

**SAFE AND SOUND**

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

A middle class suburb. Houses with fences. Manicured lawns.

Through the branches of a scraggly tree, we see a cream colored home with blue trim.

The curtains are drawn, no movement from inside.

INT. BABY NURSERY - DAY

Light blue walls with clouds and sheep. Baby blankets. A cherry wood crib. Books. Stuffed animals.

We may notice a few unpacked boxes in the corner.

BIRDS and TRAFFIC noise filters in.

At first blush the room looks empty. Then we see. In the corner, stands JENNIFER WELLER (34). She is pretty but plain. No make-up. Very pregnant.

She stares out the window.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Jennifer's yard holds a wood shed. At the edge, only a few manicured bushes separate her property from the neighbors.

Sitting center stage in the neighbor's yard: a pool.

INT. BABY NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer stares at the pool. She seems in a trance, mentally some place else.

The sounds of KIDS PLAYING. Jennifer sees a GIRL (6), in a white and red dress next to a BOY (4), blond hair cut in a bowl style. They skip around the pool.

The girl looks up and sees Jennifer. Waves.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Nice furniture. Additional moving boxes. DARIN WELLER (40) sits at his desk, reviewing pamphlets for medical products. He studies them as homework.

On the desk, mail is postmarked to: THE WELLERS.

INT. STAIRS TO BASEMENT - DAY

The view up towards the rest of the house, as if someone lurks in the basement.

The sound of FOOTSTEPS.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A collectable plate on the mantel reads *"Mommy loves you even if you aren't here yet"*.

Something blurred and small, what could be a hand, SWIPES the plate. It SHATTERS on the floor.

Darin enters, followed by Jennifer.

JENNIFER

What happened?

DARIN

I'm not sure. Maybe wind from the window. Were you sleeping?

JENNIFER

No. I have a bit of a headache.

Darin picks up the broken plate. Water droplets lay around the pieces.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

This street is so quiet.

DARIN

Perfect.

JENNIFER

We've been here months and still haven't met the neighbors.

DARIN

I'm sure muffins from the welcome wagon are on their way. We'll find out who doesn't mow their lawn, who plays loud music.

JENNIFER

It would be good to have friends. For when you're gone.

DARIN

I'd rather be here. I'm trying to  
cut back on hours.

He puts a hand lovingly on her stomach.

A SCRAPING from the other room.

JENNIFER

Did you hear that?

She exits.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

The table holds a glass vase with flowers. Next to the vase,  
a cutting board with a lemon and a butcher knife.

A black blurred hand reaches for the knife but retracts under  
the table as Jennifer enters.

DARIN (O.S.)

What was it?

JENNIFER

Not sure. Were you cutting  
something -

Jennifer puts a hand to her stomach.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Oh God.

Fluid GUSHES down her legs and SPLASHES on the floor.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Darin! It's time.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Darin picks up several bags, opening the door for Jennifer.  
They exit.

Two figures emerge from the kitchen, out of focus. When they  
speak it is raspy. Grotesque.

VOICE #1

What do we do?

VOICE #2

Wait. See what happens.

They exit.

LATER

Light fades out the window. Darkness.

LATER

The sun rises. Light streams in. The sounds of life outside: MUSIC, SPRINKLERS, CARS.

LATER

The light fades again. Darkness.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

The flowers in the vase have wilted. Brown pedals drape over the crystal vase. Beauty and ugliness.

The sounds of the front door OPENING. Then, the unmistakable noise of a baby CRYING.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

In the crib is BRYCE WELLER, only a few days old.

He is awake and makes COOING noises. Jennifer stares at him. Her face is a mix of trepidation and confusion.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

Darin makes breakfast. A KNOCK at the door.

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Darin opens the door to see a box on the step. Gift wrapped with turtle wrapping paper.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer is in a rocking chair, holding Bryce.

Darin enters with a tray. On it is toast, a blue ceramic mug and the gift box. He places the tray down.

DARIN

Breakfast. I made juice fresh.

JENNIFER

That's so nice. Who did that come from?

DARIN

It appeared at the door.

Jennifer opens the gift card.

It reads: *FOR YOUR NEW BABY. MICHELLE (I'M 1 HOUSE AWAY WITH THE POOL. KNOCK WHEN YOU'RE READY!)*

From the box, Jennifer pulls a porcelain cherub doll.

JENNIFER

It's beautiful.

DARIN

Now it's official. We're bad neighbors for not reaching out.

JENNIFER

I'll make my apologetic coffee cake.

Darin picks up Bryce.

DARIN

We should get some extra slack because of this guy.

He motions to the moving boxes.

DARIN (CONT'D)

I think there's a baby swing in one of those. I'll put it together for you later. And I hooked up the baby monitors. They have a function so you can communicate between rooms like a walkie-talkie. You can call to me for refills.

He hands her the juice.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Next week there's that dinner, for all the pharmaceutical reps in my department and their families.

JENNIFER

Next week?

DARIN

I want to show you and Bryce off.

JENNIFER

I don't know if I'll be up for it.

DARIN

Don't decide now. Why don't you rest, read. Finish that book you've been working on. I'll take Bryce out for a walk.

Darin hands her a book.

DARIN (CONT'D)

And eat up. You need extra calories when breast feeding.

JENNIFER

I love you.

DARIN

Love you.

He exits with Bryce.

A moment later Darin and Bryce appear out the window, heading down the driveway.

Jennifer drinks her juice. She picks up the book, reading page fifty-seven.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A blue blanket with stuffed animals lays on the floor, a space for parent and child to bond.

Tiny black hands grab the blanket, leaving dark greasy smears on the fabric.

VOICE #1

I'm a baby. Look at my blanket.

VOICE #2

No, I'm the baby! I cry loud.  
WHAAA!

VOICE #1

Ahahaha. You are a baby. Me too.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer reads page fifty-seven. A CLATTER causes her to put the book down. Another NOISE, and she gets out of bed.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

As Jennifer walks, we hear what sounds like a RUSTLE from the basement. Jennifer slows, then continues.

INT. STAIRS TO BASEMENT - DAY

At the top of the stairs, Jennifer hesitates. She flips on the light but the bulb provides almost no illumination.

She makes her way down the stairs. Another RUSTLE, this time louder.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Stacked storage containers cast strange shadows as Jennifer heads towards the noise. The sound comes from behind a stack of boxes. Slowly Jennifer reaches out her hand to move a box.

A rat pops out and SCURRIES to the floor.

Jennifer JUMPS and SCREAMS.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jennifer comes up the stairs from the basement. Darin sits with Bryce, fixing a bottle.

DARIN

What were you doing down here?

JENNIFER

I heard something. It was nothing.

DARIN

Well? Was she having an affair with her brother-in-law?

JENNIFER

What?

DARIN

In your book. Wasn't the character falling in love with her brother-in-law?

JENNIFER

I don't know. I'm not there yet.

Darin gives the bottle to Bryce.

DARIN

After this guy eats, I'll make lunch for us.

JENNIFER

Lunch?

DARIN

I thought you'd be done with the book for sure.

JENNIFER

But, you just left.

DARIN

We've been gone for three hours. I went to the hardware store, got paint.

JENNIFER

That can't be. I haven't read anything.

DARIN

Maybe you stole some extra Zs and didn't even know it. I won't tell.

He kisses her.

INT. FRONT ROOM - DAY

Jennifer is nervous as she holds Bryce. Darin puts on his coat and opens the front door. He holds a MEDCO ONE bag.

JENNIFER

Can't you take a few more days off?

DARIN

I wish I could.

He pats his pockets.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Shit. My work phone.

JENNIFER

I put it inside your briefcase.

(beat)

I feel better when you're here with me.

DARIN

What are you worried about?

JENNIFER  
Messing it up. Doing something  
wrong.

DARIN  
You'll be great.

He kisses Bryce and exits.

Along the floorboard, a cockroach scurries towards the door,  
disappearing under the molding.

INT. WELLER HOME - DAY (QUICK SHOTS)

Jennifer starts a load of laundry.

She cleans up the lemon from the table but leaves the knife  
in place. The wilted flowers remain in the vase.

Bryce's CRIES pierce the silence.

Jennifer gives Bryce a bottle.

Jennifer watches Bryce sleep. The sounds of the WASHING  
MACHINE. The clock TICKING.

Bryce's CRYING as Jennifer changes over laundry.

The phone RINGS. Jennifer answers.

DARIN (O.S.)  
Just wanted to see how everything  
is going.

JENNIFER  
Quiet.

DARIN (O.S.)  
You need me to pick anything up on  
my way home?

JENNIFER  
I'm good.

DARIN (O.S.)  
I'm sorry I can't be there with  
you.

JENNIFER  
Come home soon.

LATER

Jennifer reads a 'TODAY'S NEWBORN' book.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
 (reading)  
 Do not use bleach to wash baby  
 clothes. Wash bottles in a pan on  
 the stove without soap.

Jennifer places dirty baby bottles in a shallow pan with  
 water on the stove and turns it on to LOW.

INT. LIVING ROOM -DAY

Jennifer folds laundry. Movement out the window catches her  
 eye and she moves the curtain.

Outside, she sees MICHELLE (30), holding mail.

EXT. HOUSE- DAY

Jennifer comes down the driveway towards Michelle in a  
 bathrobe and slippers.

JENNIFER  
 Hi. Hi there!

One foot has painted toenails. Jennifer's hair is mussed,  
 adding to an 'off' appearance.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
 I saw you and had to come out. We  
 haven't had a proper introduction  
 yet. I'm Jennifer.

MICHELLE  
 Michelle.

JENNIFER  
 Thank you, for the gift.

MICHELLE  
 Sure.

JENNIFER  
 I'm not anti-social. With  
 motherhood, I just kind of folded  
 back in on myself. Neither my  
 husband or I have family alive  
 so...I'd love to get together.

TMI. Michelle looks towards her house.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I was admiring your pool. I used to be a swimmer. There were some kids playing around it this morning. Are they yours?

MICHELLE

I let all the neighborhood kids use it.

An awkward beat.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Uh, listen. I have to get back. We can catch up later, OK?

JENNIFER

(confused)

Oh, OK. Uh..see you soon!

As Jennifer turns, she sees she has no shirt or bra on.

Her robe has been open during the conversation.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Damn it!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Jennifer enters and turns off the stove, still mulling over the Michelle conversation.

JENNIFER

Hi, wanna come over for lunch? Oh this? I'm just a nudist.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Bryce sleeps as Jennifer looks in on him, then exits.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer turns the baby monitor on. A soft WHITE HUM and a blinking green light. She sits on the bed.

