

Hope Falls

by
Stewart Wadwell
&
James Rosencrans

WGA: 1232083

EXT. HIGHWAY - SHOULDER - DAY

JAKE ADAMS (36), husky and unkept, walks along a lonely mountain highway. A duffel bag is slung over his shoulder.

He fidgets with a small handheld radio and tunes into an 80's classic. The song ends and the DJ comes on.

SARA (O.S.)
(radio, filtered)
Three more days folks and Hope
Falls has been around for one whole
century. Can you believe it?

The signal breaks up and comes back.

SARA (O.S.)
(radio, filtered)
I'll tell you one thing, you're not
going to wanna miss the bash we're
having down on Main Street this
Saturday night.

INT. RADIO STATION - DJ BOOTH - DAY

SARA THORNTON (36) is a beautiful and confident brunette. She sits at a microphone, clad in an AC/DC tee-shirt and a pair of jeans.

SARA
It's gonna be fun, fun, fun, 'til
her daddy takes the T-bird away. So
come on down, bring your dancing
shoes and to help get you all
practiced up, try a little bit of
this--

She hits a switch and an 80's party tune takes over.

She broadcasts her radio show from a DJ booth overlooking Main Street, Hope Falls.

BECKY THORNTON (16), brown hair, devilish smile, springs up in front of the large window.

Sara jumps back and clutches her chest.

Becky chuckles and moves to the front door. The door opens and Becky steps inside.

BECKY
Hey mom.

SARA

Don't you "hey mom" me. One of these days it's gonna be your turn and you're not gonna like it.

BECKY

You must be joking, I have nerves of steel!

SARA

Alright, princess of power.

Sara picks up a stack of advertising.

SARA

Do your mother a favor and run these over to Mrs. Carver down at town hall. And tell her I'll be around after the show.

With a sigh, Becky takes the bundle.

SARA

You're gonna be okay for a little while tonight, right? I'm not sure what time I'll be home.

BECKY

I think I can manage. I have some studying to do anyhow.

SARA

That's good. I'm glad too see you taking an interest in school again.

Becky shrugs.

The phone RINGS and Sara snatches it up.

SARA

CFUN.

(listens, to Becky)

I gotta take this, hon.

BECKY

So you just want me to toss these in the mail then and go straight home?

Sara gives her a look.

Becky smiles and waves as she steps out the door.

Sara shakes her head and sits down in the booth.

SARA
 (into the receiver)
 Hi, sorry about that...

EXT. MAIN STREET - SIDEWALK - DAY

Becky comes out of the radio station and heads up Main Street. She passes countless Boarded-up shop windows plastered with For Sale signs.

TOM FINCHER (17) swings his cherry red Iroc-Z over and revs the engine a few times.

With a big smile, Becky runs over.

INT. IROC-Z - PARKED - DAY

Becky leans through the window and kisses Tom.

BECKY
 Hey baby.

TOM
 Get in.

BECKY
 Can't.

TOM
 Come on. Some of us are heading
 over to the diamond.

BECKY
 I gotta do something for my mom.
 Whatcha' doing later?

Tom shrugs.

EXT. MAIN STREET - SIDEWALK - DAY

Becky bends over with her butt in the air and her head in the window of the Iroc-Z.

INT. IROC-Z - PARKED - DAY

Becky kisses Tom and grabs a lollipop from a stash on his dashboard.

BECKY

Have fun.

She slides back out through the car window.

EXT. MAIN STREET - SIDEWALK - DAY

With a wink, Tom peels away in the Iroc-Z.

Becky carries on down the street. She pulls the wrapper free from the lollipop and tosses it on the ground.

WADE (O.C.)

Just a minute there, missy.

Becky turns to see Sheriff WADE BOYLE (37), an overweight drunk that sweats too much. Behind him is his Deputy and henchman, DARYL GABLE (35).

BECKY

Yes, Sheriff?

Wade pulls out his citation book and points to the wrapper on the ground.

WADE

That right there, that's fifty dollars.

BECKY

But it just slipped out of my hand, Sheriff--

WADE

You could do the time I suppose, but you don't seem exactly cut out for lock up.

Daryl looks her up and down, Becky zips up her sweater.

WADE

Now, how you gonna pay a fine of fifty dollars, girl?

Daryl watches on with a snicker as Wade steps a little too close to Becky.

TRAVIS (O.C.)

Hey Wade, you got a second?

Wade, irritated by the interruption, turns to TRAVIS HOOPER (36), his friendly but dorky looking deputy.

WADE
What is it, Travis?

TRAVIS
I think this guy is casing the
bank?

Wade rolls his eyes, turns from Becky and joins Travis.

WADE
Who?

TRAVIS
There.

Travis points to a beat-up pickup truck parked outside of the bank.

EXT. MAIN STREET - BANK - DAY

HARVEY (early 80's) sits at the wheel of his pickup truck. He chews on his lip as he studies people enter and exit the bank.

EXT. MAIN STREET - SIDEWALK - DAY

Wade and Daryl gawk at Travis.

WADE
Are you fucking kidding me?

DARYL
Jesus Travis, I'll bet he can't
even see the fucking bank.

TRAVIS
I'm telling you, there's something
about the way he's watching that
place. Look.

Wade looks again.

EXT. MAIN STREET - BANK - DAY

Harvey looks up and down the street as the door to the bank swings open. PEARL (early 80's), shuffles towards the truck.

EXT. MAIN STREET - SIDEWALK - DAY

Wade turns to Travis.

WADE
For fuck's sake, Travis.

Travis looks puzzled and scratches his head.

Wade turns around and Becky is gone.

WADE
Oh that's just great.

He turns back to Travis.

WADE
You're not worth a pound of piss,
you know that?

DARYL
Now that's good police work,
Travis.

WADE
(to Daryl)
And you. Where the hell were you?

BUDDY BOYLE (44) pulls up in a fancy black SUV. He carries himself around in style and shows a lot of money.

TRAVIS
Hey, Buddy.

Buddy looks past him.

BUDDY
Get in, Wade.

WADE
(to Travis)
Go make yourself useful and get me
some lunch.
(to Daryl)
You, follow behind. And not so
goddamn close this time.

Buddy looks at Travis and Daryl.

BUDDY
Carry on officers.

The SUV pulls away.

INT. BUDDY'S SUV - DRIVING - DAY

Buddy coasts across town. Wade sits in the passenger seat and messes with the radio.

Buddy looks out at all the closed businesses and empty houses.

BUDDY
Rusty's coming in tonight.

Wade doesn't hear a word.

Buddy snaps the radio off.

BUDDY
We need to be on the same page here, Wade. This isn't like when we were kids.

WADE
Jesus, Buddy, you think I don't know that?

BUDDY
I mean it, Wade, don't fuck around. If we play this right, it means we're in the big time, Wade. The big time.

WADE
You're talking to your brother here. The Sheriff, as elected by the people of Hope Falls.

Buddy gives him a look.

WADE
Well, most of 'em anyway.

BUDDY
Just remember who got you the job. Keep the fucking roads open and see to Rusty.

Buddy stops the SUV in front of Town Hall.

WADE
What are we doing here?

Buddy reaches into the back and pulls out a paper bag.

BUDDY

I have to drop off Danny's plaque
for his scholarship award.

WADE

How much that set you back?

Wade takes the plaque. A polished oak and gold plaque with
the name, Danny Boyle, stamped on the front.

BUDDY

Twenty large.

Wade, staring at the plaque, loses himself in a memory for a
moment. A look of anger crosses his face.

WADE

It's a good way for the town to
remember our little bro.

He hands it back to Buddy.

EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

Buddy gets out of the truck, followed by Wade.

BUDDY

Rusty will call when he's in. Swing
around and pick up the package.
I'll come by the station in the
morning to grab it.

Buddy heads inside Town Hall. A large banner declaring Hope
Falls 100 years young hangs over the doorways.

Wade gets into Daryl's waiting police cruiser.

INT. TOWN HALL - OPEN OFFICE - DAY

Buddy walks into an open office, filled with a handful of
TOWNSFOLK standing over coffee and donuts.

MAYOR WALKER (67), a smarmy man with sweaty hands, greets
Buddy with a wide smile and a wet handshake.

MAYOR WALKER

Buddy, good to see you. How are
things?

BUDDY

Good, all things considered. Looks like this new contract could actually come together.

MAYOR WALKER

Excellent news. I was just telling Mrs. Carver, what a pillar of the community you've been through these tough times.

Buddy smiles at MRS. CARVER (77), a hard woman with a huge heart. She holds a stack of advertising and talks with Becky.

MRS. CARVER

Mr. Boyle, it's quite a thing you've been able to accomplish, keeping your business running while so many others have had to shut their doors. Congratulations.

MAYOR WALKER

Let's not forget that Buddy's trucking company has kept many folk in work.

BUDDY

Thank you.
(to the Mayor)
I just stopped by to drop off--

MAYOR WALKER

Danny's scholarship, of course, please come in to my office.

Buddy tips his head at Becky and follows the Mayor inside.

INT. TOWN HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Mayor Walker takes a seat behind his large oak desk and motions Buddy to a chair.

Buddy hands Danny's plaque to the Mayor and takes a seat.

BUDDY

It's settled then.

MAYOR WALKER

Well, there's just one little thing...

The smile falls off Buddy's face.

MAYOR WALKER

It seems tuitions are set to go up
in September.

BUDDY

That doesn't sound like my problem.

MAYOR WALKER

Buddy, this scholarship offers
security for some young up and
comer and we both know security
doesn't come cheap.

BUDDY

How much we talking about?

MAYOR WALKER

Another fifteen should do.

BUDDY

Ten and don't push it.

MAYOR WALKER

For a total of 30, then?

Buddy nods.

MAYOR WALKER

Like I was saying, Mr. Boyle,
pillar of the community.

The Mayor gives a victorious smile.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Rain comes down hard. Jake walks along the shoulder of a
rocky section of highway. His thick wool coat and a ball cap
are drenched.

Farther up the valley he notices the glow of city lights.

A pale blue pick-up truck pulls over up ahead. Jake tosses
his duffel bag in the back of the truck and hops in.

INT. RUSTY'S PICKUP TRUCK - MOVING - NIGHT

RUSTY (62) has a full grey beard and wears a red hunting cap.
He steers the truck like it was a yacht.

JAKE

Thanks for the lift.

RUSTY
This ain't no night for walking.

Jake settles in.

RUSTY
Folks 'round here call me Rusty.

JAKE
Good to meet you.

RUSTY
You from around here, son?

JAKE
Just passing through on business.
Working my way up to the coast.

Jake hides a little under the peak of his cap and fidgets with a Zippo lighter he pulls out of his pocket.

Rusty notices Jake's lighter.

JAKE
What's your excuse for being out in
this mess?

RUSTY
Business for me too I'm afraid.
Times are tough around here, got me
driving nights just to keep up.

JAKE
Seems like it's going around these
days.

Rusty pulls out a cigarette and cracks the window.

RUSTY
Better than begging on the corner.
Mind if I borrow your light?

Jake realizes he's holding his Zippo.

JAKE
(reluctantly)
Sure.

Rusty looks it over. A silver Zippo lighter with the blue diamond emblem of the 1st Marines.

Rusty recognizes the lighter and steals a look at Jake. He lights his smoke and gives the Zippo back.

RUSTY
Did you serve?

JAKE
Not with the marines.

Jake stuffs the Zippo back in his pocket and turns back to the window.

JAKE
It was my father's.

RUSTY
How 'bout some tunes? We should be able to get something now.

Rusty reaches out and turns on the stereo. An old rock 'n roll song picks up.

EXT. RUSTY'S PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT

Rusty's pick-up truck drives through a small, mountain community.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jake steps out of the pale blue pick-up into the rain and grabs his duffel bag out of the bed.

JAKE
Sure appreciate the lift.

RUSTY
Jake, you probably don't remember me but I was a friend of your fathers.

Jake is speechless.

RUSTY
It's alright. I just wanted you to know, anything you need while you're in town, you come see me. I'm just up the hill.

Rusty puts the truck in gear.

JAKE
Thanks.

RUSTY
Welcome back.

Rusty drives off.

Jake walks up a long gravel driveway. The yard is overgrown and the house is boarded-up.

He reaches the porch and finds a faded notice stapled to the door.

In large print it says, *FORECLOSURE*.

Jake finds the spare key on top of the door sill.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jake tosses the foreclosure notice on the kitchen counter and moves on through the house.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jake bursts into the bedroom and without getting undressed, crashes onto an old mattress.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - NIGHT

Rusted cars, old lawn mowers and broken equipment clutter an overgrown patch of land.

Sitting in the middle of the property is a well built log cabin and off to the side, a rickety old barn.

A huge hand-painted sign leans against a tree.

YOU LOOT, I SHOOT

A SONG on the radio announces Rusty's pick-up truck before it pulls into the driveway.

Rusty pulls up next to the house. He jumps out with a flat of beer and a duffel bag.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - PORCH - NIGHT

Rusty steps up onto the porch, it's covered in engine parts.

He tosses the duffel bag down next to a broken rocking chair and steps into his cabin.

Moments later a radio inside picks up the song from where it left off in the truck.

Rusty reappears with a beer, pops the cap and takes a long swig.

