

# FL△TWOODS

Inspired by True Events

Written by

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A starry sky hangs over an open field in the middle of nowhere. Rows of cornstalks reach for the heavens. Six feet tall.

SUPER: Flatwoods, West Virginia. Summer 1969.

Identical twin brothers, FREDERICK and EUGENE LEMON (16), chase each other through the earthy maze with flashlights, with their blonde hair ruffling in the wind.

Frederick turns to his brother and places the flashlight under his chin, illuminating his firm jaw:

FREDERICK  
C'mon slowpoke! Catch me if you  
can!

He picks up the pace, leaving a good fifteen foot spread between them.

EUGENE  
(huffing)  
I hate being "it."

FREDERICK  
(calls out)  
You're the one who wanted to play  
manhunt, so stop being such a  
baby.

Eugene stops in his tracks, breathing heavy, and takes a puff from his INHALER, while Frederick runs deeper into the cornfield.

FREDERICK (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
(yells)  
Try and find me!

Frederick's denim overalls are overcome by a sea of dark green husks, and after a beat, he's gone. A few distant cornstalks shift, then silence.

EUGENE  
(whimpers)  
Freddy? Where'd you go?

No response.

Eugene takes another puff from his inhaler, and just as he's about to begin his search--

MARTHA (O.S.)  
C'mon boys! It's getting late.  
Time for bed!

Eugene turns and we see:

2

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

2

A two-story, ranch-style home off in the distance. MARTHA LEMON (40s) stands on the porch, holding a lantern, looking out to the vast crop.

After a beat, a few of the stalks flutter and Eugene appears, sweaty and out of breath.

MARTHA  
(stern)  
Look at you, you're sweating like a pig in heat! You gotta pace yourself, Eugene. Your lungs can't handle all that activity.

EUGENE  
Yes, ma'am.

MARTHA  
Good boy. Now, where's your brother?

No response.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
What's the matter, kiddo? Cat got your tongue? Where's Frederick?

He points out to the cornfield.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
You're joking, right?

Eugene shakes his head "no."

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
Sheriff reported coyotes in these parts... So for god's sakes get your butt out there and find him!

Eugene sighs and then slowly shuffles back towards the cornfield.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
(yells)  
I said get!

He picks up his pace and disappears into darkness.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

(sighs)

I just don't understand how two  
boys can be so gosh darn  
different.

Martha heads inside and the screen door slams behind her.

3

EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

3

Frederick lies on the ground, in between fibrous stalks,  
staring up at the twinkling stars.

CLOSE ON: Frederick's eye, flickering lights reflect off  
his retina, and then... WHOOSH! Something FIERY soars  
across the sky.

FREDERICK

(sitting up)

What the heck was that?

A beat, then a THUNDEROUS CRASH off in the distance.

Like a meerkat, Frederick perks up, and sees smoke just  
beyond the field. Courageously, he makes a dash for...

4

EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - NIGHT

4

A shallow lake, dyed blood red with a LARGE, TRIANGULAR  
SPACECRAFT stranded in its center; smoke bellows from the  
UFO.

Frederick stops at the water's edge, and calls out:

FREDERICK

Hello?

(beat)

Anyone out there?

No response... just his trailing echoes over the vast  
expanse.

Frederick kicks off his shoes and enters the murky water.  
He grabs a handful of floating berries, and nervously pops  
them into his mouth, as he wades towards the mysterious  
craft.

FREDERICK (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Are you hurt?

5

EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

5

Eugene stops at the sound of his brother's echoes. He looks around, confused.

EUGENE

Freddy? Is that you?

(beat)

This isn't funny. Mom is pissed.

No response. He takes another puff from his inhaler, then *something* rustles a distant cornstalk.

Eugene points his flashlight at the moving stalk, and it waves back at him. After a beat, he licks his index finger and raises it in the air:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

There's no breeze--

Swish! A closer stalk shakes violently and Eugene jumps back, frightened:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

I don't want to play anymore. I want to go to sleep.

Silence...

Until, a stalk, nearly within arm's reach, begins to sway. He slowly aims the flashlight beam and we see LONG GREY FINGERS peeking out of the crop, reaching for Eugene.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

Shit!

He makes a run for it! After a beat, we hear the SNAPPING of cornstalks from behind. *Whatever is chasing him, it's fast...*

Eugene continues on, with minimal visibility, through the sea of rugged stalks, occasionally taking puffs from his inhaler, until...

One of the coarse stems knocks it out of his hand.

EUGENE'S POV: He turns back for the inhaler, but it lands in a pile of dirt. *Not gonna happen.*

Eugene continues on, running with all his might, until he sees the crimson water ahead.

6

EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

6

He digs his heels deep into the wet sand and falls down next to his brother's muddy shoes.

Eugene looks up, his face now painted red with pureed fruit and muck, and sees his flashlight, just out of reach, aimed at the water.

The light beam is pointed towards FREDERICK, as he nears the center of the bog, just mere feet from the TRIANGULAR OBJECT.

EUGENE  
(choking)  
Freddy. Help me.

Frederick turns around:

FREDERICK  
(surprised)  
Eugene?

He sees his brother struggling for air and quickly wades back to shore...

FREDERICK (CONT'D)  
(calling out)  
Hold on! I am coming back! It will  
all be alright! I promise!

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: an OPEN DOOR on the other side of the craft. In the moonlight, blood drips off the glistening metal into the water.

With thirty feet still between them, Frederick continues on:

FREDERICK (CONT'D)  
(calling out)  
Remember what the doctor said,  
just keep breathing out your nose.  
(beat)  
I'll get mama! She has your  
medicine!

Eugene closes his eyes and tries to focus on his breathing, as the flashlight beam FLICKERS, then:

A PIERCING, INHUMAN SHRIEK erupts from the cornfield.

Frederick stops, and nervously takes in his surroundings; all is quiet, except for the sound of flowing water. *Maybe it was nothing...*

After a long pause, he giggles, and just as he's about to continue on...

There's another deafening shriek, but this time from behind. Frederick winces in pain, covering his ears, as...

EVERYTHING GOES WHITE and a BEAM OF LIGHT engulfs him from the heavens! He screams for help, and just as quickly as the beam appeared, it vanishes... and *he's gone*, while his cries still echo throughout the farmland.

CLOSE ON: Eugene, terrified and wheezing, looking out to the empty bog. *No spacecraft. No Frederick. Just stillness.*

He grabs his chest in pain, and all we hear are his slow, fleeting breaths, as the camera tilts up to the night sky, revealing:

TITLE CARD: FLATWOODS

7 EXT. FISCHER HOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING 7

A beautiful one-story home, surrounded by equally-charming residences; there's even a white picket fence! *The Fischer's door mat might as well say, "Welcome to Suburbia, USA."*

SUPER: Present Day

We hear the familiar sounds of an APPLE FACETIME VIDEO REQUEST.

8 INT. FISCHER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME 8

LINDA FISCHER (51) sits in front of a laptop surrounded by paperwork: final exams and book reports.

LINDA  
(to computer)  
Take a guess... How many students  
do you think I'm failing this  
semester?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)  
(from computer)  
Hopefully none.

She picks up a paper and flashes it at the screen: "Animal Farm: Dystopian Society Is for the Birds."

LINDA  
Do you think a 5th grader wrote  
this?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

That's a more clever title than anything I've written all semester.

LINDA

I'd rather have a student write about Belushi in "Animal House," than have a parent do their homework.

ANGLE ON: The laptop. We see a skinny brunette wearing a white dress. This is JENNIFER FISCHER (25).

JENNIFER

You're almost done at least.

LINDA

Twelve more days, but who's counting?

JENNIFER

Probably just you and the rest of the faculty.

Linda laughs.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, I was just curious... How's Jonah doing these days? Staying out of trouble, I hope.

LINDA

You know your brother... He marches to the beat of his own drum.

JENNIFER

He's been clean though, right?

LINDA

He better be... I just got him a custodial job prepping classrooms for the fall.

JENNIFER

Well, hopefully this one will last...

LINDA

--And, that's why your studies need to come first!

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

With today's economy, you're going to need a 4.0 to land a job.

JENNIFER

If there wasn't enough pressure...

LINDA

I just don't want to be taking care of both my children. I'd like to retire at some point.

JENNIFER

I get it, but law school isn't a cake walk either.

LINDA

Well, it's just one more year!

JENNIFER

(awkward)

Yeah...

A beat.

LINDA

How are things with Alex?

JENNIFER

Oh mom...

An awkward silence, then...

LINDA

I'm sorry. I thought you guys were good.

Jennifer, now tears in her eyes...

LINDA (CONT'D)

It will be okay, honey. I know it hurts now, but it'll only get easier with time.

(beat)

Just try to look at the bright side, though, you will have one less distraction while interning this summer in D.C.--

Jennifer raises her hand, showing off an engagement ring.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Oh my god!

JENNIFER  
 (laughing)  
 I know.

LINDA  
 You had me going! When did this  
 happen?

JENNIFER  
 Last night at dinner.

LINDA  
 That's amazing. I am so happy for  
 you two!  
 (beat)  
 So, when do we get to meet him?

The screen starts to freeze. It's a jumbled mess.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
 Jenny? You there?

JENNIFER (O.S.)  
 (static)  
 His family is celebrating this  
 weekend. You... you guys need to  
 come.

LINDA  
 Jenny?

JENNIFER (O.S.)  
 (static)  
 I'll text you the information.  
 Love you.

The connection is lost and Linda closes the laptop.

CUT TO:

9

INT. FISCHER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

9

Linda sits at the dinner table with a glass of red wine.  
 She takes a generous sip and we hear a garage door close.  
 BARRY FISCHER (53) enters, in blue medical scrubs.

He sees the glass of wine.

BARRY  
 Celebrating early?

LINDA  
 (nervous)  
 What do you mean? Did you hear?

Barry looks at her, confused.

BARRY

I just thought you were rewarding  
yourself for completing your  
grades.

She shakes her head "no."

BARRY (CONT'D)

Is everything alright?

LINDA

You're going to want to sit down  
for this one.

As he takes a seat:

BARRY

What's the matter? Are the kids  
alright?

LINDA

It's Jenny.

BARRY

(worried)

What's wrong? Is she hurt?

LINDA

She's engaged.

BARRY

Excuse me?

LINDA

You heard me.

BARRY

(annoyed)

Are you messing with me? I just  
finished two root canals. I am not  
in the mood for bad jokes.

Linda shakes her head "no."

BARRY (CONT'D)

When did you find out?

LINDA

She called a little while ago, but  
I thought it would be best to tell  
you in-person...

BARRY

(annoyed)

We're spending over a hundred thousand dollars on her education, and this is the thanks we get? We sent her to West Virginia for her future, not to find a fucking husband--

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

--What's up? What are you guys fighting about?

Linda and Barry turn to JONAH (25), standing awkwardly in the hallway. He's wearing ripped skinny jeans, a long black shirt and expensive over-the-ear headphones.

