

The Witch In The Woods

Written by

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INT. NURSING HOME - NURSES STATION - NIGHT

Inside a quiet nurses staff room. The TICKING CLOCK on the wall is at 3AM. NURSE SIAN SIMMONS 40s is sat on a chair slowly nodding off. Abruptly, **SOUNDS OF SCREAMING** come from down the corridor.

Waking Sian, full awake.

The door of the nurses station opens abruptly. NURSE AVA LOVELACE 20s thrusts her head through worried. Sian gets up ready for action.

INT. NURSING HOME - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Ava and Sian shoot down the corridor.

They put their heads closer to the doors to figure out where the INCONSISTENT SCREAMING is coming from.

INT. NURSING HOME - BEDROOM

They open the door and find a elderly person, asleep in bed. SLAM SHUT the door behind them.

The SCREAMING is **DOWN THE CORRIDOR**.

INT. NURSING HOME - ROOM 22 - ANOTHER BEDROOM - NIGHT

They open this door. NURSE APPLGATE 20s is VIOLENTLY BANGING her fist against the door.

NURSE APPLGATE

Water!

Ava gives Applegate a glass of water, she bats it out of Ava's hand.

It SMASHES against the wall.

NURSE APPLGATE (continued)

No water!

Applegate starts COUGHING blood... Blood goes everywhere. Nurse Simmons grabs a towel... Tries to catch the blood.

Simmons turns Applegate on her side so she doesn't choke. But blood keeps coming out of her mouth. More blood pours out. Like a river now. Simmons tries to stop it coming out with her hand.

Ava is stood in the room helpless. Unable to act.

Simmons is covered in blood. Nurse Applegate stops coughing. Stops moving. Stops breathing.

Quiet now.

For too long.

Ava takes her pulse. She shakes her head.

NURSE APPLGATE IS DEAD.

EXT. WOODLANDS - ROAD - DAY

A vast forest scape.

CLOE'S 1990's model CAR drives on road through the woods. Sound of FM RADIO BEING TUNED, failing to find any channel.

INT. CLOE'S CAR - DAY

JASON HARDCORE, 30s, a bedraggled brilliant underachiever is trying in vain to find a radio station. CLOE hardcore(30s) in nurse's scrubs, drives.

JASON

She thinks there's some spooky shit going on at her home. That's why were here?

CLOE

Yes. She's our gran, she needs us.

JASON

What if she's wrong?

CLOE

What if she's right?

Jason looks out the window apprehensively.

Silence. Its been a long drive.

CLOE (continued)

So, Christmas with Serena?

Jason THUMPS the fm radio. Ignoring the question.

JASON

Why is there no signal?

Cloe smirks, she knows there's something he's hiding.

CLOE
She dumped you, didn't she?

JASON
Why would you think that?

CLOE
Because you're an insufferably
selfish shit

JASON
Thanks, Cloe. Glad I can count on
my sister to tell it like it is.

CLOE
You can. Because you can't be
honest with yourself, can you?

JASON
It's more complicated than that.

CLOE
She did. Oh my god. She finally
snapped about the book? I can't
believe you've been writing it for
a year and freeloading at her place
the whole time. How much have you
done, three quarters?

Jason turns his head away trying to ignore the question.

CLOE (continued)
Oh come on! Half? Is it nearly
finished?

JASON
It's a complicated plot. I'm still
in the outline stage. Once I finish
the outline, it will write itself.

CLOE
Can I read your outline?

JASON
You wouldn't understand even if I
showed it to you because you're
used to seeing a finished story. I
don't write an outline with the
expectation that someone else would
ever read it.

CLOE
Can I see it anyway?

Jason points to his temple.

JASON
No, Cloe. It's all in my head.

CLOE
(apprehensive)
You haven't written any of it yet?

Jason turns his head away trying to ignore the question.

CLOE (continued)
Jason.

JASON
I have writer's block.

CLOE
Jason, you're so full of shit that
if you just wrote down every excuse
you make up to cover your laziness,
you could write five novels a year
but you're just too lazy to do it.

EXT. WOODLANDS - ROAD - DAY

The car is driving into the middle of nowhere now.

Bleakness. Dark creepy woods.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jason looks around trying to get his bearings.

They pass a road sign - Dead End Road.

JASON
Well, if they wanted to put this
nursing home in the middle of
nowhere, they succeeded. You
believe Gran about this suspicious
death that's supposed to have
happened and the evil nurse?

CLOE
She's got dementia. Who knows what
she's seeing is real or not.
(More)

CLOE (continued)
 She usually doesn't remember me now
 until I've been talking to her for
 a few minutes.

JASON
 Why bother visit if she doesn't
 remember? Not like she's there
 upset that she wasn't visited.

CLOE
 You're such an ass, Jason. I visit
 so that I know she's not stuck
 there being mistreated.

EXT. NURSING HOME - LANE - DAY

Cloe's car approaches an old building in disrepair surrounded
 by large grounds with nice flowers and shrubs.

EXT. NURSING HOME - PARKING SPACE - DAY

Jason and Cloe get out of the car and walk toward the main
 entrance.

JASON
 (aside to Cloe)
 What a dump.

JIM(30s) the gardener nearby standing by a WHEELBARROW
 holding a PLASTIC BOX turns toward Jason as if he's overheard
 and Jason notices.

JASON (continued)
 (aside to Cloe, louder)
 Nice garden though.

CLOE
 Hi Jim. My brother Jason here
 admires your work. I'm so glad
 our grandmother has your beautiful
 flowers to look at.

JIM
 Thank-you.

Jason goes towards Jim.

Cloe is distracted by a flower in the bushes. She reaches
 out and holds in her hand.

BOB 60s, smooth and seemingly out of nowhere goes toward
 Cloe. He's the kind of guy who likes to talk to visitors.

BOB
Admiring the Oleander flowers?

CLOE
Nice aren't they?

BOB
Beautiful but deadly.

CLOE
Oh, I didn't know that they were.
Are you...How do you know?

BOB
Used to be a professor of botany.
Studying fauna and flana.

CLOE
Oh.

BOB
Extremely interesting plants around
here.

Jason catches up with Jim, who has several rabbits in the wheelbarrow.

Jim puts all the rabbits except one into a plastic box.

JASON
I've come to visit my gran.

JIM
Oh lovely. Residents always like
visitors. Especially Christmas
time. It's usually dead here.

Jason looks at the rabbits inquisitively.

JIM (continued)
Maybe stay for a rabbit stew?

JASON
What about that one?

JIM
That's for the sacrifice, every
Christmas.

Jason looks at Jim, in a *I need answers* face.

JASON
Oh. Ok? Inside you say. Thanks.

Jason goes towards Cloe and grabs her arm.

JASON (continued)
That's some spooky foreshadowing
right there... so, erm, how long
are we visiting? As little as poss
please.

Jason taking them inside. Away from the crazies.

EXT. NURSING HOME - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

Jason enters, followed by Cloe. The door closes revealing the
name stenciled on the door: "END OF DAYS NURSING HOME"

JASON
Really? End of days. You think this
is the best place for Gran?

INT. RECEPTION - DAY

Jason opens the door tentatively. There is a large front
reception desk, but no-one behind it.

CLOE
The lounge is just down here.

Cloe leads Jason.

INT. NURSING HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

Of all the retirement homes in the world, this is one of
the worst. Dirty floor. Paint and wallpaper peeling.
OLD PEOPLE IN CHAIRS stare into space. OLD MAN IN WHEELCHAIR
scoots himself along with his feet. OLD LADY SCRAPES A CHAIR.

Jason follows Cloe into the lounge where there about a dozen
RESIDENTS and HENRY (60's) wild eyed, manic, steps to and
grabs Jason's arm, stopping them both.

CLOE
Hi Henry.

HENRY
Hello Cloe, Who's this?

Henry looks at Jason - but doesn't wait for an answer.

HENRY

I know everything about this place.
It was built in 1870 as a
tubercular sanatorium.

JASON

An insane asylum?

HENRY (continued)

No. It was built for people who had
Tuberculosis. Then it was used for
polio patients in the 1950s and sat
empty for decades until the
government sold to a private
company who turned it into a
nursing home 30 years ago.
Betcha didn't know that. See, I
know everything about this place.
I've written a book about it you
can read. Stuff about the local
witch in it too.

JASON

Witch. Ha. Maybe some other time
thanks.

Jason goes to leave Henry.

HENRY

Go on, ask me anything.

JASON

Why does it smell like piss and shit?

HENRY

Depends.

JASON

Depends on what?

HENRY

On the residents. I mean, it smells
bad because some of the residents
wear Depends -- diapers. But you
know what's worse?

JASON

What?

HENRY

Some of them don't.

Henry goes out the door holding his nose.

