

Immersion

By

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Akhera goiti, akhera beiti

FADE IN:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

PASTOR QUINN, a heavysset man in his 50s, stands waist deep in a small swimming pool, his head bowed.

PASTOR QUINN:

We were therefore buried with him,
through baptism into death in order
that, just as Christ was raised
from the dead, we too may live a
new life.

He raises his head and looks poolside. In front a garden overrun with brambles stands-

LILY, 15. Blond hair and fair featured, her white dress makes her look as pure as the driven snow. In her hands she holds a thin, rectangular WHITE CLOTHED OBJECT.

MARY, 25 going on 10. Tall, lanky, and a perpetual frowner.

JANIS, every bit of 40. She sips a glass of red wine and looks to Lily, who stands hesitant. Glass in hand, she nudges her along, splashing a touch of wine on Lily's dress.

Lily frowns at her.

JANIS:

Sorry.

Lily walks to Mary and hands her the WHITE CLOTHED OBJECT.

LILY:

I want you to destroy it. It's
brought nothing but wickedness and
I don't want the temptation.

Mary looks at the object in her hands, then back up to Lily.

MARY:

Are you sure?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lily and Mary face off in the dilapidated room.

Lily has jet black hair, eyebrow piercings, and wears a black mini-skirt with matching fishnet leggings. She is in full goth mode here.

Mary holds a book that Lily grabs at. Mary yanks it away.

LILY:
Just give it back!

MARY:
Come and take it.

Lily turns to Janis, who stands at the counter, holding a beer in her hand and a cigarette betwixt her fingers. Pastor Quinn stands next to her, a silent spectator.

LILY:
Janis, please-

JANIS:
Don't start. This is serious. This thing is evil and I-

LILY:
Its not Satan worshipping! It's connecting with nature and the elements and stuff. Ya know? Wind, fire, water.

Mary reads the book cover.

MARY:
'Book of Shadows'. Yeah, that sounds real wholesome.

She opens it and flips through the pages.

MARY:
What do we have here? 'Breaking a Curse'. 'Necromancer's Incantation'

LILY:
Just stop.

MARY:
Oh look! 'Opening a Hellgate' Gee mom I don't know what you're so worried about. You should call the neighbors over. We'll all bake cookies and *open a hellgate*.

Lily lunges for the book again and snatches it away.

LILY:
Give me that! You're only reading the bad sounding stuff.

JANIS:

What the hell has gotten into you lately? You're reading dark things. Listening to dark things. You won't go to church anymore.

MARY:

Plus you dress like a member of the Sluts for Satan fan club.

Pastor Quinn puts a hand on Mary's shoulder.

PASTOR QUINN:

Let's keep it civil.

MARY:

Why? You can't approve of that get-up!

Pastor Quinn looks Lily up and down.

Lily, uncomfortable, shields herself with the book.

LILY:

Who cares what he thinks? Why does he have to be here, anyway?

Pastor Quinn stands and approaches her. She shrinks back.

PASTOR QUINN:

I'm here because I care. I want you to continue to seek Christ.

The pastor takes another step forward. Lily steps back.

PASTOR QUINN:

And if I, personally, ever did or said anything to cause you to turn away from God... Well, I sincerely apologize for my actions.

Lily stares at him, mouth agape. He reaches for her hand and she recoils instantly.

LILY:

Fuck you, you piece of shit!

Janis moves close, threatening.

JANIS:

That's it. I didn't raise you to-

LILY:
You didn't raise me at all! You
won't even use my name! You're just
some bitch that Dad married before
he died!

Janis attacks her. Slapping her repeatedly as Pastor Quinn works to pull her off.

INT. LILY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lily storms in and slams the door shut behind her. She walks to her dresser mirror and examines herself.

A drop of blood runs from her lip. She finds a tissue and dabs at it. She considers the bloody tissue for a moment, then crumples it up and tosses it.

She goes to a large rug in the middle of her room and yanks it up, revealing a pentagram etched into the floor below.

LATER

In the darkened room, Lily sits inside the pentagram, surrounded by candles. The 'Book of Shadows' sits by her side, as well as a small brown pouch and ceremonial dagger. Open in front of her is a laptop.

ONSCREEN

The open page reads 'The Coven: an online community'

Lily hums a PLAINTIVE MELODY as she types. 'Username: witchywoman13'.

A window pops up - 'DaRkLoRd69 has invited you'.

She hits 'Accept'.

A video chat window opens revealing IRWIN, 30s, a shirtless and tattooed man who sits in a pitch black room.

In the corner of Irwin's video feed, Lily's feed is inset.

IRWIN:
Hey baby. What happened to you?

LILY:
Yeah, I know I look like hell.

IRWIN:
Nonsense. You're beautiful. You get
prettier every time I see you.

Lily just smirks and reaches for her spell book. She begins
flipping through it.

IRWIN:
So... we going skyclad tonight?

LILY:
You wish. Did you get my e-mail?

IRWIN:
Yeah, I'm looking at it now. What
is it? A protection spell?

Lily lays down the open book beside her.

LILY:
Pretty much.

IRWIN:
What do you need protection from?

Lily gives him a look.

LILY:
Let's just begin.

IRWIN:
Alright. Have you consecrated your
circle and all that junk?

LILY:
Yes. I'm ready. Begin.

Irwin leans in and squints, reading.

IRWIN:
'By the dragon's light, on this
October night...'

Lily bows her head and begins muttering something indistinct
under her breath.

