



BLOODLIST 2009



BLOODLIST 2010



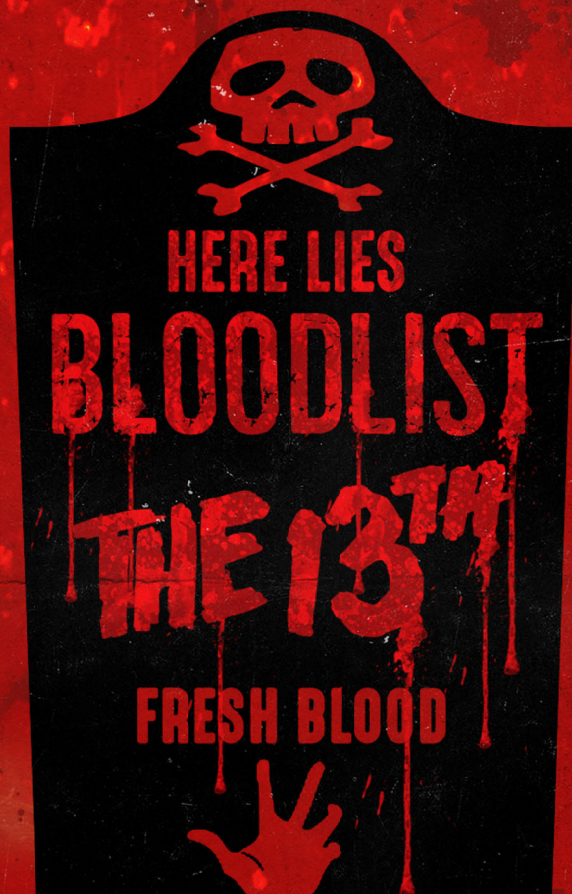
BLOODLIST 2011



BLOODLIST 2012



BLOODLIST 2013



BLOODLIST 2014



BLOODLIST 2015



BLOODLIST 2016



BLOODLIST 2017



BLOODLIST 2018



BLOODLIST 2019



BLOODLIST 2020

HOUSE OF MOURNING

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FADE IN:

INT. NEW YORK SUBURBAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (1980)

A record player plays intense OPERA MUSIC. The music warps like it's playing at the wrong speed.

MIRIAM FRIEDMAN (mid 20s) lifts the needle, bringing an abrupt end to the music. A slight baby bump is evident under her nice dress.

A candlelit dinner sits untouched on a dining table set for two. Miriam sets the house key on the table. Confused, she looks around the unlit house.

MIRIAM

Rebecca?

Despite the music being off, rhythmic THUMPING continues. Coming from upstairs.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR LANDING - CONTINUOUS

Miriam climbs up the stairs. Approaches a bedroom door slightly ajar and peeks inside.

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

TWO FIGURES lie on the king-sized bed, one on top of the other, hidden beneath a mass of tangled bedcovers and sheets.

Amidst their undulating, a cry eeks out from a desperate face pressed against the sheeted prison --

REBECCA

(under the covers)

Help me!

MIRIAM

Rebecca!

Miriam rushes over to the bed and rips off the covers --

Exposing no one. Not a thing underneath. The room falls silent aside from Miriam's anxious breathing.

MIRIAM

Rebecca?! Rebecca, where are you?!

Miriam checks under the bed. Nothing is there either.

She stands, panic rising in her chest. She protectively places a hand over her pregnant belly.

Behind her, a large SERPENT'S TAIL snakes out of the bedroom. The bedroom door SLAMS shut.

Miriam whips around to face the door but finds nothing.

A WOMAN'S HAND (missing a fingernail) slips down from above Miriam's head, bloody fingertips stretched out and reaching.

The fingertips graze Miriam's hair. Miriam ducks back and looks up to see --

REBECCA GOLDSTEIN (mid 20s), wrapped in sheets somehow stuck to the ceiling. With labored breaths she pleads to Miriam --

REBECCA

Help me...

Rebecca rolls out and plummets naked to the floor.

Miriam stands there frozen in horror.

Sheets lifelessly flutter down and drape over her.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BATHROOM (4TH FLOOR)

SUPER: PRESENT DAY. MANHATTAN.

A SHEET flutters down over the bathroom mirror. Put into place by --

GWEN FRIEDMAN (40). She wears no makeup and is dressed conservatively in black clothing -- a high-necked blouse and long skirt with pockets. A black scarf covers blonde hair.

Gwen wipes fresh tears from her swollen, sleepless red eyes.

She turns on her sink faucet. Water gushes into the basin.

She digs into her purse for her prescription bottle -- Ativan, an anti-anxiety medication -- and takes a pill.

Only one pill left. Gwen deposits the bottle back in her purse. Her hand bumps into her makeup items.

She hurls a fistful of lipstick, eye shadow, and mascara into the trashcan.

Gwen grabs the sink. Her shoulders bunch and teeth clench, but she represses the scream on the tip of her tongue.

She turns the faucet off. The drain GURGLES, low and deep.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER - (PARLOR FLOOR) - MORNING

Gwen descends the stairs of her modestly furnished four-story brownstone to the foyer. A harsh voice cuts the air.

MIRIAM (O.S.)
Gwen, the mirrors!

Gwen tenses but dutifully heads into the library.

INT. LIBRARY (PARLOR FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

MIRIAM FRIEDMAN (now mid-60s), Gwen's cynical, Orthodox Jewish mother-in-law, faces away from a framed mirror.

She wears all black clothing too.

Her fingers worry over a necklace, a HAMSA HAND PENDANT with an evil eye in the middle.

MIRIAM
You have to cover the mirrors!

Gwen's sister-in-law, TALIA FRIEDMAN (40), stands behind her mother. She keeps a watchful yet weary eye, saying nothing. Dressed also in black.

GWEN
I'm sorry, Miriam. I forgot about the one in the library.

MIRIAM
All of the mirrors must be covered--

GWEN
To keep our focus off our vanity. Yes, I've read up on shiva.

Gwen grabs a small throw off of a leather winged back armchair and hangs it over one side of the mirror.

TALIA
Here, let me help you.

Talia stretches the throw over the opposite end.

MIRIAM

In the Kabbalah, mirrors are covered to keep out evil spirits. When we're vulnerable, they try to find a way in.

GWEN

So that must be where the saying 'misery loves company' comes from.

Miriam narrows her eyes at Gwen taking light of the subject.

GWEN

I promise the other mirrors are covered. I checked.

TALIA

I covered the one down in the rec room where I'm sleeping.

MIRIAM

Check again before we leave. We can't have company showing up for shiva with uncovered mirrors!

The throw slips a little, exposing some of the mirror.

Gwen readjusts it and stands back to inspect. She bumps into a small table, knocking a few large, old books off of it.

Gwen kneels down to pick the books up.

One is open to a page written in Hebrew. Undecipherable to Gwen, but an image accompanies the text -- a picture of a hairy demon vaguely resembling a man.

A small RIPPLE of wind ruffles the throw on the mirror.

Gwen notices it, but Miriam and Talia do not.

TALIA

Gwen?

A breeze blows in through the open window. Gwen stacks the books back on the table and shuts the window.

GWEN

Yes, sorry. I will check.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - VARIOUS (4TH FLOOR) - DAY

The free-standing walk-in closet mirror is already covered. Gwen moves on.

INT. AARON'S OFFICE (4TH FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen surveys her husband's organized desk.

She catches her dim reflection moving across the desktop screen. Like a ghost moving across a black void.

She tapes two papers across the screen.

GWEN

(under her breath)

That good enough for you, Miriam?

Gwen's hard expression melts when her eyes land on a framed photo of her, her husband Aaron, and her stepson Benjamin -- all three of them together at Gwen and Aaron's wedding.

Gwen's eyes sting with tears. She trudges out of the room.

INT. BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM (3RD FLOOR) - DAY

BENJAMIN FRIEDMAN (17) sits on his bed. His funeral clothes contrast with his casual room. His dresser mirror is covered.

He messages someone named SAMANTHA on his iPhone.

BENJAMIN: Gotta go soon talk after?

SAMANTHA: Of course. Again so sorry for your loss, Ben. ❤️

KNOCKS on the door.

Benjamin quickly locks his iPhone.

BENJAMIN

Come in.

Gwen enters.

GWEN

Don't let your grandmother find you on your phone. You know she's a stickler for the rules.

BENJAMIN

I won't. Samantha was just checking in on me.

GWEN

That was nice of her. Guess you two are getting serious?

BENJAMIN

Yeah, but don't tell Bubbe about us. With Sam not being Jewish and all...

GWEN

I get it.

A frown tugs on Benjamin's lips. Gwen sits on his bed.

BENJAMIN

I keep playing this over in my head. It doesn't feel real. Dad didn't act any different with me when he dropped me at Aunt Talia's. Did he say or do anything that seemed off to you, Gwen?

GWEN

I was just as much in the dark about what he was going through as you are, Ben.

BENJAMIN

I hope he's at least with Mom now...

Benjamin's shoulders slump, on the verge of tears. Gwen hugs him and kisses the top of his head.

GWEN

I'm sure he is, honey.
(beat)
Come on, it's time to go.
(re: her attire)
I didn't forget anything, did I?

BENJAMIN

No, you're good.

Gwen nods in thanks and heads out of the room.

INT. CEMETERY BUILDING - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Family have gathered. Men wear yarmulkes and Orthodox attire. Women wear head coverings and black skirts.

Gwen tugs at her high-necked collar and scratches her itchy hair under her head scarf.

Miriam's weeping pervades the air. Talia does what she can to console Miriam, but it proves to be an impossible task.

The RABBI (60s) finishes the *Keriah* part of the ceremony.

RABBI
*Adonai natan, Adonai lakach, yehi
 shem Adonai m'vorach.*

Miriam and the others rip their clothing above their hearts.

Talia helps Benjamin tear his shirt. Benjamin fumbles, new to implementing this tradition. Gwen watches, confused.

They finish. Gwen speaks to Ben in a low voice, hurt.

GWEN
 What are they doing? I wasn't told
 about this part of the ceremony?

BENJAMIN
 It's the *Keriah*. Bubbe said you
 didn't need to do it since you
 aren't Jewish.

Gwen's eyes narrow at Miriam. Miriam ignores her, too focused on her own pain.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Black-clothed friends and family have assembled for the traditional Jewish funeral.

The immediate family stands around a casket as it is lowered into a grave. Gwen watches, numb as her tears fall.

Miriam grabs onto Benjamin and sobs. Benjamin cries silently as his father's casket is lowered into the ground.

The Rabbi and the family recite the Mourner's Kaddish...

Except for Gwen, who can't speak Hebrew.

RABBI AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY
*... l'eila min-kol-birchata
 v'shirata, tushb'chata
 v'nechemata da'amiran b'alma,
 v'im'ru: "amen."*

Gwen stares at her program and bites her lip, embarrassed.

CUT TO:

EXT. MASTER BEDROOM BALCONY - DAY (FLASHBACK - 2 YEARS AGO)

AARON FRIEDMAN (40s) prays, wearing his tallit and yarmulke. His hair is cut in a modern style vs. an Orthodox style. His fingers worry over the tallit's fringes.

Gwen sneaks up behind him. Slides her lips up to her ear.

GWEN

Are you asking God for forgiveness
for all the wicked things you're
going to do to me tonight?

AARON

I thought you were going to learn
the prayers before our wedding?

GWEN

There's still time for me to
butcher Hebrew later.

Aaron's look of disappointment isn't lost on Gwen.

She throws the prayer shawl over their heads. Aaron can't help but smile at her antics. Gwen steals a kiss from him.

AARON

I know it's hard but learning about
my culture and its traditions--

GWEN

Will help make your mother hate me
a teeny bit less?

Aaron caresses Gwen's chin, tilting it up to him.

AARON

Hey, no matter what she thinks,
you're kosher to me.

Gwen rolls her eyes at Aaron. They kiss, forgetting their obligations for one brief moment.

BACK TO SCENE

Gwen weeps and RIPS her blouse, performing her own Keriah. The sound catches the immediate family's attention.

RABBI AND IMMEDIATE FAMILY

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh
shalom aleinu v'al kol-yisrael,
v'imru: "amen."

GWEN

Amen.

Gwen is the first to step up and throw earth onto Aaron's casket. Miriam glares at her.

The rest of the immediate family throws dirt over the casket.

RABBI

Shiva will be observed at the Friedman home. Visiting times for the week-long mourning period are listed in your programs, as are the days for the minyans. *Hamakom Yerahem*. May God comfort those mourning the loss of our Aaron during this difficult time.

A sharply dressed, handsome MAN (40s) in a trench coat watches the funeral outside the gates of the cemetery.

Feeling eyes on her, Gwen looks over at the gates. Her eyes bulge as she recognizes the Man.

Gwen turns away from him and struggles to catch her breath. The family files out of the cemetery. Talia approaches Gwen.

TALIA

Everything okay?

Gwen glances over Talia's shoulder. The Man in the trench coat is gone. Gwen lets out a breath she had been holding.

GWEN

Yes, this is... just a lot.

Talia nods in agreement and places a comforting hand on Gwen's shoulder. They file out with everyone else.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - FRONT DOOR (PATIO FLOOR) - DAY

Gwen's house is nestled amongst a row of middle-upper class brownstones. Gwen, Miriam, Talia, and Benjamin wash their hands at a basin of water set by the door.