Jason follows Cloe to MAUDE (70's) - with a bit HEARING AID - playing CARDS at a table with JOAN(80s) in a wheelchair with a NASAL CANNULA and oxygen tank. Cloe squats down beside Maude as Jason arrives.

CLOE
Hey Gran.

MAUDE
(aside to Cloe)
Who are you, Dear?

Jason pulls Cloe's elbow to lift her to her feet and move her away from Maude.

CLOE
What are you doing?

JASON
That old woman is clearly not Gran.

Cloe shakes off Jason's hand as Maude notices Jason.

MAUDE
Jason! What a surprise! I haven't
seen you in ages!

Cloe, incredulous, looks at Joan and then at Jason, then turns back to face Maude. Jason squats down by Maude and looks closely at her face for a beat.

JASON
(horrified)
Oh gosh! Granny! It is you! You've
. . . changed.

Jason stands upright again, stunned.

MAUDE
Joan cuts my hair now, Jason. Do
you like it?

CLOE
Hey Gran! Happy Christmas.

Maude hangs on Jason's response, ignoring Cloe.

JASON
Yes, you just look so ... young now
that I didn't recognize you!

Jason puts his mouth to Cloe's ear and YELL-WHISPERS.

JASON (continued)
She looks so old! Why does she look so old?

MAUDE
What did you say? I don't hear so well.

JOAN
He said you look old Maude.

Maude sends Jason a "look".

JASON
(panicked)
But not "old old" like you're about to die, like her.

Jason points to Joan.

MAUDE
That's my friend Joan.

Joan smiles. Jason realizes he can't recover from this error.

MAUDE (continued)
We are all going to die. Some just sooner than others. It's ok.

JASON
Now that I've looked at you for a few seconds, you don't actually seem that old.

CLOE
How are you doing granny? You sounded anxious on the phone.

MAUDE
I don't like this place. It gives me the creeps.

Maude leans in closer to Cloe.

MAUDE (continued)
I think one of the nurses is evil.

Maude points to Nurse Simmons and Nurse Kent who are sat at opposing sides of the lounge looking more like prison guards than staff at a retirement home.

MAUDE (continued)
I don't trust them. Especially the boss, Nurse Fletcher.

Jason looks at the nurses. Then sees Nurse Lovelace, a breath of fresh air to this place, not a bad bone in her body.

Even though she is wiping drool from a residents mouth, Jason is instantly attracted to her.

Ava smiles at Maude.
Maude's face lights up.
Cloe sees Jason is taken with Ava.

AVA

Hello Maude. You've got some visitors I see, that nice. How are we? I'm Nurse Lovelace, Maude's nurse today.

MAUDE

Ava is lovely.

AVA

Maude has been getting on just fine here. Haven't you Maude?

MAUDE

Only because of you, Ava.

AVA

That's lovely that you could come visit. Not many kids or grandkids make the effort these days.

JASON

Well we've come here because we care about our gran a lot don't we Cloe? I'm Jason by the way.

Jason extends his hand to shake Ava's hand. She takes it and shakes it.

JASON (continued)

Maude's grandson. Cloe's sister. We're not...together, incase you were wondering. I'm single, just broke up from my girlfriend.

AVA

I'm sorry, I didn't...(know)

MAUDE

Oh Jase.

JASON

It wasn't meant to be, she was just too demanding.

(to Ava)

I'm really impressed with you....

Jason stops. He's trying too hard to flirt with Ava and it's coming out awkward.

JASON (continued)

With what you're doing here. The patients, seem to really like you. I know my gran does. I can see why.

AVA

Thanks.

Ava looks at Jason.

AVA (continued)

Thanks ...

A beat.

She's forgotten his name.

JASON

Jason.

AVA

Thank you Jason. I do what I can. And we prefer to call them the residents - residents, not patients.

JASON

But you do look after them really well don't you?

AVA

Yes. Very. Anyway. I'll carry on with my rounds. I always like to say hi and thank you to residents families who pop in, it's really good for their moral and mental well being.

Ava goes.

Jason waves good bye to her as she goes - like a child.

CLOE

Jase. Why not ask her if she wants to sit on your lap?

JASON

Nurse Lovelace is far too busy for that! But if she wanted to, I wouldn't say no.

NURSE FLETCHER, a stern looking woman, comes into the room. All the residents gaze slowly shift towards her. Staring meekly, as if waiting to be told off. Maude looks towards Nurse Fletcher.

CLOE

That the boss?

Maude nods. This spikes Cloe's and Jason's curiosity.

Nurse Fletcher goes towards Ava.

Ava senses Nurse Fletcher approach. Turns around to greet.

AVA

Nurse Fletcher. Hello.

NURSE FLETCHER

Nurse Lovelace.

Jason shuffles closer. Watching the two nurses.

NURSE FLETCHER (continued)

The extra pair of hands I promised you wont be coming until Monday, the agency wont have a replacement until then and we couldn't even advertise until after the holiday.

Cloe has turned back to talk to her gran. But Jason is still keenly listening to Fletcher and Ava.

AVA

But what are we going to do? We're understaffed and it's Christmas.

NURSE FLETCHER

Well you'll just have to make do.

Jason gets up, bounds towards them. Cloe turns around worried of what he'll do.

JASON

I can help you Ava.

NURSE FLETCHER

And you are?

JASON

Jason Hardcore. My gran Maude is a resident here.

AVA

We are short on staff, Ma'am.

NURSE FLETCHER

Can you take blood pressure?

Cloe snorts.

JASON

No.

NURSE FLETCHER

Catheterize?

JASON

Probably not, since I don't know what that is.

NURSE FLETCHER

Well at least you're honest.

JASON

Sounds perfect for me.

NURSE FLETCHER

Mmmh. I don't know.

JASON

I'm sure you could help with our unskilled labor needs.

Cloe let's out a single burst of LAUGHTER that sounds like a hen cluck.

Nurse Fletcher looks around. Irritated.

JASON (continued)

You are desperate, right?

NURSE FLETCHER

Fine.

EXT. END OF DAYS RETIREMENT HOME - CAR PARK - DAY

Jason jogs after an irate Cloe speed walking to her car.

JASON

Cloe, why are you so pissed at me?
All I'm asking for is a ride back
home on Monday. Can you at least
tell me yes or no?

Cloe opens her door and gives Jason a cold stare.

JASON (continued)

Oh...you're jealous because you
come every week and she doesn't
remember you.

CLOE

The only reason you're doing this
is because you've got the hots for
Ava. You're so shallow Jason and
you always have been.

Cloe relaxes after a beat and gets in the car.

CLOE (continued)

But I guess if you're going to be
here you can at least take care of
Gran. You can be like an
investigator.

Cloe starts the car.

JASON

Well. I was thinking there IS a
story here.

INT. END OF DAYS RETIREMENT HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

Ava and Jason are walking towards door number 22

FLETCHER

There you are. Me and nurse Kent
are going to check in on patient in
room twelve for a half hour if you
can show Jason to the spare staff
bedroom. You're in charge of this
wing.

INT. NURSING HOME - ROOM 22 - DAY

Jason is shown into the room by Ava. Women's clothes are
still hanging over a chair and in the open wardrobe.

AVA
 This was Nurse Applegate's room.
 She left us rather suddenly last
 week.

JASON
 (chuckling)
 Didn't like the food?

AVA
 Died in her sleep.

JASON
 In that bed?

AVA
 Yes. Someone has died in nearly
 every bed in this institution. It
 happens. Not spooked, are you?

JASON
 Me? Spooked? Nah.

AVA
 Good. Get settled here and meet me
 in the staff room in a few minutes.

INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY

There is a kitchenette with a window in the room allowing you
 to see through to the corridor and a sofa and at the end of
 the staff area is a half-closed door with a sign:
 HEAD NURSE: Florence Fletcher R.N.

Jason pours a coffee.
 The PHONE in the office RINGS.
 And RINGS. And RINGS. And RINGS.

Jason looks around and goes into the office

INT. NURSE FLETCHERS OFFICE - DAY

Jason picks up the HANDSET for the MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE on
 the DESK.

JASON
 End Of Days Nursing Home.

Beat. The phone RINGS again.

JASON (continued)
 Hello?

Beat. The phone RINGS again.

A "LINE 1" button lighting on the phone.

JASON (continued)
 (sotto)
 Oh.

He moves to press the button - the ringing stops.

JASON (continued)
 Hello, End Of Days Nursing Home.

The caller has hung-up. Jason puts the handset back on the cradle of the telephone and sees an AUTOPSY & TOXICOLOGY REPORT on the desk and picks it up. The report has :

NAME OF DECEASED: APPLGATE, JENNIFER JANE. CAUSE OF DEATH:
 OPIOID OVERDOSE

JASON (continued)
 Name of Deceased, Applegate,
 Jennifer Jane. Cause of Death,
 Opioid Overdose.

