



Bloodlist 14

THE LOCK - IN

Written by

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FADE IN - BLACK SCREEN

OVER BLACK we see the following type appear:

"We're not in Wonderland anymore Alice." -Charles Manson

A beat later, the following type appears:

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SINGLE FAMILY HOME - NIGHT (9 P.M.)

In the dead of night, we descend upon a Cape Cod stylized home in a suburban neighborhood. There's a mailbox post by the driveway with the name "EVANS" engraved on it.

Dried up leaves are scattered all over the outskirts of the house.

Glowing on the porch banister is a ghoulishly designed Jack-o'-lantern with a kitchen knife plunged into it.

A chyron appears on screen: **HALLOWEEN, 2005**

UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND

Suddenly, in the midst of silence, a BLACK SEDAN rides along the curb and stops.

The engine SHUTS OFF.

It's dark inside of the car, leaving the individual UNIDENTIFIED.

We sit in an UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE.

INT. EVANS HOME - MAALIK'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

MAALIK (10), African-American, is laying down on his twin bed, with his eyes glued to the TV screen in front of him.

His room is decorated with film posters (*Friday The 13th*, *The Goonies*, *The Matrix*, *Kill Bill Vol. 1*), vintage cinema paraphernalia, Hot Wheels, and action figures. *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark* and *Goosebumps* novels line his bookshelf.

A BLOCKBUSTER DVD case is resting on the floor.

CLOSE ON THE TV: "SCREAM" is playing.

There's a KNOCK on his bedroom door.

Maalik jumps, startled. He quickly grabs the remote and turns off the TV right when his parents, BRIDGET (40), tall and captivating, and ALFRED (39), handsome and stoic open his bedroom door.

Maalik stares at his parents with a mischievous grin.

BRIDGET

Maalik, you ain't slick. What were you watching?

MAALIK

Nothing...

(then/off his mother's look)

Scream.

Alfred remains standing in the doorway and Bridget sits on the edge of Maalik's bed.

BRIDGET

(playfully mocks)

You've only seen it a thousand times.

Maalik smiles. Then, Bridget and Alfred share a look. The air becomes tense.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Leaky, mommy and daddy need to talk to you about something.

Alfred moves further into the room.

ALFRED

You know I did what I did because I was protecting myself, right?

Maalik nods.

ALFRED (CONT'D)

Look, I always keep it real with you and your brother.

(a beat)

It's looking like I'll be going away for a while.

MAALIK

For how long?

ALFRED

(sighs)

I'm not sure, yet... I just want you to know that, I'm not a killer like they're trying to make me out to be. He came at me and... and it was either him or me.

Maalik's eyes drift downward.

BRIDGET

Hey, we're going to visit your father every weekend if we have to.

Off Maalik, staring at a blissful outdoor family portrait on his dresser: Maalik, his parents, and his older brother, standing side by side.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Remember, whatever happens in our house, stays in our house.

Maalik nods.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Alright, I love you. No more scary movies tonight. Got it?

MAALIK

Got it.

Bridget pecks Maalik on the cheek with a kiss. Alfred walks over and hugs him.

ALFRED

I love you, boy.

Maalik begins crying as he holds onto his father.

MAALIK

I love you, too.

ALFRED

Aye, aye! Stop that crying. Men don't cry--

BRIDGET

Al!

(then/stern)

Enough.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Agitated, Bridget takes off her wedding ring and sets it down on the dresser. Alfred walks into the bedroom and shuts the door.

BRIDGET

Why would you say that to him?

ALFRED

We can't baby him, Bridget.

BRIDGET

I know that, but this isn't normal for any of us. If he needs to cry, then let him cry. You ain't gonna have our son walking around here quiet and angry.

A beat.

ALFRED

(sighs)

You're right.

(then/hugs her)

I'm sorry.

There's a moment of silence between them as they savor each others touch.

Bridget walks over to their bedroom window to close the blinds. She takes notice of the mysterious Sedan parked outside, eyes it for a moment, and proceeds to close the blinds.

EXT. EVANS HOME - NEXT

The lights from inside the parents bedroom shut off, leaving the entire house dark now.

The driver's side door from the Sedan OPENS.

INT. EVANS HOME - MAALIK'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A SHARP CRACKING SOUND forces Maalik to wake up. He looks around his room, but he doesn't see anything.

He pulls his covers away from his body and gets up from the bed, quietly. As he opens his bedroom door, another CRACK rings in his ears.

He gasps and stares at the BEDROOM DOOR across the hall.

He crosses the dark hallway to the VACANT BEDROOM and lightly taps the door open.

INT. EVANS HOME - VACANT BEDROOM - NEXT

Maalik enters the room, only to see THE SHADOW (55), a Caucasian woman with formidable eyes, dressed in a black hoodie, standing on the porch, PEERING at him through the bedroom window.

Egg yolk drools down the windows from the outside.

Simultaneously, Maalik gasps, disturbed by her presence.

The Shadow leans her forehead onto the window, grins, and menacingly taps her fingers on the glass.

Maalik screams and runs away. The Shadow follows.

INT. EVANS HOME - HALLWAY/FOYER - NEXT

Maalik zips down the dark hallway and quickly turns the corner, entering the foyer. He runs towards the front door to check if it's locked.

RIGHT WHEN...

The SCREEN DOOR to the main door OPENS.

Maalik's EYES WIDEN, he briskly LOCKS the main door. The Shadow vigorously rattles the doorknob. Maalik turns around and dashes up the stairwell.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Dismayed, Maalik bolts through his parent's bedroom door, slams the door shut, and locks it.

MAALIK

Ma! Dad!

Bridget and Alfred wake up alarmed.

ALFRED

What's goin' on?

Bridget anxiously dashes out of the bed over to their trembling son.

BRIDGET

What's wrong, sweetie?

MAALIK

There's a woman outside! She was staring at me through Nicco's window.

Alfred rushes out of the bed and switches on the lamp.

BRIDGET

What do you mean there was a woman--

EXT. EVANS HOME - PORCH - SAME TIME

The Shadow erupts into a rage and BANGS on the door. Then, she rings the doorbell incessantly.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Bridget gasps. She grabs hold of Maalik's hand and scoots him behind her.

BRIDGET

Oh my God, Al! Do you think it's *her*?

ALFRED

How the fuck did she find us?

Off Maalik, confused and terrified.

Alfred opens the bedroom door and charges out of the room.

ALFRED (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Babe, lock the door!

BRIDGET

Where are you going?!

Alfred scurries down the staircase, leaving Bridget and Maalik on edge.

INT. EVANS HOME - FAMILY ROOM - NEXT

Alfred slowly walks towards the window near the front door. He pulls the drapes back a tad. He studies the front yard, searching for the trespasser.

He SWITCHES ON the patio light and sees no one in sight, only the knife-less pumpkin.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Trapped in fear, Bridget remains standing by the entrance of the bedroom door, uncertain of what to do next.

BRIDGET

Maalik, hide by the window.

Maalik backs away into a corner of the room near the window.

The lights SHUT OFF in the house.

Bridget screams.

MAALIK

Ma, close the door!

Bridget latches the door shut. She runs over to Maalik and holds him tightly.

BRIDGET

We're gonna be okay. We're gonna be okay.

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOME - NEXT

PATRICIA (60) places her trash bin on the curb and takes notice of the Shadow creeping around the side of her neighbor's home.

PATRICIA

Excuse me, miss? Do you need help?

The Shadow sharply turns her head towards Patricia.

Off Patricia, unsettled.

INT. EVANS HOME - KITCHEN/FAMILY ROOM - NEXT

Alfred steps into the dark, spacious kitchen. As he opens one of the kitchen drawers, a BONE CHILLING SHRIEK travels throughout the neighborhood.

Immediately, he grasps a kitchen knife as it glimmers in the dark. He scurries back to the family room.

Alfred draws back the drapes...

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOME - FRONT YARD - SAME TIME

The Shadow grips Patricia by the throat and lunges a KITCHEN KNIFE at her. Patricia throws her hands up, but the knife IMPALES her left palm.

Patricia groans in pain and screams. The Shadow throws Patricia to the ground.

PATRICIA
Please, stop!

The Shadow burrows her knife deep into Patricia's leg. Patricia squeals in agony.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)
Oh my God! Someone help me, please!

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Bridget sprints over to the bedroom window and opens it.

BRIDGET
Patricia! Run!

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - NEXT

The Shadow glares at Bridget through the window.

Disoriented and bloody, Patricia struggles to run. The Shadow pursues her. Patricia bursts through the front door of her house, slams the door shut, and locks it.

The Shadow turns around and rushes towards the Evans house, staying the course.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Bridget closes the window and runs to grab the telephone on the bedroom dresser. She dials 911.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
911, What's your emergency?

BRIDGET
My neighbor was just attacked and there's someone trying to break into my house. Please help us!

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
Ok, ma'am. Where are you located?

BRIDGET
9924 Gay Drive.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)
A 911 call was already placed.
There are units in progress to your
house.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

Bridget gasps.

ALFRED (O.S.)
Babe, it's me!

Bridget sighs in relief. She rushes over to the door, unlocks it, and opens it. Alfred walks in RIGHT AS --

EXT. EVANS HOME - PORCH - SAME TIME

-- THE SHADOW RELENTLESSLY STABS through the front door with her knife. Wood ruptures from the door.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Bridget peeks down stairs and screams. Alfred guides Bridget back into the bedroom, slams the bedroom door shut, and locks it.

ALFRED
Come on! We can get out through the
window! Go! Go!

BRIDGET
Maalik, c'mon!

They all race towards the bedroom window. Alfred slides the window up, letting his family go ahead of him.

POLICE SIRENS wail from a distance.

EXT. EVANS HOME - ROOFTOP - NEXT

Bridget and Maalik carefully crawl out onto the rooftop, trying to balance themselves onto the flattest part they can stand on.

Bridget hears the sirens COMING CLOSER into the neighborhood.

BRIDGET
Help us!

MAALIK
Over here!

They both jump up and down, throwing their arms in the air, trying to catch the attention of the police.

INT. EVANS HOME - PARENTS BEDROOM - NEXT

Alfred treads back to the bedroom door and opens it. He peeks his head steadily around the corner, looking down into the stairwell by the front door, the knife by his side.

He sees the FRONT DOOR AJAR, with stab marks all through it. Shambles of wood lie all around the front of the door.

ALFRED
(to himself)
Fuck!

He hears a CAR ENGINE ignite.

EXT. EVANS HOME - NEXT

Bridget sees the black Sedan flee down the street, opposite the police.

The two patrol cars arrive at the house and screech to a halt.

BRIDGET
Help us please! Up here!

Their screams ECHO OUT as we...

FADE OUT - BLACK SCREEN

TITLE CARD: **THE LOCK - IN**

FADE IN - EXT. TOWNHOUSE - MORNING

Dreary clouds hang above a row of townhouses in a suburban neighborhood surrounded by wilted trees with molten-red and orange leaves.

A chyron appears: **COLUMBIA, MARYLAND**

4 YEARS LATER

OCTOBER 2009

INT. TOWNHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

We see a now fourteen-year-old Maalik, a bit more mature, with tired eyes, sifting through his dresser drawers. He grabs a shirt and puts it on. As he goes to close the drawer, he notices something buried inside. He picks it up and stares at an old photo of his family.

Off Maalik, reminiscing. Bittersweet.

Bridget opens his bedroom door.

BRIDGET

Good morning. I just wanted to make sure you were up.

Maalik remains with his back facing his mother.

MAALIK

I'm up.

Bridget walks over to him.

BRIDGET

What are you looking at?

He holds the photo up, still not acknowledging her.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Maalik, look at me.

Maalik reluctantly turns around and avoids his mother's eyes.

MAALIK

I'm gonna be late for school.

He leaves the photo on his dresser, grabs his backpack and a light jacket, and leaves.

BRIDGET

I love you, too...

Bridget walks over to the dresser and looks down at the photo.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NEXT

Maalik strolls down the sidewalk, his mind elsewhere. He's approached by DE'YON (14), an African-American boy, with a hearing aid in one ear.

