

"CHIME"

FADE IN:

SUPER: "THEY COME ON HELL'S CHARIOTS, DRIVEN BY THE CHIMING OF BELLS.

INT. MOTOR HOME - NIGHT

The lights are dim, reflecting red from the curtains beside the bed.

A BOY (14) is strapped to the bed by a rope; his mouth gagged with a handkerchief.

Suddenly, from outside, FOOTSTEPS --

He wakes up.

He takes a look around, then begins to panic at the sight of his hands and legs strapped to the bed.

He starts to WHIMPER --

Suddenly, a WOMAN (26), dressed in a small white skirt and white blouse, with blonde hair, walks in with a tray.

WOMAN

(smiling)

Sh, Quiet now, child.

She dips a sponge into a bowl of warm water, then softly runs it across the Boy's brow.

She sets the sponge down, then picks up a syringe.

He SCREAMS; his body tossing and twisting.

She jabs his neck, then injects.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

(taking the needle  
out)

That wasn't so bad.

She picks up the tray, smiles, then walks out.

Suddenly, a MUSIC BOX starts to CHIME.

**NOTE: The MUSIC BOX will be heard periodically throughout the screenplay with the same distinctive LIGHT CHIMING.**

The MUSIC gets LOUDER, then LOUDER --

Small children's LAUGHTER --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His eyes white, face pale, tears rolling down the sides of his head.

In the shadows: figures walk toward him.

EXT. MOTOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

Dozens of motor-homes lined up, one after another, on a field, stretching past the horizon.

In the window of the motor-home: small silhouettes of THREE FIGURES walk to the bed.

Suddenly, they jump on him, ripping his flesh to pieces --

The MUSIC BOX continues to CHIME.

FADE OUT.

SUPER: "CHIME"

FADE IN:

INT. CAFE - THE NEXT DAY

SUPER: "OCTOBER 29"

The sound of LIGHT ELEVATOR MUSIC.

A small cafe: bucket-seats, a few booths occupied by PATRONS, sipping coffee.

The ground starts to SHAKE.

Spoons, cups, plates, pepper and salt shakers CRASH to the floor.

The Patrons look out the window:

A line of motor-homes, cars, and small busses pass by; one after the other, bumper to bumper, kicking up gravel.

INT. TINLEY HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

A hallway: lockers, teachers, and students -- a colony of ants.

JAMES FAYWORTH (15) and ERIC FENRICK (14), book bags slung over their shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIC

You check out the re-animator last night on TV?

JAMES

(disappointed)

That was on last night? Shit...

ERIC

I still can't believe someone actually gets paid to write that stuff.

JAMES

Ha! Wouldn't be too bad.

(a beat)

What you doing for Halloween?

ERIC

My parents are going to Chicago for a party...

JAMES

Their leaving you alone?

ERIC

No, they told Ms. Lard-face to check on me.

JAMES

Aw, they left you a baby-sitter --

ERIC

Shut up! Your parents would have done the same thing. We're turning 16 in what, a couple months? We can watch over ourselves, right?

James and Eric walks outside to:

EXT. BUS STOP - CONTINUOUS

ERIC

I mean, it's not like we're doing drugs. We'll be driving to school instead of...

(points at bus)

Taking this crap on wheels.

INT. BUS - MOMENTS LATER

Off in the distance, getting closer, a line of large automobiles, kicking up dust.

JAMES  
What is that?

ERIC  
(sarcastically)  
They are cars James. You know...  
you drive them --

They start to pick up speed.

James and Eric watch as they pass the bus: dozens and dozens of cars, motor-homes, and small busses.

One of the automobiles coming within feet of the bus.

JAMES  
Holy shit!

ERIC  
Bastards almost hit us.

Eric leans out the window.

ERIC (CONT'D)  
(shouting to the  
automobiles)  
Watch out tards!

EXT. FAYWORTH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

James and Eric hop off the bus.

JAMES  
Give me a call. Later!

ERIC  
Later!

James walks into his house.

INT. FAYWORTH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

MARY FAYWORTH (38) stands behind the sink, looking outside the window.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARY

Looks like our tax dollars are finally being put to use.

JAMES

What?

MARY

(pointing to a park  
down the road)  
Windsor Park, Look.

James looks at a field filled with motor-homes.

JAMES

They drove by the bus. Almost hit us.

MARY

One hell of a road trip.

JAMES'S ROOM - NIGHT

James, fast asleep, in a small twin bed.

Suddenly, from outside, the sound of someone SCREAMING --

His eyes shoot open.

The SCREAMING stops.

Silence.

AT THE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

James quietly walks down the stairs.

He walks over to the cupboard, grabs a glass, then fills it with water from the sink.

As he drinks he looks out the window at windsor park: a large fire in the center of the vehicles.

INT. MOTOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

A softly lit room, meticulously dressed.

In the back of the room, RYAN PHILLIP (16), is strapped to a bed, mouth gagged with a handkerchief.

A MUSIC BOX starts to CHIME.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A Woman walks into the room, same one as before, with a tray of items.

She sits beside him, lightly sponging his forehead.

WOMAN

It's alright. I'm not gonna hurt you.

She sets the sponge down and picks up a syringe --

Ryan WHIMPERS.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Shh. It's just a little prick. Won't hurt a bit.

She jabs it, forcefully, into his neck --

He SCREAMS, then stops as the medicine starts to take effect.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Wasn't so bad, now was it?

She picks up her tray, then walks out.

The MUSIC BOX gets LOUDER, then LOUDER...

Ryan looks at the shadows, across the room --

Suddenly, THREE CHILDREN walk into the light.

Their clothing torn, skin caked with dirt, their faces still hidden in the shadows.

Ryan's eyes widen as:

The Children walk into the light with their decaying flesh, worked down to the bone, and torched skin.

INT. TINLEY HIGH SCHOOL - THE NEXT DAY

SUPER: "OCTOBER 30"

A classroom, filled with TWENTY STUDENTS, and a TEACHER, at the blackboard.

PRINCIPAL

(over intercom)

This morning, Ryan Phillips was reported missing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

If any of you know or have any  
idea where he is please come down  
to the front office.

James leans over to Eric

JAMES

I thought I heard someone scream  
last night -- kind of sounded like  
Ryan.

ERIC

Sure it wasn't your mom?

JAMES

(sarcastically)

Hilarious.

(a beat)

I think we should go check it out.

ERIC

What? The freaks in the busses?

JAMES

Yeah, c'mon man.

ERIC

Fine, but if we get caught it was  
all your idea.

EXT. WINDSOR PARK - NIGHT

Silence.

James and Eric, dressed in black, walk slowly through the  
campsite, to:

A MOTOR-HOME

Burning embers blowing around from the wind in a pit in  
front of a large motor-home.

James walks up to the door.

JAMES

Keep watch.

ERIC

Screw that, I don't want to be the  
first one they see and I tell them  
"Oh sorry, I thought this was my  
house."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAMES

Fine, but we have to be quick.

James opens the door.

INT. MOTOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

Eric follows James, reluctantly, as they walk inside.

A GUST OF WIND blows the door shut with a LOUD BANG.

JAMES

(turning to Eric)

Make anymore noise, please?

James fumbles through the cupboards, tossing cleaning items: bleach, detergent, and dish soap, on the floor.

Eric walks over to:

AT THE BEDROOM

The floor spotless, curtains matching the bed's comforter.

Eric notices a small music box.

ERIC

Check it out.

Suddenly, the MUSIC BOX starts to CHIME.

JAMES (O.S.)

What did you do?

The lights dim out, leaving Eric in darkness.

He blindly runs to:

INT. MOTOR HOME - CONTINUOUS

James shuts the cupboards.

ERIC

Let's get out of here.

JAMES

Wait!

Eric walks over to the refrigerator, opens it --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIC

Oh my god!

He backs into a wall and falls to the floor.

EXT. WINDSOR PARK - MOMENTS LATER

James and Eric, run as fast as they can, neglecting the urgency to be quiet.

EXT. FAYWORTH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

James and Eric, out of breath, hands on knees.

JAMES

You think that was Rick's?

ERIC

I'm sure of it.

JAMES

What do we do with --

The sound of a WOMAN SCREAMING.

Eric and James look up at the windows of a house across the street.

The silhouette of a MAN and a WOMAN: the Man raises a bat, then swings it to the Woman's head --

ERIC

Holy shit!

James looks at the other houses and notices large red circles, on every door.

James looks back at his house: A large red circle painted on the door.

JAMES

(to himself)

Mom?

James runs inside the house.

ERIC

(running after James)

What are you doing?

INT. FAYWORTH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

James creeps up the stairs, one after the other, slowly --

A WINDOW BREAKS --

A WOMAN SCREAMS.

JAMES

Mom!

Something THUDS to the floor above.

James and Eric both turn to go downstairs.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Come on!

They bolt out of the door.

EXT. FAYWORTH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ERIC

Where should we go?

Suddenly, they hear someone walking close by --

They jump behind a bush, and look through the open gap.

A MAN (40), dressed in grungy clothing, facial hair, dragging something behind him: A WOMAN. It's James's mom.

JAMES

(whispering)

Mom?

Her eye lids peeled open, eyes rolled back.

ERIC

(forcefully  
whispering)

We gotta go!

Eric picks up James by the collar of his shirt, then they both sprint off.

EXT. TINLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Eric and James, out of breath, run up to the building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIC

Come on, there's a broken window!

They run up to a smashed open window.

JAMES

How did you know about this?

ERIC

Long story -- come help me with this.

Eric kicks the glass, then jumps through.

Off in the distance, SCREAMING, getting closer --

James jumps through the window.

INT. TINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Eric runs across a room filled with desks to:

AT THE HALLWAY

James runs close behind, tending to a cut from a piece of glass.

ERIC

Come on!

Eric opens the door to a small closet with sign that reads: "Janitorial Staff Only."

They run inside, then close the door.

Silence.

FADE OUT.

SUPER: "31 OCTOBER 2008"

FADE IN:

JANITORS CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

Eric turns on a small desk light.

JAMES

How did you know about this place?  
And the window?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIC

You remember that week I was gone?

JAMES

Yeah, the week you had mono?

ERIC

No, I got suspended. I threw a baseball through the window and then hid in here for pretty much the whole day of school --

Suddenly, a MUSIC BOX CHIMES.

JAMES

What is that?

ERIC

I -- I heard it in the bedroom in the motor-home.

JAMES

You don't think they're... here?

Underneath the door: shadows of Three Figures, walking, then stop --

JAMES (CONT'D)

Turn off the light!

Eric turns off the light.

The DOOR HANDLE starts to turn --

Eric and James back into wall.

James looks at a small bathroom to the left.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Quick, in there!

They run into:

IN THE BATHROOM

Eric and James lock the door, turn off the lights, then stand against the back wall.

They listen as: the door outside OPENS, the light sound of FOOTSTEPS.

The MUSIC BOX gets LOUDER --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then STOPS.

The sound of CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER... behind them.

The light turns on --

James and Eric watch as Three Children stand opposite of them, then:

AT THE HALLWAY

James and Eric SCREAM.

EXT. WINDSOR PARK - MORNING

SUPER: "HALLOWEEN"

A field completely empty; not a single motor-home, car, or bus.

EXT. FAYWORTH HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Windows smashed open, mailbox obliterated, the front door ajar.

Everything is dead.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

A long line of motor-homes, cars, and small busses speed by a sign, that reads: "WELCOME TO BAYVIEW. POPULATION 610."

FADE TO BLACK.