Jason sets the report down, turns to leave the office and sees a PAINTING on the wall of A WITCH-LIKE woman in black clothing standing behind an altar.

To either side of her, several nurses in traditional white nurse attire. On the altar, what appears to be a bloody something or other - like a sacrifice. In the background is the end of days nursing home.

Jason is visibly creeped-out and then he hear a woman's SCREAMS.

INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY

He leaves the office and goes to the lounge area where he sees Ava running past, toward the SCREAMING.

He doesn't know what to do.

AVA
 JASON! ROOM 5! HURRY!

Jason bolts in her direction.

INT. ROOM FIVE - NIGHT

Ava is in the room already when Jason enters. The noise from the room is overwhelming. Like someone GASPING for breath.

Joan is on the floor crawling around. Like a woman possessed.

JOAN

The water! The water on the bedside table!

She's pulling herself to the bathroom, knocking things over as she does.

Jason is still, unable to think or move.

AVA

Jason - water!

He goes to the bedside table.
Sees one full glass of water.
And one nearly empty glass with leaves at the bottom.
He picks up the full glass of water.
Realises there is one set of false teeth in it.

Jason freaks out.

Steps backwards onto another set that is on the floor.
He goes back to the glass.
Squeamishly picks out the dentures with his fingers.
Plonks them on the table.
He goes to Joan and gives her the water.
Helps her sit up to drink it.
But she knocks the glass away.
Smashes on the floor.

JOAN

No. No. **THE WATER.**

Jason leaves the water.
Joan lies on her back, convulsing.
Ava acts, holding Joan's head to the side.

JASON

What shall I do?

AVA

Hold her legs still, so she doesn't smash herself up.

Jason does what he's told.
But Joan vomits over Jason and Ava.
The convulsions continue.
Intense now.

Jason holds on as best as he can.
Then the convulsions stop.

Joan is motionless.
All is quiet.

JASON
What? What happened?

Ava checks Joan's pulse. Takes a stethoscope from her pocket and listens to Ava's chest for ten seconds.

AVA
Solemnly aside to Jason)
I'm not qualified to officially
pronounce her, but she's dead.

Jason, eyes wide "in shock" tries to justify the event.

JASON
I-- I guess people die here.
That's like, normal, right?

AVA
That...was not normal. You go get
cleaned up. I'll sort this out. You
shouldn't have to see this.

EXT. NURSING HOME - REAR SERVICE ENTRANCE - DAY

A BLACK PRIVATE AMBULANCE drives away.

INT. STAFF ROOM - DAY

Jason is on the phone whilst buttoning up his new clean shirt.

JASON
(on phone)
No Cloe, don't send a taxi. Me and
Gran are fine...Yes. It was weird.
She's right, some weird shit
happening, but I want to find out
what it is before just taking her
away.

When Ava comes in clean clothes and make up.
Jason's trousers aren't on properly, he's struggling to put
the clearly made for women's trousers on.
He tries to hide himself as he's not fully clothed.
Ava smiles.

JASON (continued)
Got to go. Bye. Yes I'll keep an
eye on gran.
(to Ava)
Sorry, I.

AVA
It's fine. I've seen way more in
this place. But you do have the
cutest bum around, so we're all
good.

Ava slaps Jasons bum.

JASON
Thanks.

Jason manages to pull the trousers on.

JASON (continued)
Little tight around the crotch
aren't they?

AVA
Not for a woman.

JASON
You okay? You're not in shock. That
doesn't seem to have affected you

Ava
That? Yeh. Fine. When their soul
moves on, it makes me happy that
I'm alive. How are you doing?

JASON
Me. Phhh. Na. I'm fine me. Dead
body is a dead body. Don't bother
me. I'm not easily frightened.

AVA
I see. Well we'll have some fun
trying to scare you. Usually on the
first day new staff get orientated
but you've, already had that.

JASON
Sorry I couldn't have been more
help.

Ava goes towards the mirror and puts her hair up.

AVA

Yeh. Well, you'll get used to death. There's a lot of it here. That's like our fourth death in the last four days.

JASON

That normal?

AVA

Sometimes when one person dies, someone that was close to them, a friend or partner gives up and pops their clogs.

JASON

Were the deaths as bad as that?

AVA

Uh huh.

JASON

That's not good. How they die?

AVA

Why do you ask?

JASON

There's an autopsy report in the head nurse's office that said a Jennifer Applegate died of opiate overdose and that stuff in her glass looked...

AVA

You went into Nurse Fletcher's office?

JASON

The phone was ringing! I tried to answer--

AVA

Who was it?

JASON

Don't know. By the time I decided to answer and figured-out how the phone works, they'd hung up.

AVA

We're not allowed in there. And you definitely should not have looked at a medical report.

JASON

Sorry, it was in plain sight on the desk. Also I found something really creepy. The painting on the wall. Looks like this place.

AVA

That painting was a long time ago - but...

Jason

But what. There's a story here...

Ava comes closer to Jason and speaks quietly.

AVA

Story goes that a woman with four children moved to a nearby town. When her young became ill, the town folk drove them into the woods to stop the spread of the disease. It was hellish. Starving and freezing. Banished from the town at Christmas. She turned to witchcraft in a desperate effort to save her kids.

Jason having taken this in seems a bit freaked out.

JASON

Did she?

AVA

What?

JASON

Save them?

AVA

Within a few months of each other, all her children became ill and died. She had become a witch, but her powers weren't strong enough to save her kids. But over the years they became stronger and she vowed to take her vengeance upon the families of those who banished them to suffer.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

A resident near Maude knits a scarf, with a witch on it.

Maude is with Jason.

BURT 70s, evangelical, walks past.

BURT

I'm sorry for your loss Maude. I know you were good friends with Joan.

Burt goes.

MAUDE

How did she die?

JASON

Peacefully in bed, in her sleep.

MAUDE

Jason. We all heard her screaming.

JASON

Loudly, in bed, awake. I don't know what's going on.

MAUDE

Lets have a drink.

Maude hands Jason an empty cup.

JASON

I need something stronger than tea.

Maude takes a hip flask from her pocket, then pours drink into Jason's and her own tea cup. Jason is shocked.

MAUDE

Tequila. Made it myself, 100% blue agave from the aloe vera plant, so there's no hangover at all. Quite good for you actually.

JASON

I wouldn't let the nurses see you do that. Where you make that?

MAUDE

Jim does it in his shed.

JASON

Why would he do that for you?

Maude gives Jason "the look". Jason gags.

JASON (continued)
I'm sorry I asked.

Nurse Kent and Nurse Simmons come over, like Vultures.
Picks up Maude's Tea cup. Nurse Kent sniffs.
Looks at Jason's - see's it has the same contents.

NURSE KENT
Moonshine! Not allowed.

MAUDE
There's nothing in the guidelines.

NURSE KENT
Tough.

Nurse Kent yanks the flask off Maude.
And the cups off Maude and Joan.
She eyeballs Jason.
Nurse Kent and Nurse Simmons leave.

JASON
How do you put up with these staff?

Maude shrugs.

MAUDE
Hey Jason. You remember when me and grandad would take you and Cloe to the beach in the summer when your mum and dad were at work?

JASON
And grandad would turn the engine off when we went down that last long steep hill to the beach.

MAUDE
And he couldn't get it started again.

JASON
And hit that sheep.

Maude laughs like she hasn't in a long time.
Other residents look at her shocked.

JASON (continued)
I haven't visited you in a while have I?

MAUDE
You've got your own adventures now.

JASON

Whatever is going on her, I'm going to look after you. Okay.

MAUDE

Okay.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Empty, quiet corridor.

INT. NURSE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ava and Jason are sat in the room drinking tea.

Jason looks up the clock on the wall. 12:00

Silence.

Jason puts down the book he's reading - *The history of Dead End woods by Henry Hubbard* and gets a party blower thing - blows it!

JASON

Merry Christmas!

AVA

Shhh! See that managed to buy Henrys book?

JASON

Yeh It sounded interesting. It's quite good actually. Not as crazy as I thought. Back in the day Witches here were quite the fixture. Good money for the church as well he says. The protestants and catholics did battle to see who could rid the most witches.

AVA

And whoever won rided the land and its people of the most witches was obviously the best church. That'll explain burning witches without proof. Such a travesty.

Jason is looking out of the window into the woods. Trying to find something.

He reaches across the desk and pivots the desk lamp so it shines out of the window, lighting a portion of the woods.

AVA (continued)
Your'e not worried are you?

JASON
No.

AVA
I thought I heard it in your voice?

JASON
All good. There's no such things as Witches.

Suddenly the power goes off.

BLACKNESS

AVA
Powers off.

JASON
Oh great!

AVA
There's lights in one of the draws.

He rummages in the draw and gets a flashlight - turns it on.

Gets another and passes it to Ava, who turns it on.

They hear a noise. It's coming from down the corridor.