DE'YON
Hey, what happened to you last night? You missed *Vacancy*.

MAALIK
My bad, De'yon. I just had some... family shit to deal with.

DE'YON
Is everything good?

MAALIK
Yeah, yeah. Are still you gonna have movie night tonight?

DE'YON
Duhh! It's been our tradition for four years now. One scary movie every night, for one week before Halloween.

(then)
Speaking of Halloween, you got your ticket for *The Lock - In*, yet?

MAALIK
No. Remind me again, why would I want to be locked inside the school on Halloween?

DE'YON
Because it's fun. And don't worry, I'll make sure I tell Michael Myers to stay home for the night.

MAALIK
Ha-ha... I'll think about it.
(then)
So what's the lineup for movie night tonight?

DE'YON
Final Destination.

MAALIK
Classic.

DE'YON
Of course. And it's one of my favs.

MAALIK
That movie made me never want to get on a plane. Dude, when you think about it, it's kind of a crazy concept.

DE'YON

What is?

MAALIK

Death following you and planning
how you die.

DE'YON

Not as crazy as your favorite
movie.

MAALIK

Nah, *Scream* is the shit.

DE'YON

I'd rather die in an airplane.
Getting slashed to death by
Ghostface is a hell no.

MAALIK

(imitating Ghostface's
voice)

What's your favorite scary movie?

Maalik chases De'yon. The both of them laugh as they run
around the neighborhood.

Maalik ends up bumping into ALISHA ARROYO (14), a studious
and confident, Afro-Puerto Rican girl, who's holding a novel
in her hand.

ALISHA

Mira! Watch where you're going.

Even with the tone in her voice, Maalik is captivated by her.

MAALIK

My bad, Alisha.
(notices/then)
What are you reading?

ALISHA

You wouldn't know it.

MAALIK

Try me.

ALISHA

The Woman in Black by--

MAALIK

Susan Hill.

Off Alisha, genuinely surprised.

ALISHA
(thinly smiles)
Yeah, well, I don't want to be late
for class.

Alisha strides ahead of them.

DE'YON
(teases)
Someone's gotta crush.

MAALIK
Yo, shut up.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASSROOM - MORNING

MRS. CARTER (27), a ninth grade English teacher, leads a discussion while holding a copy of *The Masque of the Red Death*.

MRS. CARTER
Now who can tell me the central
theme of this story?

NICK (14), a tall, African-American kid with a goofy disposition, who thinks he's suave, runs up knocking on the door.

Mrs. Carter opens the door, annoyed.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
Nick Ferguson, of course. Why are
you late this time?

NICK
I'm so sorry, Mrs. Carter. I
overslept. It won't happen again.

MRS. CARTER
Mhmm. That's what you said the last
time. You missed half of class
already...
(then, over it)
Just go take your seat. If it
happens again, I'm calling your
parents.

NICK
I promise it won't. You're a saint.

MRS. CARTER
Mhmm. Anyways, like I was saying...

Sitting in the front of the classroom, Alisha eyes Nick. Nick catches it, but Alisha quickly averts her attention back to the front.

Off Maalik, noticing this.

Nick slyly smiles and sits down in the back of the classroom next to -- JAYLEN (14), a handsome, African-American teenager with a stoic face and GALVIN (14), Mexican-American, a gentle, introverted teenager.

They all whisper among one another.

Nick unzips his book bag, takes out a black PlayStation Portable, and hands it over to Galvin.

NICK

Hey, Galvin, you forgot your PSP at my house yesterday.

GALVIN

My baby! I thought I lost it. Good lookin' out.

MAALIK

(leans over his desk)
Jaylen did you get *Tekken 6*?

JAYLEN

Not yet. Y'all wanna come with me to GameStop tomorrow so I can go get it?

NICK

I'm down.

GALVIN

I heard the graphics are way better than the last one--

MRS. CARTER

(clears her throat)
Mr. Jimenez, maybe you can tell us what the *Red Death* represents?

Off Galvin, completely embarrassed.

GALVIN

Umm, yeah...
(an awkward beat)
Uhh, death...

MRS. CARTER
It's more than that. Can anyone
help him out?

Alisha eagerly answers.

ALISHA
It's often said that the *Red Death*
represents the inevitability of
death.

MRS. CARTER
Finally, someone woke up this
morning. Thank you, Miss Arroyo.

NICK
(to his entourage)
Alisha's such a show off.

MRS. CARTER
Ahh, Mr. Ferguson. Do I have to
move the four of you?

NICK
No, ma'am.

MRS. CARTER
Okay, then, *stop talking.*
(then, to the class)
Can someone tell me why Prince
Prospero thought he could evade
death?

Alisha raises her hand again to answer.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
Someone other than Miss Arroyo.

Nick raises his hand.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
Go for it, Mr. Ferguson.

NICK
Yeah, I think that the Prince
thought he could get away from
death because of the palace he
lived in and his wealth.

Mrs. Carter responds with excitement.

MRS. CARTER
Exactly! The moral of the story is
death is inevitable.

Alisha turns towards Nick and whispers.

ALISHA
(smiles)
Show off.

Nick's feeling himself. Jaylen and Galvin tease him in return.

GALVIN
Nick and Alisha...

JAYLEN
...Sitting in a tree. F-U-C-K-I-N--

NICK
Dude, shut up.

Mrs. Carter passes by Alisha's desk and notices the novel resting on top.

MRS. CARTER
"She directed the purest evil and hatred and loathing, with all the force that was available to her."
Such a tantalizing novel, isn't it?

ALISHA
Yeah, I'm almost done, and I love it so far... Books like these make me want to become a writer.

MRS. CARTER
Based off of the short stories you've written in class, I spy the next Gillian Flynn on our hands.

ALISHA
(blushes)
Thank you, Mrs. Carter. That means a lot coming from you.

MRS. CARTER
I mean it. Your writing is solid.
(then)
What do you think it's about, at its core?

Alisha glances at the novel, she ponders.

ALISHA
Oh, uhh... Reckoning.

The school bell rings. This leads us to:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A GRANDFATHER CLOCK CHIMES as we navigate through a dingy, ranch style home.

The Shadow sits lonesome at a long dinner table with a bottle of gin in front of her and a near empty glass. She gazes down at a jovial photograph of her and a MAN (30), who RESEMBLES her.

The Shadow agonizes over a memory, smoldering:

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - MORGUE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A chyron appears: **OCTOBER 12TH, 2005**

The Shadow stands in a viewing room, staring through a window. On the other side is the Man's lifeless corpse lying on a autopsy table, covered with a sheet, viewable from the neck up.

The Shadow looks over at the MEDICAL EXAMINER (30s), standing nearby.

THE SHADOW

Can I touch him?

MEDICAL EXAMINER

We don't recommend that, Mrs. Bates.

She glares at the Medical Examiner.

MEDICAL EXAMINER (CONT'D)

I'll give you two some time alone.

The Shadow enters the autopsy room and approaches her son. She lifts the sheet off and examines her son's SCARRED BODY, riddled with four bullet holes in his torso and left thigh.

A beat.

She breaks down into tears and kisses him all over his face.

THE SHADOW

My baby boy.

She holds onto him and continues to wail. Then, she whispers in his ear.

THE SHADOW (CONT'D)

I'm going to make this right. Mommy promises, she'll make this right.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - CELLAR - PRESENT DAY

The Shadow opens the cellar door and walks down the stairs in the dark, approaching a table.

She lights a candle and looks at a BLACK BOOK with a pentagram engraved on it. She opens the book to a page, entitled: "Resurrection Incantation".

The Man's RE-ANIMATED CORPSE lingers on the side of her. He places his hand on his mother's shoulder, bends down, and whispers in her ear.

The Shadow grabs his hand and rubs it.

As we PULL AWAY, the Shadow appears to be whispering to NOTHING, and the Man's decomposed corpse is propped up in a chair on the OPPOSITE side of her.

The Shadow picks up a brown Voodoo doll from the table and pricks the head of it with a pin.

INT. EVANS HOME - MAALIK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Maalik is asleep in bed. Suddenly, his eyes fly open. But, something isn't right...

He uses all his willpower to move his body, but he can't. In this moment, Maalik realizes he's PARALYZED and MUTE.

His eyes fill with terror and confusion.

Then, the bedroom door CREAKS OPEN, with a DARK FIGURE materializing in the entryway like a ghoul in a nightmare.

Maalik's eyes frantically move about as the DARK FIGURE progresses CLOSER.

The sounds of A THOUSAND SCREECHES throb in Maalik's ear.

The Figure LEANS DOWN into Maalik's face.

Maalik breaks free from the paralysis SCREAMING and STRIKING the air with his fists.

He pants heavily and backs into a corner, encompassed by darkness. He realizes there's NOTHING in the room with him.

The bedroom door is CLOSED, as if it never opened.

Bridget runs into the room scared and turns on the light.

BRIDGET

Honey, what's wrong?!

Maalik remains in the corner and stares at his mother, petrified.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

A LARGE, BROWN PUPIL is staring back at us as a LIGHT BEAMS into the retina.

DOCTOR NOLAN

Well, everything appears normal.

DOCTOR NOLAN (40s), lowers his medical pen light from Maalik's eyes.

DOCTOR NOLAN (CONT'D)

It sounds like you just had a classic case of Sleep Paralysis.

BRIDGET

Sleep what?

DOCTOR NOLAN

Sleep Paralysis. It happens either when you fall asleep or when you wake up, and you find yourself paralyzed. Your mind is still aware of everything and you can move your eyes, but the body is stuck in the sleep cycle.

MAALIK

And the things I saw?

DOCTOR NOLAN

Hallucinations, be it visual or auditory, are typical symptoms of Sleep Paralysis. I know it can be scary, but I promise you both, it's completely normal and harmless. Happens more often than you think.

BRIDGET

I'm sorry, you call that normal?

MAALIK

Okay, but what causes it?

DOCTOR NOLAN

It can be a myriad of things. Sleep deprivation, PTSD, stress, even sleeping on your back.

(pats Maalik on the shoulder)

Just try to get some rest.

Doctor Nolan gives a quick smile and leaves.

EXT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Bridget and Maalik walk to their car.

BRIDGET

Listen, I think it's time you talk to someone. Someone professional.

MAALIK

What? No, I'm not crazy. I'm fine.

BRIDGET

I know you're not crazy. And you're *not fine*. It's nothing wrong with getting help.

MAALIK

I'm not trying to talk to some random stranger about my problems. I mean you're the one who told me that, "*what happens in our house, stays in our house.*"

BRIDGET

I meant, I didn't want you talking to the kids at school about it. But, I don't want you bottling it all up and keeping it inside either. What about your guidance counselor?

MAALIK

Fine... If it makes you feel any better, I'll talk to Mrs. Berla.

BRIDGET

I just want what's best for you.

Off Maalik, he nods.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Have you talked to your dad?

MAALIK
...He called the other day.

BRIDGET
How is he?

MAALIK
(sighs)
Mom, can we not? I just wanna go home.

BRIDGET
Can we not what? I still care about him.

MAALIK
I'm sure you do.

BRIDGET
That's not fair.

MAALIK
(scoffs)
Not fair? Then why did you leave him in there?! He's alone in that shit hole and you just left him--

Bridget SLAPS Maalik across his face.

BRIDGET
You better take that damn base outta your voice!

She looks around to make sure no one else saw that.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Now I understand you are upset. But let me be clear, I am still your mother. Don't you ever curse at me again in your life.

Off Maalik, hurt.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to hit you. But... this hurts me, too. And I feel like you don't see that.
(then)
With your dad away and your brother off in Afghanistan... It's been hard without them.

A beat.

MAALIK

I just want to know the truth.

BRIDGET

(sighs/reluctant)

The truth is... your dad cheated on me... It was before he went away and... I've been trying to hold it all together, I really have. But, I can't do it anymore... That's why I'm leaving him, OK?