JONAH

I heard you over my Beats.

LINDA

(calm)

We're not fighting. Everything is fine.

BARRY

Everything isn't fine. Your sister is throwing her life away.

JONAH

What you are talking about?

BARRY

Jenny is engaged.

JONAH

Good for her. She works so hard, she deserves to be happy.

LINDA

Exactly. And don't forget, we got married right out of college.

BARRY

It was a different time then...

LINDA

It was the '90s, and besides, we shouldn't judge a book by its cover just yet. You might really like Alex.

BARRY  
(defeated)  
She just doesn't need this now.

JONAH  
I didn't even know she was seeing  
someone.

LINDA  
(glares)  
Please, Jonah... you aren't  
helping the situation.

JONAH  
Sorry mom. I just thought she'd  
bring it up. We spoke like a month  
ago.

LINDA  
It's fine, just do me a favor and  
go to your room and pack an  
overnight bag.

Both Jonah and Barry look at Linda, puzzled.

BARRY  
What for?

LINDA  
His family is throwing an  
engagement party this weekend and  
we're all invited.

BARRY  
A little notice would have been  
nice. I'm scheduled to work  
tomorrow.

LINDA  
Well, cancel all your  
appointments. I gave Jenny my word  
that we would be there... and that  
we'd be on our best behavior.

BARRY  
I can't make that promise.

LINDA  
You can and you will.  
(re: Jonah)  
And that goes for you too.

JONAH

Okay... Well, where the hell are we going anyway?

Linda's cell phone vibrates on the table; there's a text message waiting:

LINDA

It looks like we're going to a small town called Flatwoods... We'll be staying on his family's farm.

10

EXT. FISCHER HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

10

The rest of the neighborhood is asleep, while Barry tosses the remaining luggage into his SUV. He closes the gate.

JONAH (O.S.)

Are you sure I have to come?

As Linda and Jonah walk up to the car:

LINDA

Don't you want to meet your future brother-in-law?

JONAH

I'd love to see Jenny, but with the current divorce rate, I'd rather just hang out here.

BARRY

From your mouth to God's ears....

LINDA

I'm going to pretend like I didn't hear that.

Barry flashes a quick smile at his son. *Instant validation.*

LINDA (CONT'D)

Besides, the last time we left you alone, you threw a huge house party, and we're still trying to get the stains out.

JONAH

That was like two years ago...

LINDA

It's too early to argue. We need to get moving. I don't want us hitting any traffic.

BARRY

Your mom is right. We might as well make the best out of a bad... I mean, our situation.

(beat)

Treat this weekend like a mini vacation. You could use it before you start your new gig, anyway.

They enter the SUV and close their doors in unison.

11 EXT. SUV - SAME

11

The SUV pulls out of the driveway:

JONAH (O.S.)

It better not be like "Deliverance."

General assent.

LINDA (O.S.)

Who knows? Maybe we'll all get along great.

We see the SUV pass a group of female power walkers and turn a corner, leaving suburbia behind.

12 INT. CIRCULAR ROOM - SAME

12

Darkness, except for dimly-lit candles accenting the strange, circular quarters. We see the faint outline of an old man; he's hunched over a ramshackle table, reading various documents. *This is Eugene Lemon.*

JENNIFER (O.S.)

They're on the way.

EUGENE

(still reading)

That's excellent news, my dear. We need to prepare for their arrival.

Jennifer steps into the light, wearing a white dress. A silver triangular pendant hangs around her neck. It flickers in the candlelight.

Eugene (65) turns to the camera. He's thin, bald and wearing the same charm around his neck.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

You look as lovely as ever.

JENNIFER

Thank you, father.

EUGENE

My son is a lucky man.

(beat)

It's going to be a wondrous union.

She smiles and nods.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Now remember, your family plays an integral role in this weekend's festivities. There can't be any hiccups.

JENNIFER

I'll make sure they're taken care of.

EUGENE

Bless you child...

She gives a slight bow, then exits.

13

INT. SUV - LATER

13

Barry checks his rearview mirror and sees Jonah fast asleep. Linda gently snores; her head rests against the window.

BARRY

This is going to be a long drive.

He eyes the vehicle's navigation console. It reads: 200 miles until destination. He sighs.

Barry turns on the radio. Static! He tries a number of stations, until:

RADIO ANNOUNCER

For the first time in forty-seven years, the Ikeya-Seki Comet will be visible to the naked eye tomorrow night, as it returns to Earth's inner solar system.

BARRY

Oh cool.

His expression changes from annoyed to intrigued.

LINDA  
(fidgets in her seat)  
What is it, honey?

BARRY  
Listen.

RADIO ANNOUNCER  
This is a twice-in-a-lifetime  
experience, if you're lucky. The  
comet will pass at exactly 9:17  
p.m., so have your telescopes  
ready if you want a really good  
view.

BARRY  
You hear that Jonah?

Jonah shuffles in the backseat and yawns.

JONAH  
Yeah, sure. We can see a giant  
rock in the sky... I can't wait...

He slips back into sleep.

Barry looks out the car window; the horizon is clear.

BARRY  
We should have a great view from  
the farm.

LINDA  
(smiles)  
Sounds like someone's had a change  
of heart... Maybe the stars are  
aligning.

BARRY  
I'm excited about the comet, not  
our current situation.  
(beat)  
Jennifer needs to understand that,  
even though she's engaged, she  
still needs to focus on her  
studies and finish her credits.  
They can get married next year,  
after she graduates, and lines up  
a job with a firm.

LINDA  
I think that's fair. Hopefully the  
future in-laws aren't expecting to  
be grandparents too soon.

BARRY

(stern)

Another comment like that, and  
you're walking to West Virginia.

LINDA

Point made.

Jonah laughs in the backseat.

14

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH - LATER

14

All is quiet, except for the occasional metallic clang, as a DELIVERY MAN aligns a dozen PROPANE TANKS in front of the ranch-style home; *it's in pristine condition and looks better than it did forty-seven years prior.*

He checks his clipboard, gives a happy nod and knocks on the front door.

DELIVERY MAN

Hello, Mr. Lemon?

(a beat)

Your delivery is complete. I just  
need you to sign off.

As he readies to knock again, the door swings open and Eugene answers, now wearing normal farm clothes.

EUGENE

Good morning. I appreciate your  
quick delivery.

DELIVERY MAN

My pleasure. We value your  
business.

Eugene looks at all the tanks:

EUGENE

Gonna be one heck of a party.

He smiles, showing some teeth, then takes a puff from his inhaler.

DELIVERY MAN

I'd say so. Biggest delivery yet.

He hands over the clipboard and Eugene signs it quickly:

EUGENE

It's important to show our  
northern guests some true southern  
hospitality.

DELIVERY MAN

Yes, sir! And, congratulations to you and your family, as well. I can't believe Alex is finally settling down.

EUGENE

He's a good kid and found himself someone very special.

DELIVERY MAN

Well you raised him right.

EUGENE

Thanks Jim. And we look forward to seeing you tomorrow night, too.

DELIVERY MAN

Of course. I wouldn't miss it for the world.

EUGENE

Great! And, thanks again.

The delivery man walks to his truck, and we pull away, revealing a huge "Welcome" banner hanging from the awning.

CUT TO:

15

INT/EXT. SUV - SAME

15

The SUV passes an "Entering West Virginia" sign. Linda's cell phone vibrates in the center console.

BARRY

Tell your boyfriend that you're away for the weekend.

LINDA

Shut up, it's a message from Jenny.

BARRY

Oh, what's up?

LINDA

She and the Lemons are heading to the store to pick up a few things for the party.

Jonah laughs uncontrollably.

LINDA (CONT'D)  
(confused)  
What? Was it something I said?

JONAH  
Are you fucking kidding me?

LINDA  
Jonah, please try to watch your language this weekend. We will be guests in someone else's home, and frankly, it's a disgusting habit.

JONAH  
I'm sorry, it's just that... Do you know what a lemon party is?

Silence from the front seats.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
It's when old, gay men have a sex orgy. I read about it on Urban Dictionary. Hell, they even made a joke about it on "The Simpsons."

More silence, until...

BARRY  
Well, here's hoping Jenny's engagement party doesn't turn into one of those...

Everyone laughs.

LINDA  
Mind if we make a pit stop?

BARRY  
We are about 30 minutes out. Can't you hold it?

LINDA  
Only if you want me to get sick. And, I don't think you want your leather seats ruined.

JONAH  
Actually, I've gotta go too. We've been driving for hours.

Barry sighs and eyes the fuel gauge. *It's low.*

BARRY

Alright. Looks like we're filling up.

They pass a weathered, hand-painted sign: "Gas next exit."

16 EXT. SUV - DAY

16

They drive off the main road, and just as quickly, the pavement turns into gravel. The SUV kicks up rocks and leaves a trail of dust in its wake.

17 EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

17

Old pumps caked in dirt. An "open" sign hangs on the office door.

Jonah and Linda head inside, while Barry fills up the tank.

As he takes out his cell phone--

ATTENDANT (O.S.)

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

Barry jumps. The ATTENDANT leans against the pump.

The Attendant is middle-aged, clean-shaven and doesn't look like he should be working his current profession; he wears glasses and a collared shirt tucked into his Khalkis.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

It's dangerous to use your phone next to these things. You might as well be lighting a cigarette.

Barry pockets his phone.

BARRY

Oh, sorry. I was just checking to see if I had any messages from my daughter...

ATTENDANT

You're crazy if you think you're going get any service out here. There's no mobile towers for miles.

BARRY

(confused)

I'm sorry, but do you work here?

The Attendant points to his name tag. It reads: "Laurence."

ATTENDANT  
(looking around)  
Just another day in paradise...

He takes a big breath of country air, then exhales. A beat,  
then he sees the SUV's license plate.

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)  
What part of the Garden State are  
you from?

BARRY  
Central.

The Attendant smiles.

ATTENDANT  
I thought it was just north or  
south.

Jonah and Linda join.

BARRY  
Know the area?

ATTENDANT  
I studied out that way before  
relocating here.

JONAH  
Oh really? Which community  
college?

LINDA  
Jonah!

The Attendant glares at Jonah:

ATTENDANT  
Very funny. Actually, Princeton.

JONAH  
I call bs.

ATTENDANT  
Whoa, the mouth on this kid.  
(a beat)  
Not exactly the profession you  
expect from a former structural  
engineer, right?

Jonah shakes his head "no."

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

It's like meeting a carney with a doctorate from Harvard.

LINDA

(looking around)

What brought you out here?

ATTENDANT

I just needed a clean slate... a break from corporate America. Out here, I'm my own boss and that's all I could ever ask for.

BARRY

There's something to be said for that--

The pump rings. The tank is full.

BARRY (CONT'D)

(takes out wallet)

Cash alright?

ATTENDANT

Don't worry about it.

BARRY

Really? Are you sure?

ATTENDANT

Haven't had a friendly conversation in quite some time. This tank's on me.

