alice the ghost comes through his door.

**STEVEN**

I'm not gonna let you do it.

Alice stands there grinning with feigned innocence.

**ALICE**

I didn't do anything!

Steven walks past her, opens the bedroom door. He goes on down the hallway to his parents room to get there before her. He opens the door and calls out to them.

**STEVEN**

Mom! Dad! I had a bad dream.

He realises it's totally quiet here. Blood is all over the walls, and the bed.

**STEVEN**

How can I stop you?

He looks over at a person sitting in the corner chair in the dark. It is Dr. Grey, 30 yo. The doctor does not see Steven or react to him. He's just looking at the scene, making notes in a book. Young Steven shouts at him.

**STEVEN**

DOCTOR! DOCTOR!

We can barely hear Steven calling him.

**INT. DR. GREYS OFFICE - DAY**

Older Steven, 30 yo., is in the office with Dr. Grey, who is writing notes in his book, sitting in a chair. He is deep in thought, but he turns when he hears his name.

**STEVEN**

Doctor!

**GREY**

Oh. I'm sorry. (pauses)  
How come you couldn't stop Alice?

**STEVEN**

I tried to kill her and that still didn't help. It didn't change a thing.

**GREY**

You do know Alice is a figment of your imagination?

**STEVEN**

No. She's a ghost who came to me one day ... from the basement.

**GREY**

And what do you think about Chris?

**STEVEN**

Well Alice is evil, but Chris was always a good brother.

**GREY**

How come you haven't seen him for all these years?

**STEVEN**

I don't know. You think he hates me? If I could only tell him, it wasn't me. And what do you really know about my family, Doc?

**GREY**

You tell me about your family, Steven. I want to know.

==== ABUSIVE FATHER VISION ====

**INT. YOUNG STEVEN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY**

**STEVEN** (voice over)

I remember one time when Dad was  
in a bad mood because he made a  
bad bet.

Steven's father GEORGE is watching TV sports on a Sunday.  
The mother makes lunch in the kitchen. The two boys arrive  
at the same time in the kitchen and Steven fights for the  
first chair with his brother, Chris.

Mother GRACE puts down two bowls of macaroni cheese dinner  
down and then goes for glasses of milk for them. She comes  
back and Chris has taken chair.

**STEVEN**

Get out of my chair, Chris!

Chris glares at him. Steven punches his arm ... he is mad,  
but grabs his bowl of food and takes it to the living room.

**INT. YOUNG STEVEN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Steven comes in and sits in a chair. His dad is here and  
watching football. [no remotes]

**GRACE**

Don't make a mess in there,  
Steven.

He eats his food quietly and watches TV. It is just at the  
end of the football game. He watches his dad get really  
upset when his team loses football.

**GEORGE**

Damn it! Those freaking losers.  
I've got \$50 on them. That's the  
last time!

George gets up and looks at Steven. Steven is scared of his  
Dad.

**GEORGE**

What the hell you looking at?  
Watch your cartoons then!

George goes storming out of the room to the kitchen. Mom comes in and changes channel to cartoons for Steven.

**GRACE**

Better steer clear of your dad today.

Steven sits and watches only a little TV cartoons before DAD comes back, upset with him.

**GEORGE**

Didn't I tell you to bring in some more wood? You lazy little shit!

Dad gets up close to Steven, and Steven winces to block his hit. GEORGE cuffs him hard a few times, then drags him to the basement door, and throws him down the steps. Steven pleads with his dad.

**STEVEN**

Dad. I'll go do it. Don't lock me down here. There's no light.

**GEORGE**

Just stay down there and shut up. Next time do your goddamn chores, you useless brat!

The door shuts and is locked. Steven rattles the door. He hears the door SLAMMED.

**GEORGE (o.c.)**

SHUT UP, or it'll get worse. Just sit there for ten minutes will you?

Steven is sitting on top of stairs in the dark. He turns to look downstairs and sees it is very dark. A little light comes in through the crack under the door. Steven gets down close to this crack to look at footsteps walking away. He starts to whine a bit in fear.

