

LEGACIES

Episode #101

#T46.10051

"Legacies"

Written by

Julie Plec

Directed by
Chris Grismer

Studio-Draft
Network Draft
Production Draft

6/25/2018

© 2018 WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC.

This script is the property of Orange Cone Productions, Inc. No portion of this script may be performed, reproduced or used by any means, or disclosed to, quoted or published in any medium without the prior written consent of Orange Cone Prods, Inc.

LEGACIES

Episode #101

“Legacies”

Production Draft

CAST LIST

Hope
Alaric
Landon
Rafael
Josie
Lizzie
MG
Penelope

Dorian Williams
Sheriff Donovan

Maria Gonzales
Hector Gonzales
Priest
Young Landon Shoved Into Closet
Parkouring Werewolf Teens
GIRL Performing Levitation Spell

Students
Drill Team
Sports Players
High School Partiers
Bus Passengers
Faculty
Students Over The Age Of 14
Penelope's Friends

LEGACIES

Episode #101

“Legacies”

Production Draft

Set List

Interiors

Church

Car

Salvatore School

- Great Room
- Headmasters Office
- Outside Headmaster's Office
- Meeting Hall (or is this ext.?)
- Classroom
- Werewolf Bunker
- Gym
- Kitchen
- Hope's Dorm Room
- Lizzie And Josie's Dorm Room
- Library
- Cellar
- Dining Hall
- Great Hall
- Hallway

Bus

Exteriors

Wrought Iron Fence

Street

Church

Road

Long Driveway

Salvatore School

- Drive Way
- Soccer Field
- Salvatore School
- Mill
- Grounds

Woods

Route 81

ACT ONE

1 EXT. WROUGHT IRON FENCE - NIGHT 1

Camera TRACKS along a fence. Fog drifting through its spires.

HOPE (V.O.)

When we're young, we're taught the distinction between a hero and a villain. Good and evil. A savior and a lost cause. But what if the only real difference is just who's telling the story?

Coming across a SIGN hidden amidst the brush. THE SALVATORE SCHOOL FOR THE YOUNG AND GIFTED. From the shadows appears a FIGURE. A young GIRL. This is HOPE, 17.

HOPE (V.O.)

My name is Hope Mikaelson. I come from a long line of the villains in the tales you've heard about vampires, werewolves, witches and everything in between. But I'm not the bad guy in this story. At least, not yet.

Her eyes begin to GLOW YELLOW as she stares into the night.

2 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 2

Two YOUNG MEN walk under the light of the full moon. This is LANDON (17), thoughtful and funny. And RAFAEL (17), a rough and tumble heartbreaker.

LANDON

Rafael. Seriously. It's not right.

RAFAEL

It is what it is, Landon.

LANDON

You're not Catholic. You shouldn't have to confess your sins.

RAFAEL

I threw a lawnmower through the patio doors, bro. If apologizing to God gets Hector and Maria off my back, so be it.

They approach a Catholic Church. Climbing its steps.

LONDON

My last foster parents were agnostic. Made things easier.

RAFAEL

Your last foster parents were selling Fentanyl. At least Hector and Maria are just bible thumpers.

3 INT. CHURCH - NIGHT 3

The church is dimly lit as they enter. Candles burn. A looming JESUS CHRIST peers down from the ornate altar, where MARIA and HECTOR GONZALES (50's) stand with a PRIEST.

RAFAEL

Buenos tardes, Father Pietro...

The following exchange will be in SPANISH, with SUBTITLES.

PRIEST

Rafael. Please. Pray with me.

Rafael kneels before the Priest. Hector looks to Landon.

HECTOR

You can go now, Landon.

LONDON

I'm good, Hector.

MARIA

Landon, this is between your foster brother and God.

RAFAEL

(in English)

I got this, bruh. Wait outside.

4 EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT 4

An irritated Landon sits on the steps, pulls out headphones and a journal. Blasting music in his ears as he writes.

5 INT. CHURCH - NIGHT 5

Rafael recites a penance. Hector and Maria exchange a look with the Priest, then move to the doors, CHAINING THEM SHUT.

Rafael looks up -- wtf is going on? The Priest shifts gears, starting to shake HOLY WATER on to Rafael.

His language shifts to LATIN. Rafael grows confused. This is taking a weird turn.

PRIEST

*God, whose nature is ever merciful
and forgiving, accept our prayer
that this servant of yours --*

RAFAEL

(in English)

What's going on here?

The Priest pulls out a CRUCIFIX. Brandishes it like a weapon.

PRIEST

*Depart, then, impious one, depart,
accursed one, Depart, DEMON --*

RAFAEL

What??

Rafael tries to stand. Hector and Maria come up behind him, gripping him in place.

HECTOR

Be still, boy.

RAFAEL

(in English)

What are you doing -- AHHH!!

His entire back SHUDDERS. He screams out in PAIN, the veins on his neck starting to RIPPLE and BULGE.

Rafael struggles against a crying Maria, when CRACK -- his arm FLIES out of her grip, rippling as it CHANGES SHAPE before her eyes. Elbow BREAKING and RE-FORMING.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

What's happening to me ---

The Priest's prayers ring out over Rafael's agonized sobs. Suddenly Rafael's head snaps up, his eyes GLOWING YELLOW.

Oblivious to the screams emanating from the church, Landon is still writing when a car SCREECHES to a stop in front of the church. Two passengers hurry up the sidewalk.

He squints, surprised, realizing --

LONDON

I know you ---

The female passenger stops in her tracks, shocked. It's HOPE.

HOPE

Landon?

LONDON

(removing his earbuds)

Hope?

A **FLASH** OF A MEMORY. The two of them dancing. Younger. Smiling and free.

RESUME AS: the man, DR. ALARIC SALTZMAN (40's), interrupts. He's shouldering a large duffel.

ALARIC

You two know each other?

HOPE

Long story.

A SCREAM rips from the church, startling Landon.

LONDON

What --

HOPE

Dr. Saltzman --

ALARIC

On it.

From his duffel, he removes a WEAPON that's between a crossbow and an antique rifle. As they head for the doors -

HOPE

You're gonna want to stay out here,
Landon. Trust me.

ALARIC

They're locked --

Hope hurls her hands at the door, voicing a chant --

HOPE

Dissera Portus!

The door instantly and magically FLIES OFF ITS HINGES. Landon stops in his tracks, stunned into silence.