The radio inside goes STATIC.

WHOOSH!

A huge fireball soars out of the clouds, over the south ridge and SMASHES into Rusty's dilapidated barn.

For a moment, it seems the barn will survive the impact. Then, one piece at a time, the barn collapses into a heap of lumber and scrap metal.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - PORCH - NIGHT

Rusty's eyes never leave the barn. He chugs the rest of his beer and tosses the can over his shoulder.

He staggers over and finds a huge crater hidden amongst the debris.

Rusty clears away debris to reveal a large crater. Laying at the bottom is a jagged, rocky mass.

He looks up at the sky.

RUSTY
Couldn't it be the damn lottery?

Rusty snatches up a pitchfork and inches toward the mass.

Steam HISSES from its surface.

Rusty reaches out and taps it with the pitchfork.

The jagged, rocky mass shudders and falls onto its side. Half of it crumbles away as it settles into the ground.

He staggers back in disbelief.

The jagged mass shifts once more and a faint red glow appears from within.

Something, hidden in the darkness, scurries at Rusty's feet. He realizes that the ground is moving below him, drops the pitchfork and turns to flee.

A group of small jagged shadows pounce, knocking him to the dirt.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - NIGHT

Rusty's SCREAM echoes down the lawn. The radio inside his cabin moves onto the next song.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The small kitchen is dark and empty except for a coffee maker, a coffee cup and the foreclosure notice on the counter. Somewhere outside, the din of a small generator starts up. After a moment the kitchen lights flicker on.

The light on the coffee maker goes red and bubbles to life.

Jake appears, tosses a pair of work gloves on the counter and fills the sink with soapy water.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

With a deep sigh, Jake takes a look around. He pulls a sheet off a bookshelf.

He picks up an old picture frame. He rubs the dust away to reveal a picture of his parents. His dad lights his mom's cigarette with the 1st Marines Zippo.

Jake removes the other sheets and cleans away the years of dirt and dust. He spots a trunk behind the couch and pulls it out.

Jake lifts the lid and finds his father's memories. A marine's uniform, an American flag and other things from the past. A photo album sits on top.

Jake flips through the photo album. It contains old pictures of his father in the Marines during World War II, pictures of his mom and dad throughout the years and a picture of Jake as a kid, proudly dressed in his dad's military uniform.

He flips to the next page and it stops him.

A full page memorial photograph of his MOTHER, after her passing a few years earlier.

The next pages are blank.

Jake closes the book with a look of regret.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - YARD - DAY

The lawn mower sits in the middle of the overgrown yard.

Jake sets down his coffee and pulls the ripcord a few times and it fires up.

He pushes the mower onto the grass.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

Jake nails down a shingle on the roof.

He stands up and walks to the highest peak and looks out across the hillside.

It's about a hundred yards to the tree line. Farms surround Jake's property and down the hill is downtown Hope Falls.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

The house looks good; the lawn is cut and the drapes are open.

Jake hammers a "For Sale" sign into the ground and heads off back towards the garage.

INT. JAKE'S GARAGE - DAY

Jake reaches under the hood of a well used truck and unhooks the charger from the battery.

He tries the key and the engine roars to life.

INT. POLICE STATION - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

Buddy storms through the front office of the police station, past Travis and Daryl, and heads towards Wade's office.

INT. POLICE STATION - WADE'S OFFICE - DAY

Buddy bursts into the office, catching Wade with his feet up.

BUDDY

Did you do what I told you to do
last night, about Rusty?

WADE
He didn't call.

BUDDY
Well? Did you go see if he was
home?

WADE
No.

BUDDY
Goddamnit, Wade!

WADE
Well, I don't know what to tell
you, he didn't call, so we never
went over.

Wade yawns.

BUDDY
Oh, so I guess it's not your
problem then?

WADE
Buddy--

Wade goes to get up.

BUDDY
No, no, you've done quite enough
already. Go back to sleep.

Buddy storms out as fast as he came in.

EXT. HOPE FALLS CEMETERY - DAY

A row of gargoyles look over Hope Falls Cemetery.

Jake cleans up a set of two simple tombstones, side by side.

He sets a bouquet of flowers down and stands in silence for a
moment.

Jake snaps off a military salute, turns and leaves.

He walks through rows of headstones and stops when he sees
one in particular.

Danny Boyle.

Jake studies it for a moment and continues on.

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

Becky Kisses Tom.

BECKY
Good luck, champ.

Tom runs off to his school pals DAN, MIKE, COREY and PETE THOMPSON.

Dan is the pitcher. Mike's behind the plate. Corey steadies himself at shortstop, while Pete stands alone in the outfield.

Becky and KATIE (16) take a seat on the bleachers.

KATIE
I thought you were like, supposed to be cleaning your room or something?

BECKY
Yeah well, my mom's out, so what she doesn't know won't hurt her.

Tom swaggers up to the plate.

BECKY
Knock it outta here, Tom!

KATIE
Come on Dan, show me some heat!

Becky turns to Katie.

BECKY
So, Tom was telling me that they offered him a scholarship to Vermont.
(beat)
And he wants me to go with him.

KATIE
I thought you were going to stay here?

BECKY
That's before this place turned into a shit hole.

Dan winds up and throws. Tom fouls it off into the backstop.

BECKY
(to Tom)
Almost, honey!

Corey throws the ball back to Dan.

TOM
Goddamnit, Dan. Send me a fucking
fastball this time.

Dan shrugs, winds up and sends a heater right down the middle
of the plate.

CRACK!

The ball is long gone towards left field. It travels over the
head of Pete, over the fence and into the trees surrounding
the ball park.

Tom throws his arms up and trots around the bases.

COREY
Dude! That was the only ball.

DAN
What?

COREY
Pete didn't bring his balls?

Mike stands up, removing his mask.

MIKE
Jeez Pete, why the hell not?

Tom stamps on home plate.

TOM
'Cause he's a fuckin' woman.

Pete joins them in the infield.

PETE
That's not what your mom said last
night.

TOM
Whatever, fool. I'm done.

PETE
Aren't you gonna get my ball?

TOM
That's funny.

Tom joins Becky and they walk off.

The others join them.

Pete looks back at left field.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Pete scrambles down the embankment towards a stream.

From behind him, he hears a rustle of branches.

Pete kneels down and peers through the bushes and spots the baseball.

PETE
Bingo.

He lays onto his stomach and reaches through the bush to grab the ball.

PETE
Come on.

Pete's fingers move within inches of the ball, but the ball rolls to a stop next to a small PARASITE. It skitters forward on it's four spider-like legs.

A long tail whips out from under its jagged rocky shell and searches around. A small tubular-shaped head glows red.

PETE
Just. A little. Further

Pete pushes further into the bush.

A second Parasite appears and its tail snaps at the other Parasite in aggression.

Pete's hand inches closer to the Parasites, which are twice the size. His fingers brush a Parasite for an instant and its tail whips downward and strikes the dirt.

Pete grabs the baseball.

PETE
All right!

Pete pulls the ball free and looks at it.

PETE
That's not mine...

More Parasites appear behind Pete, spot him, and crawl towards him.

Pete lays back down into the dirt and rummages around for his own baseball.

A Parasite skitters forward and jumps onto his back. It runs up to his neck, strikes down with its tail and imbeds itself into Pete's neck.

Pete scrambles to his feet with a SCREAM. He flails around in a mad panic. Suddenly, he gurgles, grasps his throat and falls to the dirt, motionless.

The ball rolls from his outstretched hand as more and more Parasites appear.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - DAY

Buddy pulls up in his SUV and parks next to Rusty's blue pickup. He jumps out.

BUDDY
Rusty!

Buddy checks inside Rusty's truck.

He approaches the porch.

CREATURE P.O.V.

Something large watches Buddy from the ruins of the barn.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - PORCH - DAY

Buddy steps up onto Rusty's porch. The radio still plays inside. He opens the door and calls out.

BUDDY
Yo, Rusty?!

No answer. He looks around the cluttered porch and sees a bag next to the rocking chair.

He snaps it up and checks the contents. Buddy smiles and zips up the bag.

BUDDY

Where is that drunk son of a bitch.

On his way back to the SUV, he spots something in the collapsed barn.

Buddy goes for a closer look.

CREATURE P.O.V.

Something moves back as Buddy steps closer.

EXT. RUSTY'S BARN - DAY

As Buddy nears the collapsed barn, he sees Rusty's dead body staring up at him.

Rusty's body is gaunt and pale. His skin is covered in baseball sized cysts.

A tarp SNAPS in the wind and breaks Buddy's disgusted stare.

He thinks for a moment.

Buddy takes down the tarp and ties it over top of the crater.

There is no sign of the black mass or the Parasites.

He grabs the bag and turns for the SUV.

INT. LOU'S COUNTRY GRILL - NIGHT

Country music plays over the clatter of metal utensils on ceramic plates as a room full of TOWNSFOLK eat dinner.

Jake sits by himself in a dark corner, doing his best to keep to himself.

ENTRANCE

Sara pushes through the door and smiles at MARLY (26), a cowgirl waitress standing behind the register.

MARLY

Hey Sara, it'll just be a minute.

SARA

No problem.

Sara looks around while she waits.

The room is full of good, hard working Townsfolk sharing in conversation.

In the corner, Sara spots Jake. Her smile melts from her face.

She makes her way through the room.

SARA
Jake...?

He looks up to see Sara, hands on her hips.

SARA
You. You're out?

Marly passes by.

MARLY
(to Jake)
Another one, hon?

Jake notices two STUFFY TRUCKERS pointing at him from another table. One whispers to the other and they scowl.

JAKE
Actually, just the bill.

Marly scoots off.

SARA
Jake. You should have called. I mean. Wow. You're out. You're home. I don't know what to say?

She stands in total shock.

JAKE
I'm just passing through.

SARA
That's it? Sixteen years and all you've got to say is *I'm just passing through?*

There is a commotion at the front door.

ENTRANCE

Wade and Daryl stumble in. Drunk.

Marly rushes over.

MARLY
 Sorry Wade, we're full up. It'll
 just be a minute.

WADE
 What? Full up? No, no, no.

He laughs and she's not sure how to react.

Wade strolls into the restaurant with Daryl in tow.

JAKE'S TABLE

Jake and Sara watch on.

JAKE
 Is that?

SARA
 Wade Boyle.

Jake tosses some money on the table and stands up.

JAKE
 Well, it's past lights out.

SARA
 Jake, wait.

JAKE
 I'm not used to this civilized
 life.

LOUNGE

Wade stops at a table. TWO GUYS with mullets stop eating their greasy dinner and look up at him. He bows in return.

WADE
 Good evening, Ladies.

They look nervous.

Wade spots Jake and Sara walk to the door. His jaw flops open.

WADE
 (loud)
 Jake Adams?

ENTRANCE

Jake and Sara stop. Wade sways as he makes his way over. He sticks a chubby finger into Jake's chest.

WADE

It is you. I was just thinking of you, old buddy.

Wade turns to the quiet room of patrons.

WADE

You folks know who this is?

Everyone looks up.

WADE

This, this is convicted murderer, Jake Adams.

The room fills with chatter. Daryl crowds Jake.

WADE

And you all are having dinner, sitting right next to him.

Jake looks to the floor.

SARA

We both know your brother got himself killed.

WADE

Watch it, you mouthy bitch.

Jake's head snaps up, his eyes gun Wade, but he keeps his cool.

WADE

(to Jake)

You should have never come back here.

Travis exits the washroom and fights to get his zipper up. He looks up to see Wade and Jake square off.

Travis looks to Marly at the bar. She hands him a couple of beers as he moves towards the commotion.

TRAVIS

Wade!

Travis rushes over to Wade and hands him a beer.

WADE
(to Travis)
Finally, where the fuck have you
been?

Wade chugs the beer and leans in close to Jake. Travis pulls him back.

TRAVIS
Wade, there's a table in the
corner. Come on.

WADE
(quietly, to Jake)
We'll be seeing each other real
soon, Jakey boy.

SARA
(to Jake)
C'mon.

Wade spins around.

WADE
Where's my steak?

Jake and Sara turn and make their escape.

EXT. LOU'S COUNTRY GRILL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Sara trails Jake across the parking lot.

SARA
Jake...

JAKE
I should head back.

SARA
Just give me a moment!

Travis comes running out.

TRAVIS
Jake! It's you, you're out. God, am
I glad to see you.

Travis gives Jake a brotherly hug.

TRAVIS
You know, Wade won't let this go.

JAKE
Some people never change.

Sara looks to Jake.

SARA
Some people do.

Travis ignores the uncomfortable looks.

TRAVIS
So what's the plan? The Adam's
place like old times? We gotta lot
to catch up on.

Sara breaks a smile and looks to Jake.

JAKE
Sure. I guess so.

TRAVIS
Excellent! I'll go grab some cold
ones.

Travis turns and heads off.

Jake hops in his truck and tries the key. It won't start. He
tries again with the same result.

Sara moves to the driver's side window.

SARA
Come on. I'll give you a lift back.

INT. SARA'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Sara and Jake ride in awkward silence. They both go to say
something, but back down.

Finally, Jake speaks out.

JAKE
Look, Sara. It's not that I don't
want to stay... I just can't.