Her face is worn, tired.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

The knob on the stove turns, moving from LOW to HIGH.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer is asleep on the bed.

Additional lights on the baby monitor flash as STATIC comes from it. Then - a MOAN.

It turns to a HOWL, then a SHRIEK.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)  
I kill babies, yes I do. I'm going  
to kill yours and then kill you!

Jennifer sits straight up, awake.

VOICE #2 (O.S.)  
22 days until you're dead.

Jennifer picks up the baby monitor.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)  
Not that long now, not that long.

DARIN (O.S.)  
Jennifer. Jennifer!

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

Smoke billows up from the stove. A black spot on the ceiling from a smoke stain.

The water has boiled down and the plastic bottles are melted into the pan. The stove is on HIGH.

Darin uses a towel to grab the pot and move it to the sink.

It SIZZLES under the water.

Jennifer enters.

DARIN  
These have been on high. It must  
have been hours now!

Darin opens windows and fans smoke out.

DARIN (CONT'D)  
What happened?

JENNIFER  
I don't know. I -

Bryce CRIES from the other room.

DARIN  
Get Bryce.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer picks up Bryce who is SCREAMING. A moment later Darin enters.

DARIN  
Is he OK? Was there smoke in here?

JENNIFER  
I don't think so.

Darin looks over Bryce.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry. I was cleaning the bottles. I know I turned it off, Darin.

DARIN  
Are you sure?

JENNIFER  
Yes. But then I...I must have fallen asleep. I thought I heard something from the baby monitor.

DARIN  
What?

JENNIFER  
I don't know. Just a weird dream I guess. I'm sorry.

Darin hugs them both.

DARIN  
Are you OK?

JENNIFER  
Yeah.

DARIN  
Just be careful. We don't want any more accidents.

EXT. WELLER HOUSE - NIGHT

All is quiet as darkness blankets the house.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer lies awake in bed, watching the baby monitor.

A soft WHITE HUM and a blinking green light.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

Jennifer stands at the pantry. She holds two boxes of rice: White and Mexican.

She stares at them transfixed, as if an answer is inside.

From the doorway, someone's hand holds the butcher knife. It's blackish, out of focus. The butcher knife comes into frame behind Jennifer. It advances.

The front door OPENING causes the figure with the knife to leap away.

Darin enters, holding his music player and sneakers.

DARIN

Hey. Lemme guess, we're having rice.

JENNIFER

I couldn't decide. You're home late.

DARIN

I went jogging.

JENNIFER

You don't just want to go around the neighborhood?

DARIN

I have a special route I like to take. Hey, were you in my office?

JENNIFER

What?

DARIN

It looks like stuff was moved around.

JENNIFER

I haven't been in here.

DARIN

I was thinking. We should put some extra baby monitors down stairs.

JENNIFER

More than we already have?

DARIN

I want you to be able to hear him. No matter where you are.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darin is watching TV in bed. Jennifer enters.

JENNIFER

He's finally asleep. What are you watching?

DARIN

Discovery channel. Tonight, it's all polar bears.

On the screen: an adult and baby polar bear sit on a small ice berg in the ocean.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Global warming is gonna get them. Melting all their ice.

The TV shows the adult polar bear attacking the baby.

JENNIFER

What is that? What is he doing?

DARIN

No food. They turn to cannibalism.

JENNIFER

Disgusting. Turn it off.

She adjusts the volume on the baby monitor.

DARIN

Dinner was great. Thank you. You're doing such a great job with everything, Bryce.

JENNIFER

He has your eyes.

Darin strokes her arm, her face.

Jennifer kisses him. Kisses him again.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You wanna...

DARIN

Do you feel up to it? Let me get a condom.

JENNIFER

I'll ovulate when Bryce is around a month. We don't have to worry about it quite yet.

Darin reaches for the bedside table.

DARIN

Well. Just in case. Bryce was a surprise. A good surprise, but we don't need any more right now.

LATER THAT NIGHT

Jennifer lies awake. She stares at the baby monitor. The lights flicker with the sound of Bryce breathing.

Then - WHISPERS. Jennifer turns up the volume. Waits.

WHISPERS. Unintelligible. But definitely real.

Jennifer sits up.

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

Jennifer enters and looks around, checks on Bryce.

She checks the baby monitor. She starts to leave the room.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

I'm sorry.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

I don't think you are. I think you know exactly what you're doing.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

That's crazy. I'm not trying to start a fight!

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Well, that's exactly what you got. I can't believe the shit you pull.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Wait, don't leave. I'm sorry! I am!

Jennifer stares at the baby monitor. She goes to adjust the volume and the noise stops.

JENNIFER  
Hello?

She pushes the 'talk' button.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Hello.

STATIC.

Then - muffled CRYING from the baby monitor. The CRYING becomes louder. Jennifer picks the monitor up.

JENNIFER  
Hello?

The crying stops.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Hi.

JENNIFER  
Michelle?

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Yes.

JENNIFER  
It's Jennifer. I must have picked up your monitor frequency.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
What did you hear?

JENNIFER  
Nothing. Some talking last night. Are you alright?

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
You heard us fighting.

JENNIFER  
A little.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Listen, I'm sorry I was so short  
with you the other day. You just -

JENNIFER  
I know, my lack of clothes. I'm  
such a space case sometimes. Sorry.

Beat.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
He doesn't mean it. What he says.  
We argue sometimes, but he's a good  
guy. Gives me everything I need.  
Just sometimes, I'm lonely. It's  
just me and the baby.

JENNIFER  
You have kids?

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Mine is just under a year. We must  
be on the same monitor frequency.  
I've heard your son crying.

JENNIFER  
Hopefully not too much. I'm not  
sure how much babies are supposed  
to cry.  
(beat)  
Me too.

MICHELLE  
You too what?

JENNIFER  
I'm lonely too.

Jennifer sits.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Tell me more.

LATER

Jennifer rocks in the chair, holding the monitor.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Are you on maternity leave? I mean,  
do you work?

JENNIFER

Not right now. I'd like to. I don't exactly remember making the decision to not work. When I got pregnant, things just went on hold.

She trails off.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Geez, the last few years are like a blur. Being with Darin, time has gone by so fast and now I have a family to focus on.

LATER

The sky has grown a hazy blue. Jennifer finishes giving Bryce a bottle and puts him in the crib.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

Sometimes, I can't make even small decisions. What to wear.

JENNIFER

What to make for dinner.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

Exactly.

JENNIFER

It's like at any moment I could do the wrong thing and Lilly's lovely dress.

Jennifer is surprised at her own statement.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

What?

JENNIFER

I'm sorry, I'm getting loopy. I don't know where that came from.

MICHELLE (O.S.)

Would you come over? We could talk more. Have lunch?

JENNIFER

That would be wonderful.

The sound of the SHOWER WATER.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Oh shit, it's morning. We've been  
talking all night!

JENNIFER  
What? No. It's only been like an  
hour.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
I have to go. I'll see you in a  
bit.

JENNIFER  
Michelle.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Yeah?

JENNIFER  
I'm really happy we talked. Thank  
you.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

The morning sun streams through the window.

The vase with the flowers now has mold growing over the  
water. The flowers are totally dead.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer holds Bryce and looks out towards Michelle's house.

DARIN (O.S.)  
Hey sweetie, where is the large  
kitchen knife?

JENNIFER  
I haven't seen it.

A moment later Darin enters, holding Jennifer's blue ceramic  
mug. Jennifer puts Bryce down and drinks it.

Darin SNIFFS.

DARIN  
When did you get up? You weren't in  
bed when I woke up.

JENNIFER  
I just, came to check on him.

DARIN

Do you smell something?

JENNIFER

There may be sour milk on me. I'm having lunch today with Michelle, the neighbor who dropped off the gift.

DARIN

Great.

He SNIFFS around the laundry hamper.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Are you sure you can't smell that?

He opens the closet and JUMPS back.

The diaper basket is overflowing with diapers. They have piled up around the floor, leaking urine and feces.

FLIES swarm in the closet.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Oh, crap!

He recoils.

DARIN (CONT'D)

What is this?

JENNIFER

I - I didn't realize there was so many. I guess I forgot to take it out.

DARIN

Good God! Didn't you see that it was getting full?

JENNIFER

I forgot about it. I've been feeling foggy. I'm sorry.

He plugs his nose and grabs the basket.

DARIN

I'm taking these out. I'll set up a pick-up service to start tomorrow.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer brushes her hair. She RUMMAGES through the closet looking at shirts.

JENNIFER

No. No.

INT. NURSERY CLOSET - DAY

Five blue baby jumpers stare at Jennifer.

She selects one and dresses Bryce.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

Jennifer pulls out a coffee cake from the oven. She uses a spatula to put some on a plate.

EXT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

Jennifer exits.

She places Bryce in a stroller next to the door.

Pushing it with one hand and carrying the plate of coffee cake in the other, she moves down the driveway.

EXT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

The porch has potted plants and a red welcome mat.

Jennifer struggles to get the baby stroller up over the steps to the door. She straightens her outfit and hair.

She RINGS the doorbell.

No answer.

She RINGS again.

No answer.

She looks through the glass pane next to the door. No movement inside.

Jennifer KNOCKS on the door.

JENNIFER

Michelle? It's Jennifer.

She KNOCKS and RINGS at the same time.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Michelle?

She looks inside the window. Inside, a pristine hallway leads to stairs.

A dark figure BRUSHES past Jennifer and into the house! She JUMPS back with fright and SCREAMS.

She turns and looks inside the house, just in time to see the FIGURE darts across the hall.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Hey. Hey!

She BANGS on the door, looking inside.

Another FIGURE, smaller, scampers across the hall.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Michelle. Michelle!

Jennifer tries the door. It is open.

INT. MICHELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

Jennifer enters, moving to the stair case.

JENNIFER  
Michelle?

From behind the stairway, the figures approach Jennifer. A hand reaches out for her.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
What are you doing in here?

Jennifer JUMPS. Her cake plate SHATTERS to the floor.

Michelle is the doorway, shopping bag in hand.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)  
Why are you inside my house?

JENNIFER  
I thought he may be trying to hurt you.

MICHELLE  
Who?

JENNIFER

I saw someone and was worried you were in danger. I'm sorry.

MICHELLE

What is that?

JENNIFER

It's...coffee cake.

Jennifer collects the broken plate pieces.