7

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

7

CAMERA PULLS Alaric and Hope in through the doors, REVEALING Rafael writhing and screaming. Hector, Maria watch in horror as his bones SHIFT and BREAK while HAIR SPROUTS on his body.

Outside, Landon steps to get a closer look. His eyes widen.

LANDON

Oh my god --

The Priest is screaming the exorcism ritual. To Hope --

ALARIC

Shut down the Exorcist, would you?

Hope flicks her wrist, muttering --

HOPE

Silencio.

And just like that, the Priest's voice goes SILENT. He grips at his throat, confused. Another flick of Hope's wrist --

HOPE (CONT'D)

Ad somnum.

-- and the Priest, Hector and Maria's eyes flutter closed as they all collapse to the ground.

Landon watches all this happen, absolutely flummoxed by it.

Alaric rushes to Rafael, pulling chains out of his duffel. In a series of deft moves, he gets a collar around Rafael's neck and torso while Rafael thrashes beneath him.

RAFAEL

Help me --

ALARIC

Easy, now --

Hope joins Alaric in chaining the bindings to the altar.

A series of QUICK SHOTS: Eyes. Fangs. Claws. Fur. Chains clanking. All under the watchful eye of an imposing Jesus.

PUSH IN ON LANDON, watching it all in shock and horror from the doorway, while Alaric and Hope struggle to restrain a thrashing bundle of limbs and fur --

-- until A HOWL RIPS THROUGH THE VESTIBULE, and they step back to reveal an enormous WOLF chained in place where Rafael once was, its mystical yellow eyes glowing brightly.

Hope gathers herself, staring back at Landon, who stands, mouth agape, his life forever altered.

TITLE CARD. "LEGACIES"

8 EXT. ROAD/INT. CAR - MORNING 8

Hope rides shotgun in a black SUV. Alaric drives. She steals a glance at Landon in the mirror. He's next to a sleeping Rafael, sipping on a hot coffee. Recovering from the shock.

Her eyes meet Landon's. She smiles at him reassuringly.

ALARIC

So how do you two know each other?

HOPE

He used to serve me milkshakes at the Mystic Grill.

LANDON

Peanut Butter Blast. Whipped cream on the bottom. We danced once.

HOPE

We tried.

Another brief **FLASH** of them, youthful and caught up in each other as they dance in the town square.

HOPE (CONT'D)

And then you moved away.

LANDON

And flash forward to when you made a door blow off its hinges with your brain. Feel like explaining that?

Hope goes silent. Alaric intervenes --

ALARIC

We'll explain everything. We're almost there.

The car passes a sign --

WELCOME TO MYSTIC FALLS, VIRGINIA.

9 EXT. LONG DRIVEWAY - DAY 9

The car pulls into a driveway. A massive IRON GATE opens to allow it entry. A bronzed sign reads THE SALVATORE SCHOOL.

LANDON
Where are we?

ALARIC
Somewhere safe.

The scenery goes by. The land is endless and beautiful. A barn with horses. A soccer field. A creek.

We PRELAP a bright, chipper young VOICE --

LIZZIE SALTZMAN
Welcome to The Salvatore School.

10 EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - DRIVEWAY - DAY 10

LIZZIE and JOSIE SALTZMAN (aka the Saltzman Twins, 16) greet Rafael brightly as he steps from the car.

LIZZIE
We're your tour guides.

JOSIE
I'm Josie.

LIZZIE
I'm Lizzie. Sisters.

JOSIE
Twins.

LIZZIE
Fraternal, obvi.

ALARIC
Rafael, go ahead with the girls
while I talk to Landon.

Lizzie and Josie each take an arm. As they pass Hope, they smile at her sweetly -

LIZZIE/JOSIE
Morning, Hope.

HOPE
(fake sweet)
Morning, girls.

10

Lizzie turns to Rafael, sotto, snarky --

LIZZIE
More like Despair...

HOPE
(over her shoulder)
I heard that.

LIZZIE
No you didn't.

HOPE
Didn't have to.

ALARIC
All of you. Behave.

LIZZIE/JOSIE
(all innocence)
Love you, Dad.

Landon stands there, taking this all in. Alaric looks to him.

ALARIC
So. Let's get started.

11

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - GREAT ROOMM - DAY

11

Hope leads Landon into an opulent GREAT ROOM where students of all ages mingle, socialize and study. Alaric follows.

ALARIC
I'm curious -- were you aware of us
when you lived here?

LANDON
I knew Hope went to some fancy
boarding school. People in town
said it was for troubled rich kids.
I see the rich part is true.

As he says this, they pass a young GIRL (age 12) practicing a levitation spell with her schoolbooks.

Landon meets her eyes. She gets flustered by how cute he is. Her books FALL to the floor with a THUD. Hope hides a grin.

LANDON (CONT'D)
Nobody ever mentioned that anyone
in here could do *that*.

12 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY 12

They enter the headmaster's office. Rich with leather and dark woods. Alaric indicates Landon should take a seat.

A name plate reads, Dr. Alaric Saltzman, Headmaster.

ALARIC

No one in Mystic Falls knows much about us. We blend in just enough. Participate, contribute just enough. It keeps people from asking too many questions.

LANDON

(getting to it)
What is there to know, exactly?

Hope steals a glance at Alaric. Wondering how he'll answer.

ALARIC

Well, I used to have a whole speech carefully unpeeling the layers of mystical history, but it turns out most people have read Harry Potter and are usually cool with me skipping the tee up.

LANDON

(trying to keep cool)
You're a school for magic.

ALARIC

We're a school for the supernatural, which covers a lot of territory. Everyone here has something that makes them special in ways that the outside world wouldn't understand.

Landon looks to Hope. Pressing.

LANDON

So what are you?

HOPE

(uncomfortable)
I should get to class --

LANDON

No. No, sorry, I'm not trying to be a dick, but --
(to Alaric)
(MORE)

LONDON (CONT'D)

I don't know you.

(to Hope)

And though the image of you
whammying a Priest is still fresh,
I need you here. Tell me what all
that was in the church last night?

HOPE

What do you think it was?

LONDON

(with forced calm)

Well...as best as I can reason,
either I've lost my mind or
werewolves are real.

Her silence confirms what he's saying. He reels.

LONDON (CONT'D)

That is --- beyond insane. How is
it even possible?

ALARIC

Long story involving an ancient
vengeful witch and a bloodline
curse. We teach it in Origin of the
Species, grade six.