SARA
What do you mean you can't? What,
did you get married since you were
out?

She laughs. Jake looks down at his clenched hands.

SARA
You didn't get married did you?

Jake gives her a look.

JAKE
You saw the way people were looking
at me in there. To them, I'm a
murderer just like the courts said.

SARA
The ones that count know the truth.

Sara turns the wheel.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Sara's car turns into the long driveway and illuminates the
FOR SALE sign.

INT. SARA'S CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Sara looks at Jake.

SARA
So, that's it then? You're selling
the house and you weren't even
going to tell me?

JAKE
Sara...

She stops the car and gets out.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Travis awaits them outside his police cruiser.

Sara crosses the driveway and gives him a hug.

Jake gets out of the Sara's car.

SARA
I can't stay, I just wanted to say
thanks.

TRAVIS
But I got you girly drinks.

Sara turns and heads back to the car.

JAKE
Sara, wait.

SARA
I'll see you around, Jake.

She gets back in the car.

SARA
Or maybe not.

The tires spin and the car pulls away.

Travis looks at Jake.

TRAVIS
Just like the old times.

JAKE
Shut up and toss me a beer.

Travis smiles and pulls out a beer.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jake leads Travis into the Kitchen.

JAKE
Let's see if they got the power
going.

He tries the switch and the light comes on.

JAKE
Bet you haven't seen this place in
a while.

Travis just smiles. He looks at a picture.

TRAVIS
How's it feel to be back?

JAKE
Everything's sorta coming at me all
at once. Sarah. Wade. The memories.
And how the hell did Wade ever
become sheriff?

Jake takes a swig of beer.

TRAVIS

Yeah, well, you can thank Buddy for that. He's got the Mayor on a string. He pretty much runs the town now. With the mill closed, running rigs for Buddy is one of the only places to turn a wage.

JAKE

What about you?

Travis smiles.

TRAVIS

Me? I'm the fool or at least that's what they tell me.

Jake grabs more beer and they head out to the back porch.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

Jake and Travis take a seat on the porch. They look up to the crystal clear sky.

TRAVIS

What this town needs, is a good cleanse. From top to bottom. Sweep the garbage right out the door.

JAKE

Someone should do something.

He takes a drink of beer and looks over to Travis who stares back, a smile on his face.

JAKE

Right, me, the convict.

TRAVIS

So that's it, life's over?

JAKE

I'm not the same person that went into that place, Travis.

TRAVIS

And this ain't the same place you left, Jake. There's people here that need you.

JAKE

Yeah, well, I told her to move on the last time she came to see me. She's too good to be locked down with someone like me.

TRAVIS

It's more than just Sara. This is home whether you like it or not.

Jake thinks about it for a moment.

TRAVIS

It's good to see you man. I gotta get back before Wade starts thinking.

Travis downs the rest of his beer.

JAKE

It's good to see you, Travis.

Travis gets up and steps into the house and then turns to Jake.

TRAVIS

And Jake. Make me a promise. Don't skip town without making it right with Sara. A lot has changed since you left.

Travis disappears.

Jake looks up. Somewhere in the distance a small orange ball of light streaks across the night sky and disappears into the endless miles of woodland.

INT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Becky sits on the couch and makes out with Tom. Car lights flash across the drapes behind them.

BECKY

Shit.

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sara's Chevy pulls up to her small bungalow.

INT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door swings open, Sara steps inside and drops her purse on the counter of an open kitchen.

Becky sits on the couch alone, the television on.

TV REPORTER

And Federal investigators are still searching for clues on a rash of stolen semi-trucks along the I-5.

Becky switches the TV off.

BECKY

Oh, hey mom.

SARA

Did you eat?

BECKY

Yeah, I fired up the leftovers from last night.

Sara closes an open kitchen window.

SARA

I told you not to keep the windows open.

She spots something that leans against the kitchen counter. A baseball bat.

SARA

How was study group?

BECKY

Fine.

SARA

And Tom?

Becky swings around on the couch.

Sara puts the baseball bat onto the kitchen counter.

BECKY

Tom wanted us to keep that here, you know, 'cause of... burglars?

SARA
(sarcastic)
Really? That's so thoughtful of
him.
(beat)
And this?

Sara holds up a baseball glove.

BECKY
Oh. That... he, uh...

SARA
I said no boys when I'm not around.

BECKY
Mom, I'm sixteen!

SARA
And living under my roof.

BECKY
Whatever.

SARA
Whatever? How's you're grounded
for, *whatever*.

BECKY
What? But it's the festival
tomorrow.

SARA
Well, you need some time to think
about the choices you're making
young lady.

Becky looks at her mother and then stomps off towards her
bedroom. She stops at the hallway.

BECKY
I'm not a baby anymore.

She storms upstairs.

SARA
(to herself)
I know.

Sara sits at the kitchen table and puts her head in her
hands.

INT. TRUCK SMART - OFFICE - NIGHT

Buddy sits in a large leather chair behind a fancy oak desk. He's on the phone.

BUDDY

We're set for tomorrow.

(listens)

The old church at nine. I'll be there.

Buddy hangs up.

EXT. RUSTY'S BARN - NIGHT

Rusty lays dead. His body, hollow looking. Some of the cysts have split open, leaving craters of puss and blood.

A tiny spider-like leg stabs out and tears a cyst open. Inch by inch, a newly born Parasite pushes itself out of Rusty's stomach.

The Parasite stumbles and steadies itself on its legs. Its tail rises and moves back and forth. Slowly, its tube-shaped head pushes out from under the front of its rocky shell.

It skitters up the rubble and stands on the edge of the crater. The Parasite is joined by another and then another.

A Farm is lit up in the distance.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

A big barn stands next to a run down farm house.

A light shines down over the lot and illuminates a pickup truck parked in front of the house.

The screen door on the farm house CREAKS in the night breeze.

INT. FARM HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

JOE, a middle-aged farmer, snaps awake.

JOE

Ma' cows.

His wife, middle-aged AGATHA, stirs beside him.

Joe listens for a moment and then jumps out of bed and throws on a red plaid shirt.

JOE
This'll be the last time those damn
kids go tipping ma' cows.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

The light comes on and Joe rushes out onto the porch with a shotgun.

A cow at the other end of the farmyard calls out.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - COW PASTURE - NIGHT

The silhouette of cows roam in a pasture.

One of the cows lets out a MOO and crumples to the ground.

A moment passes and the same thing happens to another cow, followed by the rest in the pasture.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Joe steps off the porch. Something dashes across the gravel. He stops.

JOE
That wasn't no teenager.

He cocks the hammer on the shotgun.

Joe makes his way back to the porch. Something rushes past to his right. He aims at something and hears CLICK-CLICK, CLICK-CLICK.

He snaps around and jumps back.

JOE
Jesus, Joseph and Mary.

A Parasite, grown bigger, is on the other end of the porch. It waves its tail around and senses Joe's presence.

JOE
What the hell are you?

Joe flinches towards it, but it doesn't move an inch.

JOE
Brave little fella.

He shifts the big gun slightly and fires from the hip.

BOOM!

The Parasite explodes into a black mist.

JOE
Not that tough though.

After a moment another Parasite appears. This one is even bigger.

BOOM! A black mist.

More Parasites converge on the porch, all different sizes.

Joe struggles to reload the shotgun as they close in.

AGATHA (O.C.)
Joe? What on earth is going on down there?

Joe drops a shell.

AGATHA (O.C.)
Joey?!

The Parasites grow in numbers as they move closer.

Just as Joe snaps the barrel shut, Agatha rips the door open.

AGATHA
What the hell is going on out --

A Parasite skitters up Joe's body and stabs its tail into his neck. Joe crumples to the ground, clawing at his throat. He gurgles and falls still, eyes wide open.

Agatha screams.

AGATHA
Joe!

She kicks the parasite out into the yard and picks up the shot gun.

A group of Parasites crawl on to Joe.

AGATHA
You get off my Joey!

Agatha swings the gun frantically around to knock the Parasites off.

BOOM!

The gun fires, blowing Joe's arm off. He doesn't even flinch.

AGATHA

Oh, God.

Agatha drops the shotgun in absolute horror and dashes into the house.

A moment later Agatha returns with a set of car keys.

AGATHA

Just wait here, Joey. I'll get the truck.

She dashes off across the lot.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Agatha slips the key in and pops the lock.

She grabs the handle and as she's about to open the door, a glowing red reflection rises in the car window.

A HUGE Parasite leg slams into her back, driving her head first through the truck window.

As she's pinned to the truck, a horde of Parasites crawl up her body and begin to tear into her.

EXT. MAIN STREET - STAGE - DAY

Townfolk set up booths along both sides of Main Street.

Two RUGGED MEN fold open a trailer to reveal a shooting range with stuffed animals hanging from the ceiling.

A YOUNG BOY sets bottles in a crate for ring toss.

Sara and Mrs. Carver work on hanging a huge "HAPPY 100TH HOPE FALLS" banner over the stage.

INT. POLICE STATION - WADE'S OFFICE - DAY

Wade sits at his desk as he nurses a hangover.

Buddy stands by the window. He peaks through the closed blinds.

BUDDY

I was looking for you last night.

Outside, MRS. THOMPSON (late 40's), walks up to the station. She looks distressed.

WADE

Fucking Jake Adams. Can you believe it? He came crawling back. After all these years.

BUDDY

We're moving forward with the plan.

WADE

I'm gonna kill that son of a bitch.

Buddy opens the blinds.

Wade flinches away from the sunshine pouring into the office.

BUDDY

Leave it alone, Wade. We have bigger things to deal with right now.

Wade gets up and closes the blinds.

WADE

He killed our little brother and you want me to leave it?

BUDDY

For now, let's just get this thing done tonight and then we'll talk about it.

Wade looks at Buddy with defiance.

WADE

I don't know if I can do that.

BUDDY

Wade, this little deal is set for tonight for a reason. When everyone's up at the fair having fun and playing games, I'm going to be making a deal that'll put us into a whole new ball game.

Wade works it out in his head.

BUDDY

We don't want anything but the fair
on their minds.

The phone RINGS. Wade snatches up the receiver.

WADE

Yeah.

He listens for a moment and hangs up the phone.

WADE

Travis says there's trouble up at
Joe's farm.

Buddy holds his hands up in the air.

BUDDY

Can't this town just enjoy itself
for one goddamn weekend?

Wade grabs his hat and they head out.

INT. POLICE STATION - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

Mrs. Thompson stands at the police desk with Daryl.

Buddy and Wade come out of the office.

WADE

(to Daryl)

I'm going out for a while. I've got
my phone.

Mrs. Thompson latches on to Wade's arm.

MRS. THOMPSON

Sheriff, it's my boy, he's missing.

WADE

Maybe you didn't hear, I'm going
out.

Buddy intervenes and shoots Wade a dirty look.

BUDDY

I'm sure what the sheriff means is
that if you give your statement to
his deputy here, he'll get on it
right away.

DARYL
 You can leave it with me, Mrs.
 Thompson.

Mrs. Thompson looks at Daryl, unimpressed.

Buddy smiles and pulls Wade out of the police station.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - COW PASTURE - DAY

DOC GORDON (60), the haggard looking town doctor, stands in a field full of dead cows, a coffee in his hands. He bends down and takes a closer look at a cow.

Baseball size cysts cover the cow carcass and its eyes are open.

Doc Gordon pokes at one of the red and swollen cysts with a stick. It's stiff inside the skin.

DOC GORDON
 Well, isn't this something.

He sets his coffee down and snaps on a rubber glove.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

Travis, in uniform, stands with Jake on the front porch of Joe and Agatha's farm house.

JAKE
 I was out walking the property and saw one of the cows dead in the field. I came over for a closer look and that's when I saw the rest of them.

Travis scribbles down notes.

JAKE
 I called you from the phone inside.

TRAVIS
 Touch anything?

JAKE
 Just the door handle and phone.

Travis takes note and closes his note pad.

TRAVIS
What are you thinking?

JAKE
I came back at the wrong time.

They look over the crime scene.

The end porch is splintered from gunfire. The truck's window is smashed in and there's a shotgun lying in the middle of the yard.

JAKE
And where the bodies are hidden.

Travis points out lines in the gravel leading off to the field.

TRAVIS
I guess those could be drag marks.

Travis gets down and takes a closer look.

JAKE
It's a damn waste, you playing the jester to a bunch of fools. You gotta show them what you're made of.

TRAVIS
You better get out of here. Wade and Buddy will be here any second.

JAKE
Thanks, Travis.

TRAVIS
Oh, and Jake, Sara's down setting up the fair, in case you had something to say.

Jake moves back through the tree line towards his property.

Travis sees Buddy's SUV speed up the road and stop in the middle of the driveway.

Buddy and Wade jump out.

TRAVIS
You need to move this vehicle, you're right in the middle of a crime scene.

BUDDY
Where's Doc and what the hell's
going on?

Travis points to the cow pasture.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - COW PASTURE - DAY

Buddy and Wade find Doc Gordon examining one of the cows.
Travis follows behind them.

WADE
What the hell is all this? Some
kinda mad cow thing?

DOC GORDON
Uh, no.

BUDDY
Is this something I need to worry
about Doc?

DOC GORDON
I can't say for sure. I'm gonna
need to get a sample of the
specimen back to my lab.