MICHELLE

Look. I joined a support group when my husband was deployed to Afghanistan. Maybe you should consider finding new moms to talk to.

JENNIFER

Let's just forget about this and have lunch.

MICHELLE

I think you need to leave.

JENNIFER

We had such a great talk yesterday I really felt we connected.

MICHELLE

We haven't spoken since I saw you outside.

JENNIFER

What? We talked all night.

MICHELLE

Should I call someone for you? Your husband maybe, or...

JENNIFER

No. We talked, on the baby monitors!

Michelle is concerned.

MICHELLE

It's just me here until my husband gets back. I don't have a baby monitor, or a baby.

INT. MEDCO ONE OFFICE - DAY

Darin is nervous, sitting across from CHARLES (56), well put together and confident at an oak desk.

CHARLES

Darin. How are the accounts?

DARIN

Fine. Good.

CHARLES

It looks like you've put in for a deferral on travel for the rest of the year.

DARIN

I just want to be here, while my son is little. Help my wife.

CHARLES

How is Jennifer doing?

DARIN

Fine.

CHARLES

How long has it been, since the accident?

DARIN

Over a year now.

Charles gives a somber nod, preparing. Calculating.

CHARLES

Darin, we approached you because the circumstances were right. Test cases help us immeasurably when we prep for clinical trials.

DARIN

And I agreed. I've done what you asked.

CHARLES

Jennifer's progress could be better monitored with a doctor's influence. She almost died, didn't she?

Darin reluctantly nods.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
Our company counselor is top notch.

He hands Darin a card.

DARIN  
She doesn't remember anything. I  
don't want to push her.

CHARLES  
Memory is a tricky thing. And it  
was a traumatic event. But she will  
likely start to remember at some  
point.

DARIN  
If she remembers, she might leave  
me. We're happy now.

CHARLES  
I understand. Is she is coming to  
dinner tonight?

DARIN  
Yes.

CHARLES  
Great.

Darin's face reflects his position: *fucked*.

He gets up to exit.

CHARLES (CONT'D)  
When Jennifer had her accident. Was  
she on medication?

DARIN  
No.

CHARLES  
Too bad. Perhaps if....Well, see  
you tonight.

DARIN  
And the travel waiver?

CHARLES  
I'll think about it. For the time  
being, we'll keep you on the same  
schedule.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - NIGHT

She looks out the window towards Michelle's house. She glares at the baby monitor.

Darin enters and COOS at Bryce.

JENNIFER

I couldn't decide on dinner. Let's just go out.

DARIN

Don't you need to get ready?

JENNIFER

It took me longer than I thought to but, I'm ready.

Jennifer's blouse is buttoned incorrectly, everything has a tilt to it. Her hair is a mess.

DARIN

(looking her over)  
You know about tonight, I don't think we should go.

JENNIFER

But you've been talking about it so much.

DARIN

Maybe it's not time yet. I don't want to stress you out.

JENNIFER

Are you sure?

DARIN

Plenty of time for you to meet my boss.

Jennifer scratches her arm. There is a fresh red mark. She moves her fingertips along it, scratching.

DARIN (CONT'D)

How did it go today with the neighbor?

JENNIFER

Fine.

DARIN

We'll have to invite them over.

JENNIFER

I don't think we can be friends.  
She was...

DARIN

What?

JENNIFER

I want to go to Church this  
weekend. St. Luke's.

DARIN

I've spent the last three weekends  
traveling. Couldn't we just stay  
in?

(beat)

Listen, I set up the diaper  
service. All you have to do is put  
them in the green bag and leave it  
on the porch.

No response.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Jennifer. You OK?

JENNIFER

I heard a voice. From the baby  
monitor. I know that sounds crazy  
but it's not my imagination.  
Something is happening.

Darin face: *how to respond?* He gives a resigned nod.

DARIN

I believe you.

JENNIFER

Whatever it is, I'm going to find  
out. For me and for Bryce. It means  
something. I can sense it.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Rubber building blocks with letters on them stare up at  
Jennifer as she sits in the filled tub.

Steam fills the room.

She looks down into the murky water.

JENNIFER'S POV - SAME MOMENT

Something appears between Jennifer's legs.

She uses her fingers to try clear the water.

It is black. It is moving. It is a snake, coming out of her.

The snake pushes further and further away from her body and through the water. Its head BREAKS through the water.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)  
15 days left. Counting down. Don't  
fall asleep, you might drown!

In one swift motion the snake SNAPS at Jennifer's face, wrapping its teeth around her face.

END JENNIFER POV

A muffled SCREAM turns into a real one. Jennifer sits up in the tub, waking from a dream.

She BREATHEs heavily. Looks down at the building blocks.

Jennifer stares at them, then turns blocks to switch letters. They spell NO MSRE BRKLS.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A baby stroller sits by the shed, Bryce inside. Jennifer picks up a flower pot and moves it by the shed.

She looks over to Michelle's pool. The cover is off, the water clear and inviting.

Michelle exits her back door and sees Jennifer.

Awkward beat.

JENNIFER  
I'll go back inside.

MICHELLE  
No, don't be silly. Is that your  
little one?

JENNIFER  
Bryce.

MICHELLE  
Can I?

Jennifer nods and Michelle scoops up Bryce from his stroller.

JENNIFER

You must think I've escaped from  
the looney bin.

MICHELLE

I've had quite a few friends who  
were mothers. I know how stressful  
it can be. Kind of like being  
without your spouse.

JENNIFER

How long will he be deployed?

MICHELLE

Eight more months. Feels like a  
lifetime. You know you're desperate  
when you contemplate cheating with  
the 'H&R Block' guy. I'm kidding.

Jennifer looks longingly at the pool.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

You said you used to be a swimmer?

JENNIFER

In college. I thought about  
teaching lessons, making a business  
out of it. But I never got around  
to it.

MICHELLE

Well, you're welcome to use the  
pool anytime.

JENNIFER

I couldn't.

MICHELLE

Why not?

JENNIFER

(rethinking)

Maybe, I guess. There's a certain  
freedom, being in the water.

Michelle puts Bryce back in his crib.

MICHELLE

I'll see you soon.

JENNIFER

Thanks. You too.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jennifer rinses dishes in the sink.

The TV plays in the background, showing a 'PBS style' documentary. On the screen, a man in suit and tie, JOE (49), walks down a city street.

TV NARRATOR (O.S.)  
This is Joe. He lives in  
Pittsburgh.

Darin comes up behind her for a hug and she jumps.

DARIN  
Whoa, you OK?

JENNIFER  
Yeah. You just took me by surprise.

DARIN  
I'm heading to bed. I'll check on  
Bryce.

JENNIFER  
Be right up.

Darin exits.

TV NARRATOR (O.S.)  
Joe had a stable job, a family. A  
life many would be envious of. But  
he also had something else that  
threatened to kill him.

JOE (O.S.)  
The first time I heard them, I  
thought I was crazy. They spoke to  
me one day as I was alone, working  
outside in my yard.

Jennifer is transfixed, turning to look at the TV.

JOE (CONT'D) (O.S.)  
No one believed me that they were  
demons, but I knew. They told me I  
was going to die. Then one night -

The power goes out.

JENNIFER  
Darren? Darren!

She turns just in time to see a dark figure directly in front of her. It SWIPES at her face and Jennifer SCREAMS.

The power comes on.

Jennifer looks at the sink and freezes in terror.

There, in a glass bowl in the sink, is the porcelain doll Michelle gave her as a gift.

The cherub is lying underwater, staring up at Michelle.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

She looks around as if expecting to see who did it.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The lights on the baby monitor blink.

Darin SNORES.

Jennifer lies awake.

VOICE #1

GRRRRR. GRRRRRRR.

The sound grows. Jennifer picks up the baby monitor. The noise isn't coming from it.

She turns around slowly in the direction of the sound.

VOICE #2

GRRRRRRR.

Jennifer trembles, bending down. She looks under the bed. Two pair of eyes flick open.

VOICE #1

I kill babies, that's what I do.  
Some for me and some for you.

Jennifer LEAPS back.

The figures run out.

Jennifer sneaks to the doorway and looks out

INTO THE HALLWAY

to see a larger figure holding a knife. Next to it, another smaller figure.

They are as shadows, the outline of a human but no definitive shape. Black, flickering.

FIGURE #1

Come see. Watch me kill.

It runs into the nursery.

JENNIFER

No - no!

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

Jennifer enters, peering into the darkness. Something is there. Moving. Breathing. Waiting.

FIGURE #1

10 days. 10 days.

It's at the crib.

FIGURE #1 (CONT'D)

10 days until you die.

FIGURE #2

Stick a needle in your eye. Ha ha ha!

JENNIFER

Why are you here?

FIGURE #1

You want to figure it out? Then figure it out! Who will die first, you, or him?

The figure raises the knife over the crib. Jennifer SCREAMS.

JENNIFER

Oh God, no! Don't hurt him. It's me. I die first!

The figure advances on Jennifer.

All that is visible is the butcher's knife. The figure is a black haze.

Jennifer closes her eyes, turning away.

The lights FLIP on as Darin runs in.

DARIN  
Jennifer? What happened?

Jennifer opens her eyes. The figure is gone.

She embraces Darin.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer lies awake in bed. Darin rolls over from the other side of the bed.

DARIN  
Morning. How are you feeling?

Jennifer looks like death warmed over. She has huge bags under her eyes and is pale.

DARIN (CONT'D)  
I'll call in sick. So we can spend the day together.

JENNIFER  
Really?

DARIN  
What would you like to do today?

INT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY (QUICK CUTS)

Darin makes baby talk at Bryce, who lies on the baby blanket. Jennifer sits nearby, just a bit off the blanket.

Jennifer and Darin sit together, feeding Bryce.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Darin enters, holding Bryce. Jennifer has a scrapbook laid out on the table along with stickers and construction paper.

DARIN  
I think he's ready for a nap. What are you working on?

JENNIFER  
His first scrapbook.

DARIN  
That's great.

Darin looks at the book. He flips back pages to older work Jennifer has done. More. Becomes alarmed.

The photos in the scrapbook are all unfocused. Pictures of grays, whites and blacks with no people in them. No baby. Like the camera was randomly aimed at nothing.

JENNIFER

What do you think?

Darin's cell phone RINGS and he answers.

CHARLES (O.S.)

Darin? I got your message you aren't coming in today.

DARIN

My wife doesn't feel well and I need to be with her.

CHARLES (O.S.)

You no showed us at dinner. And Dr. Lear says you haven't scheduled any appointments. Jennifer isn't getting the help she needs.

