

THE INVITED ONE

By

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1 EXT. FARM - DAWN

The sun is just beginning to grace the world with its presence. All is still.

Thin rays of light rise from the horizon and dance among rows of corn.

A rooster crows. Cows softly moo in protest of the noise.

2 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

A nice home. Two stories. Large front porch. Old, but it's been well kept through the years.

The screen door opens - THOMAS HENNIKER, a man of about 30 with the beginning stages of a beard on his face - steps shirtless out onto the porch, his jeans unbuttoned.

He watches as the sun makes its way above the horizon. He smiles. It's going to be a beautiful day.

The screen door opens again and his wife - JULIA HENNIKER, a woman the same age as Thomas with long brown hair - walks out and wraps her arms around him from behind, still half asleep.

JULIA

You're really committing to this whole farmer thing, huh?

Thomas reaches up behind him and strokes her hair gently.

THOMAS

There's no point in doing something if you're not committed. Isn't that what you told me when we first started dating?

JULIA

Mhm. Come back to bed.

Julia kisses Thomas' back and releases him. She goes back into the house.

Thomas looks blissfully once more over the farmland before resigning himself.

THOMAS

I guess a late start won't hurt anyone.

He goes back into the house.

3 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

It's mid-morning now. Thomas and Julia sit with each other at a small breakfast table and drink coffee.

The interior of the kitchen reflects the home's age much more than the outside. The stove and fridge are ancient and the decor leaves much to be desired with the modern age.

JULIA

So, what are the big plans today,
Farmer Thomas?

THOMAS

(Fake Southern Accent)

I reckon I'll feed the livestock
and clean out the chicken coops.
Then I'll hop on my big green
tractor and see about harvesting
some corn or wheat or whatever the
hell it is my uncle was growing out
here.

Julia fakes a smile but even that quickly leaves.

THOMAS

You hate it out here.

JULIA

No. No, not at all. It's not that.
It's just...it'll take some getting
used to, is all. Been a city girl
all my life, you know? I'm not used
to being fifty-plus miles from
civilization. Talk about a culture
shock.

THOMAS

What's a girl to do without her
Starbucks, right?

JULIA

Something like that.

Thomas sips uneasily from his coffee while Julia stares out the window.

THOMAS

We can make this work, right?

JULIA

Totally. The doctor said you needed
a stress-free environment for a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JULIA (cont'd)

while and I married you for better
or worse, so if this is what needs
to be done, then this is what we
do. Besides, I can write from
anywhere. All I need is my laptop.

Julia reaches across the table and takes Thomas' hand in hers.

JULIA

But I might kill that fucking
rooster.

4 EXT. PIG PEN - DAY

Thomas awkwardly makes his around the pig pen with a large bucket in his hand. He pats one of the pigs as he moves towards the trough.

The pig immediately sticks its head inside the bucket of feed, knocking it out of Thomas's hand and spilling the contents onto the ground.

THOMAS

Come on, guys. Can't you give me a
break?

5 INT. BARN - DAY

Thomas stands before a mound of intimidating hay bales, a hook in each hand.

Thomas confidently sticks a hook in each side of a bale of hay and moves to lift it - unsuccessfully.

He tries again, his face turning red as he groans, exerting all the strength he can muster.

He lifts the bale and slams it triumphantly onto the bed of his motorized cart.

Thomas exhales loudly and wipes his brow, satisfied, but clearly already exhausted.

6 EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Julia sits on the porch swing, a book in hand. She glances up from it as Thomas cruises by on his cart - 3 bales piled into the bed of it.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
Need a hand, Farmer Tom?

THOMAS
Ha!

JULIA
Just don't hurt yourself. This is
supposed to be relaxing!

7 INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Julia sits on the faded floral couch in front of the box-set television. The kind with rabbit ears.

A double-barrel shotgun rests above it, mounted on the wall.

Thomas enters, fresh out of the shower and still drying his hair with a towel.

THOMAS
What are you watching?

JULIA
This TV only gets two channels. The
news and some local religious
network.

THOMAS
Soooo...Bible Study, I take it?

JULIA
Ha. You take your pill?

THOMAS
I'll take it in the morning.

Thomas flops down on the couch beside Julia.

THOMAS
Cable guy is scheduled for next
week. I couldn't get a sooner
appointment.

JULIA
We going to get a new TV? You know,
one that doesn't weigh 600 pounds?

THOMAS
I'll see what I can do.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Supposed to be a pretty good storm next week.

THOMAS

Awesome. Less irrigation I'll have to run.

JULIA

Oooh, I love when you talk farmer to me.

THOMAS

A week on the farm so far. Still love me?

JULIA

Somehow, I do.

Thomas stretches out and lays his head on Julia's lap.

THOMAS

Going stir-crazy yet?

JULIA

Almost.

THOMAS

Want to have sex?

JULIA

Meh.

Julia kisses Thomas on the forehead.

JULIA

What's the deal with the door under the stairs? It's locked and I can't seem to find the key that fits it.

THOMAS

I don't think there ever was a key for that door. Uncle used to say that there were ghosts under the stairs and they were locked away for good reason.

JULIA

Cute. Haunted farm?

THOMAS

Something like that.

8 EXT. PIG PEN - DAY

Rain pours from the sky as Thomas tries fruitlessly to catch a small pig.

THOMAS

I just want to get you into the barn! Come here!

Thomas jumps at the piglet and lands face-first in the mud, missing the little runt by mere inches.

Thomas rolls over onto his back with a groan and looks up at the gray sky and lets the rain wash the mud from his face.

A jagged bolt of lightning dances from cloud to cloud.

Thomas sits up and looks at the whining piglet, now in the corner of the pen.

THOMAS

You wanna stay out here in the storm, fine!

Thomas picks himself up from the ground and heads for the house.

9 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Julia lays in bed under the covers and reads a psychology book by lamplight.

Thomas enters the room, clad only in his underwear. Thunder growls outside and he climbs into bed.

THOMAS

Some storm, huh?

JULIA

Mhm.

THOMAS

You still reading that same book? What is it?

JULIA

Don't you worry your pretty little head, Farmer Tom. You just keep up with your crops and livestock.

THOMAS

Bleh. I don't think I'm cut out for this.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Who would have ever thought?

THOMAS

Hush. I couldn't just sell it.

JULIA

Why not? It's yours to do with as you please.

THOMAS

I dunno. This was just everything my uncle had. It was his whole life. He poured his blood, sweat, and tears into this land. Seems cold to just give it way, you know?

JULIA

I said sell. I didn't say give away.

THOMAS

You know what I mean.

Thomas snuggles up with Julia and immediately starts to drift off.

THOMAS

How's the writing going?

JULIA

Meh.

THOMAS

Getting an awful lot of that from you, lately.

JULIA

Meh.

THOMAS

You gonna sleep?

JULIA

Maybe in a while. I want to do some more reading and try to get a page or two written.

THOMAS

Mmk.

TIME LAPSE

10 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's dark. Thomas is deep asleep, a quiet snore emanates from him.

Julia isn't in bed with him.

Outside, it's still pouring. Lightning flashes and thunder quietly grumbles.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Thomas stirs in bed, but he doesn't wake up.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

Thomas lifts his head up.

THOMAS

Jules?

Thomas awakens a bit more and sees that she's not in bed with him. He looks at the clock.

1:13am.

KNOCKKNOCKKNOCKKNOCK!

Thomas jumps out of bed.

11 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas makes his way down the stairs, a baseball bat in his hands.

KNOCK!KNOCK!KNOCK!KNOCK!

THOMAS

(whisered)

Jules?

No answer from his wife.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Thomas slowly steps up to the front door and grips the baseball bat tightly.

THOMAS

Who's out there?

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

Ever so cautiously, Thomas extends a hand to the deadbolt and turns it.

Inhaling sharply, Thomas pulls open the front door.

Crumpled on the front porch, soaked with blood, lies a STRANGER, looking like not much more than a vagabond. He looks up at Thomas, weakly. His head has a gash in it.

STRANGER

H-help me.

The Stranger passes out.

THOMAS

Jules!

Thomas drops the bat.

12 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Thomas rushes into the kitchen and picks up the telephone. No dial tone.

THOMAS

Shit!

Thomas runs for the stairs.

13 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas bursts into the room and flicks on the lamp. He grabs the cell phone off of the nightstand and dials 911.

The phone beeps in his hand and he looks down.

NO SERVICE.

THOMAS

Goddamn it!

14 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas grabs the Stranger and drags him inside.

THOMAS

Jules! I need help!

Thomas drags the Stranger through the house and into the bathroom.

15 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Thomas gently sets the Stranger on the floor and frantically goes through the medicine cabinet. Gauze. Band-aids. Peroxide. Everything first-aid related that he can find ends up on the floor beside the Stranger.

THOMAS

Fuck. Where else are you bleeding from, man?

The Stranger is still unconscious and therefore doesn't answer.

Thomas carefully takes off the Stranger's coat. He has defensive wounds on both his arms and his side is bleeding quite heavily.

THOMAS

Jesus.

Julia steps into the doorway of the bathroom.

JULIA

What's going -

She sees the bloody stranger on the bathroom floor and gasps.

JULIA

Who the hell is that?

THOMAS

Didn't you hear me calling for you? Where the hell were you?

JULIA

I dozed off on the back porch. I was working. I -

THOMAS

He was pounding on our front door.

JULIA

But why did you bring him in here? Have you called an ambulance?

THOMAS

No service.

JULIA

Jesus, I'll try mine.

Julia goes to leave.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Julia! I need you here right now to help me, okay? Your phone isn't going to work any better than mine out here with this storm.

JULIA

Ugh.

Thomas rips open the man's shirt to reveal a bloody slit in his ribs leaking blood. Almost like a stab wound.

THOMAS

You took nursing classes, right?

JULIA

Yeah, in high school before I figured out what I actually wanted to do with my life.

THOMAS

What do we do? Apply pressure or something?

JULIA

You apply pressure. I'll go get the sewing kit.

Julia rushes off.

THOMAS

Sewing kit?!

JULIA(O.S.)

Put pressure on him!

THOMAS

Right.

Thomas takes some gauze out of the box and presses it firmly against the wound.

Julia returns a moment later with the sewing kit in hand. She opens it up and threads a needle.

THOMAS

They cover this in high school?

JULIA

Nope. Hopefully it's not much different than sewing a pillow.

Thomas looks over the stranger's wounds while Julia starts to stitch the wound closed.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Jesus. What the hell happened to him? Looks like he was mauled by an animal or something.

JULIA

Dunno. Car accident, maybe?

THOMAS

That would explain the head injury. But the rest?

JULIA

Broken glass? A piece of metal? I don't know. I'm a writer, not a fucking doctor.

The stranger suddenly sits up and howls. It's ear-piercing. Otherworldly. And goes on longer than it should.

