

THE GHOST OF JOHN

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FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A thick forest. Sunlight flickers through the dense foliage. It does not reach the ground. Frantic footsteps.

GHOSTLY VOICES (V.O.)
Have you seen the Ghost of John?

A LAND SURVEYOR bursts through the bushes. He drops his clipboard, but manages to keep his helmet.

He trips over a rock and tumbles to his knees. He looks back into the woods. Twigs SNAP and CRUNCH.

GHOSTLY VOICES (V.O.)
Long white bones with the skin all gone.

He gets up and flees.

EXT. THE CABIN - DAY

He bursts through the woods. His truck idles behind the cabin. He runs towards it.

GHOSTLY VOICES (V.O.)
Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

He reaches for the handle. A hand darts out from beneath the truck.

He stumbles backwards onto the ground. A WHITE FACE disappears behind one of the tires.

GHOSTLY VOICES (V.O.)
Wouldn't it be chilly with no skin on?

He scrambles to his feet and runs towards the cabin.

INT. THE CABIN - DAY

He bursts through the door and slams it shut. Sweat drips down his cheeks. His breath is ragged, teetering on hysteria. He peers out the broken window.

Behind him, the shadows in the room thicken. They creep towards him.

GHOSTLY VOICES (V.O.)
*Wouldn't it be chilly with no skin
on?*

He turns around.

He SCREAMS.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

A van swerves back and forth on the winding road.
Heavy-metal music SCREAMS from the open windows.

INT. VAN - DAY

KURT, at the steering wheel, brash douche-bag, voted most-likely to commit a crime against nature, turns the song up. He bangs along on the steering wheel.

ANDREA, in the passenger seat, head of the class, would make love to a book if not for the paper-cuts, turns the radio off. She shoves her face back into her textbook.

In the back seat is VANESSA, expert hottie, slutty slut slut slut, slut.

VANESSA
About fucking time.

She leans her head against the window.

VANESSA
Now I can get some sleep.

Next to her is NICK, virgin till his death, which is about ten hours away. He peeks at Vanessa's thighs. Her mini-skirt rides up, exposing her panties.

She catches him looking. She smiles and adjusts - revealing more skin. He blushes and looks away.

In the very back seat, piled in next to video equipment, is T.J. He chomps on raw hot-dogs. His face turns red, he strains.

NICK
T.J.!

VANESSA
Oh! I can taste it! Kurt, roll down the windows.

NICK
It's so thick you could spread it
on your toast!

T.J.
(mock southern accent)
It won't me.

KURT
Are you kidding? It has the T.J.
brand smeared all over it.

Kurt thumbs the windows down.

ANDREA
Look, there's a gas station. We
should stop and fill up anyway.

She points to a dilapidated single-pump station.

T.J.
Good, I'm hungry again, I just
cleared some more room.

Everybody in the car GROANS.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

An isolated pump next to a rotting shack. An abandoned car,
a family sedan, sits on blocks. A white shirt hangs from the
antenna.

The van skids to a stop. Everyone piles out.

Andrea spreads a map on the hood. She uses her fingers to
measure the distance.

ANDREA
There's not another town for
ninety-something miles.

T.J. creeps towards the abandoned sedan.

Kurt pulls the nozzle from the gas pump. Squeezes it. It
HISSES stale air.

KURT
Shit.

ABANDONED SEDAN

T.J. tries to peer in through the windows. They are coated in muck.

He opens the door.

INSIDE THE CAR

A DEAD DOG stews on the driver's seat. Its stomach is shredded open. Rats chew on the bones of its unborn pups. Maggots spill from their mouths.

Vanessa steps up behind T.J.

VANESSA

What're you lookin' --

Vanessa SCREAMS and turns away.

Nick runs up to her.

NICK

Are you all right?

VANESSA

No, I think I'm gonna --

She vomits down the front of his shirt.

Kurt strolls behind a stunned Nick. Glances at the Dead Dog. Shrugs. *Whatever.*

He opens the gas cap on the sedan. He smells.

KURT

Hey, whad'ya know?

He ambles back to the van. Pops the back. He pulls out a gas can and a garden hose. Saunters back to the sedan.

Nick still stands there, covered in yuck.

Kurt siphons gas from the car.

ANDREA

Kurt, that's stealing.

KURT

From who, the fucking trees?

A Native American, RISING BEAR, clad in animal skin, face painted in ancient symbols, fat from the land, sits on top of the shack.

RISING BEAR

The trees do not own the bones of
our ancestors.

Everybody looks up.

T.J.

Where the fuck did he come from?

ANDREA

(to Nick)

Go get the camera.

NICK

Give me a minute.

ANDREA

Hurry, hurry. Now!

He runs to the back of the van. Chunks of vomit slop to the
ground.

KURT

Hey Chief, you want something for
this gas?

Nick stumbles back. He points the camera at Rising Bear.

RISING BEAR

Whatever you think is fair.

KURT

Hell, fair is free.

ANDREA

We've spent most of our money just
getting out here, can you cut us a
break?

Andrea peers up at Rising Bear. The sun blots out his form.

He points down at her.

RISING BEAR

You have willingly chosen to travel
out here? Out into the wastelands
of the dead?

ANDREA

We are doing a documentary for our
Folk Mythology class, this area --

RISING BEAR
(interrupts)
-- is corrupted by dark and ancient
spirits - to willingly enter their
domain --

He spits in his palm.

ANDREA
Can you tell us the way to the
cabin of the Ghost of... the late
John Butcher?

RISING BEAR
You need not search for what will
find you.

KURT
Okay, Crazy Horse, we owe you
anything?

Rising Bear stands up.

RISING BEAR
You owe only careful consideration
to my words... turn around and
leave. Right now, before the
spirits notice you have crossed the
veil between worlds.

His eyes rage with his words.

Andrea fidgets beneath his stare.

INT. THE VAN - DAY

Kurt jams his foot on the accelerator. The tires spin gravel
into the air. Nobody dares look back, except Andrea. The
gas station has been replaced with sprawling woods.

ANDREA
Strange.

NICK
What?

Nick wears the white shirt which had been tied to the
abandoned sedan.

She points out the window.

ANDREA

That gas station... it's gone.

KURT

*Have you seen the Ghost of
John/Long white bones with the skin
all gone?*

VANESSA

I hate that fuckin' song, I hate
this fuckin' trip, and I --
(points at T.J.)
-- fuckin' hate you!

T.J.

What? What'd I do?

VANESSA

You know.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)

(whisper)

Nick?

Nick turns away from the conversation. He looks out the window at the wild forest.

ANDREA

What do you think he meant by the
'wastelands of the dead'?

KURT

Hey, get it, I ain't turnin' around
'cause some Indian, hopped up on
peyote and fire-water, tells me to,
got it?

VANESSA

Seriously too, I can't fuckin' fail
this class, my dad said he would so
cut me off if I did.

T.J.

Yeah, it'd be a real shame if you
had to get a job like the rest of
us.

Nick blinks his eyes. An apparition of a LITTLE GIRL, long white dress, bones beneath her skin, floats through the forest.

VANESSA
 (to T.J.)
 I'm not anything like you.

ANDREA
 (to Kurt)
 I'm not saying we should turn
 around.

KURT
 Well, we're not.

Nick watches the Little Girl. Passing trees blot out her form, but she reappears each time - closer.

T.J.
 (to Vanessa)
 You're right, you're not.

VANESSA
 I know.

T.J.
 'Cause when I'm old, and my looks
 are faded, I'll have friends and a
 family and --

VANESSA
 (interrupts)
 -- keep dreaming, shit-wreck.

T.J.
 But you, you'll be alone with only
 your own rotten-ass soul for
 company.

VANESSA
 I could never be as ugly as you,
 and I am never getting old.

The Little Girl beckons to Nick. He puts his hand to the window.

T.J.
 News flash, bitch, everyone gets
 old, even li'l spoiled Senator's
 daughters.

VANESSA
 The rich don't grow old, we die
 beautiful.

T.J. scoffs.

KURT
 Hey, you two - cram a pair of
 dildos in it, will ya?

The Little Girl reaches towards the window.

LITTLE GIRL (V.O.)
 Nick? Niiii --

ANDREA
 Nick?

Nick shakes his head.

NICK
 Hmm?

ANDREA
 What do you think?

NICK
 About what?

ANDREA
 Should we go home?

He turns his dazed eyes to her.

NICK
 I think we already are.

The Little Girl peers in through the window. Her black eyes watch them all. Nobody, not even Nick, sees her.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

Kurt steers through the winding roads. Vanessa sleeps in the passenger seat. Kurt checks the rear-view. Andrea snores over an open book. Nick drools on T.J.'s shoulder.

Vanessa MOANS and readjusts - her shirt spills open. Kurt glances over, sees her tits. Vanessa MOANS again, she is having a hot dream. He rechecks the rear-view, everyone still sleeps.

He leans over... his fingers find the top button of her shirt.

T.J. snorts, shifts in his sleep. Kurt slaps his hands back on the wheel. T.J. resumes snoring.

Kurt leans back over. Opens the next button. Her tits are almost out.

THE VAN

drifts towards the side of the road.

Kurt licks his lips. Struggles with the last button.

ON THE ROAD

the van's headlights illuminate a TALL MAN. Rags for clothes, arthritic back, head twisted to his chest.

Kurt glances up at the road.

The Tall Man Throws his hands into the air as if to stop from being hit.

Kurt yanks the wheel and stomps on the brakes.

THE TALL MAN

leaps forward. His face contorts into twisted bones, serrated fangs, a gaping DEMONIC GRIN.

Kurt SCREAMS.

The van spins.

The Tall Man fades into the mist.

Everybody wakes up SCREAMING.

The van SCREECHES to a stop.

KURT

Shit, sorry.

VANESSA

Sorry? Fucking Sorry???

KURT

I, I saw something in the road.

ANDREA

What did you see?

Both the tires on the right side POP. Kurt YELPS.

KURT

He was, it was... nothing.

EXT. VAN - NIGHT

The group gets out of the van. The guys inspect the two blown tires.

KURT
Shit, shit, shit!

T.J.
You got a spare?

KURT
Yes, I have a spare, not two, you fuckin' twat!

Andrea holds her cell-phone up in the air.

ANDREA
No service.

NICK
It's fine, we'll just hike back to the station in the morning --

VANESSA
You mean the station that disappeared into fucking nothingness?

Andrea notices a path leading into the forest.

T.J.
Places don't just disappear, I'm sure it's still there.

VANESSA
You can be sure and suck a dick.

Kurt kicks the back tire.

KURT
You know, Vanessa, you're just a big cunt with an extra set of lips.

Andrea sees the path to a cabin. The cabin.

ANDREA
Guys?

T.J.
I've had it up to here with your tough-guy bullshit.

KURT
Yeah, tasty-cake, you gonna do
something?

Kurt rolls up his sleeves.

T.J.
You want some of my something?

KURT
Yeah.

NICK
This is not helping the situation.

ANDREA
Hey, guys!

She waves to them.

T.J.
You want some, you sure?

KURT
I said, yeah.

VANESSA
Hit 'em T.J., knock his cock
backwards.