He flashes a smile and shakes Barry's hand.

BARRY

Thanks, Laurence.

ATTENDANT

The pleasure's all mine.

The Attendant gives a happy nod, as they enter the SUV:

ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Take care and enjoy your visit.

He waves them off.

They pull up to an old gate covered in barbed wire. A large, hand-painted "No Trespassing" sign welcomes them.

BARRY

You sure this is the place?

LINDA

According to Jenny's directions,  
this is it.

BARRY

I thought this was a family  
farm... Looks more like Guantanamo-  
-

LINDA

--Well, would you want people  
wandering onto your land and  
stealing your produce?

BARRY

I guess not.

JONAH

(opens the car door)

They know we're coming, let's just  
go, already.

He exits the car and pulls the gate open. *It lets out a  
rusty groan.*

LINDA

Jonah is right. We shouldn't keep  
them waiting.

BARRY

Sorry for being cautious.

Barry slowly drives through, then Jonah SLAMS the gate  
shut.

19

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DRIVE WAY - DAY

19

They pull up and park in front of the two-story ranch.

BARRY

Now, this is what I am talking  
about.

LINDA

It's beautiful...

They exit the SUV and take in the surroundings:

- Rows of fruit-bearing trees (apples, peaches, etc.)
- A lush cornfield

- An old grain silo

BARRY

This place is heaven on Earth.

LINDA

Don't get too comfortable. This town only has room for one gas station attendant.

BARRY

(smiles)

There might be an opening, if he keeps giving away all his gas for free.

Linda sneezes.

BARRY (CONT'D)

God bless you.

LINDA

I'm glad I packed my allergy pills. Jenny and I will probably go through the entire bottle before the end of our visit.

BARRY

Sounds like the Fischer men, acquired all the good genes, right Jonah?

Barry opens the gate:

BARRY (CONT'D)

Wanna help your old man with the luggage?

No response. Linda looks in the backseat. *It's empty.*

LINDA

Where did he go?

She gets out and surveys the area, but no luck.

BARRY

What's the matter?

LINDA

(nervous)

I can't find Jonah.

They wander to the front of the property, looking for him.

20 EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

20

Jonah passes through the tall stalks, gently grazing the coarse leaves with his open palms. Loud music blasts from his headphones. *He might as well be deaf.*

As he continues on, we focus on a nearby stalk. Blood drips down a leaf, and forms a thick maroon puddle in the dirt. It goes unnoticed.

FROM UNKNOWN POV: We see Jonah, in the distance, making his way through the field. We follow, but keep a healthy spread.

21 EXT. FARMHOUSE - FIELD - SAME

21

Barry and Linda stick together, calling out for Jonah.

BARRY

Where the hell did he go?

LINDA

(nervous)

I don't know.

BARRY

Well, he couldn't have gotten too far.

LINDA

(calling out)

Jonah! Where are you?

BARRY

I'm sure he's just exploring. He's been cooped up in a car with us all day. He probably just needed a little alone time.

LINDA

I just get worried.

BARRY

He's not a baby. He'll find his way back.

LINDA

I just like knowing that our kids are safe.

BARRY

I know and that's why I love you.

She gives a hesitant smile.

BARRY (CONT'D)

It's getting late. We really need to unpack the car and get this show on the road.

LINDA

Okay.

She surveys the land, one last time, and they walk back to the SUV.

22      EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY - SAME      22

Jonah continues on, unaware of his parents' desperation. He takes a puff from a VAPE PEN and quickly pockets it.

As he breaks through the cornfield, he stops in front of--

23      EXT. SILO - DAY - SAME      23

--and inspects the door. There's a large TRIANGLE engraved in the metal, and just below, a heavy-duty combination lock hanging from a latch. He grabs the lock and plays with the dial...

CLOSE ON: The lock in Jonah's palm. He attempts to crack the code, until...

A hand GRABS him by the wrist. Jonah belts out a high-pitched scream and turns to JENNIFER. She smiles big and gives him a hug.

JENNIFER

Happy to see you too, J.

He removes his headphones, breathing heavy.

JONAH

You scared the crap out of me.

JENNIFER

Sorry. Couldn't resist.

She gives him a big hug:

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I'm so glad you're here!

JONAH

I missed you too. It's been way too long.

She lets go of him, and he sizes up the silo.

JONAH (CONT'D)

What's inside?

JENNIFER

Grain, you dummy!

JONAH

Then why such a fancy lock?

JENNIFER

Would you want to eat contaminated food?

JONAH

I guess not.

JENNIFER

Exactly, so hands off. I don't want you to be the reason why my fiance's farm fails its next health inspection.

(beat)

Where's mom and dad?

JONAH

Left them back at the car.

JENNIFER

How did they take the news?

JONAH

Well, we're here, aren't we?

JENNIFER

And believe me. We all are very thankful for it too.

24

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH

24

As Barry and Linda haul their suitcases up the steps--

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Looks like you two could use a hand.

They turn to ALEX LEMON (26), he's wearing a polo shirt, jeans and a huge smile.

BARRY

You must be Alex.

He shakes Barry's hand, and then hugs Linda.

ALEX

Pleased to meet you. I'm sorry  
this whole thing is kinda abrupt.

LINDA

It's not every day your daughter  
gets engaged.

ALEX

I hope not! Jenny is a very  
special girl... Speaking of...

Jenny and Jonah walk up to the house.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Look who I found!

Jenny runs up to them and gives her parents a big hug.

JENNIFER

I'm so glad you guys made it.

BARRY

I don't think we had much of a  
choice.

Linda glares at Barry.

ALEX

My folks and I have been looking  
forward to this day for some time.

Jonah joins them.

BARRY

Speaking of, where are your folks?  
Didn't see their car in the  
driveway.

ALEX

Ah, they had to run another  
errand, but will be back shortly.  
But for now, let me help you with  
your luggage and show you to your  
rooms.

As Alex grabs the bags, Jonah sees a tattoo on his wrist: A  
TRIANGLE, matching the engraving on the silo.

JONAH

What's up with your tattoo?

ALEX

Just thought it looked cool. Do you have any ink?

Just as Jonah is about to roll up his shirt sleeve--

BARRY

He better not!

JONAH

Yeah... Not my thing.

LINDA

(re: Jonah)

And do me a favor, next time you decide to take a little walk, give us a heads up.

JONAH

Geez, I feel like all I do is apologize to you.

JENNIFER

(opens the front door)

Well before there's a fight, I say we go inside and relax a little.

After they enter, the door clicks shut and we hear it lock from the inside.

25

INT. FARMHOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

25

Wooden flooring. An antique oval mirror. An ornate staircase. *This is not your mama's farmhouse.*

Alex leads them upstairs, passing framed photos of the Lemon Family Farm from over the years.

BARRY

Some place.

ALEX

Not quite what you were expecting, am I right?

BARRY

You must sell a whole lot of corn.

ALEX

We have quite a following in these parts; there's no other cranberry bog in all of West Virginia.

LINDA

A cranberry bog? I would love to see it!

JENNIFER

Oh, you will! It's where we're hosting tomorrow night's festivities.

LINDA

Fantastic!

26

INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY

26

A series of doors. Two are open. Alex places Barry and Linda's luggage in front of the first door.

ALEX

Doctor and Mrs. Fischer, this will be your room.

They look inside -- it's gorgeous! Hand-carved furniture surrounds a rustic sleigh bed.

BARRY

I could get used to this.

ALEX

I hope it's to your liking. My great grandfather built the farm, and much of its furniture, with his own blood, sweat and tears.

LINDA

It shows. I've never stayed anywhere quite like this.

ALEX

And you probably won't ever again; this farm is one of a kind.

Barry and Linda smile and take their luggage inside. Jennifer follows.

A beat, then Alex smiles in Jonah's direction:

ALEX (CONT'D)

You're next, champ.

27

INT. FARMHOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM

27

Darkness, until Alex flips a light switch, revealing a tiny room with bunk beds.

Faded blue paint covers the walls, as well as other relics of the 1970s - posters, comic book covers, etc.

ALEX

This used to be my room. My dad's too.

JONAH

Cool. I always wanted bunk beds. I call dibs on top.

As he runs to the bed and jumps up--

ALEX

(screams)

NO! STOP!

Jonah lands with a THUD and turns to Alex. He's shaking with anger:

JONAH

What's wrong?

ALEX

Top bunk is off limits!

JONAH

Whoa! I'm sorry. I guess I'll just sleep on the bottom.

ALEX

Either that or the floor...

Jonah tosses his luggage on the lower bunk. A beat, then Linda, Barry and Jennifer charge in:

BARRY

What's wrong? Everything okay?

ALEX

Everything's fine, right Jonah?

JONAH

(under his breath)

Fucking peachy.

ALEX

What did you say?

JONAH

Yeah, we're good here. Just a little miscommunication.



BARRY

Whoa. Nice handshake! It's nice to meet you too, Eugene. I'm Barry and this is my wife, Linda and our son--

EUGENE

--Jonah.

JONAH

Yes. How did you know?

Eugene walks over and places his hand on Jonah's shoulder:

EUGENE

Your sister speaks very highly of you. We're grateful that you are joining us for the celebration.

JONAH

(awkward)

Well, thanks for having me.

EUGENE

But of course. This farm made me who I am today. And, I am sure it still has a little magic left to help you find your way too.

He releases his grip and smiles--

WOMAN (O.S.)

Are they here?

EUGENE

(yells)

They sure are, Carol. Come meet the Fischers!

A beat then, CAROL (58) enters with a TRAY OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES; she's a pretty blonde with a sharp smile.

Carol places the tray on the table and gives Eugene a peck on the cheek. A beat, then:

BARRY

I didn't know you had a daughter.

Carol laughs:

CAROL

Oh, he's a keeper.

EUGENE

(laughing)

You're a funny man, Barry, but most dentists are.

BARRY

You gotta have a good sense of humor. It's the profession with the highest suicide rate, ya know.

CAROL

Well, we appreciate your patience. We had to pick up a few essentials from the grocery.

LINDA

I'm excited to try some of your homegrown produce.

She takes a baby carrot from the tray and notices the commercial packaging.

Off her glance, Eugene steps in:

EUGENE

The farm is known for its delicious corn and cranberry products. So we still need to buy certain items from the market.

LINDA

Oh, my. No. This is just perfect.

She takes a bite of the carrot and smiles.

EUGENE

I hope you enjoy your stay with us. It's not much, but if there's anything that we can do to make your time on the property a little more comfortable, please don't hesitate to ask.

BARRY

We appreciate your hospitality.

EUGENE

Our pleasure. Well, why don't we bring everything outside. We can enjoy dinner tonight under the stars.

BARRY

That sounds great! I hear that we'll be able to view the passing comet tomorrow evening too.

EUGENE

Oh yes. No need for a telescope either. You should be able to see her with your own two eyes.

BARRY

Excellent!

EUGENE

It's going to be quite the sight I hear.