The stranger looks at the frightened Julia and Thomas, wide-eyed, and then collapses back onto the floor.

THOMAS

What was that?

JULIA

Thomas.

THOMAS

Yeah?

JULIA

Go somewhere. Keep trying to call for help.

THOMAS

You going to be okay?

JULIA

I'll be fine. Just go.

Thomas leaves the bathroom and Julia goes back to working on the stranger's wounds.

16 INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas and Julia struggle as they carry the stranger into the bedroom and lay him on the bed.

JULIA

He's going to bleed on the sheets.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
We'll buy new ones.

JULIA
These are new ones.

THOMAS
What do you want me to do, Jules?

JULIA
I don't know. Why'd you have to
bring him inside?

THOMAS
He asked for help. Clearly, he
needed it.

JULIA
We should have just waited until we
could call someone.

THOMAS
He could have bled out by then.

JULIA
I doubt it.

THOMAS
Thought you weren't a doctor?

JULIA
Shut up.

Thomas and Julia step out into the hallway and Julia pulls
the door closed. Using a key, she locks it from the outside.

THOMAS
What are you doing?

JULIA
We don't know who this guy is. We
don't know what he's capable of or
what happened to him. Do you really
want him to roam about our house
freely?

THOMAS
I guess not.

JULIA
'Kay. Great.

Julia walks away.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
Where are you going?

JULIA
To bed.

Julia enters the master bedroom and slams the door shut behind her.

THOMAS
(quietly)
Glad you can sleep after this.

17 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Thomas enters the kitchen to find Julia there, sipping on coffee.

THOMAS
Still mad at me?

JULIA
I wasn't mad at you last night.

THOMAS
Have you checked on him?

JULIA
Not yet. Thought I'd leave you with that honor.

THOMAS
Key?

Julia motions to the counter.

JULIA
Right there.

Thomas takes the key from the counter and starts to walk away.

JULIA
I know you did the right thing.

Thomas turns.

THOMAS
Huh?

JULIA
Last night. You did the right thing by taking him in. I'm sorry I was
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JULIA (cont'd)
upset. I just...didn't know what to say or how to react. There was a strange man bleeding on our floor and I guess I was panicking and took it out on you. I'm sorry.

THOMAS
Your phone working?

JULIA
Not yet.

THOMAS
Mine either. Soon as we get service, we'll call to have him transported.

JULIA
We could just do it ourselves.

THOMAS
What if he's broken something? I wouldn't want to make it worse.

JULIA
I'm pretty sure dragging him through the house didn't help.

THOMAS
Good point.

18 INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

It's dark in the room, the shades drawn.

There's a gentle knock before the door is unlocked and Thomas steps into the room.

THOMAS
Uh. Sir? Sir, can you hear me?

There's no sound from the stranger.

Thomas slowly makes his way towards the bed to more closely examine the man. Still breathing.

Thomas backs out of the room and quietly closes the door.

19 INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Thomas stands outside the door, his hand still on the doorknob. He looks down at the key in his other hand.

After a moment's hesitation, Thomas walks away from the door without locking it.

20 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Thomas returns to the kitchen and pours himself a cup of coffee.

JULIA

Well? He still alive in there?

THOMAS

He's breathing. I hope he's not in a coma or something.

JULIA

I'll be going into town later. I'll see if I can get someone to come pick him up.

THOMAS

Maybe we should wait.

JULIA

Excuse me? I don't think I heard you correctly.

THOMAS

I said maybe we should wait.

JULIA

For what? Him to die in our home?

THOMAS

I don't think he's going to die. I don't know. We don't know anything about the guy. What if he has no money to cover the medical costs?

JULIA

Millions of people are walking around with hospital bills that will never be paid, Thomas. It'll be fine. Besides, what if he wakes up and it turns out he's some crazy

-

(CONTINUED)

STRANGER(O.S.)

I'm not crazy.

Julia and Thomas turn to the sound of the voice with a start.

The stranger stands in the kitchen doorway, leaned against the wall.

STRANGER

And if it's all the same, I'd rather you not have me transported to a hospital. Your husband is correct, ma'am. I can't afford the medical bill and I'd rather not waste more taxpayer dollars because of it. I won't cause you no trouble. Just give me a couple days and I'll be out of your hair.

THOMAS

What happened to you?

The stranger collapses onto the kitchen floor.

JULIA

Damn it!

Thomas rushes over to the stranger and scoops him up.

STRANGER

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Just got really lightheaded.

THOMAS

You need to rest. You lost a lot of blood last night. Let's get you back up in bed.

Thomas aids the stranger and half-carries him back towards the stairs.

JULIA

Maybe use the key this time.

THOMAS

Yeah, yeah.

21 INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Thomas closes the guest bedroom door and Julia steps into the hallway, her arms crossed and eyes fixated on him.

Thomas looks at her with a half smile and locks the bedroom door.

THOMAS

Happy?

JULIA

I'm going into town and I'm bringing professional help back with me.

THOMAS

Is that really necessary?

JULIA

Jesus, what is your deal?!

THOMAS

He asked us not to.

JULIA

And that doesn't seem a bit odd to you? That doesn't make you say, "Hmm, maybe this guy is running from someone. Maybe this guy has something to hide?"

Thomas thinks on this for a moment before he relents.

THOMAS

Okay. Okay, you're right. I'm sorry. I just want to do the right thing.

JULIA

You did the right thing last night. You did more than most people would have, okay? But we can't just have some random weirdo staying with us while his wounds heal. If something went wrong and he died, guess who would be going to jail? I love you to death, but sometimes you just don't think.

THOMAS

Drive safe.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Thanks.

Julia walks away, leaving Thomas there with his head low.

22

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Julia walks outside and heads to her jeep.

She gets inside and turns the key. The engine sputters but it doesn't start. She tries again, same thing. One last time and

CLICK. Nothing at all.

JULIA

Jesus. Now what?

Julia pops open the hood and gets out of the vehicle. She lifts up the hood to see if she can see anything.

Thomas steps out onto the porch.

THOMAS

Something wrong?

JULIA

It won't start.

THOMAS

Battery?

JULIA

Maybe. Give me a jump.

THOMAS

Yeah.

Thomas steps back into the house and returns a moment later with his keys in hand.

He gets into his truck and turns the key.

CLICK. Dead as well.

THOMAS

What the hell?

Thomas gets out of the truck.

JULIA

You've got to be fucking kidding.

Thomas shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

I don't know what to tell you.

Julia looks up at the guest bedroom window for a moment and then back at Thomas.

JULIA

You didn't unlock his door last night, did you?

THOMAS

No.

JULIA

And you're positive it was locked this morning when you went to check on him?

THOMAS

Mhm.

JULIA

Maybe he climbed out the window...

THOMAS

You can't be serious.

JULIA

You don't think it's a little bit odd that he shows up, bloody and begging for help and then mysteriously all forms of communication are cut off and our vehicles are suddenly not working?

THOMAS

First of all, there was a miserable storm last night, which is why our phones aren't working. I wouldn't be surprised if lightning hit the cell tower, assuming there's one nearby anyway. Secondly, car batteries die. It happens.

JULIA

Both at the same time?

THOMAS

Come on, Jules. You're kind of being ridiculous right now.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Really? Well, tell me, Einstein.
What the hell are we supposed to do
now? Hike 50 miles to the nearest
form of civilization?

THOMAS

I'm sure there's someone closer
than that.

JULIA

Yeah? You sure about that? The
entire month we've been here, I
can't recall passing a single other
house or seeing a single goddamn
vehicle come down our road.

THOMAS

I'm sure our phones will be working
in a day or two. We'll call AAA and
have them come out.

JULIA

And we'll call the authorities and
have them come get that man out of
our house, right?

Thomas hesitates for just a moment.

THOMAS

Right. I have work to do. I'm
behind schedule.

Thomas kisses his wife on the cheek and heads for the barn.

Julia looks back up at the guest bedroom window.

The stranger stands there, staring down at her.

23

INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

It's later in the day. Thomas enters the room, soaked with
sweat, a tray in his hand.

The stranger stands at the window, gazing out.

STRANGER

Am I a prisoner here?

THOMAS

What? No. No, of course not. You're
free to leave whenever you want.
It's just -

(CONTINUED)

STRANGER

You don't trust me.

THOMAS

It makes my wife feel better.

STRANGER

Your wife?

THOMAS

She's a city gal. Not too trusting of strangers. I'm sure you can understand.

The stranger turns and examines Thomas.

STRANGER

I appreciate you taking me in.

THOMAS

What happened to you?

STRANGER

I don't rightly remember. I was driving and got lost. Somehow ended up on a road not far from here. Something ran in front of my car and I swerved into a tree. When I got out, I think something may have attacked me. Animal or something. I don't know. I don't even remember making it to your home. I just remember waking up in this bed with my wounds stitched.

THOMAS

You can thank Jules for that.

STRANGER

Your wife, right? Was she a nurse?

THOMAS

Went to school for it for a while before she decided she wanted to pursue her passion.

STRANGER

What was that?

THOMAS

Writing.

Thomas sets the tray down on the bed. A sandwich and water.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
Thought you might be hungry.

STRANGER
More thirsty than anything.

THOMAS
Right. Sorry about that. Got a name?

STRANGER
Lucian.

THOMAS
I'm Thomas.

LUCIAN
Good to meet you, Thomas.

THOMAS
You as well.

LUCIAN
Again, I can't thank you enough for what you did.

THOMAS
Anyone else would have done the same.

LUCIAN
Doubtful. As you said, most folks aren't too keen about letting a stranger into their home.

Thomas steps backwards towards the door.

THOMAS
I've got to get back to work. I'll leave this open, though. Feel free to make yourself at home.

LUCIAN
That's mighty kind.

Lucian smiles. There's something mildly unsettling about it.

Thomas nods curtly and leaves the room.

24 INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Julia sits on the couch on her laptop. She types furiously.

JULIA
Get any information from him?

THOMAS
Name's Lucian.

JULIA
Interesting name.

THOMAS
I thought so.

JULIA
You taken your meds yet?

THOMAS
Not yet. I'll do that now.

25 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Thomas opens the medicine cabinet and takes out a bottle of medication. He closes the cabinet and stares at himself in the mirror for a moment.

Julie's scream suddenly pierces the air.

Thomas rushes from the bathroom.

26 INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Thomas dashes into the living room.

Julie stands on the couch. She screams and points.

THOMAS
What? What! What is it?

JULIA
Snake. There's a fucking snake in the corner. Right there. It's right there. See?

Thomas looks and sure enough, a jet black snake slithers its way under the recliner.

THOMAS
Oh. Uhhh. I'll get a broom?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

I don't care what you get, just
deal with it!