DARIN

She's already taking...she's getting help.

CHARLES (O.S.)

This is a busy time for us. I've had some feedback you're not spending enough time with your clients.

Angry, Darin opens his mouth to retort, but hesitates. Looks to Jennifer.

DARIN

Just a day. I'll be back tomorrow. I'll make sure clients get what they need.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Darin reads a book. He looks over to see Jennifer asleep. He pulls a blanket over her.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

CLANKING of metal and wood as Darin cleans up the shed.

He pulls out tools, looking for something.

Darin sets a toolbox on the grass and looks up to see Michelle watering flowers in her yard. They exchange a wave.

DARIN

You must be Michelle. I'm Darin.

MICHELLE

Congrats on the little one. He's beautiful.

DARIN

Thanks. He and Jennifer are both taking a nap so, I thought it would be a safe time to start a project.

MICHELLE

How big are we talking here? A birdhouse or a new fence?

DARIN

(chuckling)

I bought some wood ages ago, with the intention of making shelves for the shed. Keep the tools organized, rather than just a big pile like they are now.

MICHELLE

Story of my life. Hey. Do you know anything about automatic sprinklers?

DARIN

Uh, maybe.

MICHELLE

One of mine stopped working and I can't figure out why.

DARIN

I'll take a look.

They walk past the pool. Michelle sees Darin eyeing it.

MICHELLE

I told Jennifer she could use it anytime. Same goes for you.

DARIN

She was asking about the pool?

MICHELLE

A bit. Why?

She kneels down to the sprinkler head.

DARIN

I just, didn't think...Jennifer  
doesn't swim anymore.

MICHELLE

Oh. She didn't say anything -

SPLASH!

Darin and Michelle look over at the pool to see Jennifer in  
it. She is fully clothed, arms searching through the water.

DARIN

Jesus.

They run over and Darin pulls Jennifer out. She seems to come  
out of a trance when he touches her.

JENNIFER

There was someone in there. I could  
see them.

MICHELLE

Are you OK?

JENNIFER

In the water. They were at the  
bottom.

INT. WELLER HOME - DAY

Jennifer sits with a towel draped around her on the couch.  
Darin is next to her.

JENNIFER

Darin. Something isn't right.

DARIN

(resigned)  
I know.

She looks at him with a moment of clarity.

JENNIFER

What's been happening isn't from  
stress. I don't remember the last  
time I felt normal.

DARIN

You said you wanted to know what was going on. Maybe, talking to someone might help.

INT. COUNSELING OFFICE - DAY

Jennifer sits across from DR. LEAR (47), a thin, serious looking man with glasses.

Jennifer is nervous, staring at the clock.

DR. LEAR

Have you seen a counselor before?

She shakes her head.

JENNIFER

If you work for Darin's company, does that mean you'll tell him about what we talk about?

DR. LEAR

Everything you say here is confidential. You mentioned over the phone that things have happened, that left you concerned?

JENNIFER

I have a sense that something is coming, but I don't know what. Something bad.

DR. LEAR

What makes you feel that way?

JENNIFER

I'd rather not say, right now, if that's OK.

DR. LEAR

Let's talk about when you first starting feeling this. What was happening in your life.

JENNIFER

I don't remember really.

DR. LEAR

Darin told me you had an accident a little over a year ago. What happened?

JENNIFER  
I slipped near the edge of a pool,  
fell in the water.

DR. LEAR  
That's what you remember?

JENNIFER  
No. That's what I've been told.  
(beat)  
A lot of my memories are jumbled.

DR. LEAR  
Anything stand out?

JENNIFER  
Sometimes when I look at my  
neighbor's pool, I get a flash of  
being around water. In water. Then  
it fades.

DR. LEAR  
Sometimes, when people have  
accidents, it's a way to act out.  
To hurt themselves.

He studies Jennifer's face for a reaction.

DR. LEAR (CONT'D)  
What about Bryce? How do you feel  
about being a mother?

Jennifer hesitates.

DR. LEAR (CONT'D)  
There are no wrong answers. Many  
new moms experience sadness,  
stress. Do you have that too?

JENNIFER  
Sometimes, yes. But mostly I  
feel...

DR. LEAR  
What?

JENNIFER  
Scared.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jennifer's face is twisted in a crack on the bathroom mirror.

Reflected in the mirror, the scratch on Jennifer's arm is now purple. It looks ripe and ready to open as she scratches it, WINCING with pain.

INT. BRYCE'S NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer gives Bryce a bottle. She changes his diaper.

She holds him in the rocking chair. Her eyes flutter and she nods to sleep before a NOISE wakes her.

She places him inside his crib and exits.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

White socks and underwear are pushed into the washer by Jennifer. She adds soap and starts the load.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

At the kitchen table alone, Jennifer eats a sandwich. A baby monitor on the counter FLASHES at the lowest level.

A SCAMPERING from behind her. A shoe SHUFFLE on the wood.

JENNIFER

Darin?

VOICE #2 (O.S.)

Help me!

The voice is afraid. In need.

VOICE #2 (CONT'D)

Help!

Jennifer gets up and moves

INTO THE LIVING ROOM

and sees the smaller dark figure moving around the couch.

FIGURE #2

I need you to look. To see.

JENNIFER

See what?

FIGURE #2

Here.

A CREAK causes Jennifer to turn, seeing that Darin's office door is open.

INT. BRYCE'S NURSERY - DAY

The first dark figure appears in the doorway.

FIGURE #1  
Time to play.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer stares ominously towards the office.

JENNIFER  
There's nothing in there. It's just  
Darin's office.

She can see the smaller figure moving around Darin's desk.

FIGURE #2  
Things to see. Look in here.

Jennifer hesitates, then moves towards the office.

INT. BRYCE'S NURSERY - DAY

The larger figure reaches into Bryce's crib. It struggles to pull Bryce out.

FIGURE #1  
You're fat.

It picks him up.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The door to the bathroom opens as the first figure precariously holds Bryce and brings him in.

FIGURE #1  
Almost there.

INT. DARIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Jennifer enters, keeping an eye on the figure.

FIGURE #2  
Come here.

Jennifer starts to move when a KNOCK makes her freeze. She peeks out the office window.

The doorbell RINGS.

MICHELLE (O.S.)  
Jennifer? It's Michelle.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Dark hands on porcelain.

The second figure lies Bryce in the bathtub.

FIGURE #1  
Fun time.

The SWOOSH of water as the bathtub turns on.

FIGURE #1 (CONT'D)  
Can you swim?

Water FLOWS into the bottom of the tub around Bryce.

The figure plugs stopper so the tub will fill.

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Jennifer opens the door to see Michelle, holding cookies.

MICHELLE  
Hey. I thought you may be in the mood for a treat. I'm always ready for a treat.

JENNIFER  
Hi.

Beat.

MICHELLE  
Is this an OK time?

Jennifer's face says no but she opens the door.

JENNIFER  
Of course.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Bryce's arms and legs SPLASH, the water rising around him.  
The water is at a dangerous level.

Only a minute more and Bryce will be overtaken.

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Michelle smiles, trying to look around without being obvious.  
Jennifer is anxious.

MICHELLE  
How's the shelf project going?

JENNIFER  
Shelf project?

MICHELLE  
Darin mentioned it. For the shed?

JENNIFER  
I didn't realize you guys had  
talked.

MICHELLE  
Are you alright? You seem, upset.

As if waking from a dream, Jennifer turns towards the baby  
monitor nearby.

The light FLASHES, picking up sounds of WATER.

JENNIFER  
Is that...

MICHELLE  
What?

JENNIFER  
I'll be right back.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Bryce's face is almost submerged in water as Jennifer rushes  
in and scoops him up from the tub.

JENNIFER  
Oh my God. Oh God.

She grabs a towel and wipes his face, checks his body.

Jennifer stops the water.

She holds Bryce and leans against the wall.

"7 DAYS" has been written with a finger in the condensation on the mirror.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

On the table is the sandwich Jennifer was eating. Michelle enters and gives it a second look.

She picks up the plate. The food is rotten. The bread and meat are green, with mold on them.

Fresh bite marks from where Jennifer was eating.

A SCUTTling noise causes Michelle to turn and see a dark figure running through the other room.

INT. FRONT ROOM - DAY

Michelle enters, looking around.

MICHELLE

Hello?

A SQUEAK as she steps on a baby toy and JUMPS with fright. She picks the toy up.

Jennifer comes downstairs carrying Bryce, wrapped in a towel.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Oh, were you giving him a bath?

JENNIFER

No. He just had a dirty diaper so I'm about to.

Michelle sees Bryce's prune like fingers.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I have to go. Thanks for the cookies.

MICHELLE

No problem. Hey, are you sure you're OK?

JENNIFER

I'm fine.

Jennifer closes the door.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
I'm fine. I'm fine. I'm fine fine  
fine!

She CLAMPS her hand over her mouth.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer puts Bryce in his crib. She paces.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Tommy's toy hammer. Lilly's lovely  
dress. No. No. Stop. Tommy's  
toy...Tommy's toy hammer.

She SCRATCHES her head, mussing her hair.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Shut up. Shut up!

EXT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

Michelle heads down the front walkway as Darin's car pulls into the driveway. He waves at her as he gets out.

DARIN  
Hey! Having a visit?

MICHELLE  
Oh, um. Yeah. I just dropped off  
some cookies.

DARIN  
I know Jennifer appreciates the  
company.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jennifer looks at the scratch on her arm. The purple wound is oozing puss.

As she stares, something under the skin MOVES.

JENNIFER  
Tommy's toy hammer. Lilly's lovely  
dress. Ahhh!

She touches it and WINCES in pain.

Frantically she searches the bathroom for a tool.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Get it out of me. I want it out!

A calm look comes over her and she exits. She returns with the butcher knife.

Voices filter in.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)  
Not much time left. It's close.

JENNIFER  
No. I don't accept that.

Jennifer she sees more MOVEMENT just under the her skin.

She uses the knife to CUT OPEN the wound, SCREAMING.

A black cockroach covered in puss SCUTTLES from the opening.

Jennifer SHRIEKS and drops the knife. The roach flits away into the floorboard.

VOICE #1(O.S.)  
Want to play? Come on! It will be fun.

JENNIFER  
Who are you? What do you want from me?

VOICES (O.S.)  
Come and see.

JENNIFER  
Tommy's toy hammer. Lilly's lovely dress.

She shakes her head.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Leave me alone!