They touch the mezuzah fixed to the doorframe and enter the house. Gwen's the last to enter. She touches the mezuzah --

And it CLATTERS to the ground.

Miriam's brow furrows.

Gwen hurriedly picks up the decorative case. The mezuzah scroll inscribed with a declaration of faith peeks out.

Gwen carefully pushes the scroll back into the container.

She locates the fallen nails. One is in the ritual hand-washing bowl.

She retrieves the nails and puts the mezuzah back on the door frame and forces the nails back in with her palm.

Gwen enters the house. A piece of paper on the door advertises the hours for visitors to come mourn with them.

SUPER: Sunday. Day 1 of shiva

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER (PARLOR FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen locks the door.

TALIA

You mustn't lock it. You're not to receive people like a host. They just come and go.

GWEN

Sorry, I forgot about that part. Though it doesn't seem safe to do in the city.

Talia unlocks the door.

TALIA

It's all part of the process. It was kind of you to open your home to us, Gwen.

GWEN

We all loved Aaron. I felt we should grieve for him together.

TALIA

You were a rock for him in spite of his struggles. My mother may not realize it, but she'll come around.

GWEN

She wasn't a fan of mine when I married Aaron two years ago, I doubt it'll change now that he's gone.

Talia hugs Gwen. Gwen forces herself to relax into the supportive embrace.

TALIA

Stubbornness is an inherited trait
in our family, as is micro-
management, which reminds me...
I'd suggest lighting the shiva
candle in the living room.

GWEN

Oh... Okay. Thanks, Talia.

Talia nods and joins Benjamin and Miriam in the living room.

Gwen peeks at her phone. It's open to a page detailing SHIVA CUSTOMS. There's an image of a burning candle.

She grabs the thick shiva candle (meant to last the entire shiva period) off the catchall table and slips into the --

INT. LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Miriam, Benjamin, and Talia sit in special shiva chairs that are lower than the couch and the other chairs in the room.

A sheet drapes over the large, framed mirror.

Gwen sets the shiva candle in front of the large bay window, lights it, and joins the others in the lower chairs.

The front door opens.

SHIVA GUESTS flood into the living room.

Overwhelmed, Gwen closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

Benjamin wipes his sweaty palms on his pants. Gwen slides her hand over to his for comfort.

MOMENTS LATER

The shiva ceremony is underway. SERVERS pass food around.

Gwen sits and moves food around on her plate but cannot bring herself to eat it.

Benjamin stabs the food on his plate, ignoring eye contact with everyone.

URI and EZRA BERNSTEIN (40s), upbeat fraternal twins in traditional Orthodox clothing, console Ben. Gwen listens in.

URI

Benjamin, there is a Jewish Proverb
I think may bring you some comfort.
It goes: 'If I had not fallen, I
would not have picked myself up, If
I did not sit in darkness, I would
not have seen the light.'

EZRA

You and Gwen were Aaron's light.
You truly meant the world to him.

A dam breaks within Ben. Angry tears flow.

BENJAMIN

That's such bullshit.

TALIA

Benjamin!

Ezra and Uri are stunned. Benjamin drops his plate on the
coffee table and tears out of the room.

Gwen is about to get up and go after him --

MIRIAM

Stay. It is customary for the
mourners to remain seated
throughout shiva.

GWEN

But Ben--

MIRIAM

He is young and spirited. Don't
hover over him, Gwen. Let the boy
breathe.

Gwen reluctantly settles back into her seat.

GWEN

(to Uri and Ezra)

I'm very sorry. This has been a
difficult time for all of us, but
especially hard for Ben.

Gwen's eyes tear up.

EZRA

There's no need to apologize. What
soap is for the body, tears are for
the soul.

URI
Aaron was our favorite cousin.

TALIA
Hey, now. I'm sitting right here.

EZRA
He means, our favorite *male* cousin.
(beat)
One time when we were boys, Aaron stole a bottle of Manischewitz. We took it down to Brooklyn Bridge Park and drank the whole thing.

URI
We were too fershnickered to ride our bikes. Remember how Aaron crashed into the Bethesda Fountain!

The two brothers laugh. Gwen smiles, picturing the scene.

Ezra and Uri nod and excuse themselves to follow after a SERVER (female, 20s) carrying a tray of kosher deviled eggs.

Gwen stacks empty paper plates on a coffee table beside her.

KAITLYN (O.S.)
Hey, that's my job.

Gwen's greeted by her coworker KAITLYN LIN (30s, Chinese American), ready to smother with sympathy. Her black clothes are bohemian chic, like she walked out of a Free People catalogue. She doesn't wear a head covering.

GWEN
Kaitlyn.

They share an awkward hug while Gwen remains sitting.

GWEN
(to Miriam)
I'll be back; need to use the restroom.

Miriam nods, attention on a Guest in front of her.

Gwen picks up her purse and exits out the other side of the living room, motioning for Kaitlyn to follow her.

INT. FOYER

Gwen gives her friend a proper hug, relishing the privacy.

GWEN

You have no idea how good it is to see you.

KAITLYN

I can't imagine how tough today's been for you. I'm so sorry for your loss, Gwen. Having never been to a Jewish funeral before, I did some googling which gave me a wealth of knowledge. See?

She shows off her canvas slip-on black shoes.

KAITLYN

Cloth shoes. No leather. There are some very specific rules to follow.

Gwen looks at her own shoes. Black plastic and rubber flats.

GWEN

(mumbling)

Guess I got lucky there.

KAITLYN

Hudson told me how it happened.

GWEN

Yes, it's something I can't forget.
(clears throat)
Has there been any update from *Dainty Pawz*? Do they want to expand their brand awareness next quarter?

KAITLYN

Oh, you don't need to worry about any of that. This... This is a lot.

GWEN

For my own sanity, it would be a welcomed distraction.

KAITLYN

I get it.
(lowering her voice)
I remember the happy hour horror stories about your monster-in-law.
(a little too upbeat)
Also, I heard the buffets at these things are pretty fabulous. Don't judge me.

Gwen smirks through her teary eyes in confirmation.

KAITLYN

I think Hudson wanted to check it out for himself too.

Gwen follows Kaitlyn's gaze to the front door.

HUDSON ORSON (aka the MAN at the cemetery), hangs his coat on the coat rack. He's a well-off, hard worker who's already climbed to the top of the corporate ladder.

Hudson holds an expensive bouquet of flowers. Gwen stiffens at the sight of him.

KAITLYN

I'm gonna go check out the spread.

She heads to the eat-in kitchen connected to the living room.

Hudson approaches Gwen and offers her the flowers.

HUDSON

Gwen...

Gwen takes the flowers. With a stern look, she motions for Hudson to follow her downstairs to the --

INT. KITCHEN (GARDEN FLOOR) - DAY

Gwen tosses the bouquet onto the countertop. The two are alone while shiva carries on upstairs. Their voices are low.

GWEN

First the cemetery, now you're showing up to my dead husband's wake?

HUDSON

To offer my support. Look, I'm sorry. I didn't know if I'd be allowed in and you haven't returned any of my calls or messages.

GWEN

Returning calls isn't at the top of my priorities list right now.

HUDSON

I understand, but I had to know you were okay. I care about the well-being of *all* of my employees.

Gwen grabs a vase and fills it with water from the faucet. Her emotions bubble to the surface as water fills the vase.

GWEN

My husband's dead. None of this
feels okay. I appreciate the
sentiment, but--

A BLOODY FINGERNAIL churns around the surface of the water.

Gwen gasps and fumbles the vase. It falls into the sink and
spills over. The fingernail washes down the drain.

Hudson uprights the vase and sets it down on the counter.

GWEN

Did... did you see that?

HUDSON

See that you're super stressed?
Gwen, I know these are hard times.
How can I help?

Gwen stares at the drain and tries to gather herself. Hudson
arranges the flowers in the vase.

GWEN

I need time to myself. To grieve
for Aaron.

HUDSON

Hasn't he made you suffer enough?

Annoyed, Gwen marches to the --

INT. REC ROOM (GARDEN FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

The sofa is a temporary bed for Talia.

Hudson follows behind Gwen. She breezes past the sofa and
opens the garden floor door for Hudson.

GWEN

Please.

HUDSON

You don't have to go through any of
this alone.

GWEN

I have family here and together we
are going to honor Aaron's memory.
(beat)
And just so you know, you're
wearing the wrong type of shoes for
shiva.

Hudson scoffs. His leather shoes scuff the pavement as he skulks away.

Gwen closes the door and locks it behind her. She pops the last anti-anxiety pill that she has.

She leans against the door and lets out a slow, shaky breath.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shiva Guests mill around. Gwen returns to her chair, trying to look inconspicuous.

The shiva candle rests on the windowsill. The flame flickers.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - AARON'S OFFICE (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen, in pajamas, sits at Aaron's desk with a glass of wine.

She stares at a desk drawer in a zoned out trance.

Gwen breaks her stare and makes sure the office door is shut.

She opens the desk drawer and pops up a secret compartment.

Inside the drawer is an unopened envelope marked with the letter "G" and a huge stack of cash. They rest atop a few mortgage billing statements marked PAST DUE.

Her fingers twitch, about to open the envelope... But she shuts the drawer instead and gulps down her wine.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

With the lights out, Gwen drowns herself with covers and struggles to fall sleep despite her emotional turmoil.

She rubs the fringe of Aaron's prayer shawl between her fingers. Tears fall as she inhales his scent on the shawl.

GWEN

Oh, Aaron.

A door CREAKS.

GWEN

Hello?

Gwen throws off covers and clicks on the lamp.

The balcony door is cracked open.

Gwen gets up to close it but ventures outside instead.

EXT. MASTER BEDROOM BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

A cool breeze bathes her face. Nothing is on the balcony.

Gwen looks down at the sidewalk. Immediately regrets it.

A cluster of plant pots mostly cover a DARKENED SPOT of cement on the sidewalk, illuminated by the street lamps.

Gwen squeezes her eyes shut, fighting a panic attack.

She opens her eyes. A red puddle of BLOOD oozes out from under the plant pots. Her breath catches in her throat.

Gwen gazes back down to the potted plants. No blood.

She rubs her cold arms and retreats back inside.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - MORNING

Wearing only her undergarments, Gwen gazes down at the clothes on her bed. Same black clothes she wore yesterday.

Following tradition, Gwen slips back into her old outfit. (NOTE: Miriam, Talia, and Benjamin also follow this rule).

She reaches for her pill bottle, but it's empty.

GWEN
(under her breath)
Shit.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - DAY

SUPER: Day 2 of shiva

At least TEN JEWISH MEN have assembled to perform the minyan as part of the mourning ceremony. Gwen watches them, silently forming the syllables with her lips.

JEWISH MEN
*Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu yaaseh
shalom aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael,
v'imru --*

ALL
-- Amen.

The shiva candle shines on the windowsill.

Guests mill about while Gwen, Miriam, Benjamin, and Talia sit in their special shiva chairs. Miriam speaks low to Gwen.

MIRIAM

Who brought the flowers? In the vase downstairs?

GWEN

My boss. He knew Aaron.

MIRIAM

If he really knew Aaron, he would know that flowers aren't the way we honor our deceased.

GWEN

The flowers were just a kind gesture, but I can remove them.

MIRIAM

I've already done that.

Gwen bites her tongue to keep from arguing.

CRACK! A TINKLING of glass draws GASPS from the guests.

Gwen stands, on alert.

The Shiva Server steps away from the serving table.

Mirror glass sprinkles the table and her tray of food. The shroud still covers the large living room mirror.

GWEN

Are you hurt?

SHIVA SERVER

No, I don't think so. I'm so sorry. I set the tray down on the table and the mirror just cracked.

GWEN

Don't be sorry. The mirror is old. It probably was already cracked, and we just didn't notice it.

MIRIAM

(to shiva server)

Throw it all away, dear. It's all right.

SHIVA SERVER

Yes, Ma'am.

The shiva server takes the tray back to the eat-in kitchen.

Gwen runs her hand over the shroud, trying to find the crack.

Her breath catches, and she pulls her hand back.

A drop of blood beads on her finger. Blood blooms on the shroud where her finger met the razor-sharp glass.

WHISPERS reach her ears. Her cheeks flush, uneasy from all the attention from her guests.

Gwen sits back down. Guests help clear away the mess.

Her phone BUZZES in the pocket of her skirt.

Grateful for the distraction, Gwen removes her phone from her pocket and reads a new text from her PHARMACY --

Your prescription is ready for pick-up!

A small sigh of relief escapes her lips.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - SUNSET

Gwen beelines down the stairs for the front door with her purse. Her car keys JINGLE in her hand.

Cool air bathes her face as she opens the unlocked door.

MIRIAM (O.S.)

Where are you going?

Miriam comes up from downstairs.

GWEN

I... I just needed some air.

MIRIAM

Open a window or go in the backyard. You can venture out on the last day of shiva. You'll walk around the block, symbolizing a return to your life before loss.

GWEN

I know I'm not supposed to leave the house, but I have an important errand to run.

Talia appears from the living room.

TALIA

Six more days. Those are the rules.

MIRIAM

Do whatever it is you please. I know our customs are not yours, so it's understandable that you don't care to follow the rules of our faith.

Gwen fumes. Benjamin watches from the stairs.

GWEN

It's urgent. I won't be gone long.

Gwen defiantly takes a coat off the coat rack but stops before she can put it on --

A large symbol is carved into the wall, previously hidden by the coat --



Gwen GASPS. Miriam pales.

