

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. -Romans 12:1-2

EXT. THE SHAW'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

A perfect suburban house with bay windows and a front lawn. The SHAW family. Caucasian and warm - RICHARD, 34; NANCY, 30; JOSHUA, 6; and MAY, 4 - eat dinner inside. Richard reads something on his tablet illuminating his face.

JOSHUA

Which one are we going to?

RICHARD

The one in Orlando.

NANCY

Disney World.

JOSHUA

Tony said that Mickey is not really Mickey; it's someone else in there.

RICHARD

Mickey's Mickey.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

ANDRE, 29, an African-American man runs down the sidewalk in sweats. He listens to jazz on his phone. The music stops. He stops running and checks his phone.

ANDRE

Damn.

He's right in front of the Shaw's house. He glances inside. The Shaw's seem normal and content. Andre smiles.

A motion detecting security light floods the lawn.

INT. THE SHAW'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Richard looks up from his table to see Andre standing there. The rest of the family doesn't notice. Nancy tends to May, who SQUIRMS in her chair. Richard watches Andre protectively.

JOSHUA

Also, Tony said he saw a chef  
Mickey and a normal Mickey.

NANCY

He must have changed his clothes  
for work.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andre walks on. It's getting dark. He is suddenly very alone.

A vintage creme-colored Porsche Boxter with tinted windows and  
a roof CREEPS up on the street behind Andre. It's following  
him.

INT. SPORTS CAR - CONTINUOUS

Driver's POV watching Andre. His BREATH ECHOES deep and tinny  
as if it were into a coffee can. Through the car's system we  
hear an English to French language tutorial recording.

TUTORIAL

Pardon me. Where is the nearest  
restaurant? Pardonnez-moi. Ou est  
le restaurant le plus proche?

The driver doesn't repeat.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andre, feeling followed, stops to tie his shoe. The car also  
stops. Andre waves at the unseen DRIVER. There is no response.  
The ENGINE PURRS.

Andre begins walking again. The car begins slowly too. Andre  
stops again. The car does too. Andre peers through the  
windshield but can't see through the tint.

ANDRE

Can I help you...?

No response.

ANDRE (CONT'D)

I'm new to the area. I just moved  
here... Down on Evergreen...

Nothing. Did I do something wrong? 'Cause--

INT. SPORTS CAR - CONTINUOUS

Driver's POV. Andre continues to talk, but isn't heard.

TUTORIAL

Can you show me the nearest  
bathroom? Pouvez-vous me montrer  
la salle de bain la plus prouche?

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andre hears nothing from inside.

ANDRE

(under his breath)

This is some shit right here.

Andre begins walking. The car creeps alongside him. After a few steps, Andre stops again. The car stops. Andre laughs.

ANDRE (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I know you? You  
messing with me right?..Come on.

No response. He realizes it's not a friend.

ANDRE (CONT'D)

You know this could be considered  
stalking and harassment. Plus,  
you're sitting in a deadly weapon  
so that's some felony-type shit  
right there.

No response.

ANDRE (CONT'D)

What?!? Say something then.

No response. Andre can't hide his anger anymore. He starts walking the other direction. The car backs up, following Andre in reverse.

ANDRE (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Calm down, Andre. Don't do it.  
Don't let him get to you.

After a few more steps...

ANDRE (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Andre, fed up, stops. He approaches the passenger's side window and bangs on it.

ANDRE (CONT'D)  
I'm from Brooklyn, man. If you  
wanna do something, then let's do  
something. I'm ready..! Hey, I'm  
talkin' to you!!!

INT. SPORTS CAR - CONTINUOUS

Driver's POV. Andre bangs on the window.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Andre bangs harder on the window three times. The car's passenger-side window rolls down.

TUTORIAL  
Can you help me find a hotel?  
Pouvez-vous m'aider a trouver mon  
hotel?

Andre's expression goes from anger to terror. The driver wears a tubular metal medieval knight's helmet with slanted rectangular eye holes.

ANDRE  
Shit.

The driver raises a gun with a silencer on it. Andre turns to run but is shot in the back. Stunned, Andre stumbles towards the Shaw's house. The driver exits the car and follows him.

TUTORIAL  
(From inside the car)  
Can you please call the police?  
Pouvez-vous s'il vous plait  
appelez la police?

EXT. THE SHAW'S HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - CONTINUOUS

Andre falls in front of the Shaw's lawn. A dart sticks out of his back. He reaches towards the Shaw family. The masked driver approaches calmly Andre drags himself toward the house as everything blurs around him.

ANDRE  
(weakly)  
Help

Andre passes out as the security light floods the lawn again.

INT. THE SHAW'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Shaw family eats while Andre lays on their front lawn. This time Richard, buried in his tablet, doesn't notice. the driver lift Andre's limp body and carries him to his car.

JOSHUA

Tony said Mickey's face doesn't move.

RICHARD

That's right. Mickey's always happy.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - CONTINUOUS

The driver carries Andre to the car.

JOSHUA (O.S.)

Why?

RICHARD (O.S.)

Because he hasn't aged in 100 years.

The driver plops Andre in the padded trunk. He gets in his car and drives off.

TITLE CARD:

"Get Out"

EXT. BROOKLYN PARK SLOPE - DAWN

The sun rises over the city. Autumn. Beautiful.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

We move slowly through the small but clean apartment. The walls are decorated with fascinating urban photography.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - BATHROOM - MORNING

CHRIS WASHINGTON, 26, a handsome African-American man shuts the medicine cabinet. He's shirtless and naturally athletic. He scrutinizes his reflection with a touch of vanity.

INT. STARBUCKS COUNTER - MORNING

ROSE ARMITAGE, 28 - Caucasian, brunette with freckles - cool and beautiful like an old Summer Camp crush. Rose looks at pastries through the glass. She can't help but smile.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - BATHROOM - MORNING

Chris spreads shaving cream onto his face and shaves. He postures a little then nicks himself on the neck. He smirks; deserved that.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Chris, clothed, looks out his window through a professional camera. He flips through some striking urban images on the digital display much like the ones framed around his apartment. He is a very talented photographer.

Sid, a small black dog, watches him. The BUZZER RINGS.

INT. BROOKLYN BUILDING - HALLWAY. MORNING

Chris opens the door. Rose stands outside the apartment with her hands full. She has two coffees and two bags of pastries. Chris smirks.

ROSE

I couldn't decide...

He takes the coffee tray and pulls her inside. They kiss.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Rose and Chris have coffee and sweets by the window. The small mound of pastries sits on the coffee table. SID lays on her lap. She strokes him. It's a perfect morning.

ROSE

Poor thing. Do you even pet him?

CHRIS

Are you kidding me? When you're not here that dog gets the best fuckin' pets of his life.

ROSE

So, how come whenever I come over,  
he acts like he's been totally  
neglected.

CHRIS

'Cause he know he's got you  
wrapped around his little paw.

ROSE

oh, really?

CHRIS

Yeah.

Chris picks up her foot sweetly and massages it. She melts.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - CHRIS' BEDROOM - DAY

Chris packs a small bag of luggage. Rose lays on the bed.

ROSE

Toothbrush... Deodorant...

CHRIS

Check... Check....

Chris puts a cigarette in his mouth. Rose pops up and grabs  
the cigarette from his mouth and breaks it. Chris tries to  
feign incredulousness but is amused.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna have one the whole  
weekend.

ROSE

You quit, remember?

CHRIS

I'm nervous.

ROSE

Why? They're going to love you.

CHRIS

Yeah? How do you know?

ROSE

Let's see, you're smart, sweet,  
handsome, creative... You're you.

CHRIS

Good answer.

Chris packs in silence for a moment.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Do they know I'm black?

Rose is taken aback by the question.

ROSE  
I don't think so. Why? Should they?

CHRIS  
Seems like you might give them a heads up.

ROSE  
Really? Like "Mom, Dad, my black boyfriend is coming up for the weekend"?

CHRIS  
You said, I'm the first black guy you'd ever dated.

ROSE  
Yeah...?

CHRIS  
So this is uncharted territory for them.

Rose embraces him.

ROSE  
Baby, it's fine. My dad would legit vote for Obama a third time he could. Yes, he will want to talk to you about it, and that will be embarrassing, but they're gonna love you. I promise.

Chris nods. She kisses his neck and pulls him to the bed.

INT. BROOKLYN LOFT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chris turns on the TV for Sid. He and Rose stand by the front door about to leave.

CHRIS  
Bye.

ROSE  
See you soon.

Rose blows Sid a kiss and they leave.

EXT. BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY

Chris puts his luggage in the trunk and enters the passenger's side of a shiny white BMW X5.

INT. BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - PARKED CAR - CONTINUOUS

Rose sits in the driver's seat. Chris gets in the passenger seat. Her car is a mess.

CHRIS

How do they even let you in a hospital?

ROSE

Shut up. I'm very sanitary at work.

She moves some fast food wrappers to the back seat.

ROSE (CONT'D)

You ready?

CHRIS

Yeah. You?

ROSE

Oh, wait.

She raises her phone and takes a selfie of the two of them.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Ready.

Chris puts his hand on her leg, and they drive off.

EXT. NEW YORK - CITY - CONTINUOUS

The car leaves the city.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - BIRD'S-EYE VIEW - DAY

We soar over the car as it drives through the beautiful countryside; a road flanked by woods.

INT. ROSE'S CAR - DAY

Rose hums. Chris, in the passengers seat, looks through his camera at the passing trees. He snaps a test shot.

CHRIS  
How long has it been?

ROSE  
10 months, so a year basically;  
longest I've ever been away.

Chris takes out another cigarette. Rose promptly grabs it and opens the window.

CHRIS  
Whoa... whoa!! Come on! I'm a  
grown man. If a man says he wants  
a cigarette, a man should be able  
too- -

She throws it out the window.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Okay, so that's like a dollar. You  
basically just throwin' dollars  
out the window.

ROSE  
You shouldn't have bought them.

CHRIS  
I didn't buy them. Rod... Shit.

ROSE  
What?

CHRIS  
I almost forgot Rod.

EXT. LAGUARDIA AIRPORT - OUTSIDE THE TERMINAL - DAY

ROD WILLIAMS, 26, African American, a stocky TSA agent smokes a cigarette. His cell phone rings.

ROD  
'Sup?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ROSE'S CAR - DAY

Chris sits in the passenger seat and talks on the cell phone.

CHRIS

Hey. You at work?

ROD

Yeah. How I'm gonna get in trouble for following standard procedure? Fuckin' Gary out here thinkin' just because a bitch old, she can't hijack an airplane.

Chris laughs.

ROD (CONT'D)

Like you can't hide a bomb in a wheelchair? Watch, Chris, the next 9/11 is gonna be on some geriatric shit.

CHRIS

Look, man, real quick. You good to watch Sid this weekend right?

ROD

What? You think I forgot? Damn 'C', give your boy a little credit. I don't forget shit; you do.

CHRIS

You're right. My bad.

ROD

Apology accepted. How's 'Lil Miss Rosie?

CHRIS

She's good.--

Rose takes the phone.

ROSE

Hi, Rod.

ROD

Whattup babygirl? You better bring my boy back in one piece.

ROSE

I don't even know what that means  
but yes I promise.

ROD

You know you picked the wrong guy  
though right?

ROSE

It's not too late for us is it?

Chris takes the phone back.

CHRIS

Okay, get your own girl.

ROD

Damn, I never seen you like this.  
Meeting the family and everything?  
What does she do lick your ass?

CHRIS

No! What the fuck is wrong with  
you?

ROD

That's it! First girl licks your  
ass and you done. Just...

Rod makes a WHIPPING SOUND.

CHRIS

You need help.

ROD

Yeah I do. I need your girl to  
introduce me to one of her freaky  
deaky boarding school friends.

CHRIS

(laughing)

I'll see what I can do. Oh, and  
I'll kick you some cash for  
watching Sid.

ROD

Come on, son! I don't need your  
money. I got you!

CHRIS

Thanks, man.

ROD

You better not come back all  
bogie on me tho--

Chris hangs up. He gives Rose a look.

ROSE  
What..? Settle down. You know I'm  
yours.

After a beat he puts another cigarette in his mouth.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
No!

CHRIS  
Last one!

She goes for it. He dodges playfully and tickles her causing her to cackle.

A shadow darts across the road in front of the hood of the car. It's hind legs SMACK the hood of the car with a loud THWAT-THWAT. It's propelled into the woods at an awkward angle. The CAR SCREECHES to a halt.

Chris and Rose breathe hard for a few moments of shock.

ROSE  
Fuck!

CHRIS  
You okay?

ROSE  
Yeah. You?

CHRIS  
Yeah. That scared the shit out of  
me.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Rose gets out of her car and inspects the damage. Chris gets out as well. There's a small bloody dent in the hood.

ROSE  
Fuck!!!

Chris looks back in the direction of the collision.

CHRIS  
Stay here.

ROSE  
What are you doing?

CHRIS

I don't know... See if it's okay?

Chris walks a few more steps then stops. He rethinks.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Maybe it's gone--

A guttural, almost human, MOAN OF PAIN comes from in the woods behind them. They watch the woods in horror.