**STEVEN**

Don't leave me in here.

Then softly from downstairs he hears :

**ALICE (o.c.)**

Steven...

He turns and sees mostly darkness. From out of this we see the eyes of Alice glaring back at him - she has a cheshire cats grin and evil look.

**INT. DR. GREYS OFFICE - DAY**

**STEVEN**

That's when I first saw Alice.

**GREY**

That's better. Now we can move ahead Steven. So tell, me how does Chris fit in?

**STEVEN**

He was always there with me, and being the older brother, he got better things than me.

==== BACKYARD POOL DREAM ====

**EXT. YOUNG STEVEN'S BACKYARD - DAY**

Young Steven and Chris look similar but are not twins. They are in swimming shorts and they are with their mother outside in a wading pool and lawn water-slide. Steven goes to slide on the plastic strip, so he looks over to MOM (younger GRACE) to get her attention.

**STEVEN**

Mom! MOM! Look how far I can slide.

**GRACE**

That's great Steven. Now give Chris a chance.

Chris gets out of wading pool and runs to slide. He slides as far as Steven. They have a few long slides in the water and are laughing. These are good memories.

**GRACE**

That's great Chris.

Steven runs up to beside Chris and puts his arms around him to hug him.

**STEVEN**

Mom. He didn't go as far as me.

**CHRIS**

Mom. Can I ask Willy to come over?

**GRACE**

Sure. Go ahead.

**STEVEN**

(to Chris)

Why ask Willy to come over? Aren't we having enough fun... just you and me?

Chris noticeably ignores him. He goes out of the yard toward the neighbor. Steven goes to his mother to get her attention.

**STEVEN**

Mother. Watch me.

He slides in the water, but Grace is also ignoring him. Steven gets mad at his mom for ignoring him. He stomps over to her, and yells in her face.

**STEVEN**

Why aren't you watching me? I'm just as good as Chris.

==== LUNCH DREAM ====

**INT. STEVEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

Grace is making a lunch for her kids. Chris and Steven sit down at the table, waiting, kicking their feet, making faces at each other. Mary, 14, comes in and sits down too.

**MARY**

Hey Chris. Do you mind keeping Pirate out of my room? It's private.

Mom comes over and brings three bowls, putting them down in front of each of the boys. Two have tomato soup for Chris and Mary, but the one for Steven is empty.

**CHRIS**

What about for Steven?

Steven looks at mom.

**GRACE**

(answers Chris)

I'm glad you bring you friend with you , but I'm not going to pour out soup just to get cold.

**CHRIS**

Not just my friend, he's my brother.

**MARY**

The brother you always wanted?

**STEVEN**

Hey. I'm right here? What are you guys saying?

**CHRIS**

Just ignore her, Steven. She's jealous because she's got no one.

**MARY**

AT least the friends I do have, are REAL!

CHRIS looks down and eats his food. Steven looks at his bowl, stressed out at mom.

**INT. DR. GREYS OFFICE - DAY**

Steven is back with Dr. Grey in his office.

**STEVEN**

She didn't even acknowledge my existence.

**GREY**

Why do you think Chris got the lunch and not you?



**STEVEN**

I don't know ... because he's the favorite?

**GREY**

You still won't face the truth, Steven. It's YOU. You're not real.

**STEVEN**

How can you say that? I'm right here!

**GREY**

Your family only had one boy. And that was Chris.

**STEVEN**

You're trying to make me crazy doc. What proof do you have?

**GREY**

Very good proof. My name is Chris, Dr. Chris Grey, and you were my imaginary friend.

**STEVEN**

No .... NO! How can you be my brother? Why didn't you tell me?

**EXT. ABANDONED ASYLUM - DAY**

The scene changes from the modern office room to an old decrepit room in old abandoned asylum.

The office is dark now, walls peeling, desk broken down. Steven is a bit shocked looking at the scene. He looks over to see Dr. Grey, who is sitting at the old desk, also looking around. Then GREY puts his head into his hands.