(a beat)

It was nothing you did or I did, and I need you to know that.

Off Maalik, taking this all in.

MAALIK

I'm sorry, Ma... None of this would've never happened if he hadn't... if he hadn't...

BRIDGET

I know.

She hugs Maalik and holds onto him.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - GUIDANCE OFFICE - MORNING

Maalik walks into the guidance counselor's office. He's greeted by MRS. BERLA (50), a friendly face.

MAALIK

Hi, Mrs. Berla.

MRS. BERLA

Hey, Maalik! Come on in. How are you?

MAALIK

Oh, umm, I'm okay.

Maalik sits down across from Mrs. Berla.

MRS. BERLA

What brings you in today?

Maalik pauses.

MAALIK

Everything I tell you stays in this room, right?

MRS. BERLA

Yes, of course. Did something happen?

Off Maalik, ruminating:

EXT. LOCAL ROAD - NIGHT (6:00 P.M.) - FLASHBACK

A chyron appears: **OCTOBER 12TH, 2005**

It's twilight in Prince George's County.

On a busy traffic roadway, there's a FAMILIAR FACE in a black, sporty Mercedes Benz Kompressor. The man in the car is ALFRED. He and the other commuters drive along in traffic.

Alfred speeds up and merges into another lane, CUTTING OFF another DRIVER who's in a BLUE NISSAN SENTRA.

The traffic flow proceeds. The Driver speeds around, getting in front of Alfred; like a game of tic-tac-toe.

Traffic comes to a HALT.

The Driver is THE MAN from earlier; the Shadow's son.

He points in his rearview mirror at Alfred, talking furiously. His words are INDISTINCT since WE STAY with Alfred.

Off Alfred, stoic. He ignores the Man.

The traffic light turns green. Everything goes into motion.

Alfred notices the Man is driving SLOWER than usual and pulls around the driver to get ahead. The Man proceeds to roll down his window. At this point, they're side by side.

MAN

I'll kill you, nigger!

ALFRED

What?!

MAN

I'll kill you, you fucking nigger!

ALFRED

Go the fuck on, motherfucker!

Alfred continues to drive along side of the Man and speeds up to avoid confrontation. But the Man stays on Alfred's tail.

Alfred drives in the turn right lane only, and the Man pulls up beside him in the left lane, HONKING at Alfred.

MAN

You shouldn't have cut me off!

Traffic is at a halt due to a RED LIGHT.

They're stuck on Old Alexandria Ferry Road and Virginia Avenue.

The light turns GREEN.

Alfred turns right and continues to drive, while the Man makes an illegal turn, stalking Alfred.

They both reach another stop light, near ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE. The Man is two cars back, and Alfred is caged in up ahead between other motorists.

The intoxicated Man exits his vehicle and charges towards Alfred's car, like an enraged bull.

The Man places his right hand behind his torso, holding something that is yet UNIDENTIFIED to Alfred. Pointing his other hand at Alfred, the Man continues to make threats.

MAN (CONT'D)

Who the fuck do you think you are?!
I'm gonna kill you! You fucking
nigger!

From Alfred's POV, the Man conceals a DARK OBJECT behind his thigh.

Alfred reaches for his .45 CALIBER GLOCK in the glove compartment and points it out of his car window.

ALFRED

Go the fuck on slim, you not
killing shit!

The Man continues to pursue Alfred, CLOSING IN ON HIM.

Alfred puts the partial load clip in his gun. He dauntlessly aims and FIRES four rounds at the Man.

Bullets strike the Man and send him flying back onto the pavement.

The sounds of gunfire lead the surrounding commuters to speed off.

Alfred follows suit.

As WE DRAW CLOSER to the wounded Man we see a knife by his side.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH - GUIDANCE OFFICE - PRESENT DAY

Maalik stares at Mrs. Berla with doleful eyes.

MAALIK

After the guy died, our address was published in the newspaper and the guy's mom found us and... Then we moved here.

Off Mrs. Berla, rocked by this revelation.

MRS. BERLA

Jesus.

(a beat, takes a moment)

Well, look, I'm glad you came to see me. But, I can recommend someone more professional to your family, if you want.

MAALIK

Can I keep coming to you for now? If it's not a bother?

MRS. BERLA

Of course, you can.

Then, Mrs. Berla has an idea. She grabs a permission slip, signs "FREE ADMISSION", and hands it to Maalik.

MRS. BERLA (CONT'D)

A night of partying might do you some good.

MAALIK

Thank you, but, I don't know.

MRS. BERLA

Well, the offer is on the table.

MAALIK

Okay. I'm gonna head to class.

He stands up from his chair, grabs the slip, and proceeds to leave.

MRS. BERLA

Maalik, I want you to know that these things take time. You're a normal kid, you just had a really bad thing happen to you.

(pauses, then)

There is life after trauma. Alright?

Off Maalik, processing. He meekly smiles.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

The bell rings. Maalik walks out of class with De'yon.

DE'YON

(grunts)

Why does Mr. Jones always give us a shit ton of homework?

MAALIK

Uhh, it's Mr. Jones. And you have nothing to worry about. Aren't you like a genius when it comes to Algebra?

DE'YON

It's the principle, Maalik. I take it you still aren't going to The Lock - In?

MAALIK

I still have to talk to my mom about it.

DE'YON

Come on! You never want to go out or do anything.

MAALIK

Nigga, you actin' like we goin' to the club.

Maalik approaches his locker and opens it. He stores his textbooks in his locker.

DE'YON

(rolls his eyes)

I'm not sayin' all that, I'm just saying have a little more fun out of life. It's our freshman year! If I'm there, you have to be there, too.

MAALIK
You know I hate crowds.

DE'YON
Please? Pretty please?... Leaky?

MAALIK
Eww, dude, my mom calls me that.

Maalik closes his locker door and they both continue down the hall.

DE'YON
You want me to call you Leaky in front of the entire school?

MAALIK
Yo, chill! I'll go.

DE'YON
See! That's the spirit!

They both begin to separate in the hallway.

MAALIK
Oh, hey. You still down to come by later to help me with this Algebra homework?

DE'YON
What's in it for me?

MAALIK
I'll help you with your English essay.

De'yon thinks on it.

DE'YON
Deal.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - FACULTY ROOM - DAY

MR. JONES (40), an African-American, Algebra teacher with a southern drawl, is sitting at a long table in the center of the lounge grading papers.

MS. SHAPIRO (30s), an Art teacher with a quirky personality, stands over Mr. Jones, browsing Facebook on her laptop.

Off to the side of her is COACH ATKINS (30s), the hunky-mesmeric Gym teacher, tossing a basketball in the air, while sitting in one of the lounge chairs.

MS. SHAPIRO
 (shows her laptop)
 Okay, so this is the guy. Cute,
 right?

MR. JONES
 I mean... He's a'ight.

MS. SHAPIRO
 After tonight, he's gonna be more
 than alright, if you know what I
 mean.

She snorts with laughter.

COACH ATKINS
 The real question you need to be
 asking yourself is, does he even
 lift?

MR. JONES
 Jesus, is that all you care about?

COACH ATKINS
 Survival of the fittest man.

MS. SHAPIRO
 Oh, he can lift all right.

MR. JONES
 I can't with y'all. Let me finish
 grading these papers, please.

MS. SHAPIRO
 Oh, whatever. You're telling me
 that you don't think he's cute?

MR. JONES
 My men require melanin. OK!

MS. SHAPIRO
 I hate you. Bye.

MR. JONES
 Love you more.

MS. SHAPIRO
 Oh, real quick. Are y'all working
 The Lock - In event?

COACH ATKINS
 You know it.

MR. JONES
 Unfortunately.

MS. SHAPIRO

Thank God! All right, see you
tomorrow.

Ms. Shapiro exits the teachers lounge.

INT. MALL - HALLOWEEN COSTUME STORE - NEXT

Maalik, Galvin, Jaylen, and Nick walk into a costume store,
holding GameStop bags. The store is designed with COBWEBS,
SPOOKY STATUES, COSTUMES, and PROPS.

GALVIN

You guys know what you're gonna be
for Halloween, yet?

Maalik walks past a few cutesy bug costumes.

MAALIK

Not this.

JAYLEN

Honestly, I don't know.

NICK

My family doesn't really celebrate
it, but I might go as a ninja.

GALVIN

Really, Nick?

NICK

Shut up, Galvin. What are you gonna
be?

GALVIN

Zorro. I'm gonna get all the girls.

Galvin exudes confidence, but Nick shoots it down.

NICK

We both know you're not gonna talk
to no girls.

GALVIN

You right.

They continue to casually look around, eventually drifting
apart.

Maalik walks towards the back of the store. His cellphone
rings -- "**EASTERN SHORE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**". Maalik
declines the call.

He approaches a FEMALE EMPLOYEE (50s), who has her back turned to him as she places decorations on the wall.

MAALIK

Excuse me, is there a restroom I--

Before he can finish, the Shadow ostensibly APPEARS and turns towards him, wielding a kitchen knife.

Maalik recoils and falls onto the floor.

Several PATRONS in the store stare at him, unsettled.

The Female Employee looks at him oddly. Maalik takes another glance at her and realizes it's not the Shadow.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Are you okay?
 (then, holds up her
 plastic knife)
 Oh. It's not real...

Maalik's friends run over to him.

NICK

Dude, what happened?!

GALVIN

You good?

Maalik anxiously observes everything and everyone around him.

Off Maalik, embarrassed. He rushes out of the store.

JAYLEN

Yo, what's wrong?

Galvin, Nick, and Jaylen stare at each other, concerned.

INT. EVANS HOME - FOYER - DUSK

Maalik rushes inside and locks the front door. He leans back against the door and tries to calm himself down.

Unexpectedly, his cellphone RINGS LOUDLY. Maalik flinches and answers the call, not paying attention to the caller ID.

MAALIK

Hello.
 (dead silence, then)
 Hello?

He holds his phone up and stares at the caller ID --
"UNKNOWN"

A LOUD KNOCK on the front door assaults Maalik's ears and sends him flying up the stairs.

INT. EVANS HOME - KITCHEN - NEXT

Maalik grabs a kitchen knife from a drawer.

INT. EVANS HOME - FOYER - NEXT

Maalik tiptoes down the stairs, firmly holding the knife.

The front door rumbles with two more knocks and the doorknob rattles. It's all too familiar now. Maalik closes his eyes.

INSERT CUT: Maalik's memory -- The Shadow vigorously rattles the doorknob.

Maalik opens his eyes, clenching his breath. He unlocks the door and swings it open.

De'yon POPS OUT from around the door frame:

DE'YON

Ha!

Maalik gasps, ready to swing the knife. De'yon leaps back, scared of the knife. They both SCREAM.

DE'YON (CONT'D)

Bro, what the fuck?!

MAALIK

Yo! Don't scare me like that!

DE'YON

My bad, nigga! I was just joking.

MAALIK

Damn, De'yon. You play too much.

INT. EVANS HOME - MAALIK'S ROOM - NEXT

They both enter Maalik's room. De'yon places his bag on Maalik's dresser, taking out homework and a DVD (*Halloween H20: 20 Years Later*).

Maalik sits down on his bed. His mind elsewhere.

DE'YON

A'ight. Be real with me. What's goin' on?

Maalik pauses, then:

MAALIK

There's something I need to tell
you.

Maalik walks over to his closet and rummages through it.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

But, first, you're gonna need a
drink.

He whips out two shot glasses and a bottle of tequila. Now
De'yon's eager to listen.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - CELLAR - NIGHT

The Shadow sits in the middle of a PENTAGRAM, drawn out in
chalk on the cellar floor, surrounded by five lit candles.

The Shadow's eyes are closed, and she WHISPERS to herself in
Latin as her black Book of Spells sits open in front of her.
There we see a page, entitled -- "Protection Incantation".

Our eyes TRAVEL past her and focus in on a BULLETIN BOARD,
hanging on one of the walls. There we see OLD NEWSPAPER
CLIPPINGS and PHOTOGRAPHS of Maalik and his family, as well
as their former neighbor, Patricia.