KURT
Cram it, cum-hole.

ANDREA
Guys???

T.J. steps towards Kurt. They both put their fists up.

NICK
Just stop it, okay?

Nick jumps between them.

T.J.
Kurt needs to stop his fucking
yammering.

KURT
I'll yammer your goddamn jaw shut.

VANESSA
He's asking for it, Kurt, hit him!

ANDREA
ASSHOLES!!!

EVERYONE (IN UNISON)
WHAT???

Andrea points a trembling finger towards the path.

ANDREA
(poltergeisty)
We're here.

Fog hangs over the path, but the cabin is visible. Visibly fucking spooky.

INT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

The room is concealed by shadows. Outside, thunder RUMBLES. Heavy BREATHING fills the air. The door is kicked open. Kurt stands in the entrance. Out-of-breath. Breathing heavy. He drops his bags onto the ground.

KURT
Hello, soul-eating demons? We'd like a room for the night?

He cocks his head, as if listening.

KURT
What's that, you're hungry for pussy-starved virgins and syphilis encrusted skanks?

Kurt turns to Nick and Vanessa.

KURT
Enter at your own risk, ladies.

VANESSA
You're a fuckin' laugh riot.

NICK
Hey, it's about to rain, I can't get this camera wet.

Nick pushes past Kurt. Andrea and T.J. follow behind him.

KURT
Just like your itty-bitty dipstick.

Nick follows Andrea with the camera.

ANDREA
Stop, already.

NICK
Don't forget.

He taps on the camera.

ANDREA
Sigh. I know. Get the room first,
huh?

Nick scans the interior of the room; a fireplace, a table,
chairs, a broken window, a helmet... a helmet?

NICK
What's that?

ANDREA
What?

Nick flips on the camera lights. They illuminate the orange
helmet. Andrea kneels down and inspects it.

T.J.
Looks like a construction hat.

KURT
Fucking rock scientist. It's a Land
Surveyor's helmet.

Everybody looks at him.

KURT
What? It's what my dad does, did,
whatever - he's a drunk.

T.J. flips on a camping lantern. A dull glow washes over the
room.

ON THE GROUND

long claw marks disappear behind the helmet.

ANDREA
Shine that light over here, please?

Andrea runs her fingers over the marks.

VANESSA
What in the hell are those?

ANDREA
Something clawed the floor.

T.J.
Pro'lly just an animal.

Andrea pulls something out of the marks. She holds it up into the light.

ANDREA
An animal, huh?

Andrea holds a bloody human fingernail up.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Vanessa paints her fingernails. T.J. strolls in. He lugs a cooler. Andrea measures the claw marks on the floor. Nick fiddles with the camera.

Kurt squirts lighter fluid into the fireplace. He flips a match onto the logs. A warm glow fills the room.

KURT
Were you scared of the dark, Missus
Doubtfire, huh?

Kurt pulls a 357 revolver out of his bag.

KURT
Ssh, ssh, it's all right.

He rubs the gun with a dry rag.

T.J.
Kurt, what the fuck, why the gun?

KURT
Well, T.J., we just landed in the
guts of Hicksville U. S. of
pig-fuckin' A.

VANESSA
Hey, I think I know that song.

Nick whistles the banjo tune from 'Deliverance'.

KURT
Yeah, it goes - *Bang your sister/
Finger your kid/ Tie a stranger to
a tree/ Cornhole their bum until
they bleeds/ Yeeeeee-haaaah!*

ANDREA

But Kurt, I heard that's how you
like it?

Everyone in the room stops. They burst out laughing.

KURT

Look at you, miss stiff turns out
to have an upper lip.

INT. CABIN - LATER

The fire casts a dim glow over the room. Nick keeps the
camera on Andrea.

NICK

Andrea, tell us about the Ghost of
John.

KURT

Campfire and ghost stories... all I
need now are marshmallows.

T.J. opens the cooler. He pulls out a bag of marshmallows.
He chucks them to Kurt.

Kurt pulls out a flask of whiskey. He chucks it to T.J.,
who, in turn, drops it.

ANDREA

You've all heard the song, right?

VANESSA

I hate that fucking song.

T.J.

'Ere, 'ere.

He tips the flask and takes a drink.

Andrea opens the 'Folk-Legend' book.

ANDREA

Well, according to the legend...

EXT. 17TH CENTURY COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A man, JOHN BUTCHER, clad in monastic garb, his face hooded,
trudges through a lonely countryside. He marches towards a
village.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 ... No one knows where he was
 born, or what land he traveled
 from, but in the 17th century,
 every American colonist knew and
 feared the name of John Butcher.

EXT. 17TH CENTURY VILLAGE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A group of VILLAGERS mill about in the street. They stop and
 smell the air.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 Rumors blend with legend to obscure
 the truth, but one thing was
 certain...

The Villagers cover their noses and mouths.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 You knew he was coming.

A SKINNY VILLAGER coughs blood into his hand. The other
 Villagers back away from him. They look at each other.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 The air became vile and
 unbreathable.

Blood leaks from the Villagers' eyes, ears, nose, mouth.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 And the foul winds always carried
 some type of virulence or plague
 or...

The Skinny Villager pukes his organs from his mouth.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 A festering illness which would rot
 the skin from your bones.

The Villagers drop to the ground. John Butcher strolls
 towards them. A wicked smile on his lips.

EXT. 17TH CENTURY VILLAGE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

John Butcher stands amongst the dead and dying. Flames dance
 on the houses. The village burns around him.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 And as you would lay there dying,
 your flesh dripping from your
 bones...

He shouts in the street.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 He would begin to speak.

The Villagers writhe in agony.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 His voice would rise inside you,
 like a whisper, like a demonic
 chant.

People tear the flesh from their bodies.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 Torturing not just your body and
 mind, but your soul as well.

They rip their eyes from their heads.

ANDREA (V.O.)
 But all we really know about John
 Butcher, the Ghost of John, is
 this...

EXT. 17TH CENTURY VILLAGE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

John Butcher strolls away from the burning village. Behind him, flaming bodies contort in agony.

ANDREA
 When he left those towns, he left
 them burning.

END FLASHBACK

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

A log in the fireplace POPS. It startles everybody. They huddle together. Vanessa glances at the claw marks in the floor.

ANDREA
 And he left only bones.

KURT

Long white bones with the skin all gone.

VANESSA

Fuck.

T.J.

Is right.

ANDREA

They say this forest was once lush, full of life. That a mighty river once flowed through it, nourishing and sustaining life --

NICK

-- but, when John arrived...

Andrea shoots Nick a sharp look.

ANDREA

-- it disappeared. And the land slowly began to shrivel and die.

Vanessa WHIMPERS.

T.J.

When'd he die?

ANDREA

Who said he died?

T.J.

What'd ya mean?

ANDREA

They say he still roams the land, that he lives... in this forest.

A slow KNOCK at the door.

EXT./INT. THE PORCH/THE CABIN - NIGHT

SHERIFF BADLEY, glum and dumb, shivers at the door. He blows on his hands to warm them. He knocks again.

Kurt yanks the door open. He blindly jams the 357 in Sheriff Badley's face.

ANDREA

Kurt, no!

Sheriff Badley reacts. He steps out of the way, grabs Kurt's arm, twists it, and throws Kurt to the floor.

The gun CLATTERS on the ground. Sheriff Badley grinds his boot on the back of Kurt's head.

KURT

(muffled by the floor)

Sorry, we thought you were someone else.

ANDREA

It's not his fault, Officer. His parents were related!

Sheriff Badley picks up the gun.

SHERIFF BADLEY

Spit in vinegar, son, mine too. You calm?

KURT

(muffled by the floor)

Yes, sir.

He lets Kurt go. Kurt gets up, rubbing his arm.

SHERIFF BADLEY

Saw a light in the window... You kids out here scarin' yourselves shiftless?

ANDREA

We're out here for a class project.

SHERIFF BADLEY

Field trip, huh?

Kurt picks a splinter from his face.

NICK

Our van blew two tires, we didn't mean to trespass.

He shows the gun to Kurt.

SHERIFF BADLEY

I'm keeping this.

KURT
That's my dad's gun, he'll kill me.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Not with this, he won't.

Sheriff Badley puts the 357 in his pocket.

ANDREA
We were going to hike back to the station in the morning.

SHERIFF BADLEY
That's one hell of a hike, ain't no station for some ninety-miles.

He notices Vanessa, licks his lips.

T.J.
Yeah, there is, there's one 'bout three miles back.

SHERIFF BADLEY
You tellin' me my business?

T.J.
(mocking his accent)
No, I'ma justa tellin' ya tha truth.

The Sheriff steps towards him.

Vanessa steps forward. She puts her hands on his chest.

VANESSA
Wow, a real live Sheriff, huh?

He blushes, looks away. She runs her hands over his uniform.

VANESSA
(seductive)
Mister Sheriff, could you help some innocent little college girls out?

SHERIFF BADLEY
(flustered)
W-what'd ya have in mind?

VANESSA
Ooh, strong arms.

She rubs his biceps.

SHERIFF BADLEY
I do steroids.

VANESSA
I bet you could lift that whole van
if you wanted.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Fuckin' A, right.

Vanessa PURRS.

VANESSA
Mmm, we need that so bad, someone
to jack up our van, and ram two big
tires in it.
(giggles)
Oops, I mean on it.

Sheriff Badley covers his erection with his hat.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Cheese and rice.

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - NIGHT

Sheriff Badley glances back at the Cabin. Vanessa pouts in
the doorway. He thumbs the window down.

SHERIFF BADLEY
One hour, not a twat-hair more.

She blows him a kiss.

INT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Vanessa watches Sheriff Badley peel out. Everyone watches
her. She closes the door. Drops her act.

VANESSA
Fuckin' hillbilly hard-on.

T.J.
Shit wouldn't work on me.

NICK
Me neither.

They look at Kurt. He shrugs.

T.J.

Sellout.

ANDREA

You realize you are going to have
to have sex with him, right?

VANESSA

Naw, I'll just let him eat my ass,
I've been constipated today,
anyway.

Looks of horror, shock, disgust, and fucking eck! on their
faces.

VANESSA

Oh, that'll be a relief.

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Sheriff Badley speeds down the roads. He fidgets with the
CB. It CRACKLES.

SHERIFF BADLEY

Earl, you on the horn?

The CB HISSES.

SHERIFF BADLEY

Good goddamn, Earl, wake up! Call
down to the service station, tell
Sam to pull some tires for a --

The CB SHRIEKS.

SHERIFF BADLEY

Goddamn it!

He slams the mic down. He wipes his brow again.

SHERIFF BADLEY

(to himself)

Tom 'ole boy, you ain't doin'
nuthin' no-how, hear me? You're
gonna go home, fuck Doris, finger
Noreen, maybe find a stranger,
that's that.

He slows down.

SHERIFF BADLEY
(to himself)
Mm-mm, I'll bet she tastes like
chocolate.

He pulls over.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - NIGHT

He slinks out of the car, glances back and forth. He scampers towards the trees. Looks around again. ZIP!

SHERIFF BADLEY
Yeah... two-inches tall... to your
rim, baby!

His hand pounds at his waist.