Steven slowly stands up. He tries to get Dr. Grey to talk.

**STEVEN**

Dr. Grey? Doctor? Are you OK?

Steven backs up, still confused ... and he bumps into a wall. The door is open - it's broken down too. Steven goes to the open doorway and looks down the corridor - left and

right. We recognize the hallway of the Asylum but it is entirely abandoned probably 50 years now, with paint peeling, broken doors, broken windows, rats, graffiti, etc.

**STEVEN**

This isn't happening. This is another nightmare!

He looks back into the office and the doctor is gone! Steven sees the desk name plate turned over, and walks back in to turn it over. He grabs it, reading .....  
'Dr. Chris S. Grey'.

Steven is acutely aware now and walks through the entire place, exiting out the front door into a big field. He's all alone here.

**EXT. ROADWAY AT ASYLUM - DAY**

Older Steven walks down the abandoned roadway leading from the Asylum. He sees a big old-fashioned car driving slowly toward him towards the asylum. It is very slow and takes a while to get to him. He sees his mother and father in the car. It stops for him, and his mother puts her head out the window.

**GRACE**

So glad we found you. Get in Steven.

**GEORGE**

You've been gone a few hours now - you had your mother worried sick.

Steven opens the rear door of the car and gets in. The car does a U-turn and they drive down a forested road - the only car on the road. They drive up to a two-storey farmhouse.

**EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE, FRONT YARD - DAY**

Out front is a sign they pass that has written:  
'The GREYS'.

Steven is looking through the car window, worried about what he might see here. They drive up slowly. The house looks like it is in fairly good repair - windows, etc.

**STEVEN**

Where's Chris?

**GEORGE**

What crazy talk is that? If you don't know, then we certainly don't know.

**STEVEN**

And Mary?

**GEORGE**

Now that, you should remember ... your sister is living with her uncle now.

**GRACE**

What's wrong with you today? You run off where we can't find you, then you're talking about - Chris? Why are you thinking of him?

The car pulls up close to the house. The parents stay in the car while older Steven rushes out the car door.

**GEORGE**

Now get in the house - it's past supper time.

Steven goes up to house, opens the screen door, then steps inside. It immediately looks abandoned a long time, and vandalised.

He turns to his parents at the car, but the car is gone.

**STEVEN**

Dad? ...

There is only a field of grass where the car should be.  
< MUSIC >

Young Steven hears the BARK of Pirate the dog. He turns back to face the house and slowly enters through the broken-down front door.

**STEVEN**

Pirate? You there boy?

**INT. ABANDONED HOUSE, MAIN FLOOR - DAY**

He looks into the living room, kitchen, and sees graffiti, broken glass, damaged walls. He sees the door that leads downstairs. He is scared and walks slowly but decides to go down. At the top of the stairs, he pauses, looking down, then reaches out for a switch and flicks it ON. There is a dim single light in the basement now. Steven descends the stairs.

**STEVEN**

Pirate? You down there?

==== FLASHBACK MEMORY ====

**INT. ABANDONED HOUSE, BASEMENT - DAY**

Now it is Young Steven, 10 yo. who reaches the basement floor. It has many normal things stored here. Boxes, dress mannequin, bikes, shelves, christmas decorations, old windows, door screens, washer and dryer. Steven hears something click ... behind some boxes ... he goes slowly to the noise and looks behind a stack of boxes ... and sees a tabby cat. It looks at him and meows.

**STEVEN**

Ginger. Come here girl.

Steven picks her up, relieved and places it on top of the boxes to pet her. Then the cat looks past Steven and suddenly hisses like it sees a mean dog. Steven is immediately fearful. He turns slowly.

He sees ALICE hanging by a noose in the basement in the center of the room. Her face is white and grotesque and her eyes are bugged out. CLOSE on Steven. He's horrified. He turns away, closing his eyes. He is then touched on the shoulder! He opens his eyes and it is ALICE standing right beside him. She's grinning like it's a joke.