The Man APPEARS behind the Shadow and whispers in her ear:

THE MAN

It's time.

A gust of wind EXTINGUISHES the lit candles and the Shadow's
eyes open.

INT. EVANS HOME - MAALIK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Maalik and De'yon lay sprawled out on the floor.

DE'YON

Damn. So what ever happened to her?

MAALIK

I don't know... I mean, the police
searched everywhere for her and
never found her. It's like, she
just... vanished...

DE'YON

Do you think she would come after
you guys again?

MAALIK

I don't know. I mean, she would've
found us by now.

DE'YON

This is... a lot.

MAALIK

Yeah...

(a beat)

I wanted to tell you for so long,
but... I didn't want you to judge
me, or my family.

DE'YON

Never. I'm always going to be here
for you, man.

(then)

Is that why you're putting off
going to The Lock - In?

Maalik nods his head yes.

DE'YON (CONT'D)

Aye, I get it. What happened to you
is... scary. But, I really think
you should come. Your life
shouldn't have to stop because of
her.

Off Maalik, taking this in.

INT. EVANS HOME - BRIDGET'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

There's a knock on Bridget's bedroom door. She gets up from
her bed and opens it.

BRIDGET

Hey. All your homework done?

MAALIK

Yeah. So, I've been meaning to ask
you if I could go to this school
thing coming up?

He hands his mom his permission slip.

BRIDGET

What school thing?

Bridget grabs the slip and reviews it.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
You know how I feel about...

Her voice trails off, it's no point in stating the obvious.

MAALIK
Mom, I'm not a little kid anymore.
(a beat, off Bridget's
look)
Can we just... forget the past?

Bridget walks over to her purse on the bedroom dresser and grabs a pen.

Off Maalik, awaiting his mother's response.

MAALIK (CONT'D)
Ma?

BRIDGET
No, you're right... It's time to
move on. I want you to have fun
with your friends and... if this
helps with that, then, I want you
to go.

She signs the paper and hands it back to Maalik. Bridget's cell phone rings.

MAALIK
'Night, Ma. Love you.

BRIDGET
Goodnight, sweetie. Love you, too.

Maalik leaves the bedroom and closes the door. Bridget answers the call.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Patricia, residing in the same house, places a tea kettle on the stove top and turns the gas knob on.

PATRICIA
Hey, Bridget!

BRIDGET

Oh my gosh! Hi, Patricia! It's been forever. How are you?

Patricia goes to sit down in a chair at the kitchen table.

PATRICIA

Same ol', same ol'. How are things with you and your family?

(no response, then)

Bridget?

BRIDGET

(sighs)

Yeah, I'm here... I don't even wanna get into it. Girl, you know how it is, just trying to keep my head above water.

PATRICIA

Well, listen, why don't you come over here tomorrow? Just us girls and you can tell me all about it. Shoot, I could use some company.

BRIDGET

I don't know, I, uhh--you know how I feel about that part of town... Too many bad memories...

Someone BANGS loudly on Patricia's front door.

PATRICIA

Hold on a minute, Bridget.

Patricia stands up from her chair and walks over to the kitchen entrance.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

Who is it?!

BRIDGET

Is everything okay?

PATRICIA

These damn kids always tryin' to scare folks before Halloween. Well not me! Let me call you back.

She hangs up the phone, but the banging continues. Growing louder. It crescendos.

Patricia grabs a REVOLVER from underneath the kitchen sink.

EXT./INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NEXT

Patricia UNLOCKS the front door and opens it, holding the gun firmly by her side.

There's no one outside.

She closes the door and locks it.

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT

Patricia walks back into her kitchen. Suddenly, she hears GLASS SHATTER in another room.

Startled from the commotion, she jumps back.

PATRICIA
What in the world?!

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NEXT

She runs into the family room and sees broken glass on the floor from a nearby window.

Amidst the bits of glass, there lies a BRICK on the floor.

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NEXT

Patricia swings the front door open and charges outside.

She steps off of the porch and searches around the side of her house.

She points her gun in every direction, still, no one in sight. Only SILENCE and DARKNESS.

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NEXT

Patricia rushes back inside, closes, and locks the front door.

The tea kettle on the stove begins to WHISTLE at a high pitch.

Patricia proceeds to the kitchen, passing a dark hallway...

...The Shadow materializes in a black hoodie...

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT

Patricia sets her gun down on the kitchen table. She quickly grabs her telephone to dial 911, unaware the Shadow LURKS behind her.

The Shadow grabs Patricia's hair and jerks her back.

Patricia screams, drops the phone, and falls onto the floor. Her eyes WIDEN when she realizes it's her former assailant.

PATRICIA

Oh my god... Oh my god!

She swiftly attempts to grab her gun, but the Shadow stabs her hand into the kitchen table with a hunting knife, nailing it in.

Patricia screams and writhes in pain.

The Shadow knocks the gun off of the table and chokes Patricia.

Patricia jabs the Shadow in the face with her other hand and gasps for air.

The Shadow stumbles back.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

You crazy bitch!

Patricia frees her hand from the knife impaling it and releases a primal grunt.

The Shadow grabs a steak knife from the sink, and Patricia crawls to her gun on the floor.

The Shadow LUNGES the knife into Patricia's skull, before she can grab the gun.

The tea kettle continues to WHISTLE LOUDLY in the background.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

A SHRILLING BELL RINGS.

The hallways are busy as students transition to their next class. Jaylen spots De'yon nearby and approaches him.

JAYLEN

Yo, De'yon. Do you know what's
going on with Maalik?

Off De'yon, on the fence.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

There only a handful of students in the library. De'yon sits
down at a computer desk and opens a web browser. Jaylen
stands beside him.

JAYLEN

What is this?

De'yon clicks on a WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, gets up, and
gestures at the computer. Jaylen takes his place and reads
the article.

JAYLEN (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Road rage... October 2005...

(skims through)

*Alfred Evans incarcerated for
manslaughter... Halloween*

*stalker... Mother seeks
vengeance...*

Jaylen CLICKS on another article. A SERIES OF IMAGES FILL THE
SCREEN as this plays out -- THE MAN SLAIN ON THE SIDE OF THE
ROAD, ALFRED HANDCUFFED IN A COURTHOUSE, PAMELA BATES AKA THE
SHADOW SPEAKING WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES CIRCA 1970, POLICE
CANVASSING THE WOODS.

JAYLEN (CONT'D)

*Pamela Bates, mother of two, was
suspected of the disappearance of
her husband... Accused of being a
part of the Occult... Holy shit!*

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLYWAY - AFTERNOON

Maalik alone in the hallway, opens his locker. Suddenly...

...The hallway ceiling lights FLICKER.

Maalik immediately springs his head up.

The flickering STOPS.

Maalik resumes sorting through his backpack.

The lights flicker again. Then, they SHUT OFF completely.

Scared and alone in the dark. Maalik looks down both ends of the long hallway.

MAALIK

Yo! Who's doing that--

The lights switch back on and THE SHADOW APPEARS down the hall.

Maalik gasps.

The lights switch off again. The Shadow appears CLOSER.

Maalik drops his backpack as the lights switch on. The lights then switch off again, like a rigged game.

Terrified, Maalik races down the hall, RAMMING INTO --

MAALIK (CONT'D)

(recoils)

No!

JAYLEN

Whoa! It's just me!

The lights are back on, as if they were never off. Jaylen stands in front of Maalik, worried.

Maalik pivots and looks back down the hallway, THE SHADOW IS GONE. Maalik studies the hall, convinced that what he saw was real. His mind playing tricks on him.

MAALIK

(deep sigh)

Shit. Sorry, bro. I thought--

JAYLEN

It's okay... De'yon told me everything.

Maalik shakes his head and retrieves his backpack from the floor.

JAYLEN (CONT'D)

Maalik, if you let this change you... She wins.

MAALIK

Well, then, maybe she wins.

Maalik leaves the hallway.

EXT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT (9 P.M.)

The moon shines bright over the town of Columbia.

GROUPS OF TEENS from the freshmen class, approach the school in a variety of costumes.

Galvin is a Blue Power Ranger, and Nick has a red cape tied around his neck. They're both waiting for Jaylen.

NICK

Jaylen said he was meeting us here, right?

GALVIN

Yeah. I thought you were gonna be a ninja?

NICK

Nah, I'm Superman. Minus the tights and the S.

GALVIN

So a knockoff Clark Kent, got it.

NICK

Whatever. I thought you were gonna be Zorro?

GALVIN

My mom said it was too stereotypical.

A twig SNAPS in the background, startling both of them.

NICK

Did you hear that?

Nick peeks his head around the wall of the building and looks around the shady back courtyard.

GALVIN

Don't try to scare me dude. I hate that crap.

NICK

Ain't nobody trying to scare you.

Nick walks a smidge further towards the back of the building.

A beat.

Galvin fiddles his fingers on the back of Nick's neck.

Nick recoils and faces Galvin.

NICK (CONT'D)
Yo, chill!

Galvin snickers.

Alisha JUMPS from around the corner, dressed in a black dress with a flowy silhouette, a leather jacket, black boots, and a choker to top it off. Very much Nancy Downs.

ALISHA
Gotcha!

Nicks jerks back and screams. Galvin equally leaps back.

Alisha laughs at them.

NICK
Alisha, what the fuck?

GALVIN
Not cool.

ALISHA
(giggles)
I'm sorry, Galvin. I was just trying to scare Nick. But, getting the both of you was priceless.

NICK
Show off.

ALISHA
God is that all you can say. Pussy.

NICK
I ain't no pussy.

ALISHA
Oh, that's right. You're "*Superman, minus the tights and the S.*"

Alisha chuckles and pushes past the both of them, entering the school.

GALVIN
So are you gonna stand there like a doofus or go in there and try to talk to her?

Nick runs off to catch up to Alisha.

INT. CAR/EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Bridget and Maalik are parked in the school parking lot. Maalik has on a skeleton jumpsuit costume and an unzipped grey hoodie.

BRIDGET

I'm sorry I kept you away from stuff like this. I--I thought I was protecting you.

MAALIK

I know.

(then)

Are you going out tonight?

BRIDGET

Maybe...

MAALIK

Mom, c'mon. We both have to try.

BRIDGET

(sighs)

You're right.

MAALIK

I'm serious. You're all alone in that house. Just... have some fun tonight.

Off Bridget, taking this in.

BRIDGET

Alright, later gator. I love you.

Bridget hugs Maalik.

MAALIK

Love you, too.

Maalik exits the car with a sleeping bag in his hand and walks across to the quad.

Bridget drives off, and that's when we see...

A BLACK SEDAN parked in the lot. It's been there the entire time.

BLACK SEDAN'S POV THROUGH WINDSHIELD

Maalik's phone rings as he approaches the school entrance. He stops and answers:

MAALIK (CONT'D)

Hello?

AUTOMATED FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

This call will be recorded and monitored. You have a collect call from, Alfred Evans. An inmate at an Eastern Shore Maryland Correctional Facility. If you'd like to accept the charges press--

MAALIK

(dials, then)

Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. PRISON - DAY ROOM - SAME TIME

REVEALING US TO

Alfred, dressed in a navy blue prison jumpsuit, with **D.O.C.** imprinted on the front, holding the wall mounted phone up to his ear.

The background is a bit noisy from the other INMATES on phone calls.

MALE GUARDS stand off to the side, eyeing all of the prisoners, like hawks.

ALFRED

Hey, what's going on, Leak? I just wanted to make sure you made it to The Lock - In.

MAALIK

Yeah, Ma just dropped me off.

ALFRED

Okay, how's she doing?

MAALIK

She's good, I guess... or at least, she's trying to be.

ALFRED

She's going through a lot. Just make sure you're there for her.

Maalik rolls his eyes and sucks his teeth.

MAALIK
(under his breath)
This nigga...

ALFRED
Boy, what did you just say?!

MAALIK
Nothing, man. Nothin'.

ALFRED
Don't get slick through this phone.