LONDON

(shell-shocked)

In sixth grade at my school we
learned the state capitals.

HOPE

They teach that too.

A small grin flashes across her face. Lighting up her eyes.
Landon stares a beat too long. There's a spark there. It
doesn't go unnoticed by Alaric, who switches gears.

ALARIC

I have some questions about Rafael.

LONDON

Like what?

ALARIC

Let's start with who he killed
recently.

Landon stares at him in shock. *What??*

13 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - MEETING HALL - DAY 13

Rafael, discombobulated, is led through the sprawling Meeting Hall. Stained glass. Crystal chandeliers. Warm, dark woods.

His tour guides vie for his attention in their own unique ways. Lizzie is much smarter than she seems at first impression. Josie, a pleaser with opinions.

JOSIE

Everybody gets along with everybody here. For the most part.

LIZZIE

The wolves are pretty cliquey. They like to hang with their own --

JOSIE

-- in defiance of the school's commitment to inclusiveness.

LIZZIE

That's why we volunteered to be your guides. To give you a good witch welcome before your hairier brethren corrupt you.

They stop outside a CLASSROOM DOOR. Re: the teacher --

JOSIE

That's our librarian, Mr. Williams. He's subbing for our Chemistry of Magic teacher who accidentally incinerated himself with hellfire last week.

LIZZIE

Burned all the hair off his body but didn't leave a scar.

14 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY 14

ANGLE ON DORIAN WILLIAMS (30). Two Latin-ish phrases on the board. *Phesmotos is lucas odoray. Phesmotos is lucas adoray.*

DORIAN

This language was carefully crafted over centuries. You might think you can play fast and loose with the syllables, but you would be very wrong about that, because otherwise a love charm becomes a what?

(MORE)

DORIAN (CONT'D)
(calling on a student)
Penelope. Show us.

A spirited young witch, PENELOPE PARK (16) launches into a chant. Outside, Lizzie nudges Josie, teasing --

LIZZIE
She who shall not be named...

JOSIE
(elbowing her)
Talking about her gives her power.

RAFAEL
Who are you talking about?

LIZZIE
Josie's evil ex.

Inside the class, a small ball of light magically appears in Penelope's cupped hands. Spinning. She raises her hands and, with a seductive wink in Josie's direction --

PENELOPE
Phesmatos is lucas odoray --

...the ball explodes like a SMOKE BOMB. Gassing the class.

DORIAN
A stink spell. That's right.

As he laughs, the students protest, gagging.

LIZZIE
C'mon, we'll show you the turret.
It's where the seniors go to smoke.

RAFAEL
What do they smoke? Eye of newt?

JOSIE
...Weed.

Rafael finally lets a smile loose as they drag him away.

LANDON
Why would you ask me that?

Landon glares at Alaric and Hope, taken aback.

ALARIC

The werewolf gene lies dormant until its carrier takes another human life. If Rafi triggered his curse, it's because he killed someone. We don't accept cold-blooded killers into our program.

LANDON

He's not a killer.

HOPE

We're not trying to --

LANDON

He's not a killer.

Landon's face has grown heated in defense of his friend.

ALARIC

I know a little bit about his background. Neglectful birth parents. Orphaned in adolescence, six foster homes in seven years, prone to fits of anger --

LANDON

You could just as easily be reading my file. That's what it's like out there for people like him and me.

Hope intervenes. Sitting down next to him.

HOPE

Landon. I know this is hard to take in. But we want to help him. I promise. I've been going here since I was seven. This is a safe place for people like Rafael. A home.

ALARIC

But if we take him in, we need to know he won't be a threat.

A long beat. And Landon admits --

LANDON

His girlfriend. Cassie. Last month. He was driving. There was a storm, and he took the turn too fast... He started acting out -- I thought first it was just grief, then maybe drugs or something.

(MORE)

LONDON (CONT'D)

And then he threw a 200 pound lawn mower fifty feet across the yard.

(beat)

That's when our foster parents called in the Priest. They thought he was possessed by the Devil.

ALARIC

All of that is consistent with a newly triggered wolf. It's normal.

(then)

Thank you for that, Landon. Hope?

A look to Hope. She knows what to do. She gives Landon's hand a reassuring squeeze.

HOPE

Everything is going to be okay.
Trust me.

She stands, opening the door and calling out --

HOPE (CONT'D)

We're ready.

Another student enters. MILTON GLADSTONE (aka "MG", 16). Black. Nerd-hot. Boundless energy.

ALARIC

Milton Gladstone, Landon Kirby.

MG

(wincing)

C'mon, Dr. Saltzman -

ALARIC

Right. "MG." Sorry. Take it from a guy named Alaric, I get it. Landon, MG's my student aide.

HOPE

He's also a vampire.

LONDON

Of course he is.

(then)

You know, for a school with a secret to keep, you're kind of liberal with your information.

ALARIC

Well. We don't intend for you to actually remember any of it.

MG suddenly STEPS CLOSE TO LANDON. The PUPILS in MG's eyes DILATE. CLOSE ON LANDON'S EYES as MG instructs him --

MG

Forget everything you've seen or learned since last night. All you need to know is that your friend has found a home where he can live a better life. You'll miss him, but you know it's for the best.

Landon looks at them. Confused and pissed.

LANDON

Are you two out of your minds? How could I forget any of this?

Everyone looks startled. This wasn't supposed to happen.

HOPE

MG, did you do it wrong?

MG

No I didn't do it wrong. It's the easiest vampire trick in the book.

HOPE

Well it didn't work.

MG

Obviously.

LANDON

What the hell is --

Suddenly MG grabs Landon by the neck in a HYPER-VAMP-SPEED move. The veins under his eyes FLARING RED. He squeezes until Landon loses consciousness.

ALARIC

Careful --

As Landon falls to the ground, Alaric is there to catch him.

ALARIC (CONT'D)

Lock him in the cellar. We need to get rid of him, fast.

MG drags Landon out, leaving them standing in shock.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

16 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - WEREWOLF BUNKER - DAY 16

Landon's eyes slowly flutter open. He sits up, taking in his surroundings. He's in a dungeon of sorts. Chains. Bindings.

He goes to the door. It's locked tight. He spins around. The room is small. Too small. His breaths start to become ragged.

***FLASH:** A young boy shoved into a closet as grown-ups scream at each other on the other side. The same haunted blue eyes. A glimpse of an old life he'd like to forget.*

BACK WITH LANDON. The room spins around him. Then,

HOPE (O.S.)