VOICE #1 (O.S.)  
Let's play. In the baby's room!

Jennifer runs out.

INT. BRYCE'S NURSERY - DAY

Everything is in place. Toys and books are put away. Clothes neatly folded. Bryce is in his crib.

A large wooden bookcase leans at a strange angle. Something is behind it, pushing.

Jennifer rushes into the doorway.

The bookcase CREAKS, books THUDDING to the floor. It MOANS as it starts to fall over.

Jennifer leaps, pushing the crib out of the way.

EXT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

Darin and Michelle chat and smile.

A "BABY FRESH" truck pulls up. An EMPLOYEE (23) exits and takes a green bag from the porch.

DARIN  
(to employee)  
Hey. Thanks so much.

EMPLOYEE  
Sure.  
(pausing)  
You know, we have a once a month  
only if that option is better for  
you.

DARIN  
Sorry?

EMPLOYEE  
If you don't need a pick up each  
week.

DARIN  
What makes you say that?

EMPLOYEE  
Well, your bag is empty.

DARIN  
What?

EMPLOYEE  
And it was empty last week too.

Darin comes over, alarmed.

DARIN  
You mean there's nothing in there?

A THUD from the house causes him to turn.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

The bookcase clips Jennifer in the shoulder, taking her down to the floor. Her arm with the wound is pinned underneath it.

She CRIES OUT.

Darin runs in. Bryce WAILS.

DARIN

Oh my God.

He lifts the bookcase to get Jennifer out.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Are you OK? OK. I've got you. I'll fix it.

JENNIFER

Tommy's toy hammer.

DARIN

What? What did you say?

JENNIFER

Something in this house is evil.

Jennifer passes out.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The lights are off. Darin wipes a wet washcloth across Jennifer's face as she lies in the bed.

Jennifer stirs. Wakes.

JENNIFER

Darin. Let's move.

DARIN

What?

JENNIFER

Let's go. Right now, tonight. Leave our stuff, leave this house. Just take Bryce and go somewhere else.

DARIN

What happened?

JENNIFER

We have to get out. Get away. We have to. Otherwise...

DARIN

What?

JENNIFER

Demons. They want to hurt me. And Bryce. We're running out of time. It's not me, it's not just in my head. Please, if you love me, help me.

DARIN

I will.

(beat)

I love you, Jennifer. We'll find a way through this.

INT. ST. LUKE'S CHURCH - DAY

Candles are lit. A few MEMBERS pray while sitting in the pews. A PRIEST (70) talks with OTHER MEMBERS at the front.

Jennifer and Darin, who holds Bryce, enter and sit in the back. Jennifer puts her hands together to pray.

LATER

No one else is left in the church. The priest is at the front. Jennifer approaches him.

JENNIFER

Father.

He turns.

PRIEST

Jennifer! You look different than the last time I saw you. Congratulations are in order.

JENNIFER

Thank you. Good to see you.

They embrace. The priest shakes Darin's hand.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

This is Bryce.

PRIEST

He's beautiful.

JENNIFER

We haven't been able to come to church in a long time. The pregnancy and everything. But I'd like to start coming again.

PRIEST

You're always welcome, you know that. I heard you moved.

DARIN

We live in Edgewood now.

The priest's face indicates there is more to say.

DARIN (CONT'D)

We needed a bigger house, for the baby.

PRIEST

Of course.

JENNIFER

Can we speak to you?

The priest motions for them to sit.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I'm afraid to talk about what's happening to me. And I'm afraid of not talking.

PRIEST

I can listen. It might make you feel less burdened if you share.

DARIN

Jennifer has been experiencing negative spirits inside our home.

JENNIFER

I need to know how to get rid of demons.

Beat.

PRIEST

You mean, demonic possession?

JENNIFER

Not possession. They aren't people I know who have been taken over by demons.

PRIEST  
They have their own bodies?

JENNIFER  
Yes. They appear and do horrible things. I'm scared.

PRIEST  
What do they look like?

JENNIFER  
Like...dark figures. Small. Quick. They have terrible voices.

PRIEST  
(to Darin)  
And they appear to both of you?

Hesitantly, Darin shakes his head.

PRIEST (CONT'D)  
Well, demons have no physical form. So they steal from others. Inhabit bodies and corrupt from the inside out. That doesn't sound like what you are experiencing.

JENNIFER  
They're going to kill me. And my son. Please, I need help.

PRIEST  
Tell me more.

LATER

The candles flicker, burned down. The light fades from the window. Jennifer and Darin sit in the same place with priest.

JENNIFER  
You believe me?

He hesitates.

PRIEST  
I believe what is happening to you is real, yes.

JENNIFER  
Thank you, Father. You have no idea what it means to me. I've felt crazy.

DARIN

Is there something we can do? A blessing or ritual?

PRIEST

Well, I would like to see the demons.

JENNIFER

They only appear in my house. Could you, would you come to my home?

PRIEST

When is a good time for me to visit you?

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Through the branches of an old tree, the Weller home is framed like a serene painting.

The priest approaches the door and KNOCKS.

Jennifer answers and lets him in.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The priest and Jennifer stand together in the living room. She holds Bryce.

DARIN

Thank you for coming.

PRIEST

Let's get started.

INT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY (QUICK SHOTS)

The priest looks in Bryce's room. Jennifer re-enacts the bookcase falling.

The priest looks in the kitchen.

Jennifer shows the priest the bathroom, using her hands in an animated fashion to tell him about Bryce in the tub.

They walk through the living room together. The priest points to Darin's office.

PRIEST  
What's in there?

DARIN  
Just my office.

PRIEST  
Did you see them in there? The  
demons?

Jennifer hesitates.

JENNIFER  
No.

PRIEST  
The first time you saw them, where  
were you?

JENNIFER  
Um. By Bryce's room.

PRIEST  
Then let's begin there.

INT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY (QUICK SHOTS)

He inspects Bryce's room, laying hands on objects and blessing the crib.

The priest holds a cross over the bathtub, reciting prayer.

In the kitchen, a candle has been lit and placed on the stove. The priest has his hands raised up in sermon.

Jennifer keeps her head bowed, eyes closed in dutiful belief. Darin has an eye cracked, watching with skepticism.

PRIEST  
Lord we ask that this place be  
blessed by your light. That the  
spirits that have haunted this  
place leave this family alone.  
Protect them Lord as your children.

Movement from the counter catches their eye.

JENNIFER  
Did you see that?

DARIN  
What was it?

PRIEST

That whatever evil visited this  
place, let it be gone! Cast out,  
back to Hell!

From the counter, a box tips over, rice SPILLING to the  
floor.

PRIEST (CONT'D)

Something is happening.

JENNIFER

What if it's the demons? I'm  
afraid.

(seeing the rice)

Oh my God. Look.

They stare in amazement.

In the scattered rice, the word 'SAFE' has been written.

Jennifer grabs Darin's hand.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Do you see what it says? It's a  
sign!

Darin is stunned.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Jennifer embraces the priest. Darin stands nearby.

JENNIFER

Thank you, Father.

PRIEST

I would like to see you again,  
soon.

DARIN

We are eternally grateful for what  
you did here today, Father. Thank  
you.

The priest nods and exits.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer washes her face, in a nightgown.

DARIN (O.S.)  
Jennifer?

JENNIFER  
Be right there.

She stares into the mirror. Looking. Searching.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Are you there?

Nothing.

Jennifer SIGHS, satisfied. She exits.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A new vase, clean and shiny. Fresh flowers.

Light streams in from outside. A new day.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer sits up in bed.

Darin enters. He hands her the blue ceramic mug.

DARIN  
Ready for some food?

Darin sits next to her.

DARIN (CONT'D)  
Today, I don't want you to worry  
about a thing. I'm going to take  
you and Bryce out. Do something  
fun.

JENNIFER  
Darin, you think he took care of  
the demons? Are we safe?

DARIN  
You are absolutely safe. Where  
would you like to go today? I pass  
a great park on my jogging route.  
Shall we try it?

Jennifer picks up her mug. Smiles.

JENNIFER  
Yeah.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Sunshine streams down on Jennifer, Darin and Bryce as they sit in the park. The sounds of a summer day. Birds SING.

Music drifts in from an open window nearby.

The mood is light. Hopeful.

JENNIFER

What would you say if I wanted to go back to work?

DARIN

(surprised)

I had no idea you were even thinking about it.

JENNIFER

Maybe just something one or two nights a week. So we wouldn't have to leave Bryce with a stranger.

DARIN

What would you like to do?

JENNIFER

There's a couple pools in the area. Maybe they need swim instructors. I worry no one would hire me because I'm so old. What do you think?

DARIN

I think you should do it.

Two children play together on the swing set across the park.

Jennifer takes a second look. It's the girl and boy who were playing near Michelle's pool.

JENNIFER

I saw those kids playing at Michelle's. They must live close by.

DARIN

We'll have to bring Bryce here to swing when he gets older.

He takes her hand, kisses her.

EXT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

Darin's car pulls up in the driveway and he exits, along with Jennifer, who gets Bryce.

As she approaches the house, she pauses.

Light and shadow play a game on the front door.

Is the home inviting, or ominous?

EXT. MICHELLE'S POOL - DAY

SPLASHING as Michelle and Jennifer swim. They stop by the edge to talk.

MICHELLE  
Glad you said yes?

JENNIFER  
Thank you so much for the invite.

MICHELLE  
You're husband seems very sweet.

JENNIFER  
Yeah, he's great.

Jennifer SWIMS. Comes back to Michelle.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
I can't tell you how good it is to be in the water. I feel...

MICHELLE  
Energized?

JENNIFER  
Normal. Jennifer who wants to go back to work and raise her son and make vegetarian lasagna that Darin pretends to like.

Michelle LAUGHS.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Normal, boring. Perfect.

Jennifer submerges herself in the water.

EXT. POOL - DAY (FLASHBACK, JENNIFER'S POV)

The view of the bottom of the pool, looking up towards the sun across the surface.

Darin's hands reaching under the water towards her.

Are they pushing or pulling?

END FLASHBACK.

EXT. MICHELLE'S POOL - DAY

Jennifer comes BURSTING up above the water. She looks sickened by the memory. She stands paralyzed in the water. Michelle is concerned.

MICHELLE  
Jennifer. Jennifer! Are you  
alright?

INT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

The CLINK of clean glass as Jennifer puts away dishes. Darin enters, pulling a sweatshirt on.

DARIN  
How was the swim?

JENNIFER  
(cold)  
Fine.