Chris walks back towards the haunting wail. It stops.

ROSE

Chris...?

Chris motions for Rose to stay. He keeps walking towards the thicket about 60 ft behind the car.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Be careful!

Chris gathers his courage and takes a step toward the thicket. The Moan starts again, but much louder and closer than Chris realized. He's startled.

Chris peers through the bushes. The deer lays there gasping for breaths and watching him with a black wet eye. Chris is transfixed.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Do you see it?

Chris snaps to. He nods and takes out his phone.

EXT. UPSTATE NEW YORK ROAD - DAY

A cop car is now pulled up to where the deer was hit. OFFICER FROSTIE - Caucasian - 33 stands near the deer. Another officer, OFFICER CROW - 40 - Caucasian with a patronizing smirk, stands by the driver's side window of Rose's car which Rose and Chris are both back in.

INT. ROSE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

OFFICER CROWE

So in the future the number to call is Animal Control Services.

Rose doesn't like the way he's looking at them.

CHRIS  
Right. That makes sense.

OFFICER CROWE  
You two coming up from the city?

CHRIS  
Yeah.

OFFICER CROWE  
And what brings you up--

ROSE  
I'm from here. The Lake Pontaco  
area? We're going home.

OFFICER CROWE  
(to Chris)  
You got a driver's license?

CHRIS  
Oh... yeah.

Chris gives Rose a "see?" Look as he gets his license.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
I mean, I don't have a driver's  
license, I have a state I.D.

ROSE  
I was driving.

OFFICER CROWE  
I didn't ask who was driving. I  
asked him for his I.D.

ROSE  
My boyfriend shouldn't have to  
show you his I.D. because he  
hasn't done anything wrong.

OFFICER CROWE  
Ma'am, any time there is an  
incident--

ROSE  
No, fuck that!

CHRIS  
Baby. It's okay--

ROSE  
(to Crowe)  
It's bullshit, and you know it.

There is a tense silence. Officer Crowe's walkie chimes in.

OFFICER FROST (O.C.)  
Everything alright up there  
Crowsie?

Officer Crowe stares Rose down. After a moment he presses his walkie button.

OFFICER CROWE  
Yeah, I'm all good.

He hands Chris his I.D.

OFFICER CROWE (CONT'D)  
You guys be careful.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

The car winds through a thickly wooded road.

INT. ROSE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Chris sits in the passenger's seat deep in thought. He watches Rose with a new awe. Rose notices. She shrugs.

ROSE  
What? I'm not gonna let anyone  
fuck with my man.

CHRIS  
That was some ride or die shit,  
baby. I like that.

Rose smiles at him.

ROSE  
We're here.

EXT. ARMITAGE ESTATE - AFTERNOON

The woods give way to an huge front lawn. A large mansion sits in the middle. Thick forest surrounds the estate except for one side which is the edge of a lake. The property feels expensive and isolated; no other houses in sight.

As they drive through the large front lawn, Chris sees WALTER, African American 35 in the distance facing away. Walter wears a gardening hat and trims hedges. He works slowly and methodically.

ROSE  
 (to Chris)  
 That's the grounds-keeper... I  
 think his name is Walter.

Rose parks in front of the house, and. He has a pleasant smile. Rose gets out of the car and waves.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
 Hi!

Walter turns and waves back. Chris gets out and waves too.

CHRIS  
 (To Walter)  
 Hey! What's up?

Walter waves silently. Odd.

As Chris gets the luggage from the trunk, Rose runs to the front door and RINGS the DOORBELL. FOOTSTEPS. The door swings open revealing...

DEAN ARMITAGE, 59, a tall, balding, barrel-chested, bear hug of a man. Though clearly smart, Dean has an endearing cockiness and a bad case of Dad humor. He is the kind of guy who pronounces garbage, Gar-bahge.

And... MISSY ARMITAGE, 56, A beautiful beacon of intellectual patience. She is poised and warm; relaxed and in control. They stand in the shadows of the doorway smiling. Rose hugs her parents.

ROSE  
 Hi!!!

DEAN MISSY  
 There's my girl! Hello sweetheart.

ROSE (CONT'D)  
 I miss you guys.

MISSY  
 We miss you, Ro Ro.

Chris approaches with the bags.

CHRIS  
 Hi.

ROSE  
 Chris, these are my parents. Mom,  
 Dad, this is Chris.

CHRIS  
Good to finally meet you...

Chris holds his hand out.

DEAN  
Mr. Armitage will do.

CHRIS  
Sure.

DEAN  
I got him.  
(To Chris)  
Come here.

Dean grabs Chris' arm and pulls Chris in tight.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
Call me Dean. We hug around here,  
Fella.

CHRIS  
Alright.

DEAN  
My wife Missy.

CHRIS  
I've heard so much about you guys.

Missy holds Chris' shoulders and examines his face and chest.

MISSY  
Yes, you'll do just fine. So  
handsome.

ROSE  
Can we get inside before you guys  
start embarrassing me?

MISSY  
Of course, come inside, make  
yourself at home.

CHRIS  
I'm fine with the embarrassing by  
the way; go ahead.

Missy and Dean laugh. The four enter the house. Missy shuts the door behind them.

Outside, Walter watches as his smile fades away. He slowly turns and goes back to work.

INT. ARMITAGE LIVING ROOM - DAY

A wonderful house looms ahead. The interior is worldly and interesting; clean and homey. Several paintings of castles and medieval battles accent the walls. Taxidermy. One wall is all bookshelf, and there is a fireplace.

Above the fireplace is a large hauntingly beautiful portrait of an old man and woman.

CHRIS

Wow.

DEAN

"Wow" is good. We'll take wow.

CHRIS

I grew up in a one bedroom, so for me, this is ridiculous.

DEAN

It ought to be. Lord knows we've done enough work on it through the years...

MISSY

(To Rose and Chris)

How was the ride in?

ROSE

We hit a deer.

DEAN MISSY

Oh no! Where?

ROSE (CONT'D)

I don't know. Down around Lyons road?

CHRIS

It came out of nowhere.

MISSY

Are you guys okay?

CHRIS ROSE

Yeah. Yeah. It just fruck us out.

MISSY (CONT'D)

I bet.

DEAN

You know what I say. One down... a few hundred thousand to go.

Dean snickers.

MISSY ROSE

Dean. So awful! Dad.

DEAN (CONT'D)

What?! Those things are everywhere up here, Chris; like rats. The damage they've done to the ecology alone... Anyway, are we ready for the grand tour?

MISSY

Let them unload their bags first.

DEAN

Leave 'em. Walter will get 'em.

ROSE

I think we'll manage, Dad.

INT. ARMITAGE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Rose and Chris take their bags upstairs.

INT. ARMITAGE HOUSE - ROSE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rose's old room is preserved in the state of a young-minded teenage girl. Lots of pink and dated boy band posters, a stuffed lion. A window overlooks the front lawn.

Rose and Chris place their bags down.

ROSE

(sarcastic)

You think they wish I was still a kid?

CHRIS

I cannot believe they kept it the same.

Chris looks at some pictures posted on her dresser.

ROSE

So...

CHRIS

They're great.

ROSE

Yay.

CHRIS

No, they're totally sweet.

ROSE

I told you they'd love you.

He sees a picture of Rose in high school on stage in a production of 'The Crucible.'

CHRIS

What?! Is this you?

ROSE

"The Crucible." I was Abigail.

CHRIS

I didn't know you acted.

ROSE

There's a lot you don't know about me.

Rose grabs Chris by the belt and pulls him to the bed on top of her. They kiss. She goes for his fly.

CHRIS

Wait, what about the tour?

ROSE

"The tour?" Are you serious?

CHRIS

We just got here. I don't wanna be disrespectful...

ROSE

Who gives a fuck? Be disrespectful.

He stops her.

CHRIS

I'm serious. Later.

INT. ARMITAGE DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Dean and Chris walk and look at pictures on the wall. Rose and Missy catch up in the living room.

DEAN

Frankenstein's monster. Only pieces of the original structure remain; I like to think the soul is in tact though.

They keep walking.

DEAN (CONT'D)

There are seven bedrooms, ten bathrooms, three indoor dining areas, two study's, two main kitchens. There's an observatory wing on the top floor. And you'd be hard pressed to find a room that doesn't serve as library.

Chris zones in on a photograph taken in the 90's in front of the Armitage house. Dean and Missy are younger, and Rose and her brother Jeremy are kids.

DEAN (CONT'D)

That's Jeremy. Rose's brother. He's in Med school.

CHRIS

I've heard stories.

DEAN

He went through a couple dark spots but came out the other side. You'll meet him later.

CHRIS

Oh, cool.

Dean points out the older couple in the picture, the same from the portrait in the living room; GRANDPA and GRANDMA.

DEAN

Mother and Father lived here till the end. They died a few years ago now. Passed away within weeks of each other...

CHRIS

I hear that happens a lot.

DEAN

"Love" is a powerful thing.

They move down the hallway to a black and white framed picture of a 25 year old man posing in the starting position for a race.

DEAN (CONT'D)

My Dad was a runner. A good runner; great sprinter.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Oh, In fact, you might find this interesting, he was just beat out by Jessie Owens in the qualifying round for the '36 Olympics in Berlin. That's the one where--

CHRIS

--Owens won in front of Hitler.

DEAN

You know your history.

CHRIS

Not really. That one always just stood out in my mind.

DEAN

Of course. One of those perfect moments. There's Hitler on his high horse with his perfect Aryan race, and here comes this black guy to prove him wrong on the world's stage. What a moment.

CHRIS

Yeah, tough break for your father though.

DEAN

He almost got over it.

Dean winks.

HOUSE - MISSY'S OFFICE - DAY

Dean opens the door to the office. He and Chris stand outside the door as Dean reaches in to turn on the lights. In front of the desk two comfortable-looking chairs face each other. Books line the walls, and are stacked everywhere. Dean and Chris don't enter. A white cat laying next to a teacup wakes up on the desk.

DEAN

Okay Snowbell just looking.

(To Chris)

Missy's office. This is where she takes appointments.

CHRIS

She's a Therapist right?

DEAN

Yeah. One of the best in the world. Not a tidy woman.

CHRIS  
Like mother like daughter.

Dean Cackles.

INT. ARMITAGE HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

CHRIS  
And you're a surgeon?

DEAN  
A neurosurgeon; was. I retired  
early. Now, I pretty much focus on  
the house and twiddle my thumbs.

Dean and Chris pass a closed door.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
Oh, downstairs is the wine cellar,  
the games room, some storage.  
Apparently a black mold issue down  
there. Almost everything needs to  
get thrown out; shame.

INT. ARMITAGE KITCHEN - DAY

Dean and Chris continue their walk-through. The kitchen is  
large, homey and pristine. Large windows overlook the  
backyard. GEORGINA, African American, 30 stands facing a wall.  
She is still.

DEAN  
My mother loved her kitchen.

Upon hearing them, Georgina comes alive. She resumes cleaning  
the kitchen.

CHRIS  
That view.

DEAN  
Oh, Georgina, this is Chris;  
Rose's boyfriend.

Georgina turns to them. She has the same eerie smile as  
Walter. Like she's masking something.

CHRIS  
Hi.

GEORGINA  
Hello.-

DEAN

Ah ha! But now for the piece de resistance...

Dean opens the glass back door.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

The yard is huge and the woods beyond it ominous. The wind RUSHES through the trees. Dean leads Chris out through the yard towards a gazebo.

DEAN

Badminton and bocce ball, croquet; we're a family who loves games. Two other families have properties on lake Pontaco, and they're way on the other side. Total privacy.

Chris is distracted by Walter who prepares the lawn mower in the distance.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I know what you're thinking.

CHRIS

Yeah?

DEAN

Well-to-do white family; black servants...

CHRIS

I wasn't gonna go there.

DEAN

You didn't have to. We hired them a few years ago to help care for my parents; they became part of the family. Couldn't bear to let them go. I hate the way it makes us look though...

CHRIS

Hey. People need work.

DEAN

Yeah.

They arrive at an outdoor patio. Dean stops Chris from stepping on a dead sparrow.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Well, crap.  
 (Calling)  
 Walter!

Walter turns to face them. He has that same eerily mild smile. Vacant in its sincerity.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Another dead bird!  
 (To Chris)  
 Damn things fly into the patio  
 from time to time; break their  
 necks.

Walter nods slowly. Dean gently kicks the bird's carcass out of their way.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Iced tea?

EXT. OUTDOOR PATIO - DAY

Dean, Missy, Chris and Rose sit with iced teas.

MISSY

(to Chris)  
 Rose tells us your parents aren't  
 with us.

CHRIS

My Dad was never really in the  
 picture. My mom passed away when I  
 was 11; She was hit by a car.

MISSY DEAN

Oh, that's awful; so young. I'm so  
 sorry to hear that.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Yeah. My aunt raised me, with my  
 cousins. We didn't have a lot of  
 money or anything, but she's a  
 good person; kept me off the  
 streets. She gave me my first  
 camera.