A twig SNAPS.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Hello?

His hand slows down.

Behind him, A WHITE FACE hovers in the shadows.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Earl, that you?

His hand speeds up a little.

A large skeletal mouth opens. Sharp and ragged teeth jut from the jaw. The mouth hovers behind his head. It spreads wider and wider.

He turns around, hand still in motion. He sees the giant mouth. His eyes widen.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Wait! Wait! At least let me finish!

The mouth chomps down. It bites his head from his shoulders. Arterial blood plumes into the air.

His corpse tumbles forward. His hand keeps moving. Then slows. Twitches. Finishes.

INT. CABIN - LATER

T.J. watches Vanessa stare out the window. His hand moves at his waist. He sharpens a pencil with a pocketknife. He hands the pencil to Andrea.

She writes in her notebook.

T.J.
It's been three hours...

VANESSA
I don't understand.

KURT
He probably just didn't want to get
a touch of the HIV.
(pronounces H.I.V. like shiv
without the s)

Vanessa scowls at him.

Andrea finishes writing.

ANDREA
Nick?

Nick stares dreamily into the fire.

ANDREA
Nick?

Nick looks up.

NICK
Huh?

ANDREA
I want to finish the intro so we
can all crash, huh?

NICK
Yeah, sure.

He picks up the camera. Aims it at Andrea. The camera WHIRS.

ANDREA
(clears her throat)
The three omens of John.

She checks her notes.

ANDREA
 One... The stench...
 (to herself)
 Got that...

Kurt opens his mouth to say something. Andrea shoots him a sharp look.

She flips the page.

ANDREA
 The Tall Man. Servant of John.

THUNDER RUMBLES.

Kurt's eyes widen. He stares at Andrea.

ANDREA
 (reading her notes)
 Reported to manifest as an old man,
 decrepit, head bent to his chest...

Kurt steps towards her, in front of Nick's view.

ANDREA
 (reads her notes)
 Meant to detour travelers into the
 lair of John.

NICK
 Kurt, out of the way.

Nick looks back to the view-screen.

ON THE VIEW-SCREEN

The Little Girl steps out of the shadows. She stands behind Andrea. Nick blinks, lifts his head. Just Andrea.

ANDREA
 (reads her notes)
 Then, "The Little Girl." Ooh, truly
 the worst.

Nick watches the Little Girl smile behind Andrea.

ANDREA
 Hope we don't see her.

VANESSA
 W-wh-why?

ANDREA
 (reading notes)
 She marks the blood sacrifice.

The wind HOWLS.

The Little Girl beckons to Nick.

ANDREA
 (reading her notes)
 She lures the innocent victim to
 take their own life... enabling
 John to manifest in his true form.

She holds up a depiction of John. The room GASPS.

ANDREA
 (reading her notes)
 He feasts on the victim's soul,
 drawing vitality from their agony,
 strength from their suffering, and
 life from their death.

Nick focuses more and more on the Little Girl.

ANDREA
 (reading her notes)
 He enters through them, like a
 portal...

Andrea flips a page. She does not notice Kurt, T.J. and
 Vanessa huddled together. They do not notice it either.

ANDREA
 (reading her notes)
 ... Bringing with him the twisted
 wretches, unclean spirits and
 foulest of foul demons from his
 realm.

The Little Girl disappears.

Nick rubs his eyes - *Was she ever there?*

Andrea finishes reading.

THUNDER CRACKLES.

ANDREA
 All right, who's ready for bed?

INT. THE CABIN - LATER

The fire casts a dull glow over the room. The shadows spill out, flickering in a bizarre dance across the walls.

Andrea sleeps with an open book on her lap. A pencil in her hand, the sentence ended by sleep.

Vanessa languishes in a plush sleeping bag. Headphones blare gangsta-rap. A bottle of sleeping pills in her hand.

T.J. sleeps by himself in the corner. He mumbles in his sleep, scratches his balls, FARTS, smiles, and goes back to SNORING.

Kurt runs in his sleep like a dog chasing a ball. Twitches and whines like a mutt. Almost barks.

Nick sits next to Andrea. He watches them all.

The camera sits in the corner. It WHIRS to life. A pale light bleeds from its screen.

GHOSTLY VOICES (O.S.)
Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

Nick shakes himself out of his reverie. Notices the camera. Tilts his head. Curious.

GHOSTLY VOICES (O.S.)
Have you seen the Ghost of John?

Nick tiptoes across the room.

GHOSTLY VOICES (O.S.)
Long white bones with the skin all gone.

He sits down in front of the camera. Leans forward. Entranced with what he sees.

GHOSTLY VOICES (O.S.)
Wouldn't it be chilly with no skin on?

Andrea stirs, hears the voices.

GHOSTLY VOICES (O.S.)
Wouldn't it be chilly with no skin on?

She blinks. Looks over at Nick. His face bathed in the dull hue of the view-screen.

ANDREA

Nick, were you just singing?

He smiles at her.

NICK

She just wanted out is all...

He lifts Andrea's pencil up into the air.

ANDREA

What are you doing with my --

NICK

See?

NICK

rams the pencil into his ear. CRUNCH!

ANDREA

... pencil?

Nick flops forward onto the ground.

Andrea SCREAMS.

INT. CABIN - LATER

Everybody stands around Nick. Andrea sobs on T.J.'s chest. Kurt leans down and pulls the pencil out of Nick's ear.

VANESSA

I was gonna fuck him, too.

KURT

You've been with worse.

Andrea spins on them.

ANDREA

Shut up! Shut up! You guys are sociopaths, our friend - my friend is dead!!!

Nick's eyes blink open. He looks up at them.

T.J.

No, he's not.

T.J. points at the ground.

ANDREA
Not you too, T.J.

Nick looks up at them.

NICK
Andrea?

She stares down at him, unable to speak.

NICK
I had this horrible dream that I --
Kurt holds up the bloody pencil.

NICK
... I died?

Kurt nods.

Demonic LAUGHTER echoes outside the cabin.

Andrea runs to the window.

EXT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

The shadows of the forest are dark and alive. A lone figure, John, hooded in monastic garb, face shrouded, steps out of the mist. He spreads his arms and strolls towards the cabin.

INT. THE CABIN - SAME

Andrea spins around from the window. Her face is pale.

ANDREA
Bar the door, bar the door!!!

T.J. runs circles around the room, trying to figure out what to do. Vanessa drops to the ground and puts her head between her legs.

Kurt runs to the table, grabs a chair, and lodges it beneath the door handle. Just in time!

BAM! The door shakes.

Vanessa SCREAMS.

BAM! The wall shakes.

T.J. SCREAMS.

BAM! The cabin shakes.

Kurt and Andrea SCREAM.

The Ghost of John ROARS!

Everybody SCREAMS.

SILENCE.

Everybody looks at each other. Around the room. To the floor.

An invisible force grabs Nick and throws him into the air. WHAM! He slams against the ceiling.

NICK

Help me!

He reaches out to the them. Andrea tries to jump and grab him. Misses him.

Nick ricochets off the wall. Bounces back against the ceiling. He spins, caught in an invisible tornado.

Unnatural GROANING fills the room.

VANESSA

What is that, what is that???

An invisible arm pries Nick's mouth open. His jaw CRACKS! Something pours itself into Nick's mouth, down his throat, and engorges his belly.

Nick claws at his stomach. Chunks of bloody flesh and skin shower down into the room.

NICK

He's inside me!!!! He is eating something inside of me!!!!

Nick's SCREAMS are pure agony.

The WET SNAPPING of his ribs fills the air.

NICK

I can't take it, kill me, kill me!!!

Blood pours out of his Nick's eyes, mouth, nose, ears, the broken skin on his stomach.

His SCREAMS turn wet.

Nick vomits his internal organs into the room. His heart skids across the floor... still beating. Followed by his lungs. Liver. Kidneys. Last to come out are his guts. A long wrinkled mess of intestines.

He plummets from the ceiling. He lands in a grisly pile of organs, blood, and leaky flesh.

Something pulses beneath his skin. A mass of writhing maggots. They burst out from his eyes and mouth, tear his nose from his face, take chunks of meat with them.

The maggots swell like fleshy balloons. They grow and grow until... POP! They burst. A thick cloud of black smoke escapes from their corpses. The smoke swirls around the room and out the window.

Everybody stares at Nick's dessicated husk.

Vanessa WHIMPERS.

VANESSA

Is he... Do you think he's gonna be all right?

EXT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

T.J. drags Nick's festering body out into the yard. The group follows behind T.J.

Vanessa cries, laughs, then cries again.

VANESSA

(hysterical)

We're going to prison, we're going to hell, they're going to take away Christmas!

Andrea slaps her across the face.

ANDREA

We have to bury Nick.

Vanessa nods. Wipes the tears away.

Kurt steps forward. He punches her in the stomach. Vanessa drops like a sack of skin.

ANDREA

Asshole, she was calm.

He shrugs.

They all stand around Nick, except for Vanessa - she kneels.

T.J.
Andrea, why don't you say
somethin'?

ANDREA
Okay.

She bows her head. They all do.

ANDREA
Nick was --

A nasty smell washes over them. They group-puke on Nick's steaming corpse. Streams of green vomit.

ANDREA
He's coming back!

KURT
You sure it's not little buddy
there?

Nick is a bloody pile of vomit, scraps of skin, bones, more vomit, and more than a handful of maggots.

ANDREA
I saw him before --

Andrea points to Nick.

VANESSA
Let's get the fuck outta here then!

T.J.
Not yet... Andrea?

Andrea steels herself. She nods.

ANDREA
Nick was --

NICK

lashes out. His slimy fingers grope Andrea's leg.

She SCREAMS and falls backwards.

T.J. lifts his boot. Ready to stomp on Nick's face.

NICK
 (normal voice)
 T.J., no!!!

T.J.
 Nick? Is that you?

NICK
 Oh, I feel terrible. Help me up,
 bud.

He reaches out. Sees the glistening bone of his fingers.

Vanessa SCREAMS.

NICK
 Hey, where'd my skin go?

He looks down at his body.

NICK
 Oh, no, no, no, no, where's my
 dick?

INT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

Vanessa darts into the cabin. She bolts into the corner. She cradles herself and rocks back and forth.

VANESSA
 (mumbling)
*Long white bones with the skin all
 gone, long white bones --*

Everybody rushes in behind her.

T.J.
 Nick's our friend. We can't just
 leave him out there!

Kurt grabs a chair. He jams it against the door.

ANDREA
 It could be a trick.

T.J.
 He'll die!

KURT
 I'm sure four out of five doctors
 would agree, Nick's already dead.

T.J. grabs Andrea by the shoulders. Spins her face-to-face.

T.J.
What the fuck just happened?

ANDREA
My book, it'll explain.

She rifles through the blood and organs on the floor.

ANDREA
No, no, no, where is it?

T.J.
Fuck the book, what do you remember?

ANDREA
The stench, it's him!

KURT
Great, I'm about to be suffocated by the rectum of death.

T.J.
There's got t'be something in the legend, some way to stop him?

ANDREA
I don't know! I don't know! I can't remember without the book!

Vanessa points to the fireplace. The book burns in the embers.