Landon.

He turns. Hope is outside the door, peering through the bars.

LANDON

Hope. Get me out of here.

HOPE

I can't. Not yet. But you're not a prisoner, I swear.

LANDON

(oh really?)

I'm in a witch dungeon.

HOPE

It's a werewolf transition space.

LANDON

Super.

(sitting to calm himself)

My birth mother's boyfriend used to lock me in a closet when I was a kid, so, you know, tight spaces....

HOPE

We won't keep you here long. No one expected you couldn't be compelled.

LANDON

I don't know what that means.

HOPE

MG tried to erase your memories of this place, but it didn't work.

LONDON

So now I'm what -- a hostage?
(growing agitated)
Where's Rafi?

HOPE

He's fine. You're fine too.
Compulsion doesn't work on people
who take this herb called Vervain.
The town Sheriff sometimes sneaks
it into the coffee at the gas
station where we stopped this
morning. He's the town conspiracy
theorist. Convinced that monsters
are always lurking in the shadows.

LONDON

Aren't they?

HOPE

Yeah, but we live in secret, so he
could have a little more chill.

(then)

Anyway, that's probably what
happened. It takes about a day to
pass through your system. You just
have to wait it out.

LONDON

Sure. No big deal. I'll just sit
here alone in the witch dungeon
with my thoughts.

(then)

Would you -- I mean -- could you
wait it out with me?

She stares at him. Tempted. Beyond tempted. But her walls
come up. There's a sadness in her eyes. A story.

HOPE

I'm really sorry about all this.
But it was good to see you again.

She leaves. Reluctantly tearing herself away.

A game that appears to be a blend of soccer, football, and
Quidditch (minus the broomsticks) is on the field. In the
bleachers, MG keeps a careful eye on Lizzie and Josie as they
arrive with Rafael.

LIZZIE

Alyssa Chang made a broom fly in Physics last year, but Rick Rogers fell thirty feet during practice, so real-life Quidditch remains an elusive pipe dream.

Josie heads for MG, leaving Lizzie to talk Rafael's ear off.

JOSIE

Hey.

MG

Yo. Giving up dibs on the new guy so quickly?

JOSIE

It's not a competition. Plus, I'm still nursing a wounded soul...

MG

Penelope Park?

JOSIE

We don't mention her name anymore, remember?

MG

Sorry.

(eyeing Rafael)

Do you think he'll go for her?

JOSIE

Probably. They usually do.

MG

Okay.

He seems disappointed. She gives him a supportive smile.

JOSIE

One day she'll see you that way. You just have to wait it out.

MG

I'm ADHD. Waiting is not compatible with my DNA.

JOSIE

(noticing Lizzie)

Uh-oh. Their conversation's waning. I gotta get back there. She panics when the silence gets awkward.

BACK WITH LIZZIE AND RAFAEL in a moment of awkward quiet.
Lizzie tries to compensate.

LIZZIE

I heard what happened to your
girlfriend. I'm really sorry.
(off his look, explaining)
I have spies everywhere. I'm nosy
in that, like, charming way.

RAFAEL

Thanks. I guess.

LIZZIE

On the plus side, we're all happy
to know you're single.

He looks up at her sharply. *What?* She pales, mortified.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

Oh god. That was my inside voice.

She can't believe she said it. Neither can he.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry. Guys like you make me
nervous.

RAFAEL

Guys like me?

LIZZIE

You know. Hot. Angry. Damaged.

She's digging herself in deep. He's not into it.

RAFAEL

Yeah, well, I've sort of made a
point in my life of keeping clear
of girls like you, so...I guess
I'll go see if I can find Landon.

She nods, unable to speak. He quickly heads off. She looks
up, seeing Josie nearby, having witnessed her flameout.

Josie lifts her shoulders, a shrug of compassion and shared
disappointment. Lizzie smiles at her sister through the tears
that brim in her eyes. Mortified.

18

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

18

Alaric and Hope spar in the school's workout center, an open room with padded walls and matted floors. It's a fluid dance of asian-influenced combat. She's distracted. Agitated.

HOPE

You didn't have to lock him in the cellar.

ALARIC

Where else was I gonna put him?

(then)

Block with your hand --

HOPE

I got it.

ALARIC

If you had it, I wouldn't have said it --

He gets the upper hand, pinning her arm back.

HOPE

Ow --

(annoyed, whispering)

Dimiterre.

The WORLD SPINS and suddenly Alaric is on his back.

ALARIC

Hey, cheater.

HOPE

You really should let a vampire do my training. You're getting too old for me to break your human bones.

ALARIC

How dare you.

They get back into it. Now he wants to know --

ALARIC (CONT'D)

Did you and Landon used to have a thing or something?

HOPE

I don't have 'things.'

ALARIC

There was obviously something.

HOPE

I liked him. He was...normal.

ALARIC

Then let's keep him that way. We survive here because we follow the rules. We can't be sloppy about it.

HOPE

You're the one always telling me I need to get out more.

ALARIC

I tell you that you need to stop locking yourself in your dorm room binge-watching Cutthroat Kitchen. I don't tell you to fraternize with the human locals.

HOPE

You know you can just be my headmaster. All this extra stuff isn't in the job description.

ALARIC

Attempt to make an actual friend here and we can re-evaluate our relationship.

Then --

JOSIE

Dad?

He turns to find Josie in the doorway.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Clean-up in Aisle L...

A song BLASTS as Lizzie Saltzman, in a state, moves around the kitchen, dancing frenetically. Each wave of her hand, something flies across the room. A plate. A glass. A KNIFE.

She's crying/dancing/destroying. Teen meltdown, witch-style.

Alaric enters, taking it all in. He's seen it before.

ALARIC

Liz. Elizabeth.

19

A knife goes SAILING across the room. She realizes just in time where it's gonna hit and STOPS IT, inches from her father's face. He doesn't flinch as he plucks it out of the air, setting it down. Her face crumbles.

LIZZIE

Hi, Daddy...

ALARIC

Hi, baby.

20 EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - NIGHT 20

Night falls over the picturesque campus.

21 INT. HOPE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT 21

Hope watches Cutthroat Kitchen alone. Restless. Out of sorts. Finally she gets up. Exiting...

22 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - WEREWOLF BUNKER - NIGHT 22

Landon tries to sleep, but it's impossible. From outside --

HOPE (O.S.)