MAALIK
Ma told me what you did. That's
fucked up.

ALFRED
Hold up, slim, I'm still your
father. You think you're a man now
'cause you're in high school? Is
that it?

MAALIK
How can you even talk to me about
being a man?! Look at where I am
and where you are!

Alfred sighs in frustration. He pauses.

ALFRED
You know what, you right. I fucked
up. Your mother didn't deserve
that, but I can't take back what I
did. I gotta live with it.

MAALIK
Thanks to you, so do the rest of
us.

A beat.

ALFRED
Look, I don't expect you to
understand what I did... I was
being young and dumb, in the
street, that's it. There isn't no
rhyme or reason to it. All I can
hope for, is that y'all can forgive
me. And as far as that man goes,
you know I was protecting myself. I
said it to you when you were little
and I'll say it again, it was
either him or me. And I chose me.

(MORE)

ALFRED (CONT'D)
 (a beat, then)
 Maalik?

MAALIK
 Yeah?

ALFRED
 I'm sorry I'm putting you through
 this.

A beat.

MAALIK
 I just wish we could... rewind
 time.

ALFRED
 (sighs)
 Yeah, me too... We just gotta focus
 on the future. That's all we can
 do.

Off Maalik, taking this in. Alfred switches the subject.

ALFRED (CONT'D)
 Anyways... I was just calling to
 check on you. You holla at the girl
 in your English class, yet?

FROM MAALIK'S POV:

Alisha and Nick, both acting coy, stand inside the lobby with
 their friends checking in.

MAALIK
 No. I was, but, one of my friend's
 likes her and... I think she likes
 him back.

ALFRED
 Oh, nah, don't get caught up in
 that. The friendships you have with
 your homies should always come
 first. Give it some time, you'll
 find the right one.

MAALIK
 Yeah.

ALFRED
 Alright, Leak, I'ma get off this
 phone. I'll holla at you in a
 couple days. Be safe this weekend.

MAALIK

Okay, I will. Love you.

ALFRED

Love you. Gone.

The driver's side door to the sedan opens, and the Shadow steps out of the car. There's a voodoo doll attached to a rope, wrapped around her waist.

The Shadow watches Maalik obliviously walk into the school.

EXT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - BACK ENTRANCE - NEXT

The Shadow approaches the back doors of the school, which happens to be patrolled by a SECURITY GUARD (30).

SECURITY GUARD

Ay, miss. No one's supposed to be back here.

The Shadow turns on her charm. Her voice soft and poised:

THE SHADOW

Silly me. I forgot I left something in my classroom. I'll be quick.

SECURITY GUARD

I need to see your staff ID.

THE SHADOW

Of course...

The Shadow reaches in her hoodie, but her wallet falls on the ground.

THE SHADOW (CONT'D)

Oh, crap. Can you grab that for me?

The Security Guard reaches for the wallet, and the Shadow swiftly jumps behind him, clasp his neck.

As he grunts and struggles, the Shadow overpowers him and SNAPS his neck.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY - NIGHT

There are tables set up by the entrance, where Mrs. Carter and the other TEACHERS sit, checking students in.

TEACHER #1
 (announcing)
 Make sure to have your phones out!
 All cellphones will be locked in a
 secure place!

Music plays in the background, stemming from the cafeteria.
 There are a bunch of talkative teens walking through the
 lobby.

Mrs. Carter checks Maalik in.

MRS. CARTER
 Happy Halloween, Maalik!

MAALIK
 Happy Halloween, Mrs. Carter.

Mrs. Carter grabs Maalik's ticket, sleeping bag, and
 cellphone.

MRS. CARTER
 Here let me take that for you.
 Okay, so down that hallway, most of
 the classrooms have board games and
 TVs set up for video games. The
 cafeteria is like a dance hall, and
 the gym has more sporty activities.
 Then, later tonight we're going to
 have the Best Costume award.

MAALIK
 Got it. Oh, where can I grab my
 stuff from in case I get sleepy?

MRS. CARTER
 We're putting everyones belongings
 in the storage closet in the west
 wing.
 (she points/then)
 But, that part of the school is off
 limits. So if you need anything let
 me or another teacher know.

MAALIK
 Okay, thanks.

Mrs. Berla approaches them, jacket and purse in hand.

MRS. BERLA
 Hey! I'm glad to see you made it.
 (then)
 Nice costume, by the way. *Donnie...*

MAALIK
 ...Darko. Yeah, I figured it was
 appropriate...

Mrs. Berla is unsure of what to say to that.

MRS. BERLA
 Well, I'm heading out, so have fun.

MAALIK
 Why? It just started.

MRS. BERLA
 My husband planned this dinner for
 us across town and then we're going
 to a midnight showing of *The Town
 That Dreaded Sundown*.

MAALIK
 You don't sound too happy about
 that?

MRS. BERLA
 Oh, I love dinner. I just hate
 scary movies.

MAALIK
 You know what, now is actually a
 perfect time for you to go.

MRS. BERLA
 Hey. Watch it.

MAALIK
 Just kidding.

They both chuckle.

MRS. BERLA
 I'm really happy to see you making
 an effort. See you on Monday. Try
 to leave the school in one piece,
 huh?

MAALIK
 Will do. See ya.

Maalik walks off.

MRS. BERLA
 (to Mrs. Carter)
 Alright, if you need anything at
 all, you can reach me by my cell.
 And the security guy is out back.
 (MORE)

MRS. BERLA (CONT'D)
(then)
Have a goodnight, everyone.

MRS. CARTER
Thanks, Mrs. Berla. Have a
goodnight.

The rest of the faculty wish Mrs. Berla a goodnight as she leaves the school.

The last group of teens enter through the lobby to check in.

Off Mrs. Carter, staring at the CLOCK on the wall.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
All right, time to lock up.

Mrs. Carter approaches the front doors of the school, pulls out a ring of keys, and locks the front entrance.

She walks back over to one of lobby tables and grabs the remaining sleeping bags.

Coach Atkins and Ms. Shapiro walk out of the front office together, eating Halloween candy.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
Hey, Coach Atkins, I'm taking this stuff back to storage. Would you mind locking the side entrances?

COACH ATKINS
Sure thing. Did you already lock up the front?

MRS. CARTER
Yeah, I did.

MS. SHAPIRO
Do you need help with the kids stuff?

MRS. CARTER
No, I think I got it. But, I'm dying for some candy.

MS. SHAPIRO
There's tons of it in the front office.

MRS. CARTER
Oh, awesome! Be right back.

Mrs. Carter walks down the west wing of the school.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH - CORRIDOR/STORAGE CLOSET - NEXT

Mrs. Carter reaches the end of the corridor. She opens the storage closet door and switches the light on.

The light flickers for a second, but remains functioning.

Mrs. Carter fully enters the spacious closet and the door closes behind her. The sleeping bags manage to slip from her hands.

MRS. CARTER

Crap.

She picks them up and stores them on a shelf.

She shuts off the closet light, opens the closet door, and leaves.

She proceeds back down the hallway.

Mrs. Carter spots the Shadow entering from the back entrance.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)

Hello... Umm, miss? Can I help you?

The Shadow glares at Mrs. Carter and disappears down another corridor.

Mrs. Carter follows her.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)

Excuse me! Everyone has to check in at the lobby...

Right as Mrs. Carter turns the corner, the Shadow is nowhere to be found. All she sees is another hallway of classrooms.

A beat.

"2WICKY" by Hooverphonic ECHOES down the hallway from one of the classrooms.

Mrs. Carter treks down the hall towards the sound of the music.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CULINARY ARTS ROOM - NEXT

The music continues to boom from a speaker on a desk.

Mrs. Carter opens the classroom door. There's barely any visibility in the dark classroom.

She takes a step further and turns on the light switch, but the light doesn't illuminate.

MRS. CARTER
Alright, joke's over. You can come
out now.

She notices a knife block on the floor with a few of the knives missing.

Off Mrs. Carter, alarmed.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
I said, come out!

Mrs. Carter catches a glimpse of THE SHADOW'S REFLECTION on the floor standing in between the doorway.

Mrs. Carter's EYES WIDEN.

CLOSE ON THE REFLECTION

The frightened teacher swiftly turns around.

The Shadow rushes her and thrusts a knife into Mrs. Carter's chest.

Mrs. Carter releases a bloodcurdling shriek and collapses backwards onto a set of desks.

The speaker falls on the ground.

Mrs. Carter crawls along the floor as blood blossoms across her blouse.

MRS. CARTER (CONT'D)
Help me! Please! Somebody!

The Shadow grabs Mrs. Carter by the ankle, pulling her back.

Mrs. Carter kicks her assailant in the leg.

The Shadow falls down.

Mrs. Carter stumbles to get up. She's gunning for the door.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Mrs. Carter straggles out of the classroom, crying. Desperate for someone to hear her. But she's out of reach and the music is too loud.

Blood drips from her blouse, leaving a trail.

A few STUDENTS pass by up ahead, laughing and talking. They're impervious to the malignant force among them.

Mrs. Carter opens her mouth to scream, but it's too late now.

THE SHADOW IS ON HER.

She muzzles Mrs. Carter and drags her back.

It all happens so quick, the students are gone now.

The Shadow drives her knife into Mrs. Carter's side and throws her back into the classroom.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CULINARY ARTS ROOM

Mrs. Carter goes flying to the ground. She looks about, bewildered from the pain she's in, speechless.

She staggers to the teacher's desk and grabs the landline phone to dial 911.

The Shadow lunges towards her with brute force.

Mrs. Carter throws her hands up, defenseless.

The Shadow impales Mrs. Carter, unrelentingly.

Mrs. Carter crashes over the desk, knocking off a bowl of candy.

The Shadow walks over to the speaker on the ground and turns it off.

She bends down and stares at the slain teacher, watching the light fade from her eyes. The Shadow grabs Mrs. Carter's keys and leaves.

We pull away from the lifeless body. Music from the other end of the hallway encompasses the atmosphere.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

MAX (28), the DJ, plays music on the platform stage in the back of the cafeteria.

Teens crowd the dance floor and groove to the music.

Galvin spots Jaylen dressed up as a Black Power Ranger. They run up to each other, both in character.

JAYLEN
It's morphin' time!

GALVIN
Powers unite!

Alisha laughs. Nick watches in horror.

ALISHA
 You guys are adorable.

NICK
 (sinks his face into his
 hand, embarrassed)
 Don't encourage them.

"EL DIA DE SUERTE" by Willie Colon & Hector Lavoe cues.

MAX
 Alright, y'all! Where's my *salseros*
 at?

Alisha's face lights up.

ALISHA
 Oh my gosh, you guys! I love this
 song!
 (to Nick, eager)
 Nick we have to dance to this.

NICK
 Wait, you know how to dance to
 Salsa?

ALISHA
Mira, yo soy Boricua! Of course I
 can dance to this.

NICK
 I don't know if I can--

JAYLEN
 Nigga! Just shut up and dance.

ALISHA
 C'mon, papi.

Alisha chuckles, takes Nick by the hand, and leads him onto
 the dance floor.

Jaylen laughs at Nick trying to keep up with Alisha's flow.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Maalik enters a classroom full of other teens playing video games.

He approaches De'yon, who's dressed up as Michael Myers, intensely playing on the XBOX 360. Maalik stands in front of him, blocking the TV.

Some of the other teens groan in annoyance.

MAALIK

(stern)

Can we talk?

De'yon looks up and nods.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NEXT

Maalik and De'yon casually walk down the hall.

MAALIK

I know it was a lot to lay on you.
But you should've let me tell
Jaylen myself.

DE'YON

You're right. My bad. I didn't--I
just never knew anybody who went
through something like... this...
(then)

You're not gonna punch me in the
face are you?

Maalik lightens up.

MAALIK

No, *Michael*.

DE'YON

You a real one, *Donnie*.

De'yon smiles and hugs Maalik.

MAALIK

Yeah, yeah.

They come across Mr. Jones, who's locking his classroom door.
Mr. Jones turns towards them.