CAROL

Well, I say we start the celebration!

EUGENE

Here! Here!

Everyone cheers!

CUT TO:

30

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

30

- The moon rising above the trees, illuminating the fields and bog.

- The farmhouse porch lights turning on.

- Individual lanterns being lit.

31

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

31

The door opens. The Lemons and Jennifer exit in silence, each carrying lanterns. The Fischers walk behind them, empty-handed. We follow them to...

32

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

32

An open, sprawling field illuminated by moon and candlelight. At its center: a picnic table dressed with fine, white linens and metallic place settings.

Everyone sits in silence, until...

EUGENE

I hope you don't mind, but I would love to give a toast before we get started.

The Fischers nod.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Fantastic.

Eugene claps twice and a MALE SERVANT appears carrying carafes of red wine. He's wearing all black, except for a silver belt and the familiar triangle necklace. He pours the crimson liquid into Eugene's glass.

ANGLE ON: Barry, Linda and Jonah. They watch the Servant with a bemused stare; their facial expressions say it all: *What the hell is he wearing?*

Unaware, Eugene raises his glass and inhales the wine's sweet aroma:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Have you ever tried cranberry wine?

The Fischers turn their attention to Eugene.

LINDA

Can't say we have, but I'm always excited to try something new.

EUGENE

I like your enthusiasm, Linda. A sense of adventure is a quality that most people lack. Embrace it.

The SERVANT pours everyone else a glass. He then gives a polite bow, and stands next to Eugene, still as a statue.

CAROL

(smiling at Linda)

And unlike the carrots, Linda, the wine is made on the property. I promise.

Linda is taken back. Barry takes notice:

BARRY

I am sure it's as unique as his wardrobe.

Barry, Linda and Jonah laugh, while the Lemon family and Jennifer sit in silence.

Eugene gives a quick nod to the servant. He exits.

BARRY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I hope I didn't offend you.

EUGENE

It's quite alright.

BARRY

I just haven't seen an outfit like that since Steve Jobs.

EUGENE

I do agree, it is a tad bit simplistic, but we're simple people. I don't think a tuxedo is suitable farm attire.

BARRY

I guess you're right.

EUGENE

Very good. Now, if it is alright with you, I'd like to start.

LINDA

Please.

EUGENE

Thank you, Linda.

She gives a quick smile and Eugene raises his glass. Everyone follows his lead.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Well first, let me welcome the Fischers into our family, especially Jennifer. It's been such a pleasure having you with us for the past few months. Your compassion and commitment to the farm has made it the most successful (and lucrative) year yet. We wish you and Alex a lifetime of happiness and only hope that your love lasts until your last breaths on this Earth. Amen.

ALL

Amen.

Everyone takes a sip, except for Barry. Eugene takes notice:

EUGENE  
Everything alright, Barry?

BARRY  
Your toast was lovely, but I am confused.

EUGENE  
Go on.

BARRY  
You said Jennifer has been on the farm for quite some time.

EUGENE  
I did.

BARRY  
How is that possible if she's finishing her spring semester?

A tense beat. Jennifer looks at Alex, concerned.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
(irritated)  
Well? Is there something that I should know.

LINDA  
Jenny? What's going on?

JENNIFER  
(nervous)  
I can explain--

EUGENE  
--You can tell them the truth, my dear. You're amongst family. They'll understand.

JENNIFER  
I dropped out--

ALEX  
--We dropped out, together.

Alex takes her hand and smiles lovingly.

BARRY

(angry)

And did you ever think you might want to consult with us first? What about your future? You had one more year... and not to mention, a high-paying internship! You worked so hard and decided to throw it away for what? For this?

EUGENE

Please calm down. There's no reason to yell. Jennifer is an adult. This was her choice.

BARRY

Don't give me that bullshit! You can't tell me you're a little disappointed that your son gave up his legal career to sell corn?

EUGENE

This farm has sustained four generations of Lemons. We might not drive luxury vehicles, but we do just fine here.

BARRY

I'm sorry. I just expected more from my daughter.

JENNIFER

Dad, please.

BARRY

(slams fist on table)

Don't "Dad, please," me. You've been lying to us for god knows how long... I can't trust a word out of your god damn mouth--

CAROL

--Mr. Fischer, this is supposed to be a joyous occasion. You're tarnishing the evening with your outbursts.

BARRY

(stands up)

I'm sorry, but I just wanted more for my children. I knew it was a bad decision to come here... Enjoy your meal.

He storms off. Linda grabs her things:

LINDA  
I am so sorry.

JENNIFER  
(upset)  
Mom--

Linda shakes her head and gives a disappointed look, then exits. As Jennifer gets up...

CAROL  
Let them go.

EUGENE  
(re: Jonah)  
I'm sorry you had to witness that,  
son. Some people just don't want  
to see their children grow up.

Jonah sits there, dumbfounded. *What the hell just happened?*

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
It's been a long day. You must be  
starving.

He claps twice, and the MALE SERVANT reappears, pushing a cart filled with various food assortments.

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
I will have a long talk with your  
father tomorrow. Everything will  
be fine, but for now, please eat.

Jonah, Alex, Jennifer and Carol fill their plates, as...

Eugene pulls the servant aside:

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
(whispers)  
You know what you need to do.

The servant nods.

33

INT. FARMHOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

33

Barry marches up the stairs, angrily, with Linda in tow.

LINDA  
Slow down. I can't keep up.

BARRY

Grab your suitcase. We are leaving.

LINDA

You need to calm down.

He stops and turns to his wife:

BARRY

Are you fucking serious? You're going to take his side?

LINDA

That's not what I am saying. I just think we just need to reevaluate the situation.

BARRY

Two days ago, I was at home and had a daughter with a future...

LINDA

You still do. It's just not what we originally had planned for her... but she's happy.

Barry takes in the surroundings:

BARRY

Look around, Linda. Do you really believe that? There's nothing out here. We're a hundred miles away from civilization. And what the hell was the deal with the servant? I feel like we're in an episode of "The Twilight Zone." This is just weird.

LINDA

The Lemons do have a few idiosyncrasies, but who are we to judge?

BARRY

Don't forget, they will be your in-laws too! Let that sink in for a minute.

She sighs and we follow them to...

34 INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM

34

The door is slightly ajar. A look of concern fills Barry's face:

BARRY

That's strange. I'm pretty sure we closed the door before we left.

LINDA

(nervous)

Me too.

He looks back at Linda:

BARRY

(whispers)

Stay here.

He grabs a CANDLE HOLDER from the hall and enters, cautiously. We follow Barry as he searches the bedroom, but everything appears normal. He eyes the walk-in closet.

A tense beat, as he raises the candle holder over his head, ready to strike.

Barry takes a deep breath and grabs the handle. He yanks the closet door open. *Just clothes.*

LINDA (O.S.)

(whispers)

Everything alright?

BARRY

Shhh!

We follow Barry into...

35 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

35

Tea candles flicker surrounding a large GIFT BASKET resting on the sink. *It looks more like an offering than a present.*

Barry removes two glasses and a bottle of wine.

BARRY

Coast is clear. They left us a gift basket.

Barry walks into the bedroom holding the bottle and glassware.

LINDA

That's a sweet gesture.

A beat.

BARRY

I am at a loss. If we leave tonight, I can basically throw away any relationship I have left with Jenny. She'll hate me forever. But if I stay, all I see is the man that sweet-talked her out of a future. I don't know what do to.

He begins to cry.

LINDA

It will be okay. It's late and the roads are barely lit. I say we sleep on it. The Lemons don't seem like bad people.

BARRY

I just had bigger hopes for our children. We raised a burnout and a hippie.

LINDA

We're all in this together, but there needs to be a compromise.

BARRY

(sighs)

Maybe there's a local community college around here, where Jenny can finish her credits.

LINDA

Who knows... but I think you owe Eugene and Carol an apology.

BARRY

(nodding)

You're probably right.

LINDA

The situation sucks, but we need to make the best of out it. It's been a long day.

BARRY

Sadly, I feel like tomorrow's going to be even longer.

Linda gives him a hug and a kiss.

BARRY (CONT'D)

(sighs)

If we're lucky, maybe the comet  
will change its trajectory and  
crash into the farm.

Linda smiles.

LINDA

I have an idea. This might make ya  
feel a little better.

She takes the bottle of wine and pours two glasses.

36      EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT      36

The MALE SERVANT stands between cornstalks, watching Linda  
and Barry through their bedroom window.

There's a rustle, then a GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN walk up,  
beside him, all wearing the same black uniform. In unison,  
they raise their hands, pressing their thumbs and index  
fingers together, forming a triangle.

37      INT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM      37

Barry, now only wearing his boxers, walks out to the window  
and surveys the cornfield. It's empty, just stalks blowing  
in the wind.

CUT TO BLACK

38      EXT. FIELD - NIGHT - SAME      38

Eugene, Carol, Alex, Jennifer and Jonah sit at the table.  
Empty plates with gristle and bones rest in front of them.

EUGENE

(picking his teeth)

That was one heck of a meal.  
I hope everything was to your  
liking, Jonah.

JONAH

Yeah, it was fine. Thank you...  
And, I am sorry about my folks,  
they show their love sometimes by  
yelling...

EUGENE

It's alright, son. Their concerns  
are normal. They just want the  
best for their children.

(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)

We all do, as parents, so it's hard to take offense to that.

JENNIFER

Thank you for being so understanding.

Jonah nods.

EUGENE

I just hope by tomorrow night, we'll all be in a better place. That's all that really matters.

CAROL

Amen.

Alex and Jennifer nod at Carol.

EUGENE

Well, it's getting late, I say we retire for the evening. We have a big day ahead of us.

CAROL

Jennifer, why don't you take your brother back. We'll start clearing the table.

JENNIFER

I'd be happy to.

EUGENE

Thanks, dear.

39

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

39

Jennifer and Jonah walk in silence, until...

JONAH

So why didn't you tell mom and dad that you dropped out?

JENNIFER

(beat)

You know how they can be...

JONAH

I do, but it would have given them time to process everything, instead of being pissed off at your future in-laws for withholding information.

JENNIFER

It's complicated.

JONAH

Well, you could have at least told me. I could have helped.

JENNIFER

I appreciate it, J, but there's nothing you could have done. I love it here. My experiences on this farm transcend anything I could ever have learned in a lecture or from a book. It's so refreshing.

JONAH

I guess--

JENNIFER

And if anyone could understand that, it's you. School isn't for everyone. Eugene just wants us to be happy. I couldn't ask for a better father... in-law.

JONAH

(awkward)

Yeah, he seems like a pretty good guy.

JENNIFER

He's the best.

JONAH

You talk about him more than your fiance.

JENNIFER

You know what people say, when you get married, you marry the entire family... not just one person.

JONAH

Yeah, sure...

They stop at the front door and she gives him a hug. He notices her eyes: they're glassy.

JONAH (CONT'D)

You feeling alright?