BENJAMIN

What is that--?

TALIA

Did someone sneak in and do this?

MIRIAM

Did Aaron carve this?

TALIA

Why would he? It must be someone's idea of a prank.

GWEN

No, at least I don't think so...

Dubious, Miriam heads into the --

LIVING ROOM

Miriam inspects the shroud-covered mirror. Gwen stands in the entryway.

MIRIAM

What caused the mirror to crack? It was bought in perfect condition.

GWEN

Someone probably bumped it. I'm sure the damage isn't too bad--

Gwen goes over to lift the shroud. Miriam stops her hand.

MIRIAM

(fearful)

No!

(calming down)

No, I'm sure it isn't.

Gwen leaves the mirror behind and returns to the foyer.

FOYER

Gwen hangs her coat back on the rack.

She recognizes Hudson's coat that he left on the rack.

She pushes it out of sight behind her coat and positions her coat to hide the symbol on the wall.

MIRIAM

(re: symbol)

We'll call a handyman to fix the wall after we've finished observing shiva.

GWEN

This is why I wanted the door locked.

MIRIAM

It will be. When we're not holding visiting hours.

Miriam shuts the door, cutting off the light streaming in. She locks the door.

GWEN

Ben, can you help me search the house to see if anything else seems out of place?

BENJAMIN

Sure.

Benjamin and Gwen head upstairs together.

INT. AARON'S OFFICE (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen sits in Aaron's executive chair. She stares at their wedding photo and twists her wedding band on her ring finger.

Grief cracks her straight face.

She opens the drawer and pops up the secret compartment. The sealed envelope is still there along with the cash.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gwen returns home in work clothes, wearing her head scarf. She looks stunning in a full face of makeup.

She stops in her tracks. The sealed envelope and the cash lay on the bed.

The balcony door is open. Curtains rustle in the wind.

Gwen dashes out to the balcony --

BACK TO SCENE

Gwen squeezes her eyes shut and wills the memory away.

She fishes out the mortgage statements. The last one has FINAL NOTICE stamped on it.

She accidentally knocks a pen off of the desk. She bends down on all fours to retrieve it --

Aaron's corpse lies on the floor under the desk, staring at her. Skull cracked like an egg. Blood and brains leak onto the carpet.

Gwen cries out. Her forehead bangs the bottom of the desk drawer as she scurries out from under the desk and jumps up.

The framed photo topples over as Gwen, in a panic-induced haze, accidentally steps on the frame, breaking it.

She glances back at Aaron's corpse, but nothing is there.

Gwen rubs her eyes as her anxiety builds.

Blood drops speckle on the back of her hand. She winces as her fingers find the cut on her forehead.

INT. EN-SUITE BATHROOM (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen enters and washes the blood off her hand. She dabs a washcloth at her forehead.

The covered bathroom mirror looms in front of her. She glances over her shoulder to make sure she is alone.

Gwen lifts up the sheet covering the mirror.

She examines the small cut on her forehead. Her eyes linger on her tired, makeup-free reflection.

Something SHIFTS in the part of the mirror still partially covered. Gwen drops the sheet and backs away --

As the outline of a DEMON's face pushes against the sheet.

The demon turns his head to and fro, revealing semblances of a bull and a goat on the sides of his face. His open mouths utter an ugly dissonance of SNARLS, BELLOWS, and BLEATS.

Gwen SHRIEKS and hurls a towel stand on the vanity at the mirror.

Glass SHATTERS everywhere. Pieces fall into the sink.

Gwen turns around but finds herself utterly alone.

Hurried FOOTSTEPS resound in the hallway.

Benjamin rushes into the bathroom.

BENJAMIN

Gwen? ... Whoa.

GWEN

I... I hit my head.

Talia and Miriam hastily enter the bathroom. Talia gasps at the broken mirror.

GWEN

I accidentally hit it. Sorry...

Gwen collects the larger pieces of glass.

TALIA

You're hurt. Let me get that.

Talia takes the shards from Gwen.

BENJAMIN

Are you okay?

GWEN

I think so. I'm just a little sleep deprived is all.

Talia's eyes wander to the empty pill bottle left on the bathroom counter. Gwen clocks this and moves her body, blocking the pill bottle from view.

TALIA

Perhaps you should go lie down. You look a little pale.

GWEN

I will once I take care of this.

TALIA

I'll get the broom and dustpan. You need to get some rest.

GWEN

Thank you, Talia. Benjamin, can you lend your aunt a hand?

Benjamin reluctantly follows Talia out of the bathroom. Miriam's fingers rub her Hamsa pendant necklace.

MIRIAM

You saw something.

GWEN

I slipped.

MIRIAM

You looked in the mirror.

GWEN

No, of course not.

MIRIAM

A half-truth is a whole lie. Your face betrays you, Gwen.

Gwen squirms in the painful silence.

MIRIAM

You still won't tell me?

GWEN

It was nothing. I overreacted.

MIRIAM

I too once believed breaking shiva
wasn't a big deal. I never made
that mistake again.

Miriam's chin trembles with grief. She leaves.

Gwen lets out a quivering breath. She reads through the side
effects on the pill bottle label.

Worried, she tosses the empty bottle into the waste basket.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - MORNING

Gwen dresses. She winces and notices a mark.

A BRUISE purples her upper arm, as if she had been violently
grabbed. She grimaces as she carefully slides on her clothes.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - GARDEN - MORNING

SUPER: Day 3 of shiva

Gwen sits alone in her garden beside a small fountain.

Kaitlin enters, carrying a brown bag.

KAITLYN

There you are. Talia let me in. I
brought you some food.

Kaitlyn hands Gwen the bag of food.

GWEN

Kaitlyn, you didn't have to do
this. Most of the food prep is
handled by extended members of the
family.

KAITLYN

There's no shiva rule that says
friends can't give friends matzo
ball soup.

Gwen smiles.

KAITLYN

No visiting hours today?

GWEN

Yeah, it's kind of a relief
actually.

(MORE)

GWEN (CONT'D)

I feel like everyone's looking at me. Expecting me to do... or screw something up.

KAITLYN

Gwen, you're human, and you're doing the best you can.

Gwen stares off into the fountain. Kaitlyn heads back--

GWEN

Hey, before you go, could do me a favor?

KAITLYN

Of course. What do you need?

GWEN

I ran out of my anxiety meds and because of shiva, I'm not allowed to go to the pharmacy to get them.

KAITLYN

As if life wasn't stressful enough! I can grab them for you.

GWEN

You're a lifesaver. It's the one on 13th.

KAITLYN

You know, Gwen, maybe you can cut shiva a little short? Do you need to do all seven days?

GWEN

Faith was important to Aaron; he deserves to be honored.

KAITLYN

I get that, but how does shiva help you? Seven days stewing in sadness. It'd drive me nuts.

GWEN

Once the shiva candle burns out, then I can get back to normal... If that's even possible after all of this.

KAITLYN

I'm worried about you. You don't look like you've been sleeping well. Hudson seems worried too.

Kaitlyn holds up a fancy, light blue envelope.

KAITLYN
He asked me to give you this
sympathy card.

GWEN
Oh. That was kind of him...

Gwen takes the card. Kaitlyn leans in and speaks low to her.

KAITLYN
He always knows how to bring a
smile to your lips.

Gwen's eyes widen in surprise. Her eyes are drawn to movement coming from the house --

She catches Miriam looking at her through the library window. Miriam moves out of sight.

Gwen subtly presses Hudson's card down close to her body, away from view.

GWEN
I'll show you out. Thank you for
stopping by with your condolences.

KAITLYN
Sure thing.

Gwen ushers Kaitlyn into the townhouse.

INT. FOYER - MORNING

Gwen hugs Kaitlyn then shuts the front door behind her.

Benjamin crosses, drinking a glass of orange juice.

Gwen hides Hudson's card behind her.

Ben's phone RINGS with an incoming FaceTime. He answers it.

BENJAMIN
Hey.

SAMANTHA (ON PHONE) (O.S.)
Hey!

BENJAMIN
Hold on, let me get to my room.

Benjamin scurries up the stairs.

Gwen tucks Hudson's envelope into her skirt waistband.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - EAT-IN KITCHEN (PARLOR FLOOR) - LATER

Gwen rinses a couple of plates from a dirty stack in the sink. Miriam enters and pours orange juice from the fridge.

MIRIAM

You're not supposed to do housework.

Gwen's shoulders stiffen.

GWEN

I'm only rinsing them. One thing our place doesn't need is roaches.

MIRIAM

You seem on edge, Gwen. Is something troubling you?

GWEN

I just miss him.

For a brief moment, Miriam softens.

MIRIAM

That is the first time I have heard you say that out loud.

GWEN

I've felt it every day.

Gwen deflects her grief. She busies herself by searching through a recipe box.

GWEN

I know, some *challah* will lift our spirits. Aaron swooned over the smell of fresh-baked bread.

MIRIAM

Oh, I know. He begged me for my recipe.

Gwen finds the hand-written recipe card. She pulls out the necessary ingredients.

Miriam pours juice. She shakes the near empty carton.

MIRIAM

I'm going to finish this off unless you or Benjamin want some?

GWEN

I don't think so. He's still on the phone with Samantha.

MIRIAM

Who?

Gwen's breath catches in her throat. *Shit.*

MIRIAM

Does Benjamin have a girlfriend?

GWEN

Well, yes...

MIRIAM

Why have I not met her?

GWEN

He wasn't sure you would approve. Sam is... *isn't* Jewish.

MIRIAM

And you encouraged this?

GWEN

They're just kids.

MIRIAM

You are pushing Benjamin further from his faith. His *identity!*

GWEN

You don't have to be so rigid, Miriam. There is more to a person than their faith.

MIRIAM

Aaron would hate for this to go on.

GWEN

Aaron knew about it.

(beat)

Sam's helping Ben. He needs someone to be there for him right now.

MIRIAM

I won't let anything harm my grandson!

GWEN

Yeah, of course not! Neither will I. What are you--

MIRIAM

I won't let it happen again, I
won't! We are good people with pure
intentions!

GWEN

They're just talking on the phone--

Miriam darts out of the room, knocking over the empty orange
juice container on her way out.

INT. HALLWAY (PARLOR FLOOR)

Miriam is already up the stairs when Gwen enters the hallway.

GWEN

Miriam!

A high-pitched SCRATCHING sound stops Gwen in her tracks.

Gwen peers into the LIBRARY and stares in fear at the covered
mirror. The SCRATCHING comes from behind the covering.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Gwen rushes in and stops in front of the mirror. The
SCRATCHING noise stops.

Gwen takes the covered mirror off its hook. She dares not to
lift the covering.

She take the mirror with her into the --

FOYER

She hears footsteps on the stairs. She puts the covered
mirror down and shields her body in front of it to hide it.

Miriam comes down the stairs with Benjamin's laptop tucked
under her arm. She brushes past Gwen.

MIRIAM

I've taken care of it. Shiva is the
most important thing right now.
Everything else is a distraction.

Miriam heads into the Library, leaving Gwen dumbfounded.
Benjamin glowers at Gwen from the top of the stairs.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - WALK-IN CLOSET (4TH FLOOR) - DAY

Gwen deposits the covered mirror next to the covered free-standing mirror already in her walk-in closet.

INT. MASTER BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gwen grabs what's left of the covered, shattered bathroom mirror and also takes it to her walk-in closet.

INT. WALK-IN CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

As she sets that mirror frame down she stumbles -- and YELPS.

A shard of glass jabs under her fingernail. She winces as she pulls it out. Her fingernail is cracked and bleeding.

Gwen sucks on her injured finger. She turns the lights off and shuts the door.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen sits on her bed, still in her black clothes, finger now bandaged. The condolence cards splay out before her. She eats the last bite of her piece of freshly baked *challah*.

Gwen goes right for Hudson's card and tears open the envelope. She reads Hudson's note in the card --

Gwen, we will get past this together. Here for you. Always.

She checks the clock on her dresser (7:35 PM).

Gwen dials Kaitlyn on her cell. Call goes to voicemail.

KAITLYN (V.O.)

Hi! This is Kaitlyn. Sorry I missed you, but leave me a message and I'll get back to you soon. Ciao!

Voicemail BEEPS.

GWEN

Hi, Kaitlyn. Just wanted to hear a friendly voice. I'm hoping the pharmacy wasn't too much trouble--

Gwen's getting a call from Kaitlyn. She answers.

GWEN

Kaitlyn?

INT. MARKETING OFFICE - INTERCUT AS NECESSARY

Kaitlyn calls Gwen from her cell phone. She's busy closing out of programs on her work computer.

KAITLYN

I'm a terrible friend. Hudson never gave me a break. I'm just getting off work.

GWEN

I'm probably to blame for that.

KAITLYN

No, you are not. I'm just not good at this level of multitasking. Hudson can't wait to have you back.

Kaitlyn eyes Hudson across the floor as he enters his corner office with more coffee.

GWEN

Maybe this is my chance to try something new...

KAITLYN

What? You mean quit? We're the best ad agency in New York City.

GWEN

And that's great, but what if I went and did something completely different with the rest of my life? Cut my losses instead of gambling it all away like Aaron did.

KAITLYN

Did something happen?

GWEN

Just a thought. I'm due for a mid-life crisis.

KAITLYN

I'll have the prescription in your hands tomorrow. And I'll order those sandwiches you like.

GWEN

Sandwiches?

KAITLYN

The ones the office always orders from that deli. Just no ham. I'll keep it kosher.

