
The Group

A new screenplay by
J a k e w a d e w a l l

This Draft
03 } 10 } 08

OVER DARKNESS:

WIND HOWLS. WATER SPLASHES against A DOCK. And-

INSERT:

"Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

GRUNTING. As a MAN SOBS TORTUROUSLY.

AND INSERT: New Testament- Matthew 12:45

BLINDING LIGHT BLEEDS THROUGH THE DARKNESS. But not brilliant. It's a HAZY GRAY. An AFTERNOON STORM. And-

BEGIN CREDITS OVER:

EXT. A POND - AFTERNOON

GUSTING WIND creates rough waves atop a small POND. Rain drizzles. GRAY CLOUDS saturate everything. As-

CLOSE ON: BLOODIED KNUCKLES. A man's HANDS. Quickly tie a thick rope around ANKLES. And-

PULL OUT. It's JERRICK, 30, handsome at one point, but now tormented. He wears a hospital jumpsuit. And SOBS. As-

He ties his ankles to a large ANCHOR. Sitting on a DOCK.

JERRICK

STAY AWAY!

ON SHORE: HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES cautiously gather. Watching in alarmed panic. A FEMALE NURSE, 30, and three ORDERLIES.

She looks equally pained. Watching him. Her eyes moist. But she calls out as steady as she can-

NURSE

Jerrick, please. LOOK AT ME. I know you're still in there.

ON DOCK: Jerrick jumps to his feet. His face filled with maniacal dementia. He speaks with a Dutch accent. As-

JERRICK

I am not. In here.

His face morphs. Into immediate, PAINFUL SOBS.

NURSE

No, that's the *disease* talking. Now look at me and repeat, "I am stronger than my addiction, I am-

JERRICK

But I AM NOT! IT OWNS ME!!!

His sobs become tormented SHRIEKS. He covers his face. As-

ON SHORE: She discretely nods to the orderlies. Who stealthily approach the DOCK. But-

JERRICK

STOP!

ON DOCK: Jerrick quickly lifts a PISTOL to his temple.

ON SHORE: The nurse raises her hands. The orderlies stop.

NURSE

Okay, okay. Just look at me, Jerrick, and repeat, "I am stronger than-

JERRICK

No. None of us are stronger...

He looks at her desperately. Silently pleading.

JERRICK

There is no cure. We will never beat this. You can't rehabilitate me.

CLICK. He COCKS the gun. And smiles wickedly at her-

JERRICK

Ask yourself, when I am gone, who will take my place...?

The nurse and the orderlies freeze. Holding their breaths.

NURSE

You are a sweet soul, inside, and I KNOW you can hear me. So, please-

BOOM! BOOM-BOOM! He fires three times. Expertly SHOOTING the three ORDERLIES. In the head. They drop. As-

The nurse covers her mouth. Paralyzed. And-

ON DOCK: He drops the gun into the water. His smile fades. He immediately looks helpless. And SOBS TORTUROUSLY.

He lifts the ANCHOR. And locks eyes with the nurse. He looks tormented. In need of more than she can give.

JERRICK

I don't want to do this.

NURSE

Then DON'T. Jerrick, you are-

PLOP. He DROPS the anchor into the water. The rope quickly uncoils. He looks at her a final time. Helplessly. And-

She SCREAMS. More fear than concern. The DOCK EMPTY. As-

UNDERWATER: The rope pulls Jerrick down. Quickly. His hands dangle over his head. The anchor hits bottom. And-

-His body stops. Deep below the water. He looks about. Shocked. As if waking up. He didn't intend this. And-

-Jerrick PANICS. Desperately tries to swim up. As-

ON SHORE: The nurse stands still. Watching the water. Her hand holds a small crucifix around her neck. She softly-

NURSE

(mumbles) Our father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come-

DR. GALLOTS

Kathryn, STOP!

DR. MITCHELL GALLOTS, 40, handsome, conservative, with intense eyes and a worldly stare, spins her around. As-

DR. GALLOTS

He's dead.

She looks at him. And quickly comes to her senses. As-

ON POND: A FEW BUBBLES hit the surface. Final breaths.

DR. GALLOTS

Now RUN!

Doctor and Nurse immediately run. Both hurry up a HILL. Racing away from the POND. Towards-

END CREDITS:

A STRUCTURE, a three story building. Looks like an EXCLUSIVE RESORT. But small. Nestled in isolated woods. And-

INSERT TITLE: T H E G R O U P

As a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE WAILS. Along with a DEEP BARITONE RUMBLING. The sounds overtake the visuals. And-

FADE TO BLACK:

As the RUMBLING becomes GROWLING. From-

EXT. DIRT ROAD - MORNING

TIRES rumble across a DIRT ROAD. A Volvo STATION WAGON. Moving down an isolated road. CORN FIELDS on both sides. As-

INT. STATION WAGON - SAME

RON, 30, a muscular, handsome African-American man drives. Listening to headphones. Dressed in business casual. And-

ROBERT, 40, bald with a stache, with a gruff everyman demeanor, flips through pages on a clip board.

INSERT: F O U R W E E K S L A T E R

He sits in the backseat. Beside SOMEONE sleeping. It's-

AIDAN EDMOND, late 20s, shaggy brown hair, some scruff, normally attractive, but now, he looks wiped out. Drugged up and hung over. His face leans against the window. And-

THUMP. From a rock on the road. The vehicle wobbles. Shakes everyone. And rocks Aidan. His eyes flutter. As-

Robert looks over. Watching him. And-

Aidan's EYES OPEN. But immediately squint. He sits up. But GROANS. Looks in seriously bad shape.

ROBERT

Take it easy, Aidan. Wake up slow.

Aidan looks about. Disoriented. And beyond confused.

AIDAN

Where am I?

REARVIEW MIRROR: Ron looks back cautiously. While-

ROBERT

You're fine. You just had a very rough night. So, don't exert too much energy.

Aidan's eyes focus oddly on Robert. No recognition.

AIDAN

Who the hell are you?

ROBERT

You don't remember?

AIDAN

No, I've never seen you before.

Aidan studies Robert's face oddly. He tries to brush his hair from his eyes. But lifts both hands. Because-

ON WRISTS: Aidan's wrists bound by temporary plastic cuffs.

AIDAN

What the- Stop the car, what's happening!?

ROBERT

I'm afraid we can't do that, Aidan.

Aidan's confusion escalates to true paranoia. As-

AIDAN

How do you know my name!?

CLONK! Ron LOCKS the car doors. Aidan slightly jumps. But-

ROBERT

Because I know your entire family, most of your good friends, and your fiancée.

Aidan looks at Robert slowly. Dead serious with-

AIDAN

Where is she?

ROBERT

All in time, Aidan. But she's fine, they all are. Now first things first. What is the last thing you remember?

Aidan glares at Robert. But there's something soothing about the man. He shakes his head, still looks groggy. But-

AIDAN

My engagement party. Last night. Was that last night...?

ROBERT

It was. (smiles) Good, excellent. And what do you remember about it?

Aidan turns away. Looks out the window. At the passing CORN FIELDS. His eyes droop. He's banged up pretty bad.

AIDAN

We went to dinner first. And she drank a little too much. She was nervous...

Aidan looks back at Robert decisively. Confidently. And-

EXT. BEACON HILL - BOSTON - LAST NIGHT (**FLASHBACK**)

Impressive ROW HOUSES. Gas-lit cobblestone streets. Still one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in town. And-

A PRIUS IDLES before one particular ROW HOUSE. Where-

INT. PRIUS - SAME

Aidan sits in the driver's seat. He looks great. Well groomed. A young man eager to be a man. He smiles at-

TATUM LAVOIE, mid 20s. A gorgeous young woman. Also dressed up. But she's a bit nervous. While-

AIDAN

Just don't mention it to my brothers yet. I think they were hoping I'd be the only one not to join the family business.

She nods distractedly. Not listening. He turns the car off.

AIDAN

Since a Masters in architecture quickly moves me up the line of command.

He smiles. But she collects her coat and purse. Not looking at him. He reaches over. Touches her arm. She JUMPS. But-

AIDAN

Hey, babe, what's up with you? This is supposed to be a happy occasion.

TATUM

I'm sorry. I just had too much wine at dinner, and now I'm feeling it.

AIDAN
Well, now that you have a designated
driver for life...

He leans over. And KISSES her. It's obvious how much he
loves her. And-

EXT. BEACON HILL - SECONDS LATER

He helps her into her coat. And SHUTS the door. He wraps
his arm around her. They eye the ELEGANT ROW HOUSE.

AIDAN
(smiles) You ready to let them shower us
with congratulations?

Tatum nods. But eyes the house with impending doom. He
wraps his arm around her. They walk up the front stoop. But-

TATUM
Wait!

She stops before the DOOR. And grabs his face tenderly. Her
eyes moisten. She looks extremely upset.

TATUM
Before we open that door, you need to
know how much I love you. Because I do.
With everything inside of me. Okay?

He nods oddly. Puzzled by her emotion. She KISSES him.

TATUM
And you need to know that I'm still one
hundred percent going to marry you, but-

AIDAN
But what...?

TATUM
But not until you get help...

Tatum turns away and nervously presses the DOOR BELL.

AIDAN
Why do I get the feeling there's not an
engagement party waiting in there...?

TATUM
I'm so sorry, baby...

The DOOR OPENS. Revealing MR. EDMOND, 50, a handsome man but looking very grave. He says somberly-

MR. EDMOND
Thank you, Tatum... Hello, son.

AIDAN
Pop, what's going on here?

Mr. Edmond OPENS the door all the way. Exposing-

INSIDE: A large GROUP of family and friends sit. Looking distraught. They all face a single EMPTY CHAIR.

MR. EDMOND
Have a seat, son...

Tatum hurries inside. Joining the OTHERS. Facing the solo chair. Aidan looks in. With a PUZZLED EXPRESSION. As-

INSIDE: His friends and family watch him gravely. As a GUST OF WIND BLOWS towards them. And-

More FIERCE GROWLING! From-

EXT. DIRT ROAD - SAME (**RESUME**)

The STATION WAGON hurries over the rough road. And moves out of the CORN FIELD. Approaching WOODS. And-

INT. STATION WAGON - SAME

Aidan turns away from the window. He looks at Robert. With the same PUZZLED EXPRESSION.

AIDAN
Were you there...?

ROBERT
(nods) I'm the Intervention Counselor your family hired. I'm Robert. And I'm here to get you help, Aidan.

Aidan looks quietly shocked. Truly concerned.

AIDAN
Help for what?

ROBERT
For your addictions.

Aidan smirks ironically, as if he's never heard this.

AIDAN

That's insane. I'm not an addict.

ROBERT

Which is the typical sentiment for addicts, Aidan, I know. But you have a serious addiction to drugs and alcohol.

AIDAN

What? That's bullshit. I drink socially and I don't do drugs. Sure, I smoked pot a little in college, but that's it.

Robert FLIPS through the clip board. Passing HAND WRITTEN LETTERS. He settles on one. He CLEARS his throat and reads-

ROBERT

"Dearest Ady, my sweetest angel. When you were born, I knew I had given birth to a very special man. When I held you in my arms, I felt your love. Which is why tonight, my beautiful son-"

AIDAN

Okay, okay-

ROBERT

"-It pains me beyond words to tell you that I, your mother, will no longer have contact with you until you seek help for the terrible addictions you have let run your life. It is so hard watching you-"

Aidan spins on him fiercely with-

AIDAN

I said OKAY, Goddamnit!

ROBERT

All we want is for you to get better.

AIDAN

But I'm not an addict... In fact, I was sober last night.

Robert looks away. Oddly. He FLIPS to another letter. As-

ROBERT

Initially, yes, you were. But you immediately had a meltdown. It was... quite serious, and very disturbing.

Aidan spins around. Truly perplexed. He stares out the-

WINDOW: WOODS approach. As the vehicle begins moving up a small, MOUNTAIN ROAD. And-

ROBERT (O.C.)
In your fiancée's letter, she mentions
the constant blackouts. Can you remember
any specific events before or after one?

Aidan's stare gets intense. He remembers something. And-

INT. INDETERMINATE SPACE - NIGHT (**FLASHBACK**)

CLOSE ON AIDAN'S FACE. Frozen in terror. Eyes wide. Mouth hanging open. He GASPS FOR AIR. A sad, frightening sound.

His face surrounded by BULBOUS PLASTIC WALLS. A very odd sight. And loud CRINKLING. All around him. As a frightened-

TATUM (O.S.)
AIDAN! PLEASE! SAY SOMETHING!

He BLINKS. And catches his breath. Finally. Looks like he's waking. More CRINKLING. As he sits up. He's in-

EXT. A DARK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Filled with GARBAGE BAGS. Facing a distant CITY STREET. As-

ON STREET: A frightened Tatum peers into the darkness. Trying to maneuver the garbage bags. She sees him. And-

TATUM
 Aidan, is that you?

AIDAN
 (weakly) Yeah...

TATUM
 Thank, God! Baby, are you okay?

She hurries through the GARBAGE. As he stands. He looks terrible. Very drunk. And pale. She grabs him. As-

AIDAN
 I think so... Shit, what happened?

TATUM
 Don't worry about it, baby. Just hurry.
 We need to get outta here, immediately.

He nods. She supports his weight. She's loving and sweet. But frightened. She hurries him through the garbage. But-

A distant SHRIEK. A WOMAN'S VOICE. In TRUE TERROR. As-

TATUM

I have a cab waiting for us, okay? Just hurry into it. Can you do that?

The SHRIEKING GETS LOUDER the closer they get to the street. He nods again. Weakly. She stops feet from the street. As-

TATUM

Good. And, baby, no matter what, don't look around. Okay? Just look at the cab and hurry for it. Okay?

He nods. His eyes blink oddly. He looks terrible. And-

ON CITY STREET. She quickly guides him to an IDLE CAB. But-

The WOMAN SHRIEKS MADLY as they appear.

TATUM

Don't look, Aidan! Just hurry!

Tatum hurries them to the CAB. She yanks the door open. But Aidan lazily looks about. He sees a quick glimpse of-

PARKED CAR: Where a WOMAN, 20s, watches him in horror. SCREAMING MADLY. Like seeing a monster. Beyond terrified.

IN CAB: Tatum shoves him in. She jumps in after. And-

TATUM

1475 Newbury Street!

The cab pulls away. As Aidan lazily glances at-

PARKED CAR: The woman watches him in horror. SHRIEKING in disbelief. With RUDDY LIQUID splattered over her windows.

Aidan does a double take. But they pull away too fast. And-

HOLD ON AIDAN'S FACE. As it BRIGHTENS. Since he's in-

INT. STATION WAGON - MOMENTS LATER (**RESUME**)

AIDAN stares out the window. With a complex face. Pained. Confused. And layered with self doubt.

AIDAN

Look, I know I've had some issues lately but I *know*, I *swear*, it's not addiction.

ROBERT

Hey, you'll have plenty of time to work things out, kid. But you should be applauded for making this first step...

Aidan looks at Robert. The man's sincere. He pats Aidan.

ROBERT

And no matter how rough it gets, just remember, we're all rooting for you...

Robert's sincerity makes AIDAN'S EYES WATER. But he fights it. He looks away. Back out the WINDOW. And sees-

OUTSIDE: The WOODS CLEAR. The road is suddenly paved. The lawn manicured. Everything looks clean and clear. As-

-A SIGN PASSES: **CHOICES A Rest & Rehabilitation Facility**

EXT. CHOICES - SAME

The STATION WAGON maneuvers the road across beautiful grounds. And approaches A STRUCTURE (same one as the INTRO).

The SMALL FACILITY is modern in design. Everything about it is uncluttered, peaceful, and inviting. As-

The station wagon eases to a halt before the MAIN DOORS. All glass. With an empty but stunning lobby beyond. And-

A NURSE stands. Waiting with a wheelchair. And TWO ORDERLIES. All in simple, non authoritative clothing.

INT. STATION WAGON - SAME

The car stops. Aidan looks out. Accepting his fate. Ron UNLOCKS the doors. The Nurse OPENS Aidan's door. She's-

KATHRYN COLLINS (same from the INTRO), naturally beautiful, a soft face, a warm smile, sincere eyes. She smiles-

KATHRYN

Aidan Edmond, I'm Kathryn Collins, and I'd like to welcome you to Choices.

Aidan looks away. Fighting emotion. It's too much too fast.

KATHRYN
(to Robert) How is he?

ROBERT
Excellent. This kid's a champ. He's ready to beat it.

Kathryn kneels compassionately beside Aidan's opened door.

KATHRYN
Aidan, what are you feeling?

He wipes his face, fighting emotion, and barely gets out-

AIDAN
Just confused, that's all...

Kathryn reaches in. She delicately grabs his hand.

KATHRYN
Hey, I know you are. But you made it here and that's pretty incredible.