Rose holds Chris' hand.

MISSY

You two seem like you've been  
 together for years. How long has  
 it been now?

CHRIS ROSE  
4 months? 5 months.

CHRIS  
5? She's right; I'm wrong.

DEAN  
'Atta boy Chris. Get used to saying that.

MISSY  
Not a lot of time, anyway. So...?  
You guys in love or what?

ROSE  
Mom.

CHRIS  
I mean, we've been trying to take it slow but...

MISSY  
Yep. You're in love. I can tell.

DEAN  
Can't resist the inevitable.

Walter mows past them in the distance.

MISSY  
And how did you meet, again?

CHRIS  
At the blood drive.

ROSE  
Remember when I volunteered at the community center?

DEAN  
Ah, yes.

MISSY  
And he really is so good looking, isn't he? You'd have beautiful babies.

ROSE  
I know!

DEAN  
Uh oh. Get out of here before it's too late!

ROSE  
 (to Chris)  
 Now, all you have to do is just  
 quit smoking.

DEAN  
 Oh no! A smoker!?

MISSY  
 And we were just beginning to like  
 you.

CHRIS  
 No. I'm quitting.

DEAN  
 You should have Missy take care of  
 that for you.

ROSE  
 Oh God.

CHRIS  
 How?

DEAN  
 Hypnosis. Works like a charm.

Missy watches Chris' reaction intently. He is uncomfortable.

CHRIS  
 Oh.

DEAN  
 I thought the whole thing was B.S.  
 too. I smoked for 20 years. She  
 puts me under once, now the sight  
 of a cigarette makes me wanna  
 vomit.

MISSY  
 Of course, I'd give you the  
 service for free. You are family  
 after all.

CHRIS  
 Wow. I don't... Thank you. Um, I  
 don't know.

Chris looks to Rose for help.

ROSE  
 You guys, normal people don't want  
 strangers fiddling around in their  
 heads.

MISSY

If you change your mind... We're just glad you could join us for the big get-together.

Georgina brings the pitcher of iced tea around and refills everyone's glass. Chris tries to thank her with a look. She smiles and avoids eye contact.

CHRIS

The get-together?

ROSE

The party tomorrow? I told you.

CHRIS

I must have forgot.

MISSY

Oh, well we host a shindig once a year for our friends.

DEAN

A tradition. Some of my Dad's old social club. Some old patients. Some just friends...

MISSY

Drinks, good food, good people...

CHRIS

Sounds fun.

Georgina has been pouring Chris' drink too long and his glass has overflowed.

MISSY

Georgina!

Georgina snaps out of her daze. She realizes what she's done and starts to clean.

MISSY (CONT'D)

It's fine George, I'll get it. Maybe you need a nap.

Georgina nods, smiles and walks away. Chris and Rose look at Dean. That was odd. Dean shrugs.

A CAR HORN HONKS in front of the house.

DEAN

Jeremy's home.

JEREMY, 29, rounds the house with open arms.

He's "Rich kid intense"; handsome and strong with an unpredictable wildness behind his eyes.

JEREMY

Who answers the door around here?!

INT. ARMITAGE DINING ROOM - LATER/NIGHT

Everyone laughs.

Dean pours the remainder of a bottle of wine into Chris' glass. Their meal is done and they are tipsy. Jeremy pops the cork on a new bottle of wine as he energetically holds court.

JEREMY

One more... So, let me set the scene. I'm a junior; Ro's a freshman and she has a crush on this guy Connor--

ROSE

--No. Mom.

MISSY

Jeremy...

CHRIS

No, no... These are good. I wanna hear this.

DEAN

Manners, Rose. Give the guest what he wants.

JEREMY

Yeah, Rose.

ROSE

I hate you.

JEREMY

Connor Garfield was on my lacrosse team. Huge guy, like 6'3", and crazy, just like "Looney Tunes," right? We had thrown a party--

ROSE

You did.

JEREMY

I think my parents were in Greece or something. We had gotten into their liquor cabinet and we're all shit-faced.

MISSY

No you weren't. Were you?

JEREMY

We put water in the bottles so you wouldn't know. Let me finish. Okay, so I'm upstairs in my parents' bathroom hooking up with Jenny Richardson. Hottest girl in our class.

MISSY

Uch.

ROSE

You realize you're coming off like a total douche right now, right?

JEREMY

Thanks. All of a sudden Connor starts banging on the bathroom door, right? I open it, and he's got blood gushing out of his mouth and he's screaming "Your thith-ter bit my fuckin' thongue off!!!!"

CHRIS

Whoa, what?

JEREMY

Sure enough, there is a centimeter of tongue meat missing right here.

Jeremy demonstrates and Chris winces.

CHRIS

(To Rose)

Ahhhh! You bit him?

ROSE

He cornered me and shoved his tongue in my mouth, so yeah.

CHRIS

Damn. That's badass, Bae.

MISSY

I'm going to see how dessert is coming along.

(to Dean)

Maybe we can change the conversation to something a little lighter.

ROSE

Yeah, great story. Thanks for making it totally uncomfortable.

Missy walks out of the dining room into the kitchen. The door swings open and Chris gets another glimpse of Georgina who stands with a kitchen knife and wears an intense and wicked little smile. The door swings shut.

DEAN

Okay, new subject. Chris, Yanks or Mets?

CHRIS

Ah, Orioles. My mom was from Baltimore so--

JEREMY

You an MMA fan?

ROSE

Oh God.

JEREMY

What?

DEAN

She's right. Let someone else talk for a bit.

JEREMY

You've had your chance. He's dating my sister. I can't bond with the guy?

Dean exhales.

CHRIS

You mean like UFC? Yeah, nah. Too brutal for me. I'm a lover, not a fighter.

JEREMY

You ever get into street fights as a kid?

CHRIS

Not really. I did take Judo for after-school in 1st grade.

ROSE

Awww.

JEREMY

Cause, with your frame, your genetic make-up? If you pushed your body, I mean really trained, you'd be a beast.

CHRIS

Cool... Thanks?

The kitchen door swings open again, and Missy walks back in with a perfect carrot cake. Georgina is gone.

MISSY

What'd I miss?

ROSE

More ramblings from King Awkward.

JEREMY

We're talking about sports.  
(To Chris)  
Stand up. Let me show you something.

MISSY

No karate at the dinner table.

JEREMY

It's not karate, it's jiu-jitsu.

He stumbles a little towards Chris and tries to put him in a headlock. Chris stands.

CHRIS

I've got a rule. I don't play-fight with drunk dudes.

JEREMY

I'm just--

DEAN

--Alright, enough Jeremy!

JEREMY

I wasn't going to hurt him.

Dean is loud and stern for the first time. Jeremy's eyes flutter, DRUNK and embarrassed. He grabs a wine bottle and goes upstairs`.

ROSE

And that's my brother.

EXT. THE ESTATE. NIGHT

Full moon. CRICKETS.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Rose and Chris make hushed love in her bed. A stuffed lion seems to watch Chris. He turns it away.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Rose sleeps, but Chris is wide awake. There's a buzz in his ear. He smacks his own head and sits up. A soft HOWL of WIND rushes through the room. The CLOSET DOOR CREEKS open.

Chris' eyes drift to the pack of cigarettes sticking out of his camera bag pocket draped on the desk chair.

INT. ARMITAGE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chris leaves Rose's room and walks down the dark hallway. A floorboard creaks under his feet. He turns down the stairs.

INT. ARMITAGE DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Chris gets to the bottom of the stairs. He hears the floorboard creek upstairs. He stops and turns, expecting someone to follow him down. Nothing. Chris continues to walk down the hallway past the pictures towards the kitchen.

The basement door is open a crack. Chris peers into it curiously. A stairwell leads down into pitch darkness. Chris shuts the door. A figure now stands at the end of the hallway behind him. He doesn't notice. He just keeps going into...

INT. ARMITAGE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Chris walks through the kitchen. He bumps into a bar chair moving it slightly. He keeps walking. He continues out the sliding back door of the house.

## EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Chris steps out the back door and takes a cigarette out. Chris looks into the vast night around him. The CRICKETS are deafening.

Suddenly, something DARTS FAST across the yard in the distance. Chris peers out into the darkness. The thing RUNS across the lawn again. A moment of terror comes over Chris. He makes out a shape. It's now running towards him. Chris backs up in fear just as the figure emerges from the shadows and into the moonlight. It's Walter, the grounds keeper. He passes Chris without noticing. Chris gathers his breath.

The kitchen light turns on and floods the backyard. Chris drops the cigarette and stomps it out. He turns back towards the house and finds himself face to face with Georgina, who glares through the window dead in Chris' eyes. He's caught.

Georgina doesn't react. Chris is still. Georgina suddenly exposes her teeth in a frightening grimace. Chris backs away slowly.

## INT. ARMITAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Georgina sucks her teeth. She doesn't actually see Chris at all. She's looking at her teeth in the reflection in the window which, front lit, reflects her and the room around her. Outside is invisible.

## EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Chris realizes he's not caught. Close call. Inside Georgina notices the bar chair has been moved. She moves it back into its original position, and begins cleaning the kitchen cabinets. Chris quietly sneaks around the house.

## INT. ARMITAGE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Chris sneaks in through the door in the dark dining room.

## INT. ARMITAGE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Chris moves through the living room towards the stairs, the lamp in the middle of the room turns on startling Chris. Missy sits near him; cat in lap; almost seductively. He's caught; for real this time.

MISSY

Quick fix?

CHRIS

Yeah. Nerves got me I guess.

MISSY

Come. Let's nip this in the bud.

INT. MISSY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Missy sits in a chair and directs Chris to sit across from her. She pours them both some tea. Chris sits.

CHRIS

I still don't know if this is right for me.

MISSY

There really is no need to be nervous.

CHRIS

I'm good. The dude was running out there. Scared me.

MISSY

Walter starts early every day. He's borderline obsessive compulsive. Tea?

CHRIS

Nah, I'm good. It'll keep me up.

Missy puts two sugar cubes in her cup. She begins to stir slowly, CLINKING the SPOON softly and rhythmically against the sides of the cup.

TING TING. TING TING.

MISSY

How's the bed. Good?

CHRIS

Yeah.

MISSY

Comfortable enough?

CHRIS

It's perfect, thanks.

MISSY  
Enough sheets?

CHRIS  
Yep.

TING TING. TING TING.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
So, how does this work? Are you  
going to swing a pocket watch in  
front of my face?

MISSY  
You watch a lot of Television.  
Now, you are feeling very  
sleepy...

They share a smile.

MISSY (CONT'D)  
We do use focal points sometimes,  
but just about any object or  
simple motion can guide someone to  
a state of heightened  
suggestibility.

CHRIS  
Heightened suggestibility. Okay,  
where do we start?

MISSY  
Your childhood.

CHRIS  
Yeah, my memory sucks.

TING TING. TING TING.

MISSY  
Wounds get locked in your heart  
and they fester and grow into ugly  
little things like depression and  
addiction. But, they are all in  
there somewhere. All we need to do  
is find the key.

TING TING. TING TING.

The world around Chris slowly goes out of focus.

CHRIS  
I guess if it makes me quit...  
Wait... Has it started--?

MISSY

--we're going to go back to a place that might be uncomfortable for you. Your Mother's death to be specific. Were you there when she was hit?

CHRIS

I was home. I was watching TV.

MISSY

Let's go back there. Hear this place. Let the vibrations rush run through your body and ears. Hear it... Find it... Tell me when you find it.

The sound of RAIN AGAINST a WINDOW slowly fades up along with the MUFFLED sound of a SITCOM ON TELEVISION.

CHRIS

Okay... Yeah, I found it.

TING TING. TING TING.

MISSY

Good. How did you find out she died?

CHRIS

I knew it. She was never late after work. When she didn't come home, I just knew something was wrong.

MISSY

Good. Now touch. Feel your surroundings. Feel every part of your body and what you touched. Feel it. Find it... Tell me when you find it...

FLASHBACK - INT. SMALL APARTMENT. NIGHT

Close on 11 year old Chris' hands scratches the bed post nervously.

MISSY (V.O.)

Tell me when you find it.

CHRIS (V.O.)

I found it.

His toes brush the carpet as his dangling legs swing off the side of his bed.

TING TING. TING TING.

PRESENT DAY - INT. MISSY'S OFFICE. - NIGHT

Chris' feet try to swing but are too long. He scratches the arm of the chair in Missy's office.

MISSY

You said 'you knew something was wrong.' What did you do?

CHRIS

Nothing.

MISSY

Nothing?

CHRIS

I just sat there. Watching TV.

MISSY

You didn't call someone? Your Aunt or the police?

CHRIS

No.

MISSY

Why not?

CHRIS

I don't know. I thought if I did, it would make it real.

MISSY

Next is smell and taste. Breathe in and let the scent fill your nose. Smell that place. Taste it. Find it.

Chris is getting emotional. He breathes deep through his nose.

FLASH BACK - INT. SMALL APARTMENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Young Chris finishes inhaling. The rain hits the window sill.

MISSY (V.O.)