GWEN

Well, thank you but, hey, what you said earlier about Hudson--

Kaitlyn is getting another phone call on her cell.

KAITLYN

Hey, I really hate to cut this off, but I'm getting another call. Can I talk to you later?

GWEN

Yeah, sure. See you tomorrow. Bye.

Call ends.

END INTERCUT.

Gwen glares at Hudson's message in the card.

Gwen takes a pair of scissors and cuts Hudson's sympathy card up into tiny pieces. SNIP, SNIP, SNIP--

RIP!

Gwen looks around, curious where the sound came from. Not from the scissors or the card...

A large rip runs down from where she tore her blouse as part of the *Keriah*.

The rip exposes her black lace bra underneath.

Gwen stands in alarm. Pieces of the card fall onto the floor.

She scoops the pieces and deposits them into her bedside trash can.

Gwen strips off her blouse. She gets out a sewing kit from her nightstand.

-- MASTER BEDROOM FLASHBACK --

Gwen (wearing the same blouse) yanks open the nightstand and retrieves a stack of mortgage and bank statements. She waves the statements in Aaron's face.

GWEN

*That was Benjamin's college fund!
How could you?!*

AARON

I was trying to pay off everything!

GWEN

You've made it worse!

AARON

I... I'm sorry. I--

Gwen throws the statements down and storms out.

BACK TO SCENE

Gwen stops sewing. Leaves the Keriah tear intact.

Goosebumps prickle on her skin. Feeling eyes on her lingerie-clad body --

Gwen looks around the room. But nothing is amiss.

INT. AARON'S OFFICE (4TH FLOOR) - EARLY EVENING

Gwen sits in Aaron's chair at his desk wearing pajamas.

The envelope marked with the letter "G" rests in her hands.

Bracing for the worst, she opens the letter and reads it.

AARON (V.O.)

*Gwen, I love you more than the air
I breathe. I can't live like this
anymore. My win tonight will pay
off my debts, but I know it's too
late to fix everything. I'm sorry I
put you and Benjamin through all of
this. I hope Hudson makes you
happy. I'm sorry I couldn't be the
man you deserved.*

There's the gut punch she's been avoiding. The envelope slides off to the floor.

Grief and guilt overwhelm Gwen. She tries to mute her sobs.

She tosses the letter back into the drawer.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen sleeps in her big, lonely bed with a crumbled tissue in her hand. Aaron's prayer shawl balled up beside her. Lamp light is on.

-- MASTER BEDROOM FLASHBACK --

Gwen's in bed wearing pajamas. Tears run down her cheeks.

Aaron sits on the other side of the bed. He rests his hand on Gwen's shoulder.

AARON

Please. One more chance, Gwen. I can change. I can be better.

She doesn't respond. Aaron takes his hand away --

But Gwen catches it. Turns around to face him.

They kiss, hoping to solve everything in one night.

Their foolish wish leads to them making love. Gwen undoes the buttons on Aaron's dress shirt --

INT. MARKETING OFFICE - BREAK ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

-- As Hudson undoes the buttons on Gwen's work shirt. It's just the two of them so late at night.

Gwen leans on the counter and pulls off her head scarf. Her hair sways free. Her hand rests next to a tray of sandwiches.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Aaron and Gwen kiss as they have sex, seeking pleasure through the pain.

INT. MARKETING OFFICE - BREAK ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Hudson and Gwen. Same thing. The tray of sandwiches fall off the counter. Gwen's high-heeled shoe skewers a sandwich. Hudson cups her breast. They climax.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Aaron's hand cups Gwen's breast. They climax.

BACK TO SCENE

Gwen awakens on her back, flushed. Breathing erratic. The top buttons are undone on her pajama shirt.

She allows herself to soak in the warm pleasantness. But wait, no, something's not quite right...

This whole time, the figure of a large, demonic hand has been resting on one of her breasts, underneath her pajama top.

The hand slides down Gwen's stomach, slipping out of sight underneath the covers.

Gwen bolts out of bed. She manages her fear enough to throw off the sheets. Nothing is there.

Her feet trample Aaron's tallit that's fallen off the bed.

The SOUND of a door shutting turns her attention.

Her door is closed.

She glances at the clock on her bedside table -- "1:45AM."

She dons a robe and ties it tightly around her body. Grabs her phone and peeks into the hallway.

HALLWAY (4TH FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

The night is still.

Gwen opens her door further, allowing the light in her room to light up the rest of the dark house.

Something slinks around on the 3rd floor, casting a SHADOW on the wall.

Gwen creeps down the stairs.

HALLWAY (3RD FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

The hallway bathroom night light is on, but no one is inside.

Gwen hears a THUMP from within Benjamin's room. She throws open the door.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM (3RD FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Benjamin is in the middle of making out with SAMANTHA (18). Samantha's shirt and jacket lay on the floor. One shoe's off. She didn't get a chance to take off the other.

Embarrassed, Samantha averts her eyes and crosses her arms over her body to hide her bra from Gwen.

BENJAMIN

Gwen!

GWEN

Samantha. You shouldn't be here.

SAMANTHA

We didn't mean to wake you, Ms. Friedman.

BENJAMIN

I asked her to come over.

GWEN

We're in a middle of a mourning ceremony.

SAMANTHA

I'll go. I'm sorry.

Gwen scans the room, still on edge.

BENJAMIN

Gwen?

Samantha hasn't moved. The self-conscious teen still covers her exposed chest.

GWEN

Get dressed, Samantha. I'll see you downstairs.

Gwen leaves and shuts the door behind her.

INT. FOYER (PARLOR FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen descends the stairs.

The shiva candle is still lit from where it was left on the catchall table.

SNORING from the library. Gwen peeks inside the LIBRARY --

Miriam sleeps on the chaise lounge.

Gwen tiptoes back to the front of the house.

Dread fills her as her eyes dart to the front door --

It's open a crack.

The stairs CREAK behind her.

She slowly creeps up them, wary of every shadow.

Samantha comes down the stairs. They both are startled.

SAMANTHA

You scared me.

GWEN

You left the door unlocked.

SAMANTHA

I'm pretty sure Ben locked it. I know it's late and I shouldn't be here, but I had to see that he was okay. We--

GWEN

You can see him after all of this. Your parents will be worried sick if they find you gone at this hour. Please get home safe. You'll text Ben when you do?

SAMANTHA

I'll text him. I'm really sorry about showing up here so late.

Samantha hurries down the stairs.

Gwen freezes. She turns to look at the darkness behind her. Something MOVES in the shadows.

Oblivious, Samantha passes the shiva candle. It WHIFFS out.

SAMANTHA

Oops.

Samantha grabs the matchbox left out on the catchall table.

SAMANTHA

Ben's been taking this really hard. I wasn't trying to be disrespectful or anything, Mrs. Friedman. I know it's such a big loss for everyone.

She hears Gwen GURGLE.

SAMANTHA
Ms. Friedman...?

Samantha lights the shiva candle.

Light illuminates Gwen, still on the stairs, but her feet dangle inches off the steps.

Gwen clutches her neck, in distress. Her eyes are wide with terror, unable to cry out.

SAMANTHA
Ms. Friedman...?!

A GUST OF WIND blows the front door wide open.

Gwen's hair blows back from her face --

Revealing demonic HANDS strangling her from behind, while lifting her off the ground.

Gwen's eyes bulge as she claws at the hands around her neck.

A shadow stretches and grows out of Gwen's shadow cast on the wall. It appears human -- except for the animalistic protrusions from the sides of the face. The demon.

Samantha SCREAMS in horror.

The hands push Gwen into Samantha, knocking them to the ground. Gwen chokes as she struggles to suck air back into her lungs.

GWEN
Run!

Terrified, Samantha untangles herself and bangs into the wall as she stumbles up. She bolts out of the house.

Gwen hears a GROWL behind her.

She flicks on the light switch. The demon is gone. No shadows on the wall.

Benjamin runs down the stairs.

BENJAMIN
What's wrong?

TALIA (O.S.)
What's going on up there?

Talia shambles up from downstairs in pajamas, bleary-eyed.

Miriam peeks her head out from the library door.

MIRIAM
Why is the door open?

GWEN
Someone attacked me!

TALIA
What?!

GWEN
We have to get out of here. It's
still in this house.

BENJAMIN
Where's Sam?!

GWEN
She ran away!

Benjamin pushes past his family and heads out the door.

MIRIAM
No, don't! You'll only make it
worse!

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Benjamin hurries down the steps. Gwen stays on the stoop.

GWEN
Ben, wait!

BENJAMIN
Samantha! Samantha?

DARK LIQUID seeps out from under the cluster of plant pots,
covering the spot where Aaron jumped to his death.

Terror freezes Gwen in place. Her ears are tormented by a
high-pitched RINGING.

Slowly but surely, the liquid streaks a thin line flowing
towards Benjamin, moving under the street lamps...

To Gwen, the liquid appears to be red. Blood.

Benjamin runs out into the street, wildly calling out --

BENJAMIN
Samantha!

The streak branches off, forming a "demonic hand." Sharp digits flow over the curb and stretch out towards Benjamin...

GWEN

BEN!

Gwen rushes down the steps but slips.

Benjamin hurries back over and steps into the liquid.

Gwen GASPS. Benjamin steps through the liquid unharmed.

Gwen looks back at the pots. The drip watering system connected to the pots is off set. Water leaks onto the cement surrounding the pots. No blood, just water.

Gwen smothers Benjamin in a terrified embrace. She steers him back toward the townhouse.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER - (PARLOR FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen ushers Benjamin inside. She runs around gathering her coat, purse, keys, etc.

GWEN

We all need to get out of here.

TALIA

And go where?

GWEN

Your place. We'll all fit in Aaron's car.

Miriam pushes Gwen out of the way and locks the door.

MIRIAM

No one must leave this house during shiva!

GWEN

Are you insane? Someone attacked me. Someone or something is here!

BENJAMIN

Something?

MIRIAM

It will be worse for us if we falter in upholding our faith! Unless there is something you're not telling us, Gwen?

GWEN

No!

MIRIAM

Then what did you see last night in the mirror?

GWEN

I... In the mirror. Something with three faces. I thought I imagined it. That it was because I wasn't sleeping but...

Miriam pales.

MIRIAM

What have you done to bring a demon here?

BENJAMIN

A demon?!

TALIA

Ima, come on. You're scaring Ben.

BENJAMIN

I'm *not* scared. She sounds *insane*! Did Samantha see anything? My phone...

Benjamin leaves to head upstairs, but Gwen pulls him back.

GWEN

No! You are not setting one foot on those stairs. We're leaving!

MIRIAM

Evil is strongest when people shun their virtues. He is here for a reason.

GWEN

Then go pray and get him to leave. But I'm not staying another second in this house--

Miriam SLAPS Gwen, shocking everyone! Gwen lifts her hand to her stinging cheek.

MIRIAM

No! You must pray! Pray for forgiveness for whatever it is you've done to bring him here.

GWEN
Ben. Get in the car.

BENJAMIN
But--

GWEN
Now.

Benjamin heads outside.

GWEN
Talialia? You coming?

Talia jerks with a start. She has her keys in hand.

TALIA
Ima? We'll come back in time for
the visiting hours...

Miriam's chin quivers, but she remains resolute. She tightly clutches her Hamsa hand pendant.

Talia walks out the door with Gwen.

INT. AARON'S CAR - NIGHT

Gwen sits in the driver's seat. Talialia in the passenger and Benjamin in the backseat.

GWEN
Everyone buckled up?

TALIA
Gwen.

Talia points. Miriam trudges up the sidewalk to the car.

EXT. TALIALIA'S APARTMENT COMPLEX - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The weary four enter the upscale two-bedroom apartment, touching the mezuzah upon entry.

Talia rushes to tidy up. Her apartment is a disheveled mess of hobbies -- knitting, painting, reading, etc. All the mirrors are already covered.

TALIA
Obviously I wasn't expecting
company.

Miriam moves aside a violin and plants herself on a large wingback chair.

MIRIAM

I'll stay up and keep a lookout. I won't let anyone hurt this family. B'ezrat HaShem.

BENJAMIN

You all sound crazy.

Benjamin barges into another room.

GWEN

Ben...

MIRIAM

Get some sleep, Gwen. You will need your rest.

TALIA

We all do.

Talia rubs her tired eyes and heads to her bedroom.

Gwen lies on the couch and covers herself with a blanket.

INT. TALIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

A shadow passes over Gwen's face. Gwen wakes from a restless sleep, coughing. Can't seem to clear her throat.

Miriam's fallen asleep in the chair. A large KNIFE gleams on her lap.

Gwen tiptoes to --

TALIA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

And pours herself some water. She gulps it down, but the irritation in her throat remains.

Faint light comes from the hallway.

TALIA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gwen takes her glass of water with her and investigates. A door's ajar in the hall. She opens it.

INT. TALIA'S APARTMENT - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Benjamin's glued to Talia's computer. The glow from the computer lights the room. He's logged into Instagram.

BENJAMIN

Samantha's not talking to me! You really freaked her out!

GWEN

Did you explain to her what happened?

BENJAMIN

Of course not! How am I supposed to without sounding like a psycho? I didn't see what happened to you and you can't explain it either!

GWEN

What's important is she's safe, honey, and you are too.

BENJAMIN

Stop acting like you suddenly care so much, Gwen.

GWEN

That hurts, Ben. I do care, very much.