ANDREA
How did it --

VANESSA
(lunatic)
The book's burnt, burnt book, time it took, goose is cooked, by the burnt book.

She rocks faster. Pulls on her ear. GIGGLES.

KURT
Someone please stuff a gag in that bitch!

The door handle RATTLES.

Everyone stops.

A KNOCK at the door. Slow and heavy.

SHERIFF BADLEY (O.S.)
Vanessa? I'm back, I came back for
you.

Vanessa jumps to her feet.

VANESSA
Sheriff?

SHERIFF BADLEY (O.S.)
Yeah, it's me! You have to unlock
the door, hurry!

VANESSA
Coming!

ANDREA
It's a trick! Don't do it!

VANESSA
Go fuckin' trick yourself.

ANDREA
(to Kurt)
Stop her!

Kurt jumps forward. He lashes out, misses Vanessa's arm,
grabs her by the tit instead.

VANESSA
Hey!

She spins around. Kicks him in the nuts.

He drops like rocks.

VANESSA
(points to her tits)
Never manhandle the mamas.

She yanks the chair away from the door handle.

ANDREA
No!

T.J.
No!

The door flings open.

Sheriff Badley fills the doorway. His head is twisted to the
side. An unnatural impossible angle.

SHERIFF BADLEY
'Ello, Vanessa.

Vanessa stares up at him.

VANESSA
Sheriff?

SHERIFF BADLEY
Yes?

VANESSA
Your head... it's on wrong.

SHERIFF BADLEY
Oh, is it?

He reaches up and straightens his head. The vertebrae CRACK and SNAP. His right eye hangs out of the socket.

SHERIFF BADLEY
That better?

Vanessa faints.

INT. THE CABIN - DAY (NIGHTMARE)

Vanessa opens her eyes. Daylight floods in through the windows. She blinks. Everybody is gone.

VANESSA
Hello?

She gets up.

VANESSA
Guys?

No trace of them.

Sunny and beautiful outside the window. Birds even CHIRP.

She reaches for the door.

VANESSA
Oh, thank --

She opens the door.

She stares into another room. Her childhood bedroom. Both of the worlds are connected by the door.

INT. VANESSA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (NIGHTMARE)

A YOUNG VANESSA huddles beneath her covers. She shivers in the dark. A sliver of light falls across her face. Her MOTHER stands at the door.

MOTHER
Time for bed, baby stinky.

YOUNG VANESSA
Okay, please leave the door
cracked, please?

MOTHER
Vanessa, you need to start acting
your age.

YOUNG VANESSA
But, h-h-he comes for m-me at
night.

MOTHER
None of that!

Her Mother slams the door.

Young Vanessa looks at Vanessa.

YOUNG VANESSA
I can see you, you can come out.

Vanessa steps through the door between their worlds.

YOUNG VANESSA
You're so pretty. Are you my Angel?

VANESSA
This isn't real. It can't be.

Vanessa picks up a family portrait.

YOUNG VANESSA
What?

VANESSA
This is my mom and dad, and this is
my bedroom --

Vanessa picks up a finger-painting. It says VANESSA at the bottom.

YOUNG VANESSA
Please tell me you're my angel,
that you're can protect me from --

VANESSA
(under her breath)
-- him.

YOUNG VANESSA
You know him?

VANESSA
Yes, I remember now. I remember --

Vanessa looks at the closet. It is cracked open.

YOUNG VANESSA
Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

She turns around. Stares at Young Vanessa.

YOUNG VANESSA
There once was --

VANESSA
*-- a man who lived in
the dark./I opened up the
closet and...*

YOUNG VANESSA
*--a man who lived in the
dark./I opened up the
closet and...*

VANESSA
(whispers)
He got out.

The closet CREAKS open. A little wider.

Vanessa edges back. She bumps into the bed. Sits down.

VANESSA
Now I remember why I hate that
fuckin' song.

Young Vanessa trembles in fear. Silent tears roll down her
cheeks.

YOUNG VANESSA
He's coming.

The door CREAKS open a little more.

VANESSA
No, he's not, because this time I'm
gonna stop him.

Vanessa takes a deep breath. She stands up.

YOUNG VANESSA
You are my angel.

She creeps towards the closet.

VANESSA
(to John)
You don't scare me, anymore.

She grabs the handle.

VANESSA
(to John)
You hear me?

She tenses up. Yanks the door open.

A teddy-bear, Mr. Coddlestone, falls out.

Vanessa SHRIEKS.

She bends down and picks it up. Pets it. CHUCKLES.

VANESSA
Mr. Coddlestone.

She turns back to Young Vanessa. Holds up Mr. Coddlestone like a prize.

VANESSA
See, nothing to be scared of.

YOUNG VANESSA
(breathless)
You weren't supposed to open it.

JOHN

leaps out of the closet.

VANESSA

SCREAMS at the top of her lungs.

He drags her into the shadows.

END NIGHTMARE

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Sheriff Badley crouches over Vanessa. His broken body is a mess of exposed bones and leaking organs.

Vanessa SCREAMS and SCREAMS and SCREAMS. She is locked in her nightmare.

Sheriff Badley sucks the tendrils of agony from her lips.

Kurt stands behind the door. He watches in horror.

Andrea and T.J. press themselves against the back wall.

KURT

What's he doing???

ANDREA

He's feeding on her suffering, they can do that!

KURT

You mean there really are soul-eating demons???

T.J.

Kill him, kill him, kill him!!!
Kurt, kill him now!

Kurt grabs a chair. He runs at Sheriff Bradley.

Sheriff Badley backhands him.

Kurt back-flips and lands on his face.

Sheriff Badley plants his boot on the back of Kurt's head - again. He returns to eating Vanessa's soul.

KURT

(muffled by the floor)
Bullshit!

T.J. spies Kurt's pistol in the Sheriff's pocket.

T.J.

Kurt, keep him busy.

KURT

(muffled by the floor)
Got him where I want him.

ANDREA
Where are you going?

T.J. darts behind Sheriff Badley.

Vanessa's agonizing SCREAMS fill the air.

ANDREA
T.J., you don't know how to kill a
demon!

KABLAM!

Sheriff Badley's head explodes. A mass of puss and maggots splatters Vanessa.

Black smoke drifts from Sheriff Badley's neck stump. A gust of wind sucks the smoke out the window.

T.J. holds Kurt's smoking 357 revolver.

T.J.
Blowin' their fuckin' heads off
seems to work.

The Sheriff collapses on top of Vanessa.

She SQUEALS.

T.J. lifts the Sheriff's smoking corpse off of Vanessa.

Vanessa COUGHS and spits. She sits up. Maggot-encrusted brain-matter drips down her face.

VANESSA
Oh, thank you, T.J., thank you!

She tries to hug T.J.

He retreats from her.

T.J.
Yeah, I heard you.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Kurt drags Sheriff Badley's corpse towards the door.

ANDREA
Wait.

KURT
Fuck you, Sweet Pickles.

She shoves him aside.

ANDREA
Idiot.

He bawls up his fists. T.J. steps forward. Kurt steps back.

Andrea takes the Sheriff's Desert Eagle, his extra clips, flashlight, nightstick, and handcuffs.

ANDREA
See?

She holds the Desert Eagle up. Everybody ducks.

T.J.
Don't look like standard issue.

KURT
Goddamn hand cannon is what it is.

He reaches for it.

KURT
Come on, that's got too much kick
for a clit to grip.

She flips the safety, slides the action and chambers a round.

KURT
Well.

He steps back.

She hands him the nightstick.

KURT
(under his breath)
Fuckin' queef.

ANDREA
What?

KURT
Sweet, fuckin' sweet.

She turns around.

He makes a circle with his hand. He shoves the nightstick through.

Andrea chucks Vanessa the flashlight.

KURT

That's good, now she can see what's eating her.

Vanessa WHIMPERS.

Andrea steps forward, like a leader.

ANDREA

We know we can kill them, and that's a start.

KURT

Bullshit! Sit down, we don't know what the fuck they are, where they come from or --

VANESSA

(interrupts)

I do.

Everybody turns to her.

VANESSA

I know where they come from.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Everybody stands at the door. They watch Sheriff Badley's corpse burn in the yard. Kurt slams the door. He wedges a chair under the handle.

Andrea sets the gun down. She picks up the camera. She aims it at Vanessa.

ANDREA

You ready?

Vanessa picks a maggot out of her hair. She nods.

ANDREA

Whatever you can remember.

VANESSA

I remember... everything.

Kurt glances at them. The 357 is tucked into his belt. He rifles through his bag. He pulls out a box of 357 ammo.

T.J., dejected, holds the nightstick.

VANESSA

He came for me when I was about six or seven. He... marked me.

ANDREA

Marked?

VANESSA

So much of what happened back then seemed like a nightmare.

Vanessa chuckles.

VANESSA

I told myself, it can't be real, I must be dreaming.

Kurt fills his pockets with ammo.

ANDREA

When did you realize it was not a dream?

VANESSA

I guess I've always known, you know?

Kurt looks out the window.

ANDREA

Vanessa, what about the Ghost of John?

VANESSA

He lives in the air of our nightmares, in the shadows of reality.

T.J.

And we crossed over, that's what the Indian said, isn't it?

VANESSA

It's not just him, he was just the first. There are more coming.

ANDREA

How can you know that?

Vanessa lifts the Desert Eagle. She points it at Andrea.

VANESSA
How can you not?

KURT
How'd she get that?

ANDREA
I, I set it down.

KURT
And you're the smart one in the
group?

Vanessa aims the gun at him.

VANESSA
Shut up.

Kurt nods, puts his hands up.

ANDREA
Vanessa, what are you doing?

VANESSA
Saving myself.

T.J.
What?

VANESSA
He chose me to live, but all of you
need to get out into that forest.
Now!

KURT
Suck a nut, I ain't steppin' one
foot out that door.

VANESSA
Move!

Kurt and T.J. step back. Andrea does not.

T.J.
Andrea, what are you doing?

Andrea steps towards Vanessa. Vanessa spins the gun on her.

ANDREA
We can beat him, if we work
together, we can kill him.

VANESSA

Kill him? How do you kill a shadow?
How do you kill a nightmare?

Andrea takes another step towards Vanessa.

ANDREA

We can, you have to trust me.

The gun trembles in Vanessa's hand.

VANESSA

Back!

T.J.

Andrea?

Andrea takes another step. Vanesa is within striking distance.

VANESSA

Bitch, I told you.

Vanessa squeezes the trigger. Nothing. She squeezes the trigger over and over. Still nothing.

VANESSA

What?

Vanessa looks at the gun. She smacks it.

VANESSA

Work!

Andrea swings the camera. It connects with Vanessa's head. Vanessa takes a couple dazed steps back.

The gun CLATTERS to the floor.

Vanessa falls next to it.

Andrea picks the gun up. She points to the safety.

ANDREA

Safety, bitch.

She kicks Vanessa in the face.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Vanessa snores on her face. Andrea clamps the handcuffs on her wrists.

Kurt stares out the window.

KURT

Guys?

Andrea and T.J. amble to the window.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A wall of mist pours out of the forest. Evil LAUGHTER echoes through the dark woods.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

They look at each other.