JENNIFER

(clears her throat)

Just my allergies from all the pollen... There's a Zyrtec upstairs with my name on it, that's if dad didn't down the whole bottle.

JONAH

Be nice. He just cares.

JENNIFER

I know. Go get some sleep. I want you rested for tomorrow.

He nods.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

And, thanks again for being here.

JONAH

Family always comes first.

JENNIFER

It does.

40

INT. FARMHOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - LATER

40

Jonah lies on the bottom bunk. After a beat, there's a knock on the door. Alex enters and stands in the doorway:

ALEX

Ah, glad to see you're making yourself comfortable.

JONAH

Yeah, sure.

(beat)

Top bunk's all yours.

ALEX

(shaking his head)

Nah, I'm down the hall with your sis for the weekend. You've got the room all to yourself, bro.

Jonah sits up, confused:

JONAH

Than why did you give me so much shit earlier?

ALEX

Just something my dad always enforced when I was a kid.

JONAH

Why?

ALEX

Honestly, I'm not really sure. Rules are rules, ya know. Anyway, go get some sleep. I'll catch up with you in the morning--

JONAH

--Hey!

ALEX

Yeah?

JONAH

Jenny is happy here, right?

ALEX

(smiles big)

Who wouldn't be? This is like our own personal Eden.

Alex flips the light switch and shuts the door.

His footsteps dissipate, until...

JONAH

Fuck this.

Jonah climbs up onto the top bunk and stares at the ceiling.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Whoa.

JONAH'S POV: Hundreds of tiny plastic glow-in-the-dark stars and planets illuminate the ceiling.

JONAH (CONT'D)

What the--

The decals are glued with extreme precision: a plastic universe, except for one spot at the edge of the bed. *It's strangely barren.*

Jonah crawls to the edge and inspects the ceiling: it's a movable square tile.

He stands up, frees the tile, and reaches around. A tense beat, then...

Jonah removes an old, tin box. He gives it a good shake and the contents rattle inside.

He sits on the edge of the top bunk, and rubs an inch of dust and cobweb off the tin with his shirt sleeve, revealing an inscription: "EUGENE L."

Jonah opens the tin and pours its contents onto the bed: a childhood photo of Eugene with his arm around his brother, a pile of newspaper clippings, and an old inhaler.

He inspects the photo, then rummages through the newspaper articles, reading their headlines:

- "Scientists Declare New Comet"
- "Locals Report Triangular Object in Sky"
- "Flatwoods Family Mourns Missing Son"

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Eugene had a twin brother?

He looks around the room. His eyes lock on the pillow at the head of the top bunk.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
This must have been his bed.

We hear a DOOR CREAK OPEN from down the hall, then footsteps...

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Shit!

Jonah places everything inside the tin and lowers himself off the top bunk; he slips under the covers below and breathes a sigh of relief, until...

He spots the MOVABLE TILE peaking back at him from above.

In a panic, Jonah climbs back onto the top bunk. He grabs the tile and tries to maneuver it back into place. The footsteps are now outside his bedroom.

At ten feet off the ground, Jonah watches the door knob jiggle slightly. The tile just won't latch! He knows he's caught, but keeps at it...

CLOSE ON: The knob, as it turns a full rotation.

A beat, then...

The door opens, revealing A SHROUDED FIGURE. It searches the room and we see the tile locked into place and Jonah "asleep" on the lower bunk with his back to the door.

ANGLE ON: Jonah, he's wide awake, and clenching the tin, as the SHROUDED FIGURE closes in. It lingers over him and runs its fingers through Jonah's hair.

SHROUDED FIGURE

(whispers)

Sleep well... For your future is  
as bright as a burning star.

After a tense moment, the SHROUDED FIGURE exits. Jonah rushes to the bedroom door and locks it.

JONAH

What the fuck is going on?

A beat, then we hear playful laughter outside the bedroom window.

Jonah dashes to the window and sees Alex and Jennifer sneaking off into the cornfield. Moments later, the SHROUDED FIGURE follows after them.

JONAH (CONT'D)

Shit! Shit! Shit!

Jonah eyes the bedroom door, then back at the window. He unhinges the bolt and climbs outside.

41 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

41

Jonah shimmies along the ledge, passing his parent's bedroom. He gives a quick look inside; the lights are on and they're fast asleep.

Jonah continues on, stepping out of frame. We hear him lower himself down to the ground with a grunt.

GLIDE IN:

42 INT. GUEST BEDROOM - SAME

42

An empty wine bottle. Crimson-stained bed sheets.

Barry and Linda lie unconscious with their wine glasses just out of reach.

CUT TO:



The SHROUDED FIGURE drops its cloak, revealing EUGENE; his pale, naked body hunches over, showing signs of age.

EUGENE

Why don't you join me in the bog.  
It's amazing what the natural  
juices can do for your skin.

JENNIFER

Yes, father. That sounds great.

EUGENE

Purify yourself.

Alex and Jennifer remove their clothes and join Eugene in the water.

JENNIFER

The berries feel amazing.

EUGENE

Well, this is a very special bog.

JENNIFER

I can feel it.

A beat, then:

EUGENE

Jenny, I never asked, but have you  
been baptized?

She shakes her head "no."

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Very well. Would you be willing  
to?

JENNIFER

Anything for you.

EUGENE

Very good.  
(beat)  
Alex, I request your assistance.

ALEX

With pleasure.

EUGENE

Let's begin.  
(beat)

(MORE)

EUGENE (CONT'D)

This bog signifies passage, like the Red Sea during the Israelites escape from the Egyptians. You too, must cleanse yourself before we make our journey to the promised land. Are you with me?

JENNIFER

Yes, father.

EUGENE

Are you sure?

JENNIFER

(lively)

Yes, father!

VOICES (O.S.)

Cleanse her.

Dozens of MEN AND WOMEN, all wearing the familiar black uniforms, step out of the shadows, surrounding the bog. They make the sign of the triangle.

EUGENE

Let me grant this woman passage to the New World, where we will thrive amongst our alien brothers.

Eugene and Alex then dunk Jennifer into the mirky water. After a tense beat, she rises, covered in a puree of cranberries.

The MEN AND WOMEN cheer with delight.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

It is done.

MEN AND WOMEN

Amen.

Jennifer kisses Eugene passionately on the mouth, smearing the crushed berries over the lower portion of his face.

She then kisses Alex, and, in a fury, the three of them go at it; their bodies embrace and contort in the water. *It looks more like a shark attack than an orgy.*

The MEN AND WOMEN slowly enter the water and join in, as Jonah stares on.

MALE SERVANT (O.S.)

Shows over, kid--

Jonah turns around and he sees the MALE SERVANT. He smiles, then SLAMS a handful of CRANBERRIES in Jonah's face; there's a brief struggle, then his body goes limp.

CUT TO BLACK:

45

INT. FARMHOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - MORNING

45

A rooster crows outside, as light shines through the window, illuminating Jonah's face. After a beat, he wakes up, springing to life.

He looks around the room, taking in his whereabouts, then lifts the bed sheets, revealing pajamas. *Somebody changed his clothes.*

JONAH  
(confused)  
What the?

EUGENE (O.S.)  
You sleep well?

Eugene lowers himself from the top bunk.

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
Well, did you?

JONAH  
What the hell are you doing in here? Get out of my room!

EUGENE  
Your room? Look around, son. Whose bed do you think you're sleeping in?

A beat, then:

JONAH  
(whimpers)  
Not Freddy's.

EUGENE  
(angry)  
Excuse me? What did you say?

JONAH  
This isn't your brother's bed.

EUGENE  
What do you know about Freddy?

Jonah shows him the tin:

JONAH

I know all about you and your brother.

EUGENE

Where did you find this?

Jonah points to the ceiling.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Ah, my old hiding spot. It totally escaped me!

JONAH

What happened to him?

EUGENE

He was taken.

JONAH

Like kidnapped?

EUGENE

You could say that.

JONAH

Did they ever find--

EUGENE

No.

There's a knock on the door, it's Jennifer, now wearing a pretty dress. She politely enters the room. *This can't be the same girl from the previous night's orgy...*

JENNIFER

Breakfast is ready, you boys should join us downstairs.

EUGENE

In a minute, we're just having a little heart-to-heart.

JENNIFER

Is everything alright?

JONAH

Actually, it isn't.

JENNIFER

What's wrong, J?

JONAH

I saw you last night.

JENNIFER  
(nervous)  
Excuse me.

Eugene glares at Jonah.

A tense beat, then as Jonah readies to speak--

EUGENE  
--I think what Jonah meant to say  
is that he saw you and Alex sneak  
away for a little alone time.

JENNIFER  
Oh... I'm sorry. I hope that  
didn't make you feel too  
uncomfortable.

EUGENE  
It's nothing to be ashamed about,  
right Jonah?

They make eye contact. Eugene shakes his head "no."

JONAH  
(awkward)  
Yeah, I guess.

JENNIFER  
Anything else?

EUGENE  
I don't think so. Why don't you  
see if Carol needs a hand, we'll  
join you in a minute.

She smiles, then exits.

JONAH  
(nervous)  
What the hell was that?

EUGENE  
Just protecting my future daughter-  
in-law.

JONAH  
What the fuck was going on last  
night?

EUGENE

(stern)

I would appreciate that while you're a guest in my home, you curb your language.

JONAH

What were you doing in the pond? And, who hell were all those people?

EUGENE

First of all, it's a bog. If you're going to interrogate me, at least get your facts straight.

JONAH

I don't have time for this. I'm going to tell my parents everything.

EUGENE

I don't think you will.

JONAH

Why?

(beat)

What are you going to do to me?

EUGENE

(smiles)

Now Jonah, do you really think I'd harm you?

He shrugs.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Come on, boy, we're in this together. I mean, we both want the same thing for your sister.

JONAH

If last night's fuck fest is any indication of what you want, I think Jenny needs to get off this farm, ASAP.

EUGENE

She isn't going anywhere.

Jonah looks at Eugene, frightened.

JONAH

Excuse me?

EUGENE

She's under my control now, Jonah.  
You couldn't keep her locked up in  
your New Jersey home, even if your  
parents handcuffed her to her  
pretty, little bed.

Jonah stares blankly.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

She'd find her way back here. They  
always do.

(beat)

Jennifer's an integral part of  
this family, marriage or not.

JONAH

What did you do to her?

EUGENE

I gave her a purpose... a future!

JONAH

You're crazy.

EUGENE

(smiles)

All great visionaries are a little  
mad.

As Jonah tries to get up to leave, Eugene grabs him by the  
wrist:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

So now what? Are you going to  
behave or defy me?

Jonah tries to break his grip, but Eugene's surprisingly  
strong.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

I don't think things will end too  
well for you, if you choose the  
latter.

Jonah sighs:

JONAH

Alright.

Eugene releases his grip.

EUGENE

Very good. I am glad we had this little chat. Now let's go downstairs before our breakfast gets cold.

Jonah gives a defeated nod.