(beat)

You know, at any point you feel like it, you can call me "Mom."

BENJAMIN

Really? You bring this up now?

GWEN

Two years is enough time, isn't it?

Benjamin rolls his eyes.

GWEN

I'm just throwing it out there. I love you, Ben. I haven't said that enough to you or your father and I want to change that.

BENJAMIN

Seems a little late at this point, don't you think?

Benjamin shakes his head, pissed.

GWEN
 You know, it's okay if you're
 hurting. We all are.

Benjamin eases up.

Gwen kisses the top of his head and leaves Benjamin alone.

INT. TALIA'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Gwen shuts the door to the office. Coughs again.

Miriam stands in the hallway. She was listening in. She hides the knife behind her back.

MIRIAM
 Let me talk to him.

The two women stare each other down before Gwen nods.

GWEN
 Wait.

Gwen holds her hand out for the knife.

Miriam hands over the knife then slips into the office, closing the door behind her.

INT. TALIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Gwen slides the knife back into the knife block. She refills her glass of water and pads back into the --

INT. TALIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gwen sits on the couch. She drinks more water to help her scratchy throat.

Her eyes widen in alarm as she chokes and coughs. She sets her glass down and digs her fingers into her mouth.

Gwen pulls out a clump of coarse, RAM HAIR.

She bolts up from the couch and accidentally backs into a table, knocking over crafts and a stuffed animal bear.

Gwen gags and regurgitates a wet mass of slimy wool into the palm of her hand.

A SHADOW falls over her. Gwen turns with a start but only finds Miriam in the hall doorway.

Miriam hurries over and steadies Gwen to keep her from falling. Miriam inspects the clump of inhuman hair.

MIRIAM

Now do you believe me? It's not the house he haunts, it's the people.

GWEN

How? How do you know that? Who is haunting me?

MIRIAM

That depends on what you've done. What this evil was attracted to in the first place.

GWEN

How do I get it to go away?

MIRIAM

We must go back. Visitors are coming for shiva.

Gwen crushes a pillow into her body and bites back a scream. Miriam softens.

MIRIAM

Aaron collected many books which mentioned the evils that can walk among us. I imagine they would be in his library. They may help you find a way to rid yourself of this evil. Certainly now you must realize running from your problems solves nothing.

The floor CREAKS.

Benjamin and Talia stand in the hallway, on edge.

MIRIAM

I was just about to come wake you.

Gwen puts items back into place. She reaches for the stuffed bear. The bear has text sewn on its chest --

"OUR LITTLE HANNAH - August 12th, 2017"

Talia rushes over and takes the bear from Gwen. She tenderly pets the stuffed animal and sets it back on the table.

TALIA

I'll go get my things.

Gwen gives her a look of sympathy, but Talia ignores her and ducks out of sight.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAWN

The car parks on the street. Gwen, Talia, Miriam, and Benjamin get out, looking even worse for the wear.

Gwen unlocks the door and they file in, touching the mezuzah.

Gwen touches the mezuzah longer than she ever has. Her fingers press to her lips.

With a shaky breath, she steps inside.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Gwen shuts and locks the door. Benjamin and Talia head to their rooms to nap.

MIRIAM

We have a few hours before visitors arrive.

GWEN

Can you ask any of them to bring some tranquilizers?

Miriam doesn't smile.

MIRIAM

You never did offer any answers as to why a demon would be after you.

GWEN

You suddenly seem to know a lot about demons. Did you have a run-in with one yourself?

MIRIAM

My sins are past me. Yours still need to be reckoned with.

Gwen shakes her head and drags her feet up the stairs.

HALLWAY (4TH FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen reaches the top floor and glances down.

Miriam stares up at her from the foyer. She hasn't moved.

Unnerved, Gwen quickens her pace.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - DAWN

Gwen closes her door. She's out of breath. She squeezes her eyes shut and tries to regain some sense of calm.

She stares at her bed. Refuses to go near it.

Gwen drapes Aaron's prayer shawl around her shoulders. She slides down to the floor and buries her head in her arms.

INT. AARON'S OFFICE - MORNING

Gwen tidies Aaron's desk area, already dressed for shiva.

She tosses bits of broken picture frame glass into the trash bin. She takes the wedding photo out of the broken frame.

Refusing to dwell, Gwen strides to a table displaying other family pictures. She pulls open a drawer -- a storage space for photos without frames. She deposits the photo in there.

MIRIAM (O.S.)

What are you doing?

Startled, Gwen turns. Miriam enters holding a large, old book. She takes note of Aaron's desk.

MIRIAM

You were cleaning.

GWEN

I know. Not allowed. I'm sorry. I couldn't stand seeing Aaron's office like this. He was always so neat.

Miriam withholds her sharp tongue. Instead, she's drawn to the pictures Gwen's standing in front of.

Miriam's eyes linger over a photo of herself pregnant in her 20s sitting with her HUSBAND beside another married couple.

The woman sitting next to Miriam is her best friend, Rebecca, *the same woman from the opening scene.*

Miriam picks the frame up. Her fingers graze over the photo.

MIRIAM

I was pregnant with Aaron when this photo was taken. I'm the only one still alive in this photo.

Miriam points at the photo.

MIRIAM

That's my husband Simon and my best friend Rebecca. We lost her not long after this photo was taken.

GWEN

So young.

MIRIAM

Yes. She leapt off the bridge a couple of months after her mother passed.

GWEN

Miriam, I'm so sorry.

Miriam gazes sadly at Rebecca but stops when she notices Gwen studying her.

She clears her throat and sets the old book on the table.

MIRIAM

I found this in the library. It might be of some use to you.

Gwen's hands brush over the old book. It's the same book she knocked over while adjusting the sheet in the library.

MIRIAM

Guests will be arriving shortly.

GWEN

Thank you for finding it for me.

Miriam ushers Gwen out.

Miriam's about to flicks off the lights when she sees an envelope beside the trash bin. Marked with the letter "G."

INT. HALLWAY (4TH FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen walks down the stairs. She doesn't notice Miriam hasn't come out of Aaron's office.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - DAY

SUPER: Day 4 of shiva

The candle is a little more than halfway burned down.

Visitors mingle and pay their respects.

Gwen sits in her shiva chair. Sans makeup, the bags under her eyes from lack of sleep are painfully obvious. Her scarf's tied tight around her head.

Benjamin sits on a shiva chair, eyes red. He's furiously texting on his phone, ignoring everyone around him.

Miriam sits on a shiva chair and talks with Ezra and Uri, who sit on the couch. They finally get a smile out of her.

URI

... You still think he has it?

MIRIAM

That would be funny if he did after all these years. I'll check later.

Even as she says this, her smile wobbles. Tears spring to her eyes. Uri hands her a tissue.

A look of discomfort crosses Ezra's face.

EZRA

Uh, excuse me.

He hastens out of the room.

A few other guests look sweaty with pallid complexions. They set down their half-eaten food plates on a side table.

Gwen pulls out her phone and text messages Hudson --

Is Kaitlyn there? I thought she was going to visit today...

A little bubble with three dots pops up on her screen followed by Hudson's response --

Client placed a last minute order. Want me to bring something?

Gwen's thumb hovers over her phone, deciding how to reply.

Miriam scowls, furious to see Gwen with her phone.

MIRIAM

Gwen.

GWEN

I thought my friend Kaitlyn was going to come by.

MIRIAM

There are plenty of others here to mourn with you.

Gwen nods and places her phone back in her pocket. Miriam swallows hard, about to speak --

When Ben bolts up from his seat, distraught.

MIRIAM

Benjamin.

Ben ignores her and storms over to Gwen.

BENJAMIN

Samantha just broke up with me!

GWEN

Ben... I'm sorry. I know how much you like her, but--

BENJAMIN

I'm not asking for your advice.

Benjamin sulks out of the living room.

Gwen stays in her chair.

Talia eats while seated in her own chair. She eats the last piece of challah bread Gwen baked.

TALIA

(to Gwen)

You baked this perfectly. You should be proud.

GWEN

Thank you. I just followed the recipe.

TALIA

You put your heart into it. My husband loved when I made Ima's challah, but he swore eating my babka was a religious experience in and of itself.

(pantomiming chef's kiss)

He'd say Talia, you bake better than all the wives in Brooklyn combined!

(MORE)

TALIA (CONT'D)

(smile fading)

But that was a long time ago. I
know it's of little comfort, but
there's still food if you want it.

As if on cue, the Shiva Server presents Gwen with the tray of delicious-looking sandwiches already half-empty.

Gwen reaches for a sandwich but pauses.

One of the sandwiches had a hole through the middle of it.

She picks up the sandwich. It's very old. The bread crusts in her hands. She lifts up the bread --

MAGGOTS crawl over rotten meat and toppings. All of the sandwiches now look putrid.

She jolts up and overturns the tray. It crashes to the floor.

Sandwiches roll onto the carpet. Guests also notice the rotten sandwiches. They murmur, confused and alarmed.

Ezra enters the room and RETCHES into a potted plant.

TALIA

What's going on?

Shiva guests clutch their stomachs in distress and dry heave.

A couple of other guests hurry off to the bathroom, unable to control their nausea. One VOMITS on the carpet.

A WOMAN SCREAMS. Guests flee the living room in droves.

Gwen stays rooted to the floor as the nightmare plays out before her in slow motion.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY - LATER

Hudson slows his pace as he nears the townhouse. He takes in the panicked shiva attendees fleeing out to the street.

An AMBULANCE pulls up in front of the townhouse. EMTs assist a severely sickened shiva attendee.

Gwen sits on the porch steps, shell-shocked.

Hudson runs up to her.

HUDSON

Gwen? Are you alright?

GWEN

One minute everything was fine and then they got sick...

HUDSON

Hey, listen, don't get mad at Kaitlyn, but I asked her to let me take care of things for you so I picked these up.

Hudson takes out a prescription bag from his jacket. On the bag is a printed receipt for the patient -- G. FRIEDMAN.

Gwen shakes her head.

GWEN

I doubt those will make a difference anymore.

Miriam appears in the doorway.

MIRIAM

Gwen? What are you doing out here? Get back inside!

Gwen retreats inside the townhouse.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Hudson follows in behind Gwen, still carrying Gwen's prescription. Miriam eyes him, wary.

MIRIAM

(re: Hudson)
Gwen, who is this?

GWEN

This is my boss, Hudson.

HUDSON

(re: Gwen's prescription)
I was dropping this off when I heard what happened.

MIRIAM

Hudson.

Gwen's eyes widen in horror as Miriam takes AARON'S SUICIDE LETTER out of her pocket.

MIRIAM

I found this in Aaron's desk this morning.

Miriam angrily waves the letter on the catchall table.

MIRIAM

You thought you could hide the truth?! How could you betray Aaron?

GWEN

Miriam, we can discuss this later in private.

Talia exits the powder room, supported by Benjamin. Her face is pale. She clutches her stomach.

BENJAMIN

Do you need to go to the hospital?

TALIA

I'm okay. The one bite I had didn't manage to stay down long.

BENJAMIN

Who brought the sandwiches?

GWEN

My friend Kaitlyn ordered them to be delivered. We always have them at the office.

BENJAMIN

Have you called the restaurant?

GWEN

Not yet.

HUDSON

I know the place. I can call. I could also reach out to the health department if you want them to look into this.

MIRIAM

You have done quite enough.

GWEN

(to Miriam)

We should postpone shiva until things are sorted out.

MIRIAM

Absolutely not! We are going to see this through to honor Aaron.

GWEN

Our guests were fed rotting food,
Miriam. We can still honor Aaron
even if we suspend shiva until--

MIRIAM

I said *no!* We will lock the door,
but we are seeing shiva through.
Aaron deserves that much. *You* broke
shiva. *You* put this family at risk.
Staying in line with tradition is
the only way to stave off Ashmedai.

HUDSON

Ashmedai?

GWEN

That's his name?

MIRIAM

(to Hudson)

A demon can invade a home during
shiva when traditions are broken.

(to Gwen)

Now knowing your sin, I know the
name of the evil plaguing you.

HUDSON

Can we be real for a minute? Hate
crimes are rising in this country.
Have you considered that is the
reason? Or that the restaurant made
a mistake. If you just wait a sec I
can call--

BENJAMIN

Who is this guy?

GWEN

Ben, you should stay at Aunt
Talía's house until all of this is
sorted out.

BENJAMIN

Don't act like you're my mother
because you're *not!*

TALIA

Ben, you should listen to Gwen.

BENJAMIN

(to Talía)

Bubbe isn't leaving. I'm sitting
shiva with her.

MIRIAM

Because you were raised right.

GWEN

Now is not the time to play hero,
Ben. I don't know what I'm dealing
with. This is dangerous.

Benjamin's anger boils over.

BENJAMIN

Stop treating me like a child!

HUDSON

Hey, easy, easy--

BENJAMIN

Stay out of it whoever the fuck you
are!

MIRIAM

Were you ever going to be honest
with us, Gwen?

GWEN

Eventually... When things had
quieted down.

MIRIAM

You can lie to us, but you cannot
lie to the evil you brought into
this house. It knows your secrets.
Even those you wish to ignore.

TALIA

Ima, please, Gwen's been through
enough. Let's all just take a deep
breath. Emotions are running high.

MIRIAM

You don't know what you started
with your affair. If anything can
save you now it is prayer.

Benjamin turns on Gwen, reeling from the reveal.

BENJAMIN

You cheated on Dad?