KURT

Fuck.

T.J.

Me.

ANDREA

Ugly.

Andrea SIGHS.

T.J. SIGHS.

Kurt SIGHS.

The cabin SIGHS.

KURT

Did the cabin just...?

The cabin GROANS.

Andrea whips out her gun.

ANDREA

Shut up, cabin?

The cabin GROWLS.

Outside, the Demonic Voices GROWL.

T.J.
That sure don't sound like
Christmas.

The fire in the fireplace burns higher. DEMONIC FACES writhe in the flames. They SCREAM and WAIL. The flames turn black.

T.J. steps back.

Tendrils of black mist drift up from the bottom of the door.

T.J. watches the fire.

The mist creeps up his back.

T.J. breathes on Kurt's shoulder.

KURT
T.J., shit, your breath smells like
a rotting fish wrapped in a
truncated asshole.

Andrea turns around. Her mouth drops.

KURT
T.J., you hear what I said? Your
breath, it stinks.

Andrea points at T.J.

Kurt turns around.

A Possessed T.J. ROARS.

T.J. grabs Kurt by the throat. He picks him up over his head.

KURT
Not --

T.J. chucks him out the window.

KURT
-- cooooooooooooool.

Andrea raises her gun. T.J. bats it out of her hands. It slides across the floor.

T.J. ROARS.

Andrea runs.

T.J.'s tongue, long, serpentine, and forked, lashes out and grabs her leg.

Andrea SCREAMS and falls.

T.J. drags her towards him.

T.J.
(demon voice)
First, I'm gonna strip the skin
from your pretty little body.

Andrea stomps on his tongue. No use.

T.J.
(demon voice)
Then, I'll make a sandwich of your
flesh.

Andrea claws at the floor.

T.J.
(demon voice)
Lastly, I'll peel your soul from
your bones.

She WHIMPERS.

Kurt bangs on the door from outside.

KURT (O.S.)
Let me in! I have got some serious
problems out here.

ANDREA
I have got some serious problems in
here!

Outside, a deafening ROAR. GUNSHOTS.

KURT (O.S.)
I'll trade you!

T.J. ROARS and opens his mouth. His mouth is a cavern of
teeth. A BULGING EYE stares out from the center of his
throat.

Andrea SCREAMS.

BLAM! The eye explodes.

BLAM! His arm is blown off.

BLAM! His face disintegrates. His right eye looks around -
confused.

BLAM! He falls back. Slumps against the door. Dies.

Vanessa, free from the cuffs, holds the smoking Desert Eagle.

ANDREA

How did you get out of the handcuffs?

VANESSA

Please, like that's the first time I've been handcuffed.

ANDREA

Well, thank --

Kurt's head is lobbed in through the window. It rolls across the floor. It comes to a rest in front of Andrea.

He looks up at her. Blinks.

KURT

I told you I had problems.

ANDREA

Kurt, w-where's your body?

KURT

Just a guess, but probably still tied to a tree, being violated and defiled by the Ghost of John.

Andrea peeks out the window. She grimaces. Nods.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Andrea paces back and forth. Kurt's head sits on a chair. His eyes trace Andrea's movement around the room. Vanessa watches Kurt watch Andrea.

Andrea looks out the window.

VANESSA

What's out there?

ANDREA

It's like the shadows... are alive.

Andrea turns to Kurt's head.

ANDREA

What did this to you?

KURT
I'd rather not talk about it.

Outside, Demons HOWL.

Andrea reaches for her gun.

ANDREA
Vanessa?

Vanessa holds the gun up.

Andrea steps towards her, ready to fight.

VANESSA
Fuck, relax.

Vanessa hands the gun over.

ANDREA
Relax? We need to be prepared for
anything --

A HAND bursts out of the corner.

Andrea SCREAMS.

The Hand yanks her into the shadows.

EXT. THE SHORES OF THE DEAD - DAY (VISION)

A blood-red ocean. Andrea lands on her face. She looks up. Rising Bear stands before her. She spits out a mouthful of sand.

ANDREA
You. You brought me here?

He nods.

She stands up. Looks out at the waves of blood.

ANDREA
Where are we?

RISING BEAR
The shores of the dead.

ANDREA
The shores of the dead?

She steps away from the ocean.

A WHIRLPOOL

churns the water. Sparks of lightning shoot out of the swirling froth.

ANDREA

What is that?

A SKELETAL ARM bursts from the whirlpool.

Lightning splits the sky. Instead of thunder, demons SCREAM.

ANDREA

What in the hell is that?

The Ghost of John rises from the water. Blood drips down his mangled bones.

RISING BEAR

We are just bearing witness --

John SCREAMS. He reveals a mouthful of glistening fangs.

RISING BEAR

-- to John Butcher's escape from
the Realm of the Dead.

John crawls towards them. His bones SPLINTER and CRACK. Monstrous THUNDER rumbles with his every movement.

Lightning strikes him over and over. Still, he drags himself forward.

RISING BEAR

His escape violated the natural
order of the world.

John crawls past them, beyond the beach. He throws his hands into the air. He CACKLES. He is free. He disappears into the mist.

THE WAVES

retreat from the shore. The bloody ocean evaporates.

ANDREA

The natural order?

RISING BEAR

Life to death. Order to disorder.
Being to non-being. It must not be
reversed.

THE OCEAN

is now a parched plain.

RISING BEAR
But now, the natural laws are
corrupted. The barrier between
worlds is evaporating.

Demons SCREECH in the far distance.

RISING BEAR
And foul spirits from the Realm of
the Dead are following him out.

ANDREA
Out where?

Rising Bear points behind them.

THE CABIN

sits on the hill.

RISING BEAR
Into the Land of the Living --

The ground RUMBLES.

RISING BEAR
-- where they will feed on the
suffering of all life.

Storm clouds spit lightning.

ANDREA
Why don't you stop them???

RISING BEAR
No one in the Realm of the Dead can
defeat him, he is too powerful.

A foul wind rushes over them. Andrea covers her nose. She
gags anyway.

RISING BEAR
Only someone from the Land of the
Living can send him back.

ANDREA
Who???

Demons HOWL. The world trembles.

RISING BEAR

You! You must send John Butcher
back to the Realm of the Dead!

The ground splits open. It reveals a hole into a black
abyss.

RISING BEAR

Or else --

Andrea stumbles. She falls into the hole.

RISING BEAR

catches her by the arm.

RISING BEAR

-- the universe will be corrupted.
All boundaries between life and
death will vanish.

Large SKELETAL CLAWS pierce his chest.

RISING BEAR

(choking)

You must send him back --

Blood pours from his chest. It leaks down Andrea's face, her
arms, her hands.

She begins to slip.

RISING BEAR

-- before the darkness spreads
beyond this land!

Rising Bear loses his grip on her. She plummets into the
black abyss.

ANDREA

How??? Tell me how???

END VISION

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Vanessa stares at Andrea.

VANESSA

How what?

ANDREA

What?

VANESSA

You were saying?

Andrea glances into the shadows.

ANDREA

I was saying...

(lifts her gun)

How about we go outside and do a
little killing of our own?

She chambers a round.

Outside, demons LAUGH.

ANDREA

(pissed)

A lot of killing!

VANESSA

No, no, I don't think that was it
at all.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Murky shadows obscure the forest. Fog billows out of the
dark woods. Ghoulis Faces float in the mist.

The cabin door CREAKS open.

Kurt's head inches out. The nightstick props it up. His head
swivels back and forth.

ANDREA

See anything?

KURT

I didn't agree to this.

ANDREA

Kurt?

Kurt SIGHS.

KURT

No.

The door opens. Andrea holds Kurt's head up on the
nightstick.

VANESSA

Remind me, why the fuck are we
doing this?

Vanessa trembles in the doorway.

ANDREA

I told you, the Ghost of John
doesn't know that I know that he
can be sent back to the Realm of
the Dead. But, if he does know I
know, he doesn't know that I don't
know how... yet.

VANESSA

Oh. I don't know why I didn't catch
that the first time?

Andrea sees Kurt's body. It is tied to a tree. He still has
his gun. In his right arm. Which has been ripped off. And
shoved up his ass.

VANESSA

Bet you enjoyed that.

KURT

I didn't not like it.

ANDREA

Ssh.

Andrea looks around.

ANDREA

It looks clear.

Andrea steps out.

VANESSA

I'm the smart one in the group!

Vanessa SLAMS the door shut on them.

ANDREA

Bitch!

She SIGHS and turns around.

She tiptoes into the yard. Kurt bobs.

KURT'S BODY

Andrea inspects the headless corpse. A suspicious knotted rope tethers his carcass to the tree.

ANDREA

Are those your intestines?

KURT

I said, I don't want to talk about it.

Andrea disentangles Kurt's torso.

KURT

I don't wanna argue semantics or shit, but, what's the point?

His carcass slumps to the ground.

ANDREA

Just a hunch.

Andrea sets his body upright. She picks up a sharp branch.

KURT

What's that for?

SQUISH! She shoves the stick into his neck hole. The branch juts upright like a pike.

CRUNCH! She impales Kurt's head.

KURT

Ouch.

ANDREA

Give it a try.

His leg twitches, then his arm. He wobbles to his feet.

KURT

What in the hell?

ANDREA

(to herself)

No boundaries between life and death.

Kurt looks down. His arm protrudes from his shredded stomach.

KURT

Oh, come on, you couldn't take that
out first?

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Vanessa lodges a chair beneath the door handle. She peaks
one eye out the window.

Outside, Kurt wobbles to his feet. He and Andrea talk. He
points to the arm in his stomach.

VANESSA

Not fuckin' possible.

Something moves in the shadows behind her.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Andrea and Kurt stand before a smoky path. It leads into the
forest. A dark and hollow GROAN bellows from the
impenetrable dark.

KURT

This is definitely one of those 'do
not go down that hallway' type of
moments.

Andrea inspects the bloody mess on the ground. She picks up
a gelatinous blob.

KURT

What is it?

ANDREA

I think it used to be one of your
lungs.

She follows the trail of organs. They lead down the path.

Kurt points to an pulpy organ on the ground.

KURT

That's my heart, isn't it?

She nods.

ANDREA

The carnage leads down this path.

She steps over his heart and onto the trail.

GHOSTLY VOICES (O.S.)
Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

Kurt wobbles after Andrea. He points back to his heart.

KURT
 Hey, should we pick that up or something, I mean, I'll probably need it later, right?

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Vanessa watches Andrea lead Kurt down the trail. Branches and tree limbs swallow the path behind them. Vanessa WHIMPERS.

The darkness in the cabin thickens. A DISFIGURED SHADOW rises up in the room. It is hard to imagine what twisted body the shadow reflects.

GHASTLY VOICE
Vaaaannnnneeeeeessssssaaaaa.

Trembling, afraid to look, she turns around.

She SCREAMS.

EXT. FOREST PATH - NIGHT

Andrea and Kurt tread down the path. The darkness grows thicker with each step. Twigs CRACK beneath the feet of unknown creatures in the dark. Andrea and Kurt stick close to each other.

A distant SCREAM (Vanessa).

ANDREA
 Did you hear that?