46

INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN

46

A huge breakfast of eggs, bacon and various fruits is served. Linda and Barry are feasting, while Carol, Jennifer and Alex drink from their cups.

BARRY

(in between bites)

I haven't slept like that in years.

ALEX

(smiles)

That country air gets you every time.

LINDA

And sorry about the bed sheets, hopefully a little bleach will take care of the wine stains.

CAROL

It is quite alright. I am just glad you are in better spirits.

Eugene and Jonah enter.

LINDA

Oh, look who decided to come down.

CAROL

Good morning, sleepy head.

Jonah gives a little nod and starts making himself a plate.

LINDA

Let me pour you a drink.

She grabs the pitcher and pours a glass.

CAROL

Let me know if you would like some sugar. I pressed it myself this morning, so it might be a little tart.

As Jonah's about to take a sip:

EUGENE

Drink up... It's an old, family  
recipe.

(beat)

The key ingredient is love.

Jonah eyes the pitcher and sees cranberry juice. Nauseated,  
he places the glass on the counter.

BARRY

So what's the plan for today?

EUGENE

Oh good. I was worried you might  
want to leave, after last night.

BARRY

Linda and I had a long  
discussion... and if this is what  
Jenny wants, while we might not  
agree with it, we'll just have to  
accept it over time.

JONAH

Are you sure, dad?

Eugene glares at Jonah. *It goes unnoticed.*

BARRY

We just need to be supportive.  
Jenny's worked so hard over the  
years, she can take a little time  
off.

EUGENE

My sentiments exactly.

BARRY

So Eugene, what's on deck for the  
party?

EUGENE

We'll, we're expecting quite a  
turnout tonight, so we should  
probably do all the heavy-lifting  
before it really starts heating up  
outside.

BARRY

That sounds good... And one last thing, please know that I am sorry about last night. I didn't mean to ruin your meal.

Carol smirks.

EUGENE

Well it takes a big man to admit when he's wrong, and I accept your apology.

BARRY

Great. What do you think, Jonah? Any interest in helping us party prep?

JONAH

Actually, I think I am going to sit this one out. I'm not feeling too well.

Eugene scowls at him.

LINDA

(concerned)

Everything alright? What's the matter?

JONAH

I'm just feeling a little run down. Didn't sleep too well.

BARRY

Bad dreams?

Eugene grabs Jonah by the collar:

EUGENE

I'm sure it's just anxiety from sleeping in a new bedroom. Happens to us all, right?

A tense beat, then Jonah gives a nod.

JONAH

Yeah, sure...

CAROL

Why don't you take your food upstairs and rest. We'll be down here, if you need anything.

JONAH

Thanks.

He exits with his plate, but leaves the glass of juice behind. We FOCUS on the glass and see a CREAMY, WHITE FROTH floating below the rim.

47      INT. FARMHOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - LATER      47

Jonah, now wearing jeans and a T-shirt, lies on his back on the lower bunk. We hear the front door slam shut, then male voices drift away.

He inspects the childhood photo of Eugene and Frederick, and something catches his eye; there are numbers on the back of the paper, reading: "06-15-69."

Jonah looks out the window at the grain silo, then back down at the numbers. *He goes for it.*

48      MONTAGE - VARIOUS      48

A) STAIRWELL - Jonah quietly makes his way down the stairs.

B) LIVING ROOM - He continues on, but hears commotion and ducks behind the couch, avoiding CAROL; she passes through the room carrying a SHARP KITCHEN KNIFE. After she's out of sight, he continues to...

C) FOYER - Jonah slips out the front door.

CUT TO:

49      EXT. SILO - DAY      49

Jonah stares at the triangular marking on the silo door and grabs the combination lock, while EUGENE and BARRY have a conversation in the background, unaware of his presence.

CLOSE ON: The lock, as he rotates the numbers to match "06-15-69." There's a CLICK and the lock unhinges.

Jonah opens the door and enters into darkness. After a beat, the door closes and we FOCUS on Eugene and Barry, still in mid-conversation.

A moment passes, then Eugene BASHES Barry in the head with a bat. He goes down hard.

50      INT. SILO - DAY      50

It's pitch black, until...

There's a mechanical cranking sound. Lights flicker and turn on, emitting a dim, orange hue, revealing maps and various paperwork, nearly covering the walls, up to the round ceiling.

JONAH

Whoa.

Jonah takes a closer look at one of the maps of the solar system; a red, fiery ball flies through night sky: "Comet Ikeya-Seki's Trajectory, 1969"

JONAH (CONT'D)

What is this place?

Something catches his eye... There are photos of himself and his parents laid out on a table. There are red "X"s over Barry and Linda's photos. *Jonah's remains untouched.*

JONAH (CONT'D)

Shit.

He then hears a strange ticking. Jonah looks around and finds an old COUNTDOWN CLOCK. It reads "0 Days. 8 Hours. 24 Minutes. 43 Seconds."

CLOSE ON: The clock, as it continues counting down.

JONAH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

We have to get out of here.

51

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

51

Carol runs the knife under the faucet and red fills the porcelain sink. Jonah enters in a hurry.

CAROL

What's the rush? I thought you weren't feeling well.

JONAH

Where's my mom?

CAROL

She's busy right now.

He sees the bright red globs in the sink.

JONAH

What did you do to her?

Carol looks down, then laughs.

CAROL

Oh, what you must think of me?

JONAH

(nervous)

Did you kill her?

CAROL

No, silly! She's with your dad...  
They're just getting some things  
out of the basement, but may be a  
while, though...

CUT TO:

52     INT. BASEMENT - SAME

52

Barry and Linda are bound and gagged; their screams are muffled by duct tape. Blood runs down the side of Barry's head, leaving a puddle on his shirt.

The MALE SERVANT stands guard.

53     INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME

53

Carol raises the knife and points it at Jonah.

CAROL

You should probably start getting  
dressed yourself. We need you  
looking your best for tonight.  
It's going to be one hell of a  
party.

Eugene, Alex and Jennifer enter, startling Jonah. Everyone else laughs.

ALEX

A little on edge, aren't we?

JONAH

What the fuck is going on?

EUGENE

(calm)

Now Jonah, I already asked you  
once to curb your language. We  
don't tolerate profanity in this  
household.

JONAH

Fuck you!

Eugene slaps him across the face.

EUGENE

(ravenous)

You see what you made me do? I don't want to hurt you, son, but you're really testing my last nerve.

JENNIFER

I'm sorry for my brother's outbursts. My parents didn't do such a good job teaching him manners.

JONAH

Really, Jen? That's all you have to say?

EUGENE

(re: Jonah)

You better start showing some respect... or I'll unleash a whole mess of hurt on you.

ALEX

(smiles)

Don't think he won't do it, either.

JENNIFER

You really don't want to be on Father's bad side, especially if you are planning on coming with us tonight.

JONAH

Where the hell do you think you're going anyway? Mars? Venus?

EUGENE

Now, who's the insane one? Those planets are far too distant to sustain life!

Everyone, besides Jonah, laughs.

JENNIFER

Oh Jonah, you are so naive. Eugene has shared all of his worldly knowledge with us. You are very lucky to be in his presence.

CAROL

He's taught us all so much.

ALEX

Amen.

JONAH

(angry)

I was in the silo. What the hell are you counting down to? I want answers!

EUGENE

Our freedom, of course. When the clock strikes zero, the Ikeya-Seki Comet will be visible. We will leave our Earthly bodies and be transported to a spaceship that is following the comet.

CAROL

God bless them.

EUGENE

They will take us to Nibiru, a planet where there is no pain or suffering, just fruitful existence. And, you can come too, if you behave.

JONAH

You're a UFO cult?

Eugene gives a big laugh, then smiles:

EUGENE

We're a UFO family.

JONAH

All this because you think your brother was abducted forty-seven years ago?

EUGENE

He was chosen and now, it is our turn. They'll take us all!

JONAH

Go ahead. I don't care what you do. All I know is that Jenny and I are leaving.

EUGENE

It isn't that simple. You know too much. We can't have you running your mouth.

Eugene removes a small vial of cranberry juice from his pocket:

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
Just one drop and you'll feel  
better. I promise.

As Eugene steps forward, Jonah pushes him aside, slamming him into a kitchen cabinet.

CAROL  
Father!

She rushes to his side, as Jonah makes his escape.

EUGENE  
(winded)  
Get him!

54

EXT. FARMHOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

54

Jonah runs like a bat out of hell.

After a beat, Alex and Jennifer follow suit and see him dart into the cornfield:

ALEX  
Your brother is going to fuck  
everything up.

JENNIFER  
No, he won't. I'll take care of  
him.

She raises a SYRINGE and slowly pushes the plunger, squirting red liquid from the needle tip.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
This will do the job, but you  
should stay here, in case he comes  
back.

Alex gives a nod, then:

ALEX  
Remember, don't get too rough! We  
need him breathing.

JENNIFER  
I know.

She sprints to the cornfield.

55 EXT. CORNFIELD - SAME

55

Jennifer whips through the fibrous stalks... a blur surrounded by green and yellow.

From a distance, we watch the cornstalks shake as she continues on, deeper and deeper into the crop.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: Jonah watching the shifting cornstalks from behind the safety of a TOOL SHED. He waits a beat, until Jennifer is out of sight, then enters...

56 INT. TOOL SHED

56

It's empty, except for a large TARP on the ground. Jonah slowly lifts it, revealing: dozens of propane tanks and large containers of cyanide.

He hears Jennifer calling for him off in the distance.

JONAH

I need to get help.

As he turns to exit, he sees an ALIEN staring back at him. It's long, thin fingers reach out for his neck.

Jonah jumps backwards, nearly knocking over a propane container. After a beat, he notices that the "alien" isn't moving; it's suspended and hanging on the back of the door.

JONAH (CONT'D)

(poking it)

It's rubber--

The door whips open, and the alien slams Jonah in the face. He goes down with a THUD.

JENNIFER

You have a lot of nerve.

JONAH

(standing up)

What the hell did they do to you?

JENNIFER

We're going back to the farmhouse.

JONAH

Like hell I am.

She grabs him by the wrist:

JENNIFER

I'm not asking.

She removes the syringe with her free hand.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You remember this guy, right? You had no problem shooting up in the past, so why not indulge a little now? It will make the journey even better.

JONAH

You're brainwashed.

JENNIFER

I'm enlightened.

JONAH

This place is a cult. It isn't safe. We need to get out of here, now!

JENNIFER

I'm not going anywhere. This is my safe haven.

JONAH

That is what people like Eugene want you to believe. They find your insecurities and make you feel wanted, and then you're too damn scared to go back into the real world. You're a prisoner here. You need to see through his lies.

JENNIFER

Alex told me you would say that.

JONAH

Your fiance and his family are dangerous people.

JENNIFER

That's strange because since I moved here, I've never felt so protected.

JONAH

(sincere)

Jen, I know I haven't always been the best brother, but I am really trying to do good here. We can escape, and I'll find you help.