MR. JONES

Well, well, what do we have here?
My brightest student and... Mr.
Evans.

MAALIK

(awkwardly)

Hi, Mr. Jones.

De'yon waves and smiles.

MR. JONES

Why are y'all near the lobby?

MAALIK

We're planning our big
escape.

DE'YON

I'm tutoring him in math.

Mr. Jones eyes them both, suspiciously.

MR. JONES

You know what my momma used to say?
"Whatcha no good?"

Mr. Jones laughs at himself. De'yon and Maalik stare at him
strangely.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)

Oh, lord, let me go check on these
other kids. Y'all are no fun.

MAALIK

Hey, have you seen Mrs. Carter?

MR. JONES

No. Why?

MAALIK

I just wanted to grab my sleeping
bag from her.

DE'YON

You tired already?

MAALIK

I wanna lie down for a little bit.
My head hurts.

MR. JONES

I know where she put it. I'll be
right back. Just meet me by the
gymnasium.

Mr. Jones walks to the other wing of the school.

DE'YON
Know what will help?

MAALIK
What?

De'yon taps Maalik on the shoulder and darts down the hall.

DE'YON
Tag, you're it!

MAALIK
Childish!

Maalik chases after him.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Galvin leans against the cafeteria wall watching everyone else enjoy themselves. He approaches his friends on the dance floor, holding a soda in one hand.

JAYLEN
Hangin' in there Galvin?

GALVIN
Don't be fooled, I'm screaming on
the inside.

NICK
You just gotta push through that
shit, man. Trust me.

Alisha pulls Nick to the side and whispers in his ear. Nick's face glows up.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hey, guys, we're gonna be right
back.

Alisha and Nick wander off. Galvin and Jaylen exchange looks at each other.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALL/STORAGE CLOSET - NEXT

Mr. Jones opens the storage closet door, it's dark inside.

MR. JONES
Mrs. Carter?

He switches on the light, but nothing illuminates.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
 See, this is the shit I'm talking
 about. We need to step up the
 school budget.

WE CREEP UP behind him right when...

A FIGURE JUMPS INTO OUR FRAME and grips Mr. Jones shoulder.

Mr. Jones screams and quickly yanks away.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
 Oh, shit!

WE REVEAL Coach Atkins, who laughs.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
 Jesus! Coach Atkins you damn near
 gave me a heart attack.

COACH ATKINS
 I'm sorry. I had to. I saw you down
 the hall and couldn't pass up the
 opportunity.

Mr. Jones holds onto his chest.

MR. JONES
 Halloween got you twisted. Don't
 you know not to run up on Black
 folks like that.

COACH ATKINS
 (chuckles)
 I'm sorry.

MR. JONES
 Have you seen Mrs. Carter?

COACH ATKINS
 She said she would be putting the
 kids stuff in here. But, she's
 probably back at the dance or in
 the lobby.

MR. JONES
 Well, the damn light won't turn on.
 I need to get something for one of
 the students.

COACH ATKINS
 I got you.

Coach Atkins takes out a mini flashlight from his pocket and shines the light into the storage space.

MR. JONES

Well, aren't you handy to have around.

COACH ATKINS

(smiles, then)

You would think they would supply us with radios or something.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - STORAGE CLOSET - NEXT

Mr. Jones steps into the closet, spots the sleeping bag with Maalik's name on it, and grabs it.

MR. JONES

Don't even get me started on this place.

Abruptly, the flashlight DROPS and the door SHUTS, leaving us in the dark with Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)

You can stop trying to scare me now.

Mr. Jones fumbles around trying to locate the doorknob in the pitch-black room.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)

I am too old for this bullshit.

He manages to find the knob and pushes the door open.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NEXT

He scans the hallway and sees no one in sight.

MR. JONES

Coach Atkins?

He reaches down and picks up the flashlight.

Mr. Jones speedily walks through a long passageway and passes by the culinary arts classroom, which has bloody shoe prints trailing outside of it.

He catches this from the side of his eye and slowly retracts back to the classroom. He looks at the gory trail, convinced it's a practical joke.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
(loudly)
Oh, okay, I see what this is. Y'all
tryin' to play a prank on me.

He takes a moment to look around, waiting for a response.

Mr. Jones approaches the entrance of the classroom and bends down to examine the blood. He rises from the floor and walks further inside.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CULINARY ARTS ROOM - NEXT

Mr. Jones gradually walks in the darkness, searching for the light switch.

MR. JONES
Hello? Coach Atkins? Mrs. Carter?

Finally reaching the wall in the room, he turns on the light switch, but none of the lights come on.

He shines his flashlight into the classroom and sees a trail of blood leading to a closet in the room.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
Oh, c'mon, now! Y'all really went
all out.

He is face to face with the closet door.

He grabs ahold of the doorknob, but stops to take a breath.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
(to himself)
It's okay. It's Halloween, it's
just these fools playin' around.

He swings the door open.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)
Boo!

Mrs. Carter's mutilated body falls out of the doorway, toppling Mr. Jones.

He shrieks.

As they both tumble to the ground, the Shadow climbs down from the INSIDE OF THE CEILING.

Mr. Jones realizes all the blood is coming from Mrs. Carter. It dawns on him, this is real.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)

Oh my god! Mrs. Carter! What happ--
Oh my god!

He struggles to get up and notices the Shadow is blocking his way out.

The Shadow chucks her knife at him.

Mr. Jones ducks, narrowly missing it, and charges towards the Shadow with a desk. He pins her to the ground.

MR. JONES (CONT'D)

Who the fuck are you?!

Mr. Jones and the Shadow scuffle on the floor. The Shadow rams Mr. Jones in the face with the rear of the desk.

Mr. Jones falls back and churns in pain on the floor.

The Shadow grabs her knife, stabs Mr. Jones in the stomach, and shoves him backwards onto a row of desks.

He screams and thrashes back wildly. His abdomen bleeds out profusely.

The Shadow stands up and watches him groan in pain.

Mr. Jones sluggishly crawls on the floor, but then loses consciousness.

The Shadow stares at him for a moment. Then, she leaves.

INT. CAR/EXT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Bridget parks her car in front of Patricia's house.

Kids in costumes pass by her car on the sidewalk, trick-or-treating.

She glances over at her old home.

BRIDGET

Come on, Bridget. You can do this.

She opens the car door, closes it, and walks up to Patricia's house.

EXT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NEXT

Bridget presses on the doorbell button and waits.

After several moments, she knocks on the door.

BRIDGET
 Patricia. Patricia, it's me
 Bridget.

She notices a broken window and approaches it.

She walks back over to the front door, lightly knocks, and opens the door. It's dark inside.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
 Uh-uh, nope.

She recedes and begins to walk away.

Then, it all comes rushing at her. *The memories... the violence... Patricia's screams... that night.* It's all Bridget can see, it's all she can hear.

The air is just as tense as it was back then.

She comes to a halt and forces herself to turn back around.

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - FOYER - NEXT

Bridget enters the dark house.

BRIDGET
 Hello? Patricia?

She walks further into the house and turns on the wall light switch, but the lights are out.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
 Dammit.

Across the hall, she sees a candle lit kitchen.

She cautiously walks across the foyer to the kitchen. She stares at everything. Her paranoia growing.

INT. PATRICIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NEXT

Bridget enters the kitchen to see a BODY PROPPED UP in a chair, covered under a BLOOD-STAINED WHITE SHEET. Behind the body is a BIZARRE SMILEY FACE with X's for eyes, designed in blood, on the kitchen wall.

She stands there terrified and hesitant to approach the body.

She proceeds further and takes the sheet off of the body, revealing to be Patricia's corpse.

Bridget screams and drops down to the floor, almost throwing up.

BRIDGET

Oh my--Oh my God! No, no, no!
Patricia!

She frantically scans her surroundings, fearful.

She eyes the gun on the floor, picks it up, and runs out of the house on guard.

INT. CAR - NEXT

Bridget hops in her car and dials 911 on her cellphone.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)

911, What's your emergency?

BRIDGET

Please help me! My friend has been killed! Please send the police to uhh--9922 Gay Drive.

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)

Ok, ma'am, slow down. Is your friend breathing?

BRIDGET

No! She killed her!

911 OPERATOR (O.S.)

Ma'am, I'm dispatching a unit out to you now. Who killed her? What's your name?

BRIDGET

Oh, shit. Maalik!

Bridget throws the phone on the passenger seat, starts the car, and speeds off.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - NEXT

Maalik and De'yon are both sitting on the school bleachers.

Half of the gym is crowded with kids playing sports and other kids conversing with one another on the bleachers.

Maalik glances over at the clock on the wall above him, he turns back to De'yon with a concerned face.

DE'YON
What's wrong?

MAALIK
Mr. Jones should've been back by
now.

He stands up and looks through the crowd of students.

DE'YON
Maalik, calm down. He probably got
caught up with another student.

Galvin appears in the crowd and approaches Maalik.

GALVIN
Hey! Who ya looking for?

MAALIK
You seen Mr. Jones?

GALVIN
No, why?

MAALIK
He and Mrs. Carter are missing.

De'yon stands up and interrupts.

DE'YON
Maalik is being dramatic. They're
not missing.

MAALIK
Okay, then, why haven't we seen
either of them?

GALVIN
Maybe they're both gettin' their
freak on.

DE'YON
The freaks do come out at night.

Galvin and De'yon both humor each other.

MAALIK
Mr. Jones is gay.

GALVIN
Oh. Really?

DE'YON
I could've told you that.

Maalik steps down from the bleachers.

MAALIK
Where is Jaylen and Nick?

GALVIN
Nick is somewhere with Alisha and
Jaylen is back at the dance. Why
what's wrong?

MAALIK
Hopefully, nothing.

Maalik rushes past Galvin and runs out of the gym.

De'yon and Galvin glance at each other anxiously. They follow
Maalik out of the gym.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alisha and Nick share their first kiss, outside of the girls
bathroom.

They stop and look into each others eyes.

NICK
I've never kissed a girl before...

ALISHA
(smiles)
There's a first time for
everything, Clark.

Nick chuckles.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
I'm gonna go to the bathroom. Catch
you back at the dance?

NICK
Alright, cool.

Alisha walks into the bathroom. Nick excitedly strolls back
to the dance.

NICK (CONT'D)
Yes!

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - GIRLS BATHROOM - NEXT

Alisha sits down on the toilet in one of the bathroom stalls. Her eyes wander as she urinates.

The door to the girls bathroom creaks open and the Shadow enters. She walks over to the sink, turns on the faucet, and washes away the blood from her hands.

As the Shadow goes to exit, Alisha flushes the toilet. The Shadow stops and turns her head towards the stall for a moment.

The Shadow leaves.

Alisha stands up, exits the stall, and walks over to the sink to wash her hands. She notices red residue on the sink.

Off Alisha, not thinking much of it.

She dries her hands and exits the bathroom.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NEXT

Alisha opens the bathroom door, RAMMING right into the Shadow.

ALISHA

Coño!

She realizes it's an adult, thinking the woman is a volunteer.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry.

THE SHADOW

I like your costume.

ALISHA

Thanks...

Alisha walks down the hall and the Shadow stares at her.

Unsettled, Alisha glances back and sees the woman is GONE.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Bridget speeds down the highway in her car. She dials the high school's number on her cell.

AUTOMATED FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
I'm sorry, this phone number has
been disconnected.

Bridget throws her phone down.

BRIDGET
Shit!

Bridget presses harder on the gas pedal.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Maalik walks through the halls on high alert. De'yon and Galvin are right on his tail.

GALVIN
Think about what you're saying.

MAALIK
I have thought about it.

DE'YON
Ok, then, if she's really here--why
wait four years?

MAALIK
I don't know!

They turn into another hallway and that's when they see it...

A trail of blood outside one of the classrooms.

They inch their way forward, clinging to one another.

Maalik opens the classroom door.

Mr. Jones and Mrs. Carter are gruesomely sprawled out on the floor. The three teens shudder in response.

DE'YON
Oh, fuck no.