CRACK! Kurt shoves his arm back into the socket. He flexes his fingers around his gun.

KURT
 Amazing, it didn't hurt at all.

ANDREA
 Yeah, amazing.

THE FULL MOON

transforms into a giant bloody eyeball. Broken veins, dilated pupil - the Eye watches them.

ANDREA
I can't help but feel like someone,
or something, is watching us.

The Eye blinks.

KURT
(serious)
Yeah, I sometimes get that feeling
when I masturbate.

Andrea turns to him to say *what?* but a monstrous BELLOW
swallows her words.

A rush of foul wind knocks them to the ground.

KURT
What in the fuck is that?

A GIANT FOOTSTEP shakes the world.

Andrea struggles to her feet.

Another FOOTSTEP.

Kurt stumbles to the ground. Andrea helps him up.

ANDREA
Whatever it is --

KURT
-- don't say anything cute like 'it
sure sounds like it's coming this
way'.

Another monstrous BELLOW. Another rush of foul wind. Andrea
and Kurt keep their feet this time.

ANDREA
I was going to say... it sounds
like it is very very hungry.

Kurt WHIMPERS, he turns to her.

KURT
Now why the hell you gotta say
something like that for?

EXT. FOREST PATH - NIGHT

Andrea and Kurt run for their fucking lives. The bushes around the path get thicker, the trail tighter.

Another GIGANTIC FOOTSTEP. Something big SPLINTERS.

Andrea twists her ankle on an exposed root. She YELPS and falls.

ANDREA

Kurt, wait!

He stops, turns around, sees her on the ground.

BOOM! Another FOOTSTEP.

KURT

You were never gonna fuck me anyway!

He turns and runs like a filthy coward.

ANDREA

KURT!!!

He disappears into the shadows of the forest.

Another MONSTROUS BELLOW.

Andrea rolls over onto her back.

ANDREA

What are you waiting for? Come on, do it!!!

Sudden silence.

Andrea trembles.

More sudden silence.

She peers into the darkened forest. Something runs towards her. She squints, *what is that?*

What is that?

NICK

jumps out of the shadows. His face is mangled mess of blood and bone and maggot-encrusted goop.

Andrea opens her mouth to scream.

Nick plasters his rotting palm over her face.

NICK
Andrea, it's me, Nick, ssh ssh.

She looks down at his decaying hand.

NICK
Promise you won't scream?

She nods.

He removes his hand. He leaves a slimy trail of skin, blood, and maggots on her face.

ANDREA
I thought you were dead?

He rips a piece of his shirt. Ties it around her ankle.

NICK
Ditto. I heard a girl scream in the cabin right before it was --

He stares at her.

NICK
It wasn't you?

She shakes her head.

NICK
Good, probably just Vanessa.

He returns to splinting her foot.

ANDREA
Nick?

NICK
(working on her foot)
Hmm?

She studies his face.

Nick is now battle-hardened. His body is a roadmap of war: claw marks down his chest, legs, arms - chunks ripped from his flesh.

ANDREA
Nick?

He turns his bloody eyes to her.

ANDREA
What happened to you?

He finishes her splint.

NICK
It's not safe here, come on, I
found a place.

EXT. OLD WELL - NIGHT

A clearing in the forest. An old well sits alone in a field. The hand-crank for the bucket hangs broken. The bricks are covered in what appears to be slime, or blood, or something worse.

Andrea peers over the side.

ANDREA
Ride a pony, Nick, no way.

Nick stands next to her. He glances back and forth in the forest.

NICK
It's safe, I made hand-holds, see?

A make-shift ladder runs down the side.

ANDREA
You first.

He SCOFFS.

NICK
You have to go down first. I'll
explain at the bottom.

ANDREA
No, explain before.

NICK
Just trust me.

He smiles. A tooth tumbles from between his rotting lips.

INT. OLD WELL - NIGHT

Andrea descends down the wall. She clings to each hand-hold. Bugs scramble over her fingers and face. She stops, tries to shake a beetle from her fingertip.

Nick steps on her face.

NICK
Sorry, hard to see.

She looks down into the well. A black abyss.

ANDREA (V.O.)
How? Tell me how???

NICK
What's the hold up?

She shakes the memory from her head.

ANDREA
Ugh! Go sit on a fist.

Nick CHUCKLES.

NICK
You've been hanging around Kurt too long.

BOTTOM OF THE WELL

Andrea glares at the oil-black water. Impossible to tell what is beneath the scum and muck.

ANDREA
It smells worse than you look.

NICK
Ouch, you know, I might be dead, but I still have feelings.

Nick peels a layer of skin from his cheek.

NICK
Just not in my face.

ANDREA
Not helping your situation.

NICK
Just watch.

He drops it into the water.

A dim glow surrounds the dead skin. A whirlpool swirls around it. PHOOMP! The skin disappears.

ANDREA
What just happened?

EXT. THE CABIN - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Nick lays on the ground in a steaming heap.

NICK (V.O.)
After you guys left me...

Behind him, everybody flees towards the cabin.

NICK
Wait! It's still me, guys! It's
still me!

He reaches out to them.

NICK
Don't leave me --

The door SLAMS.

NICK (V.O.)
I wasn't scared at all.

Nick CRIES like a little schoolgirl.

The Sheriff's boot steps in front of Nick. Nick looks up, sees the uniform.

NICK
Sheriff, I'm really really scared,
will you help me?

Sheriff Badley picks Nick up.

NICK
Thank you, get me out of here, I'll
do anything, I'll suck your --

Nick is face to ear with the Sheriff's twisted head.

Sheriff Badley CACKLES.

Nick SCREAMS and CRIES.

NICK (V.O.)
He wouldn't fight me for some
reason.

Sheriff Badley lifts Nick over his head.

NICK
Please don't kill me or eat me --

SHERIFF BADLEY
(ghastly voice)
-- for me, you are not even an
appetizer.

He aims Nick towards the dark forest.

SHERIFF BADLEY
(ghastly voice)
But, for my friends... you're a
feast.

Unseen creatures SCURRY and CHITTER in the forest.

NICK
Y-y-your f-friends?

Sheriff Badley casually chucks Nick into the woods.

INT. THE FOREST - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Nick lands in a quivering heap. He curls up into a ball.
WHIMPERS. Jams his thumb into his mouth.

NICK (V.O.)
By this point, I was pissed and
ready for a fight.

Things SCAMPER in the woods.

Nick SOBS.

NICK
I'm in Kentucky, I'm in China, I'm
not here.

Something SCURRIES closer to him.

NICK (V.O.)
But, I never knew such evil
existed.

He looks up.

A TINY CHIPMUNK

cleans its whiskers in front of him.

NICK
Aw, hey, little guy.

Nick reaches out to pet it.

The Tiny Chipmunk's eyes glow red, it opens its mouth - tiny little fangs.

It latches on to Nick's thumb.

NICK
Aaaaah!!! Come on, really?

He slams the Tiny Chipmunk against a tree.

WHAM! SQUEAK! WHAM! SQUEAK! WHAM! SQUEAK!

It flips into the air, over his shoulder.

NICK
Phew!

He turns around.

The Chipmunk corpse lays in front of hundreds of tiny red eyes. A whole demon-possessed CHIPMUNK ARMY.

NICK
Normally I'm a fan of woodland creatures, I am, really.

They glare at him.

He steps back.

NICK
I've seen the Alvin and the Chipmunks movie, ten times at least.

They step forward.

He steps back.

NICK
Okay, five times.

They step forward.

NICK
Okay, once, but I loved it.

They rush him.

NICK
Fudgesicle.

EXT. OLD WELL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Nick bursts out of the woods. Possessed Chipmunks cling to every exposed area of his flesh. He SCREAMS and runs, CRIES, stumbles, falls, CRIES, gets back up, CRIES some more.

NICK
Why??? Why is this happening to me??? I'm a member of the Junior Woodchucks!!!

Chipmunks gnaw at his exposed bones.

He runs blindly through the field. Trips over a loose brick. He plummets into the well.

INT. BOTTOM OF THE WELL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Nick dangles over the water. His leg is tangled in the rope for the water-bucket.

Chipmunks tumble off his body. They plunge beneath the oil-black surface.

NICK
I hope you little bastards drown.

The hand-crank breaks. Nick drops down. His head hangs above the muck-encrusted surface.

The Possessed Chipmunks burst through the scum.

Nick SCREAMS.

Whirlpools form in the black water. Light surges in the depths. The whirlpools suck the Possessed Chipmunks down.

PHOOMP! A flash of light. They are all gone.

NICK (V.O.)
That's when I realized...

END FLASHBACK

INT. BOTTOM OF THE WELL - NIGHT

Andrea stands in the filthy water. She avoids the beetles and bugs which clamor around her. Nick props himself up on a handhold.

ANDREA

... the dead don't abide water.

Nick spits a maggot. She stole his moment.

Andrea grabs a handhold. She pulls herself out of the water.

NICK

No, stay.

He grabs her hand - a moment between them.

ANDREA

Nick.

She touches his slimy fingers.

ANDREA

We can't hide down here forever.

Nick's eyes - *yes, we can.*

TOP OF THE WELL

Andrea climbs behind Nick. He sheds dead flesh and green goop. A maggot lands on Andrea's forehead.

ANDREA

Maybe I should have went first?

Nick turns and smiles. A beetle squirms out of his mouth.

NICK

Nonsense. I'll go first, make sure
it's safe.

He grabs the ledge and lifts himself out. He reaches down for her.

She grabs his hand.

KABLAM! Nick flips forward. He tumbles into the well.

Andrea holds him by his rotten arm. Her fingers barely clutch the handhold.

NICK
I guess it wasn't safe.

ANDREA
Nick, hold on.

She strains to hold him.

SNAP! The tendons in his wrist tear.

Nick looks down at the water, back up at Andrea. He realizes what is about to happen.

CRACK! The bones in his arm break.

NICK
Andrea, I just want you to know...
I love you... always have.

He smiles. His face is a decaying mess of dead flesh.

ANDREA
Nick, I just like you as a friend.

NICK
Oh.

POP! His arm rips in half.

Nick plummets down the well.

SPLASH!

THE WHIRLPOOL

starts churning. It spins and froths and glows. Nick struggles against the current. It pulls him under.

PHOOMP! Nick is gone.

Andrea drops his severed arm.

KURT

leans over the edge. Smoking 357 in hand.

KURT
Andrea?!

He LAUGHS.

KURT
What are you doin' down there?

EXT. OLD WELL - NIGHT

Kurt lifts Andrea out. She glares at him. He turns around and points to the forest.

KURT
I found a truck out by the cabin, I
think it belonged to that Land
Surveyor.

Andrea aims the Desert Eagle at the back of Kurt's head.

KURT
We can use it to get out of --

She COCKS the hammer.

KURT
-- here.

He turns around.

KURT
Look, I'm sorry I ran away, but I
came back for you.

She stares at him.

KURT
I came back for you.

Her finger trembles on the trigger.

KURT
I came back.

She stares some more.

KURT
For you.

She lowers the gun.