JENNIFER

All that matters is tonight... and  
like it or not, you're coming with  
me!

Just as she's about to jam the syringe into his throat--

JONAH

I'm sorry.

Jennifer looks at Jonah, confused. He then head-butts her,  
breaking her nose. She drops the syringe and falls to her  
knees, grasping her face in pain.

JENNIFER

(shrill)  
You asshole!

JONAH

It's because I love you.

He steps on the syringe, crushing it, and rushes out.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - AFTERNOON

57

Jonah runs along a dusty road. *There's nothing for miles,  
but something in a ditch catches his eye.*

He sees a hand-painted wooden sign: "Gas Ahead."

JONAH

Yes! Thank god.

He takes off.

58 EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

58

It's the same as before. Empty pumps. No vehicles. Jonah  
makes his way into--

59 INT. GAS STATION - OFFICE

59

--and looks for help, but it's empty.

JONAH

(calls out)  
Hello? Are you here?

A beat. Nothing.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
(screams)  
Laurence, please! I need your  
help.

Still no response.

Jonah looks behind the counter and sees a telephone. He  
grabs it and dials 911, but there's no dial tone.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Are you fucking kidding me?

There's a rustling from the back of the room and Laurence  
enters. He sees Jonah behind the counter, near the  
register.

LAURENCE  
What do you think you're doing?

He grabs a bat.

JONAH  
It's not what it looks like.

LAURENCE  
(walking up)  
It looks like you're trying to  
take what's mine.

JONAH  
Oh shit. I'm sorry, Laurence. I  
need your help.

Laurence takes a moment, and then:

LAURENCE  
Wait a minute! You're the boy from  
the other day... The dentist's  
son, right? Well, where are my  
manners?  
(lowers the bat)  
How can I help you?

JONAH  
My parents are in danger.

LAURENCE  
Excuse me?

JONAH  
They're being held hostage by the  
Lemons.

LAURENCE

The cranberry juice family?

JONAH

I know it sounds crazy. I was just trying to call the cops, but your phone...

LAURENCE

Not much reason to have a land line out here. Like I said before, I don't get too many visitors. Gotta keep the expenses down.

Jonah looks outside, it's nearing sunset.

JONAH

I really need your help.

LAURENCE

This isn't a joke, is it?

He sees the fear in Jonah's eyes.

LAURENCE (CONT'D)

My truck's parked out back. I'll take you to the local precinct. They've gotta have a protocol for situations like this.

CUT TO:

60

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - LATER

60

They speed down a dirt road; it's now dusk. Laurence looks over at Jonah. He's trembling.

LAURENCE

It will all be okay. I promise.

Laurence gives a reassuring smile, then turns back to the road. Jonah breathes a sigh of relief and makes himself comfortable in the passenger seat.

He closes his eyes and rests his head against the window. A moment passes, and he looks outside and sees a parade of people walking along the dirt road, in the same direction, carrying flashlights.

JONAH

What's going on? I thought the sheriff's office was the other direction...

LAURENCE

You've had a stressful day. Just try to relax.

JONAH

Where are you taking me?

They pass a sign for "Lemon Family Farm: 2 miles."

LAURENCE

To a better place.

JONAH

I thought you were my friend.

LAURENCE

I am... And our friendship will transcend this planet.

JONAH

You're one of them--

He tries for the door handle, but it's locked.

LAURENCE

You're not going anywhere.

JONAH

I don't understand. I thought you were an engineer. You have to be smarter than this.

LAURENCE

I moved out here because I was sick of people... and what better way to get away, than leave this godforsaken planet. Eugene offered me something that I couldn't get anywhere else: the ultimate escape.

JONAH

Then why do you need me? Just let me go.

LAURENCE

We can't have you blabbing to the news. We don't want another Heaven's Gate fiasco.

Jonah looks out the window again and we see more townspeople making their way to the property. The farmhouse can be seen off in the distance.

He bangs on the glass window and begs:

JONAH  
Please let me out.

A little girl sees him and waves. She then points to the sky with a big smile.

Jonah continues on, wailing on the glass.

LAURENCE  
That's enough.

He punches Jonah in the back of the head and everything goes black.

We hear the truck power on, making its way through some rickety terrain.

JONAH'S POV: He opens his eyes, but everything is blurry; he looks out the window and sees a group of people pointing up at the sky. *They aren't wearing black, just regular clothes; these are the followers.*

The truck comes to a halt:

LAURENCE (CONT'D)  
End of the line, kiddo.

The passenger door swings open, revealing JENNIFER. Her nose is bandaged and bloody. She gives a big smile.

JENNIFER  
Thanks for bringing him back,  
Laur, you're a lifesaver.

LAURENCE  
Of course. Where else would he  
have gone?

JENNIFER  
The perks of living in Bumblefuck,  
right?  
(re: Jonah)  
You gave us quite a scare.

JONAH  
(loopy)  
I want to go home.

JENNIFER  
You are... Soon enough.

There's a laugh, then:

ALEX (O.S.)

Is that our guest of honor?

He joins Jennifer.

JENNIFER

There isn't much time. We need to prepare.

ALEX

I know.

He pulls Jonah out of the passenger seat with a THUD.

61 EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

61

Alex drags Jonah through the leafy stalks towards loud, melodic chanting. Jennifer skips happily behind them.

ALEX

We're getting to the good part.

JENNIFER

Shhh. Don't spoil the surprise.

JONAH

You don't have to do this.

JENNIFER

Oh, that's where you're wrong. This has to happen.

62 EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - NIGHT

62

At least one hundred followers surround the bog, chanting a song of transcendence. Eugene stands tall, wearing a white robe with a silver triangle on it. Carol stands by his side.

After a beat, Alex, Jonah, and Jennifer arrive. Eugene raises a crescent moon staff and points it in their direction:

EUGENE

Yes! Perfect timing, my children.

Everyone stops chanting and Eugene walks over to them:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

(re: Jonah)

You had me worried.

JONAH

Where are my parents?

EUGENE

Oh, they are quite alright.

JONAH

I don't believe you. Where the hell are they?

Eugene claps his hands twice and the MALE SERVANT pushes Barry and Linda in a large wheelbarrow. They're bound and gagged, and unconscious.

Jonah rushes to their side and sees his injured dad; dried blood runs from his scalp down to his cheek.

JONAH (CONT'D)

What did you do to them?

EUGENE

They are just napping.

Everyone laughs.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Alright, alright. That's enough. It's getting late and the Ikeya-Seki Comet is nearly upon us!

The followers cheer.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

We are here to celebrate the engagement of my son, Alex and his beautiful fiance, Jennifer. I am proud to say that our family is growing. Rejoice!

More cheers, as a young couple cuddles their newborn child.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

But, I would also like to introduce to you, the Fischers. We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for Barry, Linda and especially their son, Jonah. For this young man, is the key to our salvation.

The followers raise their hands in the form of the triangle. Jonah looks at Eugene, confused.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Forty-seven years ago, my twin brother, Frederick and I were playing on this very farmland, when something remarkable happened. We witnessed a fiery object fall from the heavens and crash into this bog. My brother was fearless and strong. He investigated the object, only to learn that it wasn't human. Moments later, as he swam to my aid, young Freddy was chosen and taken away from us.

(in tears)

It was the hardest day of my life, but I knew, even as a child, that his abduction would be the catalyst for my life's work, starting this group and delivering us to the new world. I can promise you that we are not alone, for the same ship that took my brother is hiding behind the passing comet, and tonight, we will all be chosen to live out our days amongst the stars.

The followers cheer, until...

JONAH

(screams)

Stop it! Don't believe a word this man says! He's full of shit. There's no space ship. He's been feeding you lies.

EUGENE

My loyal followers, we will make this boy a believer.

He points out to the middle of the bog. There's a WOODEN ALTAR at the center.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

It is in my best judgement that my brother was chosen because he was the more desirable twin; he was fearless and inquisitive, but most importantly, in good-health, all attributes shared by young Jonah, here.

JONAH

(re: Jennifer)

So this was planned the entire time? You were using me as bait?

Eugene nods.

JONAH (CONT'D)

This doesn't make any sense. We're not even identical twins... We're fraternal.

EUGENE

It doesn't matter. When I see you, I see Freddy. You're a fine specimen. No asthma... no allergies... The perfect offering.

JONAH

This is insane. What if I stayed in New Jersey?

EUGENE

I would have had one of my followers fetch you, but here's where things get a little deceptive...

Alex smiles.

ALEX

We're not actually engaged. It was all a ploy to get you and your family out to the farm.

JENNIFER

It's true... and our plan worked like a charm!

JONAH

I can't believe you would sell out your own family.

JENNIFER

Look around, Jonah. This is my family. You and I were just people living together under the same roof.

JONAH

You're a monster.

She laughs and grabs Jonah by the wrist. Alex takes him by the other side.

JONAH (CONT'D)

You're not even related to Eugene are you?

ALEX

I knew you were a smart cookie. I'm one of his recruiters. And let me tell you, your sister was quite easy to persuade. When I saw her studying in the campus library, she looked miserable. So I told her all about the farm, and well, the rest is pretty much history.

JENNIFER

(convincing)

This is my calling.

EUGENE

That's right, Jenny. Now, would you two please take Jonah into the bog. The time has come...

JONAH

Fuck you, Eugene. I'll see you in hell.

EUGENE

(laughs)

I'll see you on Nibiru.

They drag him into the cold water. Clumps of cranberries float past them as they go further into the bog towards the altar: a wooden chair with metal shackles.

JENNIFER

Alright. Let's make sure he's comfortable.

They push Jonah onto the chair and close a series of shackles, securing him in place. He struggles, but it's no use.

ALEX

Jenny, don't forget.

JENNIFER

Oh that's right!

She removes her triangular pendant and places it around Jonah's neck. It glistens in the moonlight.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
It looks good on you.

He gives her a pleading look: "you don't have to do this."

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
You'll thank me later.

She kisses Jonah on the forehead, and they wade back to shore.

EUGENE  
(preaching)  
Let us begin the celebration.

ATTENDANTS wearing black uniforms, are lead by the MALE SERVANT. They each carry two propane tanks with several hoses attached to the main valve, hanging like tentacles.

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
There's enough for everyone. So please join your brothers and sisters and stand by one of our life-support tanks.

The followers disperse to different groups, standing in circles, around the propane canisters. Men, women and children smile and await their final orders.

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
Space caps are being distributed. Let my flight attendants secure them correctly.

The Attendants, now led by Carol, place a translucent garbage bag over each of the follower's heads. They puncture a hole at mouth-level with the hose, then duct tape the bag tight around their necks.

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
And, please, assist all young travelers. We don't want to leave anyone behind.

Jonah watches in disbelief, as children undergo the same process; he struggles to free himself, but it's no use.

Carol kisses Eugene on the mouth then joins Jennifer, Alex, and Laurence; they are already wearing their *space caps*.

JONAH  
Don't do it!