Thomas moves to the kitchen, grabs a broom, and returns.

He slowly creeps towards the recliner, gripping the broom
handle tightly.

JULIA

Get it! Get it! Hurry!

Thomas inches closer and crouches down.

He gently lifts the recliner back and -

Empty. There's nothing underneath the recliner.

THOMAS

What the hell? Where'd it go?

JULIA

Ooooh. Do not tell me there's a
snake loose somewhere in the house.

THOMAS

Did you see it move out from under
the chair?

JULIA

No.

Thomas checks all around the living room for a sign of the
snake. It's nowhere to be found.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

They're harmless, really.

Thomas and Julia turn to the sound of his voice.

Lucian stands before them, the black snake slithers around
his arm, completely content.

LUCIAN

They're good for pest control.
They'll keep the rats from eating
your crops.

27 EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Lucian stands before the cornfield and holds the snake up to his face.

Thomas watches from a few feet back as Lucian whispers something to the snake, crouches down, and releases it into the cornfield.

THOMAS
You sure that thing isn't venomous?

LUCIAN
Positive.

Lucian stands up and faces Thomas.

LUCIAN
Might I use the bathroom and clean myself up?

THOMAS
Of course. There's fresh towels on the shelf.

LUCIAN
You don't happen to have an extra razor I can use, do you?

THOMAS
Check the cabinet. I might.

LUCIAN
Great.

Lucian smiles the unsettling smile again and brushes past Thomas to get into the house.

Thomas watches him for a moment.

The wind kicks up and the cornstalks rustle, diverting Thomas's attention back to the field.

He watches them sway in the breeze.

28 INT. FARMHOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas, Julia, and Lucien sit at the table. A spread of food in front of them. Chicken. Potato. Corn. Biscuits. Southern comfort food.

Lucien, having showered and shaved, looks drastically different. He's handsome. Dark. Mysterious.

(CONTINUED)

It's quiet. Everyone sort of picks at their plates, but nobody is really eating much of anything. It's rather uncomfortable.

Thomas clears his throat.

THOMAS

So -

LUCIAN

You needn't feign conversation on my account, Thomas.

THOMAS

I'm not.

JULIA

You clean up nicely, Lucian. I barely recognize you.

LUCIAN

Thank you, ma'am.

Thomas gives Julia a sideways glance. She looks down at her food with a blush.

LUCIAN

Lived here long?

THOMAS

About a month. It belonged to my uncle.

LUCIAN

What happened to him?

JULIA

Yes, what *did* happen to him, Thomas?

Thomas glares at Julia.

THOMAS

He's no longer with us.

LUCIAN

Sorry to hear. Taking over the family business, then?

JULIA

Ha. Not any business to take over.

THOMAS

What my wife means to say is, my uncle was a private seller. Local farmers markets and such. This was more of a hobby lifestyle than a career for him.

LUCIAN

Then why are you here?

THOMAS

Eh. It's sort of complicated.

LUCIAN

I don't mean to pry.

It goes quiet again and they continue to pick at their food.

JULIA

No, go on, Thomas. Tell our guest. Why are we here?

THOMAS

Jules...

JULIA

Tell him what brought us out here. In the middle of nowhere. Completely cut off from civilization.

THOMAS

Why are you being like this?

JULIA

You should share with your new best friend, shouldn't you? We're all going to be living here together until God knows when. Might as well get cozy with one another.

Julia gets up from the table and leaves the kitchen.

LUCIAN

I should leave.

THOMAS

No. No, it's fine. It's not your fault. I don't know what her deal is lately.

(CONTINUED)

LUCIAN

I'm sorry.

THOMAS

Don't be. She's just being moody.
The reason we're out here is
because of my doctor.

LUCIAN

How's that?

THOMAS

I had a corporate job. Pretty high
up on the ladder. But it was
stressful. And balancing a marriage
and the constant demands of the job
mixed with being in a busy city
just took a toll.

LUCIAN

And you just snapped.

THOMAS

More or less. Doctor recommended I
get out before it was too late. So.
Here we are.

LUCIAN

You like it?

THOMAS

I'm learning to. Wish my wife
would.

29 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's dark. Thomas lies in bed, asleep.

Something creaks and Thomas jerks awake.

THOMAS

Jules?

Thomas rubs the sleep from his eyes and looks around the
room. Empty. Julia is not there.

The floor creaks again. It's coming from just outside the
bedroom.

Thomas slowly climbs out of bed and approaches the door. He
leans his ear against the door and listens.

BAM!

(CONTINUED)

Something pounds against the door and Thomas jumps back, startled.

THOMAS
Who's out there? Lucian?

Sounds of feet running away from the door.

Thomas yanks open the door and steps out into the hallway. It's dark and empty.

Thomas slowly creeps down the hall towards the guest bedroom.

30 INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door very slowly and very quietly opens. Thomas peeks his head inside.

Lucian is lying in bed, apparently asleep, his back to the door.

Thomas watches him for a moment.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

A knock on the front door. Thomas gently closes the bedroom door.

31 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Thomas walks down the stairs.

THOMAS
Who's there?

Nothing.

Thomas puts his hand on the door handle.

VOICE(O.S.)
(whispered, from behind)
Thomas.

Thomas jerks around to see what's behind him.

The entry is empty.

VOICE(O.S.)
(whispered)
Thomas. Over here.

(CONTINUED)

Thomas slowly walks to the door under the stairs. He tries the handle. Locked.

KNOCKKNOCK. Front door again.

Thomas moves back to the sound yanks open the front door.

32 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Thomas steps outside. The front porch is empty. He walks to both ends of the porch and looks down both sides of the house. There's nothing to be seen.

The wind picks up and the cornstalks rustle out in the field. Thomas turns his attention to them.

33 EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

Thomas stands at the edge of the cornfield, staring into the stalks.

He closes his eyes. As they move in the wind, the rustling changes and becomes whispers.

The whispers grow, becoming louder and faster as they echo and swirl around him.

THOMAS

What? No. That can't be.

A dim light shines on Thomas and he snaps open his eyes and whirls around.

Lucian stands in the guest bedroom window, the light on, and looks down at Thomas.

Lucian then raises a knife and brings it up to his throat.

THOMAS

No!

Thomas sprints for the house.

34 INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas jumps through the door.

THOMAS

Lucian!

It's dark in the room.

Lucian sits up in bed with a start, groggy.

LUCIAN
What's going on?

Thomas looks at him, and around the room, bemused.

THOMAS
Nothing. Nothing. I thought I
saw...Nevermind. I'm sorry to wake
you. Goodnight.

Thomas closes the door.

35 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Thomas turns on the water and opens the medicine cabinet. He takes out the bottle of pills and sets it on the side of the sink before splashing water on his face.

He stares at himself in the mirror.

THOMAS
You're fine. You're fine.
Everything is fine.

Thomas splashes water on his face once more and exits the bathroom, leaving the pills sitting on the sink.

36 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Thomas sits at the table, a miserable look on his face. He sips coffee.

Julia enters the kitchen and opens the fridge without looking at him.

THOMAS
Go somewhere last night?

Julia ignore him. She pours herself some cream into a coffee mug and fills it with coffee.

Thomas slams his hand down on the table and startles her.

THOMAS
I asked you a question.

Julia turns to face him.

JULIA
Where the hell would I go, Thomas?
I've got no vehicle. I've got no
phone. I'm sure as hell not going
to hike fifty miles to the nearest
phone.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Woke up last night. You weren't in bed.

JULIA

Slept on the couch.

THOMAS

I went through the house last night. Couldn't find you.

JULIA

Imagine that.

THOMAS

Meaning?

JULIA

You're a big boy, Thomas. You can figure it out.

Julia walks out of the kitchen, leaving Thomas there, fuming.

37

EXT. PIG PEN - DAY

Thomas throws slop around the pig pen without care. The pigs all hover around him and gob it up as fast and he tosses it, even onto the pigs themselves.

Thomas turns and stares off at the cornfield.

The pigs suddenly start screeching and run to the other corner of the pen.

Thomas turns to see Lucian leaning on the fence of the pen, watching him.

LUCIAN

Something bothering you?

THOMAS

Nothing I want to talk about.

LUCIAN

Come on, now. What would your psychologist say about that?

THOMAS

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

LUCIAN

Isn't that what they do? Encourage you to open up and share your feelings? Don't bottle it up.

THOMAS

Why don't you stay the hell out of my business?

Thomas storms out of the pen and heads for the house.

LUCIAN

Trouble with the wife, maybe? You wanna tell me why you barged into my room last night?

Lucian smiles the devilish grin.

38

INT. BARN - DAY

Thomas kicks up small piles of hay. He throws a hoe across the barn.

A cow moos in protest.

With a sigh, Thomas grabs a metal bucket and a stool from the corner of the barn and approaches the cow.

THOMAS

I'm sorry, girl.

Thomas sits on the stool and places the bucket underneath the cow.

He tugs on her utters, squirting milk into the bucket.

As Thomas tugs, he zones out and stares off.

VOICE(O.S.)

They're plotting against you.
They're going to leave you. They're going to hurt you.

The cow moos and Thomas snaps out of it with a shake of his head.

He looks down at the bucket.

It's not filled with milk. It's filled with blood.

THOMAS

What the hell?

39 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Thomas stands in the hot shower. Steam swirls all around him.

As he holds his head under the hot spray, the sound of the bathroom door opening and closing is heard.

Thomas snaps his head out from under the water and wipes his eyes.

THOMAS

Jules?

No answer.

Thomas shuts off the water and sticks his head out from behind the curtain.

The bathroom is empty. He glances to the mirror.

ALONE is scrawled on the mirror over the steam.

40 INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Thomas makes his way through the farmhouse, a towel wrapped around his waist.

THOMAS

Julia? Lucian?

Thomas searches the first floor. No sign of either of them.

He stops in front of the living room window and looks out.

Both Lucian and Julia are standing in front of the cornfield.

Thomas watches them for a moment before returning to the bathroom.

41 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

The words on the mirror are gone.

Thomas wipes the steam off of the mirror with his hand and looks at himself.

THOMAS

Get a grip. Everything is fine.
Everything is fine.

42 EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Thomas walks towards Lucian and Julia, who converse in hushed tones to one another.

They stop speaking as Thomas gets close.

THOMAS
What are you two doing?

JULIA
I'm just getting to know our guest a little bit better. Isn't that what you want?

THOMAS
I mean, yes.

LUCIAN
Don't worry, Thomas. I'm not trying to steal your wife from you.

Julia giggles. Thomas looks at her, uncertain.

THOMAS
Was one of you in the bathroom?

LUCIAN
When?

THOMAS
Just now, while I was showering.

JULIA
No. We've been out here for the last twenty minutes or so.

LUCIAN
Why? Something the matter?