Hey.

LONDON

(brightening)

Hope.

HOPE

Can't sleep either?

LONDON

(indicating)

Small spaces. You?

HOPE

Sometimes I get...restless.

LONDON

Busy brain?

HOPE

Busy everything. My body...has a lot going on inside of it.

LONDON

Which is an awesome segue into you telling me why you can move things with your mind.

HOPE
You ask a lot of questions.

LANDON
Wouldn't you?

She gets it. But she's not ready to answer them. He smiles to himself as a memory flashes by --

HOPE
Why are you smiling?

LANDON
I'm remembering the night we danced
in the town square.

FLASH TO:

MYSTIC FALLS TOWN SQUARE. Jazz Music under the stars.

LANDON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'd had a good day. This asswad
from school who used to mess with
me got what was coming to him. And
you were there, and the music was
good...

*CLOSE ON YOUNGER LANDON in the flashback as he asks Hope to
dance. We join the scene as it happened.*

LANDON (CONT'D)
*...so, before my luck runs out --
which it will... Do you maybe want
to dance, or something?*

Hope smiles. Then blurts --

HOPE
You want me to dance with you?

LANDON
*Fair warning, I might suck at it.
Kinda living in the moment, here.*

He holds out his hand. She smiles, taking it.

BACK WITH HOPE AND LANDON

LANDON (CONT'D)
Just like me to crush on the girl
with the most baggage.

It's a charged moment that she eventually breaks.

HOPE

I'm gonna try for the sleep thing
again --

LANDON

You do that a lot.

HOPE

Do what?

LANDON

Leave.

This simple truth says so much about her.

HOPE

I can be...dangerous to people.
It's better if I keep my distance.

LANDON

(a challenge)
Better for who?

HOPE

(a deflection)
Again with the questions.

She disappears into the darkness, leaving Landon alone again.
He sits back. Mind racing with thoughts of her. When --

CLANG. A noise outside the cell startles him. He smiles.

LANDON

Couldn't stay away, huh?

He moves towards the door, when --

WHAM! The door FLIES OPEN ON ITS OWN and Landon is YANKED
FROM THE CELL BY AN UNSEEN FORCE, his body SLAMMING against
the wall as he's pulled down the LONG HALLWAY and hurled into
the SHADOWS -- with no sign of his assailant whatsoever.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

23 EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - MILL - NIGHT 23

Landon lands on the ground outside, the breath knocked out of him. He pulls himself to his feet, as we reveal --

A HIGH-SCHOOL PARTY is happening around him at the Old Mill buried deep on school grounds. Rafael barrels in, grabbing Landon in a bear hug. Landon holds on for dear life.

LANDON
Raf, what the hell, man --

RAFAEL
You all right? They helped me get you out.

ANGLE on Josie, standing nearby with MG.

JOSIE
Summoning spell. Did I bruise you?
I'm still working out the kinks.

RAFAEL
C'mon. Lemme show you something.

24 EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - MILL - NIGHT 24

A group of TEENS are up on the second level of the mill.

RAFAEL
Watch this. They teach it in PE.

Two of the teens take a run across the second level, suddenly PARKOURING across the rails, leaping to the stairs, then LANDING again on the ground in a full crouch, eyes YELLOW.

LANDON
You seem good. I was worried.

RAFAEL
I've been talking to those guys back there, and all that stuff I've been feeling, everything that gets me into trouble? It's normal. I want you to meet them --

LANDON
Honestly, I think it'd be smarter if I take this opportunity to jump the fence and disappear.

Rafael takes a look around, makes the selfless move.

RAFAEL
Then I'll go with you.

LANDON
Raf, no --

Rafael puts his hands on Landon's shoulders. Pulls him close.

RAFAEL
Lan... It's you and me. Whatever we
do, we do it together.

It's important to him that Landon believes him. Landon appreciates the gesture, but it breaks his heart.

LANDON
You know what, how about we think
on it over a drink. Want anything?

RAFAEL
I'm good.

Landon walks away. When he reaches a safe distance, he turns, watching Rafael as he quickly and easily folds himself into the crowd of schoolmates. A natural fit.

Landon smiles. Happy to see him in a good place. Then he turns and disappears into the tree line. Leaving him behind.

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIZZIE AND JOSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 25

A beautiful ceramic and metal bowl is on the floor. Alaric and Lizzie sitting cross-legged around it. Alaric runs his fingers around its edge, making it 'sing.'

ALARIC
Now breathe.

LIZZIE
Dad, this is lame.

ALARIC
You nearly gave me a tracheotomy
with the bread knife. Humor me.

Fair point. She closes her eyes. Taking deep breaths. After a beat, one eye opens --

LIZZIE
You know I can whip up a remedy
from the herbs in the bio lab --

ALARIC

No magic. Your magic gets you into these states. I want your brain to get you out of them.

They breathe again. A long moment, then, a vulnerable ask --

LIZZIE

Dad. Do you think I'm broken?

ALARIC

Of course not. I think your birth mother's crazy-ass witch ancestors left you with a legacy of some darkness you have to work through.

LIZZIE

Josie doesn't have freak-outs.

ALARIC

Josie spends a lot time worrying about other people's happiness. It's a supernatural phenomenon called co-dependency.

(a grin)

I think she gets it from my side of the family.

LIZZIE

I just don't, like, ever wanna hurt anybody.

ALARIC

I know you don't, honey. That's why we opened this school. So you could learn control. That's why I'm here with you right now.

LIZZIE

(a bit surly)

I'm surprised you have time what with all your private training sessions with Hope Mikaelson.

ALARIC

Then try to be her friend so we can do group training.

LIZZIE

I tried to be her friend when I was five. And nine. And thirteen. I'm over trying to be her friend. She's stuck up. Never makes any effort.

ALARIC

She's lost a lot. You know that.
She's afraid to let herself care.

LIZZIE

Oh boo hoo. Everyone in here has
lost something. She doesn't hold
the patent on it.

ALARIC

Breathe.

A quiet knock at the door. He opens it. Hope is there.

LIZZIE

(under her breath)
Speak of the actual devil.

HOPE

Sorry to bother, but I heard you
were in here.

Hope shifts awkwardly. She hates asking for help.

HOPE (CONT'D)

I'm feeling...restless. I kind of
need a release.

ALARIC

Back acres. Just stay away from the
Old Mill. The heathens are having a
secret party that I'm gonna bust up
in about ten minutes.