**ALICE**

Did I scare you?

**INT. BASEMENT OF HOUSE - PRESENT DAY**

Older Steven is standing at the bottom of the stairs in the basement. There is a single bulb lighting this area. Almost everything is gone, even the old gas heater is broken, some vents torn down. Some daylight comes through small ground level windows.

**STEVEN**

Pirate? You here boy?

He goes up to old cupboards here, most cabinet doors are graffiti painted or gone. On a top shelf he reaches up and finds nothing but some heavy dust. He turns and walks back to the bottom of the stairs. Then he hears a voice.

**GREY (o.c.)**

Ah ha! I thought this was here.

==== VISION , MEMORY ====

**INT. ABANDONED HOUSE, BASEMENT - DAY**

Steven looks back and sees the whole basement loaded with old junk. He has to walk around the heater to see Dr. Grey at the cupboards again. He has an old wooden jewelry box in his hands.

**STEVEN**

Dr. Grey? I mean Chris? ... is that you?

**GREY**

(looks over at him,  
frowning, puzzled)  
Steven? What are you doing here?

**STEVEN**

I was ... looking for Pirate I guess.

**GREY**

I was hoping I wouldn't see you around here any more.

**STEVEN**

But... I don't know where to go.

**GREY**

(studies him a moment)

I know. I'm sorry, Steven.

Grey grabs the box and walks past Steven, and up the stairs. Steven just watches him go. He turns and the VISION is gone. He's back in the basement of present day.

**INT. BASEMENT OF HOUSE - PRESENT DAY**

Older Steven walks up the stairs.

**INT. ABANDONED HOUSE, MAIN FLOOR, SECOND FLOOR - DAY**

Steven looks up at the stairs going to the second storey.

He goes up slowly, reaches the top floor hallway and looks into his old room first. He sees the walls with the same wallpaper, and old broken bed, and torn mattress that some homeless people have been sleeping on.

Then he goes down the hall to his old parents room. It too is worn out and torn, windows broken, but it has no bed. He does however see a small mirror on the wall. He walks up to it and sees himself: it is the younger 10 yo. Steven in the reflection. He puts his hands to his face, still unsure of what is happening.

**STEVEN**

What happening here? I'm caught in  
a dream. And I can't wake up.

He goes to the window and looks out onto the back yard. The sky is darkening and moving quickly. A wind picks up. He sees a large garage out behind the house - with newer plywood over the window spaces. He decides to go down to look, so he leaves the upstairs window.

**EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE , BACK YARD - DAY**

Steven is outside - he approaches the garage. It is locked up tight with three padlocks. He shakes his head. Then he thinks to check his own pockets. He finds a bundle of keys. They are marked 1,2,3 with a punch stamp. So he tries them and they match the locks. He opens them all, then checks the knob - it turns.

**INT. GARAGE, LIVING SPACE - DAY**

He opens the door, turns on the light and can see that someone lives here. There is a bed, small fridge, shelves of papers, small TV, giant water cooler water bottles, and several desks with papers all over. The walls are covered with pictures and articles - research.

Steven goes to look carefully at the printouts. First pieces he reads are about ALICE - the little girl. From 1908 - about a 100 years ago.

HEADLINE

"Little Alice Carter on trial for murdering her family."

HEADLINE

"Little Alice sentenced to hanging"

"Where is evil in our town?"

These have pictures of her in same dress he's seen her in.

Steven examines the wall further. He spots an old black and white family picture and spots Alice. Beside Alice in this old picture is a 10 yo. boy. He looks even closer... it looks like STEVEN. He turns it over to read the back: "Grace & George, Uncle Vernon & Auntie Gladys, Little Alice, Donny - 10 years old.

**STEVEN**

Alice's family? Then who am I?

==== FLASHBACK MEMORY ====

**INT. LIBRARY IN TOWN - DAY**

Older Steven is with Dr. Chris Grey in library archive room. They are sitting at a large desk with stacks of old archive newspapers. GREY is reading an article.