EUGENE

(ignoring)

In approximately three minutes the comet will be over-head. So please turn the knob on your canister and inhale the sweet ambrosia that will be your freedom off this doomed planet.

The followers look at each other through clear, undulating lenses of plastic--each as deadly, as delicate.

We watch as an Attendant from each group turns the valve; the sound of gas hisses throughout the bog. The followers take each other's hands and slowly inhale the fumes.

JONAH

STOP! EVERYONE STOP! EUGENE ISN'T DOING IT.

In a panic, the followers look at their leader.

EUGENE

(nervous)

Keep breathing in, my children. I am waiting for the visitors. They need to be properly greeted.

JONAH

HE'S LYING.

EUGENE

Don't be scared. Just inhale. The comet is near. I can feel it. You will be on Nibiru in moments. Just breathe in deep.

The followers and attendants start to convulse and fall to the ground, their space caps fill with vomit and blood. More and more collapse.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

Yes! Yes! Prepare for your journey! It is time!

Eugene looks up at the sky and we see the comet soaring overhead.

The majority of followers are dead. We focus on Jennifer, Alex, Laurence and Carol. They breathe in quick and happily accept their fate, keeling over. After a beat...

Eugene surveys the land; everyone is dead.

CLOSE ON: Various followers, as the gas continues to fill their space caps. We see their skin burning and eyelids fluttering from the toxic fumes.

JONAH  
(calling out)  
You're a murderer... A fraud.

EUGENE  
I am their savior.

JONAH  
Then where the hell are your  
aliens?

Eugene looks around. *He knows he's right.*

EUGENE  
(timid)  
They're coming.

JONAH  
You don't sound too sure.

Eugene sees all of the dead bodies. He removes his inhaler and takes a puff.

JONAH (CONT'D)  
Your UFO theory is bullshit! All  
of these people died for nothing--

A BLINDING BEAM OF LIGHT descends upon Jonah. He bellows in pain and seconds later... he's gone. All that remains is the wooden altar, with its cuffs still shackled, and a ghostly haze.

EUGENE  
(excited)  
Yes! Yes! Take us with you!

After a beat, he looks around the bog and all of his followers are gone. Their space caps whip around, propelled by the deadly gas.

Eugene looks up and sees the comet pass overhead, then it continues its trajectory and vanishes from view.

After a beat, he realizes...

EUGENE (CONT'D)  
Wait! Wait! Don't leave me!

He runs after the comet, then falls to his knees in tears. He starts hyperventilating.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

No! No! No! Come back! I deserve  
to go too! This was supposed to be  
my turn!

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

63

EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - NIGHT

63

Eugene (16) continues hyperventilating, in the muck. As his breathing grows weaker, we hear something rustle, coming towards him.

ANGLE ON: Eugene, quivering on the ground. He looks up and sees a LARGE SHADOWY FIGURE WITH HUGE GLOWING EYES, like headlights in the night, staring down at him. It doesn't have legs, but floats, almost magically.

The creature bellows a horrific shriek, dribbling saliva onto Eugene's cranberry-stained face.

He tries to scream, but nothing comes out.

MARTHA (O.S.)

(yelling)

Eugene? Frederick? Where are you  
boys?

EUGENE

(whimper)

Mom!

The creature searches for the source of the calls, then looks down at Eugene, BLINDING him. Eugene closes his eyes in pain. He then hears a LOUD WHOOSH SOUND.

MARTHA (O.S.)

Oh, my god! Oh, my god! Eugene!

EUGENE'S POV: He slowly opens his eyes and the blinding light transforms into a lantern, carried by Martha. She runs to his aid, in slow motion, and huddles over him.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Oh, my heavens! What happened to  
you? Are you okay?

In between muffled breaths, Eugene shakes his head "no."

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Stay with me.

She gives him a new inhaler and slowly, his breathing steadies.

EUGENE  
(broken)  
Did you... Did you see it?

MARTHA  
Hush. Just focus on your  
breathing.

EUGENE  
The monster--

MARTHA  
There's no monster, sweetie. It  
was probably just your eyes  
playing tricks on you... Things  
like that happen when your body  
goes into shock.

Eugene looks at his mother, now with tears in his eyes.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
It's alright. You're lucky I found  
you in time. You're going to be  
okay.

He gives a nod.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
I'd say you had a little too much  
excitement for one night... Now,  
where's your brother? You boys  
should have been in bed 20 minutes  
ago.

He slowly points up to the sky and Martha looks at him,  
with a puzzled stare.

64 INT. FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

64

Eugene sits silently, near the window, looking at the stars  
through a telescope, unaware that...

Martha is watching him from the hallway.

EUGENE  
(whispers)  
I'm going find you, Freddy. I  
promise.

65 INT. CLASS ROOM - NIGHT

65

Eugene, now 24, sits behind a wooden desk; a chalkboard  
with the TRIANGLE image peeks over his shoulder.

We also see the RUBBER ALIEN, from the tool shed, propped against the wall.

EUGENE

It means the world to have you all here with me. We are the true believers.

He looks out to a small group, including younger versions of Carol and Laurence; they stare back in awe.

EUGENE (CONT'D)

I started this group as a means of opening up about our extraterrestrial experiences, but now, I believe there's something special about each, and every one of us.

Eugene, now 35, continues his lecture; more and more people take seats and listen to his celestial sermon:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

I believe that we were all chosen. We have witnessed the unexplainable... and nobody can take that away from us. Some people call us crazy, but I am thankful to call you my family.

With arms wide open, Eugene, at his current age, talks to a packed house:

EUGENE (CONT'D)

And with this, I have news for you, my brothers and sisters. The same aliens that took Freddy away from me will be returning soon, and with my help, we can all join them in paradise.

The crowd cheers. Eugene smiles and takes in the praise.

ANGLE ON: Jennifer and Alex, clapping wildly. They give him a standing ovation.

Eugene then makes the sign of the triangle and everyone copies him.

END FLASHBACK.

66

EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - NIGHT

66

Eugene continues hyperventilating. He looks up to the sky.  
*They aren't coming back.*

EUGENE

(in tears)

This was my prophecy! I deserve to  
go! I'm their master! Please, take  
me with you! I miss my brother.

Eugene removes a pistol from underneath his robe. He places  
it against his temple, then... BANG!!! Fragments of skull  
and brain explode through the air.

In slow motion, his body slumps over, landing in the  
shallow bog. Thick blood pours out of his head into the  
crimson water. He dies.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: An empty bog and field. All that  
remains are the hissing propane tanks and the wheelbarrow  
occupied by Barry and Linda.

FADE TO BLACK

67

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

67

A warm summer breeze fills the air, pushing the cornstalks  
in a happy wave. A LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS VAN and POLICE  
CRUISERS are parked on the grass.

A REPORTER stands in front of the farmhouse with his camera  
operator already filming:

REPORTER

I am reporting from The Lemon  
Family Farm, a local  
establishment, here in the small,  
rural town of Flatwoods, West  
Virginia. Eugene Lemon, the  
current owner of the property, was  
found dead this morning, after  
what appears to be a successful  
suicide attempt. Investigators  
believe that he was the leader of  
a mysterious UFO cult, however,  
unlike Heaven's Gate, he, at this  
point, is the only casualty;  
reportedly, his followers left the  
property before joining in the  
ritualistic mass suicide. Sadly,  
this isn't the first tragedy to  
strike the Lemon family;

(MORE)

REPORTER (CONT'D)  
forty-seven years ago, Eugene's  
brother was kidnapped... and he is  
still missing.

68 INT. SILO - DAY

68

An officer removes newspaper clippings, and further  
evidence from the walls.

REPORTER (V.O.)  
Not much is known, except that  
Lemon shot himself in the head,  
shortly after the passing of the  
Ikeya-Seki Comet. Local  
authorities are searching for his  
wife, Carol, for questioning.

69 INT. TOOL SHED - SAME

69

Another officer unhooks the alien costume off the back of  
the door. He shakes his head, unsure of what to make of it.

REPORTER (V.O.)  
However, the parents of two  
missing children were found this  
morning on the property. I am  
fortunate to have an exclusive  
interview with them, in hopes of  
shining some light on last night's  
horrific events.

70 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

70

Barry and Linda sit at a table, wrapped in blankets,  
sipping coffee. Their eyes are bloodshot from crying and  
Barry's head is now bandaged. The reporter sits across from  
them:

REPORTER  
I am here with Barry and Linda  
Fischer, visitors from New Jersey.  
They thought they were coming to  
the Lemon family farm to celebrate  
their daughter's recent  
engagement, but instead they're  
mourning the loss of Jennifer and  
her twin brother, Jonah.

BARRY  
We're just trying to figure out  
what happened.

REPORTER

What were your initial thoughts on Eugene and his family?

LINDA

Honestly, they were odd, but we never expected anything like this to happen.

REPORTER

What is the last thing you remember?

BARRY

Not very much.

LINDA

We've been drugged pretty much ever since we stepped onto their property--

BARRY

(rubs bandaged head)  
--not to mention beaten.

REPORTER

I think it's fair to say, this wasn't the weekend you were expecting.

BARRY

We came all this way, trying to be supportive parents, and never thought we'd lose both our children.

LINDA

(breaks into tears)  
We just want our kids back.

71

EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - SAME

71

A handful of police officers search the property for answers.

REPORTER (V.O.)

Are there any leads? Have the authorities been able to track their cell phones?

BARRY (V.O.)

All calls go straight to voice mail. It's like they vanished into thin air. We have nothing.

REPORTER (V.O.)

I'm sorry, I can't imagine what you are going through right now. Do you have any final words for our viewers?

LINDA (V.O.)

Jonah and Jennifer, if you're watching this, please come home. We miss you and love you.

An officer shuts off a propane tank, and sees a set of footprints in the mud:

OFFICER

(confused)

That's strange... They don't lead anywhere....

He then looks up to the sky and we GLIDE into the air, passing through clouds and continue on until, we enter space. DARKNESS.

JONAH (V.O.)

(warbled)

Jenny?

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(warbled)

Yes! Jonah!

JONAH (V.O.)

(warbled)

Where are we? What is happening?

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(warbled)

We're going home.

The followers cheer.

JONAH (V.O.)

(warbled)

This can't be happening.

JENNIFER (V.O.)

(warbled)

It is! I can see Nibiru.

The followers gasp in awe!

JONAH (V.O.)

(warbled)

Oh my god! It's beautiful.

JENNIFER (V.O.)  
(warbled)  
Of course it is! I am so glad  
you're here with us. I missed you.

JONAH (V.O.)  
(warbled)  
Eugene, I am so sorry that I  
didn't believe you.

No response.

JENNIFER (V.O.)  
(warbled)  
Did you hear that, Father? He  
believes! He believes!

Still no response.

JENNIFER (V.O.)  
(warbled)  
Eugene?  
(a beat)  
Eugene, is that you?

After a beat, we hear a PIERCING, INHUMAN SHRIEK!

THE END.