AVA (continued)
Someone's awake. I'll go take a look.

JASON
Ok. I'll just stay here and check the fuses.

Ava goes down the corridor.

Jason shines his torch around in the room.

JASON (continued)
Fuses...

He looks around more but..

Something catches Jason off guard.
A movement out from the corridor that he can see.

JASON (continued)
Oh shit!

Jason turns to look. He sees--

Outside of the nurses viewing window leading to the corridor
'outside' a figure is walking on the ceiling.

The shock sends Jason falling onto the floor.

JASON (continued)
Ow! Fuck.

His head shaking. Afraid.

JASON (continued)
What the hell?

He picks up the flashlight from the floor and bracing himself
for what is through the door, he walks into the corridor.

But there is nothing in the corridor; except Jason.

JASON (continued)
Ava!

Jason walks down one corridor

And another, he's looking for Ava or the thing.

JASON (continued)
Ava..
(whisper)
Thing crawling on the ceiling.
Fucking hell! Scary ass shit.

Jason keeps on searching, hoping to find one but not the
other. Either way he can't find anyone.

He gives up and walks back to the nurses room.

INT. NURSE'S ROOM - NIGHT

There is no-one there.
But then Jason hears footsteps coming towards him.
Scared. He crouches down behind the desk.
The footsteps slow.
The handle on the door turns.
Jason winces, shines his light on the door.
Ava comes into the room.

AVA
Can you get that thing out of my
eyes please.

Jason is relieved.

He moves the light away.

AVA (continued)
What are you doing under the table?
You are scared aren't you?

JASON
No. I dropped something. How are
you? Find anything?

AVA
No.

JASON
Nothing?

AVA
No.

JASON
Well, we'll have to get the power
back on. Where's the fuse board.

Ava shrugs her shoulders.
Jason looks around with his light.
He spots the box on the wall.
He gets up on the desk.
Opens the box.
All the fuses say ON.

JASON (continued)
The fuses are on.

AVA
Which means what?

JASON
I dunno. Something is going on.
Something else must have turned the
power off.

AVA
Branch on the line

JASON
Witch?

Jason jumps down off the desk and picks up the phone. Which is dead.

Ava goes into the desk draw, gets out another torch. Plus several little battery powered lamps. Puts them onto the trolley.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jason goes towards the person - Maude.

Maude is coming out of Nurse Kent's room. She has her large handbag with her.

JASON
Hey Maude.

AVA
That's not your room.

But Maude looks like she is sleepwalking.

MAUDE
Isn't it?

JASON
Is she asleep?

Jason looks at her carefully weighing up the answer.

AVA
Maude. Do you know where you are?

Maude opens up her eyes - she's definitely asleep.

JASON
Hi Maude, it's me. Jason.

MAUDE
Who? I don't want to be here.

JASON
I know the feeling...This is your home now Maude. You'll get used to it.

MAUDE
I don't want to.

Maude carries on walking towards the front door.

AVA

Don't touch her, she might still be asleep. The shock could kill her.

They rush past her...
...and stand in front of the main door.
Blocking her access.

AVA (continued)

Maude.

Maude grunts. Still asleep. Eyes closed.

MAUDE

I want to go.

JASON

Where?

MAUDE

I want to go pick some flowers.

JASON

In the morning gran.

AVA

Lets get you back to bed. I think you had a nightmare.

Ava and Jason take an arm of Maude each.

INT. MAUDE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maude is back in bed. Settled.

JASON

Can I offer you anything from the trolley? Paracetamol? Sleeping tablet? Something to help you get through the night?

Maude shakes her head.

MAUDE

No. I'll have my tequila. Can you pour me one please.

Jason

To be fair. That is a much better choice.

She points to her wardrobe.

Jason opens it up. It is more a distillery than a clothes wardrobe.

Jason looks at it wide eyed.

MAUDE
Would you like some?

INT. NURSES ROOM - NIGHT

Jason pours two glasses from the tequila bottle.

He passes one of them to Ava.

Jason takes a drink from the glass. Smiles.

Ava takes a drink as well.

AVA
Oh it isn't it. A sleeping ship is
a good ship.

JASON
Don't want anymore people wandering
around the place. Do we have to
stay awake the whole night or can
we take it in shifts?

AVA
All night. You'll get used to it.
If someones on the floor we'd need
two of us.

EXT. END OF DAYS RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

Jason steps outside and looks at
A TREE that has fallen across the road blocking it.

JASON
Just great!

INT. NURSES ROOM - DAY

Jason looks up at the clock on the wall.

3:00 AM

He then looks at his wrist watch 3:08 AM

INT. NURSES ROOM - NIGHT

Jason is sat looking at Ava.

JASON
What the hell is going on?

AVA
Maybe the witch is trying to scare
us?

A high pitched scream from down the corridor.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jason and Ava knock the door.
Noises of Nurse Kent kicking and screaming.

AVA (O.C.)
Open up! Are you okay?

INT. STAFF BEDROOM - NIGHT

The key turns in the lock.
The door opens.
Jason and Ava walk in.
See Nurse Kent convulsing on her bed.
Ava is taken aback -
Nurse Kent is wild with movement as if she were possessed.

NURSE KENT
Help me!

JASON
What is it?

Nurse Kent screams out, still writhing in agony.

AVA
Give me the anesthetic - quick.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jason opens the draw of the trolley.
Stares at the things in there - lost.
He gets the injection needle out.

INT. STAFF BEDROOM - NIGHT

And passes it to Ava.

AVA

Hold her.

Ava takes the needle.
Tries to sedate Nurse Kent.
But Kent is too violent.
She overpowers both of them.
The needle rolls under the bed.

AVA (continued)

Shit.

NURSE KENT

What is happening?

Nurse Kent starts foaming at the mouth.
Ava turns her head to the side so Kent doesn't choke.
Blood spills out from Nurse Kent's eyes.
Everything goes deadly quiet.

JASON

What!? Is she?

Ava puts her two fingers on Kent's neck, to check for her pulse.
Ava shakes her head. Kent is dead.
Ava closes her eyes.
Takes in a long deep breath.
Breathes out. Renewed.

JASON (continued)

Merry Christmas y'all

INT. STAFF BEDROOM - NIGHT - MINUTES LATER

Jason and Ava are sat on the floor.
Jason is exhausted.
But Ava seems fine.
Jason spots a glass on the bedside table.
He picks it up.
At the bottom are tiny pieces of leaves and twigs.
Jason looks at it deep in thought.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Nurse Simmons is stood in-front of the group. It's like a town hall meeting. Several nurses are sat, stone faced.

Jason picks up a phone in the corner of the room. He listens for a dialing tone. Doesn't hear one. Puts it back down.

NURSE SIMMONS

If you could all be still. Last night another of our number died - Nurse Kent is...was a valued member of the group. From the way she died, I'm worried that there may be more deaths.

HENRY

It's the work of the witch. She's at it again, feeding off scared souls.

SYLVIA

This is a retirement home - deaths are what happens.

NURSE SIMMONS

I'm not worried about you residents. I'm worried about us - the staff.

HENRY

The witch is not going to stop until she's taken her feed. She does it every ten years at Christmas when her children died. Renews herself. So she can kill the townsfolk that killed her kids.

NURSE SIMMONS

Ok. Let's not get hysterical. We've got no power, no phones. But if we just stay calm, we'll get through this.

But the atmosphere in the room is anything but calm.

JASON

You called the police?

Nurse Simmons looks around for answers. Nurse Fletcher comes to the front everyone is quiet.

FLETCHER

We have deaths here every week. We thought that Nurse Appelgate had been taking some of the patients drugs and overdosed, we didn't want the fuss.

JASON

What kind of place is this?

FLETCHER

We'll have to wait until someone comes this way and calls for help.

JASON

That's a plan?

FLETCHER

You could walk if you'd like seeing as the roads blocked?

JASON

We're in the middle of nowhere and it's freezing! It'll take days!

FLETCHER

Like I said I have a plan. We'll sit tight.

JASON

Do you want us all to die?

FLETCHER

Thank you for your concern Jason. I know that your gran means a lot to you. But we all have to die sometime.

JASON

You might have a death wish. But I don't.

INT. CORRIDOR -DAY

Several people are coming out of the lounge after the meeting.

Jason goes over to Henry.

JASON

You said this happens every ten years?

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Like a hall of records here. Henry leads Jason in, Henry's been here before the way he knows where the torch is kept. But, he looks around as if he knows they shouldn't be here.

HENRY

(Whispering)

Yes. It happened when it was a TB hospital, then again when it changed hands. Guess they figured it was just bad luck all those people dying at once.

JASON

But it wasn't.

HENRY

No it was that witch. She's got to take the souls of the descendants of the townsfolk what did her wrong.

JASON

Christ. My grans from this town. Hang on. So Nurse Fletcher knows about this mass death thing.