**GREY**

This is it Steven. Now we know what really happened to Alice.

Grey gets up and goes over to a photocopier machine. As he copies and carefully folds the paper and puts it in its place in a stack, Steven reads some articles already copied and beside Chris's side of the table.

HEADLINE : "GUILTY - Judge says hang her."

Steven looks carefully at the worn out photo, and sees a picture of their HOUSE all those years ago. It is STEVEN's house.

**STEVEN**

That's OUR house! Did you see this?

**GREY**

Yes. That's why this happened to us. We didn't know that we were living in a haunted house.

**STEVEN**

Haunted... by Alice...

**GREY**

Yes. (pauses) And you.

**STEVEN**

You mean I'm dead?

**GREY**

For a long time now.

Dr. Grey tosses some papers aside to find an article to show Steven. Steven reads it with horror in his eyes.

HEADLINE: "Family murdered - son suspected."

HEADLINE: "10 year old boy to go to Asylum."

HEADLINE: "STEVEN GREY - MURDERER or INSANE?"

**STEVEN**

If I'm just a ghost then none of this can have ever happened.

==== FLASHBACK ENDS ====

**INT. GARAGE, LIVING SPACE - DAY**

Steven changes from reading papers on desk to sitting on end of bed. He's back in the garage.

**STEVEN**

Then why am I here?



He puts his head into his hands for a moment.

**STEVEN**

This can't be real either. If I'm crazy, then why am I not back in the Asylum? Was that a dream too? Am I gonna wake up?

He lays back on bed thinking. Sees bottles of solution - made out to CHRIS GREY. He reads it : "To be taken intravenously. For hallucinations." He's talking to himself.

**STEVEN**

Yeah. I gotta wake up! Can someone wake me up? How the hell can I wake up if this is a dream? Maybe, I have to go back to sleep, that's why this stuff is here.

Steven picks up the solution in the pharmacy bottle. He sits up, picks up a needle from the tabletop. He loads it with the solution, and then puts it in his arm without any medical preparation at all. He closes his eyes, falls back onto the bed, pulls the needle out, and his arm bleeds a bit at the puncture. He then falls asleep.

FADE TO BLACK:

**INT. GARAGE, LIVING SPACE - NIGHT**

BLACKNESS

**ALICE (v.o.)**

Steven ... steven...

CLOSE UP - Steven's eye flick open. He looks sideways at clock. It is 12:13 am. He thought he heard something. He looks down the end of the bed and sees ALICE standing at the foot of the bed. He jumps from being startled, and then sits up.

**STEVEN**

Alice. You're just a ghost. A memory of the past.

**ALICE**

How do you know that?

**STEVEN**

Aren't you Alice Carter? You were hanged in 1918.

Alice says nothing. She looks lost now. Steven is sympathetic for her.

**STEVEN**

I'm so sorry for your family. They were all killed, you know. Just like my family.

**ALICE**

Don't feel sorry for me.

**STEVEN**

I don't think it was really you who killed them.

**ALICE**

Not me? Of course it was me. I'm a killer.

**STEVEN**

You know... your family was killed , and then you were executed by the court. But ... you never told anyone WHY.

**ALICE**

Do you want to know why?

**STEVEN**

Yes, tell me.

**ALICE**

There was... another, older spirit ... he visited me too ... warning me. One night he told me that my father was going to kill my mother and I had to stop him. Then I had to kill my mother and even ... my brother.

**STEVEN**

It's not your fault Alice. I forgive you.

**ALICE**

You do?

(tears welling up  
in her eyes.)  
You can forgive a murderer?

**STEVEN**

Yes. It wasn't really me who  
killed my parents either.

**ALICE**

You know your parents never were  
killed. This was just one possible  
life. A big dream. A nightmare.

**STEVEN**

What do you mean?

**ALICE**

I get a feeling it's almost over  
for me... and you.

Alice turns away to leave.

**ALICE**

I know now that I've been here too  
long. I must go, Steven.