He looks at her. There's something soothing about her demeanor. He looks instantly calmed. As-

KATHRYN
What I like to tell people after they've made the first choice in the right direction is, be easy on yourself. It's not your fault. It's a disease-

Kathryn keeps her eyes on him but stands as-

KATHRYN
-That we're gonna beat. Together. Good souls get sick, too, Aidan.

Aidan takes a DEEP BREATH. He stands up. She rubs his arm. And nods. The two orderlies roll the wheelchair up. As-

ROBERT
Take care, kid. Just don't fight it.

KATHRYN
Why don't you have a seat...

Aidan sits in the wheelchair. She leans towards the car-

KATHRYN
Thanks, Robert. Ron, you know what to do.

Kathryn SHUTS the car door. She watches as the VOLVO DRIVES OFF. She spins around and walks beside-

An orderly pushes the wheelchair towards the facility.

KATHRYN

Now let's hurry up and get you better.

Aidan sits. Looks defeated. Being rolled to the MAIN LOBBY. The front wall ALL GLASS. Two DOORS SLIDE OPEN. And-

INT. CHOICES - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The lobby looks pristine. And EMPTY. Almost looks fake. No one sits behind the front desk. And another-

WALL OF GLASS. Reveals a beautiful CENTER COURTYARD. Where-

A normal sized GIRL, 23, buzzed hair died platinum, stands. It's BEVAN BLAISELY. She stands still. Staring at Aidan. As if she's been expecting him. And-

She mouths, "**RUN.**" But-

The orderly stops the wheelchair. Kathryn faces Aidan. And nods to the orderlies. They quickly-

SNAP! LOCK his wrists to the wheelchair arms.

AIDAN

What are you doing?

Aidan tugs his arms. But they're locked down. SNAP! They quickly LOCK his legs to the chair also. He struggles-

AIDAN

Hey, what the fuck are you doing!?

Kathryn kneels before Aidan. As he STRUGGLES.

KATHRYN

Before you settle in, Aidan, we need to purge your system.

AIDAN

Why are you strapping me down!?

Kathryn maintains her calm smile. And lifts a SYRINGE.

KATHRYN

Your detox begins immediately...

Aidan desperately tries to fight. The orderlies hold down one of his arms. She INJECTS the needle into his forearm.

AIDAN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME!?!?

KATHRYN
Shhh, Aidan. I'm injecting you with a sedative to help with your transition. This will be the most difficult part of your treatment. But you will come out of it a new man. I promise.

AIDAN
GET THE FUCK AWAY FROM ME!!!

Kathryn pulls the needle out. And eyes him compassionately.

KATHRYN
For the next few days, you will be in a hallucinatory state. And for some people, reality becomes difficult to determine.

AIDAN
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!?!?

Aidan's eyes begin to droop, his STRUGGLING becomes sluggish.

KATHRYN
Just have faith, Aidan...

He looks at her. As something overcomes him. He blinks-

AIDAN'S POV: Kathryn looks at him compassionately. But her face GYRATES. Everything does. Everything TREMBLES. And-

KATHRYN
Please take him to ICU.

Kathryn moves to a simple wall. She SWIPES a key card across a panel. A LOUD BUZZ. As a door SLIDES OPEN.

The orderlies wheel Aidan into a-

SIMPLE, MEDICAL HALLWAY. Brightly lit. Sterile. With DOORS on both sides. But-

AIDAN'S POV: The hallway shifts. Oddly. Seems to be ALIVE. The passage slithers. It BREATHES. He hears-

A DEEP BARITONE RUMBLING. And MACABRE LAUGHTER. As-

AIDAN'S POV: Moving down the hall. His CHAIR TREMBLES. His drugged face bounces. As if moving over rough ground. And-

-He passes an OPENED DOOR. Sees a small HOSPITAL ROOM where-

HOSPITAL ROOM: ANGELA BARNS, 22, a thin girl with long hair, lies strapped to a bed. An IV in her arm. Her body VIOLENTLY TREMBLES. She GROANS HORRIFICALLY. But-

-She immediately stops. And looks up. FACING HIM EYE TO EYE. Her face covered in LESIONS. She smirks wickedly-

ANGELA BARNS
You're. Fucked.

An orderly calmly closes the door. Aidan blinks. And-

AIDAN'S POV: He's going under. All color fades. As he seems to SPEED through the gyrating hallway. But-

The RUMBLING becomes a GROWL. And-

INT. KITCHEN CABINETS - DAY

Dark. Only one vertical LINE OF LIGHT. From a kitchen beyond. As AIDAN PANTS. Crammed INSIDE CABINETS. As-

A VIOLENT FIGHT. Tatum CRIES. A MAN GRUNTS DEEPLY. And-

Aidan leans towards the light. Peering out into-

OBSTRUCTED VIEW: A portion of the kitchen. Where TATUM is violently pinned on the table. She squirms in terror. As-

-MALE HANDS force her down. They RIP her shirt off. As-

TATUM
AIDAN! WHERE ARE YOU!?!??

Aidan moves his face. But he can't see WHO it is.

AIDAN
GET OFF OF HER!!!

Aidan tries to shove the doors open. But they won't budge. He's locked in. He VIOLENTLY POUNDS the doors. And-

INT. MEDICAL CORRIDOR - LATER

A bright hall. Where Aidan sits slumped in the wheelchair. With a DRUGGED FACE. DOCTORS stand ahead of him. HURRIEDLY WHISPERING. As-

GUY'S VOICE (O.S.)
Pssst. Over here...

Aidan sluggishly looks to his left. Looking into-

RECOVERY ROOM: Where a MALE PATIENT stands. Hiding behind his door. He looks paranoid and tweaked. He's-

-OAKLEY ELLISON, 25, shaved head, a handsome roughneck, with an Aussie accent. He WHISPERS-

OAKLEY ELLISON
Hey, mate, everything they're gonna tell
ya' is a lie. Remember that.

-Oakley eyes him seriously. Looking terrified.

OAKLEY ELLISON
Ya' here for one reason. They need ya'
for the procedure.

AIDAN
What procedure?

Aidan blinks. Fighting to OPEN his eyes wider. As-

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

A typical recovery room. Where Aidan lies. Looking pale. His eyes lazily open. Blinking heavily.

He sees Kathryn and DR. GALLOTS (from the INTRO) quietly discussing his charts. Their backs to him.

He spins his head slowly. Looking about the room. He sees an IV in his arm. He seems at ease. And lies back. But-

ON BED: SOMETHING MOVES under his covers. Near his feet.

Aidan lifts his head. Puzzled. He BLINKS. And pulls the blanket towards his face. Exposing-

ON BED: His bare FEET. Each FOOT SLOWLY TWISTS AWAY FROM THE OTHER. SLOWLY SPREADING. As-

CRUNCHING. From his bones.

Aidan watches in puzzled disbelief.

AIDAN

What's happening...? Hey, doctor!?

Doctor and Nurse don't respond. They don't even flinch. As-

Aidan watches in horror as-

ON BED: His FEET CONTINUE TURNING SLOWLY. BOTH OF HIS LEGS BEING FORCED AROUND. 180 DEGREES. As-

INTENSE CRUNCHING. And-

AIDAN

Hey, help me here! DO SOMETHING!

ON BED: His toes face behind him. His heels in front.

His hands FLAIL. Knocking over the IV. He briefly sees-

ON BAG: Tiny text. And a small logo. An UPSIDE DOWN CROSS.

It HITS the ground. As his HOSPITAL BED IMMEDIATELY SPINS AROUND 180 degrees. It's intensely fast! It stops.

Aidan's suddenly facing the wall. Where his head had been. As his BODY VIOLENTLY GYRATES. And-

THUNDEROUS CRASHING! Fills the room! As-

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - AFTERNOON

The same room. But brighter. Aidan lies in bed, the bed back in its appropriate place. He looks much better. And-

He opens his eyes. Squints. Lazily blinks. He sees-

Kathryn and Dr. Gallots discussing his chart. They both see him wake. The two smile warmly.

DR. GALLOTS

There he is...

KATHRYN

Welcome back to the land of the living.
You had quite a few rough days.

They both approach him. Going about their routines. Taking his pulse, adjusting his pillow, etc...

AIDAN

What happened...? Where...

KATHRYN

Shhh, don't exert yourself. You're still very weak. Aidan, this is Dr. Gallots, he's your primary doctor.

Kathryn moves to a tray of food. She rolls it over. As Gallots leans over Aidan. He's all smiles and charm.

DR. GALLOTS

Hey there, Aidan. I'm Mitch. You're in recovery after experiencing four very excruciating days of detox. Your body went into shock after being denied the addictive chemicals it became used to.

Dr. Gallots tests Aidan's pupils with a pin light. While-

DR. GALLOTS

You experienced numerous DTs and, the good news is, your system is clean. So now we get to work with you on keeping it that way. Right, son?

Kathryn tucks a napkin around his neck. She smiles-

KATHRYN

You were a real trooper. The hardest part's over, Aidan.

DR. GALLOTS

I like to think the severity of detox is enough to keep my patients clean but, that power comes from within you.

Dr. Gallots stands. Writes on the chart. And smiles-

DR. GALLOTS

So, once we get your strength back, we'll move you into your own, private room and start the journey towards true recovery.

Dr. Gallots exits. Kathryn holds a bowl of soup and delicately lifts a spoonful towards Aidan.

INT. LOBBY - MORNING

TWO ORDERLIES open the door from ICU. For-

Aidan steps into the lobby. He looks fantastic. But he moves sluggishly. Looks drugged. The orderlies lead him to-

A cheerful Kathryn waits at the FRONT DESK. A simple sign hangs above: **CHOICES... A Rest & Rehabilitation Facility.**

KATHRYN

Aidan, you look great! I'm sure you still feel groggy from the sedatives but that will wear off soon.

She pats his back warmly, like close friends.

AIDAN

I'd like to use a phone, please.

KATHRYN

Well, let me show you around first, lay down the ground rules, and then let you spend some time settling in. 'Kay?

She holds her smile. And spins around. Her heels CLICK across the concrete floor. As-

KATHRYN

-And by *rules*, I mean *options*.

The orderlies lead him across the lobby. It's simple but peaceful. TRICKLING fountains. Bamboo in large vases.

KATHRYN

So, you were just in Medical, and let's hope you never have to go there again, but THIS is the *actual* facility.

She stops at a door. And FUMBLES with her large key chain.

KATHRYN

All our dormitories, rec rooms, lounges, labs, therapy centers- are in here.

She UNLOCKS the door. TUGS it open. It's heavy and thick.

KATHRYN

This will be your home. Away from home.

She gestures for him to enter. He hesitates. And-

AIDAN

I'm not an addict. I don't belong here.

KATHRYN

Aidan, our staff is trained in addiction science. After you meet with them, and if they agree, then you'll be released, as easy as that. I promise.

She's sincere. He looks appeased. He steps through. And-
She follows him. The door LOCKS behind them. They move into-

INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Similar to the other lobby in design and decoration. But NO WINDOWS. Instead, large simple paintings in their place. It's similar enough, but subtle. Even the air is different.

And SOMEONE sits behind this lobby DESK. It's NURSE TETHERS, 30s, fit, smiling but severe, intense eyes. Her plastic pleasantness seems sadistic. She stands slowly. Revealing-

She wears a nurse's uniform and hat.

KATHRYN

Sue, this is Aidan. Aidan, this is Nurse Tethers. She'll monitor your day to day.

NURSE TETHERS

Welcome, Mr. Edmond. I look forward to taking care of you...

Aidan nods. There's something about her he immediately doesn't like. He continues following Kathryn. As-

Nurse Tethers stands still. And watches them pass. Her odd smile plastered to her face. As-

Kathryn leads him up a simple, modern Teak staircase.

KATHRYN

She'll also bring you all your meals.

AIDAN

There's not a dining hall?

KATHRYN

Not for patients, no.

He follows her up the stairs. As Nurse Tethers continues watching them from below.

KATHRYN

You're on the second floor and you're free to wander about, but don't be alarmed if doors are randomly locked.

Kathryn glances at him knowingly, she knows how it sounds.

KATHRYN

We have a surveillance strategy designed for your comfort. It's a way for us to monitor our patients without causing any distress. The thought is, the less you have to worry about, the better.

They reach the top of the stairs. And another DOOR. She UNLOCKS it and gestures him through. She smiles simply-

KATHRYN

So, you're free to go anywhere you can.

The door LOCKS behind them. They move down a simple HALLWAY. With doors on both sides. Very much like a 5 star hotel.

They pass the **SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE**. Nice furniture. Magazines. State of the art stereo system. But NO WINDOWS.

Aidan follows her but looks back oddly.

AIDAN

You know, from the outside, this place was covered in windows...

Kathryn stops at a DOOR. With no number.

KATHRYN

So, this is your room, Aidan.

She OPENS it. The orderlies step aside. She follows him in-

INT. AIDAN EDMOND'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

He looks about. Exactly like a 5 star hotel suite. Elegant and comfortable. Plush and roomy. As-

He moves to a WINDOW. And pulls back the drapes. But NOTHING behind it. Just blank wall. He turns to her oddly.

KATHRYN

It's psychosocial, the appearance of a window is more relaxing than bars. Also-

Aidan eyes the room oddly. Something doesn't make sense.

AIDAN

-Wait a minute. Where's a clock?

KATHRYN

Exactly. There are none. Nor are there light switches. We'll control that for you. It's to help us get you back into a healthy regiment without coercion.

She smiles warmly. He sees a SITTING AREA with a book shelf. And a PLASMA TV. But-

KATHRYN

You only get one station and we program it but we stop broadcasting at midnight. We need to make sure you have no contact with the outside world. No news, no e-mails, no phone calls, just peace.

AIDAN

Pretty ironic. At CHOICES, you get none.

Kathryn smirks. She got the joke. And appreciated it. But-

KATHRYN

Not at all, you'll be plenty busy. Oh, Gosh, and I almost forgot to tell you about the Group.

Her forgetfulness seems fake. She smiles coyly but can't look him in the eyes with-

KATHRYN

One hour a day, you'll have group therapy. It's a monitored, social hour for you and the other patients.

She OPENS his door. But turns around faux casually with-

KATHRYN

In fact, there's twenty minutes left in today's. If you're feeling up to it, you can come down and meet everyone...

AIDAN

Why not.

Aidan nods, looking desperate for more contact.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A plain hall with a DOOR marked **GROUP**. Where Kathryn stands. Smiling pleasantly. With Aidan close. And-

She delicately TWISTS the knob. And OPENS the door. She steps aside. Aidan moves forward and peers into-

ROOM: A simple space lit by fluorescents. Almost looks like a holding cell. With SEVEN CHAIRS. And SIX PEOPLE.

-THEY'RE a mix of ages, genders, and ethnicities. But they all sit still. Watching the door expectantly. As-

KATHRYN

Go on. Go inside...

Aidan walks timidly into-

INT. GROUP THERAPY LAB - CONTINUOUS

THEY silently watch him, looking nervous. He looks around. He sees a LARGE TWO-WAY MIRROR on one wall. As-

The door SHUTS and LOCKS behind him. But-

ON TWO-WAY MIRROR: Not mirrored. THICK GLASS. Clearly not hiding the OBSERVING DOCTORS. It's the OBSERVATION ROOM.

Aidan stands still. Not moving in. As the others watch him.

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

Ah, welcome, Aidan... Over here.

OBSERVATION ROOM: Dr. Gallots waves. He speaks into a MICROPHONE. Broadcasting his voice. Kathryn sits beside him.

DR. GALLOTS

Everyone, this is Aidan Edmond. Aidan, why don't you go ahead and have a seat and we'll go around the room and introduce ourselves.

He moves to the empty chair. THE GROUP eyes him oddly, expectantly. One GUY EXHALES SMOKE and smirks-

OAKLEY ELLISON

It's a little like a second Intervention, huh, mate? I'm Oakley.

It's Oakley. He looks grounded and calm. He smiles unfamiliarly to Aidan. As-

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

And remember, guys, he's new. He just got out of detox, so be nice, you've all been there before...

Aidan sits. Oddly. Staring in disbelief at Oakley. Who looks clueless. As a WOMAN quickly stands. It's-

PETRA

This isn't fair, Goddamnit!

PETRA COUGAN, 35, a gorgeous but broken femme fatale. Blonde hair, brown roots, in great shape, intentionally sexy. But-

She moves across the room. Looking frightened.

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

Ms. Cougan, please take your-

She speaks furiously at the GLASS WALL-

PETRA

NO! We were *not* prepared for this! We are people, Mitch!

DR. GALLOTS

I know. But it is my job to delicately challenge your disorders... Now may we continue?

She SIGHS, clutching her shoulders, and stands in a distant corner. WATCHING EXPECTANTLY.

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

Sorry, Aidan. Very well, continue...

Aidan sits between- LEANDER HILSON, 30, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, silent, brooding, his legs crossed, his FINGER steadily TAPPING his thigh. And-

An attractive, THIN GIRL with a British accent. She's-

ANGELA BARNES

(smiles) Hello, I'm Angela Barnes.