Lucian looks at Thomas slowly. Almost knowingly.

THOMAS
No. No, I just - nevermind. I think I'm going to lie down.

LUCIAN
Probably a good idea.

THOMAS
Yeah...

(CONTINUED)

Thomas heads back to the house. Lucian and Julia watch him as he goes and then turn their attention back to the cornfield.

They continue to converse.

43 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas lies in bed, covered in sweat. He moans slightly and fidgets in his slumber.

44 EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY - DREAM

It's quiet. The skies overcast. A gentle wind blows, rustling the cornstalks.

Thomas makes his way through the rows of corn. He's covered in blood.

JULIA(O.S.)

Thomas!

Thomas moves to the sound of her voice.

JULIA(O.S.)

Thomas, come here!

Thomas pushes through the corn and steps out into a round section of cleared out corn in the middle of the field.

Julia stands there over Lucian's body. He's dead, soaked with blood, a gaping hole in his chest.

Thomas looks down at his hand - he's suddenly holding a shotgun.

Julia snaps her gaze to Thomas. Her eyes are pure black.

JULIA

Thomas! What have you done?

Lucian sits up suddenly and looks at Thomas.

LUCIAN

You haven't been living up to your end of the bargain, Thomas. You haven't been a good boy. What's behind that locked door, Thomas? Hm? What is it you're hiding?

Thomas slowly backs away and turns into the corn. He takes off running as fast as he can, whipping through the corn.

45 INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Thomas bursts into the house, shotgun still in hand, and dashes to the door by the stairs.

He puts his hand on the handle and turns -

JULIA(O.S.)

Thomas!

Thomas turns to the sound of her voice.

Julia stands in the entry.

JULIA

Do you really think you're ready?

Thomas yanks open the door -

STAB.

Thomas looks down at his gut. A blade punctures it.

Thomas looks up to find Lucian standing there in front of him, surrounded by blackness.

LUCIAN

Don't you like what you see?

Lucian smiles.

46 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas jerks himself awake, panting. He looks at the clock.

1:13am

He quickly gets out of bed.

47 INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas steps into the living room. It's dark.

THOMAS

Julia?

He moves from the living room and makes his way through the house.

As he passes the door under the stairs -

THUD.

Something hits the door. From inside.

Thomas stops and stairs at the door. After a moment, he tries to open it. Still locked.

48 INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas cracks open the door and peeks his head in.

The room is empty.

Thomas throws the door opens all the way and flicks on the light.

THOMAS

Lucian?

Thomas enters the room. He looks under the bed. He searches the closet. Lucian is not in his room.

Thomas runs out.

49 INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Thomas runs all through the house. He turns on all the lights. Opens every door. He searches everywhere. There's no sign of his guest or his wife.

THOMAS

What the fuck is going on?

50 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Thomas steps out on the front porch and looks around. Nobody appears to be outside.

He looks over at the barn - the door is open.

51 INT. BARN - NIGHT

Thomas enters the barn. It's dark. He grabs the lantern by the door and turns it on.

THOMAS

Lucian? Julia? What are you doing in here?

All is silent.

Thomas slowly makes his way through the barn. He checks the animal stalls. There's nothing.

CREAK.

Something moves above on the loft.

(CONTINUED)

Thomas shines the lantern up there. Nothing is visible.

THOMAS

Lucian?

Thomas makes his way to the ladder and climbs up. When he reaches the top -

SLAM!

The barn door slams shut and startles him. He loses his grip on the ladder rung and nearly plummets below.

THOMAS

Son of a bitch!

Thomas climbs back down the ladder in a hurry, runs to the barn door and throws it open -

Just in time to spot Julia running into the cornfield, naked.

THOMAS

What the fuck? Julia!

Thomas takes off running after her.

52

EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

Thomas runs through the cornfield. Julia stays just ahead of him, just out of sight.

THOMAS

Jules! What are you doing? Why are you running from me?

Thomas keeps running. Julia gets further and further ahead until she disappears from sight completely. Not even a glimpse.

Thomas stops running. He listens.

Footsteps to the left. He shines the lantern in their direction. Nothing.

Footsteps to the right. He shines the lantern right. He waits.

It goes quiet.

THOMAS

Julia?

Thomas hangs his head in defeat and turns off the lantern.
He saunters back towards the house.

53 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas steps inside and closes the door behind him.

THOMAS

Fuck 'em.

He deadbolts the front door and proceeds through the house,
shutting off all the lights.

54 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas steps into the room and freezes.

Julia lies in bed, in a nightgown, fast asleep.

THOMAS

What the hell are you doing in
here?

Julia stirs.

JULIA

What?

THOMAS

What are you doing in bed?

JULIA

This is where I sleep, Thomas.

She rolls over, annoyed.

THOMAS

You were just outside! Naked!
Running through the cornfield. I
saw you. I - I chased you. How -

JULIA

You sleepwalking again? Goodnight.

Thomas stands there. He stares at her for a moment and then
looks down the hall at the guest bedroom door. It's closed.

55 INT. GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door opens and Thomas looks inside. Just like Julia, Lucian is fast asleep in bed.

THOMAS
(whispered)
What the hell is going on?

56 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Thomas and Julia sit at the table, having coffee, per their usual routine.

JULIA
You feeling all right? You look sick.

Thomas shrugs.

THOMAS
Something weird is going on.

JULIA
What do you mean?

THOMAS
You keep disappearing at night.

JULIA
Oh?

THOMAS
Yeah. Lucian, too. I don't know what you're doing or what's going on, but I'm going to figure it out.

JULIA
Are you accusing me of something, Thomas?

Thomas remains quiet.

JULIA
Do I need to remind you that I gave up a luxury apartment in New York City to be here? For you. For us. Do I also need to remind you that it was your idea to bring this strange man into our home? Or that I tried to get you to get him out of here and you refused?

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

It's not like we have any way to get him out of here. Our cars aren't working and our phones -

JULIA

Yeah. I know. We're isolated. I don't need a reminder of that, Thomas. No phones. No internet. No vehicles. No goddamn postman. We can't even send for help via carrier pigeon.

THOMAS

I'm sorry, I -

JULIA

And yet here you are, accusing me of - of what exactly? Am I cheating on you? Is that it? Am I fucking the strange man that you brought into our home? And why? Because I tried to be friendly with him? Which, by the way, was for you!

THOMAS

What do you want me to say?

JULIA

I want you to say that you're sorry.

THOMAS

I'm sorry.

JULIA

I can't believe you. I think I've been handling this situation pretty well, considering. It's been pretty fucked up lately and I'm trying to make the best of it.

LUCIAN(O.S)

It's about to get worse.

Thomas and Julia both turn to look at Lucian, standing in the doorway of the kitchen.

LUCIAN

Sorry to interrupt. I wasn't trying to eavesdrop, but you need to come take a look at this, Thomas.

57 EXT. PIG PEN - DAY

Lucian leads Thomas to the pig pen.

THOMAS

Aw. Goddamn it. Goddamn it, no!

The pigs have all been slaughtered. Brutally. Hacked to pieces. The pen is filled with blood, their carcasses being fed on by flies.

THOMAS

What happened?

LUCIAN

I don't know. Looked out my window when I woke up this morning. Saw them like this.

Thomas crouches down and examines the remains of one of the pigs.

THOMAS

Shit. What could have done this?

LUCIAN

Doesn't look like an animal attack.

THOMAS

Then what?

Thomas looks at Lucian, who simply shrugs.

Thomas stands and looks at him.

THOMAS

And you didn't hear anything last night?

LUCIAN

Did you?

Thomas eyes Lucian suspiciously, and Lucian just smiles at him.

58 EXT. BACKSIDE OF BARN - DAY

Thomas digs a hole in the ground behind the barn. He's soaked with sweat and caked with dirt as he works feverishly to shovel away the earth.

Beside him is a cart full of dead pig carcasses.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
(mimicking Lucian)
"Did you?"

There's anger on his face. He shovels faster and harder.

Suddenly, he hears the sound of Julia moaning.

He stops shoveling for a moment to listen. It's quiet again. He goes back to shoveling.

Another moan. Thomas shakes his head, ignoring it.

FLASH

An image of Julia fucking the hell out of Lucian explodes through Thomas' head.

Thomas keeps shoveling. More moaning. More images of Julia getting pounded by the stranger.

The faster and harder that Thomas digs, the louder and more frequent the sounds and images become.

Finally, Thomas throws down the shovel and races back to the farmhouse.

59 INT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Thomas explodes through the front door, anger and jealousy and even fear all awash his face.

He runs into the living room - Julia sits there on the couch, her laptop in front of her.

JULIA
What is it? What's wrong?

THOMAS
I know what you two are doing. I
won't be made a fool! I won't!

JULIA
Thomas, what -

Thomas darts out of the living room and races up the stairs.

60

INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

Thomas enters Lucian's room without so much as a knock to find him sitting on his bed, reading the same psychology book that Julia was reading.

Lucian looks up from his book at Thomas with complete disinterest.

THOMAS

You need to leave. Right now.

LUCIAN

Where am I to go?

THOMAS

I don't know and I don't care.
You've overstayed your welcome and now it's time you were on your way.

LUCIAN

Thomas, I can still barely move my right arm. Surely you can't in good conscience send an injured man out into the wild.

THOMAS

I don't give a shit about your injuries any longer. We've fed you. We've clothed you. And how do you repay us? Repay me? You fuck my wife and slaughter my pigs.

Lucian sets the book down and stands up from the bed with some manner of difficulty.

LUCIAN

Now hold on, just what -

Julia enters the room behind Thomas.

JULIA

Excuse me? What did I just hear you say?

Thomas turns on Julia in a rage.

THOMAS

You're fucking him! You're fucking him in MY house. You think I'm stupid? You think I don't see the way you look at each other? You think I haven't heard you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS (cont'd)
whispering to each other? I'm out
there busting my ass to make sure
we have enough food to keep us
alive and you two are in here
fucking while I'm doing it!

JULIA
How dare -

THOMAS
I heard you moaning just now while
I was burying the pigs! Moaning
just like a goddamn pig, which is
what you are!

Julia slaps Thomas across the face. Hard. He stands there,
stunned. It's silent in the room.

Julia stares at Thomas, her eyes well with tears.

JULIA
How dare you accuse me of such a
thing after all that I've done for
you. How dare you call me a pig. A
pig? Who do you think you are? To
think that I would sleep with this
stranger - no offense -

LUCIAN
None taken.

JULIA
- while you're right here? Don't
you have more respect for me than
that? Don't you have more trust in
me? What the hell is going on? Have
you been taking your medication?

THOMAS
Oh, stop throwing that in my face,
will you? I snapped one time and
now every time something goes
wrong, I must be off my meds,
right? I'm just a fucking psycho!
Look at the crazy man, losing his
shit! If neither of you like it,
leave! But if I catch you two
together, I swear to God...