Lizzie looks up, suddenly pissed.

LIZZIE

I'm missing a party??

The party rages on. Josie moves through the crowd. Across the
way, Penelope Park mingles. Their eyes meet. Linger on each
other's. But Josie quickly breaks their gaze. Whatever
happened between these two, it hurt.

Josie moves to the firepit where MG holds court. A few drinks
in and a little hyped up. She sits next to Rafael.

MG

Twilight ruined the vampire mythos.
You want reality, you gotta go old-
school.

(MORE)

MG (CONT'D)

My man Blade, he's the GOAT. His crazy ma's all, "you wouldn't hurt me," and he's all, "*I must release you*," then BAM, STAB -- bro killed his own crazy-ass ma!

Hearing himself, realizing --

MG (CONT'D)

I mean --- I'm not saying anyone should kill their ma. That's, like, messed up.

He takes another drink, awkward. Rafael turns to Josie.

RAFAEL

Thanks for your help with Landon.

JOSIE

The least I can do. I know my sister kind of put her foot in it, but we really are sorry about what happened to you.

RAFAEL

Thanks.

(then)

I'd gotten a track scholarship to UVA. She was gonna follow me there after graduation. She was the best person I knew. I pretty much loved her in that way they say only exists in movies.

JOSIE

The people who say that are the people who have never had their hearts crushed.

RAFAEL

You too?

JOSIE

On the regular. I care too much. It's a problem.

RAFAEL

I don't think that's a problem at all.

His eyes meet hers. Direct and honest. Like he can see exactly who she is. Her heart skips a beat. But --

JOSIE

Give Lizzie a second chance. She's
the best person I know.
(spotting something)
Uh-oh. MG crossed his alcohol
threshold.

ANGLE ON MG racing around the party in full VAMP-SPEED.

JOSIE (CONT'D)

Three beers, he thinks he can fly.

She hurries to intervene. Rafael looks around. Asks --

RAFAEL

Hey, have you seen Landon?

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Landon heads for a GATE up ahead, when GRRRR....a low growl
emits from the shadows. He freezes. Turns, slowly, coming
face to face with a WOLF. Its eyes a scary yellow.

LANDON

Umm....

Shit. He stares at the wolf, who POUNCES. Landon takes off,
racing for the fence in a dead sprint, the wolf gaining.

Behind him, the wolf HURTLES ITSELF TOWARDS LANDON AND TAKES
LANDON DOWN TO THE GROUND IN A BLUR.

Suddenly two bare human arms reach in and yank his hoodie off
of him. He spins, looking up at his attacker to see --

HOPE quickly wrapping his hoodie around her body. Where there
was a wolf, there's now just a very naked girl.

HOPE

Are you crazy? I almost killed you.

He stares up at her, utterly confused by what just happened.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

28 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT 28

Landon stares at the collection of artifacts, the volumes of supernatural history. There's an ornate KNIFE in a glass case that catches his eye. He studies it. Reaches for it.

HOPE (O.S.)
Don't touch that.

He leaps back, startled. Hope has entered the room, dressed.

LANDON
Sorry -- I didn't -- I mean, I
wasn't -- where are we?

HOPE
The Stefan Salvatore Memorial
Library. All the artifacts in here
have a supernatural history.

LANDON
What's the story on this one?

HOPE
No idea. But in my experience, your
safest bet is not to touch it.

LANDON
Noted.

HOPE
Sorry about earlier. You shouldn't
have been out there.

LANDON
I'll file that under things that
seem really obvious after the fact.
(then)
So...I guess this means that you're
a werewolf. He said, casually...

HOPE
I'm...a lot of things.

LANDON
Care to elaborate?

HOPE
They're just gonna make you forget
it tomorrow --

28

LONDON

Come on. Humor me.

She eyes him, deciding...

29

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - KITCHEN - NIGHT

29

MG rummages in the fridge. Penelope Park nearby.

MG

I need food. I have the munchies.

PENELOPE PARK

I can help you with that --

She tilts her neck, exposing it to him. Tempting him. He eyes her, drawn to her neck...the sight of her vein.

MG

We'll get in trouble --

PENELOPE PARK

I know.

She loves the drama. He hesitates. She exhales, irritated.

PENELOPE PARK (CONT'D)

Seriously? I'm offering to rock your world right now.

MG

For one, we're not supposed to. For two, last I checked you were more into girls, and for three --

PENELOPE PARK

-- nobody asked you to bring math into this conversation --

MG

You know what I mean.

She sighs. *Okay, fine.*

PENELOPE PARK

For one, rules are made to be broken. For two, I'm an equal opportunity evil temptress and your binary assumptions about sexuality are dated. For three, I don't know what your three was, but do you want to suck me dry or not?

29

It's too much for a teenage boy to resist. And just like that, they're kissing. It gets hot and heavy. MG's eyes FLARE with bloodthirst. He opens his mouth, revealing FANGS. He's about to bite into her, when --

Josie enters and they quickly separate. Hurt, she hurriedly exits. Penelope grins wickedly. Always a shit-stirrer.

30

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT

30

Hope has a stack of bound books out.

HOPE

The blood that runs through my veins isn't human. My dad was one of the earth's Original Vampires.

LANDON

Was?

HOPE

Was. Turns out even immortal beings can find a way to die eventually.

She pushes aside a sad memory. Points to a book. HISTORY OF MYSTIC FALLS, VOLUME 3: THE ORIGINALS.

LANDON

(reads a chapter heading)
Klaus Mikaelson: The Great Evil.

HOPE

He wasn't very popular around here.

LANDON

One of my foster dads used to burn us with a hot poker. Evil is relative.

HOPE

My mom...was a werewolf alpha.

LANDON

There's that 'was' again.

HOPE

(simple)
The people I care about have a tendency to die on me.

He meets her eyes. Takes a step towards her. Wanting to provide comfort. Understanding. Anything.

LONDON

Your life's almost worse than mine.

HOPE

(an understatement)

It's had its ups and downs.

(finding her words)

I try not to get close to anyone anymore.

LONDON

I can see that. You've managed to back yourself into a corner.

She realizes she's been slowly distancing herself. This flusters her a little. He flusters her. She continues...

HOPE

My grandmother was a witch. A lot of that stuff is passed down, so I'm...

LONDON

A unicorn?