DARIN  
I'm going out for a jog. Be back in  
just a bit.  
(beat)  
Love you.

He exits. A moment later, the sound of the CAR ENGINE leaving the driveway.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer tidies up. BREATHING from the baby monitor indicates Bryce is asleep. As she goes to pick a bib up from the floor, Jennifer stops short.

On the coffee table, is Darin's iPod he uses when he jogs. She pauses, walks to the front closet and opens it.

Inside, are Darin's jogging shoes.

Jennifer takes her cell phone from the coffee table and dials. Waits.

JENNIFER

Hey. Call me. You forgot your -

Jennifer looks up and BAM - the dark figures are behind her in the mirror. She drops the phone.

FIGURE #1

We saw you. You had that man here.

FIGURE #2

He wasn't nice. He wanted to get rid of us.

JENNIFER

He did get rid of you! You can't be back!

She turns to face them. The figures come in and out of focus, hovering. An evil shadow.

FIGURE #1

Not really. But you knew that. Didn't you?

JENNIFER

I...I -

FIGURE #1

Time to see.

INT. DARIN'S OFFICE - DAY

On the desk, a stack of glossy medical pamphlets.

The two figures stand nearby. The first figure points. Jennifer trembles.

FIGURE #1

Look.

JENNIFER

I shouldn't be doing this. In his stuff. It's wrong.

FIGURE #2

Look.

JENNIFER

There's nothing in here except work papers and books.

FIGURE #1

There.

A luggage bag near the desk catches Jennifer's eye. She sits on the floor to get a better look.

JENNIFER

I don't want to. I'm afraid.

FIGURE #1

Look and see.

Jennifer unzips the bag. Bottles of pills stare back at her.

She takes out bottles, reading the labels.

One has a professional label for: LORAZEPAM.

The other is a hand-written label: TEREPHAM.

JENNIFER

This is for his work. Extra inventory.

Jennifer types on the computer. Dials the phone.

INT. MEDICAL DISPENSARY - DAY (INTERCUTS AS NEEDED)

The phone RINGS and Darin's co-worker answers.

CO-WORKER

Medco One dispensary.

JENNIFER

Hi. This is Jennifer Weller, Darin's wife.

CO-WORKER

Hey there. Looking for Darin?

JENNIFER

No. I'm afraid he left a bag of medication samples at home before he left on a trip.

CO-WORKER

Oh. That's not good.

JENNIFER

I can FedEx it to him. I just want to make sure I only ship what he needs. There's a bottle of Lorazepam and...

(MORE)

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
(reading the other bottle)  
Terepham, right?

CO-WORKER  
Uh, no. Just Lorazepam.

Jennifer searches the bag. Multiple bottles for Terepham.

JENNIFER  
Just the Lorazepam?

CO-WORKER  
Yes Ma'am. We haven't produced any  
Terepham samples yet because we're  
still in testing.

Jennifer hangs up.

She dumps out pills from the Terepham bottle onto the desk.  
Small. White. Round.

INT. WELLER HOUSE - DUSK

The round mouth of her blue ceramic mug stares up at  
Jennifer. A car NOISE indicates Darin is home.

Jennifer looks out the window. Outside, Darin goes to collect  
the mail at the same time Michelle exits to do the same  
thing. The two stand close, chatting and LAUGHING.

Darin enters the house and Jennifer pretends to be occupied.

DARIN  
Hey.

JENNIFER  
How was your run?

CRIES from the baby monitor answer before Darin can.

DARIN  
I'll get him.

JENNIFER  
I saw you, out there.

DARIN  
Where?

JENNIFER  
With Michelle. Outside. I don't  
like the way you talk to each  
other.

DARIN

Jennifer, I don't know what you're talking about. I've barely spoke to Michelle and -

JENNIFER

I see how close she stands to you. It's flirty.

DARIN

Her husband is three thousand miles away. I think she's just lonely. It's innocent.

More CRIES from the baby monitor.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Can I go get him now?

JENNIFER

If you were jogging, why didn't you bring your stuff?

DARIN

What has gotten into you? This morning everything was fine and now it's like you want to fight.

JENNIFER

I saw your iPod and your tennis shoes here after you left. It's pretty hard to go running without them.

DARIN

I forgot them.

JENNIFER

So where have you been this whole time?

DARIN

I decided to run errands instead.

JENNIFER

I don't believe you. I think you're hiding something from me.

Darin looks caught in a lie.

DARIN

That ridiculous. I'm going to take care of Bryce.

JENNIFER

No. I'm not done talking about this.

DARIN

I am.

Darin exits, leaving her at the bottom of the stairs.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Plates of untouched food stare up at Jennifer and Darin as they sit silently, not looking at each other.

Darin stands and picks up his plate.

DARIN

I'm going up to watch TV.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer enters and closes the door. She opens her hand, which contains the pills she found.

FIGURE #2 (O.S.)

You don't know what they're for.

The figures appear.

FIGURE #1

Stopping your pills might not be a good idea. Could make it better. Could make it worse.

FIGURE #2

Both.

FIGURE #1

It won't stop what's coming.

Jennifer sees the rubber building blocks by the tub.

They spell: NO MORE PILS.

JENNIFER

I want to know what's real.

They all look at Jennifer in the mirror.

FIGURE #1

Are you real?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

As Jennifer moves towards the bedroom, the sound of VOICES causes her to slow. The bedroom door is cracked.

DARIN (O.S.)  
What if she remembers?  
(beat)  
No! I don't want to do that.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darin talks on the phone. A CREAK from the hallway.

DARIN  
I have to go.

He hangs up and turns on the TV as Jennifer enters.

JENNIFER  
Who was that?

Darin hesitates.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Tell me who you were talking to.

DARIN  
It was Dr. Lear.

JENNIFER  
You called him? You were talking about me.

DARIN  
He called me. You had an appointment today and didn't show up.

JENNIFER  
I don't want to see him again. He can't help me.

DARIN  
How do you know?

JENNIFER  
He just kept asking me about what happened when I fell in the pool.  
(beat)  
Darin. What happened that day. Was it an accident?

DARIN  
I don't know.

JENNIFER  
What the Hell does that mean?

Darin watches her, afraid.

DARIN  
What do you remember?

JENNIFER  
Why do you always say that? Don't  
you want to talk about it?

DARIN  
No, I don't.

JENNIFER  
Why?

DARIN  
Because it's painful! I lost  
something. You almost died!

JENNIFER  
How could I almost drown? I can  
swim!

DARIN  
I'm not - I -

JENNIFER  
I remember. I remember being in the  
water. And you were over me. What  
were you doing?

DARIN  
Reaching for you! I'm the one who  
found - you. If I hadn't been  
there...

JENNIFER  
The demons aren't gone.

DARIN  
What?

JENNIFER  
They're pushing me to something.  
What's in your office?

Darin is stunned.

DARIN

Nothing. Papers. Old books. Have you been looking in there?

JENNIFER

Is there something that you don't want me to see? What are you hiding?

DARIN

I'm not hiding anything.

JENNIFER

You're a fucking liar!

She puts a hand to her mouth in surprise.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I don't know where that came from. Everything that's happened. I don't know what to trust anymore.

Darin takes her hand. Soothing. Loving.

DARIN

You can trust me.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Jennifer looks confidently at the priest.

JENNIFER

I can't trust him.

The priest gestures to an empty pew and they sit.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Do you remember me from when Darin and I lived at our old house? Before the baby?

PRIEST

Yes.

JENNIFER

And was I like this? What did you think of us? Of Darin?

PRIEST

From what I've seen, he loves you very much.

JENNIFER

I found pills. I think he's been drugging me. And I'm starting to have flashes about the night I almost drowned. I think, I remember something. Something so horrible I can hardly say.

PRIEST

You can say it to me.

JENNIFER

I think...Darin may have pushed me into the water.

The priest studies her.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I don't know what to believe. But I want to believe that you will tell me the truth.

PRIEST

I will.

JENNIFER

Then come to my home again. Tomorrow after Darin leaves for work. The demons are there.

PRIEST

They returned?

JENNIFER

I don't think they ever left. I thought at first the demons were trying to kill me, but now, I think they might be trying to warn me.

PRIEST

Warn you about what?

JENNIFER

When you came before, I wasn't totally honest with you.

(beat)

There's something in Darin's office. I want us to look together. I need to know if this is in my head, or something real.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Darin CRUSHES pills into a powder, dropping them into Jennifer's ceramic mug and adding coffee. He adds flavored creamer, then stirs.

The sound of the front door OPENING.

Jennifer enters, holding Bryce.

DARIN  
Hey. Where were you?

JENNIFER  
Shopping.

DARIN  
Find anything good?

JENNIFER  
Nothing quite right.

DARIN  
Why don't you go relax. I'll start dinner. Here, I just made this.

He offers her the coffee.

She smiles, taking it from him.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The SLOSH of coffee down the sink as Jennifer dumps it out.

INT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

Jennifer holds Bryce. Darin puts his coat on by the door.

DARIN  
What do you have planned for today?

JENNIFER  
Nothing. This.

She lifts up Bryce.

DARIN  
Take it easy today.

JENNIFER  
OK.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The priest sits nervously. Jennifer looks to him in anticipation.

PRIEST

And that's everything you can remember?

JENNIFER

Yes. I know it sounds crazy. The flashbacks, building blocks sending me messages. But this is real. These demons are destroying my life.

(beat)

Do you know what they are? What's happening?

PRIEST

I think I do.

JENNIFER

What?

PRIEST

I've heard of a similar case. A man named Joe, who was plagued by demons.

JENNIFER

I saw him! On TV. Were the demons real? How did he get rid of them?

PRIEST

I don't want to upset you. I need your trust that you can listen, even if my words challenge your sense of belief or reality.

JENNIFER

Tell me. Please.

PRIEST

I don't believe what you are seeing are demons.

JENNIFER

Then what are they?

PRIEST

Ghosts.

JENNIFER  
Ghosts? From when?

PRIEST  
Jennifer. I believe your new  
motherhood has led you here. And I  
think the ghosts are trying to tell  
you something.

PRIEST'S POV - SAME MOMENT

As the priest speaks, Jennifer's face changes.

A range of emotions: Shock, disgust, pain.

She shakes her head no.

JENNIFER'S POV - SAME MOMENT

The priest's lips move in slow motion. He reaches a hand out  
to her.

From behind him, the dark figures appear, standing next to  
each other. Slowly, from shadows they take human form.

Jennifer is dumbfounded to see children. The kids from  
Michelle's yard and the park.