LUCIAN
What?

Thomas turns his icy gaze to Lucian, who smiles at him.

(CONTINUED)

LUCIAN

What happens then, Thomas? I'm dying to know.

Thomas points at Lucian.

THOMAS

I'm watching you. Remember that.

Thomas leaves the room.

61 EXT. BACKSIDE OF BARN - DAY

Thomas drops the slaughtered pigs into the hole he dug and shovels dirt on top of them.

He finishes up and walks around the side of the barn.

Julia stands before the cornfield, staring out at it as tears stream down her face.

Thomas sighs, throws his shovel down and makes his way towards her.

62 EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

The cornstalks sway gently in the breeze. Thomas stands beside Julia and puts his hand on her shoulder. She immediately shrugs it off.

JULIA

Don't touch me. You don't get to touch me ever again after what you just did.

THOMAS

Julia...I -

JULIA

I've been trying really hard. For you. For us. And it just doesn't seem like I'm getting anywhere. Coming out here, it was supposed to help. I just think it made things worse and I can't do it anymore, Thomas. I just can't.

THOMAS

It's not me. There's something going on here. Something...wrong. And it all started when he showed up.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Just stop with that. It was your idea to let him stay in the first place and now that he has, he's driving you crazy.

THOMAS

You don't find it just a little bit odd that he showed up and our phones stopped working, our cars stopped working, animals started dying...

JULIA

Yeah. I said it was odd from the start and you told me that I was the crazy one, remember? You suddenly have an epiphany?

THOMAS

Look. I'm sorry for what I said. It was out of line, I should have never said that to you. I don't know what came over me. It's like he's...taunting us. You know?

Julia turns and looks at Thomas.

JULIA

If you think he needs to go, then send him away. Do what you need to do, Thomas. That's all we've ever done is what you needed.

THOMAS

Jules, that's not fair.

JULIA

Neither is the situation you've put me in. Or the way you've made me feel since we came out here.

Julia looks away from Thomas and continues to stare out into the corn.

THOMAS

Julia, I -

JULIA

You need to leave me alone. Right now.

Thomas sighs, nods his head, and turns to the house.

63 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - DAY

Thomas steps through the door to find Lucian standing in front of the door under the stairs, rattling the handle.

THOMAS
What are you doing?

LUCIAN
It's strange. I thought I heard a noise coming from behind the door. What's under here?

THOMAS
I don't know. The door has never been unlocked.

LUCIAN
That's odd, isn't it?

THOMAS
My uncle used to say there were ghosts under the stairs and we had to keep them locked up.

LUCIAN
Ghosts? Interesting...I think we should open it up and see, don't you?

THOMAS
No.

LUCIAN
Why not? Don't want to see what's hiding down there in the dark?

THOMAS
Some things are better left buried.

LUCIAN
Like secrets?

Lucian smiles that creepy smile at Thomas and then returns his attention to the door.

THOMAS
Look. You really do need to leave.

LUCIAN
Beg pardon?

Lucian looks away from the door at Thomas.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Spoke with Julia. We've agreed it's in our best interest if you were on your way.

LUCIAN

"Our" best interest, or "yours?"

THOMAS

That's irrelevant. You're a guest in my house and my hospitality is over.

Lucian stares Thomas down, sizing him up. The two are quiet. Tense.

LUCIAN

Well. If that's how you feel, I'll just be going, then. You've already been much more gracious than I could have ever expected from anyone else. I'm terribly sorry I've overstayed my welcome and if I've caused the two of you marital problems, well, there just are no words to express my remorse.

Lucian looks at the door under the stairs one last time and then steps past Thomas on his way to the front door. He stops and turns.

LUCIAN

Oh. One last thing. The night of my accident...it's still pretty hazy, but there's something I do remember now.

THOMAS

What's that?

LUCIAN

What caused me to crash. It seems it was a naked woman with dark hair. I swerved to miss her. Strange, isn't it? This area being so desolate and all.

Thomas freezes and Lucian smiles one last time.

LUCIAN

Thank you, again, Thomas. Seriously. I'm am forever in your debt for what you've done for me, and I won't forget it.

(CONTINUED)

Lucian opens the front door and steps outside, closing it behind him.

Thomas stands there, letting Lucian's last words wash over him.

64 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Thomas stands under the hot water, washing the day away from him.

65 EXT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas walks into the living room where Julia sits, typing on her laptop.

THOMAS
How's the writing coming?

JULIA
Fine.

THOMAS
I have some good news.

JULIA
Mm?

THOMAS
I had a pickup scheduled in three days. A load of corn. Someone will be here with a vehicle. And a phone. We won't be stuck anymore.

Julia looks up from her laptop.

JULIA
Really?

THOMAS
Yeah. With everything going on, I guess I forgot.

JULIA
That's kind of a big thing to forget.

THOMAS
I know. But. Good news, right?

Julia feigns a smile.

JULIA

Right. You know, after everything that's gone on with Lucian and the farm and us, I think that once we have access to the outside world again, I'm going to take some time away. I want to go see my mother and maybe....-

Julia continues to talk, but Thomas' attention is no longer on her. He's not paying attention to what she's saying at all.

Instead, he's looking out the front window and the cornfield.

Lucian stands just outside the perimeter of the cornfield. He smiles that creepy smile and then steps back into the corn.

THOMAS

You gotta be kidding me.

JULIA

What? Were you listening to me at all?

THOMAS

He's still here.

Julia turns around and looks out the window.

JULIA

What? Who?

THOMAS

Lucian. Just now. He stepped back into the cornfield.

Julia at Thomas once more, concern on her face.

JULIA

Thomas, why would he be hanging out in our corn?

THOMAS

Stay here.

Thomas leaves the living room.

66 EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

Thomas stands before the cornfield, baseball bat in hand.

THOMAS
I know you're in there. Come on
out. Let's not do this, okay?

Julia steps out onto the porch.

JULIA
Thomas! What are you doing?

THOMAS
Just get back inside, Julia. Now.

Julia rolls her eyes with a groan and goes back inside.

THOMAS
Lucian!

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Come get me, Thomas.

A chuckle echos through the night.

Thomas steps into the cornfield.

THOMAS
Where you at?

Corn rustles to the right of Thomas and he heads that way.

THOMAS
Stop playing games! Why are you
doing this?

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Why are you?

Thomas continues through the corn, baseball bat at the ready.

THOMAS
I'm not looking for trouble! We
took you in! We cared for you! Just
get on out of here!

LUCIAN(O.S.)
You invited me.

A shadowy figure darts through the corn just ahead of Thomas and he picks up his pace to catch the figure.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
Yeah, well, now you're uninvited.

LUCIAN(O.S.)
It doesn't work that way.

THOMAS
Why not?

LUCIAN(O.S.)
(as if he's right behind
Thomas)
Because your wife doesn't want me
to go.

Thomas turns around with a swing of the bat and hits nothing but corn.

He pauses. Listens. All is quiet.

THOMAS
Lucian! Lucian!

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Be seeing you.

67 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas steps back inside the house and locks the door behind him. He sets the bat by the door.

Julia greets him.

JULIA
Well? Was he out there?

THOMAS
He's out there.

JULIA
Shit. What do we do?

THOMAS
There's nothing we can do.

JULIA
Do you think he wants to hurt us?

THOMAS
I don't know. I don't know what's
going on at all. Let's make sure
all the doors and windows are
locked, yeah?

68 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas and Julia lie in bed together, albeit facing away from each other and on opposite side. It's dark. It's quiet.

JULIA
Will you hold me?

THOMAS
What?

JULIA
I've got the creeps or something.
Nothing. Nevermind.

Thomas hesitates a moment and then rolls over to spoon with Julia.

JULIA
I'm still mad at you, just so you know. And I still want some time away.

THOMAS
I know.

Julia closes her eyes for sleep. Thomas smiles.

TIME LAPSE

69 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Thomas rolls over in bed. Julia is gone. He stirs and looks up at the clock.

1:13am.

THOMAS
Jules?

Thomas gets out of bed.

70 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas makes his way down the stairs, flicking on the light as he does - and freezes.

The front door is open.

THOMAS
What the fuck. Julia!

Thomas grabs the baseball bat by the front door.

(CONTINUED)

BANG!

Something pounds against the door under the stairs, jolting Thomas' attention to it.

THOMAS

Hello?

Thomas slowly makes his way towards the door.

The handle jiggles from the other side. Thomas watches, eyes wide.

He slowly reaches out, places his hand on the handle -

SLAM!

The front door slams, startling Thomas. He rushes towards it and pulls it open, stepping out onto the porch.

There's a giggle and something runs up the stairs inside the house behind him.

THOMAS

Who's there?

Thomas races back into the house and charges up the stairs.

71 INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Thomas runs into the hallway from the stairs just in time to see the figure dart into the guest bedroom.

THOMAS

Julia? Lucian?

VOICE(O.S.)

Come and find me.

Thomas freezes. It's an unrecognizable voice.

THOMAS

Who is that? What are you doing in my house?

Thomas slowly steps down the hall towards the sound of the voice.

VOICE(O.S.)

(whispered)

It's my house.

Thomas grips the baseball bat tightly and enters the room with all the conviction he can muster.

72

INT. FARMHOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. Thomas flips on the light.

Empty.

THOMAS

Come out!

Nothing.

Thomas searches the room. All the corners. Under the bed. Inside the closet. There's nobody there.

He sits down on the bed with a sigh.

A HAND suddenly grips him by the shoulder and he jumps from the bed and turns around, ready to swing -

JULIA

Hey! Shit!

It's Julia.

Thomas cries out in relieve, breathing heavily.

THOMAS

Jesus. You scared the shit out of me.

JULIA

What the hell are you doing in here with that thing?

THOMAS

I heard - I thought - where were you again?

JULIA

I stepped outside to get some air.

THOMAS

You really think that's a good idea right now?

JULIA

I think if he wants to hurt us, he'll find a way to hurt us no matter what.

THOMAS

Yeah, well, let's not make it any easier for him, okay?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Whatever you say, Thomas. You're in control.

Julia walks out of the bedroom.

THOMAS

What the hell does that mean?

JULIA(O.S.)

Front door is still open!

THOMAS

Shit.

73 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas closes and locks the front door. He turns back and fixes his eyes on the door under the stairs.

He stares at it for a moment, lost in thought, before he shuts off the light and heads back upstairs.

74 EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Thomas walks through the cornfield, basket in hand.

He weaves in and out of the cornstalks, yanking off fresh ears of corn.

As he fills the basket, flies buzz around him. He shoos them off and keeps picking, but they keep coming.

THOMAS

What the hell?

Thomas sets the basket on the ground and crouches down. He pulls open an ear of corn.