She looks great. NO LESIONS on her face. She smiles sweetly. As if she's never seen him. She's naturally stunning but sincerely humble.

ANGELA BARNES

I'm originally from Liverpool but spent the last five years in London before, well, here. Welcome. I know it's difficult but try not to be alarmed.

Aidan's mouth hangs open. Confusion fills him. As the NEXT in the circle sits up, smiling. It's-

PEDRO CASTILLO, 24, Puerto Rican, handsome, short but muscular, clever facial hair intentionally trimmed.

PEDRO

Hey, bro. I'm Pedro. Grew up in East LA then joined the service. I was finding my roots back home, in Puerto Rico, when it got me- the disease, I mean.

He smiles good-naturedly but looks away quickly. As if he almost said too much. He seems shy. But-

BEVAN

This is bullshit, we shouldn't be talking.

Bevan, from the COURTYARD, with buzzed hair died platinum, smirks arrogantly. Now, with a cruel face. She barks-

BEVAN BLAISELY

Did he sign the Confidentiality Agreement?

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

Ms. Blaisely, we're not doing this again.

She stares at Aidan. With a cocky smirk. She's manic. And-

BEVAN

Then I'm not saying a fucking word until he signs the Confidentiality Agreement.

Aidan looks confused. The others look nervous. And-

PETRA

Please, I *demand* you let me out of here!

Petra hurries to the OBSERVATION WINDOW and KNOCKS on the glass. Watching the GROUP in fear. But-

AIDAN

What do I have to sign?

KATHRYN (O.S.)

There's nothing to sign, Aidan.

Aidan sees Kathryn in the OBSERVATION WINDOW talking into the MIC. All the doctors and nurses watch intensely. And-

BEVAN
(to Aidan) Are you a fuckin' idiot?
Look around. Don't you get it, *pal*?

AIDAN
No, I don't... Why do some of you-

BEVAN
-He doesn't know. (laughs) He really
doesn't. Let's just say that one of us
is an incredibly successful pop star.

ANGELA BARNES
Bevan, stop.

BEVAN
Or WAS successful. Until she got sick.
And you, *pal*, aren't allowed to hear her
say a fucking word until you sign the
fucking Con-Fi-Dentiality Agreement.

ANGELA BARNES
SHUT UP. Leave him alone!

There's obvious tension between the girls. And Bevan loves it. She becomes more animated in the conflict.

BEVAN
Because, you see, Aidan, sick celebrities
are so more important than you. (mocks
Angela's accent) *Right, Angela Barnes?*

Angela looks desperately towards the doctors with-

ANGELA BARNES
TURN IT ON, TURN IT ON!

BEVAN
No need! I'm done. And, Aidan, you're
okay by me since you didn't know her.
Even my ten year old sister can't stand
Angela's shitty muzac.

Angela's flustered. Bevan lights a cigarette triumphantly.

BEVAN
About the only thing I'm gonna get from
being in rehab with *her* is anorexia.

Aidan looks overwhelmed. Oakley smirks and shakes his head.

OAKLEY

Don't try to figure it out, mate.

Petra stands in the corner. But she says calmly.

PETRA

And I'm Petra. Just know, despite the staff's song and dance, you're only here because of us...

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

That's enough, Petra. Aidan, the gentleman beside you is Leander Hilson, but he's mute. So...

A confused Aidan looks at Leander. The large man locks eyes with him. And quickly nods. Still TAPPING his thigh. As-

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

Aidan, why don't you share a little something about yourself to the group...

EVERYONE quickly looks at him. Both PATIENTS and STAFF. But- Aidan can't speak. He looks sucker-punched, confused.

AIDAN

What's going on here...?

The group watches him. SILENTLY. With complex expressions. There's so much they aren't saying. Some even look nervous.

PEDRO

Well, let's see, Aidan, where to start?

Pedro glares at Aidan. His pleasantness gone. Suddenly pumping with testosterone. He looks furious. As-

PEDRO

Should I tell you why there aren't any clocks or should I tell you how many orderlies are gonna rape you on your first night?

Pedro faux contemplates. And plays it up. Sarcastically.

EVERYONE slowly looks at him. With quiet fear. As-

Pedro sits up oddly. With a wicked smirk. His eyes wide. And gleaming. He's totally different. True schizophrenia.

Petra's BREATHING gets heavy. She watches him. Intense fear fills her. She tightens her grip on her shoulders. And-

PETRA
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

She covers her face, cowering against the wall. As-

CHAOS. All the PATIENTS jump from their chairs. They hurry away in terror. Fleeing towards Petra in the CORNER. As-

OBSERVATION ROOM: Controlled CHAOS. Looks of stunned MOVEMENT. Dr. Gallots speaks hurriedly into the MIC-

DR. GALLOTS
Good, get back, we're pulling you guys out of there! Wait, someone get-

But Angela's already tugging Aidan up. And quickly pulling him into the corner. Looking seriously frightened. As-

Pedro's face morphs. Into torment. Tears streak his cheeks.

The patients watch with frightened fascination.

BEVAN
But why's it happening *again*?

Petra glares at Aidan-

PETRA
Because of *him*. Because *he's* here.

SHRIEKING! From Pedro. Truly tortured. He jumps from his chair. And SCREAMS at the observation room-

PEDRO
This is inhumane, I want OUT, I want OUT OF HERE! NOW, you fucking cock suckers!

OBSERVATION ROOM: Dr. Gallots remains calm. And-

DR. GALLOTS
Pedro, you'll have to remain calm if we are to negotiate a change of privileges-

PEDRO
YOU CAN'T KEEP ME IN HERE!

Pedro GRUNTS. And SMASHES his CHAIR against the glass. But it bounces off. Seriously thick. And-

He glares at the OBSERVATION WINDOW. And catches his breath. He points at the doctors. With hate filled eyes.

PEDRO

I *demand* you let me go. Or I *will* resort to other measures.

OBSERVATION ROOM: The STAFF studies him. Engrossed and fascinated. Silently taking notes. As-

PEDRO

Then be warned. The blood I'm about to spill is on all of your hands.

Pedro snaps. He PUMMELS the glass wall with his FISTS. PUNCHING WILDLY. Unflinching. Like punching bricks. As-

PEDRO

I will NOT live trapped like an animal!
I WANT OUT OF HERE!! NOW!!!

OBSERVATION ROOM: Kathryn quickly takes the mic. She speaks calmly and compassionately with-

KATHRYN

Pedro, look at me. It's Kathryn, and I know you're still in there.

Pedro looks at her. Catching his breath intensely. His face suddenly morphs. Into mad, MESSY SOBS. While-

KATHRYN

Good, Pedro, good. Now repeat after me,
"I am stronger than my addiction..."

He lifts his head. Suddenly silent. Smirking wickedly-

PEDRO

Not *that* again. Do you really think it fuckin' works?

KATHRYN

PEDRO, please! Look at me!

PEDRO

I'll be leaving now, Kathryn. Goodbye.

Pedro lifts the chair. Filled with macabre fury. He turns towards the OTHER GROUP MEMBERS huddled in the corner. And-

PEDRO

(smiles) So, which one of you shall I dispose of for a quick exit...?

He smiles wickedly. And approaches slowly. As-

The DOOR BURSTS OPEN. ORDERLIES hurry in. SOME race towards the patients. And SOME surround Pedro. He drops the chair.

BUZZ! They fire TAZER GUNS at him. The ELECTRODES pierce his skin. But he spins around calmly. Feels nothing.

He CHUCKLES. He grabs the metal coils from his skin. And YANKS them. Pulling the guns from their hands. But-

He's swarmed by FIVE ORDERLIES. They jump him. Take him down. As he FLAILS. Fighting viciously. And-

Orderlies grab his arms. As he lurches towards ANOTHER. With his mouth open. He BITES the MAN'S THROAT. Deeply.

ODD SHRIEKING. From the orderly. And GRUNTING. From Pedro. As he RAVENOUSLY BITES the MAN'S THROAT.

Pedro's yanked away. The orderly stumbles back. TREMBLING. His wound BLEEDS. He GROANS. And-

Quickly, one ORDERLY per PATIENT hurries them out of the room. It's CHAOTIC. But-

Angela quickly leans into Aidan. TREMBLING in fear. She slips him a small NOTE.

ANGELA BARNES
(whispers) Wait 'til you're alone.

She's TUGGED away from him. As an orderly YANKS Aidan in the opposite direction. But something catches Aidan's eye. It's-

The ORDERLY with Angela. He looks familiar. It's RON (who drove Aidan and his intervention counselor). But-

The room fills with BLINDING LIGHT. As a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE WAILS. Filling the space. True CHAOS. But-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

True serenity in the luxury suite. Aidan nervously paces. As Nurse Tethers enters with a dinner tray.

NURSE TETHERS
When you're finished, just knock and I'll
remove the tray.

AIDAN
Hey, what just happened in there!?

She moves to the door. And eyes him with disgust.

NURSE TETHERS

A good man was attacked.

AIDAN

But why? Where am I, seriously?

Her mouth elongates into a smile. Grows wickedly with-

NURSE TETHERS

Kathryn is the buddy nurse. But I'm the disciplinarian. And the tattletail.

Aidan opens his mouth. But she steps out and SHUTS the door.

SNAP. From the door knob. Aidan grabs the handle. But no good. It's LOCKED. He calls out-

AIDAN

Hey, wait!?

NO RESPONSE. He puts his ear to the door. NOTHING. He spins around. And SIGHS. Looking suddenly trapped. But-

He snaps to. And digs in his pocket. He pulls out ANGELA'S-

NOTE: Scrawled in YELLOW CRAYON: **I'm not an addict!**

He looks at the note oddly. His face changes. But-

SOFT BUZZING. Mechanical. From a small CAMERA mounted on the wall. With a RED LIGHT. Following him. And-

He looks up at the CAMERA. Realizes he's being watched. And-

SNAP! His door UNLOCKS. Two ORDERLIES quickly enter.

ORDERLY

Hand over the note, Mr. Edmond.

AIDAN

What note?

The Orderlies sternly grab his hands. And pry it out. As-

AIDAN

Okay, okay, here...

They leave quickly. CLICKING. As his door LOCKS. But-

A MAN SCREAMS. Another MAN SHRIEKS. It's-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

"THE THREE STOOGES." An old black and white episode on the TV. He CLICKS the channel button on the remote. But-

No change. Just the one TV station. He presses MUTE. And continues pacing. Eyeing the room. He moves to the-

BOOK CASE. Leather bound books. The CLASSICS. And-

He opens **TOM SAWYER**. But the text is-

ON BOOK: A DICTIONARY.

He grabs another book. **PLATO'S REPUBLIC**. But the text-

ON BOOK: A dictionary.

The same with **CATCHER IN THE RYE**. And **THE GREAT GATSBY**.

He pulls out the **BIBLE**. He flips it open. A bit relieved.

ON BOOK: The bible is the bible. And-

SNAP! His door UNLOCKS. He looks at it. It doesn't open.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

His door OPENS. He peers out of his room. Looks down the empty hallway. He steps out. Sees MANY DOORS.

He tries one. But LOCKED. He tries another. But LOCKED. As he hears SOFT JAZZ further down the hall. He follows it-

INT. SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Same as earlier. Hip and relaxing. And empty. As SOFT JAZZ plays. He moves to the STEREO. Studies the controls.

He changes the station. BUT THE MUSIC DOESN'T CHANGE. He presses a button for the CD. But the MUSIC DOESN'T CHANGE.

He moves for the speakers. Sees their WIRES move into the WALL. Not the STEREO. It's fake. And-

He eyes the **COFFEE TABLE**. Covered with magazines. All OLD COPIES OF *PSYCHOLOGY TODAY*. As-

SOFT MECHANICAL BUZZING. From a wall MOUNTED CAMERA. Settling on him. Watching him. And-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - LATER

ON TV: An old black and white WESTERN. Cowboys and Indians. Fighting loudly. As-

Aidan searches the DESK DRAWERS. Empty. Except for a pad of CHOICES stationary. And a RED CRAYON. As-

The LIGHTS in his suite DIM SLOWLY. Fading away. Only leaving the bed softly illuminated. And the TV ON. As-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - MUCH LATER

Aidan lies in bed. Watching TV. A documentary on fish. As the night stand LAMPS SLOWLY FADE OFF. DARKNESS. Only his TV remains ON. He eyes the room oddly. And-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - LATER

The TV TURNS ITSELF OFF. Leaving the room in DARKNESS. Aidan sits up. Looks about. Chilled. Sleep not an option.

An ODD HUM from the WALL. Aidan spins his head around. Looking at it. He slowly puts his EAR against it. HEARS-

Muffled BUZZING. A WOMAN SHRIEKS MADLY. DESPERATELY. And-

INT. PRIVATE THERAPY ROOM - MORNING

A simple room. A couch. A box of tissues. And a chair where Kathryn sits. Taking notes. Listening to-

AIDAN

The *only* reason I agreed to walk into this place was because that Intervention guy had handwritten letters from my family requesting that I do so. But now that I'm here, in this fucking freak show-

KATHRYN

Aidan, I know how-

AIDAN

-You're *not* listening, I'm not an ADDICT! And I'm on record having said so. So I *demand* to speak to an attorney!

Kathryn looks at him. Compassionately. She leans back with-

KATHRYN

Aidan, I understand the complexity of your initial denial, all addicts feel-

AIDAN

STOP saying that.

Kathryn pauses. She EXHALES. Looking honestly sympathetic.

KATHRYN

I'm sorry. Okay. Let's call it something else, like-

AIDAN

I'm done talking until I speak with either an attorney or the authorities. OKAY? You can't keep me here.

Kathryn looks down. She grabs his FILE. Says softly-

KATHRYN

Actually, Aidan, yes, we can. You signed the consent form.

Aidan stops. He looks at her. Surprise replacing anger.

AIDAN

What...? The only thing I signed was my family's request letter.

KATHRYN

I know. Which states they won't allow you to be released until your condition is deemed cured. By us.

Aidan looks numb. He sits on the couch slowly.

KATHRYN

But put that out of your head and let's get back to your recovery. So...

She leans forward enthusiastically. He shakes his head with-

AIDAN

Come on, seriously. Even if I was an addict, I don't belong here, with *them*. You saw yesterday. Whatever that was, it was far beyond addiction.

KATHRYN

Aidan, you do belong here. It's been decided. And that's irreversible.

He SIGHS. Kathryn leans forward. Inches away. Says softly-

KATHRYN

I'm going to say this once, and I want you to notice there are no cameras in this room. Okay?

Aidan eyes the room. No mounted cameras anywhere. And-

KATHRYN

What you suffer from will cause you to see the group in a fallacious manner.

Aidan stares at her. Pulled in by her earnest expression.

KATHRYN

Just as they see you.

Kathryn sits up suddenly, donning a smile. She grabs his file. Her physical change, a purposeful message. As-

KATHRYN

Which is why addiction is so personal. So, back to your detox hallucinations. When you were watching Tatum's attack, why couldn't you help her?

He glares at her challengingly. Not speaking.

KATHRYN

Despite what you think, we are here to help you, Aidan. So, back to the attack. Do you think it might represent your hostility towards your loved ones?

Aidan shakes his head and looks away.

KATHRYN

You've said you don't think you're an addict, and your participation here is solely because they demanded it. So, might it represent your anger at them for putting you in this situation?

AIDAN

No. I'm not angry at them. We all knew I was having issues. I just think they got it wrong.

She watches him. Then smiles. And WRITES on her pad as-

KATHRYN

I must say, you're an impressive guy, my friend. It's a shame...

AIDAN

What is?

She looks up quickly. As if something slipped out. But-

KATHRYN

That you're in denial... What do you think caused your blackouts?

AIDAN

Epilepsy.

KATHRYN

Which your tests refute.

AIDAN

One round of tests. It's an unknown neurological disorder. Science has yet to explain how or why it's caused.

They stare at one another. Intensely. But-

AIDAN

And my family witnessed my seizures.

KATHRYN

That *is* what they told you. Yes.

She closes her notes. Puts her pen away. And-

KATHRYN

Well, that does it for now. You've got five minutes until group.

Aidan's face changes. Intensely.

AIDAN

No fucking way am I going back in there.

KATHRYN

I'm sorry, Aidan, but you *have* to.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

An ORDERLY forcibly shoves Aidan beyond the opened door marked **GROUP**. And-

INT. GROUP THERAPY LAB - CONTINUOUS

Aidan stumbles in. Looking intensely frightened. He sees-
SEVEN CHAIRS. And FOUR PEOPLE. Angela paces by herself.
Leander sits still. Still TAPPING his thigh. And-
Petra lounges beside Oakley. Smoking. Wearing a sundress.
Her legs crossed. She bounces one enticingly before him.
Smirking. Playing up her femme fatale mystique.

PETRA

Really, a MILF? Despite my two children,
Oakley, I'm only 35.