HENRY

Uh hu. Would have happened on her watch twice already.

JASON

Must be good at covering it up.

HENRY

Or participating.

EXT. END OF DAYS HOME - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Jason walks outside of the building. Takes in a breath of fresh air.

Sits down on the front steps.

He sees Jim pushing a wheelbarrow nearby.

Jim gets up and goes towards him.

JASON

Talk to me about this sacrifice.

INT. POTTING SHED - DAY

Jim and Jason are in the shed. Tanks for liquids on the workbench together with plant pots.

JIM

The caretaker before me did it and I guess it's just part of the job for me.

JASON

So, you don't believe in the witch?

JIM

I do aye.

Jason looks at the distillery.

JASON

I'm impressed with the tequila. Maude gave me some. She seems to know the most around here about these plants.

JIM

She knows them alright. Nearly as knowledgeable as Ava. She's got me growing all kinds of weird stuff. Oleander because of it's pretty pink flowers and fragrance, but the Hemlock and Deadly Nightshade were growing here before I arrived I don't mind, keeps me busy.

Jason picks up some grounded up plants from a glass jar. Jason looks at them curiously.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Jason is following Ava around the room. She is checking the residents are okay.

JASON

Can I just talk with you?

AVA

In a minute.

JASON

Ava. Its about the deaths.

AVA

I know. It can take time to process.

Jason takes hold of Ava's hand. Stops her.

JASON

There's something not right. I saw a glass in the room and in the bottom of it. I think someone is poisoning people. The gardener said there's lots of plants here been here for a very long time.

INT. LOUNGE - HENRY'S TABLE - DAY

Burt, Henry and Jason sit at a table

BURT

Some weird stuff is going on. This is not God's way.

JASON

You're telling me. What could be causing it?

HENRY

The witch could be angry.

JASON

Hang on. We're going with Witch?

HENRY

It may be growing weary and needs new life-force to survive or grow.

JASON

Taking their souls?

Henry

Yes.

JASON

More deaths. Who's next?

HENRY

The witch was known to mark the doors of the intended victim with blood before they expired.

JASON

What if it's more straight forward than that?

MR and MRS COOPR walk towards the window behind Jason.

They look outside. Where they see:

Maude walking slowly out towards the woods.

HENRY

I don't know. Part of me thinks that was a story, to scare kids into being good and staying out of the woods.

BURT

What if it's not just a story?

HENRY

Now I'm beginning to like you. Witches are pagans. They believe that everything in nature has an essence, everything has its own purpose. And that that the natural cycles of birth, growth and death observed in the world around us carry profoundly spiritual meanings.

JASON

They get a kick out of killing people?

HENRY

I guess.

Jason turns around to look at the two SNIGGERING residents behind him, they're distracting him.

BURT

This witch and what it is doing is an abomination in the eyes of the lord.

HENRY

Agreed, that is if there's just one Witch?

JASON

What? How you find all this stuff out?

HENRY

Research.

JASON

But like you've never been into her house in the woods or anything.

HENRY

Sorry?

JASON

I thought you said in your book
that she used to live in the woods.

HENRY

But no-one goes into those woods.
Excuse me. I've got to go pee. Damn
prostate.

A female resident across the lounge lifts her skirt up.

Revealing a piss bag secured to her leg.

MRS COOPER

You want one of these darling-
don't even know I'm doing it.

Henry goes off.

Sylvia eyes up the bag.

SYLVIA

Where you get that from? I want
one.

Jason turns around and gets up and goes towards the window.

JASON

What are you two sniggering about?

BOB

It's Maude. She's making a break
for it!

JASON

What! Where?

Bob points towards the woods.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ava and Jason walk in the woods. Looking for Maude.

JASON

MAUDE!

AVA

MAUDE.

Ava spots a plant that is growing nearby she goes to it. She
holds the flower in her hand.

AVA (continued)
It looks lovely doesn't it.

She shows Jason, but he's more concerned about looking for Maude.

JASON
Where is she? I guess people don't try to escape that often.

AVA
I think it might be her alzchimers.

JASON
How did you get to be so good with the patients...with the residents here?

AVA
I just do my job properly.

JASON
It's more than that. They really like you here.

Jason drops his head. Sad.

AVA
Hey. People like you as well.

JASON
Do they? I'm not sure about Nurse Fletcher.

AVA
Don't worry about her, she doesn't like anyone. I like you though.

JASON
Thanks. Maybe you and I could go out to dinner or something sometime.

AVA
My place is here with my residents.

JASON
Ah. Ok. Maybe a raincheck then?

AVA
We'll see. But I like having you around.

Ava kisses Jason.

AVA (continued)
I'd like to spend some time with
you. Alone.

JASON
Forward. I like it.

EXT. FURTHER IN THE WOODS - DAY

Jason and Ava walk aimlessly.

JASON
Gran!

AVA
Aren't you scared of these woods.
With the story of the witch?

JASON
No. Because I've seen no evidence
that would indicate...

They STUMBLE over a big stone - see a few letters on one,
brush off the debris and see 4 names messily hand-carved into
the soft sandstone
Bess May Age 7
Chet May Age 5
Dal May Age 4

Jason is shocked.

They see Maude scurry over the hill

They see her go into a CABIN. A wooden shack

..The single story place, about five meters squared. Looks
like it has been there for a long time.

JASON (continued)
Granny. What are you doing here?
It's not safe.

MAUDE
Sure it is.

INT. SHACK - DAY

Jason pokes his head around inside.
Lit candles occupy the place.
He walks in slowly. Floorboards creak.
He looks around, nervously.
To one side a ritualistic altar.

He goes closer. Taking quiet footsteps.
 To his right on the wall;
 He sees photos of people from the home.
 Including his gran and him.
 Jason is panicked by what he sees.
 He turns to leave. Trips over something.
 Falls down.
 Ava comes into the Shack.
 Surprising Jason and causing him to panic.

JASON

Out!

They both exit the door at the same time.
 The door swings shut toward them.
 Locking them inside.
 They freak out banging on the door to get out.
 Ava lifts the door latch.
 Jason runs out in a frenzy.
 Ava walks out behind him.

JASON (continued)

The witch is real!

AVA

I guess so.

JASON

You seem to be taking this in your
 stride.

AVA

You see some weird stuff through
 the years.

JASON

Like this! And you're still working
 here?

EXT. SHACK - WOODS - DAY

Nurse Fletcher. Nurse Simmons. Henry. Ava, Jason and Maude
 are outside.

INT. SHACK - DAY

Fletcher, Jason, Henry, Simmons stare at the photos on the
 wall of the staff and retirement home residents - asleep.

SIMMONS

Are they asleep?

Henry leans closer.

He sees a photo of himself on the wall.

HENRY
Oh my god they are.

Henry lurches back. Afraid.

Simmons sees a photo of herself on the wall.

SIMMONS
What the hell!

JASON
Whoever took those photos took them
inside the building. So they had
access. Is the witch...in here.
With us?

HENRY
One of us?

INT. NURSING HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Mr and Mrs Cooper are walking towards the bedroom door.

MR COOPER
You can't just lock us in here.

But the door is locked.

INT. NURSING HOME - CORRIDOR

Nurse Fletcher locks the door, then moves to the next door -
Locks that one shut.

Banging of doors can be heard all down the corridor.

INT. NURSING HOME - MAUDES'S ROOM - DAY

Nurse Simmons pours tea for a shivering Maude.

JASON
Why did you go in the woods?

MAUDE
I wanted to go to the cabin.

JASON
You knew the cabin was there?
You've been there before?

MAUDE
Yes. Otherwise how would I know
where to find it?

Ava looks at Joan.

Joan shrugs "I don't know what she's talking about, she's senile" and Maude spins her index finger at her ear.

AVA
Maude, who did you go to the cabin
with?

MAUDE
I don't remember?

Ava stares incredulously at Maude for a beat.

Suddenly the door is closed. The sound of a KEY IN THE LOCK.

Jason rips open the door.

Fletcher has dropped the key and is picking it up.

JASON
You can't just lock people in their
rooms!

NURSE FLETCHER
I think the situation dictates I
can.

JASON
So you have a master key. You can
go in at any point you like.

NURSE FLETCHER
Yes. Of course. I'm in charge here.

JASON
Whose in charge of you?

NURSE FLETCHER
What are you getting at?

JASON
I'm just saying - what if you're
the witch?

NURSE FLETCHER

If I was a witch. I may want to
silence you one way or another.
If I was the witch it would be
rather unwise to let me know you
know.

MAUDE

You can't lock my door!

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Several of the residents are behind Nurse Fletcher. Mob like.

NURSE FLETCHER

Stay away.

MAUDE

Me. I'm not being locked up like a
prisoner.

BURT

We shouldn't run away from this
fear. God has given us the strength
to stand up to it.

JASON

I agree.