GALVIN
Por Dios!

Galvin makes a sign of the cross over his chest.

Galvin and De'yon recede.

Maalik stands in utter shock. De'yon reaches out to him and tries pulling him back.

DE'YON
Shit just got real. We gotta go.

Maalik turns towards his friends RIGHT WHEN...

The knife-wielding Shadow MATERIALIZES out of the darkness, behind Maalik.

De'yon and Galvin both scream.

GALVIN
Behind you!

Maalik turns to face the Shadow and slips on the bloody floor.

Off Maalik, stunned.

The Shadow raises her bloody knife to strike.

De'yon reflexively shoves the door in the Shadow's face. She stumbles back into the classroom.

DE'YON
Stupid bitch!

De'yon slams the classroom door shut.

A knife BURSTS through the door, an inch away from De'yon's face.

De'yon recoils.

GALVIN
Run!

Maalik scrambles to his feet and they all run down the hall.

The Shadow swings the door open and pursues them.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - NEXT

Back at the dance, "DECADES" by Joy Division cues on Max's playlist. The music booms with a dark-atmospheric melody. Ian Curtis's low baritone voice encompasses the dance, giving us the feeling of dread and dark strokes of gothic rock.

Everyone is hard to see clearly with the low lighting and strobe lights.

Ms. Shapiro walks onto the stage and approaches the microphone stand. She grabs the mic and Max lowers the volume of the music.

MS. SHAPIRO
 Happy Halloween, Willow Creek High!
 Hope you all are enjoying
 yourselves! We are going to
 announce the Best Costume Award
 soon. So please make sure you cast
 your votes in the ballot on the
 back table. Remember, drop like
 it's hard!

Max and all of the students side eye Ms. Shapiro as she
 leaves the stage.

Max switches the song to something more hip. "DAY 'N' NITE"
 by Kid Cudi cues.

Alisha approaches Nick.

ALISHA
 She tried it.

NICK
 Ms. Shapiro is mad awkward.

JAYLEN
 OD awkward.

Maalik, De'yon, and Galvin run in SCREAMING. Many of the
 students stare at them, unsettled, not sure if they should
 laugh or be scared.

MAALIK
 Guys!

JAYLEN
 You came! I didn't think you were
 gonna make it--

MAALIK
 --We gotta get outta here. Now.

NICK
 What are you talking about?

MAALIK
 I'll explain everything later, but
 we need to go!

Alisha clings to Nick's arm.

ALISHA
 Nick, what's going on?

Ms. Shapiro approaches the distraught students.

MS. SHAPIRO
Is everything okay?

MAALIK
They're dead! And there was--

MS. SHAPIRO
Dead?! Who's dead?

DE'YON
Mr. Jones and Mrs. Carter!

Some of the students overhear this, so they gossip and huddle into their social cliques.

GALVIN
Ms. Shapiro, we have to get everyone out of here and call the police!

MS. SHAPIRO
Are you guys playing a Halloween prank on me? Because saying two teachers are dead is not funny.

Maalik grabs her by the shoulders and shakes her.

MAALIK
This isn't a prank!

Ms. Shapiro looks at him worried and runs up onto the stage.

MS. SHAPIRO
Max, cut the music.

Max stops the music. Everyone stares.

MS. SHAPIRO (CONT'D)
Okay, everyone, we have a situation on our hands, and I want you all to remain calm. Stay here and don't worry. Everything is going to be okay, OK!

She hurries down the platform back over to Maalik.

MS. SHAPIRO (CONT'D)
Show me.

MAALIK
No, we can't go back there.

MS. SHAPIRO
(sternly)
Ok, then, where are they?

MAALIK
Room 237. But, first we need to get
everyone out of here.

MS. SHAPIRO
This better not be a prank.

She marches off through the crowd, the students try to stop
her.

DE'YON
Don't go back there!

JAYLEN
Bro, what's going on?

MAALIK
She's here.

Jaylen stares at Maalik in disbelief.

JAYLEN
No... There's no way she found you.

Alisha eavesdrops into the conversation. She utters in
nervous laughter.

ALISHA
Wait, this is some kind of joke
right?

Maalik runs over to the wall telephone and dials 911. He
listens for a dial tone, but there isn't one.

GALVIN
What is it?

A beat.

MAALIK
It's dead. Shit!

Maalik slams the phone against the wall.

MAALIK (CONT'D)
(to everyone)
OK, does anyone have their phone?!

Students shake their heads.

ALISHA
Remember they took our phones.

MAALIK
Fuck!

Ms. Shapiro runs back into the cafeteria, clearly shaken up.
Maalik, De'yon, and Galvin try approaching her.

DE'YON
Ms. Shapiro...

Ms. Shapiro hurries past them and walks onto the stage. She grabs the microphone, quivering to speak.

MS. SHAPIRO
I want everyone to remain calm.
This is not a drill--

The lights in the entire school SHUT OFF. EVERYTHING GOES BLACK.

Students scream.

The lights come back on.

The Shadow prowls behind Ms. Shapiro and slices her neck open with a knife.

Maalik shudders in horror. Students scream and disperse.

Ms. Shapiro grabs her neck streaming with blood and crashes on top of the DJ's equipment.

All of the students frantically run towards the cafeteria doors.

Max screams and throws his laptop at the Shadow, but she ricochets it back to him.

The laptop rams into Max's face and he stumbles off of the stage onto the floor.

The Shadow creeps over him and slashes him across the face.

Max cries out in pain and crawls along the floor.

MAX
Help me!

The Shadow steps over Max, leaving him to bleed out.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NEXT

Everyone scrambles down the hallway leading to the lobby.

Maalik and his group of friends run behind everyone.

De'yon keeps looking back to see the Shadow closing in on them. He trips over himself and collides with the floor.

MAALIK

De'yon!

Maalik goes back for him.

The Shadow is CLOSER NOW, walking menacingly towards them.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

C'mon, De'yon! Get up!

Maalik helps De'yon up and they keep running.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY - NEXT

Screaming and shoving, the students try to open the lobby doors, but can't manage to get them open.

STUDENT # 1

Let us out! Please!

The lobby has turned into total chaos.

JAYLEN

This isn't happening. This isn't happening.

Jaylen trembles in the middle of the lobby.

MAALIK

Jaylen. Jaylen, look at me! That's not gonna happen to you.

Off Nick, traumatized.

Alisha runs over to Nick and his friends, terrified.

ALISHA

Oh my god. Who was that?!

DE'YON

She almost got me. Holy shit.

FEMALE STUDENT

Let us out! Somebody help us!

A FEMALE STUDENT (14) hyperventilates. Alisha dashes over to the student and tries to keep her calm.

ALISHA

It's okay. Just breathe with me.

All of the students continue to crowd the doors, trying to force them open.

Maalik and his friends look around searching for another way out.

MAALIK

I know where we can get the keys.

NICK

Where?!

Maalik stares back down the west wing hallway.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oh, no fucking way!

MAALIK

It's the only way to get out of here.

Maalik darts back down the hallway alone.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CULINARY ARTS ROOM - NEXT

Maalik runs over to Mr. Jones body, who's still lying face down. He looks around nervously.

He kneels down and searches Mr. Jones pockets. Something JINGLES. He pulls out a ring of keys.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Jones grips Maalik's arm. Maalik flinches and gasps.

MR. JONES

Help me...

MAALIK

Oh my god.

(then)

I'll come back, I promise!

Maalik dashes out of the classroom.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY - NEXT

Maalik speeds down the hallway with the keys in his hand.

The students back away from the door. Maalik unlocks the doors and pushes them open.

MAALIK

Go! Run!

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY/EXT. QUAD - NIGHT

All of the students scatter into the fields of grass and fellow neighborhoods nearby, screaming for help.

Nick, Galvin, Jaylen, De'yon, and Alisha all rush ahead of Maalik.

Maalik stays put and his friends turn back around.

JAYLEN

Let's go!

MAALIK

I have to go back.

GALVIN

What?! Why?!

DE'YON

We need to get help.

MAALIK

Mr. Jones is still alive. I have to go back for him.

NICK

I can't let you go back in there alone.

ALISHA

I'm not going back in there.

MAALIK

There's a gas station up the road. Tell them to call an ambulance and get the police!

They all stand there, scared to leave one another.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

Go! I'll be fine.

Alisha, Jaylen, Galvin, and De'yon run across the quad.
Maalik runs back into the school. Nick chases after him.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NEXT

A faint groan leads Maalik down one of the hallways. Nick follows behind him.

Mr. Jones, bloody and wounded, approaches them grappling onto the hallway walls. Nick and Maalik run over to Mr. Jones to help him up.

MAALIK

Mr. Jones, I got you. Grab onto me.

Mr. Jones grunts and struggles to walk as he places his hand over his crimson abdomen.

NICK

We got you. Help is coming.

They hold Mr. Jones up on each side, as they walk down the hallway.

The Shadow appears in front of them by the lobby entrance.

Nick screams.

MAALIK

Come on! This way!

The three of them switch directions and turn down another corridor.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NEXT

Running and screaming into the library, they look to see if the Shadow is behind them.

Mr. Jones leans on a bookshelf and sees no one. He spits blood out onto the floor.

MR. JONES

Y'all need to go.

MAALIK

No, we're not leaving you.

MR. JONES

I'll be fine. Just go!

NICK
We have to hide.

Nick grabs Mr. Jones and moves him as fast as he can into the computer lab in the library.

Maalik scurries over to the librarian's desk near the entrance and grabs a pair of scissors.

Nick runs over to Maalik.

NICK (CONT'D)
We can hide in there. Let's go.

The library lights SHUT OFF. The only bit of light shining through is from the entrance.

MAALIK
Shit. She's coming.

Nick hops over the main desk and hides underneath of it. Maalik rushes behind a bookshelf, holding the scissors tight in his hand.

The library door swings open and the Shadow walks inside. She passes by the bookshelf Maalik is hiding behind, unaware that he's standing there.

Maalik lunges at her with the scissors and stabs her in the shoulder.

The Shadow grunts and swiftly swings her knife at him, but Maalik jumps back just in time.

MAALIK (CONT'D)
Nick! Run!

Out of nowhere, Mr. Jones tackles the Shadow with the little bit of energy he has left.

Nick comes from behind the desk and stands in shock, as the two struggle on the ground.

The Shadow goes to stab Mr. Jones in the stomach, but he quickly grabs her hand and tries to take the knife from her.

She jabs him in the face with her fist, causing him to fall back.

Maalik grabs a book from the shelf and throws it at the Shadow.

The Shadow sharply turns towards Maalik.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

You want me, motherfucker?! Come
and get me!

Maalik runs into a MAZE OF BOOKSHELVES. The Shadow full of
rage, pursues him.

Maalik hides behind a bookshelf.

The Shadow knocks a ton of books off of one shelf. She moves
to the next aisle of bookshelves and knocks some more off.

She gets to the bookshelf Maalik is hiding behind.

Maalik peeks his head around the shelf and sees her.

He quickly uses all of his might to push the shelf over.

The shelf crashes down on the Shadow, toppling her to the
ground.

Maalik stands there for a moment, on guard.

He slowly moves by the fallen bookshelf, eyeing it closely.
Maalik helps Mr. Jones up.

NICK

You guys okay?

MAALIK

Yeah, let's get outta here.

Nick leads in front, Maalik a few steps behind him, and Mr.
Jones straggles behind.

All of them eye the bookshelf pinning the Shadow down as they
head for the exit.

The Shadow BURSTS her arm out and slices Mr. Jones on his
ankle with her knife.

Mr. Jones screams in agony and falls down.

Maalik and Nick turn back around.

NICK

Mr. Jones!

MR. JONES

Keep running!

MAALIK

No!

Nick grabs Maalik as he tries to go back.

NICK
Maalik, we can't. Come on!

Maalik and Nick both run for their lives, leaving Mr. Jones alone.

Mr. Jones spits on the Shadow's shoes.