Gwen can't find her voice.

A twinge of regret flits across Miriam's face.

Benjamin rushes out of the room.

GWEN
Ben, please...

Talia's hurt eyes meet Gwen's.

GWEN
Talia, things were complicated.

TALIA
They usually are.

Talia leaves the room and follows after Ben.

Hudson attempts to comfort Gwen, but Gwen deflects.

GWEN
I'll be in the office next week.

HUDSON
We're looking forward to having you
back... after all of this.

Hudson avoids Miriam's glare and opens the door.

GWEN
Wait.

Hudson turns back, hopeful.

Gwen takes his coat off the rack and offers it to him.

GWEN
You left this last time.

HUDSON
Right. Be careful, Gwen.

Hudson grabs his coat and sulks out.

MIRIAM
How long has it been going on?
Wait, I don't want to know. If only
I had known what Aaron was going
through! I could have--

GWEN
Done nothing! Just like you always
did. Even when I asked for your
help, all you did was enable him!

MIRIAM
That was for gambling. But this...
What you've done...

GWEN

All I have left are apologies and regrets. I had no one to turn to. You shut me out. Aaron shut me out. Hudson didn't.

Miriam stands there, not offering Gwen a word of comfort.

GWEN

Please excuse me while I break the rules again and clean up. There are sandwiches rotting on my floor.

Gwen grabs a trash bag and paper towels and leaves the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gwen's nose wrinkles as she deposits the rest of the rotten sandwiches into the trash bag as she tries not to gag.

She pauses to stand and gulp in fresh air.

The shiva candle flickers on the windowsill. She stares at it, worried.

INT. AARON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gwen returns to the book Miriam found for her. She also scans a nearby shelf of old books and pulls out a couple more.

As Gwen gathers up her book stack, her eyes catch on the photo of Miriam with her friends in her youth.

She scrutinizes Miriam's friend, Rebecca.

Rebecca wears the same Hamsa pendant Miriam currently wears!

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen sits in bed. She pores over Aaron's old book of BIBLICAL DEMONOLOGY.

She scans the page showing the image of the hairy demon. Keeps flipping. She stops abruptly on a familiar image --

The symbol carved on her wall.

There's another image below the symbol --

An image of a painting matching the figure in the mirror.

ASHMEDAI: The Demon of Lust

The text reads: *Ashmedai is known to prey on lustful women. He seeks to claim their souls for all eternity.*

Gwen flips through pages of paintings of Ashmedai tempting lovers. Other paintings depict him in orgies with humans.

Some images of orgies are dark and violent, but each one depicts Ashmedai deriving great pleasure. He stands out among the humans as a three-headed demon with a serpent's tail.

Disturbed, Gwen shoves the book to the side of the bed.

Her bedroom door CREAKS as it opens.

Gwen glances at the door, with baited breath in the dark.

It's Hudson. He creeps into the room.

GWEN

Hudson! What are you doing here?!

HUDSON

Before you blow a gasket, just hear me out. I had to see you.

GWEN

So you broke into my house?

HUDSON

You gave me a key, remember? When Aaron and Ben went camping...

Gwen's face furrows with guilt.

HUDSON

Sorry. Uh, here.

Hudson hands her the spare key to the house.

HUDSON

Any more maggoty sandwiches? I told Kaitlyn. She feels awful about it.

GWEN

It wasn't her fault.

HUDSON

The restaurant denied any negligence on their part.

GWEN

This sounds like something that could've been discussed in a call or text, Hudson. Look, we're fine.

(beat)

I think Kaitlyn knows about us.

HUDSON

Now it seems everyone knows.

He sits on the bed and laces his fingers with hers. Gwen gently pulls her hand away.

GWEN

Hudson, stop. We need to talk about this.

HUDSON

Then let's talk. I can't help but feel you've been avoiding me.

Hudson touches her upper arm. Gwen winces in pain.

HUDSON

What? What did I do?

Gwen lifts her pajama sleeve to reveal her nasty bruise.

HUDSON

How the hell did you get this?

GWEN

It was there when I woke up.

HUDSON

Did someone grab you?

GWEN

... Ashmedai, I suppose.

HUDSON

You don't really believe that nonsense, do you? Are they treating you okay, Gwen? If they're not, you can tell me. Don't keep quiet if--

GWEN

Something I can't explain is happening. But I feel like I'm to blame for it.

HUDSON

Gwen--

He reaches for her again. Gwen shies away from his touch, distancing herself from Hudson.

HUDSON

You're conflicted about us. Hell, I was too. But it happened and like addicts we kept coming back for more.

Gwen offers Hudson a sad smile. She reaches for his hand and gives it a small reassuring squeeze.

GWEN

I'm gonna check on Ben. Please go before anyone else finds you here.

She hurries out.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - HALLWAY (3RD FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen tiptoes to Benjamin's room. She opens the door and pokes her head in.

INT. BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM (3RD FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Talia is in Benjamin's bed fast asleep.

Benjamin sleeps on an air mattress beside the bed.

HALLWAY (3RD FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen quietly closes Benjamin's bedroom door.

SCRITCH, SCRITCH. The noise is coming from downstairs.

Gwen descends the STAIRCASE --

FOYER

It's quiet. The library door is closed. The lit shiva candle on the catchall table flickers, threatening to whiff out.

Gwen's ears are alerted to SCRITCHING. Coming from the living room...

LIVING ROOM

Gwen creeps closer to the covered mirror, drawn in to it. She can't look away.

The SCRITCHING stops.

A chunk of mirror glass falls down from behind the shroud. It clatters face up on the serving table.

Something dark flits across the fragmented glass.

Gwen hastily flips over the shard to the back side, so it doesn't show any reflection.

Gwen stares at the covered mirror. She licks her lips and speaks in a hoarse whisper.

GWEN

What do you want?

(beat)

Please... If you're there... I'm ending it... I know you now...

Gwen waits for a response. None comes.

GWEN

... I didn't realize--

The shroud flies off the mirror and engulfs Gwen's face!

Before she can scream --

A FORCE SHOVES HER AGAINST THE WALL, knocking the air out of her lungs. She tries to cough but cannot find her voice.

Her feet dangle and kick inches off the floor.

A CLAWED HAND encircles her throat.

Gwen can't see what's behind her, pressing her into the wall. The shroud constricts tighter over her face and neck.

The other clawed hand slides up her thigh and dips its gnarled digits down past the waistband of her pajama bottoms.

Gwen fights but gets nowhere.

Saliva drips down onto the exposed skin of her neck.

A light comes on in the foyer.

The being (Ashmedai) pressing Gwen into the wall vanishes.

Gwen crumples to the floor. She tears the shroud off and casts it away. Her chest heaves, desperately gasping for air.

Miriam appears, clutching the Hamsa pendant.

It's just her and Gwen in the living room.

Gwen's eyes are wild. Her hand protects her throat.

GWEN
(trembling)
Wh... where...

Her fingers touch the stringy saliva on her neck. Horror fills her eyes.

Hudson comes down the stairs and enters the living room.

HUDSON
Gwen?

MIRIAM
You poor girl... Now do you
understand? Having that man here
only increases his power over you.

Gwen shies away from the exposed mirror, which is cracked near the bottom. She runs upstairs. Hudson follows.

HALLWAY (4TH FLOOR)

Gwen trips as she makes it to the top of the stairs. Hudson tries to help her up.

HUDSON
Gwen?! What happened?

Gwen pushes him aside and slams the door shut.

MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen locks the door and backs away from it. She sinks to her hands and knees and dissolves into tears.

HALLWAY (4TH FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Hudson resists knocking. He peers down the landing. Miriam looks up at him from the parlor floor foyer.

MIRIAM
If you were ever welcome in this
house, you're not anymore.

HUDSON
 (calling out)
 What's really going on here? If
 anyone hurts her--

MIRIAM
 That's between you and him.

HUDSON
 (sotto)
 Crazy bitch.
 (to Miriam)
 Fine. I'll go.

Hudson trudges down the stairs.

FOYER

Hudson catches sight of Ashmedai's symbol carved into the wall. Disturbed, he stalks out the door.

Miriam ensures the door is locked behind him.

LIVING ROOM

She hastens to cover the cracked mirror with the shroud.

She touches the wall as she clutches her Hamsa pendant. Her mouth moves silently in prayer.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Lights on, Gwen frantically roots around in the nightstand on Aaron's side of the bed. She finds what she's looking for:

Aaron's BOOK OF PSALMS.

She already has the Biblical Demonology book with her. She opens the book of psalms to a prayer for protection and begins to chant softly under her breath.

Gwen wraps Aaron's prayer shawl around herself.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM (4TH FLOOR) - MORNING

Gwen, still in pajamas and wrapped in the tallit. The book's still in her hands. She mumbles the prayer, half-asleep.

She hears BIRDSONG outside. She stumbles to her feet.

SUPER: Day 5 of shiva

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER (PARLOR FLOOR) - DAY

Gwen rushes downstairs, clutching the books to her chest.

She knocks on the library door.

Miriam opens it, calm. She's already dressed.

GWEN

We can't have anymore guests
getting hurt. The demon, he'll--

MIRIAM

Ashmedai has already chosen his
target.

GWEN

I'll take Ben and we'll finish
shiva somewhere else. We'll go to
temple and--

MIRIAM

We've been over this. You run an
even greater risk breaking the
mourning tradition.

(re: Demonology book)

Surely in that book you've read
about the evil?

Gwen stands there, stunned. No way out. She looks at the
Hamsa pendant around Miriam's neck.

GWEN

Your friend in the photo? That's
her necklace, isn't it? How did it
come to you?

An old wound registers on Miriam's face.

MIRIAM

We don't have time for this.

GWEN

No. Tell me now. What happened to
her? Why did she jump?

Miriam caves, relinquishing the past.

MIRIAM

I tried to help Rebecca, but after that night, nothing I did could save her.

GWEN

What night?

MIRIAM

Ashmedai came for her. To punish those who dabble in his domain of lust. And his punishment was too much for her to bear.

GWEN

I won't let him get me.

MIRIAM

We all atone, one way or another. If you believe in demons, then you must believe in God. He's given us traditions to uphold. He has the power to save us. We are meek, not helpless.

Gwen nods.

MIRIAM

I wear Rebecca's necklace everyday to remind myself.

GWEN

Remind yourself what?

MIRIAM

We can never outrun our mistakes. All we can do is pray for guidance so we can avoid repeating them.

(clearing her throat)

Go now, get dressed. I'll meet you in the living room.

GWEN

Miriam...

(Miriam turns to Gwen)

Could you go over the mourner's Kaddish with me? I want to make sure I pronounce it correctly.

Miriam offers Gwen a small smile and nods.

MIRIAM

Of course. Be strong, dear.

Miriam shuts the door.

Gwen gazes at the living room with great trepidation. She heads back upstairs.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Miriam clutches her pendant and wipes away her tears.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - DAY

Dressed, Gwen sits in a shiva chair next to Miriam and recites the mourner's Kaddish.

Next to Gwen is Aaron's book of psalms. As Gwen recites, her eyes keep flitting to the covered mirror. Her hands shake.

GWEN

(mispronouncing)

... *Y'hei shlama raba min-sh'maya
v'chayim aleinu--*

MIRIAM

(correcting her)

Min-sh'may v'chayim.

GWEN

*Y'hei shlama raba min-sh'maya
v'chayim aleinu
v'al-kol-yisrael, v'im'ru: "amen."
Oseh shalom bimromav--*

MIRIAM

(correcting her)

Oseh shalom bimromav.

GWEN

*Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh
shalom aleinu
v'al kol-yisrael, v'imru: "amen."*

MIRIAM

Amen.

Miriam points to a section in the mourner's Kaddish.

MIRIAM

And there written out are the translations. So you can know what it says in Hebrew.

GWEN

Thank you.

Miriam notes the book of psalms in Gwen's hands.

MIRIAM

Where did you find that?

GWEN

My bedroom. It's a book Aaron read from time to time. It's full of prayers and readings.

MIRIAM

I know. I gave it to him.

GWEN

I figured, if a demon has come for me, you can't say I didn't put in the effort to be ready for it.

MIRIAM

I hope this isn't a game to you.

GWEN

Of course not. If you hadn't come out last night, I don't know if I... It wants something from me.

MIRIAM

You. Just you.

Gwen tries to hide her look of horror but is unable to. Her knuckles turn white as she clings to Aaron's book.

GWEN

There's advice in here about overcoming fear. There's still time for me to learn. I can't just give up. That's never been my style.

MIRIAM

Aaron always admired that about you.

GWEN

After this is over... Could the four of us go to Shabbat together? The seventh day of shiva ends on a Saturday, so I thought that would be a nice thing for us to do.

MIRIAM

That does sound lovely.

Miriam gifts Gwen with a soft smile and heads to the kitchen.
 Gwen drinks from a glass of water on the coffee table.
 A piece of shed, SERPENT SKIN (exuviae) floats in her cup.
 She spits out the water and covers her mouth, traumatized.
 Gwen buries her head in Aaron's book and reads.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gwen sits on the couch, reading Aaron's book of Psalms.

GWEN
 (reading aloud)
 "Blessed is the one
 whose transgressions are forgiven,
 whose sins are covered."

Gwen attempts the Psalm in Hebrew.

GWEN
 (uneven, shaky)
 "... ledhâvidh maskiyl 'ashrêy
 nesuy-pesha` kesuy chathâ'âh..."