EXT. THE FOREST - NIGHT

Andrea and Kurt crouch at the edge of the forest. Kurt points at a huge pile of splintered wood. The remains of the cabin. The Land Surveyor's truck can now be seen behind the debris.

KURT

It was there the whole damn time.

Andrea starts to get up. Kurt grabs her arm.

KURT

Wait, there's one small problem.

Andrea SIGHS - of course there is.

KURT

The tank is dry.

She plops back down.

ANDREA

Kurt, you idiot, that's a big problem.

KURT

Don't go tying your ovaries in a noose, the van has gas we can siphon.

Andrea seethes.

ANDREA

My ovaries in a -- you think maybe you could quit it with the jack-hole remarks for maybe like, two minutes?

She trembles with rage.

ANDREA

I mean, it is taking everything I have to not run down the street screaming myself bloody.

KURT

I really wish you wouldn't.

ANDREA

Yeah, why?

Kurt points to the road.

KURT
Whad'ya say? Forgive me now?

SQUISH! A giant invisible foot crushes Kurt.

A monstrous ROAR.

Andrea SCREAMS. Starts the engine. Stomps the accelerator.

Tires spit gravel over Kurt's flattened corpse.

INT. SURVEYOR'S TRUCK - NIGHT

BOOM! A FOOTSTEP shakes the ground. Andrea struggles to keep the truck on the road.

BOOM! Trees topple onto the road behind the truck.

Andrea SCREAMS.

BOOM! A little farther away.

Andrea SCREAMS some more. Floors the accelerator.

BOOM! The FOOTSTEPS are distant.

Andrea WHIMPERS. A mess of shattered nerves.

A final MONSTROUS ROAR.

Andrea SCREAMS.

The Invisible Demon breaks off chase. The FOOTSTEPS fade away.

She searches for the interior light. Her trembling fingers cannot get a grip on it. She WHIMPERS. Turns the light on.

She scans the interior. Scared by every shadow. Looks over her shoulder. Empty back seat. She SOBS.

She yanks the wheel to turn a corner. The tires SQUEAL. She SCREAMS. Stays on the road. Looks back over her shoulder. Still nothing. WHINES anyway.

Something CLATTERS in the glove-box. She CRIES out. Reaches over to open it. Cannot bring herself to do it. Looks back over her shoulder. Still nothing. WHIMPERS again.

She takes a deep breath. Yanks the glove-box open. A folded map falls on the floor.

She SCREAMS. LAUGHS. SOBS.

She looks back to the road.

RISING BEAR
Here, I think you dropped this.

Rising Bear sits next to her. The gaping wound on his chest bleeds onto the seats. He holds out the map.

Andrea SCREAMS in his face.

INT. SURVEYOR'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Andrea swerves around a turn. She trembles, mumbles to herself. Rising Bear watches her.

RISING BEAR
Andrea?

Startles her.

ANDREA
What?

He holds out the map.

RISING BEAR
There's something on this you need to see.

ANDREA
No.

RISING BEAR
No?

ANDREA
Yes, and by yes I mean no.

Rising Bear SCOFFS.

RISING BEAR
This map holds the key to --.

ANDREA
(interrupts him)
-- don't care, I'm getting the H-E double-hockey sticks out of here and never looking back.

RISING BEAR
And what will you do when you reach the temporary safety of your home?

ANDREA
 Hmm... I think I'll find out what
 alcoholism is all about.

RISING BEAR
 And nothing I can say will change
 your mind?

Andrea LAUGHS in his face. WHIMPERS. Glances over her
 shoulder.

Rising Bear SIGHS.

He places his hands on the dashboard.

The car SPUTTERS. It loses power. Starts to decelerate.

Andrea bangs on the steering-wheel.

ANDREA
 No no no no no no!

It rolls to a stop.

RISING BEAR
 I must show you something.

Andrea glares at him. Ponders ways to dismember a ghost.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Andrea creeps behind Rising Bear. He leads her to the
 abandoned sedan. Then, past it. They stop at The Shack.

RISING BEAR
 Andrea?

She CRIES. Cannot stop looking over her shoulder.

ANDREA
 Wh-wh-wh --

He slaps her across the face.

ANDREA
 -- what's your problem?

RISING BEAR
 Feel better?

Andrea steams.

ANDREA

No, I'm still scared, but now my
face hurts too.

He presses on the Shack door. It CREAKS open.

ANDREA

And why wouldn't you want to show
me a creepy shack in the middle of
a haunted forest?

INT. THE SHACK - NIGHT

Rising Bear's radiance illuminates the interior. Andrea
keeps her eyes closed. She cringes and opens them. Mining
equipment lines the walls. Picks, shovels, helmets,
dynamite... dynamite.

RISING BEAR

This is all that remains of the
mining community which once settled
this land.

Andrea picks up the dynamite.

RISING BEAR

Now look.

He hands her the map.

ON THE MAP

The words "UNDERGROUND RIVER" next to a big X.

ANDREA

There's an underground river?

RISING BEAR

And enough dynamite here to blast
it open, flood the valley --

ANDREA

(interrupts him)
-- and send all these demons crying
back to their mamas.

Rising Bear spits in his fist. She stole *his* moment.

MONTAGE - ANDREA GETS READY FOR BATTLE

-- Andrea lifts a sheet from a table. Dust billows into the air. Leather harnesses, belts, straps, and buckles clutter the table. She reaches...

-- Tightens a belt around her waist. Ties harnesses around her chest. Affixes straps around her legs.

-- Jams her pistol and clips into the belt on her waist.

-- Hefts two short-axes from the wall. Slides them into the leg straps. Smiles.

-- Pops open a box of dynamite. A stick rolls out of the box. Andrea covers her head. It does not explode. Rising Bear picks it up. He stuffs it into his belt.

-- Grabs a box of road flares from the Surveyor's truck. Stuffs them in the loops on her chest. Stuffs individuals sticks of dynamite into a second row of loops.

END MONTAGE

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Andrea loads the last box of dynamite into the truck bed. SLAMS the gate up. She spins around, pistol already drawn.

Rising Bear stands in front of her. He takes a road flare from her.

The leather straps fit snug to her form, a second skin - thicker, rugged. The axes sit natural below her hips. The dynamite secure on her chest. She holsters the gun on her belt.

RISING BEAR

You look like a Sioux brave, your
blood burning for battle.

ANDREA

Yeah, how about a Sioux name then?

RISING BEAR

(speaks in Sioux)

She who wields sparks of the sun,
strikes with thunder, and cuts with
the teeth of the Earth.

ANDREA
 (tries to speak in Sioux)
 The dog on fire, a crow with teeth,
 thunder bottom.

Rising Bear smirks.

ANDREA
 Pretty, what does it mean?

RISING BEAR
 It means, you are ready.

EXT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

A shrill wind WHISTLES over the barren soil. Something invisible and enormous SNORES.

Down the road, a horn BLARES.

The Invisible Demon SNORTS. Wakes up. Hears the HORN.

EXT. THE ROAD - NIGHT

The Surveyor's truck speeds down the road. It WHIZZES past the cabin. Horn BLARING.

Thunderous FOOTSTEPS. The Invisible Demon chases the speeding truck.

Trees topple on the road. Closer and closer to the truck.

A huge GRUNT. The Invisible Demon leaps.

KAPOW! The world shakes. Broken pavement rockets into the air.

THE TRUCK

flips upwards. Lands on its side. It slides across the pavement. A shower of sparks plume out. The wheels continue to spin. It comes to a rest in the ditch.

INSIDE THE TRUCK

A pick presses the accelerator. A spike holds the horn down. The seatbelt loops around the wheel.

EXT. THE ROAD - NIGHT

Two footprints crumble the asphalt in front of the truck. A SNORT. The Invisible Demon leans down. Its breath wilts the bushes.

Two boxes of dynamite topple out of the truck bed.

A CLUSTER OF WICKS

sizzle and disappear into the box.

A confused HMMM?

THE TRUCK

explodes! A fireball engulfs the Invisible Demon's face. For a split-second, its head is outlined by the flames. Large hollow eyes, rows and rows of pincers, elongated slits for nostrils.

The Invisible Demon BELLOWS! Its face burns. Liquid fire drips out of its mouth and onto the asphalt.

It collapses. A giant THUD which shakes the world.

INT. FOREST - NIGHT

Andrea watches the Invisible Demon burn. She crouches behind a bush. The fire casts a strange pallor across her face. She appears almost like a monster herself.

The Invisible Demon lets out its last GURGLE and dies.

Andrea springs to her feet.

Charges headlong into the forest.

INT. FOREST - LATER

Andrea barrels through the dark woods. Behind her, the burning demon casts a flickering hue through the forest. The fire twists the shadows, but lights the way.

RISING BEAR (V.O.)

You will come to a parched creek...

Her legs tangle. She loses balance. Spins through the air. Lands face down in a dry creek.

RISING BEAR (V.O.)
 From there, you will see the
 scarlet mark of the land developer.

She rolls over onto her back. Coughs out a mouthful of dust.
 She sees a red arrow. Spray-painted on a tree.

ANDREA
 Sweet.

She staggers to her feet. Reaches for her gun. It is not in
 her belt! Sees it on the ground. She bends down to pick it
 up.

RISING BEAR (V.O.)
 Careful though, the way will be
 guarded.

She stands up. A 17TH CENTURY VILLAGER stands in front of
 her. His face is splayed rotten. He smiles. She frowns.

Andrea presses the barrel against his forehead. He looks up
 at the gun. He stops smiling.

BLAM! A fist-sized hole opens in the center of his head. He
 drops to his knees. Crumbles to the ground.

She blows the smoke from her gun. Proud of herself, but only
 for a moment.

A horde of 17th century DEMON VILLAGERS step out of the
 dark.

ANDREA
 Oh, spit.

A BLOATED VILLAGER runs towards her.

Andrea aims.

A POSSESSED TREE whips the gun from her hand.

ANDREA
 No fair!

The Bloated Villager tackles her. They spill backwards onto
 the ground. They roll into the dry creek.

Andrea struggles. Ends up on top.

She pulls an ax from her leg strap. Rears back. The Bloated
 Villager covers his eyes.

A ROTTEN HAND

grabs her arm.

Andrea turns, sees a 17th Century DEMON NUN.

She reaches down. Grabs her other ax.

ANDREA

Forgive me, Sister...

She slams the other ax into the Demon Nun's chest. The Demon Nun stumbles backwards.

ANDREA

For I...

Andrea returns to the Bloated Villager. She raises the two axes over her head.

ANDREA

-- am a badass!

SLASH! The Bloated Villager's head spins into the air. His tongue wags at her.

THE DEMON NUN

looks up. Andrea stands before her. Her two axes drip demon goop.

Andrea lets out a BATTLE CRY.

ROTTEN LIMBS

and brackish blood shower the forest floor.

ANDREA

hacks her way through the Demon Villagers.

THE DEMON HORDE

scatters. They grab their severed limbs. Limp away to safety.

AN AX

spins through the air. Embeds in a Filthy Villager's cheek. His head bursts like an overfilled leach.

Andrea leans down. SQUELCH! Pulls the ax out.

She stands up. Someone hides in the shadows.

ANDREA
 (sing-song)
 I see you.