NURSE FLETCHER

You think that you can stand up to
this thing do you? You've got no
idea.

MRS COOPER

All while you've been in charge
here Joan and those nurses died
horribly.

Two nurses that are near Nurse Fletcher look at her
uncomfortable.

NURSE FLETCHER

Is that what you think? You think
I'm the witch?

The group all stare at her. Nodding slowly. Unafraid.

NURSE FLETCHER (continued)

Why is it that I always have to
look after you. You haven't got a
God damn brain cell to rub together
between you.

(More)

NURSE FLETCHER (continued)
I've been keeping you alive all
these years and this is how you
repay me? Nurses please lock the
patients in their rooms.

BOB
I do not want to go to my room. I
am a resident not a prisoner.

The nurses start to obey Nurse Fletcher's orders.

AVA
Stop. Nurse Simmons, nurse Jones.
You know that you can't do that.

Several residents slowly move towards Nurse Fletcher.

Jason moves in as well.

NURSE FLETCHER
What are you doing?

Simmons and Jones can see that the group is moving towards
Nurse Fletcher.

They retreat. They aren't stupid.

NURSE FLETCHER (continued)
I order you to sit down.

Several of the group with walking sticks and Zimmerframes
whack Nurse Fletcher.

SYLVIA
Evil bitch.

MRS COOPER
I've never liked you.

MR COOPER
I hope you rot in hell.

SYLVIA
Witch. Evil witch bitch.

On onslaught of fist and elbows connect with Nurse Fletcher.

They may be old and frail - but there's enough of them and
they are pissed.

It gets ugly. Nurse Fletcher gets knocked to the ground.

AVA
Jason. We can't allow this.

JASON
You're right.

Jason and Ava wade in to Nurse Fletchers aid.

Jason gets clobbered in the mobs wake.

AVA
Stop this now!

Somehow Ava has control over the group. They listen to her. In fact, now, they're all staring at her, intently.

AVA (continued)
Lets not get carried away. I know that everyone is excited, and a little scared.

Jason gets to Nurse Fletcher and lifts her up. She has a big cut over one eye.

The group put Nurse Fletcher in her room.

Nurse Simmons takes the master key off Nurse Fletcher and Locks the door with it.

SYLVIA
Safe now.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

At the other end of the room Henry has a small group of people surrounding him; listening to him talk.

HENRY
It has be told that the will come back and haunt this place. She is known to sold her soul to the devil in exchange for immortality, but she needs the souls of others to keep her alive and well.

JOAN
How do you know this?

HENRY
Do you doubt that this is the work of the Witch ?

JOAN
No, but these stories...they seem a little far fetched.

HENRY

Witches can be all. They may possess people and make them do unspeakable acts towards one another.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Jason sees that there is a mark on one of the doors.

SIMMONS

What's that?

JASON

Jesus christ. That is the markings of the witch. The story goes whoever has got a mark has been targeted.

Across the hall from him there are two more.

JASON (continued)

Is that blood?

Jason wipes it with his finger.

AVA

Isn't that your grans door?

SIMMONS

How come you ain't got a mark on your door?

JASON

I've got to see if she is ok.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jason rushes down the hall. As he gets to the door he slows down... Composes himself... Opens the door.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - MAUDE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maude is in bed ill.

Maude groans - a lot.

MAUDE

I don't feel very good Jason.

JASON

Don't you worry gran, I'll take care of you.

Maude picks up a tissue and coughs into it.

She makes quite a go of it. She seems to cough up a lot of flem.

Indicates to Jason to come and talk with her. Jason gets up.

He goes over to her... Jason starts crying.

MAUDE

What's up?

JASON

I really enjoyed spending time with you and granddad as a kid. You made it feel special. You made me feel special.

Maude hugs Jason.

MAUDE

It's okay Jason. It's ok.

Maude starts crying.

Jason hugs Maude.

JASON

Don't cry gran. You relax and fall asleep.

Maude closes her eyes.

MAUDE

Jason. In the cupboard. There's something for you.

JASON

Gran. I don't think now is the time to get drunk.

MAUDE

No. On the top shelf. Little bottles. Take the one on the right.

Jason takes a little glass veil bottle out with powder inside.

JASON

What am I going to do with this?

MAUDE

When the time comes. Mix it with
water. It's very refreshing.

Jason looks at the bottle and then at his gran. He's got so
many questions. But she falls asleep.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - NURSE FLETCHERS BEDROOM - DAY

Nurse Fletcher is sat on her bed.

She has a bandage over her eye.

She watches Jason come in.

JASON

What did you do to my Gran?

NURSE FLETCHER

She ill?

JASON

You know she is!

NURSE FLETCHER

No. I don't.

JASON

Well. I'll send someone in that you
can talk to, incase you decide to
change your mind.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

Jason slumps on a chair. Sad.

Ava walks over to him. Sits down next to him.

AVA

You okay?

JASON

Gran is ill.

AVA

She still alive?

JASON

Yes.

AVA

Well she has been suffering a lot.

JASON

I'm supposed to be looking after her.

AVA

Well, maybe its better for her like this that she doesn't suffer too much.

JASON

There must be something someone can do.

AVA

I know you're scared, you don't want your granny to die. The only one who really knew you.

Jason looks at Ava as if she were reading his mind.

AVA (continued)

But we all got to go.

Jason sees Burt walking into the room.

JASON

Not on my watch.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

Jason walks toward Burt stopping him enter the room.

JASON

We need you to do an exorcism on the building and all of the people.

BURT

I know that things have gotten strange recently. But exorcism - really?

JASON

Peoples lives are at risk here. People have been marked.

BURT

Have I been marked?

Jason nods solemnly.

BURT (continued)

Maybe an exorcism would help then.

JASON

How do you know this is afraid of God anyway? What if this is an atheist?

BURT

It'll be fine. I'll need a Bible.

JASON

There's one in every bedside table.

BURT

How do you know?

JASON

It's the law for hospitals, nursing homes and hotels.

BURT

Ok. I'll need some Holy Water. Lots of it. About a five liters. And exorcized salt.

JASON

You really need all that?

BURT

Yep!

Jason leaves Burt's side and walks to the window, frustrated.

JASON

(sotto)

Shit. There's no way we can get that stuff.

BURT

Sure there is. I can make it.

JASON

Why didn't you say so?

BURT

I figured you knew. Where do you think it comes from?

INT. NURSING HOME - STAFF LOUNGE - DAY

Burt with a COFFEE URN and PACKETS OF SALT finishes a blessing.

BURT
 (sotto, in LATIN)
 Blessed are you, Lord, all-powerful
 God, who in Christ, the living
 water of salvation, blessed and
 transformed us. Grant that when any
 are sprinkled with this water and
 salt that they will be --

INT. NURSING HOME - RESIDENT LOUNGE - DAY

All residents and staff are present except Maude who is ill
 in bed.

JASON
 OK everybody, Burt, err, Father
 Burt is making Holy Water and Salt
 and will be performing an exorcism
 on the place and all of us--

HENRY
 Will it hurt?

JASON
 (chuckles)
 Only if you're the Witch.

INT. NURSE FLETCHERS BEDROOM - DAY

Bob is sat on the chair at the end of the bed. Nurse Fletcher
 is tied down to the bed.

BOB
 They said that if you anything to
 say...

NURSE FLETCHER
 What? Not only am I being kept
 prisoner, I have to go to therapy
 as well.

BOB
 As far as I know, you wanted to
 lock everyone in their rooms.

NURSE FLETCHER
 By themselves and not guarded. Like
 your'e doing to me!

BOB

Well, seeing as I am here. What do you want to talk about.

INT. NURSING HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

Most RESIDENTS & STAFF follow Burt as he sprinkles water from the coffee urn Jason is carrying beside him with Ava carrying packets of salt, opening one and pouring it into her hand. Burt takes a pinch of salt and throws it.

BURT

Almighty and everlasting God, you have created salt for the use of man, we ask that wherever it is sprinkled and whatever is touched by it may be set free from all impurity and the attacks of Satan; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESIDENTS & STAFF

Amen.

BURT

May your holy angels dwell here to keep us in peace, and may your blessings be upon us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESIDENTS & STAFF

Amen.

EXT. END OF DAYS HOME - DAY

Burt is walking around the house exorcising the demon. He is carrying a vial of holy water and he is sprinkling it at the walls of the building.

Residents with walking sticks hit the walls.

MR COOPER

Away with you!

MRS COOPER

Get out of here!

Ava is carrying the book in front of Burt for him to read the exorcism.

BURT

I banish they oh foul demon, oh
evil one, thy doesn't belong here.
Be away from this place. We are the
divine and thy isn't pure to be
here.

Several of the nurses are walking behind Burt.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - MAUDES BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason is holding the hand of his gran.

She is writhing in agony.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - RECEPTION - DAY

The 'procession' carry on.
Burt splashes the wall with holy water.
The residents with walking sticks hit the wall.