It's rotted. He does it for a second ear. Same thing. Again. And again. He rips open every ear of corn only to find that they're all rotten.

He stands and pushes deeper into the cornfield, ripping open ears of corn every few feet. Each one, rotten.

Thomas spins around, shouting.

THOMAS

What did you do?!

75 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Thomas enters the kitchen in a huff and slams the basket of corn down on the table, right in front of Julia.

JULIA

I don't know that I've ever seen
someone so pissed off at corn
before.

THOMAS

It's rotted. All of it. Rotted. Go
ahead, take a look.

Julia briefly paws through the basket of rotten corn,
disinterested.

JULIA

Okay...?

THOMAS

Don't you see? He did it. It's him.
He's somewhere in the cornfield and
he's poisoning the whole goddamn
crop.

Thomas paces the kitchen.

JULIA

And how is he doing that, exactly?

THOMAS

I don't know. Maybe he's got some
kind of chemical. Maybe it's
something else. Maybe it's some
kind of magic. You saw how he
handled that snake. It's like he
whispered to it. And add on top of
that the cars and the phones and
just -

JULIA

Okay, okay. You need to relax. Take
a breath. Sit down.

THOMAS

I don't want to sit down. I want to
go out there, find him, and put a
bullet in him.

JULIA

Thomas, you can't do that.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Why not? He's trespassing! I can do whatever the hell I want with an intruder on my property.

JULIA

We don't even know that he's still out there.

THOMAS

Oh, he's out there. I can feel it.

JULIA

Thomas...

Thomas stops pacing and looks at Julia.

THOMAS

What?

JULIA

I think we've been isolated out here too long...

THOMAS

What do you mean?

JULIA

I mean...what if everything that's going on is just...well, not as bad as we think? What if we're being paranoid? What if...

THOMAS

We're imagining things? Look at the corn. Are we imagining that it's rotted? Get close to it, take a whiff. Tell me that's all in our heads. Tell me we're crazy. Tell me *I'm* crazy, Jules. Go ahead. I know you're dying to.

JULIA

I didn't say that and it's not what I meant. Jesus. I'm so sick of fighting with you. That's all we ever do!

Julia gets up from the table and leaves the kitchen.

THOMAS

Maybe if you stopped treating me like a goddamn freak!

(CONTINUED)

Thomas knocks the corn off the table in a burst of fury and then sits down at the table.

THOMAS

Two more days. Two more days. Two more days.

76 EXT. BARN - NIGHT

Thomas steps out of the barn, a pitchfork slung over his shoulder, and makes his way towards the house.

The wind blows and rustles the corn. Thomas turns to it.

THOMAS

Lucian? You out there?

Thomas waits a moment before he shakes his head and keeps on towards the house.

77 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Thomas and Julia sit at the table together, picking at their food.

JULIA

I'm not hungry.

THOMAS

Neither am I.

Thomas leans back in his chair with a sigh.

JULIA

What happened to us?

Thomas looks Julia in the eyes, a sudden look of compassion on his face.

THOMAS

What do you mean?

JULIA

Remember when we first got married? Remember how happy we were? We had that crappy little apartment on Flamingo Avenue. Two bedrooms, but the one was so small it couldn't be used for much more than a tiny office.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

I remember.

JULIA

And then my car got towed that one morning. You were leaving for work and you came in, yelling that it had been stolen. Turned out that I got towed.

THOMAS

There were no "no parking" signs where the car had been parked. I went tearing into the office, giving them whatfor, saying I was going to take the cost of the tow out of my next rent payment.

JULIA

Yeah. Didn't work out too well.

THOMAS

Nope. Sure didn't. But I tried.

JULIA

I miss that little place. I miss coming home from work at night and you had already made dinner. I miss snuggling up on the couch with you during Christmas time, falling asleep on your lap under the light of the tree.

THOMAS

We had nothing, then.

JULIA

But we were happy, weren't we?

Thomas shrugs.

THOMAS

I guess so.

JULIA

And then you got that promotion.

THOMAS

Yeah...

JULIA

And we moved to the city.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

You were pretty happy about that,
if I recall.

JULIA

It's every girl's dream to live in
the city.

THOMAS

Is that so?

JULIA

And then I stopped working at
Hooters to pursue my writing full
time. And we were supposed to live
happily ever after, you know?

Julia's eyes well up with tears.

JULIA

But it's like, the more money we
made, the more distant we became.
And we filled that hole in our
hearts with junk. Just complete
shit. All the stuff we had, it
didn't make us feel complete. Just
more disconnected. And I just, I
wish we still had that. I wish we
weren't bitter or angry. I wish we
could go back to being poor in that
little apartment. I wish we didn't
fight all the time.

THOMAS

That's why I thought coming out
here would be good for us. It was
going to be like hitting the reset
button. But you just - you hated
it. Like, right away. You didn't
even give it a chance. You can say
you don't need all that material
shit and to live in the city but
you do. You've been miserable
without it, and you're pinning it
on me and that's been really
unfair.

Julia looks down at the floor as Thomas talks. When she
looks up, tears stream down her face.

JULIA

I didn't mean to be that way. I
guess I just didn't realize what

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JULIA (cont'd)
happened to us until now. I want to go back. I want to be what we used to be, you know? I miss us. I miss you. I miss the person I used to be, before I turned into a rich snob.

Thomas reaches across the table and gently touches Julia's hand.

THOMAS
This is just a rough patch in our lives. We're going to make it through this. For better or worse, remember? I haven't given up on you. Don't you give up on me, either.

The two lean in close for a kiss -

KNOCK KNOCK.

So close.

The two snap their attention to the front door.

JULIA
Expecting company?

THOMAS
No.

Thomas slowly gets up from the table.

78 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas quietly inches his way towards the door, careful not to make any noise.

He picks up the baseball bat, raises it high, and yanks open the front door.

There's nobody outside.

Thomas looks down at the floor. A package. Right in front of the door. A neat little bow rests on the top of it.

79 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Thomas returns to the kitchen with the package in hand.

JULIA
What's that?

THOMAS
I don't know. But I'm sure I'm not
going to like it.

Thomas and Julia examine the package. There's a card tucked under the bow.

Thomas opens the card. All it says is, "Thank You."

Thomas undoes the bow and looks to Julia uncertain. She nods.

THOMAS
Maybe you better stand back, just
in case.

Thomas sniffs and crinkles his nose.

THOMAS
Do you smell that?

JULIA
I do. What is that?

Thomas opens up the box.

Inside is a severed, partially rotted pig's head, most likely dug up from behind the barn.

Thomas recoils, gagging.

THOMAS
Jesus!

JULIA
What is -

Julia takes a step towards the box.

THOMAS
Don't! Don't look at it.

Thomas quickly puts the top back on the box.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Motherfucker! That motherfucker is
still out there!

80 INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas stomps into the living room and grabs the
double-barrel off the wall.

Julia follows.

JULIA

What are you doing?

THOMAS

I'm done playing games with this
guy. One thing he doesn't know
about me, I always win.

81 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Thomas re-enters the kitchen, shotgun in hand, and pulls
open one of the drawers. There's shotgun shells inside. He
grabs a handful and puts them in his shirt pocket.

JULIA

I don't think this is such a good
idea.

THOMAS

At this point, I don't care
anymore.

JULIA

You can't just shoot someone,
Thomas. I mean, he hasn't tried to
hurt us.

THOMAS

Yet. I'm not going to give him the
chance.

Thomas grabs the box from the table.

82 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Thomas steps out onto the porch, a battery operated lantern
hanging from his hip.

THOMAS

Lock the door behind me. You don't
open it until you hear three knocks
and my voice. Got it?

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
Thomas, wait.

THOMAS
Do you got it?

JULIA
I got it.

THOMAS
Good.

Thomas steps off the porch. Julia watches him walk towards the barn before she closes the door.

83 EXT. BACKSIDE OF BARN - NIGHT

Thomas makes his way to where he buried the pigs. The hole has been dug up.

Thomas drops the box into the open hole.

SNAP!

Something breaks behind Thomas and he turns around with a start, shotgun raised.

THOMAS
Lucian! Come out! I'm not playing anymore! I will blow you away!

Something moves in the corn.

BLAM! BLAM!

Thomas fires both barrels, destroying the corn in front of him. Without hesitation, he reloads.

Carefully, Thomas steps towards where he blasted and paws through the corn, searching for any sign of contact. There's nothing.

THOMAS
Where are you? Stop hiding. You afraid of me, now that you know I can be dangerous, too?

Thomas is greeted only by the sound of silence.

MOOOOooo.

From inside the barn, the cows stir uncomfortably.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Gotcha.

84 INT. BARN - NIGHT

The barn is dark, the only light comes from the illumination of Thomas' lantern.

THOMAS

I know you're in here.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

Why are you so concerned about what's going on out here, when you should be worried about what's going on in there?

Thomas looks around, listening, trying to determine the exact location of the voice.

THOMAS

You want to talk, why don't you come out of the shadows and we can talk face to face, like men.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

Oh, I think not.

THOMAS

Why's that? Scared? You want to leave severed heads on my doorstep, poison my crops, fuck with our vehicles, stranding us out here, but you can't face me? Coward.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

The shadows are my home, Thomas. You know this.

THOMAS

I know you're sick. That's what I know.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

I'm sick? Oh, Thomas. Tsk. Tsk. What's behind the door under the stairs, Thomas? What's down there? What is it that wakes you up at night in a cold sweat, leaving you gasping for air but you don't know why? What's down there waiting...in the dark?

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

That has nothing to do with this.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

It has everything to do with this, Thomas. You know why? Because I know what's down there, lurking in the dark. I know what's waiting to be unleashed. And guess what?

THOMAS

What?

Lucian suddenly appears right behind Thomas to whisper in his ear.

LUCIAN

I'm going to release it.

Thomas whips around with a yelp and fires the shotgun, blasting a hole in the side of the barn and knocking himself on his ass.

Lucian chuckles somewhere in the dark.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

(whispered)

It's coming to get you, Thomas.
It's going to kill you. Do you really think you're safe in that house?

Thomas gets up off the ground and frantically looks around, the shotgun at the ready.

THOMAS

What do you mean? What does that mean?! Lucian? Lucian!

Lucian suddenly explodes out of the darkness and rushes Thomas.

BLAM!

Thomas fires, blasting a hole into Lucian's chest and sending him flying back into the dark.

85 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Thomas runs up the stairs to the house -
the front door is open.

Julia stands in front of the door under the stairs, trying to unlock it with multiple keys.

THOMAS
What are you doing?

Thomas steps inside, slamming the door behind him.

86 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Julia tries another key. Then another. Then another. None of them working.

THOMAS
I said what are you doing!

JULIA
There's something behind this door,
Thomas.