She rubs her eyes, exhausted.

Aaron lies on the floor. Blood slicks his head which is cracked open from his suicide jump.

This time though, Aaron gets up to sit beside Gwen.

Gwen stiffens in her seat. Her breathing intensifies. She squeezes her eyes shut and tries to push past this moment.

GWEN
 You're not real. You're not here.

Aaron remains by her side. His eyes never leave her.

GWEN
 I'm so sorry, Aaron.
 (beat)
 Are you angry at me?

Aaron brushes his hand up Gwen's arm. Gwen shudders.

AARON
 Don't worry about me.

GWEN
I sent Hudson away. The demon's
here because of him. Ashm--

AARON
(sternly)
Don't say his name.

Gwen falls silent.

AARON
You drew him here.

GWEN
How do I make him leave?

AARON
You've made your choices, Gwen.
He'll decide your punishment. Be
strong and bear it.

GWEN
No! There's still time. I can
change. Aaron, I'm so sorry for
everything. I love you--

AARON
Don't open the door.

GWEN
What?

KNOCK, KNOCK! On the front door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Gwen wakes with a start. She fell asleep on the couch. The book falls onto the floor.

KNOCK, KNOCK. Again, from the front door.

Aaron has disappeared. Gwen jolts up from the couch.

TALIA (O.S.)
Someone's at the door.

Gwen darts to the --

FOYER

Gwen bypasses Talia and peers through the peephole.

GWEN
(to Talia)
Can you give me a moment? Please?

Talia relents. She heads to the library and closes the door.

She puts her hand on the doorknob. Pauses. Gwen pushes her doubt aside and opens the door.

Hudson strides in without an invitation, carrying a lock box. Gwen shuts the door.

Hudson notes Gwen's flushed cheeks. Sweat beads her brow.

GWEN
Hudson, what are you doing here?!

HUDSON
I know it's rough dealing with Aaron's mom and all that, but you need me. You're scared. I can see it in your eyes.

GWEN
I'll call you if I need you.

HUDSON
Gwen, please let me help. I can protect you.

GWEN
You don't have to do that.
(suspicious)
What's in the box?

Hudson shows her the keys to the box before stuffing them back in his pocket.

HUDSON
A buddy of mine is Jewish. He wore the yarmulke to synagogue and got jumped one day. Beaten senseless. I confirmed with the police that there's been a rise in hate crimes. This isn't whatever supernatural bullshit Miriam's been spoon-feeding you.

Hudson pulls back the coats, revealing the symbol carved into the wall.

HUDSON
Those kind of people won't stop with just poisoning food.
(MORE)

HUDSON (CONT'D)

They'll keep pushing as long as they can get away with it. You gotta fight fire with fire.

GWEN

(angry whisper)
So you brought a gun into my house?!

Miriam and Talia emerge out of the Library.

MIRIAM

What is the meaning of this?

HUDSON

(ignoring her, to Gwen)
You need to prove to them you're not an easy target. That you won't go down without a fight.

GWEN

Hate crimes are the least of my concerns right now, Hudson.

HUDSON

Your time's better spent safeguarding your home than praying and completing some ritual. Every time you open that door for guests, you're leaving yourself open to an attack.

GWEN

You're wrong. You don't understand--

HUDSON

I'm staying Gwen. No one's gonna mess with you now.

Hudson marches down the stairs.

GWEN

Hudson!

TALIA

He has a gun? Did I hear him correctly? Should we call the police?

MIRIAM

Shiva visitors are arriving in thirty minutes. They'll be driven away.

GWEN

Let Hudson stay out of sight down in the rec room. He's convinced what's happening is something else entirely.

TALIA

Him bringing a gun in here will *not* make things any better.

GWEN

Maybe he can protect us?

TALIA

Men always think they know what's best, but they don't! We're trying to help you!

MIRIAM

Talia, calm down.

Talia reigns in another outburst.

TALIA

I'm sorry. Excuse me.

Talia heads downstairs. Miriam chastises Gwen.

MIRIAM

You know you are wrong. You're making a terrible choice, Gwen.

Off Gwen's unease --

CUT TO:

INT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - DAY

SUPER: Day 6 of shiva

Miriam and Gwen sit side by side on the low shiva chairs. A much smaller amount of visitors mill about for shiva.

Miriam pipes up to Gwen.

MIRIAM

There aren't enough men to perform the minyan. We need at least ten.

Gwen scans the room. Currently, only seven men in attendance.

GWEN

Given the way our last gathering ended, I can see why.

Miriam fidgets, dismayed. Gwen shoots another nervous look at the covered mirror. Nothing stirs.

GWEN

Ezra and Uri will come. They were so close to Aaron.

Soft KNOCKS on the front door. Gwen excuses herself.

FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Gwen meets up with Talia, who is posted by the front door to screen all guests. Talia coolly regards Gwen.

Talia opens the door and allows Uri to enter.

TALIA

Sorry, we can't keep the door unlocked anymore.

GWEN

Where is Ezra?

URI

He still wasn't feeling well. He'll be fine, but, well, you understand. He sends his best to you and the family.

GWEN

I appreciate it. Thank you. I hope he recovers quickly.

Uri joins everyone else in the living room.

TALIA

I don't think anyone else is coming. We won't have enough men.

Gwen weighs her options.

INT. BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM (3RD FLOOR) - DAY

Benjamin lies on his bed staring up at the ceiling. Gwen KNOCKS and enters his room.

GWEN

Benjamin, can you come downstairs
for the minyan?

Benjamin turns away from Gwen.

GWEN

Remember what Uncle Ezra said about
you being your father's light?
Please, Ben. Do it for your father.

Benjamin's face softens.

INT. REC ROOM (GARDEN FLOOR) - DAY

Hudson scrolls on his phone, alone. Gwen comes over to him.

GWEN

I need your help with something.

HUDSON

Sure, what--

Gwen hurries out, neglecting to explain. Concerned, Hudson
follows Gwen up the STAIRS to the --

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Benjamin is already in the room. Gwen smiles at him. She
proudly heads over to Miriam and Talia.

GWEN

We can perform the minyan now.

MIRIAM

We still don't have enough.

GWEN

I count ten.

Miriam counts. Her eyes land on Hudson.

MIRIAM

No.

TALIA

Why do you keep relying on him?

GWEN

He's willing to help.

MIRIAM

He does not follow our faith.

GWEN

But he can say the words.

MIRIAM

You are playing with fire, Gwen.

GWEN

Aaron took the time to teach me about his heritage. If I don't count for an Orthodox minyan because I'm a woman then you have to compromise somewhere else.

TALIA

I hate to say it, Ima, but she has a point.

Miriam fixes her jaw.

GWEN

No one else is coming, Miriam.

Gwen looks around at the nervous faces of the visitors.

GWEN

We are honored you all have come here to remember Aaron with us. It wasn't a burden for me to adopt a religion that wasn't my own because Aaron was patient in teaching me. He was a great man, father, and husband.

Gwen's averts her eyes away from Hudson.

GWEN

He endeavored to instill centuries of culture and history within me that I'm just beginning to grasp.

Gwen stares at the lit shiva candle on the windowsill.

GWEN

When I reflect on what he taught me, and what past generations have endured, the word that stands out to me most is "resilience." I have entered a community of some of the most resilient people in the world.

(MORE)

GWEN (CONT'D)

I wish Aaron could see you all
standing here with us to remember
him.

Hudson shifts, uncomfortable, feeling Benjamin's and Miriam's
silent wrath.

URI

Thank you, Gwen. On the day of your
wedding, we welcomed you into our
family and today we promise to
still be here for you.

Uri motions and everyone gathers around Gwen in a circle.
Gwen sits in her shiva chair.

Unsure, Hudson joins hands as part of the minyan.

URI

Please repeat after me. "May God
comfort you among the mourners of
Zion and Jerusalem."

ALL MEN EXCEPT HUDSON

"May God comfort you among the
mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

URI

*"HaMakom y'nachem etkhem b'tokh
sh'ar aveilei Tzion v'
Yrushalayim."*

ALL MEN EXCEPT HUDSON

"HaMakom y'nachem etkhem b'tokh..."

Hudson tries speaking Hebrew but gives up and falls silent.
He glares at Gwen.

Gwen ignores him and mouths along with the Hebrew. She turns
her attention to the shiva candle again.

A dark SHADOW lingers on the wall by the window. It stretches
under the curtains --

Where a DEMONIC ARM reaches out for the shiva candle.

GWEN

Stop!

Everyone looks at Gwen, confused.

Ashmedai's leathery fingers wave over the candle, drawing
closer to the flame...

Gwen breaks out of the circle.

HUDSON

Ow, shit!

Hudson backs away, nursing his hand. He looks at Uri, who was holding that hand.

HUDSON

You didn't feel that?

URI

Feel what?

A red, oozy BLISTER bubbles in the center of Hudson's palm.

Gwen looks at the candle. Ashmedai's arm has disappeared.

Miriam is just as surprised as Gwen, but she recovers a lot quicker with grim understanding.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - LIVING ROOM (PARLOR FLOOR) - NIGHT

The shiva candle flickers in the windowsill.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - CELLAR - NIGHT

Gwen desperately searches a tool cabinet in the dimly lit cellar. She finds what she's looking for -- a hammer.

HUDSON (O.S.)

Gwen?

Gwen jerks, startled. She holds on tight to the hammer.

Hudson appears. His hand is bandaged.

HUDSON

What are you doing?

GWEN

I need it to go away.

HUDSON

What are you doing? You're acting crazy. I brought the gun. I'll keep you safe.

GWEN

You should never have come back here. He's marked you.

She lifts his hand up.

HUDSON

What are you saying? Gwen, you're shaking.

She is. Hudson hugs her.

HUDSON

Hey, calm down. I'm here.

GWEN

No. That's why I'm in this mess. Miriam was right...

HUDSON

You've been listening to her too much with her superstitious bullshit. She's trying to scare you.

Hudson embraces her. Gwen remains tense in his arms.

HUDSON

You don't have to be scared. You don't have to hide yourself away anymore. You're free...

Hudson smooths Gwen's head scarf back, exposing her blonde hair. Gwen pushes her scarf back in place, hiding her hair.

GWEN

I'm not hiding myself, Hudson. This is who I am. Please, if you care about me, then you must go away. I must finish this on my own.

HUDSON

You're processing a lot. I respect that, I just want to be here for you.

Hudson steals a kiss from Gwen.

The light bulb lighting the cellar flares and POPS, throwing the cellar into darkness.

Movement in the darkness.

The contorted outline of the demon, Ashmedai, stalks behind Hudson. Ashmedai's serpentine tail drags across the floor.

Gwen shies away in terror and pushes Hudson away.

GWEN

He'll come for you! I don't want
you to get hurt because of me.
Leave!

Ashmedai's tail sweeps into Gwen's ankles.

Her knees slam down onto the hard, cement floor. Gwen cries
out in pain.

Hudson looks around, bewildered. Visibility limited.

HUDSON

What happened?! Gwen?

GWEN

Go. Hurry.

Gwen takes Hudson's hand and rushes with him out of the
cellar.

INT. REC ROOM (GARDEN FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen swallows the fear bubbling up inside her.

GWEN

I wish you and I never happened.
Please, Hudson! You *must* go!

Gwen throws open the garden floor door.

HUDSON

Not without you!

Hudson pulls Gwen outside.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gwen struggles, but Hudson keeps a strong grip on her.

GWEN

What are you doing? I have to stay.

HUDSON

Because that's the rule or some
shit like that?

GWEN

Hudson, let go!

Gwen STOMPS down on Hudson's foot. Pained, Hudson lets go.

Gwen scurries for the door. As Hudson nears, she spins around, wielding the hammer.

GWEN
I won't leave my family.

HUDSON
Gwen, do you see yourself? You're acting insane!

Gwen retreats into the townhouse.

INT. REC ROOM (GARDEN FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen tries to shut the door on Hudson.

But Hudson refuses to leave. He pushes his way inside. He goes over to her, concerned.

HUDSON
Gwen-- Please, I'm worried about you.

GWEN
Stay away from me! You're only making it worse.

HALLWAY (GARDEN FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen soldiers on up the stairs. Hudson is about to follow --

But he sees the door to the garden is open. SOMETHING runs in front of the outdoor flood lights.

REC ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Hudson races for the lock box on the couch and unlocks it.

The gun gleams inside. A semi-automatic pistol with a folding stock.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - FOYER - (PARLOR FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen gets up the stairs just as Benjamin comes down from his bedroom. He eyeballs the hammer in her hand.

BENJAMIN
Gwen?

GWEN
Go back to your room.

Talia and Miriam emerge from the library.

GWEN
It's here.

Miriam shrinks back in fear, clutching her pendant.

Gwen pushes past Ben and powers up the stairs.

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Hudson clutches the gun as he prowls the garden.

HUDSON
(low, to himself)
Where are you...

The sound of a bull's HUFFING comes from behind a bush.
Hudson follows it but comes up short.

A goat's BLEATING comes from within the townhouse. The garden
floor door is open.

Hudson pursues the sound, following it inside the townhouse.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - HALLWAY (GARDEN FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Hudson pauses, listening.

SHADOWS flit on the wall in the Hallway. Something GROWLS.
The shadows move into the rec room.

Hudson swallows and heads in.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - WALK-IN CLOSET (4TH FLOOR) - NIGHT

Gwen obliterates the two mirrors, smashing them to bits with
her hammer.