Tell me. Tell me when you find it.

Young Chris takes sip of a juice box.

PRESENT DAY - INT. MISSY'S OFFICE. NIGHT

26 year old Chris sips from an invisible straw.

CHRIS

I found it.

TING TING. TING TING.

MISSY

Good. Now lastly, you must see it.  
Let the light flood into your  
eyes. Every color, every detail.  
See it. See it. Find it.

Chris' eyelids flutter. He continues to scratch the armchair.

TING TING. TING TING

FLASHBACK - INT. SMALL APARTMENT - NIGHT

11-year-old Chris scratches through the wood on his bed,  
splintering the wood. He watches TV from his bed next to some  
action figures.

MISSY (V.O.)

Tell me when--

11-year-old Chris nods.

TING TING. TING TING.

PRESENT DAY - INT. MISSY'S OFFICE. NIGHT

Chris nods and cries.

CHRIS

--Found it.

MISSY

(realizing)

You think it was your fault.

Chris nods.

TING TING. TING TING.

MISSY (CONT'D)

I want you to feel that fear  
again, Chris.

CHRIS

I don't want to.

MISSY

It's okay. I'm here.

Chris trembles anxiously.

MISSY (CONT'D)

Are you afraid now? Paralyzed like  
that day?

He nods. Her empathetic expression turns into a sick smile.

MISSY (CONT'D)

Good. Now sink into the floor.

CHRIS

Wait--

MISSY

Sink! Now!

TING TING...

Chris' hand has compulsively scratched open the arm of the  
chair. His hand stops. His mouth drops and eyes open, frozen.

FLASHBACK - INT. SMALL APARTMENT - NIGHT

...TING TING.

Suddenly, 11-year-old Chris falls through the bed and floor.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. DARKNESS

Terror. Chris, 26 again, breathes fast but falls in slow  
motion through darkness as if through water.

TING TING. TING TING.

He flails towards a pitch black abyss. He's illuminated by the  
fading blue flicker of a large downward facing TV-like screen.  
On it Missy sits Speaking to him and clinking her teacup.

Missy's voice is everywhere.

MISSY

Good. Good. Sink. Sink.

PRESENT DAY - INT. MISSY'S OFFICE. NIGHT

Chris' body sits in his chair motionless. He can't move. His  
eyes are wide open, staring strait at Missy.

INT. DARKNESS

Chris continues to slowly fall backwards. Missy approaches on the screen above him. It shows what his eyes are seeing.

CHRIS

No! NO!!! I'm done! Bring me back!  
Please!!!!

There is no response. Chris cries. Eventually he slows down and comes to a stop. He lands feet first on a soft ground. This place sounds like it's crawling with insects. He looks up. He can still see the screen above but it is far away, like the mouth of a deep and expansive well.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Mrs. Armitage!!!

On the screen, Missy stands. She walks towards Chris' body and looks down at him through his own eyes.

MISSY

Now you are in the Sunken Place.

Missy reaches towards the screen and shuts his eyelids. The abyss goes almost completely dark. Now he's alone in the dark. He cries in terror.

Chris hears a DEEP HULKING BREATHING in the darkness.

CHRIS

(whispering)  
Something's down here...

No response.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(whispering)  
Bring me back. Bring me back.  
Bring me back. Bring me back...

In the darkness, the SOUND OF HOOVES CRUNCHING ON SOFT GROUND approaches.

THUNK THUNK. THUNK THUNK.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Bring me back. Bring me back.  
Bring me back.

The sounds get louder and louder.

THUNK THUNK. THUNK THUNK.

An antlered thing emerges from the shadow. It's head is that of a deer, but with the flesh stripped off and with mostly its skull exposed.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

No!

Its eyes glow and flicker faint blue in its sockets. It MOANS A WRONG SOUNDING MOAN; in hateful anguish. It charges Chris...

THUNK THUNK. THUNK THUNK. THUNK THUNK.

The bloody deer impales Chris on its antlers. They both MOAN.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Chris wakes up with a start in Rose's bed sweaty and heaving. He's alone and confused. Bad dream? Headache.

The SHOWER RUNS inside Rose's bathroom. SHE HUMS.

DING DING

He's gotten a message. It's a picture of Rod pretending to pour beer in Sid's mouth. Chris smiles. The batteries are low. He plugs his phone in and puts it on the dresser.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAWN

It's Golden hour. Beautiful. Chris walks through the yard to the edge of the forest with his camera.

Chris keeps walking. He looks through a long-zoom lens into the wilderness. He sees a bird and snaps a picture.

He turns to the house. Georgina can be seen through an upstairs window knitting. He raises his camera. She's beautiful. She stands and begins to remove her wig. Then as if aware she's being watched, she turns towards him. Chris turns away, taking a picture in another direction. He glances back at the window. Georgina is gone.

BANG. A sparrow slams against the gazebo and falls to the ground. Startling Chris.

CHRIS

Damn.

He turns away and is startled even more by Walter smiling serenely at him about 50 feet away in the yard. Embarrassed, Chris gathers himself. He walks towards Walter.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

What's up?

No response.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

They working you good out here,  
huh?

Walter's voice is soft and methodical. His eyes remain distant as though he his looking through Chris. Chilling. There is a hidden anger behind his pleasantness.

WALTER

Nothing I don't want to be doing.

CHRIS

Ha!

Walter isn't joking.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Yeah... yeah. No, I can tell. I never really got to meet you actually, up close. I'm Chris.

WALTER

I know who you are. You're Rose's friend.

Chris stops walking about 15 feet from Walter. Something doesn't feel right.

CHRIS

Yeah. That's one way to put it. So, where you from originally?

WALTER

She is lovely isn't she?

CHRIS

Rose? Yeah, she is...

WALTER

One of a kind; a real doggone keeper.

Chris is weirded out.

WALTER (CONT'D)

Sorry if I scared you last night.

CHRIS

Oh, yeah. Actually, I guess I was pretty drunk.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
I don't remember much.

WALTER  
And the hypnosis? Did it work?

CHRIS  
Hypnosis? No, I didn't...

Chris remembers.

WALTER  
Well, I should get back to work.

Chris raises his hand in a timid 'black power fist.' Walter raises his hand in an open wave.

CHRIS  
There's another bird...

Walter nods. Chris turns and walks to the house. Chris makes pops a cigarette into his mouth. He is repulsed by the taste of it. He looks at it. More of last night seems to come back to him.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Chris enters as Rose finishes blow drying her hair. He's worked up.

ROSE  
Hi. Where have you been?

CHRIS  
Out. Taking pictures. Hey, so I think your mom hypnotised me last night.

ROSE  
Wait, what?

CHRIS  
(hazy)  
I think I snuck out for a smoke, and she caught me and offered? I don't know. I must have agreed to it 'cause the thing just made me nauseous.

ROSE  
Okay. Well then that's good, right?

CHRIS

No, not good. I can barely remember any of it even happening; I don't like that. Plus I had these fucked up dreams.

ROSE

That happened to me too.

CHRIS

What did?

ROSE

The nightmares. When I was a kid. She hypnotized me once for stage fright, and I had the craziest nightmares, but it worked...

She wraps herself up in Chris' arms. Chris thinks.

CHRIS

And, what's the deal with the help?

ROSE

Like... The iced tea thing? Yeah that was weird.

CHRIS

That, but also the lawn-mower guy creepin' me the fuck out too.

ROSE

Why? Did he say something?

CHRIS

It's not what he says, it's how he says it. You know?

ROSE

Yeah, something about them seems... different.

Out the window, A CAR DRIVES onto the front yard. Rose hears and looks.

ROSE (CONT'D)

They're here.

Chris looks as well. A car parks on the front lawn. A Chauffer gets out and opens the backseat passenger door. A well-trained Husky service dog exits the car followed by JIM HUDSON, 57. Jim is blind and has slicked back grey hair.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NOON

Bird's-eye view. Walter helps direct 12 expensive cars onto a makeshift parking lot on the front lawn. Wealthy guests emerge from each one.

EXT. BACKYARD - NOON

The party is in full swing. The 30 or so guests mingle excitedly. They are all white except for one Japanese man.

Through the kitchen window, Georgina fixes food and helps occupy four white children by helping them make Hors d'oeuvres.

Rose and Chris get a drink at the bar. They walk through the party. Missy mingles with some guests. She makes eye contact with Chris and winks. He looks away.

Chris and Rose are stopped by GORDON GREENE, 68, and his wife EMILY GREENE, 67. Gordon is a cute man with a cane and impish excitement. Emily is pretty and birdlike. They watch Chris intently and smile from ear to ear. Gordon shakes Chris' hand thoroughly.

GORDON

Nice to meet you, Chris. Nice to meet you indeed.

(to Emily)

Good grip.

CHRIS

Thanks. You too.

GORDON

You ever play golf?

CHRIS

Once, actually; a few years ago. I wasn't very good.

EMILY

Gordon was a professional golfer for years.

CHRIS

Oh? No kidding.

GORDON

Can't quite swing the hips like I used to though. You know, I met Tiger.

Rose and Chris share a subtle smirk.

ROSE CHRIS  
Wow, that's great. Cool.

EMILY  
Gordon loves Tiger.

GORDON  
Best I've ever seen. Ever, hands  
down. Let's see your form.

CHRIS  
Me? I could barely hit the thing.

GORDON  
Show me...

Chris does.

GORDON (CONT'D)  
If I knew what I know now at your  
age? Now then I could really play.

CHRIS  
It'd be kind of a waste of time  
travel though.

They laugh.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

Chris and Rose speak to NELSON DEETS, 82, who's smiles in a wheelchair with his jaw hanging, and LISA DEETS, 54, a loose-lipped trophy wife smiles at Chris in a predatory manner. They have Dutch accents.

LISA  
(To Rose)  
How handsome is he?

ROSE  
Extremely.

Lisa squeezes Chris' bicep. A bit too familiar.

LISA  
Not bad huh, Nelson?

NELSON  
Eh?

LISA  
 (to Rose)  
 So, is it true? The love making.  
 Is it better?

Rose cackles at the bluntness of the question. Chris almost chokes on his drink. Lisa continues to size Chris up.

CHRIS  
 Wow. Um..

LISA  
 (to Rose)  
 I'm being too forward?

ROSE  
 We'll talk later.

CHRIS  
 Oh, will you now?

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

Chris and Rose talk to PARKER DRAY, 60, and APRIL DRAY, 57. They are an overweight, rose-cheeked tipsy wasp couple. Chris and Rose try to mask boredom and annoyance.

APRIL  
 Who even cares about skin color?  
 My God.

CHRIS  
 Right. I mean--

PARKER  
 The world cares, April. But it's not a question of physical superiority, it's "What skin color is more culturally advantageous?"

As Parker drones on Chris looks around the party. Dean schmoozes animatedly with two couples. He quickly scans the party, finds Chris and points him out. The two couples wave and smile giddily. They had all just been talking about him. Chris pretends to not see this.

ROSE  
 "Advantageous?"

Suddenly, Chris sees another black guy walking through the crowd. Relief. It is Andre, the jogger from the first scene, but he's very different than before.

He seems glazed-over with the same frozen smile as Walter and Georgina, and wears a particularly square ascot and golfing hat.

PARKER

Fairer skin is has been in favor' the last couple of thousands of years, but the pendulum has swung back again hasn't it..?

CHRIS

I'm sorry. I'm going to get another drink.

Chris walks away.

PARKER

I didn't mean to offend him.

ROSE

Really? 'Cause you have yet to say anything that's not a blanket statement about race.

PARKER

Now, Rose.--

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Andre stands by the bar and makes himself a Martini. Chris approaches him.

CHRIS

It's good to see another brother around here.

Andre turns to face Chris neatly. Andre's voice is completely different from the first scene. There is no longer any trace of an urban dialect. He speaks in a lower pitch and slow, enunciating his words precisely.

ANDRE

Yes, of course it is.

Chris expects Andre to engage more. He doesn't. He just stares at him smiling.

CHRIS

Who do you know?

ANDRE

Why, the Armitage's of course. We're friends of the family.

PHIL, 65, a craggy effeminate man with manicured eyebrows, cuts between them.

PHIL  
 (to Andre)  
 There you are. Here, put this  
 somewhere.

Phil hands his napkin to Andre who pockets it obediently. Phil places his hand on Andre's back possessively.

PHIL (CONT'D)  
 (to Chris)  
 Oh, hello. I'm Phil... and you  
 are...?

CHRIS  
 Chris. Rose's boyfriend.

PHIL  
 Fantastic. Logan and I know Rose  
 very well.

ANDRE  
 I'm sorry, where are my manners.  
 Logan, Logan King.  
 (To Phil)  
 Chris was just telling me that he  
 felt more comfortable with my  
 being here.

Chris is let down. Andre isn't what he had hoped.

PHIL  
 That's nice. Logan, I hate to tear  
 you away, dear, but the Wincott's  
 were asking about you.

ANDRE/LOGAN  
 Ah, well it was nice meeting you  
 Chris.

CHRIS  
 Sure.