She EXHALES towards him. Playing it up. She loves the
attention. Aidan approaches Angela and WHISPERS-

AIDAN

So if you're not an addict, then what are
you in here for?

ANGELA

I don't know, a procedure of some kind.

They're interrupted by an energetic-

PETRA

Hello, Aidan, sorry I wasn't more
cheerful last time.

She smirks at him. Turning up her sexuality. As-

OAKLEY

(laughs) She's in rare form, mate.

They both smile at Aidan. He stares at them. Dumbfounded by
their pleasantness. And-

PETRA

Come now, Aidan. Don't be scared of
Group. Be scared that they have all
seven of us.

AIDAN

What?

She smirks, her mysteriousness intentional.

PETRA

It can get us anywhere, not just in this
room. Remember that.

AIDAN

What can?

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

That'll be enough, Ms. Cougan.

OBSERVATION ROOM: Gallots speaks in the mic. As the DOCTORS settle before the glass with their notes. And-

BEVAN (O.S.)

Not you bitches again...

Bevan stands in the doorway. Smirking arrogantly. Her short hair now dyed black. As-

HER ORDERLY stands behind her, in the hall. He moves to close the door. But Aidan glances behind her. And sees-

IN HALL: Her orderly. Closing the door. He looks familiar. A bald head and a stache. His Intervention Counselor. It's-

AIDAN

Robert?

Aidan stands. Confused. As the orderly (Robert) glances in quickly as he SHUTS the door. And LOCKS it. But-

Angela delicately tugs Aidan's arm. He turns towards her. Looking shocked. She WHISPERS CONSPIRATORIALLY-

ANGELA

I know. And your orderly was mine.

AIDAN

Your Intervention Counselor?

Angela nods. Oakley sees the exchange. He WHISPERS-

OAKLEY

Don't question it, mate. Let it go.

Bevan walks towards an empty chair and snarls-

BEVAN

So, who's got a smoke for me?

OBSERVATION ROOM: Kathryn talks with Dr. Gallots. He nods. And moves to the mic.

DR. GALLOTS

Okay, guys. Your hour begins now.

Petra lights a cigarette for Bevan. But Bevan looks at the Observation Room quickly. Looking alarmed.

BEVAN

But what happened to Pedro?

DR. GALLOTS

Pedro will not be joining us today. Carry on... Aidan, why don't you share a bit about yourself to the group.

BEVAN

But it's not the group without Pedro.

DR. GALLOTS

Ms. Blaisely, please have a seat or we'll mute the room.

She sits oddly. The 'MUTE' threat worked. And-

INT. GROUP THERAPY LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Aidan talks cautiously. The others listen. Eating it up. Petra's intrigued with him. Bevan's agitated. As-

AIDAN

Then we moved in together and everything was fine. It was perfect. Until the blackouts started.

The GROUP'S EYES widen. Listening knowingly.

BEVAN

What kind of blackouts?

AIDAN

Just blackouts. I'd be somewhere and then I'd open my eyes and suddenly be somewhere else.

ANGELA

And when did they start?

AIDAN

Little over a month ago.

BEVAN

That's when ours stopped...

The GROUP exchange intense looks. Chilled. But-

PETRA

Do you miss her, your fiancée?

Aidan looks at Petra. She EXHALES SMOKE. Smirking. Playing it up. She's seducing him. And he knows it.

AIDAN

Constantly.

PETRA

And how was the sex?

ANGELA

Petra, that's rather personal.

An agitated Bevan glares at the Observation Room with-

BEVAN

I can't take Angela Barns right now. I'm serious, I'm gonna rip her esophagus out.

Everyone looks at Bevan. She's clearly tweaking. As-

BEVAN

WHAT!? WHAT, you fuckin' idiots!? Doesn't anyone else find it odd his blackouts *started* when ours *stopped*!?

KATHRYN (V.O.)

Bevan, please, don't make us go to mute.

OAKLEY

Yeah, just stop questioning.

BEVAN

Says the Aussie hick who seems worldly because of his Goddamn accent. Why is it you *never* question anything!?

Oakley stays cool. Not getting worked up. He smiles-

OAKLEY

Because it ain't so bad. We got no job, no bills to pay, we're fed and clothed-

BEVAN

Goddamnit! *Think*, you moron. Don't you find it odd!? It's only insane when all seven fucking chairs are filled!

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)

Ms. Blaisely, this is your last warning. Then we're muting the room.

PETRA
Yeah, shut up!

ANGELA
Bevan, stop talking!

Bevan crosses her arms defiantly. She's fighting hard to keep her mouth shut. Her foot wiggles furiously. But-

BEVAN
Don't you remember when JERRICK was here?
AND Pedro!? Remember what happened when
all seven chairs were filled?

Petra leans towards Bevan, speaking urgently with-

PETRA
Bevan, that's not true, it can be insane
with just two chairs filled!

BEVAN
I know. But when they have all seven of
us- Someone. Always. Blacks out.

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)
Going to mute.

The patients immediately close their eyes tightly and cover their ears. Terrified. Aidan looks confused. As-

OBSERVATION ROOM: Gallots calmly presses a button. Making-

The room brightens with BLINDING LIGHT. And a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE WAITS. Filling the space. Swallowing-

EVERYONE. They seem to vanish. For a few moments. Until-

The light fades. No more piercing tone. Back to normal. They slowly open their eyes. And uncover their ears. But-

Aidan looks in serious pain and shock. As-

A furious Bevan RANTS before the OBSERVATION WINDOW.

BEVAN
What happened to Jerrick!? I WANNA KNOW.
He was the MOST FUCKED UP of all of us!

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)
Going to mute. Again.

Again, the room brightens with BLINDING LIGHT. And a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE. Fills the space. Swallowing-

EVERYONE. They seem to vanish. For a few moments. Until-

The light and tone FADE. Revealing-

ORDERLIES carry out a flailing BEVAN. She's MANIC. With-

BEVAN

WHY did the most fucked up GET RELEASED!?
WHAT ARE WE REALLY IN REHAB FOR!?

THUD. The orderlies drag her out the door. But she quickly GRABS the frame. And pulls herself back in with-

BEVAN

GUYS- I know what I'm saying- We're not here for addiction!

But the orderlies pry off her hands. And yank her out. As-

SLAM! The door shuts. Leaving the others in JARRING SILENCE. It's an awkward, discombobulating moment. Until-

KATHRYN (V.O.)

*I'm sorry, you guys. Take a moment.
You're clear. Continue at your own pace.*

Aidan looks horrified. He watches the others rebound quickly. They've been through it before. Except for-

ANGELA. She TREMBLES, hands still on her ears. Eyes still squinting. She fights to swallow her tears. As-

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)

Angela, what's wrong?

Angela wipes her eyes and nose. Trying to recover quickly.

ANGELA

I'm trying hard to be cooperative, but it keeps coming up...

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

*You have to remember, up until Aidan,
you've been the new one, Angela. You're
still confused and learning to adjust...*

Petra stays focused on Aidan. Smirking amorously. She uncrosses her legs. Slouches down in her chair. Her skirt barely reaches her knees. She looks uncouth. As-

PETRA

Let's get back to the sex. Aidan, how many lovers did Tatum have before you?

She takes a drag on her cigarette. And EXHALES ravenously.

AIDAN

Excuse me?

PETRA

Did she love you for your mind or body?

She smiles knowingly. Her legs far apart. No underwear. She slouches in the chair, like a gruff man. As-

The others watch her oddly. She takes another long DRAG.

PETRA

Let's figure it out. Why don't you get over here and mount me. As long as we don't talk, I'm sure they'll allow it.

Petra holds the cigarette near her lap. The BURNING TIP practically touches her exposed thigh. She doesn't react.

OBSERVATION ROOM: The doctors watch intensely. WHISPERING.

AIDAN

Be careful, you're gonna burn yourself.

KATHRYN (O.S.)

Petra, look at me, over here...

Petra ignores the doctors. She stares at Aidan. Smirking. As her HAND with the CIGARETTE moves UNDER her skirt. And-

SIZZLING. Under her skirt. As Petra BURNS HERSELF. She LAUGHS ODDLY. And smirks at Aidan-

PETRA

I hear Tatum was a great lay...

OBSERVATION ROOM: Controlled CHAOS. Looks of stunned MOVEMENT. Dr. Gallots speaks hurriedly into the MIC-

DR. GALLOTS

Guys, get back, we're pulling you out!

CHAOS. The PATIENTS jump from their chairs. They hurry away in fear. Fleeing towards the CORNER. Watching-

Petra sits alone. LAUGHING. Burning herself. Smirking. As-

The DOOR BURSTS OPEN. ORDERLIES hurry in. As-

Petra LEAPS from her chair. And DIVES onto Angela! Tackling the girl. She STRANGLES her viciously.

The orderlies hurry over. And pry Petra off! Quickly pulling a BAG OVER HER HEAD. As Angela COUGHS. And-

Petra FLAILS. SHRIEKING ODDLY. Violently. As-

PETRA
GUYS, FIND A WAY OUTTA HERE BEFORE THEY
DO THIS TO YOU, TOO!!!

Quickly, one ORDERLY per PATIENT hurries them out of the room. It's CHAOTIC. Angela jumps to her feet. And-

Quickly leans into Aidan. And HURRIEDLY WHISPERS-

ANGELA BARNES
Look under the table!

AIDAN
What?

ANGELA BARNES
Just find the table!

But she's tugged away from him. As an orderly tugs Aidan in the opposite direction. And-

The room brightens with BLINDING LIGHT. And a PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE WAILS. Filling the space. As-

An AUDIENCE CHUCKLES DELIGHTEDLY. From-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - LATER

"I LOVE LUCY" plays on the plasma. As Aidan stands. Looking from his **DESK TABLE** to the **COFFEE TABLE**.

He casually glances at the wall MOUNTED CAMERA watching him.

Aidan moves to the desk. He OPENS a drawer. Pulls out CHOICES STATIONARY and the RED CRAYON. But-

He DROPS the crayon. He bends to grab it. Quickly glancing-

UNDER DESK: Nothing. Just wood. Normal. But-

CLICKING. From his door. It UNLOCKS. He stands as it OPENS. Nurse Tethers enters with his dinner tray.

NURSE TETHERS
Time for dinner, Mr. Edmond.

She sets the tray on his coffee table. As he watches her. Waiting for her leave. She moves for the door but stops.

She looks at him. Oddly. She can tell he's waiting for her to leave. She smirks inquisitively-

NURSE TETHERS

Is there something you'd like to tell me?

AIDAN

No, Ma'am.

She frowns. And quickly leaves. As-

Aidan sits on the couch. Before his dinner tray. He unwraps his napkin and plastic spork. But-

He DROPS the spork. Bends to grab it. But quickly glances-

UNDER TABLE: Nothing. Just wood. Normal.

He sits up. Confused. He quickly OPENS his copy of **ANIMAL FARM**. And hurriedly FLIPS THROUGH. Settling on-

ON BOOK: A DICTIONARY. **FALLACIOUS**: 1. **Containing a fallacy; logically unsound**: 2. **Deceptive; misleading**

Aidan reads. Looking puzzled. About to close the book. But something catches his eye. He leans close. Sees-

ON BOOK: A definition: "-disbelief, Weariness, frustration-"

He leans closer. SQUINTING. And sees-

BOOK: A SMALL CIRCLE around the **W** in **weariness**. Made in RED CRAYON.

He scans the rest of the page. He FLIPS it over. Quickly scans the next page. And-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

Aidan lies on the couch. He reads **TOM SAWYER**. Facing the MOUNTED CAMERA. Looking "bored." But-

BEHIND THE BOOK'S COVER, Aidan discretely FLIPS PAGES. Scanning quickly. Looking for-

ON BOOK: Aidan's FINGER stops beside a definition: "persons in relation To a ruler-"

-Again, RED CRAYON circles a letter. The **T** in **to**. As-

He looks at it oddly. Puzzled. And-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - LATER

ON TV: A soothing documentary on migrating SEA CRABS. As-

Aidan lies in bed. Reading **THE CATCHER IN THE RYE**. But-

ON BOOK: His finger beside a definition of: "ONLY- 1. without others; 2. no more than, merely, just"

-RED CRAYON CIRCLES around both the 1 and the 2.

SNAP! Aidan SLAPS the book shut. And SIGHS. He stands. Stretches. And walks into his-

BATHROOM: He moves to the shower, OPENS the DOOR, and steps-

SHOWER: Aidan pulls the door SHUT. And immediately becomes obsessed. He reaches towards the SHAMPOO RACK. And grabs-

His stationary. And his red crayon. He quickly scrawls-

ON PAD: 1-2. At the end of **T, W, M, E, A, 4-5, H, T**.

He looks at the collection of numbers and letters. He TAPS the crayon on the pad. Puzzled. And MUMBLES to himself-

AIDAN

One per book... But what is this...?

His suite LIGHTS DIM TO OFF. Leaving only the distant TV ON.

Aidan quickly EMPTIES his SHAMPOO BOTTLE. He RIPS the page off the pad. ROLLS IT UP. And HIDES IT in the bottle.

Aidan quickly gets out of the shower. And-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - SAME

Aidan eases in. Staring at his door. As it UNLOCKS. And-

INT. HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

Aidan's door OPENS. He pokes his head out. The hallway empty. As SOFT JAZZ plays from the distant-

INT. SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE - SECONDS LATER

Aidan moves in timidly. But it's empty. As-

MECHANICAL BUZZING. From the MOUNTED CAMERA. It spins. And settles on Aidan. He glances at it. But sees-

THE COFFEE TABLE. In the lounge. Before the couch and the adjacent recliner. He moves towards it. But-

BUZZING. As the CAMERA follows him.

He stops. And quickly eyes the room. The coffee table exposed. He gets an idea. He grabs a magazine and-

PLOPS into the recliner. He opens the magazine. "Reads." Casually rocking. Casually spinning around. Until-

The back of the recliner faces the camera.

Aidan looks at the COFFEE TABLE. Just inches away. But in view of the camera.

Aidan SLOWLY SLIDES out of the recliner. Its back hiding him. He crawls towards the couch. And slips BEHIND IT.

He moves BEHIND THE COUCH. To the opposite end. And-

Aidan peers his head out. He sees the camera still focused on the BACK OF THE RECLINER. He looks hopeful. And-

The coffee table just a foot away. Aidan slowly, carefully crawls to it. He slips down. Under it. Sees-

UNDER TABLE: Simple. Painted wood. But SOMETHING written in YELLOW CRAYON. The same handwriting as Angela's note.

-It reads: "**Aidan, there's so much they aren't telling us! DID YOU FIND THIS?**"

Aidan smiles. Looking at the message. But-

BUZZING. From the CAMERA above.

Aidan uses his FINGERNAIL to quickly scratch **YES**. He hurries out from under the table. And sees-

The CAMERA turns slowly. Moving towards him. As-

Aidan SCRAMBLES quickly. Back BEHIND the couch. He hurries to the other side. And hurries back into the RECLINER. He-

Spins around casually, rocking, "reading." The CAMERA stops. And moves back towards him. As Aidan stands. And-

INT. SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

Aidan looks at his DOOR across from the lounge. He moves into the HALLWAY. And looks down the corridor. At the other DOORS. He silently counts. Until-

AIDAN

-Six, seven. Only seven rooms?

He moves his hands along the wall. Studying the structure. He puts his ear close. And SOFTLY KNOCKS. As-

TAPPING. ON A DOOR. Further down the hallway. Aidan looks up. And moves down the hall. He stops before the DOOR. As-

SWOOSH. SOMETHING SLIDES out from under the door. It's a KEY. Aidan picks it up. Hesitantly. As-

MUFFLED FEMALE VOICE (O.C.)

Hurry, open it, open it...

CLICK. Aidan UNLOCKS the door. It FLIES OPEN. He's pulled-

INT. BEVAN BLAISELY'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Bevan, looking panicked and rushed, SHUTS her door. As a startled Aidan adjusts-

AIDAN

Wait, how'd you get a key?

BEVAN

I got it when they yanked me out today, but be quiet, I don't have time, they're watching us.

She gestures to a mounted CAMERA. Scanning her room. As-

BEVAN

Aidan, in case something happens to me, you need to warn the group that the clinic is building something for us.

The camera settles on them. A PA broadcasts-

NURSE TETHERS' VOICE

Aidan, please step into the hallway.

AIDAN
Building what?

BEVAN
I don't know but it's for an experimental procedure.

AIDAN
What procedure?

BEVAN
I don't know. But they need all seven of us to do it.

NURSE TETHERS' VOICE
Aidan, security is on their way. Please drop the key and step out into the hall.

Aidan DROPS the key and lifts his hands up. But-

AIDAN
The guy you were talking about, Jerrick, was he in my room before me?

BEVAN
Yes.

AIDAN
And what happened to him?

BEVAN
I don't know. They never told us.

NURSE TETHERS' VOICE
AIDAN, STEP INTO THE HALL, NOW!