HOPE

I'm a hybrid of three different creatures. A tri-brid. I can control when I turn. That's what I was doing tonight. Sometimes, all the magic coursing through my body can take a bad turn and cloud my head. So I embrace the other side of me as a way to let it out.

LONDON

I've been here too long. This is starting to sound weirdly normal.

HOPE

I'm the only one of my kind.

LONDON

See? Unicorn.

She finally smiles. Relieved to have it all off her chest.

HOPE

Can I...show you something?

He nods. She gently puts her hands on the side of his face.

HOPE (CONT'D)

Earlier, you mentioned the jock who had been messing with you that day we danced...

She meets his eyes, as WHOOSH --

FLASHBACK: *THE MYSTIC GRILL.* Landon serves Hope a milkshake. She notices a table of Mystic Falls High School JOCKS nearby chucking ice cubes at Landon as he clears a table nearby.

One jock, CONNOR, jumps into a cherry vintage CAR parked out front, peeling out. Landon locks eyes with Hope, just for a second, before he heads inside the restaurant. Deflated.

BACK WITH HOPE AND LANDON -

LANDON

That's the guy. You can just dial up one of my memories like that?

HOPE

It's not your memory. It's mine.

She closes her eyes, and WHOOSH --

FLASHBACK: *A fundraiser CAR WASH in the parking lot. Connor and the jocks flirt with GIRLS. Assholes in training.*

She closes her eyes and CHANTS. Suddenly, strangely, all the water starts to FORM INTO SOLID ICE. The kids react, stunned.

Ice forms like a thick pane on the windows of Connor's VINTAGE CAR. Hope gestures, and --

BOOM! All the car's windows SHATTER into icy shards.

BACK WITH HOPE AND LANDON as he draws a breath, opening his eyes. Delighted.

LANDON

You did that for me...

HOPE

He had it coming.

They're still standing very close. Her hands on his face. She doesn't want to let go. And yet, she does.

HOPE (CONT'D)

We're not supposed to be in here after curfew. We should get you back before they know you're gone.

Moment broken, he follows her out.

31 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIZZIE AND JOSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 31

Lizzie lies in her bed as the door opens and Josie pads in.

LIZZIE
(sleepy)
Hey, Jo.

Josie crawls into bed with her, curling up beside her. The twin bond in full effect.

JOSIE
I just saw MG with his tongue down
you-know-who's throat.

LIZZIE
Gross. He should know better than
to make out with the Dark Lord. Bad
friend move.

JOSIE
(still bruised)
Yeah.

LIZZIE
Forget about her. Focus on someone
new. A good crush'll even you out.
I'm setting my sites on Rafael. If
he ever talks to me again after I
was such a freak show...

As they snuggle up together, linger on Josie's face -- and the burden of being the one who cares too much and never gets what she wants...

32 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - WEREWOLF BUNKER - NIGHT 32

As Hope and Landon enter, he looks around the cellar nervously. Hope picks up on it.

HOPE
Give me your hand.

LANDON
I thought we'd established I'm a
terrible dancer.

She smiles at him. Cups his hand in hers. She quietly chants -

HOPE
Preitori Speculo.

He looks around, his jaw dropping in astonishment as he sees -
The tiny room now seems to go on INFINITELY. No end in sight.

HOPE (CONT'D)
Thought that might help you sleep.

LANDON
This is...
(a smile)
You are a really nice person, Hope
Mikaelson.

They grin at each other, enjoying the flirt for a moment.

LANDON (CONT'D)
This is the part where you run.

HOPE
I know.

But she doesn't. She can't this time.

LANDON
I won't remember any of this, will
I?

HOPE
(truth and regret)
Probably not, no.

LANDON
In that case --

He steps in and KISSES her gently. A sweet, simple kiss
filled with chapters of longing.

When they part, she smiles. Touched. Something beautiful
awakening in her eyes.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

33 EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - DAY 33

The sun shines on a new day.

ALARIC (PRELAP)
Ready for round two?

34 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - DAY 34

Landon is back seated across from Alaric.

LONDON
Actually...I was wondering if I
could stay.

ALARIC
I can put you in touch with someone
who can help you out with problems
at home, but --

LONDON
I don't have a home. Not anymore.
(then)
I can work -- I can do dishes, and
help with janitorial stuff. I can
cook --

ALARIC
I'm sorry, Landon. But you don't
belong here.

LONDON
Then where *do* I belong? Tell me
where I should go. I don't want to
cause trouble. I just want a way
out of my own life.

ALARIC
I know it seems cruel, but please
understand...this school was
created so that we could shape the
minds of young supernatural beings.
Protect their secret and then send
them into the human world fully
equipped to handle it. We're here
to prevent these great kids from
indulging in their darkest
impulses. But make no mistake,
these are predatory creatures.
(MORE)

ALARIC (CONT'D)

Vampires are driven by the feed and the kill. Wolves can't control themselves in their primal state. Witches, when provoked, are responsible for some of the worst atrocities in history. It's simply not safe here for you. I'm sorry.

This quiets Landon.

LANDON

I understand.

Alaric nods. His compassion for this kid is evident. He hits a button on his phone.

ALARIC

Have MG come on in.

The door opens and MG walks in.

MG

Hey, man...Sorry about yesterday. Your buddy's gonna be okay here. We'll look out for him. Now you just need to go home.

And as he starts COMPELLING Landon, we hear Hope --

HOPE (V.O.)

That's the last any of us thought we'd see of Landon Kirby. The human in the wrong place at the right time who needed a place to belong, just like all of us.

CLOSE ON LANDON as his eyes glaze over from the compulsion. He nods. Cooperative.

EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - DAY

Landon and Rafael say goodbye.

RAFAEL

Are you sure?

LANDON

I'll be fine. I promise.

HOPE (V.O.)

We thought he'd head back out into the world, and leave us with our secrets.

35

From the shadows inside, Hope watches Landon hug it out with Rafael and then leave. Her fingers brush her lips where he kissed her. She smiles.

HOPE (V.O.)

But we were wrong. Because Landon Kirby was full of surprises.

36

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

36

Alaric enters to find an agitated Dorian by the glass cases.

ALARIC

What's wrong?

DORIAN

The alarm didn't trigger. I don't know why.

Alaric looks to see the glass is broken and the case empty.

ALARIC

What was in there?

DORIAN

(checking a list)

Knife. Dated circa the 12th century. Supernatural origins unknown.

As they study the empty glass case...

HOPE (PRELAP)

How do you know it was him?