Andrea takes careful aim with the ax.

VANESSA

steps out. She is still herself.

ANDREA
 Vanessa? How?

VANESSA
 A-Andrea, it's really me.

Andrea does not lower the ax.

VANESSA
 Please, we have to leave!

Andrea adjusts her grip.

ANDREA
 Nick said...

VANESSA
 Nick? Where is he? Is he around?

Vanessa glances back and forth.

ANDREA
 (confused)
 No... he's dead... and you were in
 the cabin?
 (lowers the ax)
 What happened?

Andrea slides the ax into the cinch. Vanessa relaxes.

VANESSA
 Andrea, haven't you figured it out?

ANDREA
 Figured what ou --

VANESSA

slugs her with a huge rock.

ANDREA
 -- ouch.

Andrea stumbles back. Dazed.

Vanessa hits her again. Hard as a brick.

Andrea collapses in a heap.

BLACK

VANESSA (V.O.)

I am the smart one in the group.

SERIES OF SHOTS - ANDREA DRAGGED DOWN A TRAIL

-- Andrea struggles against DEMON HANDS. THUNK! Vanessa slugs her with another rock.

-- Blood and gunk leak down her cheeks. A clump of dirt on the path jolts her awake. Her eyes flutter open. She sees a red arrow marked on a tree. Passes back out.

-- Demons HOWL. Wake her up. She gropes the ground. Picks up a severed hand. Bloody body parts and gnawed bones line the trail. She faints.

-- MOANS awaken Andrea again. Rows and rows of pikes line the path. Each pike has a VICTIM spiked on it. The Victims still move, still suffer.

-- Andrea awakens. All of her weapons are gone. John stands before her. His face obscured by dark.

INT. JOHN'S LAIR - NIGHT

A blood-soaked field. Victims displayed on pikes MOAN and PLEAD. Andrea, on her knees, sits at the feet of John. A DEMON HORDE encircles them.

DEMON HORDE

Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

Andrea looks up at him.

John's face is a blend of smoke and bone. Razor sharp teeth protrude from a cavernous mouth. Black broken holes for eyes.

WHISPERS in Andrea's head.

ANDREA

Stop!

She covers her ears. The WHISPERS grow louder.

DEMON HORDE

Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

ANDREA

No!

She writhes on the ground.

He kneels down. Brushes her hair from her face. Softly, like a lover would.

JOHN

I would have found wherever you
ran, you know that?

His voice sounds like bones grinding against rocks.

ANDREA

(pleading)

What do you want?

JOHN

To lick the suffering from those
pretty little lips.

His claws trace her lips.

JOHN

To drain every ounce of agony you
can endure.

Andrea WHIMPERS.

JOHN

And after an eternity of torture,
when your throat is bloody from
begging for death...

A THOUSAND SCREAMING VOICES rise in Andrea's head.

JOHN

To grant your wish.

She SCREAMS.

John stands. The VOICES quiet.

JOHN

But not yet.

VANESSA

Not yet?

Vanessa stands behind Andrea and John.

John turns to her.

Vanessa trembles.

His smile turns into a snarl.

He steps towards Vanessa.

VANESSA

W-what?

John's tongue, a grotesque black finger, licks the bones where his lips should be.

VANESSA

You said you'd let me go --

He SNARLS.

VANESSA

-- if I, if I brought you her.

He spreads his arms.

VANESSA

Not fair!

John shoves Vanessa to the ground. He stands over her. WHISPERS rise up. Vanessa SCREAMS in agony.

The Demon Horde crowds around John. They CHANT as John sucks the agony from her lips.

VANESSA

grows older by the second. The softness of her skin leaches away. Wrinkles, age spots, and dime-sized warts blossom on her body.

ANDREA

realizes the Demon Horde has its back to her. She pushes herself to her feet. She turns to run.

RISING BEAR

(weak voice)

Andrea?

Rising Bear is impaled on one of the pikes. Blood gushes from his mouth. He points.

THE WELL

sits on the edge of the field.

RISING BEAR

Ri... ver...

He GASPS. His head falls limp to his chest.

She nods. A tear slides down her cheek.

Vanessa SCREAMS.

John tosses her dessicated husk to the ground. The Demon Horde steps forward - ready to finish Vanessa.

JOHN

No.

The Demon Horde stops.

JOHN

Let her suffer.

Vanessa MOANS on the ground. She is now old. Her skin and body sags. Her face is a leather mask.

VANESSA

Kill me.

JOHN

No.

Vanessa WEEPS.

John turns back to Andrea. She is gone. He ROARS.

JOHN

Find her!!!

The Demon Horde scatters out into the forest.

John sniffs the air. He catches Andrea's scent. He strolls over to the well. He looks down. Just the black water below.

INT. THE WELL - NIGHT

John's face peers over the ledge. Andrea is not there. He GRUNTS. Moves on.

Bubbles break the tar-black water. Andrea surfaces. Spits out a lungful of grime.

She grabs one of the hand-holds. Pulls herself up. The brick pops out. SPLASHES into the water. She tenses.

She grabs a different hand-hold. Hefts herself up.

EXT. OLD WELL - NIGHT

Andrea pulls herself over the edge. Catches her foot. Falls to the ground in a THUNK!

She scans the field. Sees Vanessa on the ground.

VANESSA

MOANS in a heap. Andrea grabs her. Tries to help her up.

VANESSA

No, leave me alone, let me die.

Vanessa pushes Andrea away.

ANDREA

Vanessa, listen. They'll be back, tell me, where's my dynamite?

VANESSA

Just let me die... let me die.

Andrea grabs Vanessa's wrinkled face.

ANDREA

Tell me, where'd you stash it?

Vanessa WEEPS.

VANESSA

In your ass, skank.

ANDREA

Where is it???

Andrea shakes her. Vanessa's fragile bones CRACK and POP.

Vanessa LAUGHS like a maniac.

VANESSA

He'll get you too. There's nothing you can do.

Andrea drops her on the ground.

VANESSA

He'll leave you as hideous and ugly as he left me.

Andrea SCOFFS.

ANDREA

Vanessa, you were ugly long before
John did this to you.

Andrea steps away from Vanessa. Spits on the ground. She
backs up. Bumps into something.

JOHN

stands behind her.

Her eyes widen. He backhands her.

JOHN

Hello!

ANDREA

soars through the air. She rolls to a stop. John is already
in front of her.

JOHN

I wanted to kill you slow, but now
I have to make an example of you.

The Demon Horde creep out of the shadows of the forest.

DEMON HORDE

Ooh, oh, oh, ooh, oh, oh, ooh.

He picks her up by her throat.

She GAGS and CHOKES. Struggles against his arm.

ANDREA

No, please...

John LAUGHS. He throws her against a tree. The bark splits
with the impact.

She hits the ground. COUGHS out a mouthful of blood and
teeth. Looks up at John's hands.

JOHN

grabs her by her hair. He drags her through the field.

DEMON HORDE

Have you seen the Ghost of John?

He lifts her up. She wobbles on her feet. He takes a couple
steps back. Aims. He kicks her across the field.

She strikes the pike Rising Bear is impaled on. The pike SNAPS!

Rising Bear flops to the ground. Andrea lands next to him.

DEMON HORDE

Long white bones with the skin all gone?

RISING BEAR

opens his eyes. He smiles. Places something in her hand.

JOHN

stands in front of the well.

ANDREA

gets up. Faces off with him. Her face is a mask of blood and bruises.

DEMON HORDE

Wouldn't it be chilly with no skin on?

She pops a flare.

She pulls out the stick of dynamite Rising Bear gave her.

The Demon Horde stops humming.

She presses the flare to the wick. The wick SIZZLES.

ANDREA

Come on, don't stop singing on my account!

She runs towards John.

ANDREA

Wouldn't it be chilly --

She leaps into the air. He covers his face.

ANDREA

With --

She hits him in the gut.

ANDREA

No --

He stumbles backwards towards the well.

ANDREA

Skin --

She jams the dynamite down his throat.

ANDREA

ON!!!

He reaches down his own throat. She kicks him again. He stumbles back.

She kicks him with all her might.

John ROARS. He falls over the edge of the well. He tumbles into the darkness.

BOTTOM OF THE WELL

John pulls the SIZZLING dynamite out of his throat. The wick finishes burning.

EXT. OLD WELL - NIGHT

KABLAM! The well explodes. The concussive blast tosses Andrea into the air. She hits the ground with a THUD.

A GEYSER

of water erupts from the well. It funnels out like a torrential downpour. A river floods out of the hole.

Andrea LAUGHS. Blood bubbles down her face.

DEMON VILLAGERS

try to run from the river. It courses over them. Whirlpools spin and suck them down. They SCREAM.

A flood of water rushes towards Andrea. She smiles and opens her arms.

EXT. THE FLOODED FOREST - DAY

Morning has finally dawned on the forest. Tree tops sway with the current of the new river.

A CHARRED HAND

bursts out of the water. Andrea emerges from the river. She pulls herself up onto a tree. COUGHS up a mouthful of water.

She SCREAMS and thrusts her arms into the air.

ANDREA

I won!!!

She CRIES. Joyful tears flow down her face.

ANDREA

I beat you, you son of a --

A WHIRLPOOL

forms below her tree. Bolts of lightning shoot out.

John's mangled face breaks the surface of the water.

ANDREA

Noooooo!!!!!!

He leaps out of the whirlpool.

Andrea SCREAMS. She scurries up the tree.

His burnt claws pierce her thigh. Blood gushes from her wound. She SCREAMS in pain. His talons embed deep into her shin.

The whirlpool yanks John down.

Andrea grips a branch with both hands.

ANDREA

It's not fair, I beat you!

She kicks him in his face. He does not let go.

The limb CRACKS.

ANDREA

It's not fair.

Both of them plummet into the whirlpool below. They twirl around in a circle. Buffeted by the current.

Andrea struggles against John.

ANDREA

I beat you.

They swirl further and further down.

They are sucked under.

A flash of light.

PHOOMP!

The whirlpool stops churning.

The peaceful river flows over the forest.

EXT. INTERDIMENSIONAL VORTEX - TIMELESS

A prismatic tornado of light.

Andrea SCREAMS and falls. Her body contorts. Like being sucked through a black hole. Her face stretches out. Her arms elongate. Her torso stretches like a rubber-band.

A harmony of CHIMES. The Music of the Spheres.

Andrea squashes back into normal form. She floats in the air. Peaceful. Liquid rainbows melting upwards.

The rainbows become clouds.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Andrea falls from a hole in the sky. The waves of a blood-red ocean break below her.

She SPLASHES into the water.

EXT. THE SHORE - NIGHT

She drags herself from the waves. COUGHS up a lungful of bloody ocean.

She stands up.

EXT. THE REALM OF THE DEAD - NIGHT

An open expanse of volcanic land. Pools of fire spit sulfur from the blackened earth. WINGED DEMONS soar through the air. CRAWLING DEMONS scour the charred ground.

Andrea stands on the beach. She stares at this nightmare.

She starts to LAUGH and LAUGH and LAUGH...

FADE OUT

ANDREA WILL RETURN

THE GHOST OF JOHN: REALM OF THE DEAD