They are beautiful, innocent looking.

LILLY  
I'm Lilly.

TOMMY  
I'm Tommy.

JENNIFER  
I know you. I've seen you before.

Lilly wears a white and red dress, Tommy in jeans and T-  
shirt, blond hair begging to be touched.

Lilly holds the vase from the kitchen. She lifts it over the  
Priest's head.

Jennifer's eyes go wide.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
No.

PRIEST  
What?

JENNIFER

Don't!

END JENNIFER POV.

Lilly brings the vase down on the priest's head with a THUD.

Jennifer SCREAMS.

The priest puts a hand to the back of his head. When he pulls it away, it is covered in blood.

Lilly HITS him again. The priest FALLS to the floor.

JENNIFER

Stop!

She reaches to grab Lilly, but her hand goes right through her arm.

Lilly BASHES the priest again and again in the face.

She lifts the vase high and as she brings it down on his face, the glass SHATTERS.

LILLY

No more visitors.

TOMMY

We like to play when the house is empty.

LILLY

There's only two days left. You can't stop it. No one can.

TOMMY

So stay and play with us.

Jennifer grabs her phone and starts to dial.

LILLY

They won't catch us.

TOMMY

You're the only one here.

LILLY

You'll go to jail. Bryce will be alone.

TOMMY

With us.

INT/EXT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY (QUICK CUTS)

Jennifer grabs long yellow rubber gloves.

A RUPPPPPPT as Jennifer opens the garage door.

GRUNTING as Jennifer awkwardly PUSHES and PULLS the priest onto the furniture dolly.

A blanket is draped over the dolly.

TINKS of glass as Jennifer cleans the floor. Blood has seeped into the wood.

A THWAP as Jennifer sets down a rug over the stain.

The SQUEAL of a rusty wheel as she pushes the cart across the lawn to the shed.

EXT. SHED - DAY

CLANK as Jennifer opens the door. Flies SWARM out in a huge black cloud. The collective BUZZ is overwhelming.

Jennifer puts a hand over her mouth, almost GAGGING.

The shed is full of all of Bryce's dirty diapers. The five by five structure is chalked full of feces, urine and disintegrating diapers.

Jennifer takes the blanket off the priest. Lilly CLAPS her hands with excitement.

LILLY

Ha! Look at him now. Dead dead  
dead.

TOMMY

Dead dead.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Dead.

Jennifer rolls the priest into the shed. Lilly and Tommy help.

The children throw dirty diapers on his body.

LILLY (CONT'D)

That old man thought he knew.  
(to priest)  
You don't know anything!

She takes a dirty diaper, feces draining out the side and SHOVES it in the priest's mouth.

LILLY (CONT'D)

So there!

Jennifer's face holds less humanity. She SLAMS the shed shut and turns on the children.

JENNIFER

I want you gone! Leave me and my son alone! I'll find a way to get rid of you both!

She goes to grab Lilly and the children disappear.

Jennifer falls to her knees in defeat.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DUSK

SCHWIP. SCHWIP. Jennifer slices peppers.

Her eye twitches. She's on the brink.

Darin lingers in the doorway between the kitchen and living room, watching Jennifer and distracted by the TV.

DARIN

I've been working so much I've really neglected the yard. Tomorrow, I'm starting a new project.

SCHWIP. SCHWIP.

JENNIFER

What?

DARIN

For weeks I've wanted to work on some shelves. Organize the shed first, then start in on shelves.

JENNIFER

What about work?

SCHWIP. SCHWIP.

SCHWIP - Jennifer cuts her hand. Blood spills onto the cutting board.

Darin looks over.

DARIN

Shit!

He grabs a towel and wraps Jennifer's hand.

DARIN (CONT'D)

Are you OK? I'm going to grab a band-aid.

As Darin exits, Jennifer turns towards the office.

Tommy and Lilly stand next to the doorknob. Lilly FIDDLES with the handle.

LILLY

He's locking the door now. Because he knows you were inside. And he doesn't want you to see.

TOMMY

You should see.

JENNIFER

Leave me alone!

TOMMY

We can't.

LILLY

We all have to go to Hell together.

JENNIFER

I want you gone.

LILLY

You know what you need to do.

JENNIFER

I'm going to find a way to get you out of my home forever.

LILLY

No. Tomorrow after he leaves, you're going to open this door.

Darin returns with a band-aid. He goes to put it on Jennifer's hand but she pulls away.

JENNIFER

I'll do it.

DARIN

Here, let me help you.

JENNIFER

No!

DARIN

What's wrong?

JENNIFER

Nothing. I'm just tired. I'm going to bed early. I'll see you in the morning.

Before he can protest, Jennifer exits.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

As Jennifer gets under the covers, Lilly and Tommy creep up the side of the bed.

LILLY

Once you see, it's over.

JENNIFER

I don't want to see. I want everything to go back the way it was before.

LILLY

No more days left. It's tomorrow.

TOMMY

Tomorrow! Tomorrow! We all die tomorrow!

EXT. WELLER HOUSE - DAY

The sun rises, bringing bright rays of dread shining down over the house.

INT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Darin turns to Jennifer as he prepares to leave.

DARIN

I know, things have been hard lately. I'm only going out for a bit today. When I get home, I need us to talk. Really talk.

Jennifer can barely fake a smile.

He kisses her and exits.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jennifer puts Bryce in a baby swing and turns it on.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jennifer stares at rubber the building blocks.

They spell: NO MORE PILS.

She flips the third block on the last word.

Now they spell: NO MORE PIDS.

She flips the first block on the last word. Stares.

Shakes her head.

The blocks spell: NO MORE KIDS.

INT. WELLER KITCHEN - DAY

Jennifer washes dishes. She looks as if in a trance, standing at the sink. On the TV, THEME MUSIC from a game show indicates the show is over.

A new program begins.

Joe appears on the screen, walking down the street.

JOE (O.S.)

The first time I heard them, I  
thought I was crazy. They spoke to  
me one day as I was alone, working  
outside in my yard.

Behind her, Lilly and Tommy enter.

LILLY

Zero days left.

Jennifer JUMPS, SHATTERING a plate to the floor.

Lilly has the butcher knife.

TOMMY

Today is the day, Mommy.

JENNIFER

What? What did you say?

Lilly raises the knife at Jennifer.

She brings it down as Jennifer reaches out. The blade SLICES into her arm. Jennifer SCREAMS.

Jennifer grabs the knife away.

TOMMY

Let's play!

Lilly and Tommy run towards the office.

With the knife, Jennifer follows.

INT. FRONT ROOM - DAY

Tommy and Lilly stand at the office door as Jennifer comes around the corner.

Bryce sits in the baby swing by the couch.

JENNIFER

I want you out. For good.

She advances on them with the knife.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I'll kill you if you don't leave.

LILLY

You can't.

Jennifer JABS the knife into Lilly's shoulder.

LILLY (CONT'D)

Ha-ha!

Jennifer WINCES in pain. A wound appears in her own shoulder.

JOE (O.S.)

No one believed me that they were demons, but I knew. They told me I was going to die.

Tommy smiles an eerie grin, moving to the office door.

LILLY

Let's go together.

Jennifer tries the door.

JENNIFER

It's locked.

Tommy holds up a key.

Jennifer takes it from him and unlocks the door.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Both children stand next to the desk.

JOE (O.S.)  
Then one night, I realized I  
controlled the demons.

Jennifer enters, raises the knife up, then hesitates.

All three of them turn towards the desk.

JENNIFER  
Get it.

Lilly opens the bottom desk drawer.

Inside is a shoebox. She pulls it out.

LILLY  
If you look, you can't ever close  
your eyes again.

JENNIFER  
I know.  
(beat)  
I want to see.

Jennifer reaches forward to take the box. Lilly doesn't let go. Jennifer pulls and Lilly resists.

The box tips over, the contents SPILLING on the floor.

Among it are cockroaches. They RUSH out onto the floor and SCURRYING around Jennifer's feet.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

A plastic container of chemicals is set down by Michelle, who rummages through the container.

She stands, looking towards her house. Something catches her eye. Small, white, in the Weller's yard by the shed.

It's a diaper.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Scattered on the floor are cards and photographs.

Jennifer picks up a card, addressed: TO WELLERS.

It reads 'SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS'. Yellow roses on the front.

She picks up another. Another. Dozens of sympathy cards.

A newspaper article, folded in half. Jennifer unfolds it to see a picture of a house and pool. The headline: TRAGEDY IN THE SUBURBS. DEATHS RULED AN ACCIDENT.

Jennifer reaches for the photographs.

JOE (O.S.)

The demons were part of me. A part of me that even though it was killing me, I was scared to let go of.

In the first picture, Jennifer is standing in front of another house. She smiles, holding a baby.

The baby is not Bryce.

JENNIFER

Is that me?

Lilly steps close.

LILLY

Not that long now, not that long.

JENNIFER

These children. I don't know them. Do I?

JOE (O.S.)

Everything changed when I started taking Terepham. The demons went away. I got my life back.

Jennifer looks to Darin's bag of pills. She takes out a bottle. It is marked 'Terepham'.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Both Darin and Charles are angry. They stand at odds.

CHARLES

Dr. Lear tells me Jennifer stopped coming to her appointments.

DARIN

Why isn't the medication working for Jennifer? It's been months.

CHARLES

You only wanted the pills. But the program is much more than that. In home camera monitoring, weekly, sometimes daily appointments with Dr. Lear, diet logs.

DARIN

I can't get her to agree to that without explaining what we're doing.

CHARLES

It's unfortunate. Jennifer didn't turn out to be a good candidate after all.

DARIN

What does that mean?

CHARLES

It's all or nothing. So we need to discontinue pursuing her as a participant in the study.

DARIN

But the pills.

CHARLES

Placebos. I can't allow Terepham to be taken by a participant unless they are fully immersed in the test program.

Darren is stunned.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

If at a later time, you decide to agree to entire program, we can -

DARIN

You son-of-a-bitch! This whole time you've been waiting to see if I'd agree to more and we've been giving her nothing!

He explodes up from his chair.

DARIN (CONT'D)

I thought we were helping her get better. I thought - Oh my God, Jennifer. What have I done?

CHARLES

Let's not over-react.

DARIN

You could have been helping her. Instead you've been fucking with our lives. This is your fault!

He PUNCHES Charles, who HITS the floor.

Charles looks up, livid.

CHARLES

You're fired. Get out.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Jennifer RIPS the baby monitor out from the wall.