**STEVEN**

Go to where?

Steven watches her fade away. He's almost sad to see her  
go. He looks to the bottle and wonders if he's still  
dreaming.

**STEVEN**

I still don't think I'm awake yet.  
Maybe I won't ever wake up. But I  
can end this.

He gets up out of bed, and walks to the front door. He goes  
out into the night.

**INT. OLD HOUSE ON FIRE - NIGHT**

Steven has two cans of gasoline in his hands. He goes  
through the main floor and pours gas in each room, then  
down the stairs. Then he walks up the stairs, pours some in  
each room, ending in his parents room. He discard the gas  
can, lights a whole pack of matches and throws it into the

gas on the floor. The fire catches and begins to light up the whole house, as the trails of gasoline go throughout the house.

Steven stands at the back window looking down at the open garage door.

**STEVEN**

The damned curse ends with me,  
right now.

Then Alice appears in the room with him. She steps close to him, and looks at him, holding out her hand to him.

**ALICE**

I'm sorry Steven.

Steven takes her hand in his. Alice was holding the axe behind her back. She drops the axe to the floor.

**STEVEN**

Come on. It's time for us to go.

They turns and are greeted by a FLAMEMAN, who motions them to follow. They walk right into the large flames, but they are ghosts.

CAMERA CRANE SHOT moves from axe to right outside the house, and pans to see the house completely in flames.

FADE TO BLACK:

**EXT. OLD HOUSE , BURNED RUINS - DAY**

It is the next morning. There are two firetrucks and a few police cars parked back away from the house. It is day and the house is now only smoking - we don't see any flames. Firemen are coming and going and carrying their axes and hoses.

From the road, a modern family car pulls in toward the house and parks near the police cars.

Dr. Chris Grey, 40 yo. gets out of the drivers side and his wife, DIANE, 35, also comes out. Grey steps a bit forward and waits for her, then they go together toward the old burned down house. GREY walks up to a detective who sees him and greets him.

**DET.**

You must be Dr. Grey?

**GREY**

Yes. Oh, and this is my wife.  
(the detective nods to her)  
Wow. It's pretty much gone.

**DET.**

We thought you'd want to come out to see it for yourself. The investigator over there says it was probably vandals. You know this old house of yours has been condemned for a long time now.

**GREY**

Yes. I just didn't know what to do with it.

**DET.**

Well, now you don't have to decide. But you know you're insurance will have to cover this cleanup. And I'm sure the fire investigator will want to talk to you.

**GREY**

(leaves him)

Thanks Detective.

Dr. Grey and his wife stand to one side looking of the ruins. He's still a bit shocked at the sight.

**DIANE**

You OK, Chris?

**GREY**

Yes, fine. I think I'd like to go have a look around back.

**DIANE**

Just be careful.

**GREY**

Don't worry.

Dr. Grey kisses her quick and then leaves her there. He makes his way around the remains of the building, staying out of the firefighters way.

He goes to the back and sees the old garage here. The door is open. Out front is standing the investigator named CARL, 50 yo. Grey approaches him.

**GREY**

Hello. I'm the unfortunate owner.

**CARL**

Hello Sir. I'm Carl Shepard, fire inspector. When was the last time you were out here?

**GREY**

Oh, probably about a year ago. I come out once in a while just to see if it's still standing.

**CARL**

You've seen the graffiti then? The local officers say it was a hangout for teenagers - who probably got their kicks out of vandalising it.

**GREY**

Yes. It was a sad ending to this old house.

**CARL**

You were raised here, weren't you?

**GREY**

Yes. But not the best memories.

**CARL**

What do you mean?

**GREY**

Well my father was pretty frustrated with working so hard and took it out on us.

**CARL**

What about the curse?

**GREY**

You know about that?

**CARL**

Yeah. Everybody around thinks it's haunted. Some say there's an old legend of a little girl who killed her family. What do you know about that?

**GREY**

I think we had some hauntings when we lived here too.