37

EXT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - GROUNDS - DAY

37

Hope has it out with Alaric in a private area.

ALARIC

Ancient artifact goes missing along with too-good-to-be-true hapless human? Do the math, Hope.

HOPE

That would make him a liar. I've known my fair share of those. There was nothing about him that --

ALARIC

Hope --

HOPE

No. You don't understand. There's no way that the one time I break my rule about getting close to someone, he turns out to be a liar. It's not possible. I'm not that stupid.

ALARIC

Hope. When Landon walked out that door today, we had compelled him to go home.

HOPE

So?

ALARIC

So he didn't. It was the first place we checked. And if he didn't go home, it means his memory wasn't erased...

He doesn't know how to tell her this...

ALARIC (CONT'D)

He was just pretending it was.

Shock splashes across Hope's face as we flash to --

INT. BUS - DAY

Landon is on a bus, writing in his journal. Scrambling to write down everything he remembered. *School for supernaturals...Alaric Saltzman, Headmaster...Mind control...Witches...Hope Mikaelson...*

ALARIC (PRELAP)

If his mind can't be controlled by a supernatural being, then that only means one thing.

Careful no one's watching, he reaches into his jacket and pulls out the mysterious Dagger. Studying it with curiosity.

RESUME WITH HOPE AND ALARIC

ALARIC (CONT'D)

It means he is a supernatural being.

As Hope's eyes and heart turn to steel...

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

39 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - GREAT HALL - NIGHT 39

FACULTY and students are gathered in the Great Hall as Alaric addresses them. Hope is there. Anger simmering.

ALARIC

For ten years, we've gone undetected. Protecting you, protecting our secret, has been our singular mission. Today, we need all hands on deck to find Landon Kirby before he exposes us.

Rafael sits in shock. Numb and confused. Both Lizzie and Josie eye him. Each holding him in special interest.

40 INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT 40

MG tries to catch Josie as she moves down the hall.

MG

Hey. Jo --

JOSIE

I'm not talking to you.

MG

I know. I'm an ass. You-know-who -- she puts those sex spell herbs in her weed. I had a momentary lapse in judgment.

JOSIE

(genuinely upset)
Why does everyone find her so special?

MG

She's not special. She's just...available.

He gives her a quick hug as he peels off.

MG (CONT'D)

Don't hate me.

Down the hall, Penelope Park puts on a show. Annoyed, Josie mutters a spell under her breath and suddenly Penelope's clothes light on fire. As her friends help extinguish her...

40

Josie walks away. Eyes dark. Not the only Saltzman Twin battling a darkness inside.

CAMERA FINDS HOPE, who's seen all of this.

41

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIZZIE AND JOSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 41

Josie enters her room. Surprised when Hope stops at her door.

HOPE
I need your help.

JOSIE
Three more words to me than your annual average. Find someone else.

Undeterred, Hope enters, shutting the door behind her.

HOPE
This stuff with Landon is my fault. I can fix it. I know how to track him, but it involves a dark magic.

JOSIE
We're not allowed to use black magic here.

HOPE
Says the girl who just lit her ex on fire.

JOSIE
What, are you blackmailing me?

HOPE
No. I'm looking for a kindred spirit in revenge.

SMASH CUT TO:

42

INT. SALVATORE SCHOOL - LIZZIE AND JOSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 42

In a SERIES OF CUTS, Hope and Josie pull together ingredients. Grimoires. Herbs. Candles. Grimacing, Hope pulls a WRIGGLING RAT from a small bag.

She takes a blade and SLICES INTO THE RAT. As blood drips on her spell, they CHANT. It GROWS in intensity, as an inexplicable WIND whips up, blowing things off her walls.

JOSIE
(a little spooked)
You sure about this?

HOPE
Absolutely.

Hope doesn't lose focus. She closes her eyes. FLASH -- She sees Landon's face. Shadows. Light flickering over him. More FLASHES of Landon. A bus. People asleep on it.

JOSIE
Do you see anything?

HOPE
Just flashes.

She doubles down her chanting. Watching Landon as he TOSSES AND TURNS. Inside his jacket, something starts to GLOW.

HOPE (CONT'D)
C'mon...give me something.

In her vision, Landon JOLTS awake suddenly, in a panic. He looks around. The dark road. The sleeping passengers.

A glimpse of a highway sign. Route 81. NOW ENTERING GEORGIA.

JOSIE
I got it. Route 81.

HOPE
Georgia...

Still in the vision, Landon feels heat inside his jacket pocket. He withdraws the DAGGER. It's GLOWING ORANGE HOT.

JOSIE
Is that the knife?

HOPE
Yeah.

JOSIE
What's it doing?

HOPE
I have no idea.

The knife starts to glow brighter and brighter until --

JOSIE
AHHH --

A MASSIVE FLASH OF LIGHT CONSUMES THE BUS. The power KNOCKS HOPE AND JOSIE ACROSS THE DORM ROOM as everything goes BLACK.

43 EXT. ROUTE 81 - EARLY MORNING 43

FADE IN AS WE PAN DOWN from the trees, to the rural highway, to where a BUS is parked on the road. Quiet. Seemingly empty.

Alaric and Hope stand with a SHERIFF. His badge reads Mystic Falls Sheriff's Department. This is SHERIFF MATT DONOVAN.

SHERIFF DONOVAN

Picked it up from the scanner late last night. Called in a favor with my buddy at Georgia State Patrol and asked him to lock down the scene until we got here. Local PD thinks it's a chemical spill.

ALARIC

What's the actual story?

SHERIFF DONOVAN

I'll leave that to you to figure out.

ALARIC

Thanks, Matt.

Matt indicates that they're clear to enter the bus. Alaric and Hope exchange a look. Unsure of what they'll find.

HOPE (V.O.)

Remember what I said about how the difference between good guys and bad is in who's telling the story? Turns out supernatural mystery boy Landon Kirby isn't the hero of my tale at all...

44 INT. BUS - EARLY MORNING 44

Hope and Alaric enter, taking it in. Shocked and horrified.

THE INSIDES OF THE BUS HAVE BEEN BURNED TO A CRISP. ALONG WITH EVERY PASSENGER INSIDE. Only burnt husks remain.

It's carnage. Death everywhere. A bus full of innocents, lost to a gruesome end. Hope's eyes go steely.

HOPE (V.O.)

But when I hunt him down, I'm gonna be the villain of his.

SMASH TO BLACK.