THOMAS
What are you talking about? There's
nothing down there.

JULIA
There is. I heard it call out to
me. As sure as the sun rises, it
talked to me. It's down there.

Julia frantically continues to try to open the door, Thomas sets down the shotgun and grabs Julia, pulling her away from the door.

JULIA
What are you doing! No! Let me go!
Put me down!

THOMAS
Julia, stop it! There's nothing
down there! We don't even have a
key for that door. We never have.

JULIA
Well it's locked somehow! There's
got to be a way to open it. Just
let me -

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Julia!

Julia stops panicking and looks at Thomas.

THOMAS

Stop. Relax. Take a breath.

JULIA

What happened out there? I heard shooting. Did you get him? Is he dead?

Thomas shakes his head grimly.

THOMAS

I didn't get him. Bastard wouldn't come out of hiding to face me. Think I scared him pretty good.

JULIA

Is it over, then?

THOMAS

I think now that he knows I'm not fucking around, he's going to be on his way.

Julia hugs him tightly.

JULIA

I swear I heard voices behind the door. I swear they talked to me. I'm not lying.

THOMAS

Shhh. It's okay. Everything is going to be okay.

JULIA

Did you talk to him? Did he say anything?

Thomas continues to hold Julia, but he stares at the door under the stairs.

THOMAS

No. He didn't say anything.

87 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

1:13am.

Thomas sleeps alone in bed.

Creeeeeeaaaakkk.

The door to the bedroom slowly swings open. A shadowy figure stands in the doorway. Waiting. Watching.

Thomas rolls over to face the door and opens his eyes for a moment, spotting the figure.

THOMAS
Oh, fuck! Shit!

Thomas rolls away from the door and jumps out of bed, turning on the lamp.

The figure in the doorway is gone.

THOMAS
Jules. Jules!

Thomas stands there a moment, trembling. Trying to get his bearings.

THOMAS
Fuck.

Thomas slowly makes his way around the bed and grabs the shotgun from under his side. He pops it open to check that it's loaded before stepping out into the hall.

88 INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Thomas looks down both sides of the hallway to see where the shadowy figure went.

THOMAS
Lucian? Are you in here?

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Thomas turns his attention to the sound. It's coming from downstairs.

The lights in the hall suddenly go out.

THOMAS
Shit.

Thomas flips the switch repeatedly. No power.

Shotgun raised, Thomas makes his way downstairs.

89 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Thomas reaches the base of the stairs and tries the light switch there. Nada.

He creeps up to the front door -

KNOCK. KNOCK.

He freezes. The sound isn't coming from the front door.

He turns.

Julia stands in front of the door under the stairs, staring at it. Lost in it.

THOMAS

Julia?

JULIA

Can't you hear him? He's whispering to me. He wants me to let him out.

THOMAS

Who?

Julia looks to Thomas with a quick snap of her head, startling him.

JULIA

You know who.

Thomas lowers the shotgun and carefully steps towards Julia.

THOMAS

Let's just get you back to bed, all right?

JULIA

I don't belong here. I'm not supposed to be here.

THOMAS

Shh. Shh. It's okay.

Thomas takes Julia by the hand.

90 INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Thomas softly closes the bedroom door and heads back for the stairs.

91 INT. FARMHOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas flops down onto the couch and rests the shotgun on his lap.

He rubs his face and eyes furiously with a heavy sigh. Then he leans back and closes his eyes.

Lucian stands suddenly behind him in the window, a gaping hole in his chest, watching. Smiling. He walks past the window just as Thomas opens his eyes and looks behind him.

Thomas gets up from the couch and makes his way around the first floor of the house, checking rooms, closets, and peaking outside every window he walks by.

SMASH! Something breaks in the kitchen.

Thomas races to it.

92 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Thomas jumps into the kitchen, his shotgun at the ready. There's nobody inside. No sign of forced entry.

On the floor in front of the fridge is a pile of smashed glass - the remnants of a cookie jar.

Thomas breathes a sigh of relief and sets down the shotgun. He stoops down to pick up some of the shards when something catches his eye.

A key.

Thomas takes the key into his hand and examines.

The door handle on the door under the stairs violently starts rattling.

93 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas approaches the door under the stairs, key in hand.

The door handle rattles harder and harder. Thomas reaches out - it stops.

He looks from the key to the handle back to the key again. He closes the key tightly in his hand with a squeeze and looks at the front door.

94 INT. BARN - NIGHT

Thomas enters the barn, lantern in hand and heads over to the spot where he shot Lucian.

There's no body, just blood.

THOMAS
Lucian?

Thomas shakes his head and turns away.

95 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas closes and locks the door. He turns, takes one final look at the door under the stairs, and heads up to bed.

As he ascends the stairs, the door handle rattles one more time.

96 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

The sun floods the room with mid-afternoon light. Thomas is fast asleep in bed.

Somewhere inside the house, a phone rings dully.

Thomas stirs, half asleep.

THOMAS
Can you get that?

Ring. Ring. Ring.

Thomas opens one of his eyes.

THOMAS
What - oh shit!

Thomas jumps out of bed, fully alert and dashes out of the room.

97 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

The phone on the kitchen wall rings again and again.

Thomas dashes into the kitchen, damn near slamming into the phone with all of his body weight. He grabs the receiver.

THOMAS
Hello? Hello?

He's met with static.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Hello? Can you hear me?

More static. A faint woman's voice can barely be made out over the noise.

THOMAS

Look, if you can hear me, please, send help. We're trapped out here and everything is wrong. Very wrong. There's a man and he's just

-

CLICK. The line goes dead.

THOMAS

Hello? Hello! Goddamn it!

Thomas slams the receiver down and then picks it up again. The line is completely dead.

THOMAS

Fuck.

Thomas rips the phone out of the wall in frustration.

Julia appears in the doorway.

JULIA

That's not a healthy way to deal with your anger.

THOMAS

Didn't you hear the phone ringing?

JULIA

No. When was this?

THOMAS

Just now. Not even a minute ago.

JULIA

I didn't hear anything at all until you came down here screaming.

THOMAS

Where were you?

JULIA

In the living room. I thought you were going to sleep all day.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
What time is it?

JULIA
Nearly three.

Thomas rubs his eyes.

THOMAS
And you really didn't hear the
phone ringing?

JULIA
Are you feeling all right?

THOMAS
Do I look like it?

Thomas storms past Julia. She follows.

JULIA
Don't fall apart on me now. We just
need to make it for one more day,
right? One more day and that buyer
comes and we can get the hell out
of here and back to civilization
and this can all just be -

Thomas turns on her suddenly.

THOMAS
Just be what?

JULIA
- a bad dream.

THOMAS
It's not a bad dream, Julia. It's
reality. Really shitty fucking
reality.

Thomas walks away.

JULIA
I'm not so certain anymore.

98

EXT. FARMHOUSE - DAY

Thomas sits on the porch and stares out over the vast farm.
Miles and miles of nothing, as far as the eye can see.

Julia steps outside and sits down beside him.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Do you think it was a bad idea to come out here?

THOMAS

What do you think?

Julia laughs quietly to herself.

THOMAS

What's so funny?

JULIA

Nothing. I'm just glad I'm not the only one. I don't have to feel like such a bitch anymore.

Julia continues to laugh and soon, Thomas joins her. She snuggles up on him.

THOMAS

It's pretty out here, though. Isn't it? Peaceful.

JULIA

I wouldn't say peaceful in light of recent events, but you're right about it being pretty.

THOMAS

Maybe one day when we're old and falling apart, we'll look back on this and laugh. It will have made us stronger.

JULIA

You think?

THOMAS

I hope so.

The two sit out there for hours and watch as the sun goes down together before going back inside.

99

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Thomas and Julia sit at the table together. One final meal at the farm. Meatloaf and mashed potatoes with a glass of red wine.

JULIA

You know, once upon a time when I was a little girl, this was exactly the kind of life that I wanted.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

What do you mean?

JULIA

I was going to marry myself a cowboy and we were going to raise us some kids on the farm.

THOMAS

Kids?

Julia looks up from their meal, tenderly.

JULIA

I mean, it was before I woke up and realized what a nightmare all that would be.

THOMAS

Yeah. Right. Of course.

Thomas messes around with the food on his place but doesn't speak.

JULIA

You want kids, don't you?

Thomas shrugs.

JULIA

We had that talk long before we got married. We both agreed -

THOMAS

I know, I was there. It's just...I don't know, I guess things change as you start to get older.

JULIA

Can you imagine how much worse all this would have been if we had a child with us?

THOMAS

You're not wrong.

Julia takes up her wine glass.

JULIA

To our last dinner on the farm - and the end of our nightmare.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS
To our last dinner.

Thomas raises his glass and clinks his against hers.

The lights suddenly all go out.

THOMAS
Shit.

JULIA
What's going on?

THOMAS
Probably just a blown fuse. Wait
here.

Thomas gets up from the table.

100 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas makes his way down the hallway to the stairs and freezes.

Lucian stands outside the front window, staring in at him, that creepy smile on his face and a large hole in his chest.

THOMAS
Oh, fuck.

JULIA(O.S.)
What?

THOMAS
He's here.

Thomas runs towards the window and pulls down the shade before he races upstairs.

He returns a moment later, shotgun in hand.

Julia joins him.

THOMAS
This is impossible.

JULIA
Why?

THOMAS
Because I shot him.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA
You shot him?

THOMAS
I fucking shot him!

JULIA
When?

THOMAS
That night in the barn, after you
had your little episode.

JULIA
When were you planning on telling
me this?

THOMAS
I was hoping to skip it.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK. At the front door.

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Hello in there! Anybody home?

Thomas moves Julia behind him and points the shotgun at the door.

THOMAS
Stay behind me. If he comes in, I'm
going to put both barrels into his
mouth.

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Little pigs, little pigs, let me
come in!

THOMAS
Go away, Lucian!

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Come on, Thomas. You know it's way
too late for all that. You brought
this upon yourself.

THOMAS
The hell I did!

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Didn't your mother ever tell you
not to talk to strangers?

BAM! BAM! BAM!

(CONTINUED)

Something repeatedly slams against the door under the stairs and its handle rattles violently as something tries desperately to break through.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

All your power is out, buddy. I've made sure of that. It's just us and the darkness Unless you want to go turn it back on...under the stairs.

Thomas glances back at the door.

LUCIAN(O.S.)

But you're afraid of what's under there, aren't you? Afraid of what will be unleashed if that door opens...

THOMAS

Shut the fuck up!

JULIA

What's he talking about, Thomas?

THOMAS

Nothing. He's just crazy. You're a psychopath!

LUCIAN(O.S.)

Tsk. Tsk. Words hurt, Thomas. I'll ask you one more time. Invite. Me. In.

THOMAS

Go to hell!

LUCIAN(O.S.)