GWEN
Get the fuck out of my house.

She stalks out.

INT. HALLWAY (3RD FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Gwen comes down the stairs.

Ben comes out of his room with a baseball bat.
Gwen ignores Ben as she heads into the hallway bathroom --
And SMASHES the covered mirror in there.

BENJAMIN
What are you doing?

GWEN
I want it gone.

She beelines into Benjamin's room. Benjamin follows.

BENJAMIN
Gwen?

INT. BENJAMIN'S BEDROOM (3RD FLOOR)

Gwen smashes Benjamin's dresser mirror.

GWEN
I brought it into this house! And
now I'm telling it to *leave!*

Gwen finishes destroying the mirror. She pants.

BENJAMIN
Gwen you're scaring me...

Looks at Ben, tears in her eyes.

GWEN
I'm sorry.

Gwen moves past Benjamin and heads downstairs.

INT. REC ROOM (GARDEN FLOOR) - NIGHT

Hudson creeps around in the darkness, finger on the trigger.

HUDSON
If you can hear me, you're
trespassing, motherfucker--

Out of the corner of his eye, more SHADOW MOVEMENT.

He aims his gun, heart-racing --

At the empty KITCHEN.

Hudson pauses, tries to catch his breath.

The vase with his battered bouquet of flowers is the only thing on the counter. A red rose petal drops. Then another.

Hudson cautiously steps towards the flowers.

INT. KITCHEN (GARDEN FLOOR) - CONTINUOUS

Hudson surveys his old bouquet. The flowers are a little beaten up from being thrown in the trash by Miriam.

Another red rose petal falls. It leaves speckles of blood on the counter.

Hudson touches the wilting rose. Blood stains his fingers.

All the flowers rapidly wither to putrid stems.

The shriveled petals drop at once, leaving behind a rotted bouquet.

Hudson backs out of the kitchen, unnerved.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Gwen approaches the large, covered mirror.

GWEN

These are good people. We're just trying to mourn. Leave us be and get the *fuck* out of my house!

Grief-stricken, Gwen swings her hammer at the mirror.

A demonic hand reaches out from behind the shroud and grabs her wrist.

Ashmedai wrenches Gwen's wrist back, causing her to drop the hammer.

His other hand reaches out and yanks Gwen's hair, ripping off her head scarf.

Talia and Miriam balk in horror at the monstrous action taking place.

Talia gets over her hesitation and rushes to Gwen's aid.

MIRIAM

No, don't interfere!

Talia doesn't listen.

She grabs ahold of a pointed metal sculpture on a side table and stabs it into the demonic arm holding Gwen.

Ashmedai GROWLS.

As she struggles, Gwen notices an exposed shard of mirror glass point away from the mirror -- and aims at Talia.

GWEN

No, Talia!

The shard flies off the mirror and SPEARS Talia's shoulder. Talia CRIES OUT.

Gwen grabs a piece of glass and stabs Ashmedai in the arm. He BELLOWS and drops her. His hands disappear behind the shroud.

Talia struggles to dislodge the glass shard deep in her shoulder.

Benjamin rushes in with his bat. Sees his aunt in distress.

He removes the glass shard. He and Gwen keep Talia from collapsing.

Talia shivers with shock.

GWEN

Talia, look at me! You're okay.
You're going to be okay...

Miriam clutches her pendant.

MIRIAM

"Give ear, O HaShem, unto my
prayer. In the day of my trouble I
call upon Thee-- "

Hudson comes up the stairs and into the room. Talia's face pales as she takes in the amount of blood she has lost.

HUDSON

What happened?

GWEN

Ashmedai, he--

HUDSON

There's no such thing as a demon,
Gwen! Come on. Wake up!

GWEN

He exists! He's here! What more
proof do you need?!

MIRIAM

"Be gracious unto me, O Lord; for
unto Thee do I cry all the day.
Rejoice the soul of Thy servant;
for unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up
my soul!"

Hudson advances towards Miriam, rage in his eyes.

HUDSON

You did this. You made her believe
all this bullshit!

Afraid, Miriam stumbles and collapses into a low shiva chair.

Hudson prowls around the room, gun still in his hand.

Benjamin grips his baseball bat, unsure what to do with it.

GWEN

I know you don't believe me, but
Ashmedai is here, Hudson.

HUDSON

Then where is the bastard?
(calling out mockingly)
Stop being a coward and show
yourself, Demon!

The room is quiet. The shiva candle flickers.

Miriam closes her eyes. Her lips move in prayer.

Gwen clenches her wedding ring hand into a fist and holds it
close to her body. She fearfully eyes the mirror.

Hudson catches her look. He stalks over to the mirror.

HUDSON

It's here? In the mirror? Really?!

GWEN

Hudson, no!

Hudson whips the covering off the mirror --

But only finds his reflection.

HUDSON

You see, Gwen? It's all in your
fucking head!

Hudson sneers, but falters as he looks back at the mirror--

Because a demon's hand rests on his shoulder. The shoulder closest to the mirror's frame.

Hudson's eyes dart to his shoulder. No demon hand on it, but looking back at the mirror --

Ashmedai's grotesque faces pop into view from the side of the frame, BELLOWING at Hudson. The teeth on his main, human head are sharpened to points just like his nails.

Ashmedai's claws tighten on Hudson's shoulder and yank him towards the mirror.

Hudson's head CRACKS against the mirror. Blood from a cut on his brow streams into his eyes. Hudson CRIES out.

Gwen covers her face in horror but can't look away.

Ashmedai's faces press against the mirror. The glass cracks and spiderwebs --

As ASHMEDAI'S FULL BODY emerges out of the mirror.

His hand latches onto Hudson's throat as he steps down onto the floor. His serpent's tail hits the ground with a thud.

Ashmedai holds Hudson aloft by his neck.

Freaked out, Hudson wildly fires his gun, blood in his eyes.

What bullets do hit Ashmedai are harmlessly absorbed into his body.

Gwen shields Benjamin.

A bullet hits Miriam in the chest.

Miriam CRIES OUT and crumples to the floor.

GWEN

NO!

The gun CLICKS, empty. Hudson drops the gun and claws at Ashmedai's grip around his neck.

Gwen crawls over to Miriam. Their frightened eyes meet. Miriam gasps for words. Her bloody hand touches her pendant.

MIRIAM

He took Rebecca. Why he didn't take me I'll never know. I loved her. That was our secret. We brought him into her home. Her bed. Be strong, Gwen. Stronger than Reb....

Miriam exhales her last breath. Her eyes stare up at Gwen as any sign of life slips away.

Gwen lowers Miriam's head to the ground.

Gwen holds Benjamin tightly and hides his face from the horror happening before him.

Ashmedai lifts Hudson's flailing body into the air...

And squeezes. Bones CRUNCH.

Blood gurgles out of Hudson's mouth, eyes, and nose.

Ashmedai's serpent tail constricts around Hudson's legs --

And flings his corpse across the room.

The shiva candle is knocked off the table.

Gwen sees the candle, still burning on its side and crawls towards the beacon of hope.

She reaches the candle and picks it up. Protects the flickering flame from going out.

Ashmedai's clawed feet step in front of Gwen, where the candle was moments before. He GROWLS low.

BENJAMIN

No!

Benjamin lunges, baseball bat ready to do damage. Ashmedai easily sweeps him away with his tail.

Benjamin slams into the wall and collapses, knocked out cold.

Talia shivers on the floor, still deep in shock.

TALIA

Bite meyn tayer, ikh bin treyng...

Ashmedai crunches glass under his feet as he approaches Gwen.

Gwen can't bear to look at Ashmedai. She keeps her eyes downcast on the candle.

GWEN

You can't have my soul. I repent. I ask the Lord to grant me atonement.

Ashmedai crouches down and runs a jagged, clawed fingernail under Gwen's chin, forcing her to look up at him.

And she does. Trembling, she rises to meet her fate, whatever that may be. She keeps her sweaty grip on the shiva candle.

GWEN

(correct pronunciation)

"... ledhâvidh maskiyl 'ashrêy
nesuy-pesha` kesuy chathâ'âh."

The candle flame flares.

Ashmedai HISSES from the intense light.

GWEN

I brought you into my home and now
I ask the Eternal to cast you out
of it! Ashmedai, I cast you out!

Ashmedai SCREECHES at Gwen.

Gwen shuts her eyes while still holding the candle out in front of her like a shield of protection.

The windows rattle. An unnatural WIND knocks over furniture and swirls lighter items around the room.

Wind rolls Hudson's dead body up against the furniture, into an almost seated position. A bone protrudes from his neck.

The wind abates. Gwen opens her eyes. She can't find Ashmedai anywhere.

Gwen sinks down. Crouches over the shiva candle and cries.

MOVEMENT behind Gwen.

HANDS rest on her shoulders. Hudson's dead hands.

Gwen stiffens in fear. Hudson's hands clench her shoulders.

His speech is garbled, as if he and another male were sharing one larynx.

HUDSON

It's not that easy, Gwen. I'm not
finished with you yet.

GWEN

No. I've learned my lesson.

HUDSON

I see...

Hudson steps towards Benjamin, who's still unconscious.

Gwen throws herself in front of Ben, shielding him from view.

GWEN

No! Please...

Tears fall from her face.

Hudson walks out of the living room. Back to Gwen, his head tilts grotesquely askew to the side. Broken.

CRACK! He realigns his spine.

He strides out of sight into the foyer. He passes by Talia, who's shivering in the fetal position. Blood drips from her wound onto the floor.

TALIA

... ikh bin treyng...

Gwen looks at the damage. At Benjamin, still unconscious.

HUDSON (O.S.)

I'm waiting, Gwen.

GWEN

If I go, swear you won't hurt them.

HUDSON (O.S.)

Tonight was always about us.

Gwen trembles but rises to her feet. She picks up the shiva candle and joins Hudson in the --

FOYER

Hudson motions his hand towards the stairs. An invitation.

Gwen places the shiva candle on the catchall table.

She tries to stand tall and as she makes the long ascent.

Hudson follows close behind her.

STAIRS

Gwen's white knuckles grip onto the banister as she heads up to the top floor.

Hudson keeps his pace behind her. His features darken. An inhuman sheen glimmers from the dark recesses of his eyes.

INT. HALLWAY (4TH FLOOR)

They reach the top. Gwen opens the door to her bedroom.

The bed is as she left it. She hesitates to enter.

Hudson shifts his feet. Bones CRACK as he readjusts his neck.

Gwen gulps. She steels herself and enters the bedroom.

Hudson follows.

The door slams shut on its own behind them.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAWN

A disaster zone littered with broken glass.

SUPER: Day 7 of shiva

Benjamin wakes up on the floor. He looks around. No Gwen.

BENJAMIN

Gwen?! Gwen!

Benjamin hears movement -- it's Talia. Same position but very pale. Still in shock on the floor.

He catches sight of Miriam's dead body.

A wave of nausea washes over Benjamin. He vomits on the floor. Benjamin stumbles into the wall as he tries to exit.

FOYER

Hudson's broken corpse lies in the center of the foyer. Benjamin averts his eyes.

The coat rack has been knocked over, exposing the symbol (the symbol for Ashmedai). It's lined now with scorch marks.

Benjamin pulls out his phone.

The stairs CREAK behind him. He turns to look up.

Gwen stands at the top of the stairs. Same black clothing.

Relief washes over Benjamin.

Gwen speaks slow and calm, as if not all there.

GWEN

We must finish this.

Gwen walks down the stairs one step at a time.

The shiva candle remnant still burns, but the flame is low.

Gwen's hands shield the candle on the catchall table like it was the most precious thing in the world.

GWEN

We must finish the prayer.

BENJAMIN

We need to get help for Aunt Talia.
And Bubbe...

Benjamin weeps, overcome.

GWEN

We must finish shiva. For Aaron. We
must go out and circle the block.

Gwen cups the shiva candle in her hands.

Benjamin notices blood on the floor. Right where Gwen was standing. Gwen wobbles out of the room --

BENJAMIN

Wait, you're bleeding. We gotta
call the police.

GWEN

It can't wait. It must be done. It
must be finished.

BENJAMIN

Gwen! Wait!

She leaves out the front door.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE - DAWN

Gwen limps along the sidewalk in her return to society. Her lips move silently in prayer.

Gwen leaves behind BLOODY FOOTPRINTS. Blood trickles freely down her legs from under her skirt.

Her hair is matted to her sweaty, pale face. Shock hunches her body and dull pain persists, but she remains steadfast.

Her neighbors take in Gwen's appearance, aghast. One whips out their phone and calls for help.

Gwen makes eye contact with no one as she hobbles along...

Benjamin steps out into the street, grief-stricken.

BENJAMIN

Gwen, please wait! Mom! MOM!

Gratitude washes over Gwen upon hearing the word. She sways but keeps walking.

GWEN

I must finish. I must finish this.
I must.

SIRENS wail in the distance.

Oblivious, Gwen staggers up the street, clutching the candle.

The shiva candle burns to the bottom.

The flame whiffs out on the blackened wick.

It has reached the end of shiva. Still, she keeps going...

Gwen completes her circle around the block. She stops outside her townhouse, worn out beyond all measure.

An eerie smile creeps onto Gwen's lips followed by a shiver of laughter.

Tears fall from her eyes. It's over... Isn't it?

A twinge of pain flares inside Gwen. She places a hand over her belly.

A fresh wave of fear and uncertainty washes over her.

FADE OUT.