# A BURNING RING OF FIRE

# Written by

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Address Phone Number

### FADE IN

## EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - EVENING

A lonely, run down convenient mart and gas station somewhere between Tampa and Ocala.

BUZZ, mid-forties with long, grey hair and matching goatee, pulls into the parking lot on his black, 2003 Harley-Davidson.

Like Buzz, his Harley is far from showroom fresh, but both wear their miles like a badge of honor.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

BOY CLERK, late teens, sits on a stool, lost in his ear buds while he flips through a fashion magazine.

Buzz enters and taps his keys on the counter.

This arouses the boy's attention. He nods and casually grabs a pack of Marlboros from the rack behind him.

He slides them across the counter.

Buzz slaps down a 10 dollar bill.

BUZZ Keep th' change...

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

Buzz lights a cigarette as he stands by his bike.

A current model mini-van, clean and shiny, pulls in quickly in front of the store.

A PRINCESS, 7, carrying a plastic jack-o'-lantern, does the "I gotta pee" dance as she exits the passenger side.

Her MOM (20's) appears a few seconds later and drags her into the store.

BUZZ I guess it is Hallow-fuckin' ween, ain't it...I could use some free candy 'bout now.

A low fog rolls into the lot. He fires up the mighty V-Twin engine and roars into the mists.

EXT. A WOODED ROAD - EVENING

Buzz cruises down the dark, 2 lane stretch of road, lined with trees and forest.

An occasional pair of red eyes glance up from the brush, only to disappear when Buzz rolls by.

EXT. A WOODED ROAD - NIGHT

The fog has gotten thicker.

Suddenly, out of the mist, the WOMAN IN WHITE, head down and in a white wedding dress, appears in the middle of the road.

BUZZ

Fuck!

Buzz swerves to avoid her.

BUZZ Stupid bitch!

EXT. CATHERINE'S SPOT - MOMENTS LATER

He slows down and pulls over, cautiously placing his boots on the gravel.

BUZZ Hey! You alright lady? What the hell are you doing out here? Lady?

She is gone, vanished in the mists.

Buzz notices a run down, road side memorial, the kind that a family will post to mark the sight of a tragic accident.

He pulls away a few clumps of ragweed to reveal a wooden sign that reads "Too Fast, too soon. RIP Catherine M. Mooney. 1970 to 1991"

BUZZ Damn. Sorry to hear, Catherine.

Buzz reaches into the pocket of his leather jacket to grab a small bottle of Jack Daniels.

He pours some whisky over the sign.

BUZZ Here's to ya. Hope where ever you are, it's workin' for ya...

He takes a long swig and replaces the cap.

The man glances across the road. The Woman in white, her long, ratty black hair still covering her face, stands on the other side.

> BUZZ Hey! What's with you?

She motions for him to come.

BUZZ No...You can keep all your crazy to yourself...

He climbs back on the Harley, flips the starter switch, but no response. Again. Nothing.

# BUZZ

Fuck!

He looks up again; the woman is gone.

BUZZ

Figures.

Buzz pulls out an ancient flip phone. No signal. Frustrated, he hurls it into the woods.

He reacts to an invisible, ghostly hand touching his shoulder.

BUZZ What?! Lady, unless you got a cell phone with some mother fuckin' bars, I don't wanna deal with you right now!

No one is there. In the distance, the faint sound of drums is heard.

BUZZ What the...?

He sees the woman some distance behind him, again, motioning for him to come.

BUZZ Hope one these bastards has a god damned cell phone...

#### EXT. DEEPER WOODS - EVENING

Buzz continues to trudge through the woods as the Woman in White appears to float effortlessly in the distance.

The drums are louder. A scream is heard.

The biker breaks into a run.

EXT. PENTAGRAM CLEARING - NIGHT

In a clearing, Buzz sees that a dark ritual is taking place.

A dozen red-hooded figures, ACOLYTES, stand around a pentagram that has been burned into the ground.

Their hoods are extended, hiding any human like features in permanent shadow.

In the center of the star lies the body of a recently slaughtered hog.

One acolyte drums a steady rhythm, another holds a bloody knife and still another holds the heart of the pig.

The Woman in White hovers several feet above the pig in ghostly brilliance.

The drummer stops abruptly as all the hooded figures turn towards Buzz, then, after a beat, starts up again.

The Woman in white raises her arms. The drums grow in both speed and intensity as the pig carcass begins to levitate.

Sparks begin to orbit around the pig.

They match the tempo of the drum beat until they become a fiery blur.

Suddenly, the Woman in white screams and the pigs body and pentagram bursts into a mass of flames.

Buzz shields his eyes from the light and backs away.

The fire increases until it appears the whole center of the circle is nothing but a column of flame.

Then, as quickly as it started, silence.

Small flames still flicker around the circle, but the Woman in white, the pig carcass and the acolytes are gone.

Only one figure remains in the center of the pentagram.

BLACK DAHLIA, mid-20's and super model gorgeous, appears in a shimmering, dangerously low-cut black toga, a green sash wrapped around her waist.

BUZZ Now we're talkin'...

Dahlia slithers over towards Buzz.

She smiles and motions for him to join her in the center of the circle.

Enthralled, Buzz tries to move, but is stopped by a rotted, bony arm that grips his upper leg.

He glances towards the ground to see ZOMBIE CATHY, a decayed mass of torn flesh, worms and maggots. She wears tattered blue jeans and a ripped and filthy Warrant concert shirt.

#### BUZZ

#### Sweet Jesus?!

He tries to kick her away, but she won't let go.

Gaining her footing, Zombie Cathy manages to throw Buzz into the brush, further away from the circle.

Dazed, Buzz looks up to see Zombie Cathy on top of him.

She reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out the bottle of Jack.

BUZZ

C-Cathy?!

She smiles and, with a desperate look in her remaining eye, leans in for a kiss.

# BUZZ

Oh FUCK NO!

Two acolytes re-appear and grab Zombie Cathy.

Ignoring her screams, they drag her back into the circle.

Once inside the flames, CATHY (21) appears as a normal girl, pretty, with shoulder length brown hair and bright blue eyes.

Black Dahlia looks at her with scorn as she tries to stand up.

They appear to be arguing within the flames.

She shakes her head as she grabs Cathy's upper arm.

Fire flies from Dahlia's finger's as Cathy screams.

The walls of fire around the circle erupt again as the flesh around Cathy's arm blackens.

BUZZ Enough! Let her alone, Bitch! You want me? You want to eat my fuckin' soul? Go 'head. But let her alone!

Cathy looks through the flames. With tears in her eyes, she shakes her head and mouths "No".

Black Dahlia throws Cathy to the ground, her left arm still black and smouldering.

Dahlia smiles and motions for Buzz to "come hither" and enter the flaming circle.

Buzz stands, brushes the dirt from his jeans and prepares to do exactly that.

Before he does, Cathy lunges at Black Dahlia, which sends them both flying through the wall of flames.

Cathy reverts back to zombie form, while Dahlia turns into something else entirely.

MONSTER DAHLIA is 10 feet tall, with great talons for hands and fangs like daggers that drip with green and slimy saliva.

Her front and backside is covered with a thick mass of fur, matted with blood and carnage; the bare skin is cracked and burning, like lava cooling on a volcano.

Buzz goes after MONSTER DAHLIA with everything he has.

One acolyte tries to stop him and is quickly dispatched back into the fire, where he vanishes.

The other is grabbed by MONSTER DAHLIA and hurled at Buzz.

The red-hooded figure hits a tree and explodes.

Buzz grabs a branch and swings it at MONSTER DAHLIA, who grabs it like the stick it is...and incinerates it.

Buzz throws a punch but is blocked, his wrist grabbed by the monster. His leather jacket begins to smoke as her grip tightens.

He slips out of the jacket and darts behind her.

She turns quickly and sweeps Buzzes left leg, which sends him backwards towards the fire.

Monster Dahlia lunges at Buzz, but misses. Buzz has his back to the circle.

Dahlia smiles and inches closer towards Buzz, who is getting dangerously close to the flames.

Dahlia laughs as she is ready to make her final push ...

Bam! A zombied hand emerges from her front, a blacked heart burning in the skeletal grasp.

Screaming, Monster Dahlia stumbles back into the circle, as Zombie Cathy falls to the ground.

Transformed with no heart, Black Dahlia is engulfed by flames and in a blistering moment of pain and fury, she is gone.

The flames around the pentagram flicker as Buzz sits down next to Zombie Cathy.

He puts his arm around her shoulders and smiles at her.

#### BUZZ

I owe you one.

Zombie Cathy frowns as she points to the sky.

BUZZ Dawn is coming...So, like...Do you need me to kiss you in order to...I don't know...save you? Is that how this works?

Zombie Cathy nods.

BUZZ Fuck. I knew you were gonna say that...

With a grimace, Buzz shuts his eyes and kisses her.

As soon as their lips touch, she is immediately transformed into human Cathy and smiles.

They stand, hug and hold hands as he leads her to the edge of the circle.

Cathy smiles, steps into the circle and is covered with pure, white light as the sun rises.

Again, Buzz shields his eyes from the brightness.

When he opens them, everything is gone.

EXT. CATHERINE'S SPOT - MORNING

Buzz returns to Cathy's road side marker. He pulls a few more weeds and smiles.

Buzz puts the key in the ignition, opens the fuel line and climbs on the bike.

He flips on the start button, then fires up the engine. It starts flawlessly. Buzz slams it into gear and tears off into the early morning mists.

FADE TO BLACK.