AIDAN
Okay, okay.

Aidan OPENS the door. He steps out. And faces Bevan. Both look confused. They share a silent, unifying moment. As-

NURSE TETHERS' VOICE
Bevan, please step into the bathroom.

BEVAN
Aidan, I'm scared. Truly.

SLAM. The door SHUTS between them. Aidan turns around. Facing the long hallway. He SIGHS. Beyond puzzled. And-

BEVAN SHRIEKS! From behind her door. *It's long and blood curdling. SOUNDS VICIOUS AND PAINFUL.* As-

Aidan jumps. Spinning to the door. He RATTLES the knob. As-
ANOTHER LONG SHRIEK! From the door behind him. Sounds like
 ANGELA. SCREAMING IN PAIN. As-

Aidan pulls away. Looking from DOOR to DOOR. Horrified. As-
MORE SHRIEKING! From behind another DOOR! Sounds like
 Oakley. As MUFFLED SCREAMS FILL THE HALL. And-

Aidan stands still. Too frightened to move. Eyeing the long
 hallway. As-

DOWN HALLWAY: The furthest overhead light FLICKERS OUT. And
 then the NEXT. And the ONE after that. Repeatedly.
 DARKNESS sprints towards Aidan. As the SCREAMS RISE. And-

Aidan finally SCREAMS. Standing in TOTAL DARK. As the DOORS
 TREMBLE. Being VIOLENTLY POUNDED UPON. And-

INT. CHOICES - LOBBY - TIME INDETERMINATE

Aidan HITS the MARBLE FLOOR of the FAUX LOBBY. NIGHT beyond
 both sets of GLASS WALLS. The lobby EMPTY. He GROANS. And-

BLINKS. Trying to catch his breath. Looks like he's waking.
 He sits up. But MOANS in pain. Looking about oddly.

The peaceful FOUNTAINS TRICKLE. As Aidan tries to stand. He
 looks at the glass doors. Freedom! He rises. And-

STUMBLES LIKE HE'S DRUNK toward the front glass doors. But-

CHAOS! Surrounds him! As DOCTORS, NURSES, and ORDERLIES
 burst into the LOBBY. Frantically hurrying for him!

DR. GALLOTS

Hurry, stop him!

Aidan sees the STAFF hurrying across the lobby. He moves
 faster. But he's sluggish. Inches from the doors-

The Orderlies grab him. And yank him off his feet.

AIDAN

LET ME GO, LET ME GO!

The orderlies TOSS him onto a GURNEY. And tightly STRAP him
 down. He tries to fight. But it's futile. As-

AIDAN'S POV: They hold him down. Kathryn injects a needle
 into his arm. Dr. Gallots leans in. Looking furious.

DR. GALLOTS
 (to Kathryn) 7000 milligrams. Then find
 out how he got down here.

AIDAN
 WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME!!!!?

AIDAN'S POV: Kathryn leans close and says soothingly-

KATHRYN
 Shhh, Aidan, it'll be okay.... Take him
 to ICU. Immediately.

AIDAN'S POV: Kathryn looks concerned. As he's ROLLED AWAY.
 But her face GYRATES WILDLY. Everything does. And-

-He sees DOORS CLOSING. As he's wheeled back into MEDICAL.

-His view is obstructed as DARKNESS BLEEDS THROUGH. And-

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aidan lies in a hospital bed. His eyes barely open. Beyond
 weak. He slowly rolls his head to the side. Sees-

An IV in his arm. And ANOTHER IV. Many OTHERS. His arm
 punctured by COUNTLESS IVs.

Aidan BLINKS ODDLY. Confused. He lifts his head. Sees-

HIS ENTIRE BODY COVERED IN IVs. HUNDREDS OF NEEDLES embedded
 in his body. Every inch of it. And-

His bed surrounded by COUNTLESS DRIP BAGS.

Aidan looks horrified. He SHRIEKS in intense pain. His head
 falls back. His spine arches. He briefly sees-

ON DRIP BAG: NOT an upside down cross. But a CRUCIFIX. As-

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Aidan WAKES. Sitting up in terror. His face covered in
 sweat. He GASPS for air. No IVs anywhere. And-

Kathryn sits close. Watching him. Waiting for him to wake.

He SOBS in confusion and paranoia. Kathryn sits on the bed.
 She grabs him tightly. Holds his face. Pats his head.

AIDAN
(tortured) *Please, help me...*

She looks truly compassionate. And tormented.

KATHRYN
Shhhh, I know, I know it's hard...

She gently rocks him. He looks beaten. And-

CROSS FADE TO:

INT. PRIVATE THERAPY ROOM - MORNING

A stoic Aidan sits across from a controlled Dr. Gallots. They sit in silence. Gallots looks calmly frustrated.

Kathryn sits beside Gallots. Intensely watching. As-

DR. GALLOTS
Aidan, it's imperative we know how you made it from the hallway to the lobby.

Aidan's furious. He's not talking. Gallots tries again.

DR. GALLOTS
Despite what you think of us, this information is *vital*. Please, Aidan.

Aidan EXHALES. He shakes his head and looks away with-

AIDAN
This is bullshit.

DR. GALLOTS
How so?

AIDAN
Until you tell me what I'm in here for, I'm DONE talking to you!

Kathryn leans forward and pleads-

KATHRYN
Aidan, please, we really need to know.

He looks at her. He wants to talk. But stays silent.

KATHRYN
Can you remember *anything*, even the smallest detail, as to how you got into the lobby?

AIDAN
Why don't you tell me?

KATHRYN
I wish we could. But you dismantled the hallway cameras.

AIDAN
Stop fucking with me.

DR. GALLOTS
Aidan, we need you to come to terms with your illness and see through your blackouts so-

AIDAN
-Fuck you. You're my illness.

DR. GALLOTS
Aidan, we have the footage to prove it. You dismantled the cameras so we don't know how you got out.

A skeptical Aidan looks at Gallots. Glaring defiantly.

AIDAN
You're lying.

KATHRYN
Unfortunately, Aidan, he's not. There's a way out of this facility we can't find. And it's *vital* that we do.

DR. GALLOTS
This isn't what you think, Aidan. We're not here to harm you. We need your help.

The doctor and the nurse look sincere. Aidan's unflinching.

AIDAN
I told you. I stepped out of her room then the lights went out. Next thing I know, I'm in the lobby. Trust me, in time, I'll find a way out of here. I have a Masters in architecture.

Doctor and nurse look stunned. Chilled by revelation.

DR. GALLOTS
That's why he was chosen...

AIDAN
Chosen for *what*?

Aidan glares at them. As SWOOSH. The door OPENS. A DISTURBED ORDERLY hurriedly peers in with-

ORDERLY

Uh, Sir, you should come see this.

Gallots immediately stands. Filled with dread. He moves to the orderly and speaks conspiratorially-

DR. GALLOTS

Is it finished?

ORDERLY

They need another twenty-four hours.

DR. GALLOTS

Not good enough. Things have suddenly become more dire.

But the door SHUTS. Leaving Kathryn alone with Aidan. He leans forward.

AIDAN

Kathryn, please. What's going on?

She stares at him. Her eyes moisten. She's conflicted.

KATHRYN

Do you have faith, Aidan?

AIDAN

In myself, yes.

KATHRYN

Good. But do you have faith in a higher power, in God?

AIDAN

I have faith in the Universe. If you wanna call that God, then yes. I do.

She reaches out. And grabs his hands gently.

KATHRYN

You all have the same disease. And it wants a way out.

AIDAN

Just tell me what it is!

KATHRYN

You'll know soon enough. I promise.

He looks tortured. They have a deep connection. And-

AIDAN

Just please don't let them put me back in group. I don't wanna go in there again.

It pains her just as much as Aidan when-

KATHRYN

But you have to.

INT. GROUP THERAPY LAB - MOMENTS LATER

SEVEN CHAIRS. And only FOUR PEOPLE. Oakley paces. Leander sits, TAPPING his thigh, beside Angela. And-

A stone faced AIDAN stands to the side. Cautiously.

KATHRYN (O.S.)

It's alright, Bevan, come in...

Bevan stands at the door. Looking pale. And terrified. Skittish. Not at all her usual self. And-

Bevan moves to a chair timidly. The door SHUTS behind her. And LOCKS. The others watch her. As-

OBSERVATION ROOM: EMPTY. No DOCTORS. Just KATHRYN. And a few ORDERLIES.

KATHRYN

Guys, it's just going to be me today. The doctors are occupied. So, go ahead. Your hour begins now.

-Kathryn turns the MIC OFF. And picks up a phone. Talking frantically. Then listening nervously. As-

ANGELA

Bevan, you okay?

Bevan looks at Angela. With INTENSE EYES. And says nothing.

AIDAN

What did they do to you?

Bevan looks at Aidan. And still says nothing. As-

OAKLEY

Mate, don't question it...

INT. GROUP THERAPY LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Angela talks. Everyone listens. Nervously. While-

ANGELA

Don't get me wrong, I love my career. I just didn't have a say so in the matter.

OAKLEY

How so?

ANGELA

My Mum. It was *her* dream to have a famous child. Again, I love her, but I was in singing and dancing classes by the age of four...

Bevan's eyes filled with tears. She stares at Angela.

ANGELA

When I first got here, it was at her instruction that I push for all of you to sign the confidentiality agreements.

Angela looks at Bevan. She leans forward. Very sincere with-

ANGELA

And again, I can't apologize enough. I was a nightmare. But the longer I'm away from all of that, the more I feel like my true self. Really. For the first time.

She stays connected with Bevan, whose eyes water. And-

ANGELA

Bevan, what is it? Why won't you speak?

BEVAN

Because I'm scared of what they'll do to me, if I do.

Bevan shakes her head. She covers her face with her hands.

ANGELA

Bev, it's OK, we're all in this together.

BEVAN

Thank you. And apology accepted...

Oakley stands. He stretches casually. Glancing at-

OBSERVATION ROOM: Kathryn watches them. But continues on the phone. Listening intently. As-

Leander finally stops TAPPING his leg. He breathes deeply. His eyes go wide. THE MUTE OPENS HIS MOUTH. And-

LEANDER

I want to stand outside again...

He speaks with a South African accent. Everyone looks at him. Chilled. Too stunned to move. As-

LEANDER

You've hidden my clocks to keep me from the truth but I know. I KNOW!

Leander stands. He moves towards Kathryn. Furiously. As-

LEANDER

I keep time, I tap my fingers, I know how long you've kept me here. Over five years, FIVE YEARS you've kept me trapped like an animal. BUT I WANT OUT!!!

EVERYONE watches. As Leander SHUDDERS. He falls SUDDENLY STILL. And silent. He looks confused, like he's waking. As-

Oakley BRIEFLY SHUDDERS. Then calmly turns his chair UPSIDE DOWN. The legs facing up. He glances at-

KATHRYN

Leander, are you controlling your speech?

OBSERVATION ROOM: Kathryn watches Leander. Stunned. But she quickly glances at-

Oakley SMIRKS WICKEDLY at her. And-

OAKLEY

Here's something I never tried.

OBSERVATION ROOM: Kathryn stands, looking sucker punched, as-

The group looks casually at Oakley. HIS SMIRK GROWS. And-

OAKLEY

Goodbye, Kathryn.

Oakley DIVES DOWN. Into a CHAIR LEG. He GRUNTS WILDLY. Shoving his stomach into the LEG. And-

GROTESQUE RIPPING. AS OAKLEY IMPALES HIMSELF ON THE CHAIR!

The group reacts in CHAOTIC, SHOCKED HORROR. Some SCREAMS, some MOANS, as they all leap to their feet and SCATTER.

Oakley TWITCHES. His eyes look sad. He looks shocked. As-

OBSERVATION ROOM: Kathryn snaps to. She hurries out with the orderlies. As a DOCTOR hurries in. Watching-

Oakley MOANS. A final time. His body falls still. And-

OBSERVATION ROOM: The doctor watches, horrified, as-

DOCTOR

Kathryn, no!

But the door BURSTS OPEN. Kathryn races in, concerned, and-

KATHRYN

Guys, hurry, get out!

A GUST OF WIND briefly BLOWS about the room. The group hurries towards her. She stops, looking regretful. And-

INT. SHOWER - AIDAN'S BATHROOM - LATER

Aidan stands in the shower with the shampoo bottle opened. Obsessed and scared. Holding the MOIST PAPER. Looking at-

ON PAPER: **T, W, M, E, A, 4-5, H, T, 1-2** written in crayon.

He looks at the collection of numbers and letters. He TAPS the crayon on the pad. Puzzled and panicked. He MUMBLES-

AIDAN

It's gotta be an anagram...

He grabs the pad and SCRIBBLES combinations. As-

ON PAD: Crayon scribbles- **that mew**. Then- **what met**.

He shakes his head. Puzzled but plagued. And-

ON PAD: Crayon scribbles- **thaw met**. Then- **math wet**.

He studies the pad. Deep in thought. But-

AIDAN

(mumbles) Math, math-

ON PAD: Crayon scribbles- **MATTHEW**.

He nods. It works. But-

AIDAN
 (mumbles) What are the numbers for...?

His suite LIGHTS DIM TO OFF. Leaving only the distant TV ON.
 Aidan quickly slides the papers into the SHAMPOO BOTTLE. As-
DISTANT CLICKING. From his room. And-

INT. SECOND FLOOR LOUNGE - MOMENTS LATER

The lounge looks empty. No one on the couch. And no one in
 the RECLINER. But it rests with its BACK TO THE CAMERA. As-

UNDER COFFEE TABLE: Aidan, on his back, eases under. He
 settles. And looks up. Sees under his CARVED **YES-**

-A NEW MESSAGE in yellow crayon. It reads: "**Read your
 Bible!**"

Realization flashes across his face. He MUMBLES-

AIDAN
 The Book of Matthew...

INT. AIDAN'S BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dimly lit. Aidan sits. With his back against the sink. He
 FLIPS through the BIBLE. And holds his NOTE: **MATTHEW 45 12.**

AIDAN
 Matthew, Matthew, Matthew...

ON BIBLE: Aidan's FINGERS quickly find the **BOOK OF MATTHEW.**
 His FINGERS flip through. To the last chapter. **28.**

AIDAN
 Okay, okay, only 28 chapters... So...

ON BIBLE: His FINGERS FLIP back. And settle on **MATTHEW 12.**

AIDAN
 Good... Now, forty-five, forty-five...

ON BIBLE: His FINGERS slide through the TEXT. Passing
 numbers. And stop on **45.**

AIDAN
 Gotcha. Matthew 12:45...

Aidan pulls the book closer. Squinting in the DIM LIGHT. He reads. And finishes. Blinking oddly. Looking stunned.

AIDAN

Wait a minute- what...?

Aidan pulls the Bible closer to his face. Reads much slower-

AIDAN

(softly) "Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Aidan looks up. Completely blank. He CLOSES the Bible. And leans his head back against the bathroom cabinets.

AIDAN

Seven others more evil than itself...

He sits still. Too many thoughts racing. But-

SCRATCHING. From WITHIN the bathroom WALL.

Aidan lifts his head. Suddenly alert. As-

The SCRATCHING MOVES UP the wall. Very high. And becomes THUMPING. On the CEILING.

Aidan stands. Looking up oddly. And follows the sound into-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

DARK. Only illuminated by the bathroom's NIGHT-LIGHT. Aidan looks up. Following the odd sound. As it becomes-

LOUD SCURRYING. Hurrying across his ceiling. Towards-

Aidan's face trails it. To his CLOSET. But SUDDEN SILENCE. Aidan moves slowly towards the closet. And-

THUD! A VERY LOUD ONE. From WITHIN the closet.

He hesitates. Too scared to open it. As-

BOOM! THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN. WIND GUSTS OUT. Knocking Aidan down. *SHRIEKS FILL HIS HEAD.* As the LIGHT FADES. And-

INT. MEDICINAL HALLWAY - LATER

DARK. Only occasional KEROSENE LANTERNS. As AIDAN lies on a GURNEY. Being wheeled across rough ground. And-

COARSE WHISPERING surrounds him. WOMEN'S VOICES. He looks about, confused. Like he's waking. His eyes FLUTTER. Seeing-

AIDAN'S POV: DARK SHADOWS surround the GURNEY. WHISPERING NURSES. Protectively covering him. Wearing BLACK UNIFORMS.

He blinks oddly. Looking at them. They WHISPER, covering him, hiding him. Hurriedly pushing the gurney. As-

A LANTERN PASSES. Aidan sees a LOGO on their black uniforms. A CROSS. NOT NURSES. They're NUNS. And-

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Aidan sits up in bed. GASPING for breath. He looks around. Sees a NURSE with her back to him.

AIDAN
Kathryn? What happened?

Aidan catches his breath. As she spins around. Smiling severely. Holding a SYRINGE. But it's-

NURSE TETHERS
Shhhhh, no talking...

AIDAN
Where's Kathryn?