JENNIFER

There's no going back now.

INT. NURSERY - DAY

Jennifer uses scissors to CUT the cord on the monitor.

Lilly and Tommy jump and CLAP.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Michelle moves towards the shed.

Another diaper sits in the grass.

And by the shed door, a BUZZ.

A chorus of BUZZING.

It's a huge swarm of flies, BUZZING. They are centered over the shed.

Michelle covers her face with her sleeve.

MICHELLE

Sweet Jesus.

She FLINGS open the door. It takes her a moment to register what he sees.

A huge pile of feces and urine covered diapers.

In the middle, the side of the priest's face.

Michelle VOMITS.

She turns to run, and BAM - smacks directly into Jennifer.

Behind her, linger Tommy and Lilly.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Jennifer. Are you OK? You don't look good.

JENNIFER

Today is the last day in the countdown. It's been a month since Bryce was born.

LILLY

Yes.

TOMMY

No more kids.

JENNIFER

And now I'll start ovulating. I'll be able to get pregnant again. I can't let that happen. I can't.

TOMMY

No more kids! No kids!

Jennifer sets Bryce down in a baby holder on the lawn. She places something in the grass next to him.

It's a butcher knife.

JENNIFER

Your pool. When I look at it. I know what happened. I remember everything now.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Jennifer pulls out a dress from a shopping bag.

JENNIFER

I got this for Lilly today. Isn't it lovely? And for Tommy. A toy hammer!

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Jennifer is sitting on the couch, staring into space. CRIES from babies filter in. Darin enters.

DARIN

Jennifer?

JENNIFER

What?

DARIN

How long has he been crying?

JENNIFER

I don't know. Sometimes it's hard for me to hear him. Sorry.

Darin exits and returns carrying Tommy. Lilly (a toddler) hold onto his pant leg to walk along side him.

Darin sits next to Jennifer on the couch.

DARIN

I'm worried about you. Do you want me to take more time off?

She takes Tommy from him.

JENNIFER

I'm just tired. Sorry.

DARIN

You don't have to be sorry.  
(looking her over)  
Maybe this weekend we could just stay home and rest. Be lazy. Watch TV?

JENNIFER

Sure.

INT. HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Jennifer paces, looking out of sorts.

JENNIFER

I can't take the noise. There's too much noise. Too many voices in here!

She hits her head.

Tommy and Lilly watch from the corner, afraid.

EXT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - DAY

Darin stands, head bowed. His face is in pain, grief.

He stands in front of two large objects, gray, wet stone. A statue? A wall? We can't tell.

He takes out his phone and dials.

INT. DARIN'S OFFICE - SAME MOMENT

Among a pile of scattered papers and cards, Jennifer's phone lights up and RINGS.

The TUNE calls out, laying on top of a picture: Darin, Jennifer, Lilly and Tommy at the park.

EXT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - DAY

Darin puts his phone away.

As he exits, we can see he is in a grave yard. Standing in front of two grave stones.

EXT. OLD POOL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Jennifer walks towards the pool.

JENNIFER

A swim will make me feel better.  
All of us.

EXT. OLD POOL - DAY (FLASHBACK, JENNIFER'S POV)

Flashes of memory:

Jennifer in the pool.

Water rising around her.

She looks down into the water.

Tiny hands float nearby. Lilly and Tommy's.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

The gravestones where Darin stood read: IN LOVING MEMORY OF LILLY AND TOMMY WELLER.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Michelle watches with shock and fear as Jennifer sinks to her knees, remembering all.

JENNIFER

I put them in the water. To be free.

INT. BRYCE'S NURSERY - DAY (REALITY MEMORY)

Jennifer sits with the baby monitor, talking into it.

JENNIFER

I'm lonely, a lot of the time.  
Tired.  
(beat)  
Me too.

LATER

Jennifer is behind the bookcase, pushing.

The bookcase CREAKS, books THUDDING to the floor. It MOANS as it starts to fall.

At the last moment, Jennifer pushes the crib out of the way.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY (REALITY MEMORY)

Jennifer lies Bryce down in the bathtub.

The SWOOSH of water as she turns the bathtub on.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (REALITY MEMORY)

The box tips over, rice SPILLING to the floor.

JENNIFER  
 (seeing the rice)  
 Oh my God. Look.

Jennifer, Darin and the priest look at the rice. It is just a scattered pile, no words written in it.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
 It's a sign!

Darin and the priest exchange a sad knowing look.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY (REALITY MEMORY)

The priest reaches a hand out to Jennifer.

She picks up the kitchen vase. She lifts it over the Priest's head, bringing it down with a THUD.

JENNIFER (V.O.)  
 Tommy's toy hammer. And Lilly's  
 lovely dress.  
 (beat)  
 I see now. I remember.

The priest FALLS to the floor.

Jennifer HITS him again and again.

END MEMORIES/FLASHBACKS.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Jennifer looks at Lilly and Tommy.

JENNIFER  
 I did it all.

MICHELLE  
 You need to come inside the house  
 with me.

JENNIFER  
 What?

MICHELLE  
 Come on.

JENNIFER  
 No. Leave me alone.

MICHELLE

You shouldn't be out here near the pool.

JENNIFER

There is something evil in the house.

(beat)

Me.

LILLY

Yes.

Michelle takes Jennifer's arm.

JENNIFER

No! Don't touch me!

Jennifer pushes Michelle.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I killed them. I killed my children. And today -

Her eyes flit to Bryce.

LILLY

That's right. You know what you need to do.

DARIN (O.S.)

Jennifer.

Darin comes around the corner. He sees Michelle, Bryce.

DARIN (CONT'D)

You were beautiful and vivacious. A loving mother to Lilly and Tommy. You were planning your own company, private swimming lessons from our home.

(beat)

Then, you fell into a black hole and I couldn't get you out. Nothing worked. You were digging yourself in further and further until I couldn't see you anymore.

JENNIFER

And then it happened. The accident.

DARIN

You were in the hospital for a week.

(MORE)

DARIN (CONT'D)

When you woke up, you didn't remember. One of the doctors said you could have schizophrenia. They told me it might not have been an accident.

JENNIFER

What do you believe?

DARIN

Of course it was an accident.

Darin takes a step forward and Jennifer takes a step back.

Michelle subtly takes her phone out, dialing 911.

DARIN (CONT'D)

I didn't want to push you. I thought when you were ready, we could deal with it together. We moved on. You seemed better. Happier. But then you got pregnant.

JENNIFER

I wasn't ready to remember, until now. Because it's here. The chance to have another baby. I can't do that.

DARIN

Jennifer, I asked Charles to help us. But he didn't. He lied to me. You need medication. You can get better.

LILLY

Don't listen to him. You will never be better. There's only one thing to do. End it. Pick up the knife, mommy.

TOMMY

And use it. On him.

He points to Bryce.

Jennifer tries to shake off the voices.

JENNIFER

(to Darin)

I've been on medication, haven't I? Terepham.

DARIN

No, you don't understand.

JENNIFER

I remember, you were there that day. And you did try to save me.

DARIN

Yes.

JENNIFER

You shouldn't have. It wasn't an accident.

(beat)

I loved them. And I had urges for years. The water called to me. The only place I ever felt free. So I took them there. I was with them, in the water. And that's where I would have stayed if you would have let me.

She picks up the knife.

LILLY

Yes. Yes!

DARIN

Don't, Jennifer. Hand that to me.

Jennifer move towards the pool.

JENNIFER

You should have stopped me.

Jennifer pushes the tip of the blade against her palm, drawing blood. She is at the pool's edge.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I wish I could go back in time and stop it all. Stop everything I did.

Lilly and Tommy move to Bryce in the baby holder.

LILLY & TOMMY

Now, mommy. Bring the knife over here.

JENNIFER

(responding to them)

Today is the day.

LILLY

That's right. It's time. Now do it!

DARIN

I'll help you, Jennifer. Just put  
the knife down.

JENNIFER

They'll just put me in a jail cell  
the rest of my life. I don't  
deserve that. I deserve much worse.

In one quick motion, Jennifer draws the knife across her  
belly, SLICING open her stomach.

LILLY

What are you doing? No!

Jennifer STABS her uterus, then CUTS in a jagged motion.

DARIN

Stop!

MICHELLE

Jesus Christ!

Jennifer's eyes roll back.

She falls, SPLASHING into the pool.

Blood mixes with water, swirling around her.

INT. POOL - DAY

Jennifer sinks to the bottom, air bubbles rising from her  
mouth and nose.

There, on the pool's floor, the porcelain doll greets her  
with an eternal smile, arms stretched up. Eyes open.

EXT. PARK - DAY (DYING FANTASY)

Jennifer kneels down next to Lilly and Tommy.

JENNIFER

I'm so sorry. I hope where you are  
now is better.

The children leave her, running off together towards a  
playground.

END FANTASY.

INT. POOL - DAY

In her last moment, Jennifer picks up the doll.

The tiny figure, forever smiling.

She stops moving. No more air bubbles.

EXT. POOL - DAY

Bryce CRIES. Michelle picks him up.

Darin runs to the edge of the pool.

In the distance, SIRENS.

Unbeknownst to anyone else, Lilly and Tommy stand at the pool's edge, watching.

TOMMY  
 (pointing at Bryce)  
 Why does he get to live? It's not  
 fair.

LILLY  
 No, it's not.

TOMMY  
 What do we do? Wait to see what  
 happens?

LILLY  
 There's one last thing, but we  
 don't have to do it. We can go.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Charles sits across from BETH (39), timid looking and thin.

CHARLES  
 Dr. Lear tells me it's been about  
 six months since you started  
 feeling this way.

BETH  
 It's only mild depression. It's  
 never interfered with work.

CHARLES  
 So far.

She nods, uncomfortable.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Beth, we approached you because the circumstances were right. You're a good employee. We want to help you. And your test case can help us immeasurably as we prep for clinical trials.

BETH

How much testing has been done?

CHARLES

It's safe. We'll track your progress with Dr. Lear. But we need a full commitment to move forward.

BETH

I don't know.

CHARLES

I would hate to see this get in the way of your bright career.

Beth exits and Charles closes the door, coming face to face with Jennifer. In un-dead form her hair is wet and stringy, clinging to her face and neck.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

What the Hell?

Jennifer raises a hammer.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

No, no!

JENNIFER

No more pills, no more lies.

She BASHES Charles with the hammer.

Charles falls to the floor and Jennifer HITS him again. Again. Blood SPLATTERS on the cabinets.

FADE OUT.