The Shadow grabs Mr. Jones by the throat and drives the knife into his chest, killing him.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - FACULTY ROOM - NEXT

Terrified, Nick and Maalik rush into the faculty room. Maalik closes the door and Nick barricades it with a chair.

They turn around to see a long faculty table flipped over, BLOOD SMEARED on the walls, and MUTILATED STAFF lying on the ground. Among them is Coach Atkins, curled up, lying in a pool of blood with his throat slashed.

NICK
Fuck, man!

MAALIK
Oh my god.

Nick switches off the light.

Maalik searches the corpses pockets. His face twists, repulsed by all the gore.

NICK
What are you looking for?

MAALIK
A phone.

Maalik rushes over to one of the desks, flings the drawers open, and rummages through them.

NICK
(hopeful)
You find one?

Nick runs over and they both stare at a pile of smashed cell phones.

MAALIK
(quietly)
Fuck!

NICK
Yo, this bitch is crazy.

MAALIK
We gotta get the hell outta here.

Nick walks back over to the door, creaks it open, and peeks his head outside of the door. The corridor is empty and dead silent.

He glances back at Maalik.

NICK
Whatever happens, keep running.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NEXT

Nick runs ahead of Maalik.

The Shadow launches from around the corner of the hallway, startling Nick.

MAALIK
Nick!

A large knife penetrates Nick's abdomen and he yelps.

Nick grips the Shadow's hand and gasps for air.

The Shadow LIFTS NICK OFF OF THE GROUND with the knife entrenched inside of him.

We hear his flesh beginning to rip, while he chokes on his own blood.

The Shadow retracts the knife from Nick's stomach and Nick crashes onto the floor.

Maalik remains in the middle of the hallway, immobile, shaken by his friend's demise.

The Shadow walks down the hallway targeting Maalik.

Maalik snaps back into focus and races down the hallway.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - LOBBY - NEXT

He runs to the lobby entrance and tries opening the doors, but they're locked.

MAALIK
Wait, no! No! No! Let me out!

The Shadow stands several feet behind him. She jingles a pair of keys in her hand and smiles.

Maalik runs to the front office.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT OFFICE - NEXT

Maalik charges through the front office doors and searches for a place to hide in the dark.

He runs behind the secretary's desk and hides.

The Shadow strolls into the office, enjoying the hunt.

She closes the front office door and locks it with the keys.

She scans the office and the Man appears behind her.

He faintly whispers something.

Maalik covers his mouth to prevent himself from making any noises.

Maalik peeks his head around the desk and sees no one. He looks to the other side, nothing.

A beat.

The Shadow grips Maalik's head as she stands on top of the desk. Maalik screams and yanks her down from the desk.

She crashes onto the floor, dropping the knife. Maalik kicks her in the face.

Maalik gets up to run, but the Shadow is on him before he reaches the door. She grabs Maalik and hurls him to the ground.

The Shadow firmly latches her hands onto Maalik's neck, choking him.

Maalik struggles on the ground, gasping for air. He claws at her.

There's a rage in the Shadow's eyes as she snarls at him.

Maalik loses consciousness and everything GOES BLACK...

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Our vision is MUGGY and DISTORTED.

From Maalik's POV, he sluggishly wakes up in the middle of a pentagram and sees candles lit around him.

He tries to stand up, but his hands and feet are restrained with rope, as well as a cloth wrapped around his mouth.

The Shadow walks over to Maalik and leans over him with her knife, taunting him. Maalik stares at her, terrified.

THE SHADOW

Did you all think you would get
away with killing my boy?

The Shadow slashes Maalik on his arm.

Maalik screams, but they're muffled by the cloth.

THE SHADOW (CONT'D)

Oh, say hello to my son.

Maalik looks to the side of him and sees the Man's DECOMPOSED CORPSE lying next to him. Maalik screams from this grotesque sight.

THE SHADOW (CONT'D)

All this time I thought y'all had
moved far away. Turns out y'all
were hiding in plain sight.

(then)

I've waited four years for this...

She removes the voodoo doll from the rope around her waist, wipes her bloody knife on it, and sticks a thumbnail sized photo of her son on it with a pin.

She then places the doll on top of the Man's chest.

THE SHADOW (CONT'D)

It was worth the wait, though. I
had to wait just until you were of
age to perform this ritual. And now
it's time to bring my son back... A
life for a life.

The Shadow grabs her black book of spells from a nearby desk, lays it in front of her, and opens it to -- "Resurrection Incantation".

She stands over Maalik, raising her knife high in the air.

THE SHADOW (CONT'D)

(chanting)

*Vita est vita. Vita est vita. Vita
est vita!*

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT OFFICE - NEXT

Bridget aims her gun and shoots through a front office window. GLASS SHATTERS.

BRIDGET

Maalik!

She crawls inside of the school.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - NEXT

The Shadow overhears this. She halts at sacrificing Maalik and runs out of the classroom.

Maalik continues to scream and looks around to see what he can do to free himself.

He squirms around on the floor and bumps into a desk.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Bridget points her gun and apprehensively scans each hall as she walks through them.

She passes by the faculty room and sees dead bodies. She recoils.

BRIDGET

Oh my god.

She hears a desk CRASH onto the floor nearby.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Maalik!

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM

Bridget runs into the classroom, checking all sides. She rushes over to Maalik, puts the gun down next to her, and removes the cloth from Maalik's mouth.

BRIDGET

Baby, I'm right here. Are you okay?
Are you hurt?

Maalik grimaces from his wounded arm.

MAALIK

Yeah, yeah, I'll be fine.

Bridget unties the rope from Maalik's feet.

BRIDGET
Where is she?

Right as Bridget is about to untie Maalik's hands, the Shadow EMERGES behind her.

MAALIK
Ma, behind you!

Bridget rapidly grabs her gun, turns, and aims. But, the Shadow slices her on the arm, and Bridget has a misfire.

Bridget screams and drops the gun.

The Shadow kicks the gun away and lunges at her.

Bridget ducks and tackles the Shadow.

Maalik gnaws on the rope binding his hands.

Bridget and the Shadow scuffle on the floor. The Shadow manages to get on top of Bridget and swings her knife at her.

Bridget grabs the Shadow's arm in time, preventing her from being stabbed.

Maalik tears into the rope faster.

The Shadow's strength begins to overpower Bridget. The blade steadily gets CLOSER to Bridget's neck.

Bridget ferociously bites the Shadow's arm.

The Shadow wails and drops the knife.

Bridget punches the Shadow and pushes her off.

Maalik snaps the rope from his hands and breaks free.

The Shadow races to her knife, snatches it off the floor, and chases after Bridget.

Suddenly, Maalik COCKS the gun and points it at the Shadow.

MAALIK (CONT'D)
Hey!

The Shadow halts and stares at him.

THE SHADOW
(smirks)
I'm protected.

MAALIK

Oh, yeah?

Maalik pulls the trigger and flinches. He misses.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

Shit!

The Shadow darts out of the classroom. Maalik quickly follows suit.

BRIDGET

Maalik, no!

Bridget reaches for him.

MAALIK

Ma, stay here.

INT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Maalik cautiously enters a long hallway, on guard.

MAALIK

Who's running scared now, huh?!

He creeps down the hallway, eyeing each classroom he passes. Then, he comes across a classroom with its door WIDE OPEN.

Maalik steadily approaches and peeks inside. He switches on the light and aims his gun, but there's no one in sight.

He returns to the hallway and treks further.

Bridget runs out into hallway and calls out for her son.

BRIDGET

Maalik!

Maalik gasps and pivots to his rear. He sighs in relief when he sees his mother.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Where is she?

The Shadow BURSTS out of a locker next to Maalik.

THE SHADOW

Right here.

Maalik fires his gun and misses as the Shadow pins him against the wall.

The Shadow lunges her knife at Maalik, but he quickly grabs her arm.

The glimmering blade is fiercely close to Maalik's eye.

Bridget screams, terrified.

The Shadow launches Maalik to the ground, and his gun crashes onto the floor.

BRIDGET

Baby, run!

Maalik hastily advances his way to the gun, and the Shadow swings her knife at Maalik as he extends his hand, attempting to grab the gun.

He's too quick though, Maalik yanks his hand back. The Shadow's knife collides with the floor.

Maalik bolts up from the ground.

The Shadow slashes him across the leg.

Maalik howls in pain and collapses onto the floor.

The Shadow towers over Maalik and poises her knife high.

Bridget runs up behind the Shadow and chokes her from behind.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Get away from my son, you crazy
heffa!

The Shadow head-butts Bridget and knocks her to the ground.

Bridget grunts and backs away as the Shadow taunts her with her knife.

THE SHADOW

Now you're going to know what it
feels like to lose your own child.

The Shadow turns around to finish Maalik off.

Maalik has his gun aimed directly at her. He pulls the trigger, the GUN FIRES, and the bullet penetrates the Shadow's abdomen.

The Shadow drops to her knees, places her hand over her stomach, and examines the blood on her hands, stunned.

She collapses onto the floor.

BRIDGET
Crazy bitch.

Maalik stands there, shaken. The gun trembles in his hand.

Bridget runs over to Maalik.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
(reaches for the gun)
It's okay, it's okay. You're okay.
Give me the gun.

Maalik releases the gun and sobs in his mother's arms.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I got you. It's over now.

They hold onto each other tightly and walk down the hallway to leave.

Police sirens wail in the background.

EXT. WILLOW CREEK HIGH SCHOOL - STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT

Bridget and Maalik sit in the back of an ambulance, leaning on one another, wrapped in a gray medical blanket. They look around as NEWS VANS, BYSTANDERS, and POLICE crowd the school. It's a media frenzy.

A paramedic and a police officer bring out the wounded Shadow, handcuffed to a gurney.

Maalik taps his mother.

MAALIK
Ma.

Bridget looks up, and they both stare at the Shadow being hauled away.

Off the Shadow, peering at them.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A chyron appears: **A MONTH LATER**

Maalik walks through a graveyard, carrying a red cape. He stops at a tombstone in front of him.

MAALIK
Hey, Nick... I brought you something.

He smiles and places the cape around the headstone.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

You're the real hero man. I don't know if I would've survived that night without you.

He sits down in front of Nick's grave.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I haven't come to see you... Put in a good word for me upstairs.

He chuckles to himself and then covers his face. His voice breaks.

MAALIK (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry for what happened... I hope you can forgive me.

A beat.

DE'YON (O.S.)

It wasn't your fault.

Maalik wipes his tears and turns around to see De'yon, Alisha, Galvin, and Jaylen standing next to him.

MAALIK

How did y'all find me?

DE'YON

Your mom told us you were here. I'm surprised she let you out of her sight.

MAALIK

She knew I had to do this alone.

ALISHA

You don't have to do this alone.

JAYLEN

Yeah, man, we're all here for you.

They all sit in the grass next to each other.

GALVIN

I really can't believe he's gone.

MAALIK

Yeah, it sucks... How's his parents doing?

JAYLEN
It's been hard on them. Nick is
their only child.

ALISHA
Was...

A beat.

MAALIK
It's always gonna be there isn't
it? *That night.*

They share a moment of silence. Maalik stands up and places
his hand on the headstone.

MAALIK (CONT'D)
Rest in peace, bro.

The entourage leaves the cemetery together.

Our eyes focus in on the words inscribed on the stone -- "**IN
LOVING MEMORY of NICHOLAS FERGUSON, September 20th, 1995 -
October 31st, 2009**".

There's an epitaph below, that reads: "***Work out your own
salvation with fear and trembling. - Philippians 2:12***".

EXT. EVANS HOME - DAY

Maalik walks through his neighborhood with his backpack and
approaches his house to find an ENVELOPE with his name
written on it, taped to the door.

He stops and looks around for a moment. Then, he takes the
envelope down and notices there's no return address.

He pulls out a white card from the envelope and stares at
what's written on it, unnerved -- "**THIS ISN'T OVER.**"

Below the words, are a BIZARRELY DRAWN SMILEY FACE, with X's
for eyes.

FADE OUT - BLACK SCREEN

THE END