NURSE TETHERS
Kathryn is no longer an employee of this facility. Now be quiet or I'll give you something to make sure you will be...

Aidan lies back. Terrified. Looks like he's losing it. And-

INT. GROUP THERAPY LAB - LATER

OBSERVATION ROOM: Dr. Gallots sits in front of the mic. Nurse Tethers sits beside him. Her smile in tact. Watching-

SEVEN PLASTIC CHAIRS. But only THREE PEOPLE. Aidan, Angela, and Leander. Aidan frustratingly paces.

AIDAN

But it doesn't make sense. He was the most well adjusted of us all.

DR. GALLOTS

Yes, Aidan, but apparently Oakley's complacency was masking his true pain.

AIDAN

No. It wasn't. He was happy. For real. It was like, when he did it, like someone else, like he was *made* to do it...

DR. GALLOTS

That *is* the power of addiction, Aidan.

AIDAN

Come on! It wasn't because he wanted a fuckin' drink!

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

Aidan, control yourself...

Aidan SIGHS. Shakes his head. And sits. As-

ANGELA

Aidan, look at the bright side... At least we're fine, for a while, until they find another one.

AIDAN

Another what? What are you talking about?

ANGELA

I don't know! But Bevan was right, anytime there are seven of us in this facility, then we all freak-

NURSE TETHERS (O.S.)

Going to MUTE.

They close their eyes tightly and cover their ears. As-

The room brightens with BLINDING LIGHT. And the PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE. Fills the space. Until-

The light fades. No more piercing tone. Back to normal. Aidan and Angela immediately continue.

ANGELA

But when the group isn't full, we all seem to be fine. Like the four weeks between Jerrick's death and your arrival!

AIDAN
 But Oakley died yesterday, *afternoon*.
 And I still blacked out last night.

Leander nods intensely. Agreeing. But-

Again, the room brightens with BLINDING LIGHT. And the
 PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE. Until-

MUTE fades. Aidan jumps up and furiously moves towards-

OBSERVATION ROOM: Where Nurse Tethers smiles.

AIDAN
 WHY WON'T YOU LET US TALK!?!?

NURSE TETHERS
 Do *not* question me, Mr. Edmond.

Aidan's furious. He stares at the Nurse. It's a silent
 standoff. He moves back to Angela. As-

AIDAN
 Have there ever been more than seven
 people in the group?

Angela and Leander shake their heads.

AIDAN
 And it's when there are seven people here
 that everyone goes insane?

ANGELA
 Yes.

DR. GALLOTS
 Aidan, please...

Aidan spins quickly. Filled with anger.

AIDAN
 What is this hurting?

OBSERVATION ROOM: Dr. Gallots SIGHS. And shakes his head.
 He seems more daunted than usual. As-

AIDAN
 (to Angela) And any less than seven?

ANGELA
 Then we're fine.

Angela's concern grows. She turns towards the window.

ANGELA

Doctor Gallots, what's happened to Bevan?
Where is she? And Petra, and Pedro?

OBSERVATION ROOM: Dr. Gallots turns the mic off. He discusses intensely with another doctor. Then-

DR. GALLOTS

They're all fine, Angela. They've been moved to the new facility.

ANGELA

What new facility?

DR. GALLOTS

Please, have a seat and I'll explain.

Aidan and Angela sit slowly. Looking at the WINDOW.

DR. GALLOTS

We've just completed construction on a new wing, which will be more comfortable and safe for you all. The others are there now and we'll be moving you four over within the next few hours.

Leander looks at Aidan and Angela. Oddly.

AIDAN

But there's only three of us left.

DR. GALLOTS

Well, that's not entirely true.

OBSERVATION ROOM: Dr. Gallots looks conflicted. He nods to an ORDERLY. The orderly exits the booth. As-

DR. GALLOTS

Soon after yesterday's unfortunate event, we admitted someone new...

The DOOR OPENS. The orderly steps aside. And guides in a WOMAN. She steps in.

Aidan, Angela, and Leander look stunned. Their mouths drop open. They sit still. Unflinching. Looking at-

KATHRYN steps in. The door SHUTS and LOCKS behind her. She seems composed. But hides true terror.

KATHRYN

Hello, guys...

DR. GALLOTS
Have a seat, Kathryn.

Kathryn moves to the GROUP CHAIRS. But she hesitates.

DR. GALLOTS
Go on, take a seat.

KATHRYN
And how did you explain this?

Doctor and Nurse both lock eyes. Both looking devastated.

KATHRYN
Mitch, don't make me stay in here.

DR. GALLOTS
You know we have to.

KATHRYN
But I know what he does to them.

DR. GALLOTS
We have no choice. So take a seat.

She wipes her eyes. Takes a deep breath. And sits. With faltering composure. The group watches in SILENCE. Puzzled.

ANGELA
Why are you in here with us? Nurses are always protected in the observation room.

Kathryn looks up. Shaken. But holds it together.

KATHRYN
Well, Angela, I'm here for you guys, so we can begin coping with the unfortunate recent events with a healthy dialogue.

ANGELA
Then why are you so scared?

Aidan looks to the OBSERVATION WINDOW. Says definitively-

AIDAN
Because we're clearly not here for addiction anymore, are we, doctor?

OBSERVATION WINDOW: Dr. Gallots hesitates. Speechless. Nervously watching Kathryn. And-

KATHRYN

Let's discuss how you're feeling after yesterday, after Oakley. Okay?

ANGELA

It wasn't him. It was like someone else made him do it. It was like, like he was possessed or something...

Aidan sits very still. He whispers-

AIDAN

My God... Matthew 12:45.

He looks at Kathryn. Stunned by discovery. With wide eyes. She looks at him knowingly. And-

AIDAN

It's about possession, isn't it?

Kathryn's eyes water. She looks away.

AIDAN

That's what we're in here for, aren't we?

The GROUP sits very still. As do the STAFF. A heaviness fills the room. The GROUP'S mouths hang open. Shocked. As-

OBSERVATION ROOM: No movement from the doctors. They stand still. All watching. Gallots FUMBLES for the mic. And-

DR. GALLOTS

Yes, Aidan. In a sense. Do you realize 82 percent of all addicts describe their dependency as just that, possession? In fact, of that percentage, 91 percent said-

KATHRYN

Mitch, don't. Just stop.

He does. SILENCE. She turns to the group. But-

KATHRYN

Yes, guys, we-

DR. GALLOTS (O.S.)

-Going to Mute.

Kathryn jumps from her chair and-

KATHRYN

DON'T. They deserve to KNOW.

DR. GALLOTS

Kathryn, stop! We both know it's far worse what he does to them when they try to figure it out. So stop talking. You're one of *them* now.

Kathryn catches her breath. Collects herself. And nods. As-

DR. GALLOTS

Mute isn't punishment. It's how we protect you from him.

KATHRYN

I want time with them before the procedure.

The DOCTORS watch Kathryn. Conflicted on all levels. As-

DR. GALLOTS

We're reassessing the situation.

KATHRYN

No, forget I'm involved. You have to do it, while you have the seven of us.

The doctors watch her. Looking conflicted. She stares sincerely. And nods. She's making a sacrifice. And-

Kathryn turns to the group. Her fear returning.

KATHRYN

I need to know something.

They look at her, overwhelmed. Still and numb.

KATHRYN

What happens when you blackout?

ANGELA

Our blackouts, is that what happens to us when we're...

KATHRYN

-Yes. But I need to know, where do we go when he takes over?

The remaining group looks too tortured to answer. Kathryn shakes her head. Covers her face. Trembling. As-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

Aidan stands. Intensely reading **GRAPES OF WRATH**. Reading-

ON BOOK: DICTIONARY. A definition: **possessed 1. influenced or controlled by something (evil spirit, Satan) 2. mad...**

Aidan bites his lip. Reading. He quickly FLIPS through the dictionary. To another word. His finger finds-

ON BOOK: Definition: **SATAN 1. the chief evil spirit; the great adversary of man; the devil**

-But the TINY, RED, CRAYON CIRCLE around the **H** in **CHIEF**.

Aidan's eyes go wide. He leans closer. Barely MUMBLES-

AIDAN

I didn't look at the definitions...

Aidan takes a breath. Looking fueled. And hopeful. As-

INT. AIDAN'S SUITE - LATER

LOOKS LIKE Aidan sleeps. A LUMP under the blankets. But-

INT. BATHROOM - SAME

An obsessed Aidan kneels in the dry shower. Opened books scattered about. He scans one book. His finger moving to-

ON BOOK: A DEFINITION: -persons in relation **To** a ruler-

-With the RED CRAYON CIRCLE around the **T** in **to**. Aidan's finger slides up. To the definition's WORD. It's-

-PEOPLE

Aidan grabs his crayon. And his ORIGINAL PAPER. With the collection of numbers and letters. As-

ON PAPER: **T, W, M, E, A, 4-5, H, T, 1-2**. He CROSSES OUT a **T**. It's the last. All the others are CROSSED OUT also. And-

Aidan grabs his PAD OF PAPER. And quickly WRITES-

ON PAD: **PEOPLE** at the bottom of a list of WORDS: **SATAN AND ONLY TO SEVEN RESTRICTED GOD OCCUPY**

He scribbles. Thinking hard. Tries another combination. Aidan looks at the pad. Chilled. Reading-

ON PAD: **AND GOD RESTRICTED SATAN TO ONLY OCCUPY SEVEN PEOPLE.**

CLICKING. SNAP. STOMPING. From his SUITE.

Aidan looks over quickly. And softly pushes the shower door OPEN. He sees-

SUITE: ILLUMINATED by his main door OPENING. And-

Aidan stealthily steps out of the shower. Watching-

SUITE: TWO ORDERLIES approach his bed while-

ORDERLY

Wake up, Mr. Edmond. It's time to move you to the new facility.

SUITE: They hesitate beside the still bed. And-

OTHER ORDERLY

Chop, chop! Up and at 'em. Come on, Mr. Edmond. You're the last to be moved...

Aidan hesitates. Watching. Looks like he's going under. As-

HORRIFIC SHRIEKS. FILL THE ROOM. As LIGHT VANISHES. And-

EXT. CITY STREET - BOSTON - NIGHT (**FLASHBACK**)

Aidan and Tatum walk down a barren city street. A bit tipsy. Arm in Arm. LAUGHING (IT'S THE NIGHT HE WOKE IN THE ALLEY).

An ALLEY filled with garbage to the LEFT. And to the RIGHT-

A PARKED CAR. Where the WOMAN, 20s, holds groceries. And unlocks her car. She's a NUN. She smiles as-

Tatum and Aidan approach. They return the smile. But-

Aidan stops. Suddenly pale. Looking at-

WOMAN: A GLEAMING CRUCIFIX around her neck.

TATUM

Baby, you okay?

AIDAN

Yeah, just got dizzy...

Aidan tries to shake it. But his head fills with SHRIEKS. As the LIGHT FADES. And-

Aidan SPINS HIS HEAD quickly! Facing the nun. He SMIRKS-

AIDAN

You know what I think of your God?

Aidan grabs the girl by the hair. And YANKS her face close. He LICKS her brow. And VIOLENTLY WRETCHES on her car.

Both Tatum and the Nun SCREAM! As-

Aidan GRUNTS. Runs away. Hurrying into the ALLEY. He stops suddenly. And falls, passes out, into the garbage bags. As-

INT. KITCHEN CABINETS - DAY (**FLASHBACK**)

Aidan's crammed inside the cabinets. As-

A VIOLENT FIGHT. Tatum CRIES. A MAN GRUNTS DEEPLY. And-

OBSTRUCTED VIEW: Where Tatum is violently pinned on the kitchen table. She squirms in terror. As-

Aidan panics. BASHES the doors OPEN. Shocked to see-

ON TABLE: It's a WICKED AIDAN having his way with her! And-

INT. BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER (**RESUME**)

Aidan kneels. His eyes wide. His mouth hanging open. And FOAMING. He violently TREMBLES. But is immobile. Watching-

SUITE: Aidan GRUNTS WICKEDLY. Effortlessly fending off the two orderlies. Viciously fighting them. And-

CLOSE ON AIDAN'S FACE. Frozen but trembling. Watching in horror. Shocked. He's fighting to break free. And-

INT. HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER

Aidan, in a straight jacket, is dragged by four orderlies. Aidan WAILS MANICALLY. Looking like a true mad man. And-

INT. SMALL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn sits on a plastic chair, in a small room, with glass before her. She looks frightened. Looking at-

Aidan. On the other side. With a bruised face. The two separated by bullet proof glass. Like in a PRISON.

KATHRYN

Aidan, we have to hurry. Ask me anything you'd like.

AIDAN
Do our families know?

KATHRYN
Yes. They were instructed to participate in a faux intervention. It was the simplest way to get you all to comply.

He stares at her. Knowledge fueling him.

AIDAN
Why the group, why seven?

KATHRYN
He can only inhabit seven individuals simultaneously. And once he's chosen you, he can't move on, until your death.

AIDAN
But I was the seventh.

It's difficult to say. But she maintains composure with-

KATHRYN
Until Oakley's death. Then he chose me.

AIDAN
Why you? Why not take off and be free?

KATHRYN
We don't know. That's what he usually does but this time he didn't...

AIDAN
Do you think he has something planned?

KATHRYN
It doesn't matter because we have all seven and we're moving ahead with the procedure this evening.

AIDAN
What's the procedure?

KATHRYN
That will be explained by someone else.

Aidan sits up. Shaking his head. Fighting it.

AIDAN
And how do you know this?

KATHRYN

Jaque Bordeaux, a 16th century French theologian. He found many historical references to the seven evil souls. When he reported it to the Catholic Church, they found in their records, that of the countless reported cases of possession, only seven simultaneously were ruled legitimate. But he disappeared before he could publish his findings.

Aidan sits still. Listening blankly. As-

KATHRYN

The Church buried it until a faith based scientist discovered it, Father Gallots. It's been his life's work.

AIDAN

Dr. Gallots is a man of the cloth?

KATHRYN

Yes. We all are. Every orderly, nurse, and doctor.

AIDAN

I'm not a religious guy, so this is a bit much to take...

KATHRYN

I know.

He smirks absurdly, hating that he's questioning-

AIDAN

So, are we talking about the devil?

KATHRYN

Yes, Aidan, we are.

He looks at her sincere face. His smile fades.

AIDAN

Are we stuck with this?

KATHRYN

Containing him is a temporary solution. At some point, one of us will die. But we have one option.

AIDAN

The procedure?

KATHRYN

Yes. But we don't know what will happen. We've never been this close. Every time we have all seven, he gets away.

AIDAN

Why didn't he this time?

KATHRYN

We don't know. But he's been more active as of late, so he knows what's coming.

He smiles and shakes his head at her.

AIDAN

But I still don't...

KATHRYN

You will. Father Gallots is going to prep you all.

AIDAN

Do the others know?

KATHRYN

Yes. I've been-

Her face BRIEFLY TREMBLES. She GASPS. Looks frightened. As-

KATHRYN

Aidan, LOOK AWAY. NOW! Dear Lord, please be with me as the serpent-

Something's happening to her. Quickly. And Aidan can't look away. Morbid fascination. As-

SMACK! Kathryn SLAMS her face into the glass! Hard!

KATHRYN

(snarls) Fuck you!

Another SMACK! She SLAMS her face again. Smirking at Aidan.

KATHRYN

FUCK YOU, FUCK YOU!

Aidan jerks back. Watching in terrified disgust. As-

AIDAN

LET ME OUT, LET ME OUT, LET ME OUT!!!

AIDAN'S VOICE fades. Being replaced by WIND. From-

EXT. CHOICES - DAY

GUSTING WIND creates rough waves atop the POND. Rain drizzles. GRAY CLOUDS saturate everything. As-

FOUR BLACK, UNMARKED SEDANS move up the winding ENTRANCE ROAD. Their WIPERS MOVING wildly. And HEADLIGHTS ON. As-

INT. LOBBY - SECONDS LATER

ORDERLIES with umbrellas guide stoic PRIESTS and BISHOPS from the sedans. The grave men wear BLACK CASSOCKS. And-

INT. CAGED ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

The cage TREMBLES. Moving down a shaft. As the religious BROOD quietly arrange their ROSARIES and PURPLE SCAPULARS.

They MUMBLE QUIETLY, reciting prayers in a variety of accents and languages. BLESSING their scapulars. And-

INT. MITCHELL GALLOTS' CHAMBER - SAME

A dim, cozy room. Thick rugs, filled bookshelves. Religious paintings and trinkets. Gallots sits, now wearing a black cassock, looking more himself. The transformation makes sense. There's a warmth under his stoicism.

Aidan sits across from him in the straight jacket. His skin looks bad. His breathing strained. Listening to-

DR. GALLOTS

I'm assuming you preferred it when you thought you were just an addict...

AIDAN

It's basically the same thing, right?

DR. GALLOTS

You need to be prepared for the historical event you are about to participate in.