Carl changes directions with the questioning.

**CARL**

And what do you make of this garage. Looks like someone was living here.

**GREY**

Must have been someone homeless. Is it OK if I go inside? I don't know what to expect.

**CARL**

Yeah, sure.

**INT. GARAGE - DAY**

Grey enters the open door and sees the same bed, but the walls are not filled with photos and research. He walks into the run-down shelter. After looking around for a moment he sits on the bed. Then reaches under the bed instinctively. Carl notices this and is interested.

Grey brings out a wooden jewelry box. He shows it to Carl.

**GREY**

You think this is evidence?

**CARL**

Go ahead. Open it up.

Grey opens it, and sees some photos. Carl and he look carefully at the photos. They see the one with ALICE and STEVEN. Grey turns it over. It is dated 1918.

**GREY**

I remember these old pictures. I wonder where this guy got these?

Grey puts it aside and looks more. He sees newspaper clipping HEADLINE : "ASYLUM CLOSED after 60 years". He looks at the date and it is September 1970.

Grey looks over at Carl who is on far side of room. Grey puts them back in the box and carries it. Then he gets up.

**GREY**

I'll have to have this torn down too.

**CARL**

Probably the best thing. With no buildings here you won't have any more problems with vandals.

**GREY**

Do you need me any more?

**CARL**

I just need your contact information, Doctor.

**GREY**

Sure. You want to go back to the cars?

**CARL**

After you doctor.

They leave the garage.

**INT. PSYCHIATRISTS SESSION ROOM - DAY**

Establishing shot of doctor's private session room. Dr. Grey is here, relaxing in easy chair talking to the psychiatrist here, Dr. LIZ WARNER, a 35 yo. professional looking woman.

**WARNER**

Must have been strange to grow up in a haunted house.

**GREY**



Well, I don't think we really knew it was haunted for quite a while.

**WARNER**

So to get this straight - for my notes - Alice was the ghost of the little girl.

**GREY**

Yes.

**WARNER**

And where did Steven come from?

**GREY**

Well, in a way, I am Steven. My full name is Chris Steven Grey. I thought he was my pretend friend.

**WARNER**

So you were pretty lonely then?

**GREY**

Well, I think I was scared of my dad most of the time.

**WARNER**

OK. (writing)  
And then you found out that Steven could be Alice's brother?

**GREY**

I don't know if he was the ghost of Alice's brother, or a part of me.

**WARNER**

Maybe he was a part of you that you needed - to escape from your dad.

**GREY**

I think he was the part that I did NOT want to be.

**WARNER**

After all these years its good for you to remember, so you can finally put away your past. Maybe

Steven did a lot of your battles  
for you.

**GREY**

That's probably right.

**WARNER**

Do you think they're gone forever?

**GREY**

I think I'm done with the ghosts  
of my past.

**INT. GREY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY**

Dr. Grey comes into the kitchen to see how dinner is coming  
along. He kisses his wife DIANE.

**GREY**

Smells great. I'll go get Cailey.

Grey walks to the foot of the stairs and yells up.

**GREY**

Cailey. Come on down - time for  
supper.

**CAILEY** (o.c.)

Just a minute.

**INT. UPSTAIRS, CAILEYS ROOM - DAY**

Cailey is about 8 years old, and sitting at a small table  
having a pretend tea party in her room. She talks to her  
pretend friend.

**CAILEY**

Just wait here for me. I'll be  
back in a while.

Cailey leaves the room. CAMERA ON - doorway as Cailey  
leaves, then slowly PAN back to show the table with the tea  
party.

In the other chair, a GHOST fades in. It is another little  
girl, JEN, 8 yo., sitting there waiting. AS CAMERA closes  
in, she tries to grab a cup from the table but her hand

goes right through. She tries twice more, before she gets angry. Then she swats the cup, and it goes flying across the room. It is only plastic so does not break, but she looks surprised and then pleased that she could do that.

Her ghostly image fades out as she chuckles softly.

FADE OUT

END

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