SYLVIA

Come out you!

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - MAUDE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maude writhes in agony because of the splashes.
It's like each splash of water on the wall burns Maude.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

Burt and the procession continue walking

BURT

The people here are from the house
of God. Does thy not understand
that thoust must leave. Begone with
ye.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - MAUDE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Maude starts to be sick blood from her mouth.

Jason catches the blood in a bowl.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

Burt comes to Maude's door. Burt and the group enter.

They see Maude is ill.

BURT
I compel the evil to be gone from
you.

He sprays her with holy water.

It connects with Maude. It is as if the water is burning her.
Badly.

JASON
Do you have to do that?

But Burt continues.

Maude writhing each time.

JASON (continued)
Stop it. STOP IT.

MRS COOPER
It's working.

JASON
It's making her worse.

JASON (continued)
Stop it!

Jason goes over to Burt. Burt is in a trance like state.

JASON (continued)
Burt! Burt!

He can't hear Jason talk... Jason slaps Burt in the face.

Burt continues his incantation.

JASON (continued)
Burt. Stop.

Burt 'awakes' from his trance... Exhausted... He collapses.
The congregation catch him.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY - TEN MINUTES LATER

Jason is stood in the doorway to Maude's room.

Burt is in on the seat next to Maude asleep.

JASON
Do you think it has worked?

EXT. GROUNDS - ALTAR - DAY

Jim is kneeling in front of an stone altar. Upon it is a rabbit.

JIM

We give you this offering so that
you may be happy and leave us be to
continue to bring you offerings.

Jim takes a knife and slices the rabbit. Blood falling from its body.

Jim looks up to the sky and then around the woods.

JIM (continued)

Are you happy?

But then like a invisible bolt from the sky has hit Jim, he shudders and falls to the floor.

INT. NURSE FLETCHERS BEDROOM - DAY

Nurse Simmons is in the room now with Nurse Fletcher and Bob.

BOB

They all think that you are the
witch. Unless you can convince us
otherwise your in deep shit!

NURSE FLETCHER

Hey I run this place. It may not be
the neatest. But it's safe. Last
thing I want is an insurance
company rep will walk in, see
something unsafe, and all residents
are out on the street and staff are
laid off. Now. Will you let me out
of this bed.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Jason is sat on an easy chair exhausted.

Ava comes into the room.

AVA

Hello.

JASON

They're trying to save my Gran.

AVA
You really do care for your gran
don't you?

JASON
Uh hu.

AVA
Good. Many people don't. A lot of
people don't even care for
themselves. I'm glad to see you're
not one of them.

Ava leans on Jason's shoulder.

Someone is at the window. Shouting.

SYLVIA
Hey. Hey!

Another resident goes over to the window and looks out.

AVA
Whats' up?

RESIDENT
Hey!

Ava gets up... Goes to the window... Looks out... Sees the
gardener attacking Bob with a pair of sheers...

Jason gets up and approaches the window... Looks out.

JASON
Oh shit.

EXT. END OF DAYS HOME - GARDEN - DAY

Jim has got blood coming out of his mouth...Bob is on the
floor...Dead.

Jim is repeatedly stabbing them with the garden sheers...
Jason and Ava come out of the building... Several residents
behind them... Jim sees them and gets up.

JASON
What's he doing!

Jim starts to come towards them.

JIM
You've got to die Bob!

Henry who is part of the group.

HENRY
He's possessed.

JASON
No shit Sherlock.

BURT
Possessed by who?

Jim comes towards them.

HENRY
Do something!

Jason looks around... He sees a wheelbarrow... Jim is now running towards the group.

Jason grabs the wheelbarrow... Pelts towards Jim...

Jim's body connects with the wheelbarrow... BOOM... Jim to falls into the wheelbarrow... Smashing his head on the inside of it...

Jason comes to an abrupt stop in complete shock.

JASON
Shit.

AVA
That's not very caring is it!

JASON
(to Jim)
Sorry man, I...

But Jim gets up... Clearly very much alive.

JIM
Must kill Bob!

Blood coming from his mouth and eyes now... Jason picks the spade up from the wheelbarrow... Jim come towards him.

Jason whacks him with the spade... But Jim doesn't stop... Jason runs away into the potting shed.

INT. POTTING SHED -

Full of plants and brewing apparatus.

Jason grabs a spade that's resting against a wall.

EXT. POTTING SHED

Jason runs out the potting shed... He lifts the shovel over his head... Runs straight at Jim.

BAM! Right smack in the kisser... Jim goes down. Out for the count.

JASON
What the hell!

BURT
Well I guess the ritual didn't work.

JASON
No it didn't.

Ava comes rushing out of the building towards them.

AVA
Why the hell did you do that?

JASON
What? Why wouldn't I? He was trying to Kill Bob. God knows what else!

AVA
Fuck.

INT. END OF DAYS HOME - CORRIDOR - DAY

Ava and Jason are checking on the people in the home. Doing the rounds together. Some are in their rooms. Candles lighting the place.

JASON
I think that it's one of us.

AVA
Really? Me and you?

JASON
No. One of us.

Jason swings his arms around indicating everyone.

AVA
You serious? Most of these lot couldn't go for a piss by themselves.

JASON

You heard Burt say it can possess you.

AVA

You believe that?

JASON

Maybe. I mean Maudes right. Fletcher is basically a bitch. She hates all of us. We're just a massive inconvenience.

AVA

Why would she want to run the place if she hates it?

JASON

Fuck knows. She's mental. Or at least the is?

AVA

Huh?

JASON

Maybe the Witch is mental. Senile sort of.

AVA

I see where your'e going with this.

JASON

What if the Witch is a resident.

AVA

What do we do if it is?

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

They walk towards the open bedroom door.

On the outside the name Nurse Fletcher.

INT. NURSE FLETCHER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Nurse Fletcher is dead.

AVA

Fuck. She's not the one.

JASON

Nope. She's not.

Jason goes toward Nurse Fletcher to get a better look.

He spots a glass next to the bed, its got leaves at the bottom.

Jason picks it up.

JASON (continued)
I've seen this before. This thing
with the leaves. I've seen it.

AVA
Where. What is it?

JASON
I think it's some kind of poison.
I've been doing some investigating.
The gardener was tending to a lot
of plants on there grounds that
were poisonous. He didn't knew
that, but the Witch did.

Nurse Simmons and Nurse Jones look at Jason bewildered.

NURSE SIMMONS
How do you know it's poison.

JASON
It's been in the room of every
death I've been at.

NURSE SIMMONS
You have been at every death
haven't you?

JASON
Yes. But not by choice.

Nurse Simmons and Nurse Jones stare at Jason.

JASON (continued)
Why are you both staring at me like
that?

NURSE SIMMONS
How do you know it's poison?

JASON
I guess it's because the
toxicologist rang and said it was.

NURSE JONES
And you didn't tell us?

JASON

Well no. Because people started
dying didn't they!

NURSE SIMMONS

Yeh. As soon as you came here.

JASON

Hey I had nothing to do with this.

AVA

He hasn't.

NURSE SIMMONS

You stay out of this. Bitch.

Nurse Simmons shoves Ava.

JASON

Hey. Hey. I understand you're a bit
upset right now. But lets try to
keep it together.

NURSE SIMMONS

We're well past that point.

Nurse Simmons shoves Jason.

AVA

Hey!

Nurse Simmons shoves him again.

Out of the room and into...

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

...he's shoved.

NURSE SIMMONS

Let's see what they want to do with
you shall we - witch.

JASON

I am nobodies witch.

NURSE SIMMONS

Oh yeh. Then why is it you haven't
got a mark on your door.

Jason turns around.

His door is open and his light is on.

NURSE SIMMONS (continued)
 And how come your room is the only
 one with power?

JASON
 I don't know.

Jason moves away from Nurse Simmons.

JASON (continued)
 Someone is setting me up. Probably
 the witch covering her tracks.

She follows.

Ava runs with Jason.

INT. LOUNGE - DAY

Henry is again holding court.

The group is listening intently.

HENRY
 The witches killings are all about
 starting afresh and not taking
 baggage into the harsh winter
 months.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

The corridor is built so that it is almost like a big circle
 so eventually if you keep walking you could theoretically lap
 someone on the same route.

The chase continues.

AS Nurse Simmons runs through the lounge she shouts out.

NURSE SIMMONS
 Nurse Fletcher has been killed.

Burt sits up bolt upright.

BURT
 We need to exorcise the witch
 again. It has taken the shape of
 another and we should remove it
 from this place.

SYLVIA
 Is that really going to work?

BURT

It has to.

INT. NURSE ROOM - DAY

Ava and Jason are crouched behind a desk, trying to regain their breath from the chase.

AVA

Oh you got me hiding with you.