Gallots lifts a WORN BOOK: *De Exorcismis et Supplicationibus Quibusdam*.

DR. GALLOTS

The English translation is *OF EXORCISMS AND CERTAIN SUPPLICATIONS*. It's the

DR. GALLOTS (cont'd)
 Roman Catholic Church's official rite of
 exorcism. The manuscript has only been
 revised once in its history-

Gallots sits beside Aidan.

DR. GALLOTS
 -In January 1998. Making it the last
 liturgical book to be revised following
 the Second Vatican Council of 1962.

AIDAN
 Because of the seven?

DR. GALLOTS
 Yes, upon confirming the actual rule
 restricting him. You see, it has been
 the great mystery of my profession.

AIDAN
 But why hide it if it's so important?

DR. GALLOTS
 Because our relationship with God is
 participatory. It's his wish that we
 challenge our relationship between mind
 and soul, science and faith.

Gallots opens an OLD LEDGER before Aidan. While-

DR. GALLOTS
 There has never been one documented case
 of an exorcism having worked. Because,
 as we know, once the Devil has chosen
 you, he stays until your death. 9 out of
 10 deaths from exorcisms are at the hands
 of priests. Not Satan.

ON LEDGER: A list of NAMES and DATES spanning centuries.

DR. GALLOTS
 This is a list of all acknowledged,
 legitimate possessions. The dates are of
 their deaths AFTER exorcisms. All of
 those people suffered either a suicide or
 tragic accident soon after.

AIDAN
 So he pretended to be out of them until
 he could get rid of them?

DR. GALLOTS
 In simple terms, yes. So all previous
 exorcisms have just been practice.

Hear *SQUEAKING*. From-

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

WHEELS. On a DOLLY. For human transport. With Aidan strapped in. Standing upright. Looking terrified. As-

CLICKING. From Nurse Tethers' heels. As she leads the way to a LARGE DOOR. FIVE PRIESTS surround the DOLLY. But look closer, they used to be the orderlies. And-

Tethers stops before the LARGE DOOR. With five SERIOUS LOCKS. She UNLOCKS them. As-

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)

It's a monumental moment, Aidan. And you need to have strength. No one has ever witnessed what will occur tonight. Nor can anyone truly prepare us for it.

A PRIEST GRUNTS and OPENS the large, formidable door to-

An archaic ELEVATOR CAGE. Simple. Bare. A temporary model constructed for mining. They wheel Aidan into-

INT. CAGED ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Aidan looks about. Sees the elevator shaft made of exposed topographical sediment. Jagged rock. Just like a mine.

The cage TREMBLES. Moving down the shaft. As-

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)

For the first time in history, we have all seven of his vessels. We have the chance to seal his entrance into humanity, forever.

LOUD SCREECHING! The elevator shakes to a HALT. On the bottom of a shaft. Exposed rock everywhere. And ONE DOOR.

A Priest YANKS the cage OPEN. And uses KEYS to UNLOCK the door. Just as formidable as the previous one.

He GRUNTS. Tugging it OPEN. Exposing ANOTHER CAGED ELEVATOR at the top of ANOTHER SHAFT. They wheel Aidan into-

INT. SECOND CAGED ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

They pull the heavy door SHUT. Then YANK the cage CLOSED.

CLANKING. From the elevator. As it *SHAKES.* And roughly *LOWERS.* Again. Moving *DOWN DEEPER.* As-

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)
So, Aidan, we need you to summon all of
your strength...

LOUD SCREECHING! The elevator shakes to a *HALT.* Exposed rock everywhere. And *ANOTHER DOOR.*

DR. GALLOTS (V.O.)
Because tonight will actually be the
first true exorcism in the history of
humanity.

A Priest *YANKS* the cage *OPEN.* And uses *KEYS* to *UNLOCK* the door. He *GRUNTS.* Tugs it *OPEN.* Exposing-

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - CONTINUOUS

A cavernous chamber. The ceiling *EXPOSED,* *JAGGED ROCK.* With temporary *LIGHTS* clamped above. With *TWO OBSERVATION WINDOWS* on opposite sides. And *SEVEN CHAIRS.* *BOLTED TO THE GROUND.*

With *SIX PEOPLE.* Intensely *STRAPPED TO THE CHAIRS.* Restricting their movement. The group looks terrified. As-

ANIMALISTIC SHRIEKING. And *GROWLING!* From Pedro. As his head *SHAKES* impossibly fast. And-

The Priests *WHEEL* Aidan in. While-

Angela *CRIES.* Looking shell shocked. Petra *BREATHES DEEPLY.* Leander watches Pedro in expectant fear. And-

Kathryn closes her eyes. *QUIETLY PRAYING.*

OBSERVATION ROOMS: Same nurses and orderlies but now all wear *CLERICAL CLOTHING.* *PRIESTS* and *NUNS.* As-

Aidan is led to *HIS CHAIR.* He sits calmly. Complies. Lets them strap him in. As-

ANGELA
Aidan, I'm scared...

AIDAN
Just stay calm. Just stay connected.

He stares at her sternly. She nods. Trying to shake her fear. Kathryn watches. And-

KATHRYN

He's right. Stay focused on each other.

Pedro stops shaking. And shrieking. The guy falls still. Looking about in confusion. GASPING for breath. But-

Leander GRUNTS VIOLENTLY, almost HYPERVENTILATING. And-

BEVAN

WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING!!?

She violently wrestles her straps. Beyond scared. But-

KATHRYN

Bevan, look at me! Just stay focused on one another. And we'll be fine.

PEDRO

No, we won't. We can't survive this.

TERROR grips THE GROUP. But they listen to her. All fight their fear. And look at one another. Finding strength. As-

They intensely lock eyes. Looking at one another. With complicated expressions only they understand. As-

OBSERVATION ROOM: Gallots leans towards the mic.

DR. GALLOTS

We're about to begin. Once I walk in, you may no longer address me. Please be prepared. Until now, he has only manifested himself as images of you 7.

OBSERVATION ROOM: Gallots looks heavy with-

DR. GALLOTS

I can't prepare you for what you'll see.

Leander stops panting. He falls still. Looking about in confusion. GASPING for breath. Like he's waking.

The group stays focused on one another. All terrified. Studying one another. Expectantly waiting to see who will be next. But all seems fine. Until-

A CHILL FILLS the room. Noticeably. The group SHUDDERS.

AIDAN

It's getting colder.

His breath is VISIBLY VAPORIZED. The others nod, frightened.

SHRIEKING! From Angela. True terror. She looks to the center of the group. As if looking at someone.

ANGELA
OhmyGod, OhmyGod!

KATHRYN
What is it?

Angela TREMBLES. Her breathing gets rapid. Horrified.

ANGELA
He's here...

They sit still. Chilled. Watching. As-

SMACK! Angela's face swings sideways. Like being slapped. A RED HAND PRINT on her cheek. As-

SMACK-SMACK! She's SLAPPED again. Her head violently swings side to side. And-

Angela's face whips back. Staring above. Terrified. As if someone holds her tightly.

GURGLING! Angela fights for air. Being STRANGLED. HAND INDENTATIONS appear on her throat. And-

She SHRIEKS. Looking above. She softly answers SOMEONE. Almost childlike.

ANGELA
Uh-hu.... No, not yet... Okay...

KATHRYN
Angela, look at me!

But ANGELA SHRIEKS AGAIN. She catches her breath. She lowers her head. Looks like she's been let go. But-

She smiles wickedly. And-

She spins her head towards Father Gallots. Her voice layered with a baritone tone-

ANGELA
I still have a way out of here.

She turns towards Kathryn with a blank face. And LAUGHS-

ANGELA
And I'm saving you for something tremendously huge...

The comment shakes Kathryn. She looks terrified. As-

Angela COUGHS. GASPS. Looks like she's waking. She sees the group watching her in fear. She's confused. As-

The room's lighting DIMS SOFTLY. As Father Gallots and SEVEN OTHER BISHOPS enter. All wearing black cassocks. And-

Each is trailed by a SERVING PRIEST. Carrying a bible, cannisters of holy water, and purple scapulars. As-

A Bishop and Priest stand behind EACH MEMBER of the group. The men are intensely focused. Unflinchingly. And-

FATHER GALLOTS

Before we summon him, Mrs. Tethers do we have confirmation?

NURSE TETHERS

Yes, Father. All staff is down here except for Robert above. There's no way out of here.

Gallots nods. And steps into the center of the group. He turns slowly, looking each in the eye with a head nod.

FATHER GALLOTS

Once we summon him, he must show his face. So let us begin, my gentle souls.

He OPENS his copy of *De Exorcismis et Supplicationibus Quibusdam*. As do the seven Bishops. And-

Horror fills the group. They look about. Far from ready but-

FATHER GALLOTS

"In the Name of Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, strengthened by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of Blessed Michael the Archangel, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints, we confidently undertake to repulse the attacks and deceits of the devil." What say we?

BISHOPS (ALL)

We command his presence for counsel.

The serving Priests hand the Bishops holy water. As-

Aidan looks about. QUICKLY SEES- The entire GROUP DRENCHED IN BLOOD! But he shakes his head. The IMAGE GONE. As-

FATHER GALLOTS

"Most glorious Prince of the Heavenly Armies, Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in our battle against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places."

BISHOPS (ALL)

AMEN. Behold the Cross of the Lord. May thy mercy, Lord, descend upon us.

The Bishops SPRINKLE HOLY WATER onto their respective group members. As sudden DEEP GROWLING! From-

Leander HYPERVENTILATES. His face contorts grotesquely. Gallots approaches him. Reading-

FATHER GALLOTS

"Pray the God of Peace to crush Satan beneath our feet, that he may no longer retain men captive and do injury to the Church. Offer our prayers to the Most High, that without delay they may draw--"

PAINED GASPING. From Leander. As his head bends back. His NECK BULGING. His ADAMS APPLE protruding unnaturally. And-

FATHER GALLOTS

"-they may draw His mercy down upon us; take hold of the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, bind him that he may no longer seduce nations."

BISHOPS (ALL)

From the snares of the devil, deliver us, O Lord.

Gallots nods to Leander's Bishop. The Bishop drapes his scapular around Leander's shoulders. And-

ON LEANDER'S THROAT: His protruding ADAM'S APPLE SLITHERS UNDER HIS SKIN. LIKE A SERPENT. And-

FATHER GALLOTS

"Begone, Satan, inventor and master of all deceit, enemy of man's salvation."

Bevan SCREAMS! Looking at Leander.

BEVAN

OHMYGOD, I DON'T WANNA DO THIS, I DON'T!
STOP, FATHER GALLOTS, STOP!!!

The others watch Leander. Looking horrified. As-

FATHER GALLOTS

"O Lord, hear my prayer, And let my cry
come unto Thee, May the Lord be with
thee, And with thy spirit."

Leander suddenly catches his breath. And looks at Gallots
innocently. Confused. As-

PEDRO

Oh, Father?

From directly behind Gallots. Where Pedro SMIRKS WICKEDLY-

PEDRO

Shall we discuss what *drove* you to your
faith?

LESIONS APPEAR on Pedro's face. He LAUGHS WICKEDLY. And
GROANS simultaneously. As-

PEDRO

Shall we discuss the car accident that
took your brother's children?

Gallots turns. Unflinching. And approaches. As Pedro's
Bishop drapes his scapular on Pedro's shoulders. While-

FATHER GALLOTS

"We cast you out, every satanic power,
every onslaught of the infernal
adversary, every legion, every diabolic-"

PEDRO

I have a message from your nephews in
hell.

Pedro OPENS his mouth. And smirks. But an unnatural sound
emits. SOUNDS OF BABIES CRYING IN PAIN.

The disturbing sounds briefly distract Gallots. But he
continues. And-

Pedro SUDDENLY COUGHS. Blinks oddly. Like waking. As-

SHATTERING! ABOVE! The overhead lights EXPLODE! Dimming
the room. As-

ANGELA

Dr. Gallots, Sir?

From behind Gallots. Where Angela SMILES. GRUNTING under her sweet, timid voice-

ANGELA

Should I call you father or doctor?

Gallots turns. And approaches. As her Bishop drapes his scapular on her shoulders. While-

FATHER GALLOTS

"Depart, then, transgressor. Depart, seducer, full of lies and cunning, foe of virtue, persecutor of innocence-"

ANGELA

I have a surprise for you. And it's in my panties...

Angela smiles oddly innocent. As SPLATTERING. Under her chair. Sounds like she's URINATING. But-

UNDER HER CHAIR: BLOOD SPLATTERS to the ground. And-

Her body VIOLENTLY GYRATES. As-

FATHER GALLOTS

"Give place, abominable creature, give way, you monster, give way to Christ, in whom you found none of your works-"

Angela suddenly COUGHS. And CRIES. In serious pain. As-

SUCKLING SOUNDS! From behind Gallots. Where Petra SEDUCTIVELY WAGGLES her TONGUE. And-

Gallots turns. And approaches. As her Bishop drapes his scapular on her shoulders. While-

FATHER GALLOTS

"For he has already stripped you of your powers and laid waste your kingdom, bound you prisoner and-"

PETRA

I've got something to replace that rosary around your neck...

Petra extends her TONGUE. Smirking wickedly. And BITES IT! Hard. GRUNTING. And GROANING. As-

The tip of her tongue falls into her lap. Blood spills from her mouth. Streaking her chin. And-

Petra suddenly SCREAMS IN PAIN. Her eyes looking around in terror. As-

Kathryn CHUCKLES COYLY-

KATHRYN

Father, I've been saving myself for you.

Gallots turns. And approaches. As Kathryn's Bishop drapes his scapular on her shoulders. While-

FATHER GALLOTS

"-and plundered your weapons. He has cast you forth into the outer darkness, where everlasting ruin-"

BANGING! As SCREWS SHOOT to the ceiling. From Bevan's chair. She sits still. Motionless. As her EYES BLEED. And-

SCREECHING! From Bevan's CHAIR. It SLIDES across the floor! It stops before Kathryn. Blocking Gallots.

Gallots stops. Looks briefly disturbed. He nods. Two Priests pull the chair away. He continues to Kathryn. As-

Kathryn's head whips back. Painfully. Her mouth OPENS. More unnatural sounds. TWO COYOTES FIGHTING TO THE DEATH.

FATHER GALLOTS

"-WHERE everlasting ruin awaits you and your abettors!"

Kathryn SNARLS. Her LOWER JAW slides to the side. Moving in contrast to her UPPER JAW. Trying to unhinge her teeth. As-

FATHER GALLOTS

From the snares of the devil-

BISHOPS (ALL)

-LORD, DELIVER US.

FATHER GALLOTS

That you help your Church to serve in security and freedom-

BISHOPS (ALL)

-WE BEG YOU TO HEAR US.

FATHER GALLOTS

That you humble the enemies of the holy Church and Our Savior-

BISHOPS (ALL)
-WE BEG YOU TO HEAR US.

All the Bishops shower the group with HOLY WATER. As-

CLOSE ON AIDAN. BLINKING ODDLY. AS ALL SOUND FADES. THOUGH THE BISHOPS CONTINUE. And-

AIDAN'S POV: CRACKS APPEAR on the STONE FLOOR in the center of the group. The CRACKS GROW. And the floor FALLS. Making-

-A HOLE in the floor. Only EXPOSED EARTH. As a MAN'S HAND REACHES UP, clawing from the dirt. And ANOTHER HAND. As-

-HE CRAWLS UP FROM BELOW THE GROUND. Causing his large body to be COVERED IN MUD. He GRUNTS. Like an animal. It's a simple but terrifying image. As-

AIDAN
No, not me. I won't let you.

HE stands still. MUD DRIPPING. He smirks at Aidan. And-
SHRIEKS FILL THE ROOM. And LIGHT VANISHES. DARKNESS. As-

INT. AIDAN & TATUM'S BEDROOM - SAME (MORNING)

A tasteful, hip bedroom. With views of Boston beyond the windows. A beautiful morning. As-

AIDAN GASPS FOR AIR. Sitting up. Waking. His face covered in sweat. He looks about. Beyond confused. And-

TATUM
There he is...

Tatum, in boxers and tank top, carries a tray with breakfast to the bed. She looks beautiful and refreshed.

TATUM
I made us a hangover spread.

AIDAN
What? What's happening?

He catches his breath, looking puzzled. She curls up in bed beside him with the tray of food.

TATUM
You've been rolling around all night. It's either liquor induced nightmares or you're having second thoughts.

AIDAN

What? Tatum, where are we?

TATUM

Uh, home? Wow, babe, I know we drank alot last night but come on.

AIDAN

What was last night?

She leans back. Eyeing him oddly.

TATUM

Our engagement party...?

AIDAN

Was last night?

TATUM

You okay, babe?

She feels his forehead.

TATUM

Aidan, you're burning up. Here take these and then eat something.

She hands him aspirin and a glass of juice. He takes the aspirin and drinks. Starting to feel better.