Oh, but I have.

SMASH! SMASH! SMASH!

Thomas and Julia turn around with a jump.

All the cabinets inside the kitchen have flung open and the dishes are being whipped around by an unseen force.

THOMAS

Come on!

Thomas takes Julia by the hand and leads her upstairs.

CRASH!

(CONTINUED)

The front door explodes open and Lucian, wearing a rotted pig's head over his own, casually steps inside the house.

LUCIAN
Ohhhhh Thooooomasssss.

Lucian walks towards the stairs.

101 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Thomas and Julia barricade themselves inside the bedroom.

Thomas struggles to push the dresser in front of the door and once in place, he and Julia back up towards the window.

JULIA
Why is he doing this? What is wrong with him?

THOMAS
I don't know. He's not human.

Whispers vibrate through the room, growing louder and louder.

LUCIAN(O.S.)
Thomas! Can you hear them? They're calling out to you!

102 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Back downstairs, the door under the stairs continues to shudder as something throws itself against it, the handle shakes violently.

103 INT. FARMHOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucian slowly walks down the hall towards the master, his arms outstretched in mock-crucifixion.

The doors along the hallway all open and slam repeatedly, the exception being the master.

Lucian stops outside the master and leans in close.

LUCIAN
I'll huff. And I'll puff.

BLAM!

A hole is blown out of the door, barely missing Lucian's head.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS(O.S.)
Puff on that, motherfucker.

104 INT. FARMHOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Inside the master bedroom, the whispers have welled up into a shriek and Thomas drops the shotgun to cover his ears.

THOMAS
Stop!

And it does. Everything stops. The doors stop slamming. The whispers cease. The door under the stairs is still. It's silent. Deadly silent.

Thomas and Julia look to each other.

JULIA
What happened?

THOMAS
I don't know.

JULIA
Is he gone?

THOMAS
I don't think so.

Thomas picks the shotgun back up.

Julia slowly steps towards the door. Softly. Silently. She puts her ear up against it to listen.

THOMAS
(whispered)
Get away from there.

JULIA
(whispered)
I don't think he's out there anymore.

Lucian suddenly shoves his head through the hole in the door.

LUCIAN
Boo.

Quick as lightning, Lucian grabs Julia and yanks her through the door before Thomas has any time to react.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Julia!

Thomas jumps over to the door and with some effort, scoots the dresser out of the way before moving out into the hallway.

105 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT

Thomas thunders down the stairs, shotgun at the ready.

THOMAS

Lucian! Julia!

He gets nothing in return. There are no cries of help from Julia. No sounds of struggle. The house seems empty.

THOMAS

If you hurt her, I swear I'll -

LUCIAN(O.S.)

You'll what?

Thomas turns around at the sound of the voice with a jolt, shotgun raised.

There's nothing behind him.

THOMAS

Where are you?

LUCIAN(O.S.)

Where I've been this entire time, Thomas. Where we've all been. The answer is right in front of you. Just reach into your pocket and unlock all the buried secrets...

Thomas slowly reaches into his pocket and pulls out a key. The key to the door under the stairs.

Thomas steps to the door under the stairs, places the key into the lock -

A siren blares from outside the house and blue and red flashing lights flood the entry.

Thomas jerks to the sound and lights.

A police-issue SUV has pulled right up to the front porch.

The SHERIFF steps out of the SUV, his revolver drawn. A DEPUTY gets out of the passenger side, riot shotgun at the ready.

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

Thomas Henniker, put the weapon on the ground, right now.

Thomas does as he is told.

THOMAS

Sheriff, please. You've got to help me. He's got my wife. I don't know where he went. He's not human. I don't know what he is.

The Sheriff and Deputy make their way inside the house and keep their weapons trained on Thomas.

SHERIFF

Who's got your wife?

THOMAS

Some stranger. Said his name was Lucian. He came knocking on our door one night. He was injured so we let him in and -

SHERIFF

Uh huh. When, uh, when was the last time you saw your wife, Mr. Henniker?

THOMAS

Not five minutes ago. Sheriff, please. He just took her. We need to find her before it's too late!

The Sheriff notices the key sticking out of the door under the stairs.

SHERIFF

What's behind that locked door, Mr. Henniker?

THOMAS

I - I don't know. It's -

SHERIFF

Step away from the door, please.

THOMAS

Sheriff -

DEPUTY

Step away from the damn door!

(CONTINUED)

SHERIFF

Everybody stay calm, now.

Thomas does as he is instructed.

The Deputy grabs Thomas and cuffs his hands behind his back.

THOMAS

What the hell are you guys doing?
He's going to hurt her! Why aren't
you listening to me!?

SHERIFF

Just stay calm, Mr. Henniker. We're
just going to take a look down
here.

The sheriff unlocks the door and pulls it open. He recoils
with a gag. They all do.

DEPUTY

Good Christ. What's the smell?

SHERIFF

You just keep hold of Mr. Henniker,
there.

The sheriff turns toward Thomas.

SHERIFF

There anything you want to tell us
before we go on down there?

THOMAS

No. I just found the key for the
door yesterday. It probably hasn't
been opened in years. My uncle said
to always keep it locked tight.

SHERIFF

Your uncle, huh? And where is your
uncle, Mr. Henniker?

THOMAS

I don't understand what's going on
right now.

SHERIFF

That's what we're going to find
out. Come on.

The Sheriff steps into the doorway under the stairs and
feels around for a light. He clicks it on.

(CONTINUED)

Stairs. Leading down into a basement.

The trio descend.

106 INT. FARMHOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Thomas, the Sheriff, and the Deputy climb down the stairs and find themselves standing in a dingy basement with a dirt floor lined with old wood shelves.

The ground in the basement has been recently disturbed.

Sheriff turns to Thomas.

SHERIFF

What are we going to find down here?

Thomas looks at the floor of the basement in shock.

THOMAS

I - I don't know.

The Sheriff looks to his Deputy.

SHERIFF

See if you can find a shovel somewhere. I'll watch him.

DEPUTY

Yes, sir.

The Deputy runs back upstairs.

THOMAS

I've never been down here in my entire life, sheriff.

SHERIFF

I want you to tell me a little story, Mr. Henniker.

THOMAS

What?

SHERIFF

What happened on the night of the 19th? That was the last time anyone saw you at your job. That was the last time your therapist saw you...and that was the last time anyone saw your wife, Julia.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

My doctor decided it would be a good idea if I took some time away from the city and the job and come out here and start again. Julia came with me, I don't see why -

SHERIFF

It's funny. Spoke to your therapist. Says you had yourself an episode and left in a fury. There were signs of a struggle at your apartment. And where is your uncle, again?

THOMAS

He passed away some time ago. Shouldn't you know this?

SHERIFF

Strange.

The Deputy returns to the basement with a shovel.

SHERIFF

Start digging. There.

The Sheriff points to the patches of recently disturbed earth.

SHERIFF

Let's see what we can't find, hm?

The Deputy digs. It doesn't take long.

DEPUTY

Found something.

The Deputy slowly pulls something up out of the dirt.

An arm. A left arm. With a wedding ring on the ring finger.

The Deputy jumps back.

DEPUTY

Aw, fuck!

Thomas stands there, his eyes wide with shock. The Sheriff jumps on his radio, calling for backup, but Thomas doesn't hear any of it. He's too lost.

START FLASHBACK

107 INT. THERAPIST OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

Thomas sits across from his THERAPIST.

THERAPIST
Have you been taking the
medication?

THOMAS
No. It doesn't help and it makes me
feel empty.

THERAPIST
You just need to give it time to
balance out.

THOMAS
I'm not fucking crazy! I'm sick of
everyone treating me like I'm
insane! I'm no different from
anyone else! I had one episode,
okay?! One! I haven't heard the
voices in weeks!

THERAPIST
That's because of the medication -

THOMAS
Ah, fuck you! What the hell do you
know?!

Thomas wipes everything off of the therapist's desk and runs
out of the office.

108 INT. APARTMENT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Julia and Lucian are having sex on the couch.

Thomas enters to find them. He screams in fury.

Julia and Lucian jump up off the couch and scramble to get
their clothes on.

Thomas runs out of the room.

JULIA
Thomas! Wait!

Thomas returns a moment later, fire extinguisher in his
hands.

(CONTINUED)

JULIA

Thomas!

He swings.

109 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Thomas pulls up to the farm in the car that we THOUGHT was Juia's. A truck is already parked there.

His UNCLE steps out onto the porch to greet him.

UNCLE

What are you doing here?

THOMAS

I just needed to get away.

UNCLE

Got any luggage I can help with?

THOMAS

No! Just stay away from the car.

110 INT. FARMHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Thomas stares at himself in the mirror and takes a bottle of pills out of his pocket.

He turns on the water of the sink and dumps the pills down.

111 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The Uncle opens the back of Thomas' vehicle and finds the bodies of Julia and Lucian back there.

THOMAS(O.S.)

I told you to stay away!

The Uncle turns just as Thomas swings a shovel at his head.

112 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Thomas steps out of the door under the stairs covered in dirt. He closes the door and locks it.

113 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Thomas drops the key into the cookie jar. He glances at the clock.

1:13am.

114 EXT. PIG PEN - DAY - FLASHBACK

Thomas enters the pig pen, axe in hand, and brings it down repeatedly as the pigs squeal in agony.

115 EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Thomas walks through the cornfield, an industrial sprayer on his back, and hoses down the crop with chemicals.

JULIA(O.S.)

It'll all just be a bad dream...

END FLASHBACK

116 INT. FARMHOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Thomas drops to his knees. He sobs.

THOMAS

No. No. No. No. Please, no. It's not true. None of it is true. Please, God. No. They were here. They were right here. We had dinners and fights and conversations and it was all real. It happened! It really happened!

The Deputy tries to pick Thomas up off the ground.

DEPUTY

Come on, Mr. Henniker. You need to come with us, now.

THOMAS

No! It was real! It was all real! I'm not crazy! You're not really here! This isn't really happening! No! Julia!!!!

117 EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The Deputy puts Thomas into the back of the SUV.

Thomas stares blankly out the window, his face streaked with tears, looking catatonic.

THOMAS

(whispered)

This isn't real. This isn't real. This isn't real. This isn't real. Please, stop. Just stop. Stop it. Stop it. Stop. Stop.

(CONTINUED)

Thomas bangs his head repeatedly against the window.

BLACKNESS.

118 INT. FARMHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

An amazing looking southern meal is spread out on the table. Fried chicken. Biscuits. Corn. Mashed potatoes. Gravy. Green beans. Pie.

Thomas, Julia, Lucian, and the Uncle all sit around the table, talking and laughing and having a good time.

119 INT. FARMHOUSE - ENTRY - DAY

The door under the stairs sits still. Closed.

FADE OUT.