JASON

I don't know. I've never been on a witch hunt before.

AVA

I have. Lets not focus on that. Here we are. Time alone.

Jason smiles.

As does Ava, she licks her lips.

Nurse Simmons and Nurse Jones run past the corridor window.

Ava and Jason are silent. Until they pass.

AVA (continued)

We aren't going to be left alone are we? Focus. Where would a witch go?

JASON

Thinking like a witch. I like that. Lets go into the shack. They wouldn't follow us there these pussies.

Jason grabs the hip flask from the draw as he and Ava leave.

INT. MAUDES BEDROOM - DAY

Jason goes into the room quickly.... Followed hesitantly by Ava... Jason looks for his Gran.

JASON

Where the hell is she?

AVA

How do I know?

JASON

We need to find this witch. Where would the witch be?

EXT. SHACK - WOODS - DAY

Ava and Jason walk towards the shack. Maude is going in.

They come to the shack... Ava and Jason stop when they get to it. Jason looks at Maude, a bit confused.

JASON

Hi Gran. You've got to be careful in there Maude. This is the witches house.

MAUDE

Don't you worry about me son. Worry about yourself.

INT. SHACK - DAY

The three go into the shack.

There are candles lit at an altar in the bedroom with plants representing earth, incense for air and candles for fire and water.

Ava and Jason look around.

On the altar are two knives, a boline, which is a white-handled knife and an athame knife.

The place looks more lived in than before.

MAUDE

I'll put the kettle on.

JASON

The witch has been here! We should go. How did you know this was here.

MAUDE

Wasn't there a story about the witches house?

JASON

How long have you known about this place Maude?

MAUDE

Some time.

Maude seems to know where everything in the kitchen is.

JASON

We'll you know that we should stay too long don't you, before she gets back.

MAUDE

Who's that?

JASON

The witch.

Ava locks the door.

JASON (continued)

Good thinking. Stop her coming in.

Ava laughs, somewhat hysterically. Pockets the key.

Jason and Gran look at her confused.

AVA

Or to stop people getting out.

JASON

What?

AVA

Why do you think I brought you here? You two are the last two that I need. Scared townsfolk souls, tasty.

Jason furrows his brow confused.

JASON

Don't we have to be dead for that.

AVA

Yes. Yes, you do. You know when they kill animals they do so in a calm way, they sneak up on them so they don't know whats coming, because if they did they'd tense up and it would send chemicals rushing through their body reading them for an attack. But when you'd eat the meat it wouldn't taste as good. The opposite is try with souls. The more tortured the soul the better it tastes and the better it is for you. It's nearly twice as good as a normal one.

Jason sits down.

AVA (continued)
 Oh Jason. You should see your face.
 It's priceless. I'm going to enjoy
 eating your soul.

Jason lowers his head. Crestfallen.

JASON
 Why?

AVA
 Here. Let me help you with the tea.

Ava gets a pouch out of her pocket. Pours it into the tea pot.

AVA (continued)
 It's just I can't stand it when
 people go behind my back telling
 stories. Well they wont be telling
 anymore stories will they little
 grandchild. Oh, if only the witch
 spirit could have been passed down
 the line to you. But I'm afraid
 you'll have to go. As will you
 Jason and your gran. Don't want you
 lot blabbing. I've only five more
 souls to feast on and then I'll be
 able to leave this place. So who
 wants a cup of tea? I only need one
 of you, I'm on six, only need seven
 souls.

Ava gets a knife from the kitchen draw.

AVA (continued)
 Or something a bit messier.

MAUDE
 I'll take a tea please.

JASON
 Gran. No.

MAUDE
 It's okay Jason.

Maude drinks the tea.

MAUDE (continued)
 It's time for one of us to go. I
 like this drink.
 (More)

MAUDE (continued)
Nothing like nettle tea to wash it
down with though. Makes you feel
right as rain.

Maude drinks the drink.

Maude's head hits the table with a thud.

JASON
Gran! You bitch! You killed her!

Ava
She was already dead.

JASON
Well, I'm not.

Ava takes the knife and holds it out toward Jason.

AVA
Not yet.

JASON
You said only seven.

AVA
I lied.

Jason goes to the stove and turns the gas on.

JASON
I guess I'll just burn your down
then. That's what you do with
witches isn't it.

He picks up a box of matches. Takes a match out.

Ava quickly moves towards him.

Takes the match out of his hand.

Swallows it.

AVA
You think I'm just going to let you
do that?

Jason shrugs resigned.

Jason makes a dash for the door.

But Ava reaches her arms out and summoning up witch powers
makes the door slam shut on him.

Jason is shocked by what the witch just did.

Jason grabs the door knob and yanks it trying to open it up.

Ava uses more witchy powers and makes Maude get up from her wheelchair. Maude like a zombie is going towards Jason as if to attack him.

Jason is still yanking at the door trying to open it

He doesn't see Maude place her arms around his neck and start strangling him.

Jason struggles for a bit.

Jason is chocking.

He elbows his gran in the guts and she goes backwards in pain.

Jason turns around and pushes her back into her wheelchair.

He picks up a broom nearby and puts it through the handle of the wheelchair pinning her into the wheelchair unable to get out.

Jason then runs at the door and shoulder barges it open.

EXT. SHACK - WOODS - DAY

Jason falls onto the floor as the door comes off its frame.

INT. SHACK - DAY

Ava watches Jason as he slowly picks himself up off the floor and start to run away.

AVA

Really!

Ava leaves the shack.

EXT. SHACK - DAY

Ava puts her hand on a tree.

AVA

Listen to me.

Then Ava closes her eyes. Breathes deeply. As if she's communicating with the tree.

Jason runs

Jason is running away. He hears the sound of trees swaying.

He stops unsettled. Looking at the trees.

Tree roots come out of ground to grab Jason.

He tries to fight, but they've got hold of his leg and they THRUST him to the ground.

Jason picks up a nearby Rock and SMASHES the tree root. Hitting it with all his might. BREAKING the tree off his leg. It's hard to do. He misses the tree and hits his own leg. OW. He yells in pain.

Ava is coming toward him. She spies him through the trees.

Jason continues to WHACK the tree, with more power than before now. Again he misses the tree root and whacks his leg. CRACK. He's broken a bone.

Ava even closer now than before.

But he carries on hitting the tree root with all he's got.

With the tree root battered. He gets up.

Jason hobbles in circles. He doesn't know where he is.

He sees the Shack ahead. He heads for it. Pain on his face as he hobble runs for it.

INT. SHACK - WOODS - DAY

Jason bolts the door from the inside.

Ava still not at the shack laughs.

Jason goes out the back door. He's pouring a line of moonshine around the cabin.

He checks to see Ava can't see him. The closer she gets to the shack the more he can circle the shack in the booze.

Ava tries the front door. She can't open it.

AVA

You think that will stop me?

Jason is hiding nearby. He can see his gran on the floor outside the shack.

He sees Ava get in through the door.

Jason completes his circle of the shack. Maude is well away.

JASON
But can you leave?

Jason takes the matches and sets fire to the shack.

SCREAMS from inside of the shack. SOUNDS of Ava rushing around inside.

She THRUSTS the front door open. She's half burnt. Half dead. FULL MAD.

Jason at the time thought it was stupid - but now he has his chance he takes it.

He picks up the broom handle and RAMS it through Ava's torso.

Blood everywhere.

Jason using the broom handle as a stick - pushes her back into the shack that is on fire.

JASON (continued)
Why don't you sit down.

Jason goes over to his gran. Jason opens her eyes. She looks like she's dead.

JASON (continued)
Oh gran.

Then he has a thought. He takes the bottle of powder from his jacket and mixes it with some water in a glass and somehow gets his gran to drink it.

Nothing happens. Jason waits. But his gran still isn't responding.

JASON (continued)
Refreshing drink... What was I thinking?

But then, behind him. Maude wakes up.

EXT. END OF DAYS HOME - CAR PARK - DAY

Cloe's car comes to a stop in front of the police tape. Cloe approaches the tape and the officer behind it.

CLOE

My brother is in there and my gran.

The officer lifts the tape for Cloe. She is ushered towards a senior police officer.

CLOE (CONTINUED)

What's going on. What's happened?

POLICE CHIEF

There's been a serious incident.

CLOE

How many?

POLICE CHIEF

Who are you?

CLOE

I'm Cloe, my gran and brother are...

POLICE CHIEF

Why didn't you say! Jason was responsible for saving several peoples lives.

CLOE

Who from?

POLICE CHIEF

Turns out that one of the staff went mad and started killing all the other people. Convinced them all it was a witch doing it.

Cloe looks at him dumfounded.

INT. DEAD END RETIREMENT HOME - LOUNGE - DAY

The chief of police leads Cloe into the lounge. Jason is leading them in a game of Bingo. Cloe sees Jason with his gran and smiles.

THE END.