IRWIN:
'...I call to thee to give your
might, by the power of three, I
conjure thee-'

Lily grabs the dagger beside her and slashes her palm open.

LILY:
Akhera goiti! akhera beiti!

IRWIN:
Holy shit! Did you just cut
yourself? What are you doing?

Lily holds her bleeding hand against her body.

LILY:
I'm sorry, but the kinda help I
need is... substantial.

As she watches Irwin's video feed, something animal emerges from the darkness behind him.

CERNUNNOS, ageless, a horned beast with the form of a man, comes into view. It glides forward, then sinks out of sight.

Lily watches, speechless.

IRWIN:
What?

Suddenly, he is yanked down. His arms thrash out. The image shakes and shudders. Then the view slides forward as Irwin's computer tumbles to the floor.

The image settles. Irwin can be seen sinking into his carpeted floor, as if it were quicksand. As he struggles a clawed hand rises from the soup around him and sinks itself deep into his back. He screams in pain.

IRWIN:
Lily! Call it off! Send it ba-

A forceful tug pulls him the rest of the way under. The video feed cuts out. Lily's feed automatically fills the screen. She looks pale and terrified.

She lets out a shaky breath, collecting herself, then looks back to her screen.

ON THE FEED, Cernunnos steps out of the darkness.

Behind her, a hooped foot CLOMPS down.

Lily reaches to the brown pouch beside her. She spins to face the beast. As she does she pours out the contents of the pouch.

A line of salt falls before her. Cernunnos steps up to the salt, but no further.

Lily punches keys on the laptop.

LILY:
What I reveal, with purest light...

She lifts the laptop and holds it out.

The visage of Cernunnos fills the screen. A window prompt appears: "Perform Screen Capture?"

LILY:
...bind and seal, all within sight.

Cernunnos speaks in a low, guttural voice. The language impossible for the human tongue.

CERNUNNOS:
(subtitled)
This can not hold me long.

She hits the 'Enter' key and a bright flash blinds the room.

When it subsides, Cernunnos is gone. Lily spins the computer around. Through the static onscreen Cernunnos' image wavers.

Lily closes the laptop, takes a deep breath and smiles.

INT. JANIS' ROOM - LATER

Janis lays in bed, a wet cloth on her forehead. On the night stand a cigarette smolders in an ashtray.

A KNOCK comes at the door.

JANIS:
What?

Lily opens the door and peeks in.

LILY:
Did everyone leave?

JANIS:
Mary went with the pastor to help
with the soup kitchen or something.

LILY:
That's not for two days.

Janis sighs. She grabs her cigarette and takes a drag.

JANIS:
If you just came to bitch at me-

LILY:
No, I didn't.

Lily steps further into the room.

LILY:
I wanted to say that you were
right. I've been messing with
dangerous things.

Janis lifts her her head and looks at Lily, uncertain.

LILY:
I want to be saved.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Pastor Quinn stands knee deep in the small swimming pool.
Janis, Mary and Lily stand by the garden of brambles. Lily,
dressed in purest white, stands before Mary.

Mary holds a WHITE CLOTHED OBJECT in her hands. She looks
down at it, then back up to Lily.

MARY:
Are you sure?

Lily nods. Mary pulls the object close.

Lily turns towards the pool, then approaches it. The wind
whips up as she enters the water and wades to Pastor Quinn.

Pastor Quinn reaches out to her. He places one hand on the
small of her back and the other on her breast. She squirms
and glares at him.

PASTOR QUINN:
I now baptize you in the name of
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit. Are you ready?

Lily looks to Mary.

Mary raises the veiled object. As she does the wind whips up
again. The white cloth is torn away by the gust revealing-

-LILY'S LAPTOP, poised high in the air.

Lily looks back to Pastor Quinn, her eyes cold.

LILY:

Do it.

Pastor Quinn thrusts her into the water.

Mary hurls the computer towards the concrete.

EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

Lily sinks into the pool. Her eyes are shut tightly, her breath held.

The dull sound of a booming EXPLOSION reverberates through the pool. The blue-green water around her glows bright orange for a moment, then subsides.

Pastor Quinn YELLS and splashes through the water.

An INHUMAN ROAR cuts above everything. The pastor SHRIEKS as a HORRIBLE RENDING sound erupts.

Then silence. A blood red hue slowly infects the water around Lily. A clawed hand breaks the surface of the water and takes hold of her.

EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Lily emerges, her dress and hair soaked red and clinging to her. She wipes water from her face and surveys the scene around her. Awe and horror play across her expression.

CERNUNNOS(O.S.):

(subtitled)

It's time, my child.

She looks at it. It's eyes are as dark as pits.

LILY:

Will it hurt?

The beast places a hand on her shoulder.

CERNUNNOS:

(subtitled)

Just breath deeply, dear Lilith.
Breath deeply.

She nods, building courage.

Cernunnos takes her in its arms. She buries her head in its chest and the two of them slip beneath the surface.

Ripples play across water, obscuring the depths of the pool.

At the edge, Pastor Quinn's foot bobs in the water. It is attached to nothing.

Nearby is a splattered mess of blood, bone and organs. What was once the pastor is now not recognizable as human.

A few feet away lie the charred and smoking remains of Janis and Mary. Between them a blackened impact crater. Behind them a raging fire consumes the brambles.

AT THE POOL

The water is calm, clear... and empty.

A breeze whistles through the trees, carrying with it the faint sound of a PLAINTIVE MELODY.

FADE OUT