Doc holds up a Sawz-All and starts carving off a cow limb.

Wade turns to Travis.

WADE
Where's Joe?

TRAVIS
Can't say for sure.

WADE
Whatdya mean? Who reported it then?

Travis pulls out his note pad and thumbs through a few pages.

TRAVIS
It was, a one, Jake, Jake Adams.

Wade becomes incensed.

WADE
And you didn't hold him?

TRAVIS

I took a full statement. He was free to go.

WADE

Convicted murderer Jake Adams discovers a murder and you let him go?

TRAVIS

Well, technically it's not a murder, unless the cows count.

Wade gets in Travis' face.

WADE

Are you looking for a suspension officer?

Doc Gordon pops up holding up a bloody cow leg covered in cysts.

DOC GORDON

That should do.

He seals it in a garbage bag.

BUDDY

What did he say, Travis?

Wades shares a look with Buddy.

TRAVIS

He was checking out his property.

WADE

Yeah. Right.

BUDDY

What else?

TRAVIS

He spotted the cows, called me and I came over.

BUDDY

Where's Joe and Agatha?

TRAVIS

Well, there's drag marks in the gravel under your SUV.

WADE
Leading right past Jake's property.
(to Buddy)
Come on, Bud. Let me bring him in.

TRAVIS
Even you can't think he did all
this?

BUDDY
Do you know where the suspect is
now?

Travis shrugs.

TRAVIS
He mentioned that he might head
back into town.

Buddy turns on his heels, Wade and Travis follow.

Buddy whispers something to Wade and carries on to the SUV.

Wade turns to Travis.

WADE
I want you at the festival to make
sure everyone's having a safe time.

TRAVIS
But Wade, this was my call. I found
the drag marks. I should be here,
handling this.

WADE
Travis, shut the fuck up and get to
Main Street.

Travis hates it, but turns and heads back to his police
cruiser.

Wade joins Buddy in the SUV

INT. BUDDY'S SUV - PARKED - DAY

Buddy looks across at Wade.

BUDDY
You need to get Daryl up here. Only
Doc gets in or out.

WADE

What'd you tell the doc?

BUDDY

What you need to worry about is
Jake Adams.

WADE

What?

BUDDY

You need to find Jake Adams, right
now. I don't want him spilling any
of this shit to the wrong crowd.

Wade smiles.

WADE

Damn Buddy, I knew you'd come
'round. I'm gonna get that fucker
for us.

BUDDY

Just keep it cool, Wade.

Wade punches the dashboard in excitement.

WADE

Hot damn.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - DAY

Jake pulls up to Rusty's place in his truck.

JAKE

Rusty?!

He jumps out of the truck, runs up to the house and looks
inside.

JAKE

Anyone home?

He opens the door.

Jake steps away from the house and looks over the yard.

Jake spots the mass of lumber and metal, once called a barn.
The big blue tarp, tied over part of the debris, flaps in the
wind.

Curious, he crosses the yard.

EXT. RUSTY'S BARN - DAY

Jake reaches the remnants of the barn.

JAKE

Rusty, you out here?

Jake picks up Rusty's pitchfork lying on the ground and inches up to the edge of the crater.

Everything seems quiet.

He unties the rope and the wind whips the tarp out of his hands.

Rusty's body is slumped back against a wood panel. He's drained to the point where his skin hangs off his frame.

JAKE

Jesus.

Jake undoes the other rope holding the tarp and jumps down into the crater.

Pete, Joe and Agatha are slumped across each other in various states of being drained.

Jake covers his mouth and falls back in shock.

Pete's body starts to shiver and a tiny Parasite pushes its way out of a cyst on his neck. Two more burst out of cysts on his leg.

JAKE

Alright, this might have been a mistake.

The Parasites gain their balance and scan around with their tails.

Jake pulls the tarp over them and lunges for the top of the crater with everything he's got.

His foot holds and he pushes himself up and out of the crater. He rolls onto his back just as a huge pointy leg slams into the dirt beside him.

Jake looks up to see a monstrous Parasite standing over him.

Its huge tail scans around. Its head, a large tubular shape, glows red.

Jake rolls to his right, picks up the pitchfork and stabs upward.

He hits home and two of the forks pierce the side of the giant beast's tubular head.

It rears up and tears the pitchfork free, leaving a gash down the side of his face.

SCARFACE hunkers down, ready to attack. Its tail sweeps around and finds Jake.

He's already at his truck.

Scarface skitters after him.

Jake rips open the door to the truck and jumps behind the wheel.

Scarface closes in.

He slams the key in the ignition and it stalls.

JAKE

Not now, you bitch!

He tries again. The engine fires up and he throws the truck in reverse.

Scarface, twelve or so feet away, spins and whips its tail.

The huge stinger stabs right through the door, grazing Jake's leg. He hits the gas and the truck pulls free.

EXT. RUSTY'S LOG CABIN - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jake's truck peels out of the driveway.

In the bed of the truck, Parasites hide amongst his tools.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - DAY

Jake races across town.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Jake jumps out of his truck and runs through Main Street.

A couple of townsfolk look at him and whisper.

He sees Sara ahead, up on the stage.

EXT. MAIN STREET - STAGE - DAY

Sara sets up flowers next to the podium. Jake jumps up and grabs her arm.

JAKE
Sara, you need to come with me,
right now.

Sara turns to see Jake's disheveled state.

SARA
Are you okay?

JAKE
No time for chit chat, we gotta go.

Jake rushes Sara down from the stage.

She pulls her arm away.

SARA
Jake.

JAKE
Sara, trust me.

Sara runs with Jake, past the Townsfolk.

EXT. JAKE'S TRUCK - PARKED - DAY

Jake and Sara jump in the truck. The engine fires up and it peels away.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - DRIVING - DAY

Jake drives out of town with Sara next to him.

SARA
We're not kids anymore. If you want
to talk you just have to ask.

JAKE
Sara, I just came from Rusty's
cabin and there's something up
there.

Sara sees the blood stain on Jake's jeans.

SARA

Oh my god. Are you okay? What happened?

JAKE

We're getting Travis, he's at the farm, and we're getting the hell out of town.

SARA

Whoa, slow down. I can't just pick up and leave town. Leave everyone.

Jake slams on the brakes and the truck slides to a stop.

JAKE

Rusty is dead. Whatever killed him is coming. This is not a game, Sara. We have to get out of here.

Sara looks into his eyes. He's serious. She trusts him.

SARA

We have to go to my place.

JAKE

What? Now?

SARA

We can't leave without...

Sara turns to the window.

A Parasite tail smashes through the back window and stabs Sara in the shoulder. She slumps against the window.

Jake grabs the Parasite and pulls it through the window.

He smashes it off the dash a few times and throws it out the driver's side window.

Jake reaches over to Sara and checks her pulse.

His foot hits the accelerator.

INT. DOC'S CLINIC - DAY

Doc Gordon runs a scalpel over one of the cysts. Ooze spills out and runs down the cow flesh.

DOC GORDON

This is truly unique.

He picks up a voice recorder and turns it on.

He slips in a pair of forceps and pulls out a premature Parasite. Black rubber jelly hangs under the shell.

DOC GORDON
 (into recorder)
 It seems the creatures grow from a
 sort of jelly-like substance,
 hatched beneath a host's skin.

He sets it down on a board and cuts the jelly across the middle.

It separates to reveal an evil looking, insect-like skeleton. It's still alive.

It writhes for a moment, until it finally stretches out into a T-shape and dies. The rocky shell crumbles in his hands.

Headlights pass through the window and Doc Gordon goes to the door.

EXT. DOC'S CLINIC - DAY

Jake picks Sara out of the passenger seat of his truck.

Doc Gordon rushes to Jake's side.

DOC GORDON
 What happened to her?

JAKE
 She got stung by one of those,
things.

DOC GORDON
 Let's get her inside.

He checks Sara's breathing and circulation as Jake carries her inside.

INT. DOC'S CLINIC - OPERATING ROOM - DAY

Doc Gordon lays out a fresh sheet and Jake sets Sara down.

Doc Gordon opens her shirt and sets a stethoscope on her chest.

DOC GORDON
 Where was she stung?

JAKE
The shoulder.

Jake watches on, nervous.

Doc Gordon pulls Sara's shirt aside and sees a nasty puncture wound.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

Daryl sits on the hood of his police cruiser and listens to a recording of Sara on the radio.

SARA (O.S.)
(on the radio, filtered)
Come on down this Saturday night,
it's a party you're not going to
want to miss.

DARYL
(to the radio)
That's just great, and I'm sitting
here baby-sitting steak.

He throws a rock out into the cow pasture, hops down and gets into his cruiser.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - COW PASTURE - NIGHT

The rock bounces into the center of the cyst infected cows.

A cyst on a cow's shoulder splits open. Then another one on its leg.

Soon after, all the cysts, on all the cows in the field, hatch.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

Daryl parks the cruiser in front of the stable. He leaves the headlights on against the wall.

He takes off his coat and snaps out his night stick.

Daryl works out with his night stick in the headlights of his police cruiser.

He strikes out at his huge shadow.

DARYL

Yeah, take some of that.

Two more shots. Daryl spins around.

DARYL

Oh, you want some... too.

He freezes.

Out of the cow pasture, the ground is alive with hundreds of Parasites crawling towards him.

One breaks out of the pack and leaps at Daryl.

He screams like a girl and covers up.

The Parasite lands on him and whips its tail into his back.

Daryl is swarmed by Parasites before he hits the ground.

An army of Parasites skitter off toward the lights of Hope Falls, leaving behind Daryl's ravaged corpse.

EXT. MAIN STREET - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

A big crowd of Townsfolk mingle around the center stage.

Mrs. Carver hands Mayor Walker his speech, the Danny Boyle plaque and straightens his collar.

Mayor Walker steps up onto the stage to scattered applause and takes the microphone.

MAYOR WALKER

Everyone looking to have a good time tonight?

The crowd cheers.

MAYOR WALKER

Alright. That's what I want to hear.

The Mayor checks his speech.

MAYOR WALKER

Well, Happy 100th Birthday, Hope Falls!

The crowd CHEERS.

MAYOR WALKER

Now, I know we've seen better times
what with the mill closing and all.
But we're fighters in this town.

He waits for a cheer that doesn't come.

MAYOR WALKER

And fighters never quit.

Travis works something out from under his fingernail.

MAYOR WALKER

We have a few things in the works
that are going to breathe new life
into our streets. But before I go
on, I'd like to thank Buddy Boyle
and his business for making all you
see around us possible. Without his
generous donations, things like
tonight would not take place.

Some applause ripples through the crowd.

MAYOR WALKER

And to mark this special occasion,
it gives me great honour to
announce that Buddy has funded a
scholarship in the name of his
dearly departed little brother,
Danny Boyle, so tragically taken
from us 16 years ago. The first
annual Danny Boyle scholarship will
be awarded to the top academic
student. And not only will you get
this beautiful plaque, but a cheque
donated by the Boyle Foundation for
\$15,000, which we will be handing
out later tonight.

Applause.

MAYOR WALKER

But for now, let's get out there
and whoop it up. Happy 100th, Hope
Falls.

The crowd cheers and disperses across Main Street.

EXT. MAIN STREET - FAIR - NIGHT

Travis walks through the crowd of townsfolk as he chomps on some cotton candy. Everyone smiles, everyone has a good time.

He sees Wade pull up in his cruiser and scan the crowd.

TRAVIS
Looking for someone?

Wade is pissed to see Travis.

WADE
You let a murderer walk away from a crime scene and you want to know if I'm looking for someone?

Wade shoves Travis aside.

Townsfolk turn to see Travis stumble back and fall on his ass. A ripple of laughter passes through the crowd.

Wade stands over Travis.

TRAVIS
Gee, sorry, Wade. I gotta watch where I'm going.

WADE
Are you retarded or something? Is that your problem?

Wade's phone rings.

INT. TRUCK SMART - OFFICE - NIGHT

Buddy is at his desk, on the phone, with an open briefcase in front of him.

BUDDY
Hey brother, we're all set?

CROSSCUT CONVERSATION

Wade finds some privacy.

WADE
No sign of Jake, the dead man yet, but don't worry I'll find him.

BUDDY

That's good, Wade. Just remember,
you need to meet me here after the
deal's done to drive the truck.

Wade scans the crowd. Hardly listening to Buddy's orders.

WADE

Yeah, I know. You told me already.

BUDDY

No matter what, Wade, we need to
get this shit stashed.

WADE

Buddy, it's no problem, I'll be
there.

Wade hangs up.

INT. TRUCK SMART - OFFICE - NIGHT

Buddy pockets his phone, stuffs a pistol under his coat and
takes one last look at the contents of the briefcase.

It's full of cash.

He closes it and heads out.

INT. DOC'S CLINIC - OPERATING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake and Doc Gordon stand over Sara.

JAKE

How much longer?

DOC GORDON

I'm not sure. If it is a toxin,
depends on the dose.

Sara GASPS and bolts upright.

Jake sighs with relief.

SARA

My head.

Sara's neck is stiff when she tries to move.

SARA

Ouch.

She touches the back of her shoulder and jumps at the sight of blood on her fingertips.