Chris holds out his fist for Andre/Logan to bump. Andre/Logan shakes Chris' fist and then, realizing his error fist bumps him like it's the first time.

Andre/Logan and Phil laugh and walk away. They join a small group of people who applaud Andre's arrival. Andre does a little spin showing off his clothes.

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Chris comes back to Rose. He is more creeped out and agitated.

ROSE  
Where's your drink?

CHRIS  
What? Oh, I forgot.

Dean projects over the crowd.

DEAN  
Hello!

Everyone applauds and gives Dean their attention.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
Achem! Once again, I want to thank  
you all for coming. Words cannot  
express how much it means to us  
that after all these years we can  
all still get together and share.  
I'm reminded of stories of how the  
knights of old would gather in  
honor of a new crusade...

EXT. GAZEBO. DAY.

During Dean's speech, Chris wanders away from the group.

JIM  
Ignorant shit...

Chris hadn't seen Jim Hudson, the blind man, who sits in the gazebo with his seeing eye dog. He is close to Chris, but far enough away from the group that no one else hears them.

CHRIS  
Who?

JIM  
All of them. Ignorant assholes.  
They have no idea what real people  
go through.

CHRIS  
I guess people only see what's in  
front of them.

Chris notices his faux pas.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I mean...

JIM

Heh. No, you're right. And usually not even that much. That's people.

Jim holds a glass up. Chris fist bumps the glass.

JIM (CONT'D)

Jim Hudson.

CHRIS

Chris-

JIM

I know who you are. I'm an admirer of your work; you have a great eye...

CHRIS

Wait. Jim Hudson... of Hudson Galleries?

Jim smiles.

JIM

The irony of being a blind art dealer isn't lost on me.

CHRIS

How do you do it?

JIM

I have an assistant describe work to me. You've got something... The images you capture... so brutally melancholic. Powerful stuff.

CHRIS

Thank you. Yeah, I just like finding the beauty in abandoned things.

JIM

I used to dabble myself. Wilderness mostly. I submitted to Nat Geo 14 times before realizing I didn't have "the eye" for it; Began dealing. And then, of course, my vision went to shit.

CHRIS

Damn.

JIM

I know. Life can be a sick joke.  
One day you're working in a dark  
room, and the next day - BAM. You  
wake up in the dark. Genetic  
disease.

CHRIS

Shit ain't fair, man.

JIM

Yeah.

Jeremy comes over with his preppy friend, Derrick, 29.

JEREMY

Chris, we need you...

CHRIS

Yeah, sure.  
(to Jim)  
Nice to meet you.

JIM

Stop by the gallery some time.  
Bout time you had a solo show.

CHRIS

Really? Wow, okay. Thank you. That  
would be a game changer.

JIM

I think we could do wonderful  
things together.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

Chris and Rose play badminton against Jeremy and Derrick. A  
gaggle of party guests watch, entertained. Chris is actually  
having fun. He swings big but misses the shuttlecock.

JEREMY

HA! Come on. You can do better  
than that!

CHRIS

Not my game, what can I say.

JEREMY

Yeah, I see that.

ROSE

Shut up Jeremy.

JEREMY

I'm just saying, if your boy isn't gonna bring his 'A' game, we might as well bring Mom up here.

CHRIS

Whoa, whoa, okay. Now we talkin' smack huh?

Chris serves the shuttlecock hard. The following rally is long, captivating the crowd. Chris ends it with an impressive diving swat. Derrick misses the return and the crowd goes wild. Chris throws his arms up in celebration.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Boom!

ROSE

Yay, baby!

JEREMY

See, that's what I'm talking about!!! Okay, again!

Chris is about to serve. He scans the crowd of beaming faces. Everyone is rooting for Chris. They love him. Chris scans the crowd. It's too much.

CHRIS

Hold up. Here.

ROSE

Where are you--

CHRIS

I'm gonna go to the bathroom.

Chris gives his racket to Gordon Greene.

INT. ARMITAGE HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Chris walks through the kitchen.

INT. ARMITAGE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chris slips past several small groups of guests mingling. He goes up the stairs to the second floor.

As soon as he are out of sight and earshot, the mingling guests stop in mid-conversation. Everyone in the room waits and listens to CHRIS' FOOTSTEPS above.

It is now clear that their conversations have been fake. They are all hanging on Chris' actions.

INT. ARMITAGE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Chris walks to Rose' room.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Chris exits the bathroom in Rose's room. The bed is made. He picks his phone up from the dresser. It's unplugged and out of batteries. That's odd. He plugs it in again as he hears a CREAK down the hall.

INT. ARMITAGE UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Chris leaves Rose's room. A door at the end of the hallway is a crack open. Chris slowly walks down the hall, and peers inside. A couple lacrosse trophies and one for ju-jitsu. Jeremy's room. Movement inside. It's Georgina making the bed. The door creaks alerting her of his presence, she turns slowly. Before she sees him he walks quickly back to Rose's room just as she comes upstairs.

ROSE

Hey! You okay?

Chris waves for her to join him back in her room.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Chris speaks quietly and frantically to Rose.

CHRIS

The housekeeper unplugged my phone.

Rose sighs. "Not this again."

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I'm trying to check in with Rod, and I got no juice.

ROSE

I'm sure it was an honest mistake.

CHRIS

Yeah, or maybe not. Maybe she doesn't like the fact that I'm with you.

ROSE

Chris...

CHRIS

What? It's a thing.

ROSE

You think my family's housekeeper gives a shit who you're with? That's crazy bae.

Chris sits on the bed and rubs his forehead.

CHRIS

Forget it. Nevermind.

ROSE

Look, I get it. This whole thing is stressful. I mean, they're circling you like hyenas down there. I just don't get why you're taking it out on George and Walter.

CHRIS

(passive aggressive)

You're right. I'm being paranoid. I just need a minute and I'll be down.

ROSE

Fine.

Rose leaves a little annoyed.

INT. CHRIS' APARTMENT - DAY

Rod eats a cheeseburger and watches a true crime show on Chris' couch with Sid the dog. His PHONE RINGS.

ROD

Hey.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ROSE'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Chris is alone in Rose's room. He peers out the window.

CHRIS

Bruh. What's up?

ROD

Not much. Sid's chillin'. We eatin' burgers. What's up with you?

CHRIS

Yeah...

ROD

Uh oh. That doesn't sound good.

CHRIS

They just got me over here meeting all the family friends. It's like they never met a black dude that doesn't work for them or some shit.

ROD

Oh, they got you on display?

CHRIS

Exactly. Also, I got hypnotised last night...

ROD

Nigga, what the fuck? Oh, Hell no!

CHRIS

Yeah, to quit smoking. Rose's mom is a hypnotherapist--

ROD

--Nope. I don't give a fuck if she's Dr. Drew up in this bitch. You ain't getting in my head.

CHRIS

(Seeing Rod's point)  
Right.

ROD

Who knows what they'll make you do. You know white people into some crazy sex slave shit.

Chris laughs.

CHRIS

Yeah, I'm like 99% sure they're not a kinky sex family, but-

ROD

Why not? Jeffery Dahmer ate niggas' heads, but that was after he fucked the heads.

ROD (CONT'D)

You think they saw that shit coming? Hell no.

(MORE)

ROD (CONT'D)

One second they think they just gonna suck some dick, next second they sucking dick but their head isn't on their body Chris.

CHRIS

And thanks for that image, right there.

ROD

I saw that on A&E, so that's real life.

CHRIS

It's the black people out here that are the weirdest. The help. It's like they're possessed or...

ROD

Hypnotised.

CHRIS

(dry)  
Ha ha--

ROD

I'm just connecting the dots you presenting me with. The mom puttin' trances on niggas and fuckin' them. It's clear as day and that's fucked up. She hot?

CHRIS

What's fucked up is: You're the first line of defense against terrorism.

ROD

This is good shit tho.

CHRIS

Oh, and the one other black guest is like the whitest-most dude at the party.

Rod laughs.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I mean Rod, if you could see what this dude is wearing.

ROD

Send me a picture. You are a photographer.

(MORE)

ROD (CONT'D)  
You should be documentin' this  
shit.

CHRIS  
(amused)  
Aaight. I'll try.

ROD  
And yo, don't say I didn't warn  
you 'cause my ass sure as Hell  
ain't coming up to the country to  
save you from no fuckin' witch  
coven... Unless the mom's hot. She  
hot?

CHRIS  
Thanks Rod, bye.

Chris hangs up and brings his phone with him. He opens the  
door. Georgina stands right outside it, eerie smile and all.  
Chris is startled.

GEORGINA  
Hello.

CHRIS  
Hi.

Georgina's voice is shaky and careful.

GEORGINA  
I owe you an apology. I shouldn't  
be touching things that don't  
belong to me.

CHRIS  
Oh, no. It's cool. I was just  
confused.

GEORGINA  
I lifted your cellular phone this  
morning to wipe down the dresser  
and it accidentally came undone,  
see?

CHRIS  
Yeah, I--

GEORGINA  
Rather than meddle with it  
further, I left it that way.

CHRIS

Really, it's okay. I didn't mean  
to rat you out.

Georgina eyes get lost for a moment. There's a pain behind her  
smile.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

...get you in trouble.

GEORGINA

Oh no, no, no, no, no, no...  
Aren't you the sweetest thing? Not  
at all. The Armitages are so good  
to us; They treat us like family.

EXT. BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Chris walks back into the back yard where Dean entertains  
seven people Chris hasn't met. They turn as Chris approaches  
smiling eagerly. They all seem to share a private joke.

DEAN

Chris! There you are. I wanted to  
introduce you to some old friends.  
We'll do it quickly. Down the  
line: David and Marcia Wincott,  
Ronald and Celia Jeffries, Hiroki  
Tanaka, and Fredrich and Jessika  
Walden.

Each couple - DAVID and MARCIA, RONALD and CELIA, HIROKI,  
FREDRICH and JESSIKA - waves as they are named.

CHRIS

Too many names to remember but...

The couples all laugh nervously.

HIROKI

(to Dean in Japanese)  
Can we ask him questions?

DEAN

(Japanese)  
Of course.

HIROKI

Do you find that being African  
American has more advantages or  
disadvantages in the modern world?

Chris pans the crowd who all give him their undivided  
attention. The silence is long. Chris sighs. He looks for  
Rose. She is off talking to someone.

CHRIS

Yeah, I don't know, man.

They all smile like hungry vampires. Chris is very uncomfortable with this unprovoked group interrogation. Andre/Logan and Phil approach.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

That's actually a great question. Logan! They were asking me about the African American experience. Maybe you could take this one.

Andre/Logan is a little caught off guard but dives in.

ANDRE/LOGAN

My life as an African American has been, for the most part, very good. It's hard to be too specific as I haven't much desired to leave the house in a while.

The crowd chuckles. Chris takes out his phone.

PHIL

We've become homebodies...

ANDRE/LOGAN

(To Phil)

But recently, even when you go to the city, I've just had no interest.

(To the group)

The chores are my sanctu--

With the attention on Andre/Logan, Chris subtly backs away from the conversation. He raises his phone toward Andre/Logan and the group and snaps a picture. The FLASH POPS.

CHRIS

Shit.

Everyone turns to Chris. Andre/Logan steps forward and looks at Chris oddly; His head cocks a little and his peaceful expression drifts slowly to maddened horror. Some of the party guests gasp.

PHIL

Logan?

Andre/Logan drops his glass and stumbles towards Chris. Chris backs up, but Andre is already up in his space.

ANDRE

Get out.

Andre/Logan's voice is higher and scratchy, like it was in the first scene.

CHRIS

Hey, man, I'm sorry, I--

Andre/Logan grabs Chris by the shoulders and screams shrilly. Blood trickles out of his nose.

ANDRE

GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!!!!

Phil and Jeremy grab Andre. They have to pry Andre/Logan's grip off of Chris. When they do Andre/Logan screams bloodcurdlingly. It takes all their strength to bring him into the house. Missy and Dean follow.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Rose sits on the couch. She's been crying. Chris comforts her but is clearly traumatised. A few other concerned guests mill around. Dean enters everyone gives him their attention.

ROSE

What the Hell was that?

DEAN

It was a seizure.

ROSE

A seizure?

DEAN

Yes. Logan's okay. Missy's with him now. Are you okay Chris?

CHRIS

Yeah. Why did he come at me like that?

ROSE

Yeah seizures don't make people attack people, I'm sorry.

DEAN

It was an abnormal manifestation but yes, actually, sometimes they do. The flash on your phone must have triggered it.

Andre/Logan enters with stands with Missy and Phil to a smattering of concerned applause.

He addresses a group in his lower pitched "Logan" voice.

ANDRE/LOGAN

Well, I do believe I owe you all  
an apology.

The group grumbles.

MISSY

We're just glad you're feeling  
yourself again.

ANDRE/LOGAN

Well yes I am. It's quite like  
being trapped in a dark room and  
watching my experiences through a  
window. Thank God you and Dean  
were here to calm me down.

DEAN

It's a simple glitch of the brain.  
Nothing to be afraid of.

ANDRE/LOGAN

I know I scared you all quite a  
bit.. especially you Chris.

CHRIS

No, I'm sorry about the flash. I  
didn't know.

ANDRE/LOGAN

Of course. How could you have?

PHIL

(to Andre/Logan)

You shouldn't have been drinking  
either.

The group chuckles.

ANDRE/LOGAN

As I said I'm feeling much better  
now, but you'll all have to  
proceed without the aid of my  
marvellous wit; the whole thing  
has left me a quite a bit  
exhausted.

DEAN

Of course.

ANDRE/LOGAN

It was nice meeting you.

CHRIS

Yeah, you too.

Chris is skeptical. Missy shows Phil and Logan out. Andre and Phil leave.

DEAN

Let's do sparklers shall we?  
Brighten the mood?

He gives Chris and Rose sparklers and to other people who light them.

ROSE

Let's go.

Rose takes Chris' hand.

MISSY

Anybody need a drink?

ROSE

We're going on a walk.

Rose grabs Chris' hand and leads him out the front door. The party guests in the living room, Dean and Missy included, go silent. As their sparklers burn they approach the window, watching Rose and Chris leave the front yard.

EXT. LAKESIDE - AFTERNOON

Rose and Chris walk by the lake. Their sparklers fizzle.

CHRIS

My cousin is epileptic. That wasn't a seizure.

ROSE

Honestly? That was one of the strangest things I've ever seen in my life.

CHRIS

Also, this is gonna sound weird, but when he got up in my face like that, I got the feeling like I knew that guy.

EXT. BACK YARD. SAME TIME

With Chris and Rose are away, the party guests have all gathered in the back yard facing Dean who stands by a large picture of Chris on an easel. Everyone is silent.

Dean raises his hand and makes numbers with his fingers: "Three and three." Several party guests raise their hands. Dean points to the Waldens.

This is an auction.

EXT. LAKESIDE - SAME TIME

CHRIS

Let's go back home tonight.

ROSE

What? Wait, no.

CHRIS

I'm just... Something doesn't feel right.

ROSE

You mean with us?

CHRIS

No. With this whole situation! I just... I can't explain but I need you to trust me. Let's just go. It doesn't even have to be a big deal.

ROSE

It is a big deal. It's my family. I wouldn't even know what to tell them.

INT. BACKYARD - SAME TIME

Dean raises his hand again making more numbers with his fingers: "4, 5."

Gordon Greene raises his hand. Dean points to him accepting his bid.

EXT. LAKESIDE - SAME TIME

ROSE

Yes, it's weird. There are a lot of ways I wish this was going different. I wish my brother wasn't a cock. I wish my parents friends were chill; but just because it's tough, it doesn't mean you run away...

Rose cries.

CHRIS

Baby, I--

ROSE

...I'm late.

CHRIS

Late?

ROSE

I should've got my period like last week.

CHRIS

Oh.

ROSE

I mean, I did change my birth control, so it could just be that, but...

Chris thinks silently.

ROSE (CONT'D)

So...?

CHRIS

I don't know what to say.

ROSE

Okay... Try any emotional response whatsoever.

He's silent. Rose wipes her tears.

ROSE (CONT'D)

If you wanna go then go. I'm not going to force you to stay but I'm not leaving.

EXT. BACKYARD - SAME TIME

The auction is flying now. Dean's hand signals are going fast. It's down to three couples.

Dean signals "5, 6." Mr. Greene raises his hand. Dean points.

Dean signals "5, 8." Mrs. Deets raises her hand. Dean points.

Dean signals "6." Jim Hudson raises both his hands and signals "10." His chauffeur stands beside him whispering in his ear. Dean points at him.

Dean scans the crowd signalling "10, 2?" "10, 2?" The crowd looks around. No one is challenging. Dean smiles. Finally Dean bangs his fist onto his open palm and points to Jim Hudson. Jim's chauffeur whispers in his ear.

The guests clap in a mixture of delight and disappointment.

EXT. LAKESIDE - DUSK

Chris and Rose sit watching the sunset over the lake. Chris kisses her hand. He hears the faint APPLAUSE in the distance. He looks in the direction of the house.

CHRIS

I told you about the night my mom  
died. How I didn't call 911;  
didn't go out looking for her.

ROSE

Baby--

CHRIS

One hour went by, then two,  
three... I just sat there... I  
just watched TV.

ROSE

It wasn't your fault--

CHRIS

I found out later she had survived  
the initial hit.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

She laid there bleeding by the  
side of the road all night, cold  
and alone. And that's how she died  
in the early morning... Cold and  
alone. And I was watching TV.

(MORE)

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
There was time. If someone was  
looking for her, there was time.  
But no one was looking.

Chris cries. Rose embraces him.

ROSE  
You were just a kid.

CHRIS  
Yeah... yeah. So, I'm not gonna  
leave here without you. I'm not  
going to abandon you. Never.

They share a moment of pure love.

ROSE  
Fuck it. Come on. Let's go back  
home.

CHRIS  
Yeah?

ROSE  
Yeah. I mean, you're right. This  
sucks. I'll go back with you. I'll  
make something up.

CHRIS  
I love you.

ROSE  
I love you too.

The two get up and walk back toward the house.

EXT. FRONT LAWN - DUSK

Chris and Rose approach the house as the last of the guests  
get into their cars and drive off. The fireflies are out.

CHRIS  
That was fast.

ROSE  
Yeah.

The guests wave to Dean and Missy, who stand at the front  
door, and then to Chris and Rose. Lisa Deets, the trophy wife,  
is tipsy. Nelson is in their car.

LISA

Bye Chris! It was a pleasure meeting you. I hope you--

Chris and Rose wave.

NELSON

Come on, Lisa. Before you say something stupid.

Chris laughs. Walter shuts the car door behind Lisa. Walter stands pleasantly watching the cars leave. He turns to Chris with the same 'ol smile. Chris and Rose enter the house.

INT. ARMITAGE BATHROOM - DUSK

Sink running. Chris washes his hands and looks in the mirror.

His phone SIGNALS a text message from Rod. It's picture from the internet of witches in a circle around a man being sacrificed followed by the text message. "You dead yet?" Chris texts back. "Bruh, you have no idea." He finds the picture he took of Logan/Andre on his phone and sends it.

Moments later, his phone vibrates.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CHRIS' APARTMENT - DUSK

Rod is on the phone.

ROD

That's Dre.

CHRIS

Dre?

ROD

Andre um... Hayworth! Yeah! He used to kick it with Veronica.

CHRIS

Veronica from...

ROD

...Teresa's sister! Worked at the movie theatre on 8th;

ROD (CONT'D)

got us into the movie a couple of times; Rush hour 2 and, um Usual Suspect.

CHRIS  
Yeah. That is him. But...

ROD  
...But what?

CHRIS  
This is so fuckin' crazy. He's different now.

ROD  
Different? How?

CHRIS  
Different. Slower... I mean he was street; now he's all like... white- seeming. Oh, plus he's gay!

ROD  
No, he ain't.

CHRIS  
I'm telling you: He's gay, I met his man. He's--

ROD  
Chris, you in a fucked up Eyes Wide Shut situation. You need to--.

The phone goes dead. No batteries.

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Chris' phone lays on the dresser plugged in. He's in a hurry now. He packs his small bag and looks out the window. One car remains parked in the designated parking area. It's the first to have arrived for the party: Jim Hudson's. The driver brings the dog to the back seat. He gets a green envelope from the glove compartment and brings it to Missy at the front door. She accepts it silently.

The driver drives away without Jim.

Chris goes to leave Rose's room. Her closet creaks open. Chris sees a framed picture of Rose inside. Not quite knowing what he's looking for, he goes to the closet. The picture is a frightening one. Rose is one of the witches in a high school production of Macbeth. It's on top of a red shoebox that has the drama/comedy masks drawn on top of it.

He takes it off of the shelf. Inside is a pile of pictures. On top is one of Rose dressed as Juliet in a high school play.

The next one is of Rose at 13 playing Ms. Hannigan in Annie. Chris flips through a few more pictures of Rose at different ages in different class plays.

Finally Chris comes upon a photo printed from a computer. It's a selfie of her and some other black guy. The picture is almost identical to the one she took with Chris before the ride up. Under the image are written the words. "X-mas 2014" Stunned, Chris flips to the next picture. It's another romantic selfie, this time with a different black guy. Underneath, the caption "Memorial Day 2013"

He continues flipping through the stack of pictures of Rose with 8 different black guys. The last one is a picture of Rose with Walter. In it she kisses Walter's cheek intimately. "Thanksgiving 2009" Walter looks different in the picture. He isn't smiling vaguely; he's got swagger.

ROSE  
(emotionless)  
What are you doing?

Rose stands there in the doorway behind him. Chris subtly drops the pictures back in the shoebox.

CHRIS  
Um... Looking for my camera.

Rose points to her desk. He grabs his bag and the camera.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Where are the keys..? I gotta put  
our bags in the trunk.

ROSE  
Walter can do that.

CHRIS  
Nah, I'll do it.

Rose is truly distant for the first time. A different person. She is methodical and emotionless. The jig is up, and now she is now phoning it in.

ROSE  
I was just looking for them. I'm  
such a mess, will you help me?

Chris walks out the door, leaving Rose.

INT. FOYER/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rose follows Chris down the stairs.

ROSE  
Chris... What's wrong?

CHRIS  
Nothing.

Jeremy stands near the front door twirling his lacrosse stick. Dean and Missy sit in the living room.

JEREMY  
Where are you going? The party's just getting started.

CHRIS  
I'm going to the car; see if we left the keys in there.

MISSY  
I just made tea.

CHRIS  
I'm good.

The family is silent. Missy's glare pierces Chris. He avoids eye contact.

ROSE  
Oh, I know where they are. In my bag. Duh.

MISSY  
You're leaving us.

CHRIS  
Yeah.

MISSY  
Is something wrong?

CHRIS  
No. Well, yeah... Um.

ROSE  
(still blank)  
His dog is not well. He needs to go to the vet first thing in the morn--

Dean hits play on the sound system. Darkly valiant classical music begins. He standing in front of the fireplace.

Lost in the fire, Dean begins conducting the music.

DEAN

What is your purpose, Chris?

CHRIS

What?

DEAN

In life? What is your purpose..?

CHRIS

Right now, it's finding the keys.

DEAN

We've been looking for our purpose for such a long time. Fire has mesmerized man since the Stone Age. It is a reflection of our impermanence in the world. Fire is born, it breathes and then it dies.

CHRIS

Rose...

Rose lamely rummages through her bag.

ROSE

I'm looking.

CHRIS

Rose, what is this shit?!

DEAN

There's a reason we worship the Sun, Chris. He who lights the way through the darkness of life. He in all his glory was around long before us and will be here long after we are gone, but he too will die some day! That's right even the Sun God will die. It is no less mortal than we, but it inspires us to defy it! So what do we do?--

CHRIS

--Rose.--

DEAN

(unhinged)

--What do we do?! We baptize ourselves in the firewater!

(MORE)

DEAN (CONT'D)

We bathe in his reflection, for  
one chance to emerge having defied  
death!

DEAN (CONT'D)

You'd take that baptism wouldn't  
you, Chris? The baptism of  
immortality?

CHRIS

I was raised Episcopalian.

Chris starts toward the door, but his path is blocked by  
Jeremy swinging at air.

JEREMY

Whoa! Be careful, bro.

MISSY

Don't hurt him, Jeremy.

JEREMY

What? I'm not doing anything.

DEAN

Listen, Chris--

CHRIS

--I don't know what you're saying!

DEAN

(Through tears of joyous  
madness)

I'm saying that we've found OUR  
PURPOSE!!! There must be a  
sacrifice! Sacrifice is essential  
for the righteous to achieve our  
true potential. A vessel must be  
comprised. A host must be born!!!

CHRIS

Rose! The keys!!!

Rose backs away.

ROSE

Oh baby... You know I can't give  
you the keys.

Chris makes a run for the door. Missy CLINKS the cup with her  
SPOON.

TING TING. TING TING.

The world instantly blurs around Chris. He begins to fall. He sees a flash.

INT. DARKNESS

Chris falls through the abyss towards 'The Sunken Place' again just like when he was hypnotized. The blue screen above him shows what his open eyes see. It's his own perspective falling to the floor. CRASH! The screen now shows the living room ceiling. Jeremy leans over him.

JEREMY

Oh shit!

MISSY (O.S.)

Is he hurt?

CHRIS

What the fuck?

JEREMY

Did you see him drop?

DEAN (O.S.)

He hit his head pretty good.

ROSE (O.S.)

It's just a bump. He's fine.

CHRIS

Rose!!!

MISSY (O.S.)

Why do you push them, Dean?

DEAN (O.S.)

It's important to me that they acknowledge the purpose.

MISSY (O.S.)

Why do you think he ran?

JEREMY (O.S.)

Rose gave it away.

ROSE (O.S.)

He already knew.

MISSY (O.S.)

Take him to the games room.  
Jeremy, get the legs. Dean, help him.

JEREMY

I can take him alone.

MISSY (O.S.)

No. We've already damaged him  
enough. Dean, please.

Chris continues to fall slowly further from the screen above which continues to show his body's POV as it is being lifted by Dean and Jeremy and carried out of the room.

CHRIS

Rose!? No, no, no, no. Shit,  
shit...

DEAN

You're going to drop him.

JEREMY

No I'm not.

MISSY (O.S.)

Be careful what you say, everyone.  
He can hear every word.

CHRIS

Rose!!!!

ROSE (O.S.)

It doesn't matter any more does  
it?

A DOOR CREAKS open. Chris' body is taken downstairs into the darkness. The screen in the abyss goes dark.

CHRIS

No!! Help!!! Help!!!!!! Help!!!!!!

Chris sinks, his screams are enveloped by the pitch black.

INT. AIRPORT - SECURITY CHECK - DAY

Rod sits by the bag x-ray but stares into space distracted by thought. GARY (40) a condescending supervisor snaps his fingers in Rod's face.

GARY

Hey... two strikes. Go take 10;  
get it together.

EXT. AIRPORT - DEPARTURES TERMINAL - DAY

Rod smokes a cigarette and dials Chris.

CHRIS' VOICEMAIL MESSAGE (V.O.)

It's Chris. I'm away from my phone  
or I just don't want to talk to  
you.

ROD

Sup? Making sure you good. I  
thought you were coming back  
yesterday, so hopefully you home  
already and just sleeping or some  
shit. Aiight. Let me know.

INT. CHRIS' LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rod opens the door. Sid wags his tail hungrily.

INT. CHRIS' KITCHEN - LATER

Rod opens dog food while he calls Chris.

CHRIS' VOICEMAIL MESSAGE (V.O.)

Hey, it's Chris. I'm away from my  
phone or I just don't want to talk  
to--

Rod hangs up. He places Sid's bowl down. Sid doesn't eat.  
Instead Sid looks back up at Rod and WHINES.

ROD

Yeah... me too.

INT. CHRIS' LIVING ROOM - LATER

Rod sits at Chris' desk in front of his laptop. Sid sits on  
Rod's lap. Rod types "Andre Hayworth" into the search engine.  
Images of Andre come up.

Rod finds an article entitled: "What Happened to Andre  
Hayworth?" under in bold "Brooklyn Native Goes Missing In  
Evergreen Hallow."

Rod's eyes go wide.

ROD

Oh shit.

INT. GAMES ROOM - LATER

Chris wakes up with a bump on his head. In front of Chris, a deer's head is mounted above an old-school floor-standing television. Behind him, a goat's head is mounted under a taxidermy owl, wings spread.

His arms and legs fastened to a leather upholstered chair in the middle of a small dark room full of board games.

Chris pulls at the straps that bind his arms and legs.

CHRIS

Hey. Hey!!!! Rose!!!!

Chris tries to gnaw at the harnesses, but they are too thick.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Oh shit. Oh shit. Oh fuck. Oh shit. The fuck?!?! Y'all are psycho!? Is that it? Let me out of this chair.

Chris looks around.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

People know I'm here. I told a bunch of people where I was going! You don't know me!!! You don't know me!!!! Hey! Hey!! Hey!!!!!!

The television screen turns on. Chris watches intently. The image of deer walking through woods comes on. The words

"YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND by James Taylor" comes up as the song starts to PLAY. It's a forest-themed karaoke video.

Chris is confused. He tries to slip out of the binds again drawing blood on his wrists.

INT. CHRIS' LIVING ROOM - DAWN

Sid wakes Rod up with a lick to the face. He's on the sofa.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Rod sits at a desk with Sid on his lap.. DETECTIVE LATOYA 50, African American enters. She looks like she's been doing this way too long. She speaks to someone outside her office.

DETECTIVE LATOYA

...Then he should've gone back up there and made sure everything was accounted for.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE LATOYA (CONT'D)  
'Cause hey, look; how about this?  
If you record the evidence, you're  
responsible for it.

Latoya shuts the door and sits at her desk. She begins opening  
and eating a bag of cashews.

DETECTIVE LATOYA (CONT'D)  
Hello Mr...

ROD  
Williams... Rod Williams...

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
From the TSA?

ROD  
Yes Ma'am.

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
You know that TSA issues should be  
brought to your authorizing  
officer, right?

ROD  
It's not TSA business, ma'am.

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
Please don't call me "ma'am," or  
we're not gonna get along. How can  
I help you, Rod Williams from the  
TSA?

CHRIS  
Here it is: My boy Chris has been  
missing for two days.

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
Your son is missing?

ROD  
No, sorry, not my son, my boy.  
He's my friend. He's 26. His name  
is Chris... Washington...

He gives her time to write the name which she doesn't do. She  
just stares at him.

ROD (CONT'D)  
He left town on Friday with his  
girlfriend Rose... Armitage...  
She's white.

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
That's four days ago.

ROD  
Yeah, I mean he's only been  
MISSING for two days. He was  
supposed--

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
--I'm gonna stop you right there.  
Now you know the minimum amount of  
time without contact before you  
can file a missing persons report  
is--

ROD  
--Three days I know, but I have  
reason to believe he's been  
abducted.

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
Go on.

ROD  
Chris was set to come back home on  
Sunday. I was watching his dog  
Sid.

Latoya points to Sid

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
That's Sid.

ROD  
Yup. Cute right? Now look...

Rod takes out his phone and scrolls to a photo of Andre.

ROD (CONT'D)  
Chris sent me this which he took  
at the girlfriend's parents house.  
That's Andre Hayworth, a guy we  
knew from back in the day. Come to  
find out he went missing 6 months  
ago in an affluent suburb upstate.

DETECTIVE LATOYA  
Don't look too missing to me.

ROD  
Well that's the thing. We found  
him and now, according to Chris,  
he's gay with a different  
personality.

DETECTIVE LATOYA

Gay?

ROD

But he didn't used to be.

DETECTIVE LATOYA

I think he might just argue with you on that one.

ROD

I know what I'm about to say is gonna sound crazy.

DETECTIVE LATOYA

Try me.

ROD

You ready for this...? I think this family is abducting black people and brainwashing them to work for them as sex slaves and shit... Sorry.

DETECTIVE LATOYA

...Brainwashing?

ROD

Yeah.

DETECTIVE LATOYA

Hold on one second.

(over her intercom)

Garcia, Frostie, get in here a second.

(To Rod)

I want you to tell these officers exactly what you just told me.

INT. POLICE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

Two detectives, Garcia, 37, and Drake, 43, stand behind Latoya.

ROD

...See, I don't know if the hypnosis makes you a slave or if just turns you gay or what, but they already got two brothers that we know of, and who knows how many more there could be.

The officers are all riveted... Then... All three detectives laugh. Rod is not being taken the slightest bit seriously.

LATOYA

(to her colleagues)

So, I don't want none of you  
sayin' I don't do nothin' for  
you... White girls'll get ya every  
time!

They laugh even harder.

INT. GAMES ROOM - LATER

The SONG PLAYS Over and over. Chris is too weak to struggle.

CHRIS

Is this the only song you got?

INT. GAMES ROOM - LATER

The SONG ends. It BEGINS again.

CHRIS

Okay. Okay! What do you want? You  
tryin' to break me? I won't say  
shit!! I'll just... I'll do what  
you say, just answer me!

INT. CHRIS' LOFT - DUSK

Rod sits by the window with Sid. He looks out over rooftops  
and thinks. He picks up his phone and calls Chris again. He  
knows Chris won't answer. Then--

ROSE

Hello?

Rod is taken off guard. He almost drops his phone.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Chris?

ROD

Yo. Um, Rose? It's Rod.

ROSE

Hi.

ROD

Where's Chris?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ARMITAGE HOUSE. DINING ROOM - DUSK

Rose stands by the dining table on Chris' phone. Rose starts to cry.

ROSE  
He left like two days ago.

ROD  
He left?

ROSE  
We got in a fight. He got all paranoid and flipped out; He took a cab home. He forgot his phone. Wait... You haven't seen him?

ROD  
No. He never made it back here.

ROSE  
Oh my God.

ROD  
I've been calling. I went to the police and everything.

Rose is silent.

ROD (CONT'D)  
Hello?

ROSE  
What did you say?

ROD  
I told them he was missing.

ROSE  
Uh huh...

ROD  
So... What cab company did he use?

ROSE  
I don't know. A local one I'm guessing. Maybe uber? Wait, I'm so confused...

ROD  
Hold on a second.

Rod knows she had something to do with it.

He opens up 'Garage Band' on Chris' computer and puts the phone on speaker, recording her.

ROD (CONT'D)

So, last time Chris and I talked,  
he told me your mom hypnotized  
him?

Rose is silent. Then...

ROSE

Rod, just stop.

ROD

Huh?

ROSE

I know why you're calling.

ROD

Why is that?

We now see Rose's family standing in the living room behind her. They watch her operate.

ROSE

Come on. I mean, it's kind of  
obvious.

ROD

What?

ROSE

That there's something between us.

ROD

No. I'm calling about Chris.

ROSE

We'd all go out drinking... I  
remember you looking at me.

Rod is put on the spot. He becomes extremely uncomfortable.

ROD

That's my best friend. If you did  
something--

ROSE

I know you think about fucking me,  
Rod.

ROD

--No. You crazy... No.

Rod hangs up in a panic. He looks at Sid helplessly.

Rose's flirtacious smile goes blank. She places the phone on the dining room table and looks back at her family. They watch in approval.

INT. GAMES ROOM

"You've Got A Friend" plays.

Chris, still strapped to the chair, hangs his head in resignation. Eyes shut, he sings along.

CHRIS

...Winter, Spring, Summer and  
Fall, all you need to do is call.  
And I'll be there. You got a  
friend. Ain't it good to know  
you've got a friend. Ain't it good  
to know you've got a friend. Oh,  
yeah, yeah, you've got a friend.

The song is over. After a moment. Chris begins to sing the opening guitar lick. He gets a couple notes before realizing he's singing alone.

The television in front of Chris flickers off and then back on to the image of a tea cup comes into focus on the screen. A spoon comes into the shot and clinks the side of the cup.

"TING TING, TING TING"

CHRIS (CONT'D)

No-

Before he can react, Chris falls asleep.

Later...

Chris wakes up bald. Static snow clicks fills the TV lighting the room. The image clicks to that of...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY (TELEVISION)

Jim Hudson, also shaven, sits on a hospital bed. And faces Chris through the television.

JIM

Hello Chris. How's it going...?  
You can answer. There's an  
intercom in the room; I can hear  
you.

CHRIS

I need water.

JIM

Yeah, sorry about that. If it makes you feel any better, I'm thirsty too.

CHRIS

I need to get outta here.

JIM

Right. So, the reason I am talking to you now is so you can understand what is happening to you. I guess your 'understanding' it raises the success rate of this whole thing. Not even sure I 'understand' it.

CHRIS

Where's Rose?

JIM

Hot isn't she? Hot voice anyway, you dirty dog. You're one of the lucky one's. The son Jeremy's wrangling method sounds way less pleasant.

CHRIS

Is this some kind of a game to you?

JIM

They asked me for my favorite song, which was hard; I like all types of music. Turns out they really just needed one I knew all the words to: I went with James Taylor's "You Got a Friend." I hope it hasn't been too torturous; that wasn't the point. The point is that you learn it, and for us to have that knowledge in common.

CHRIS

Who the fuck are you people?

JIM

Oh right. Okay, let me back up and give you the cliff notes. The Armitages and I are a part of a society. A pretty extraordinary society actually.

(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)

One whose sole purpose for many many years has been a search for a very powerful object. Armitage lineage redefined the nature of that search. They proved that the power didn't just exist in that object; You see, with science the Armitage's created a miracle.

CHRIS

You hypnotize me? Break my will..?  
Make me a slave like the others?  
This is some crazy racist shit.

JIM

No. Not racist, Chris. We don't hate you. We want to be you... You are not going to be a slave. You're going to be a vessel.

CHRIS

Wait, what?

JIM

Missy's hypnosis was merely to sedate you. Oh, that and to prepare you psychologically...

CHRIS

For what?

Jim smiles.

JIM

For the procedure.

CHRIS

What's the procedure?

JIM

Are you ready...? Drum roll please. Brain transplantation. Some say it could never be done;

JIM (CONT'D)

They experimented for centuries, but it turned out re-linking the brain to a foreign central nervous system was impossible. The nerve connections are far too intricate and delicate.

CHRIS

What the fuck?

JIM

Dean's the only guy who really gets the science. He's the one who discovered that full brain transplantaion isn't actually necessary to transfer the soul, and that partial brain transplantaion solves the little nerve ending problem.

CHRIS

No.

Jim holds up a Color coded diagram of the human Brain. There is a big red part that takes up 80% of the image. The other 20% is blue and located near the lower back of his skull.

JIM

Okay so... You see the blue part? That's the piece of your brain that's all rooted in the nervous system. So that stays; keeping those tricky little connections intact. The rest is discarded. Then they'll remove the red part of my brain from my skull and put in yours. Your "blue" and my "red" basically absorb each other. And apparently the brain heals surprisingly fast, so assuming everything goes as planned, we should be up and functioning in a couple weeks.

CHRIS

And my brain?

JIM

Your red part? It'll be discarded, but don't worry. You won't be gone. Well not completely. You'll still be in there somewhere; limited consciousness of course;

JIM (CONT'D)

you'll still be able to see and hear but your existence will be as a passenger... an audience. You will live in...

CHRIS  
 (defeated)  
 ...The Sunken Place.

JIM  
 Yes. That's what she calls it.  
 Good! So you understand, I'll  
 control the motor functions, the  
 will of our body, effectively  
 making me--

CHRIS  
 Me... You will be me.

JIM  
 As far as the world is concerned.  
 It's still a pretty new operation.  
 Some kinks. We're supposed to stay  
 away from flashes of light for  
 example. They can trigger a  
 "momentary lapse in control of  
 motor functions..."

CHRIS  
 Why black people?

Jim is disappointed in the question.

JIM  
 Well, because you get the highest  
 bids. For the last decade or so  
 anyway. I wish it was less simple  
 than that, but it's not. You're in  
 fashion, baby!

Final hope sinks from. Chris shoulders.

JIM (CONT'D)  
 Honestly though, personally..? I  
 couldn't give two shits about  
 race. I don't care if you're  
 black, brown, green, purple...  
 whatever. What I want is so much  
 deeper: Your eye, man. I want  
 those things you see through.

CHRIS  
 That's crazy.

JIM  
 Take it as a compliment.

CHRIS  
 You're not going to get away with  
 this.

JIM

We have and we will. We'll be  
together soon, brother.

The television turns off. Chris clenches his body trying to pry free from his restraints, before his shoulders collapse with exhaustion. He lifts his head to a rip in the leather arm of the chair revealing its cotton stuffing. He looks at the cotton. We see Chris make a difficult decision.

LATER...

We hear nothing except a HEART BEAT.

Chris' head hangs, asleep. His lips are dry. Chris wakes up.

The Television turns on. On the screen, a woman's hand holds a tea cup. With a spoon, she clinks it. We don't hear it though. We still hear nothing but the HEART BEAT.

CHRIS

No, No--

Before Chris can finish SCREAMING, his eyes widen. He goes limp -- unconscious again.

Rose enters wearing a white and black nurse's outfit with a red cross on the chest. She rolls a medical table into the room. She draws a dotted line across his forehead and around to the back of his scalp. Then she unstraps his arm and prepares it for an IV. She inserts the needle.

She goes to put earbuds connected to an ipod in his ears but sees the arm of his chair has been stripped open. She looks at Chris. Cotton makeshift earplugs have been stuffed in his ears!

He's not really hypnotized!

Rose tries to scream but Chris grabs her throat with his free hand and squeezes. The HEARTBEAT quickens. Rose pleads, but we don't hear her.

ROSE

(inaudible)

Wait. Wait. Chris!.... Chri-

Chris chokes her. Tears stream down his face.

CHRIS

Shhhh.

Rose convulses. She scratches his hand and cheeks. He's too strong. She stares at Chris' eyes as her consciousness fades. Then, through the agony, her face curls into a twisted smile. She's having fun. Psycho. Rose goes limp in Chris' hands.

Chris takes the cotton out of his ears. We can hear again.  
"You've got a Friend" plays on the earbuds of the ipod.

INT. OPERATING ROOM.

Earbuds also rest in Jim Hudson's ears playing the same song. He lies unconscious on one of two operating beds in the center of the room connected to an IV and heart monitors.

A bright medical light shines on Jim's shaved head which also has a dotted line around it. The other bed is empty and has a light shining on it as well. This bed is for Chris.

Dean stands in a black and white robe with a red cross in the middle, his palms upwards in silent prayer near some ceremonial candles. Jeremy watches his father. They are unaware of what's happening in the Medical room down the hall. Dean finishes his prayer.

DEAN

Saw...

Jeremy hands Dean a circular surgical saw.

DEAN (CONT'D)

The vessel.

Jeremy leaves as Dean begins to saw into Jim's cranium.

INT. DARK HALLWAY

Chris finds an old badminton set.

Jeremy exits the room briskly and walks down a dark hallway. He turns into the games room and finds Rose's body.

Jeremy's eyes go wild. He turns as Chris emerges lunging from the darkness with a badminton racket. Before Jeremy can scream, Chris slams him in the face with the metal side of the racket. He pulls Jeremy inside and shuts the door cutting off the sound from outside. Jeremy wilts in pain.

Chris whips him over and over warping the racket to a crumpled bloody mess.

INT. OPERATING ROOM

Dean finishes sawing the top of Jim's skull off. He removes the cranium precious exposing Jim's brain.

DEAN  
Jeremy...?

Dean walks to the doorway. Dean scans the dark hallway. It's quiet.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
Ro Ro...?

Chris emerges charging from the darkness with Deer's head in his arms. He punctures Dean through his neck and shoulder with the antlers. Dean and stumbles back into the operating room, deer's head attached.

DEAN (CONT'D)  
Miss--

His call to Missy devolves into gargles. Dean falls knocking the unused bed over along with some candles. The bed has caught fire. The fire grows fast.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Missy takes a whistling tea pot off the stove and pours herself a cup. Georgina sits nearby knitting. The window, like before reflects the room around them.

She sniffs the air. She is suddenly afraid. She turns off the light illuminating the back yard. Walter runs back and forth in the distance. She turns the light back on again. Chris' reflection is now behind hers. He looks savage; covered in blood. Georgina screams and runs out the back door.

Chris heads to the door, but sees his phone on the dining room table. He goes for it.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Chris runs through the dining room and finds his cell phone on the dining room table.

Chris picks up his phone and presses the power button. The loading screen comes up.

Chris grunts with frustration as he hears a creak behind him. It's Missy, now in the kitchen doorway behind him holding her teacup and spoon. She begins clinking her tea cup...

TING...

Chris knocks the cup out of her hand spraying hot water on her chest and face. She screams.

The cat bounds off the dining room table at Chris' face. Chris punches it out of the air. This has given Missy enough time to grab a knife. She lunges at Chris screaming psychotically. Chris can't pin her down. She slices his hands. Chris grabs the tea pot and cracks her in the head with it. She falls. He hits her one more time. Done.

The cat slinks out an open window.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Chris runs towards the front door. Before he can open it, he hears a footsteps running upstairs from the basement followed bloodcurdling scream from back in the kitchen:

JEREMY (O.C.)  
Ahhhhhhh!!!!!!!

Jeremy bursts though the dining room and pounces on Chris' back. The two roll around.

Chris throws his elbow back at Jeremy who blocks it and uses it to put Chris in a choke hold from behind. Chris slams the back of his head into Jeremy's face. He does it again, and again, and again. Jeremy squeezes tighter.

Chris, about to pass out, reaches into Jeremy's pocket and pulls out his keys. He scrapes them deep into Jeremy's eye. Jeremy screams in pain and Chris wriggles out of his grasp tripping him with an improvised Judo throw. Jeremy lunges at Chris again but slips on his own blood banging the back of his head on the coffee table. He's out.

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Chris begins to run but then sees the beige sports car we recognize from the opening scene. He looks at Jeremy downed in the doorway and then at the keys in his hand.

Moments later...

INT. SPORTS CAR - NIGHT

Chris is in the driver's seat. The tubular metal helmet sits next to him in the passengers seat. His phone finally turns on. There is a very small amount of batteries. He turns the ignition. The English to French tutorial comes on.

TUTORIAL  
I seem to have misplaced my  
passport. Je crois avoi egare mon  
passeport.

Chris peels off, driving fast through the field into the night. He dials 911.

911 OPERATOR  
911 emergency, I'm at the home of  
Dean and Missy Armitage--

Chris looks in the rearview mirror as the house gets smaller behind him. All of a sudden, BAM! The car slams into and over Georgina, who, in the night, seems to come out of nowhere. The phone falls.

CHRIS  
Ahhhh!

TUTORIAL  
Can you direct me to the nearest  
hospital? Pouvez-vous me diriger  
vers l'hopital le plus proche?

He drives on a few more seconds on a flat tire but then stops the car. Chris breathes heavy.

CHRIS  
(to himself)  
No... no... Don't do it... Just  
get the fuck gotta here... Just  
go! Just... Fuck!

Chris puts the car in reverse and drives backwards beside the motionless bloody heap that is Georgina.

TUTORIAL  
Where is the nearest train  
station? Ou est la gare la plus  
proche?

He looks back at the house which is now filling with smoke.

Chris quickly gets out of the car and lifts what's left of Georgina's mangled unconscious body into the passenger's seat of the car. He shuts the door and gets in the driver's seat. He floors it.

After a moment of driving, Georgina's eyes open and she rises. The wig slides off her head revealing an old surgical scar around the top of her head. Chris hasn't noticed her yet. He reaches for his phone.

TUTORIAL (CONT'D)  
Can you please call the police?  
Pouvez-vous s'il vous plait  
appelez la police?

Annoyed, Chris turns off the sound system just before Georgina grabs his face and scratches it.

GEORGINA

Ahhhhh!!

CHRIS

Ahhhhhhh!!

Chris, veers the car into a tree. Georgina's head hits the windshield hard and bursts open. She's dead. So is the car.

A bullet hits the rear view mirror. Jeremy stands in front of the smoking house with a hunting rifle. He's soaked in blood.

JEREMY

(Through tears)

Grandma!!!!

Chris looks at Georgina's body. Georgina was Grandma.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Grampa!

Walter, the grounds keeper, rounds the house at top speed. Walter is grandpa and he's so fast.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Get him!!!

Chris crawls out of the car as Walter/Grandpa sprints across the front lawn straight at him. Walter's hat flies off revealing the surgical scar around his head like the others.

Jeremy shoots again, and it grazes Chris' side. Chris runs through the trees. Walter/grandpa closes the gap quickly. Another shot hits a tree. As Chris reaches the road, Walter/Grandpa pounces like a jaguar and rolls him over on his back. He pushes his thumbs into Chris' eyes.

GRANDPA

Damn you to Hell!!!

Jeremy arrives behind them crying.

JEREMY

Kill him, Grandpa.

GRANDPA

The gun, Jeremy.

Jeremy tosses the rifle. Grandpa catches it and holds it up to chris' head.

GRANDPA (CONT'D)

You ruined everything!!!

Chris, blinded, raises his phone to Walter/Grandpa's face. He takes a picture, flashing straight into Walter/Grandpa's eyes.

Walter/Grandpa doesn't shoot. Instead he looks up. Jeremy is confused as to why Walter/Grandpa has stopped.

JEREMY

What...? Grandpa--?

Walter/Grandpa spins and gathers his bearing. His eye is cocked and blood trickles out of his nose. He let's out a PAINED MOAN reminiscent of the deer's.

WALTER/GRANDPA

Ahhhhhhh!

Walter/Grandpa shoots Jeremy in the chest. He falls. Chris, on his back, pushes himself away. Walter/Grandpa sees Chris' scurry. He turns looking mad.

CHRIS

Wait.

Walter/Grandpa raises the gun under his own chin and shoots himself through the head. He falls. Approaching sirens blare in the distance.

Chris lays in shock. It's over. Just then a hand grabs Chris face! Jeremy's still alive! Blood pours from his mouth.

JEREMY

Ahhhhhhh!

They both go for the gun, grabbing it at the same time. They roll around in the grass. Chris ends up on top. He bludgeons Jeremy over and over with the butt of the gun into the ground. Chris is lost in violence.

2 police cars pull up. He drops the gun.

COPS

Hands! Hands! Get away from the  
weapon/ Show me your hands!/  
Hands! Hands!! Get on your Knees!/  
Hands! Hands!/ Goddamn Hands!!!

Chris, covered in blood, raises his sliced hands.

CHRIS

Look in the basement!

He is violently swarmed by officers. The house burns.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON. VISITING ROOM - NIGHT

Rod sits down opposite Chris who wears a prison jumpsuit and smokes a cigarette. Both of them look like shit. Rod is gaunt with circles under his eyes. Chris' hair and beard have grown in.

There's a long silence.

ROD  
I really need to...

CHRIS  
...I don't remember...

ROD  
...impress on you the importance  
of remembering some of those  
names. The fire didn't leave  
enough--

They've clearly had this conversation many times before.

CHRIS  
I don't remember.

ROD  
You gotta help me out, Chris.  
Secret societies doesn't get you  
very far on Google. I'm over here  
feeling like I'm playing connect  
the dots on a fucking football  
field. One name...

CHRIS  
I don't remember.

ROD  
Well, try again please.

CHRIS  
Rod.

ROD  
Let's start at the beginning; walk  
me through it again.

CHRIS  
Rod.

Rod knows he's been defeated.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
I'm good, man. I stopped it. You  
know? I stopped it.

Chris is at peace. He takes a long good drag of his cigarette  
then gets up and leaves.

INT. MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Two GUARDS escort Chris back to his cell. He WHISTLES "You Got  
A Friend."

The End