

HELLRAISER

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by

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OPENING

- OVER CREDITS, the box is created. Only the hands of the maker are seen. The box is made from human pain and suffering: crushed bone, boiling blood and dried flesh.

ACT ONE

- Changbaishan, China. 1054 AD. A terrorized MAN frantically tries to destroy the box, but before he can, the Baitoushan volcano erupts, burying him and his small town in burning ash and pumice. Hints of PINHEAD (seen in shadow).
- Present day. PROFESSOR SPENCE leads a dig in the ancient Chinese ruin buried by volcanic eruption. The man from the opening is found, and when his body collapses into ash, the box is discovered, having been clutched in his hands for over a thousand years.
- Back on a U.S. college campus, set up the ensemble cast of twenty-something graduate students: MASON, FELICIA, SYLVIA, BRANDON, and DINAH. They are a diverse group that is beyond the party atmosphere of their undergraduate years, but not too deep into adulthood that they no longer know how to have fun. But they're ready to start their professional lives, some more eager than others.
- Establish their characters, including their greatest desires (fame, fortune, power, love, immortality, acceptance, etc.) and their greatest fears (spiders/bugs, heights, death, pain, darkness, small spaces, etc.).
- After a class lecture, Professor Spence shows the group the box. It's designed like an ancient children's toy known as a "wishing box." Press the button, make a wish and supposedly it will come true. Professor Spence is unsure of this box's exact origin, though.
- For fun, each one of the graduate students presses the box, revealing their greatest desires, but, of course, nothing happens.
- Soon after, the group's luck begins to change, and their greatest desires come true (done in a subtle, ironic way).

- The good luck is short lived, though. Dinah is the first to experience her desires evolve into her greatest fears. The real-life threat begins slowly, but it quickly turns horrific and deadly.
- Dinah dies; her body ripped apart and when the ground opens, her body is pulled down into Hell. Reveal Pinhead a bit more.

ACT TWO

- Dinah's body is not found. It's as if she just vanished. Felicia, Mason, Sylvia, and Brandon discover that they're all being plagued by their greatest fears.
- It's revealed that their fears seem to be perpetuated by a tall man with blackened eyes and nail-pierced head (Pinhead). He's the linchpin. But at this point, his face and full appearance are not yet revealed.
- The group moves to confront Professor Spence, but he is missing.
- Felicia, the most innocent and levelheaded, goes to talk with the police, but, of course, they think she's nuts, suggesting that she go to student health.
- The group becomes more desperate and vigilante, looking through Professor Spence's office and research. They learn that the box is part of an ancient Chinese legend. A demon supposedly created it, using the box to grant wishes and then drag people down to Hell.
- With no one willing to believe or help them, the group uses their knowledge of ancient artifacts and hatches a plan to access the box, summon the demon and destroy it. One of the graduate students is, in fact, a theology expert and claims that the plan will work.
- Unfortunately, the plan backfires. Pinhead shows up in full glory, revealing his updated appearance (horrifying and menacing). With a broken, strained voice, Pinhead ominously declares that what the group was going to face in Hell, they will now face here on earth.

MIDPOINT

- The group tries to flee the archeology building, but they quickly realize that the building is now a house of horrors-Pinhead style.
- There's no way out, and the hellish threats that have been plaguing the group all along are now fully realized.
- In the chaos, the group gets separated. Brandon is the first to face his demise. He's torn apart. However, he's not dragged down into hell. Instead, Pinhead

consumes Brandon's flesh, and Pinhead's appearance begins to change, his strength increasing.

- Felicia is able to momentarily overcome her fears. She finds Mason. They try to locate a way out of the building and they come upon Sylvia.
- Felicia and Mason try to save Sylvia, but they are too late and witness her body being torn apart and consumed by Pinhead. Again, Pinhead's appearance changes, evolving into something stronger and more menacing.
- Felicia and Mason are shocked to find Professor Spence alive. He's bloodied and beaten, having been trapped like them. He knows the legend of the box and he knows about Pinhead. Pinhead is a demon that consumes human flesh to gain strength. And according to legend, his endgame is building an army to overtake the devil and eventually storm Heaven. The only way to stop Pinhead and regain their freedom is to destroy the box.

ACT THREE

- Felicia, Mason and Professor Spence set out to take the box from Pinhead and destroy it.
- They're successful in obtaining the box. Professor Spence volunteers to stay behind and fight off Pinhead so that Felicia and Mason can advance.
- Felicia and Mason move to destroy the box, and they're successful, at the expense of Mason's life.
- Pinhead is seemingly sent back to Hell, and the archeology building returns to normal.
- Oddly, though, the environment has a strange, surreal feel. Mason is there. And so are Sylvia, Brandon and Dinah. They're all fine.
- Then, Professor Spence is seen. He's still covered in blood, just as he was the last time Felicia saw him.
- Felicia is in Hell, and Pinhead shows up, revealing that Felicia did not win her freedom; she simply proved herself worthy to join Pinhead's elite army of Cenobites (revealed for the first time here).
- Felicia asks why Professor Spence is still there, and it's revealed that Professor Spence made a deal with Pinhead. Professor Spence offered twenty bodies in exchange for his own. So, Professor Spence tricked the grad students into pressing the box, sealing their fate unbeknownst to them.
- Professor Spence is allowed to leave. Felicia screams for help, but the ground cracks open and Pinhead drags Felicia down to Hell to be changed into a Cenobite.

- Some time later, Professor Spence teaches a new class. He's fully healed. He shows the students the box, and he briefly explains that it's an ancient children's toy. He then asks who wants to press it and make a wish.

THE END