JAKE

You were stung by one of those things. Knocked you out for a while there.

Sara looks confused.

DOC GORDON

What you felt was the result of a heavy sedative. You're going to be fine once it passes through your system.

Sara is still drowsy.

SARA

What was it?

Doc wheels over a medical cart.

On it, the skeleton of the premature Parasite lays spread out in a T-shape.

DOC GORDON

This is the skeleton of a premature hatchling. See how the back legs are just beginning to develop.

He points to two nubs on the tail.

JAKE

(to Sara)

The one I saw up at Rusty's place was the size of a Volkswagen.

DOC GORDON

It sedates its victim with venom from its tail and latches on, laying eggs and consuming the host through this tubular-like head.

She looks at Jake.

SARA

When I was out, I could see everything that was going on, like I was trapped in my body.

DOC GORDON

Really?!

(into voice recorder)

The host must be needed alive to help incubate the unborn. Amazing.

JAKE

Eggs, Doc? You mean it eats and lays eggs at the same time?

The Doc looks up from his voice recorder.

DOC GORDON

Well, upon further examination the cysts are actually eggs under the skin. So yes. It breeds and feasts at the same time.

(shakes head, muttering to himself)

A marvel. A true marvel.

Sara goes over to the sink and splashes some water on her face.

SARA

Where did that thing come from?

She points to the creature on the tray.

DOC GORDON

The infected cow's at Joe's farm.

Doc goes over to a deep freeze, pops the lock and opens the freezer.

A cyst covered cow's leg festers inside.

DOC GORDON

The creatures use hosts for food and incubation of its unborn. Its almost like they are--

JAKE

A parasite.

DOC GORDON

Yes! Exactly!

JAKE

And don't parasites spread uncontrollably?

DOC GORDON
That's right. And what's more
worrisome is that their gestation
period is quicker than any parasite
I know of.

JAKE
So we could be seeing hundreds of
these parasites, all potentially
growing to the size of cars?

DOC GORDON
Hundreds. Thousands. Then millions.

SARA
We have to call someone.

DOC GORDON
I have placed calls to NASA, the
CDC, the CIA, the FBI and CNN. They
all told me the same thing, they'd
call me back.

Sara and Jake take a closer look at the specimen. Something
shifts inside the bulbous cysts.

JAKE
Close the lid.

Doc Gordon slams the deep freeze and something crashes
against the inside. Doc Gordon keeps the lid shut.

DOC GORDON
They must have hatched.

The Parasites inside the deep freeze bounce off the walls.

DOC GORDON
And that means so have the others.
You need to go warn the town.

SARA
Oh my god, Becky.

JAKE
Who?

DOC GORDON
Go. I can hold this.

JAKE
Good luck, Doc.

Jake and Sara run out of the operating room.

EXT. DOC'S CLINIC - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Jake and Sara burst out of the clinic door and make a break for Jake's truck.

Inside, they hear a CRASH. Doc Gordon SCREAMS out and suddenly fall silent.

JAKE

Get in.

They both jump into the truck and speed off.

INT. BECKY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Soft music plays from a stereo as Becky and Tom lay on top of the bed, smoking a joint.

BECKY

Do you think we'll make it?

TOM

You and me baby, we're going all the way to the majors.

She takes the joint and has to relight it.

Becky slips the lighter in her pocket.

BECKY

Do you ever think about me when you're out there?

TOM

When I see the pitch, all I can think about is ripping the leather off it.

Tom leans in close.

TOM

But once I've tattooed that sucker, it's all you, baby.

BECKY

Really?

TOM

Really. When I watch the ball sail into the sky, all I can think about is getting to first base.

He kisses Becky.

TOM

It soars into the gap and I know I'm gonna make it to second.

Tom moves his hand up her side.

BECKY

You're not happy with a single?

TOM

I'm a big hitter baby, I don't hit singles.

Becky reluctantly lets go of his hand and he moves up again.

Tom's hand reaches her shirt buttons and slowly unclasps one.

BECKY

What if they cut you off?

Becky stops him from unclasping the next button.

TOM

I'm not worried 'cause I move pretty fast.

He slips free and pops another button.

TOM

I approach second base, but I've already got my eyes on third.

BECKY

I'm thinking, maybe they hold you at second?

She moves his hand away.

A CRASH from the kitchen.

Becky jumps up.

BECKY

What was that?

TOM
 (kissing her cheek)
 What was what?

SMASH!

A glass shatters.

BECKY
 That.

TOM
 It's nothin'.

Becky does her shirt up. She pushes Tom away.

BECKY
 Tom?

TOM
 Goddamnit. You want me to go look?

Becky gives him the "hell yes" look.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - NIGHT

Jake and Sara sit in the truck as they race to Sara's house.

SARA
 Jake. I need to tell you something.

Jake looks at her and then looks back to the road.

JAKE
 Becky. You have a daughter.

SARA
 I was going to tell you.

JAKE
 How old is she?

SARA
 She's sixteen.

JAKE
 Jesus! Sixteen years old and you
 never thought to tell me?

SARA
 You were the one who wouldn't see
 me, Jake.

(MORE)

SARA (CONT'D)

You were the one that shut me out
of your life, so don't you dare put
this shit on me. You were about to
leave again. Leave me. Leave us.

Jake looks at Sara again. The hardness drops from his face.

JAKE

I'm sorry, Sara--

SARA

Let's just go and get her.

Jake's foot pushes down on the accelerator just that little
bit harder.

EXT. OLD CHURCH - NIGHT

Buddy's SUV pulls in and backs into a shady spot under a big
tree.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

Buddy cocks his pistol and checks the safety.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - PARKED - NIGHT

Wade gets into his police cruiser. The Main Street party is
in full swing outside.

He takes one last look around before he hits the steering
wheel in frustration.

WADE

FUCK!

INT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom strolls into the living room and takes a look around.

TOM

(muttering)

Jesus. A guy just wants to get some
play.

He goes down the hall and checks the bathroom on the way.

Tom trudges into the kitchen and steps on a broken glass.

TOM
Ah, shit.

Tom jumps and grabs his bloody foot.

He takes a seat on the kitchen chair and inspects the bottom of his foot.

A large Parasite crawls in the through the open window behind him.

Its tail senses Tom right away and watches him as it skitters across the room into cover.

Tom turns around and sees the open window.

TOM
What the--

Another Parasite crawls in and stops when it senses Tom.

He freezes.

TOM
(to himself)
Holy shit.

Becky charges out of her room.

BECKY
Well, what the hell was it?

She spots the Parasite and GASPS.

BECKY
Eww, kill it.

TOM
With what? My size eight socks?

Becky sees a can of hairspray by the hall mirror.

Tom moves a little; the Parasite watches him closely, following him with its tail.

Becky snatches up the can of hairspray and pulls the lighter out of her pocket.

She torches the Parasite out of the window.

The other Parasite, hiding in shadows, leaps at Tom.

It lands and latches onto his chest. The Parasite's tubular head lowers and bites into his chest.

TOM
Get it off!

Tom flails around. Becky tries to help.

The Parasite hits Tom with its tail and he falls to the floor, out cold. It turns to Becky.

Becky backs away, hairspray in hand.

BECKY
Tom? Get up, Tom!

The Parasite stalks Becky as she moves towards the door.

Sara bursts through the front door with Jake right behind her.

BECKY
Mom, look out!

A Parasite leaps off the kitchen counter.

Sara grabs Tom's baseball bat by the door and swings.

She hits the Parasite; a line drive right through the living room window.

BECKY
Mom, oh my god, it killed Tom!

Sara comes to Becky and has a look at Tom.

SARA
He should be alright.

JAKE
We have to get out of here.

Sara and Becky pull Tom out of the front door.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - PARKED - NIGHT

They pile in. Jake drives, Sara is next to him, and beside her is Tom, out cold. Becky sits on his lap.

Becky glances back toward the house. Her eyes widen in terror.

EXT. SARA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hundreds of Parasites swarm out of the woods and through Sara's house.

Parasites spew out of every door and window.

The truck peels out of the driveway just in time.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - NIGHT

Jake races the truck down an empty street.

Becky looks at Tom's wound. There seems to be a bump under the skin.

Tom snaps out of his sedation with a SCREAM.

Becky calms Tom down and pulls his shirt down over his chest.

Becky turns to her mom and motions to Jake.

BECKY

So, who is this guy?

Sara's not sure what to say.

JAKE

I'm an old friend of your mother's.
Jake Adams.

He steals a look at Becky.

SARA

We used to date, before you were
born.

Becky eyes Jake. He catches her stare in the rearview mirror.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - DRIVING - NIGHT

Wade drives across town.

WADE

Wade do this. Wade do that.

Wade pulls up to an intersection and stops.

Jake's truck blows the stop sign coming the other way and speeds through the intersection.

Wade pauses for a moment...

He hits the lights.

WADE
Oh, it's go time.

Wade pulls a U-turn and peels off.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - NIGHT

Jake looks in the rearview mirror and sees police lights.

JAKE
Shit.

Sara, Becky and Tom look back.

Jake pulls over.

EXT. ROAD - SHOULDER - NIGHT

Jake's truck comes to a stop and the police cruiser pulls in behind.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - PARKED - NIGHT

Jake watches the police cruiser slow to a stop, lights flash.

Sara looks at Jake.

SARA
Is it Travis?

Jake takes a closer look.

JAKE
It's Wade.

Becky holds onto Tom a little tighter.

SARA
(to Jake)
Just go. We can make it to Main Street before he can stop us. Just go.

Jake looks at Sara and then Becky.

JAKE
When I get out--

SARA
No, Jake.

JAKE
Sara, there's no time to argue.
When I get out, he'll get out to
take me. You jump behind the wheel
and get the hell out of here.

Sara wants to say something.

EXT. ROAD - SHOULDER - NIGHT

Jake steps out of the truck and walks back toward the police
cruiser.

Wade gets out, his pistol drawn.

Jake's pickup pulls away.

WADE
Was that Sara Thornton in there,
with her sweet little daughter.

Jake's eyes flare and Wade sticks the pistol to his head.

WADE
I'll get them later, Jake, you can
be sure of that.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - DRIVING - NIGHT

Sara looks up.

In the rearview mirror, Wade slams Jake against the hood of
the car and pats him down.

SARA
Buckle up.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - PARKED - NIGHT

Wade twists Jake's arm and he flinches in pain.

WADE
For right now, we're finally gonna
have some you and me time.

Wade slaps on a set of handcuffs and throws Jake in the back of the car.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - NIGHT

Sara races the truck down a street ravaged by Parasites.

They pass houses with broken windows, small fires burning and busted up yards.

TOM
Oh my god, look.

BECKY
It's huge!

Scarface moves from house to house, a pack of larger Parasites skitter at its feet.

EXT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - NIGHT

The truck fishtails onto an untouched street.

It pulls out wide and turns.

The tires scream and the engine roars.

Up ahead, beyond all the parked cars, past all the tents and townfolk, they see the main stage.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

The truck stops at the back of a long line of cars leading to the main stage.

Sara, Becky and Tom jump out of the truck.

SARA
Stay close, and don't stop.

EXT. MAIN STREET - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Sara, Becky and Tom run through a maze of parked cars, toward the festival.

EXT. POLICE STATION - FRONT GRASS - NIGHT

Wade drives up onto the lawn in front of the police station and skids to a stop.

He jumps out, grabs Jake out of the back and drags him inside.

INT. BUDDY'S SUV - PARKED - NIGHT

Buddy, sitting in his SUV, watches as two sets of headlights come up the road.

He strokes the briefcase on the passenger seat.

EXT. MAIN STREET - FAIR - NIGHT

Townfolk dance and have a good time.

Tents and game booths line both sides of the street and music plays over the scene.

Sara, Becky and Tom fight their way through the crowd.

Tom and Becky see Mike, Corey, Dan and Katie at a candy booth.

BECKY

Mom, we gotta go warn some friends.

Sara looks to the stage and back at Becky.

SARA

Okay, make it quick and come straight over to the stage.

Becky nods.

SARA

I mean it Becky, don't be long.

BECKY

We won't be.

The kids dash off to their friends.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CANDY BOOTH - NIGHT

Becky and Tom run over to Mike, Corey, Dan and Katie at the candy booth. They're all stoned.

MIKE

Dude, you're just in time.

COREY

Yeah man, we were just gonna go spark one. You gotta come with.

TOM

You guys gotta get out of here.

DAN

What?

TOM

There's a shit load of... things, coming here to kill everyone.

Dan's eyes grow wide in fear.

DAN

I think I'm freaking out.

COREY

Oh, okay then...

Corey laughs, already stoned.

MIKE

Man, you're always screwing around.

Becky pulls at Tom's arm.

BECKY

Come on, Tom.

(to Katie)

Katie, go now. Before its too late.

Becky and Tom turn and run.

KATIE

She looked serious, guys.

Katie watches her friends disappear into the crowd.

EXT. MAIN STREET - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Sara finds Travis and Mrs. Carver at the back of the stage.

Travis sits, bobbing his head to the music.

He sees Sara. She's frantic.

TRAVIS

Whoa, Sara. Are you okay?

SARA

I need to talk to the mayor. We have to warn the town.

Mrs. Carver steps to her side.

MRS. CARVER

Sara, are you alright, sweetie?
Slow down and tell us what's happening.

Mayor Walker steps out of a fancy town car holding Danny's Scholarship plaque. He straightens his tie.

Sara looks at Mrs. Carver and Travis.

SARA

Excuse me.

She runs over to the Mayor.

SARA

Mr. Mayor, you need to listen to me. Something horrible is coming this way and if we don't act now, we're all going to die.

Mayor Walker stares at her for a moment, then busts into laughter.

MAYOR WALKER

Mrs. Thornton, now wouldn't that be something. Unfortunately, I don't have time for your clever radio reuse right now, I have a scholarship to award.

He turns to walk away.

MRS. CARVER

Don't you think we should hear her out?

MAYOR WALKER

Mrs. Carver, if you want to indulge in theatrics, please, suit yourself.

The Mayor turns to the stage.

EXT. MAIN STREET - STAGE - NIGHT

Mayor Walker steps up to the microphone.

MAYOR WALKER

Everyone having a good time?

The crowd cheers.

INT. POLICE STATION - FRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

Wade shoves Jake into the police station.

He pushes Jake past the booking desk and drives him through the door that leads to the cell area.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Wade opens one of Jake's handcuffs and latches it to the bed frame.

JAKE

Is this how you treat all your prisoners, sheriff?

WADE

Who said anything about a prisoner?

Wade laughs and locks the cell.

WADE

I'm going to enjoy killing you, Jake.

Wade heads back out into the office. Jake pulls on the cuffs, the bed doesn't budge.

INT. POLICE STATION - FRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

Wade pulls out a bottle of whiskey from his drawer. He takes a big sip and chases it with another. Wade has a manic look.

WADE

Now take your time, Wade. Don't rush it. Enjoy what's coming.

He takes another sip.

EXT. OLD CHURCH - NIGHT

A semi truck pulls up, followed by a Black SUV, the same make and style as Buddy's.

Buddy hops out and walks over with a smile.

TWO THUGS with machine guns step into his way.

An awkward moment passes before RAMIREZ (42), dressed all in black, steps out. He swaggers with confidence.

RAMIREZ

Good evening Mr. Boyle, I am Ramirez.

Ramirez motions to the Thugs.

The two Thugs swing open the back doors of the semi truck.

It's full of US Army weapon crates.

BUDDY

Now, that's what I'm talking about.

Buddy hops up into the truck and strokes the crates. They are stamped *PROPERTY OF THE US ARMY*.

RAMIREZ

I think you're going to be a very wealthy man, Mr. Boyle.

Ramirez goes over to the truck and one of the Thugs throws him a crowbar.

RAMIREZ

These crates are full of today's finest firepower.

He jumps into the truck next to Buddy and pries open a crate.

RAMIREZ

Now, you tell me, is this what you had in mind?

Ramirez pulls out a tricked out M4 machine gun and hands it to Buddy.

Buddy, in awe, takes the weapon. He shoulders it and looks down the sight.

BUDDY

Exactly.

He pulls the trigger. The empty gun CLICKS.

EXT. MAIN STREET - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Sara turns to Travis and Mrs. Carver.

SARA

We have to do something. We saw hundreds of those Parasites only a few blocks away and there's a big one leading them here.

MRS. CARVER

Parasites?

SARA

That's what Doc called them. Before they got him.

TRAVIS

They got Doc? I just saw him this morning out at Joe's farm.

MRS. CARVER

What happened out there?

TRAVIS

Something killed all of Joe's cows. Doc had never seen anything like it.

MRS. CARVER

And no one told us? Oh my god. What do we do?

Travis looks around and spots the high school.

TRAVIS

The school. We could board ourselves up in there. Call for help. We just need everyone to get there.

MRS. CARVER

Leave that to me!

Mrs. Carver turns for the stage with determination.

EXT. MAIN STREET - STAGE - NIGHT

Mrs. Carver walks out on to the stage to applause. She whispers into the Mayor's ear and he brushes her off.

Mayor Walker holds up the scholarship plaque.

MAYOR WALKER

The time has come to announce the winner of the Danny Boyle Scholarship in academics.

The crowd cheers.

MAYOR WALKER

For his diligent efforts in education and service in the community, the \$15,000 scholarship goes to... Pete Thompson!

The crowd claps and looks around for Pete.

Mrs. Thompson steps out from the crowd.

MRS. THOMPSON

My boy, Petey. He's missing. The police do nothing!

The Mayor is caught off guard.

MAYOR WALKER

Uh, yes Mrs...

The Mayor checks the plaque.

MAYOR WALKER

Thompson, I am very sorry to hear about your son. I'm sure the police are doing everything they can to find such an upstanding young man.

Mrs. Carver reaches for the microphone, but the mayor pulls it away.

MAYOR WALKER

Well, back to--

Travis snatches the microphone.

TRAVIS

Good evening folks, we have a situation going on that you all need to know about. So please, listen up, this is not a drill.

He hands the microphone to Mrs. Carver.

MRS. CARVER

Thank you, Officer Hooper. Folks, we have an emergency, there seems to be an outbreak of some sort coming down off the hillside and we need everyone to make their way over to the high school gym.

DRUNK (O.C.)

Freebird! Woo.

The crowd chatters.

MRS. CARVER

Please, in an orderly fashion, make your way to Hope Falls secondary.

Mrs. Carver points down the street, towards the high school up on a little hill.

Mayor Walker grabs the microphone back.

MAYOR WALKER

I don't know what sort of game you are playing--

Mrs. Thompson, distraught, staggers through the crowd. She grabs out at strangers and makes a scene.

MRS. THOMPSON

My Petey. He'd never leave me. He's a good boy, he's--

She spots something move in amongst a row of stuffed animals at a stall.

She creeps forward. A Parasite is hidden amongst the prizes. Its tubular head grows red as Mrs. Thompson moves close.

MRS. THOMPSON

What the?

The Parasite leaps on her face.

Mrs. Thompson staggers back into the ground with a SCREAM. The crowd part in disgust.

A pack of Parasites appear at the booth and jump on her. They devour her, for all to see.

The crowd goes crazy. They run and scream towards the school.

A mass of Parasites appear. They jump and skitter amongst the people. They pick off fresh victims from the crowd.

MAYOR WALKER

Fuck this.

Mayor Walker drops the microphone and runs.

Mrs. Carver snatches up the mic and attempts to direct people.

MRS. CARVER

To the school everyone! It's our only chance!

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Jake tries to work his hand free of the handcuffs attached to the bed frame.

The door to the jail swings open and hits the door stop.

Wade stands at the door, drunk. Really drunk.

WADE

It's time to get fucked up now,
Jakey boy.

He steps into the cell and stands over Jake.

EXT. OLD CHURCH - NIGHT

Buddy stands with Ramirez at the back of the semi truck.

RAMIREZ

I'm glad you are satisfied, now
there is the matter of payment.

BUDDY

Oh sure, sure, no problem. I have
the money right here.

Buddy sets down the M4, goes over to his SUV and pulls out a
brief case.

Something RUSTLES in the bushes behind the SUV.

He comes back and hands the case to Ramirez.

BUDDY

It's all there, two million.

Ramirez cracks the case and checks the contents.

Buddy sees a Parasite crawl around Ramirez's SUV.

He looks around to see if anyone else has seen it.

Ramirez glares at Buddy for a moment and snaps the case
closed.

RAMIREZ

Until next time, Mr. Boyle.

Ramirez hastily turns to his SUV, jumps in and peels away.
Buddy stands there in a cloud of dust. He turns and runs for
the semi's cab.

He rips the door open, jumps in and slams it shut.

EXT. MAIN STREET - FAIR - NIGHT

Mike, Corey, Dan and Katie play a target shooting game at a
booth covered in stuffed animals.

People rush past them.

Katie is the first to notice.

KATIE

Hey, where's everyone going?

MIKE

Who cares.

COREY
Yeah, more fun for us.

Mayor Walker bolts past them.

EXT. MAIN STREET - BANK - NIGHT

It's chaos.

People dash down the sidewalks, knock each other over. They all run away from the carnage.

A familiar old rusty pickup sits at the foot of the bank.

INT. HARVEY'S PICKUP - NIGHT

Harvey and Pearl study the bank.

HARVEY
Are you ready?

PEARL
They lied to us and then took everything we had. That just ain't right. Let's go get it back.

Suddenly, a BLOODIED MAN covered in Parasites falls onto the hood of the pickup truck.

BLOODIED MAN
Help... Me...

HARVEY
Sweet Jesus!

PEARL
Step on it, Harvey! We gotta go!

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Harvey's pickup truck pulls away from the crowd.

Mayor Walker jumps out of the crowd and waves his hands.

MAYOR WALKER
Stop! I'm the Mayor! Let me in!

The pickup truck careens around the Mayor.

He spots Pearl in the window. She gives him the finger in return.

Mayor Walker notices an empty lot filled with bails of hay. He goes for it and disappears within.

The crowd shifts and reveals a sign that says, *Goodman's Hay Maze*.

EXT. MAIN STREET - GOODMAN'S HAY MAZE - NIGHT

Mayor Walker rounds the corner.

He carries on and turns another corner.

MAYOR WALKER
Alright, what the hell is this?

He turns another corner and a GUY rushes by him.

Mayor Walker runs into a WOMAN carrying her CHILD.

MAYOR WALKER
Have you seen the way out of this
piece of crap?

She looks at him, SCREAMS and runs off.

MAYOR WALKER
Okay, then.

He turns another corner and spots what everyone is running from.

Scarface. It turns towards him.

MAYOR WALKER
Holy shit.

Mayor Walker turns around and pushes the Woman and her child out of the way.

He looks over his shoulder. Scarface is right behind him.

The Mayor turns right. Dead End. A quick turn and he's off again.

He turns left, then right. Another dead end.

He backtracks, turns a quick right and comes to yet another dead end.

He turns around...

No one.

He lets out a huge sigh of relief and lurches over to catch his breath.

Scarface bursts through the corn wall, grabs Mayor Walker and disappears through the opposite wall.

EXT. MAIN STREET - FAIR - NIGHT

Mike, Corey, Dan and Katie stand at a booth, pumping rounds from an air gun at random targets.

Mayor Walker smashes through the wall of hay into the booth and sends stuffed animals everywhere.

Katie SCREAMS.

Mayor walker twitches in a crumpled heap.

Parasites spills through the opening.

Dan grabs Katie and pulls her away.

Mike and Corey follow suit.

Scarface tears through the opening and rushes out into the crowd.

EXT. MAIN STREET - STAGE - NIGHT

Travis sees a commotion at the other end of the street.

He jumps down and corals Sara, Becky and Tom.

TRAVIS

We have to get out of here.

Sara stops Travis.

SARA

Travis, I need you to look after my baby for me.

TRAVIS

Where are you going??

SARA

I have to go back for Jake.

BECKY
You're leaving your daughter for
some old flame?

SARA
He's your father, honey.

BECKY
What?

Becky is in shock.

SARA
Sorry, this is not how I wanted to
tell you.

BECKY
My father?

SARA
Look. You've been telling me that
you're not a baby anymore, and
you're right. You're not. I need to
be straight with you, I just want
us to be a family--

Becky thinks about it for a moment and looks at her mom.

BECKY
Go.

Sara hugs Becky and gives her a kiss.

SARA
I'll be back before you know it.

TRAVIS
I'll guard them with my life, Sara.
You know that.

SARA
Thank you. You're a good friend.

Sara gives Travis a peck on the cheek. Travis pulls a pistol
of out its holster.

TRAVIS
Take this, I have another one in
the cruiser.

Sara stuffs the pistol into her jeans and turns to Becky.

SARA
I love you sweetie.

Sara runs back against the crowd.

Travis looks at Tom. He's pale and sweaty.

TRAVIS
You feeling alright, Tom?

Tom nods.

TOM
(strained)
Yeah, no problem.

TRAVIS
Alright then we have to move.

They move away with the sway of the crowd.

INT. POLICE CRUISER - PARKED - NIGHT

Wade's cell phone sits on the seat of his police cruiser. It RINGS.

INT. SEMI TRUCK - DRIVING - NIGHT

Buddy hangs up the phone.

BUDDY
Fucking Wade, what are you up to now?

EXT. MAIN STREET - FAIR - NIGHT

The bodies of Townsfolk litter the ravaged street. Destroyed booths are scattered everywhere, banners and decorations hang off buildings.

Hundreds of Parasites skitter about the street scavenging for bodies.

EXT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Mrs. Carver gives out orders with a Hope Falls souvenir baseball bat.

MRS. CARVER
Let's get those folks inside.

Travis ushers the last of the Townsfolk into the gym.

Travis looks down the hill and spots a stranded LITTLE GIRL.

LITTLE GIRL
I want my Mommy!

TRAVIS
There's a little girl down there.

The Little Girl runs up the hill.

Marly, the cowgirl waitress, pushes past Travis and runs to meet her.

Out of the shadows, a Parasite jumps at them. Travis aims his pistol at the Parasite and pulls the trigger.

It explodes into a black mist.

TRAVIS
Quick! Here!

The Little girl jumps into Marly's arms.

Travis runs to them and pulls them inside. Mrs Carver greets them at the door.

MRS. CARVER
Nice shooting, officer.

Travis ushers everyone inside as a group of Parasites close in on the gym.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Travis pulls the door closed and latches it shut.

The gym is full of Townsfolk.

Becky holds Tom, who looks terrible.

TRAVIS
Let's get this place sealed up. Use whatever you can.

Townsfolk use chairs and benches to secure the doors.

Becky goes to Travis.

BECKY

We're gonna go find somewhere to sit. Tom isn't feeling so hot.

TRAVIS

Okay, but stay where I can see you.

Becky leads Tom into the crowd.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Wade dumps a bucket of water on Jake's beaten face.

WADE

Jakey-boy! Are ya awake?

Jake is groggy.

Wade pushes the gun under his chin.

WADE

For sixteen years, all I've wanted to do is put a bullet through your skull.

JAKE

Fuck you.

Jake spits in Wade's face.

Wade wipes it off and then pistol whips him in return.

WADE

You killed my little bro. Then they took you away from me. Sixteen years in the slammer ain't gonna be nothing compared to what I'm gonna do to you tonight. And when I'm done with you, I'm going to pay a visit to Sara and that sweet little daughter of hers.

With a surge of energy, Jake pulls himself towards Wade, but the handcuffs stop him.

WADE

Whoa, did I hit a nerve?

JAKE

If you go near them--

Wade kicks Jake in the stomach.

WADE
What was that?

Jake clutches his stomach.

JAKE
(mumbles)
Sara.

He kicks him again.

WADE
What? I couldn't hear you.

Jake struggles to catch his breath.

Wade raises his gun to strike.

CLICK.

SARA (O.S.)
Drop it, Wade.

Wade turns to see Sara with her gun pointed at him.

WADE
Sara, we were just talking about
you and little Becky.

SARA
Keep talking and I'll blow your
goddamn head off.

Wade laughs.

WADE
Who are you fooling Sara, you don't
have the guts--

BANG!

Sara shoots Wade in the leg.

Wade falls backwards, drops his gun and clutches his bloody
leg. He SCREAMS.

Sara steps into the holding cell.

SARA
And I'll shoot you again if you
move an inch.

CLICK.

BUDDY (O.S.)
Oh, will you?

Buddy stands behind Sara, his gun pushed against the back of her head.

BUDDY
I'll take that.

He grabs the gun from Sara.

BUDDY
Get up Wade, we got business to finish.

WADE
Bitch, she fucking shot me.

Wade looks at his wound and passes out.

Buddy grabs Sara by the hair and tosses her to the floor. He drags Wade out of the cell and locks the door.

BUDDY
(to Jake)
You never could stay out of my way.

Buddy kneels to Wade and looks at Jake.

BUDDY
(to Jake)
I don't know what the fuck they are, but I imagine they'll do far worse than anything I would do. See you in hell, Jake.

Buddy picks Wade up over his shoulder and leaves.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Travis and some Townsfolk fight off Parasites as they try to get through the windows.

A Parasite's tail smashes through the window, but can't push through the wire mesh.

Travis pulls his gun and everyone stands back.

BLAM.

Travis blows the Parasite off the window.

More Parasites try to break through the breach. Townsfolk slam a bench across the window and press it in place.

There's a THUD as the Parasites try to push through.

Travis turns to the crowd and sees Becky in a corner with Tom.

Becky holds a damp cloth to Tom's head. He shivers and his teeth clatter as he looks up to her.

TOM

I think I need to get to a washroom.

Becky looks over at Travis. He struggles with a couple of Townsfolk as they hold the doors closed.

Becky helps Tom to his feet.

TOM

I think I'm gonna barf.

BECKY

Come on.

Becky guides Tom away.

INT. SEMI TRUCK - DRIVING - NIGHT

Buddy drives the semi-truck. Wade's out cold in the passenger seat.

Wade snaps awake and grabs his leg in pain.

WADE

Where are we? Where the hell is Jake? Did you get him?

BUDDY

Forget about him. We did it, Wade, we're in the big time. It's gonna be fast cars and hot bitches from here on out.

WADE

I don't give a good goddamn. Come on Bud. I've waited, we've waited too long for this. Tell me you got him.

BUDDY
I didn't, but they will.

He looks at the Parasites crawling all over the road.

WADE
We gotta go back.

BUDDY
You drunk son of a bitch. We ain't
going back.

WADE
Fuck you, Bud. I'm sick to death of
following you around like a lost
little puppy.

Buddy spins around and grabs Wade by the throat.

BUDDY
We're on the road to freedom, you
hear? We take this goddamn truck
and we drive right out of here.

WADE
Choking...

Buddy releases his grip and turns back.

BUDDY
No one's gonna come after us.
They're gonna be worried about
those creepy crawlers and picking
through the rubble. We've done it.
Scott free.

Wade snatches the gun off the seat.

BUDDY
Oh, what's this? You gonna shoot
me?

WADE
Stop the truck.

BUDDY
What?

WADE
I'm killin' Jake and you ain't
gonna stop me.

BUDDY

The fuck you are.

WADE

Stop the fucking truck. You aren't the boss. I am. I'm the boss, I have the gun and I'm the boss. So stop the god damn truck!

Wade has snapped and Buddy knows it. He stops the truck.

BUDDY

Wade, listen to me, Jake never killed Danny. You don't need to do this.

Wade laughs.

WADE

The fuck he didn't.

BUDDY

Danny was a fucking meth head and picked a fight with the wrong dealer. It was bound to happen sooner or later. Jake just happened to be there.

WADE

No, no, NO! You can't change the truth now, just 'cause.

BUDDY

Wade, on Danny's grave, it's the truth. It was all a setup. Jake was snooping around our little side business and when he found him, it made sense.

Wade isn't listening, he jumps out of the cab.

WADE

I'll get 'em for us brother, don't you worry.

And with that he's gone.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Sara moves back to Jake.

SARA
Are you okay?

JAKE
I've seen better days.

She grabs Wade's discarded police shirt and rips off a strip and dabs it on Jake's bloody face.

Jake winces.

JAKE
That actually hurts.

SARA
Hush.

JAKE
Why didn't you tell me you had a daughter?

Sara gently presses a finger to his mouth.

SARA
Let me speak. I should have told you the night you were back in town. I should have told you when you were in jail.
(pause)
Jake... Becky is your daughter.

Jake's eyes widen in shock.

JAKE
What? How can that be?

SARA
I was pregnant when they took you away.

JAKE
You should have come. I had a right to know about my daughter.

SARA
Jesus, Jake. I tried. You were the one that turned away. Not me. You thought that just because you were in jail, that you could shut yourself away from the ones who loved you. Including your daughter.

JAKE

I just thought you deserved better.
You deserved someone you could
share your life with.

SARA

I always wanted that person to be
you, even if I had to wait.

Sara pauses her dabbing.

JAKE

Did my parents know?

SARA

I suspect your mother knew. She
helped me through some tough times.

JAKE

I'm so sorry, Sara. If I had known.

Sara turns around and pulls Wade's jacket off the bed. She checks the pockets and low and behold, Wade has left his keys in there.

SARA

Drunken fool.

JAKE

Where is she?

SARA

She's with Travis and the rest of
the town at the school gym.

Sara reaches around to un-cuff him blindly. She moves face to face with Jake, mere millimeters from each other.

They look into each other's eyes. Just as they are about to kiss, Sara un-cuffs him.

SARA

Gottem'.

The handcuffs fall to the ground. They stare at each other for a moment.

JAKE

Let's go get her.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - WASHROOM - NIGHT

Tom stands at a sink and looks into a mirror.

In a fit of rage he smashes his hand against the mirror which shatters the glass and his fist.

BECKY (O.S.)
Are you okay?

Becky creeps into the bathroom.

BECKY
Tom?

Tom turns to her, holding his bloody hand. His eyes are filled with rage.

TOM
We're getting out of here.

BECKY
What?

TOM
I'm not waiting here to die.

Tom exits the bathroom. Becky follows after him.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tom turns to Becky.

TOM
We can make a break. You and me.

He holds his hand out to Becky.

BECKY
It's too dangerous, Tom.

They turn to a set of doors that have been locked up and chairs thrown against them.

TOM
I'm leaving.

BECKY
We need to stay here. Please.

Tom turns and clears the chairs away from the door.

BECKY
Stop, they'll get in.

Becky grabs him, but he shoves her back.

Tom's shirt tears, revealing a large festering cyst.

He throws another chair off the pile.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Travis looks over to Becky and Tom.

They're gone.

A frantic Travis looks around.

He sees Dan and Katie and thinks it's them for a moment.
Corey and Mike glare at Travis.

Travis walks through the crowd.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Tom stumbles along with Becky behind him.

BECKY
Tom, stop. Come on, they'll get you
for sure.

Tom runs off down the hall.

BECKY
Come back...

Becky stops and watches Tom disappear around a corner.

INT. SEMI TRUCK - CAB - NIGHT

Buddy drives the truck, eyes wide in horror.

BUDDY
Drunken fool.

Buddy spots a car wreck on the road and slows the truck.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

The semi truck pulls up next to a car that has run head-on into a tree.

Ramirez hangs out of the driver's side door.

Buddy stops the truck.

He looks around. It seems clear.

He gets out of the truck and creeps up to the car.

Buddy shuffles around to the driver's side, and with his arm pressed to his mouth, reaches past Ramirez and pulls out his briefcase.

He checks the contents. It's all there.

Buddy turns back towards the semi truck.

From behind him, CLICK-CLICK, CLICK-CLICK.

He turns back to see a large Parasite skitter on top of the wrecked car.

Buddy makes a break for the truck.

A group of Parasites crawl out of the dark places in the wreck.

Buddy reaches the back of the truck and struggles with the door latch.

The group of Parasites spread out and close in.

Buddy pops the latch free and swings the doors open.

INT. SEMI TRUCK - TRAILER - NIGHT

Buddy smashes a crate open and it's full of world war II era Thompson machine guns.

BUDDY
What the fuck?

He breaks open another crate and finds world war II era M1 Garand rifles.

BUDDY

That mother fucker ripped me off.
That dirty, no good, son of a
bitch, ripped me off. I'll fucking
kill him.

He pushes over a stack of crates. They bust open and a mix of grenades, uniforms and ammunition spill onto the trailer floor.

Buddy turns to see Parasites fill the end of the trailer.

He snatches up a Thompson machine gun and shoots his way out to the road.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Buddy clears a path with the machine gun and makes a dash for the cab of the truck. He loses balance and drops the briefcase.

It bursts open. Money spills everywhere.

Instead of running to the cab, Buddy turns and dives to the ground. He stuffs the bills back into the case.

Parasites surround Buddy and move in for the kill.

He runs the machine gun until it clicks dry.

BUDDY

Shit.

The Parasites swarm over him.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Sara tosses Wade's coat to Jake.

Jake shakes the jacket and a few items fall out; a small bottle of alcohol, a pencil, paper and some bullets.

JAKE

Bingo.

Jake flips over the bed in the cell. He kicks out at the metal bed-frame and snaps off a leg.

SARA

What do you have up your sleeve?

He slips a bullet in the lock of the cell door.

JAKE
Something I heard about in the
slammer. Step back.

SARA
That's your big idea? You're going
to get us killed.

JAKE
You have a better idea?

Sara shrugs.

SARA
It's still not going to work.

He takes a step back and swings the metal bed-frame leg with
all his might.

JAKE
Oh yeah, watch this...

Sara hits the deck.

Jake winds up and swings.

TWANG!

Sara turns away expecting more. Jake drops the piece of
metal.

JAKE
Fuck! That really hurts.

Jake wraps his hand in a piece of Wade's shirt and tries
again.

TWANG! Nothing.

TWANG! BOOM!

The door still stands and Sara looks at Jake with a smirk.

There's an almighty CRACK and suddenly the cell wall buckles
and falls to the floor, leaving the door still standing.

JAKE
Like I said, no problem.

Jake smiles and they step around the door and out of the
cell.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Becky walks back to the gym. She wipes tears from her eyes.

Tom appears behind her and awkwardly shuffles after her.

He reaches out and pulls on her shoulder.

Becky jumps.

Tom is deathly pale, he clutches his chest.

TOM
(sputtering)
Becky...

His hand falls away, revealing a gaping bloody crater in his chest.

TOM
(gasps)
Run.

Tom falls face first to the floor. On his back, A blood covered Parasite consumes its host.

Becky SCREAMS.

The Parasite's tail senses her and it attacks.

Becky ducks out of the way.

The Parasite skids off down the hall,

Becky pulls open a locker and jumps inside. She slams the door shut behind her.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - LOCKER - NIGHT

Becky breathes heavy in the small space. CLANG. The Parasite's tail dents the locker door. CLANG. Another dent. Outside, hundreds of Parasites rush past.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Travis finds the chairs all pulled away to make an opening.

He nervously steps back. The sound of one thousand pointy feet, skittering on tile, echoes towards him.

Travis turns and flees back to the gym. Parasites appear down the hallway and head after him.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - SPEEDING - NIGHT

Jake and Sara race down the road toward the high school.

They come upon the semi truck and the black SUV crashed into the tree.

Jake stops the cruiser and they step out.

JAKE
Watch out for Wade.

They approach the wreck.

The cyst ridden corpse of Buddy is sprawled across the street. He still clutches the Thompson machine gun in one hand and a stack of bloody bills in the other.

SARA
Buddy...

Jake dashes over to the rear of the semi truck.

He looks inside. Sara steps up beside him.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL - NIGHT

Wade stumbles into the jail and spots the empty, wall-less cell.

WADE
No fuckin' way.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Wade screeches away from the police station in his cruiser.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

The Townsfolk are huddled in the middle of the gymnasium.

Travis rushes in.

TRAVIS
They're coming in through the school!

Panic filters through the people.

Two Rugged men tip a candy machine on its side across the doorway.

Townfolk pile on chairs and benches.

A Parasite crashes into the other side of the barricade, knocking a chair off the pile.

The Townfolk GASP as a few more chairs fall off the barricade.

A Parasite pokes through the pile.

BLAM!

Travis, gun in hand, sees another one coming through. It jumps at him. Travis falls backwards, the gun skids from his hand.

The Parasite jumps towards him.

BLAM! BLAM! CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

The Parasite explodes into black mist. Travis rolls over and spots Marly with the smoking gun. She smiles at him. He smiles back.

TRAVIS

Thanks.

There's a RUMBLE just outside the main doors. Travis climbs to his feet. He, Marly and her daughter move to the front.

TRAVIS

What the hell is that?

Mike, Corey, Dan and Katie stand guard at the outside doors.

KATIE

Something's coming!

The rumble gets LOUDER and LOUDER.

Travis rushes to look out the window.

EXT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Parasites cover the parking lot. Some feasting on Townfolk.

A semi truck bellows smoke as it races towards them.

Sara is behind the wheel. She swings the truck around in front of the door to the gym.

The back doors on the trailer are latched open and Jake hangs off the back.

He lets loose with a blast from a fire breathing M2 flamethrower.

WHOOSH.

A ball of flame scorches the Parasites in front of the door.

EXT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Jake jumps out of the trailer and torches everything on his way to the gym.

Sara comes around to the back of the truck. She waves and yells towards the school.

SARA
(to the Townsfolk)
Come on, arm up! The truck is full
of guns.

The gym doors swing open and Townsfolk swarm the truck.

INT. SEMI TRUCK - TRAILER - NIGHT

Townsfolk grab machine guns.

Some take rifles.

They smash open more crates and uniforms spill out.

Another crate is filled with hand grenades.

EXT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Travis stumbles past them, full of cuts and scars. Blood and ooze drip from his body.

Armed Townsfolk run to the doors and fire their automatic weapons into the gymnasium.

Sara and Jake rush over.

SARA
Travis!

Sara gives him a hug.

SARA
Where's Becky?

TRAVIS
I think she's still inside.

One of the Townsfolk lobs a grenade inside the gym.

BOOM, it explodes.

SARA
What do you mean?

TRAVIS
She was inside taking care of Tom
and when I looked back, they were
gone.

Sara GASPS.

TRAVIS
I think they snuck off into the
school.

SARA
What have I done?

TRAVIS
I'll go get her. I promise.

JAKE
No. Travis, the town needs you up
front. I'll find her.

TRAVIS
Jake, those things are everywhere.

Sara pulls after Jake.

SARA
I'm coming with you.

Jake clasps her head.

JAKE
Stay here and help Travis. I
promise you. I'll bring back our
daughter.

Sara nods. Jake gives her a long, deep kiss.

JAKE
Don't worry.

Jake turns, leaving Travis with Sara.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The doors burst open and Jake stands there.

Jake has a belt carrying a large hunting knife and a hand gun. But more importantly, he has the flamethrower.

Parasites skitter in the hallway.

Jake flicks the switch on the flamethrower and lets it rip, filling the hallway with flame and exploding Parasites.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- Parasites crawl down a hallway.

-- Jake squeezes the trigger.

-- A ball of flame engulfs the hallway and Parasites.

-- Parasites fill a classroom.

-- The door bursts open. Jake steps in and fills the room with flame.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - LOCKER - NIGHT

Becky peers out through slits in the door into the hallway.

JAKE (O.C.)
(calling out)
Becky?

Becky looks towards the voice.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jake walks down a hallway, behind him is all lit up in flame.

A Parasite, on fire, crawls in front of him. Jake kicks it out of the way.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - LOCKER - NIGHT

Becky looks off to her right.

JAKE (O.C.)
(calling out)
Becky?!

She starts banging on the locker door.

BECKY
The door's stuck! Help.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jake runs down the hallway towards the banging.

JAKE
Keep banging on the door!

BANG, BANG, BANG.

Jake gets closer.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

He reaches out and pulls open a locker door and Becky leaps out in to his arms.

He hugs her back with all his love and energy. He looks into her eyes.

BECKY
Hi.

JAKE
Hi.

Jake glances over her shoulder. The hallway is full of Parasites.

JAKE
Stand back.

Jake pulls up the flamethrower and douses the hall in flame.

Parasites run around on fire and explode into a black mist.

More Parasites skitter through the flames.

Jake gives them another burst of flame.

Scarface appears, wades through the fire and scans the hall with his tail.

Jake pushes Becky into a classroom.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - SCIENCE CLASS - NIGHT

Jake and Becky dash into a science class.

The classroom is filled with stations that have hot plates, sinks and Bunsen burners on them. The walls are covered in jarred specimens.

There is a door on the other side of the room.

Jake checks it.

It's locked.

His boot smashes the door in.

It's a small storage room where the gas controls for the stations are kept.

Jake turns back to the classroom doorway. Scarface smashes into the room.

JAKE

Get in there!

Becky hides in the small storage room.

Jake levels the flamethrower.

Scarface moves into the room and rears upwards.

JAKE

Fuck you.

Jake let's rip...

A drop of flammable liquid drips from the nozzle.

JAKE

Shit.

Scarface charges Jake and knocks him over the desks.

He slams against a wall heater.

Jake unclasps the flamethrower and ducks away.

Scarface's tail stabs into the heater, the full length of the spike.

Jake pulls out a pistol and fires.

The bullets deflect off Scarface into windows, shattering a few.

One bullet rips through the drywall just above Becky.

Scarface pulls its tail free, flicks it back and knocks the gun out of Jake's hand.

Jake looks down to his empty hand and scurries across the floor behind one of the desks.

Jake pulls out the hunting knife and waits.

Scarface recoils into the darkness behind the teacher's desk and watches with its tail.

Jake hears a HISSING. He sneaks a look around the desk.

Gas leaks from the heater where Scarface's tail hit.

Jake looks up and gets an idea. He reaches up to the station and turns on the gas valve. He reaches across and opens the one across from him.

He looks over to the storage closet.

JAKE

Becky.

Becky crawls to the threshold and peaks out.

JAKE

Turn on the gas.

She looks at him, confused.

He twists his hands like he's opening a valve and points.

JAKE

The gas.

Scarface jumps onto the station above Jake.

It stabs down with its razor sharp tail.

Jake dodges behind another station.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Becky opens the valve on the gas system.

She turns and looks out. Scarface's tail appears right in front of her face.

Becky ducks and runs as it jabs out.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - SCIENCE CLASS - NIGHT

Scarface tracks Becky as she breaks out of the storage room.

BECKY

It's on.

She slides behind a station.

Jake jumps up and whips the knife.

It sticks in the side of Scarface's scared, tubular head. It recoils in pain.

Jake runs across to another station.

Scarface whips its tail.

The desk disintegrates against a station, exposing the gas lines and hoses used for the Bunsen burners.

Jake turns on all the valves within reach.

Scarface skitters across the room and jumps on to the next desk.

Jake cowers below.

Scarface raises one of its razor sharp legs and stabs down onto Jake's leg, piercing it.

Jake SCREAMS in agony as Scarface lifts him in the air and tosses him across the room. He crashes into a stack of chairs.

Jake reaches into his pocket and pulls out the 1st marines Zippo. He looks at Becky.

JAKE

Run.

Jake flicks the Zippo.

No spark.

JAKE
(to the Zippo)
Shit. Come on.

He flicks it again.

No spark.

Scarface regains its composure and tries to gain its bearings.

JAKE
(to the Zippo)
Come on. Just once.

Flick. A spark and it lights.

Jake slides the Zippo across the floor beneath Scarface.

He pushes himself onto one leg and dives out of the class into the hall.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Becky grabs Jake and pulls him away.

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - SCIENCE CLASS - NIGHT

An instant wall of flame engulfs Scarface and the entire back of the classroom.

Scarface begins to move out of the flames when...

BOOM!

INT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The classroom explodes, spewing flames into the hall.

EXT. HOPE FALLS SECONDARY - NIGHT

Townfolk have control of the front of the school.

Mike, Corey, Dan and Katie, dressed in army uniforms, keep the Parasites at bay with machine gun fire.

Mrs. Carver sees them.

MRS. CARVER
Hey! You kids put those guns down
this instant.

She chases after them, leaving Sara and Travis.

The sound of the explosion can be heard from inside the school. Sara turns to Travis.

SARA
Oh my god, what was that?

Travis points out a plume of smoke rising from the school.

SARA
We have to go after them.

Just then, the doors swing open and a figure emerges through the black smoke.

It's Jake, using Becky as a crutch.

Sara drops her rifle and rushes towards them.

Jake falls down and Becky kneels beside him.

Sara wraps her arms around them both.

SARA
I thought I'd lost you both.

Jake wipes Sara's tears away and smiles.

Sara gives Jake a deep kiss and hits his wounded leg.

JAKE
Ow!

SARA
Becky, honey, there should be a
medical kit in the front of the
cab. Could you go get it for me?

BECKY
Sure thing, mom.

Becky jumps up and runs towards the semi truck.

Travis and Mrs. Carver appear through the crowd.

TRAVIS

Things are looking up. I've heard
the cavalry is on the way. The town
is saved.

MRS. CARVER

Thanks to all of you.

Becky SCREAMS.

Everyone spins around.

Wade appears, holding a gun to Becky's head.

WADE

Hey Jake. You can't get away from
me so easily.

Sara clutches on to Jake.

JAKE

Wade. Let her go. It's me you want.

Jake climbs to his feet.

Wade moves away from the crowd, to the front of the burning
school.

WADE

Don't you move an inch. Any of you.
(to Jake)
You and this fine piece of meat are
going on a little trip.

SARA

No!

CLICK. Wade cocks the hammer of his gun.

Jake steps towards Wade, hands in the air.

WADE

That's it. Hands where I can see
them.

Suddenly Jake stops. Takes a step back.

The crowd lowers their weapons. Moves back an inch.

Wade swings the gun around.

WADE

Nobody makes a fucking move! Stay where I can see you all.

TRAVIS

Uh. Wade.

WADE

Shuttup Travis. Fuck. I should shoot you too.

A large shadow moves through fire.

JAKE

Wade.

SARA

Oh god.

JAKE

Becky, get down.

Wade is engulfed in shadow.

WADE

What the--

THWUMP.

Scarface's tail bursts through his chest. Wade is lifted up into the air.

Becky escapes to the arms of Sara.

Scarface, still in flames, swings Wade around like a puppet.

TRAVIS

Shoot it!

The Townsfolk shoulder their weapons and open fire.

Scarface is riddled with bullets. It collapses to the ground.

Wade flops to the ground, dead.

Scarface SHRIEKS and ROARS one last time. Then falters and dies.

MRS. CARVER

Is it over?

TRAVIS

It's over.

There is a RUMBLE in the distance and everyone stops to look.

EXT. MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

A line of tanks, jeeps and troops rumble toward Hope Falls.

Army helicopters and news helicopters fly overhead.

Harvey's pickup truck drives the opposite way and turns off the main road.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Harvey's pickup truck pulls off to the side of the road. It stops next to Ramirez's black SUV.

The door swings open and Harvey jumps down.

He looks around and cautiously approaches the body of Buddy.

PEARL

Is he alive?

Harvey kneels down and mutters a prayer.

HARVEY

What in the blazes.

Harvey realizes that he's kneeling in money. Lots of money. He spots the briefcase and pulls it free from Buddy's body.

He looks inside.

HARVEY

Holy Camole.

Harvey leaps to his feet and dashes back to the pickup.

INT. HARVEY'S PICKUP - NIGHT

Harvey jumps into the driver's seat and tosses the briefcase to Pearl.

PEARL

What is it?

HARVEY

Look inside.

Pearl looks inside and turns to Harvey. A huge smile forms.

HARVEY
They won't miss it.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Harvey's pickup truck speeds out of town.

It passes a small sign.

HOPE FALLS THANKS YOU FOR VISITING. PLEASE COME AGAIN!

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Jake hobbles up the driveway. He has Sara on one side and Becky on the other.

Halfway up the driveway, he limps over to the FOR SALE sign, pulls it up and tosses it to the ground.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

A pair of hunters move through the underbrush.

They spot something propped up against a tree and move towards it.

HUNTER
What in the hell is that?

As they move closer, flies buzz around what turns out to be the cyst covered corpse of a fellow hunter.

HUNTER
Jesus. What the hell happened to him?

The underbrush RUSTLES as something LARGE moves towards them.

They spin around and look in absolute horror.

EXT. FOREST VALLEY - DAY

SCREAMS echo through the valley.

FADE TO BLACK.