AIDAN

Did I, hurt you at all, last night?

TATUM

No. You annoyed me. You tossed and turned, you were groaning all night. Babe, are you doubting our engagement?

He eyes her. Relief fills him. What a nightmare. He takes a deep breath. And smiles.

AIDAN

Not a chance in hell. Come here.

Aidan reaches over. He grabs Tatum. She GIGGLES. He flips her on her back. Aidan leans down. KISSING her.

TATUM

Morning sex? Wow, babe, what's gotten into you?

AIDAN

I'm the luckiest guy in town.

They kiss. Her hand rubs his chest amorously. They erupt. A young couple still very much in love.

TATUM

Aidan, you need to know, I still have a way out of here...

AIDAN

What?

He pulls back. Smirks at her oddly. As-

TATUM

Don't stop. Look how moist you make me.

She lies back. YANKS OFF the comforter. The sheet still covers her lower half. As it BLOOMS WITH BLOOD.

Aidan lurches back. Sitting up. Looking terrified. As-

Tatum LAUGHS SWEETLY. Looking at her covered lower half. As the sheet continues to moisten. With blood. And-

Aidan jumps from the bed. He charges for the bedroom door. Beyond terrified. He YANKS it open. And runs into-

INT. THE EDMOND'S LIVING ROOM - BEACON HILL - SAME

Aidan stops immediately. Catching his breath. Looking about his parents' living room. He glances behind. Sees-

No door or bedroom. Aidan looks about oddly. The living room quaint and warm. Filled with a family's love.

Aidan stands still. Catching his breath. Listening to-

An electric CARVING KNIFE in the distance. As-

A swinging door OPENS. Mr. Edmond peers out, wiping his hands, smiling.

MR. EDMOND

Aidan, glad you made it. Dinner's in twenty minutes. Everyone's out back if you wanna grab a drink first.

Aidan hesitates. Too confused.

AIDAN

Pop? Something's happening to me.

His father's smile is replaced with a compassionate expression. He nods knowingly-

MR. EDMOND

I know, son. But you're home now. Your family's love will protect you.

AIDAN

Will it?

MR. EDMOND

Of course. There's nothing more powerful than family. You're safe with us.

Aidan exhales deeply. He needs to believe his father. As-

AIDAN

Pop, I think I'm losing my mind.

MR. EDMOND

No, you're not. You're just in a battle at the moment. But your spirit is strong, son.

Aidan stares into his father's eyes. Filling with hope. As-

MR. EDMOND

Hey, your brothers are in here helping me cook. Why don't you join us? It'll be like when you all were little boys.

His father's smile makes Aidan smile.

AIDAN

Sure. I'd like that, Pop.

Mr. Edmond pushes back through the swinging door. Aidan walks across the living room. And reaches out. As-

The electric CARVING KNIFE resumes. And-

Aidan shoves OPEN the door. But his smile fades. He stops moving. Too shocked. Looking in at-

KITCHEN: Beyond disgusting. The entire place covered in BLOOD GRAFFITI and CARNAGE. His THREE BROTHERS scattered about in pieces. Mutilated. While-

-His father stands to the side, holding the carving knife, smiling innocently. And-

Aidan SHRIEKS. He closes his eyes tightly. Painfully trying to block the image. He TREMBLES. As-

BISHOPS (V.O.)
Lord, deliver us.

FATHER GALLOTS (V.O.)
From the snares of the devil-

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - SAME

Each Bishop splatters HOLY WATER upon each of the group members. A tired Gallots stands in the center. And-

All of the men exhausted and sweating. With splatters of body fluids about them. As-

BISHOPS (ALL)
-WE BEG YOU TO HEAR US.

SILENCE. Gallots takes a deep breath. Looking at-

THE GROUP. Each member TREMBLES. Silently. Their eyes rolled back. They're seizing. And-

Blood dribbles from their mouths. Their pale skin adorned with OPEN SORES. Looking almost lifeless. And-

OBSERVATION WINDOW: Nurse Tethers leans into the mic. She speaks compassionately but hurriedly with-

NURSE TETHERS
Father. It's been over four hours. I don't know how much more their bodies can handle. We need to take a break.

He looks up. And exhaustively nods. The Bishops begin to clear. Gallots leans close to Aidan's unresponsive face. He waves his hand before Aidan's WHITE EYES. Nothing.

FATHER GALLOTS
(whispers) Where are you...?

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Somber and quiet. The staff gathers after a short break. The Bishops around a table. As-

Gallots sits heavily. A concerned Nurse Tethers beside him. They look out the WINDOW. Watching-

CHAMBER: The seven group members TREMBLE silently. Unresponsive. Eyes rolled back. And-

NURSE TETHERS

Father, if a body can hold only one soul,
where are they when he's in them?

Gallots eyes Tethers warily. And-

FATHER GALLOTS

That's the mystery, isn't it? I only
hope wherever it is, they have one
another...

PRIEST

Father, Kathryn's waking!

They all quickly rise, looking out into-

CHAMBER: Kathryn looks about, confused and terrified.
CRYING TORTUROUSLY. As-

The STAFF hurries back into action. And-

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - SECONDS LATER

The Bishops and accompanying priests each move to their
respective group members. As Gallots leans towards-

Kathryn looks about. Terrified. But doesn't see Gallots.

KATHRYN

(softly) Please, leave them alone...

FATHER GALLOTS

Who, Kathryn? Leave who alone?

KATHRYN

My children...

She GYRATES. Her eyes roll back. She SEIZES again. As-

FATHER GALLOTS

Kathryn, stay connected! Do you hear
me!? Stay connected with the group!

No response. As she TREMBLES like the rest of the group.

Gallots SIGHS HEAVILY. And opens his book. Moving back into
the center.

FATHER GALLOTS

Gentlemen, let us resume.

The Bishops nod. And-

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - SAME

But with NO OBSERVATION WINDOWS or PRIESTS. Where-

AIDAN SHRIEKS. Strapped in his chair. Looking at the other SIX MEMBERS. But they GYRATE IMPOSSIBLY FAST. Disguising their identities. And-

ON AIDAN'S BACK: Bleeding. Being punctured by sharp points. The entire chair made of NAILS. As-

ONE of the group stops gyrating. She GASPS. Blinded by intense pain. But it's TATUM.

TATUM

Aidan, it hurts, it HURTS TOO MUCH!

Aidan looks at her. Puzzled. She SHRIEKS SUDDENLY. As ANOTHER stops gyrating. It's-

MR. EDMOND

Son, stop this! STOP IT NOW!

Mr. Edmond writhes in pain, also. As ANOTHER stops gyrating. It's MRS. EDMOND. She CRIES IN PAIN. As-

The OTHER THREE stop gyrating. They're his BROTHERS.

Aidan looks about the group in terror. Watching those he loves writhe in violent pain. It's a torturous sight. And-

AIDAN

LEAVE THEM ALONE!!!

Aidan wrestles his straps. GRUNTING. Trying to break free. But he can't. As-

Tatum stares at Aidan. Intensely. No more pain. As-

TATUM

Try to stay connected...

Aidan stops wrestling. He catches his breath. Looking at her. He processes something. Her voice sounds different.

Because as Tatum speaks, he hears-

KATHRYN'S VOICE

Aidan, LOOK AT ME! I know you're still in there!

AIDAN
KATHRYN? WHERE ARE YOU!?

KATHRYN'S VOICE
Here. Right here...

Aidan locks eyes with Tatum. As her face flickers. Looking like two different faces. And-

A FLASH. Tatum gone. It's a desperate KATHRYN. And-

ON AIDAN'S BACK: No more bleeding. No more nails. Just the chair. As-

Kathryn GASPS. Sitting in the chair where Tatum was. She and Aidan lock eyes. Looking relieved. And-

AIDAN
But, but my family...?

KATHRYN
I know, Aidan, I see mine, too! We all do. But we need to stay connected.

Aidan catches his breath. And nods. As-

KATHRYN
GUYS! LOOK UP! STAY CONNECTED!

SCREAMS. Circle the DARKNESS. Sounds of TORTURED SOULS. As DARK SILHOUETTES flutter about the DARKNESS.

AIDAN
GUYS, OPEN YOUR EYES!!!

Kathryn stares at a chair. She grimaces painfully but-

KATHRYN
ANGELA, LOOK AT ME!!!

Angela GASPS. Sitting in the chair where Mrs. Edmond was. Catching her breath. As-

Aidan looks at the chair where his FATHER gyrates. It's difficult to face. But he-

AIDAN
BEVAN, OPEN YOUR EYES! LOOK AT ME!

Bevan GASPS. Sitting in the chair where Mr. Edmond was. She COUGHS, fighting for breath. Looking terrified. As-

BEVAN
OhmyGod, ohmyGod...

KATHRYN
GUYS, OPEN YOUR EYES! LOOK AT US!

GUSTING WIND SWEEPS THROUGH. And-

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - SAME

The ENTIRE GROUP sits strapped to their chairs. All terrified. But relieved to be cognizant. As-

Father Gallots and the Bishops continue the exorcism. The staff watches from the OBSERVATION WINDOWS. But-

Gallots approaches Aidan. His mouth moves. BUT NO SOUND. He splashes Aidan with holy water. But it doesn't hit him as-

The GROUP eye one another. Puzzled. **AS THE EXORCISM CONTINUES SILENTLY AROUND THEM.** And-

BEVAN
OhmyGod, do you guys see *that*?

Bevan stares up. Stilled by true terror. The group looks up slowly. Following her stare. They see-

The MAN COVERED IN MUD, hovering, UPSIDE DOWN, arms outstretched, as if nailed to an UPSIDE DOWN CRUCIFIX.

The group stares. Mouths hang open. All terrified. As-

His mouth doesn't move, but a VOICE fills the room. It's the sound of MANY VOICES in one monotonous hum.

*HIM (V.O.)
It is monumental, what you are giving me.
And soon, you will all take your place up
there.*

HE gestures to the exposed ceiling made of JAGGED ROCK where-

ON CEILING: Made of ROCK. And PROTRUDING FACES. THOUSANDS of them, WRITHING IN MUTED AGONY.

The group looks beyond him. Awed by the sight. Disturbed but fascinated. Like a moth to flame. As-

*HIM (V.O.)
Kathryn, your Faith has set me free...*

The **FACES WRITHE** in unison. Scanning the seven in silent terror. Ominously. And **HE** vanishes. As-

Leander WAILS PAINFULLY. As if losing air. And-

The others looks down quickly. Leander looks pale. Fighting to **INHALE**. And-

Angela suddenly **WAILS ALSO**. Not getting air. And so does Pedro. Then Bevan. And Petra. And Kathryn and Aidan. As-

MUD slowly moves from the **HOLE** in the center of the floor. It **OOZES**. Covering it. Spreading slowly. And-

It moves up **EACH CHAIR**. Very subtly. As the room fills.

The **MUD MOVES UP THEIR LEGS**. Covering them. Looks painful. Looks strangulating. And-

The **MUD MOVES UP THEIR TORSOS**. And swallows their **NECKS**.

The group eye one another desperately. As **MUD** covers their faces. They fight for breath. And-

HOLD ON AIDAN'S FACE. **TERRIFIED**. As-

SUDDEN JARRING NOISE! From the LAB. And-

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - SAME

AIDAN'S FACE. Trembles. **NO MUD** anywhere. But his **NOSE BLEEDS**. And his **EARS**. And his **EYES**. As-

The exorcism continues. **FULL SOUND**. The Bishops whisk **HOLY WATER** at the group. As Gallots-

FATHER GALLOTS

"God arises; His enemies are scattered
and those who hate Him flee before Him.
As smoke is driven away, so is the devil;
as wax melts before the fire, so the
wicked perish at the presence of God."

The entire group **TREMbles**. All of their noses, ears, and eyes **BLEED**. As-

BISHOPS (ALL)

MAY THY MERCY, LORD, DESCEND UPON US!

GUSTING WIND CIRCLES THE GROUP. Along with a **DEEP BARITONE RUMBLING**. But-

ABRUPT SILENCE! And stillness. As the group collectively GASPS IN AIR. And cease trembling.

They all COUGH. Some CRY. Some MOAN in pain. It's as if they all are waking from the same nightmare. Collectively.

The stillness overtakes the room. An odd peace. And-

OBSERVATION ROOM: A fueled Nurse Tethers watches. With the rest of the staff. She quickly speaks into the MIC-

NURSE TETHERS

Father, did you see that!?

But Gallots silently prays. He and his group look exhausted. He makes the sign of the cross. As-

NURSE TETHERS

Father, are they clean?

Gallots eyes the group. And-

FATHER GALLOTS

What say we?

BISHOPS (ALL)

We command his presence for counsel.

They cautiously eye the group. NO MORE WIND. A bit of hope fills the room. But-

FATHER GALLOTS

By the Holy, Merciful Father, WHAT SAY WE?

BISHOPS (ALL)

WE COMMAND HIS PRESENCE FOR COUNSEL!

Still nothing. Just SILENCE. Everything settles. Gallots moves to the group. Tenderly.

FATHER GALLOTS

Yes, they are clean...

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - MOMENTS LATER

As joyous as can be expected. All members of the group lie on gurneys being tended to by MEDICAL. But they look fine.

Gallots and his staff move about, checking on them. As the bishops and priests pray for thanks.

OBSERVATION WINDOWS: Empty. Everyone's in the lab.

Gallots moves past Aidan's gurney. He sits up weakly-

AIDAN
Father, how long was it?

FATHER GALLOTS
Almost seven hours... But lie back, you
need rest.
(to staff)
Get them up to Medical.

The staff nods. They ROLL the gurneys across the lab towards
the ONE FORMIDABLE DOOR to the elevator shaft. But-

A Priest fumbles with his key in the lock.

PRIEST
The security override is still active.

FATHER GALLOTS
Tethers, let Robert know we're clear to
move back up.

Nurse Tethers nods. She moves to an INTERCOM beside the
door. She PRESSES a button. And waits. As-

Angela's gurney stands next to Aidan's. She looks at him.
And smiles weakly-

ANGELA
I feel different. Lighter, almost.

AIDAN
(returns the smile) Me, too...

Father Gallots smiles. Watching. He turns to Kathryn. They
share a relieved and proud smile. He rubs her hand.

FATHER GALLOTS
Looks like your *faith* set you free.

His words strike her. Her smile fades. Same with Aidan.
They exchange a look. And-

KATHRYN
How do you mean?

FATHER GALLOTS
Had the seventh not been you, with your
faith in the procedure, we wouldn't have
moved so quickly.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Yes?

Nurse Tethers leans to the intercom and presses a button.

INT. CHOICES - SAME

Completely empty. Except for Robert. Not looking grounded like he was with Aidan. He has a blank face. As-

Nurse Tethers' THRILLED VOICE emits from the INTERCOM-

NURSE TETHERS (V.O.)

Robert, great news, the procedure was a success! Please recall the override and send the elevators back down!

He leans close to the intercom. Oddly. And-

ROBERT

I'm afraid I cannot allow that.

INT. UNDERGROUND LAB - SAME

Gallots moves to the intercom. He presses the button and-

FATHER GALLOTS

Robert, it's Father Gallots. Please release the override.

ROBERT (V.O.)

I'm sorry, Father, I cannot allow that.

FATHER GALLOTS

You have my confirmation, they're clean.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Which is precisely why I cannot allow it.

The Group exchange looks. Sitting up. A chill moves through them. EVERYONE eyes the Intercom. As-

FATHER GALLOTS

Robert, send the elevator down, NOW.

SILENCE. Panic fills the room. A few priests try the door again. It won't budge. As-

ROBERT (V.O.)

*I'm off to enjoy my next group, Father.
And since the only ones who know about it
are down there, I bid you farewell.*

NURSE TETHERS

Father, that isn't Robert.

TRUE PANIC FILLS THE ROOM. INTENSELY. Father Gallots grows pale with revelation. He whispers-

FATHER GALLOTS

Dear Lord, we didn't *banish* him, we released him...

AIDAN

MyGod, you set him free, didn't you? You cleaned us but you fucking set him free!

More Orderlies STRUGGLE WITH THE DOOR. Horrified disbelief settles in. It's CHAOTIC PANDEMONIUM. As the INTERCOM-

ROBERT (V.O.)

Oh, I almost forgot...

CLICKING. From the INTERCOM. He PRESSES something. And-

The room brightens with BLINDING LIGHT. And the PIERCING, HIGH-PITCHED TONE. Fills the space. MUTE swallows-

EVERYONE. And their PANICKED SCREAMS OF TERROR.

CROSS FADE TO:

EXT. CHOICES - MOMENTS LATER

So peaceful. So quiet. And empty. As-

ON DOCK: Protruding over THE POND. Where Robert stands. Looking at the silent facility. And-

BOOM! He SHOOTS himself in the head.

His body SPLASHES INTO THE WATER. As a GUST OF WIND WISPS AWAY FROM THE FACILITY. And-

ROLL CREDITS: