

High School Hell

by

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HIGH SCHOOL HELL

FADE IN:

A typical teenager's Jansport backpack is plopped on a sidewalk. It's torn and scuffed with game logos and band names decorating it. Also one unusual logo of a trident-type object.

A HAND

Glistening with sweat moves down and zips open a side compartment of the backpack, reaches in and pulls out

A GLOCK 22

The dull polymer frame of the gun sucks up all the sunlight. The hand dips back into the bag and pulls out the magazine, checks the ammo which is all bright silver, slams the magazine into the gun. Locked and loaded.

EXT. HIRAM BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Hiram Bellevue High was built in the 50's -- an ugly, squat structure, peeling and crumbling. Graffiti covers some walls. Students flow up to the doors. They stop at the metal detectors. Bags are searched, some teens are picked for scans.

It's a scorcher in the busy city, even though it's September. Everyone hides from the harsh sun.

LUCAS STANTON walks up to the metal detectors. He's taller than most of the other students. His hair and eyes are dark. He always has to check out his surroundings, as if enemies wait around every corner.

He swings his backpack over to the security table to be checked. He walks through the detector without a peep.

INT. HIRAM BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL MAIN HALLWAY- MORNING

A FEMALE SECURITY OFFICER looks suspiciously at Lucas, digs into every corner of his backpack.

Lucas just gives her a quick smile, a bit uneasy. He glances nervously back out the door.

He jumps at the loud sound of the zipper of his backpack being zipped back up. The security guard hands him his pack and nods her head away down the hallway.

Lucas smiles again and joins the flow of teens into the bowels of the school.

DOWN THE HALLWAY

A group of seniors talk in a group.

Lucas approaches them.

The group turns as one and regards him. Two of the senior GIRLS smile at him and allow him to stand on the periphery to talk to them. He's tolerated, but not allowed in. Oddly, no hugs or any other kind of contact.

A SOUND

Makes them all turn.

IN THE DOORWAY

A teen boy runs at top speed at a metal detector and smashes into it, knocking it off balance and onto the floor.

He vaults over it, his blond ponytail flying behind him. In a flash, we see that he's carrying the Jansport backpack.

Security officers jump at him and miss.

He dives over one sprawling guard and sprints down the hallway.

THE GROUP

Sees him coming and react. They recognize him.

LUCAS

Daniel?

DANIEL

Pulls the Glock out as he nears the group.

LUCAS

Plants himself in front of the two girls and the rest of the group. The guys run off like scared rabbits.

DANIEL

Bares his teeth like an animal. You can almost hear him growl. He screams at the top of his lungs.

DANIEL

Stanton!

Still running, Daniel raises the Glock and takes dead aim at Lucas.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You're going to hell now!

LUCAS

Doesn't move. Just awaits his fate, his face blank, impervious.

DANIEL

Stops running, sliding on the tile, and starts to pull the trigger...

Just as the female security guard tackles him and brings him down.

The gun fires, but the bullet smacks into a wall, knocking off more plaster from its already patchy surface.

THE HALLWAY

Erupts in chaos as students scream and run in every direction.

But Lucas just stands where he is, staring into space.

ON THE FLOOR

Several security guards have Daniel down and have taken his weapon. One guard is on a walkie radioing for police.

Daniel struggles with them, his face red, tears streaming down his cheeks.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You don't know what he is. Help me stop him!

LUCAS

Stares off into the void, knowing it's time to go.

DANIEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You don't know, none of you know. We have to stop him now or it'll be too late!

A TEACHER comes up behind Lucas and touches him on the shoulder. Lucas angrily shrugs him off.

LUCAS

Don't touch me!

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Rose Whitley High is a picture perfect small town school. It's red brick and quaint, a restored old schoolhouse from the 1920's, with additions built in the same style. It's very clean -- the object of civic pride.

Indian summer -- it's October but hot. Most students are showing legs and arms.

No metal detectors, no angry security guards. Just one kind of chubby, very friendly security man, DUFFY, who smiles and greets each student by name.

DUFFY

Tanya! Ready for practice today?

TANYA, blonde and athletic, gives Duffy a fist-bump.

TANYA
Always ready, Duff!

Tanya strides into her school, all power and force. Behind her straggles her year-younger sister MELISSA, pale with long unbound brown hair that she refuses to style. Her clothes don't match and she covers most of her body.

She stumbles and almost falls into the school. Duffy catches her before she topples over.

DUFFY
Watch it, Melissa.

MELISSA
Watch what?

She acts like nothing happened, turns away without meeting Duffy's eyes. Tanya looks at Duffy and shrugs. Kid Sis is weird, what can you do?

INT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

The inside of Rose Whitley is almost as immaculate as the outside. The students don't hate their school and they don't take their feelings out on the walls or structures. Lines of well-kept lockers line the hallway.

The hallway is decorated with signs about the big Halloween Night dance and talent show. In fact a quartet of cheerleader-types are working out a routine in the middle of the hallway.

Melissa goes to her locker, makes sure to hide her combination lock while she opens it. Tanya regards her with bemusement.

TANYA
It's not like anyone cares what's in your locker. It's not like anyone cares what's inside you. You won't let them.

Melissa opens her locker to reveal photos and posters from vampire films, ghostly TV shows and fantasy novels hung in an almost familial collage, as if her parents, brothers and sisters were all fantastical beings... with a space left in the center for her.

She speaks through the locker door to her sister.

MELISSA
You just don't have the right combination.

Melissa peeks through the slats of the locker at Tanya.

MELISSA'S POV

Only parts of her sister are visible, making Tanya appear piecemeal, not a full person.

Movement behind her sister.

MELISSA'S EYES

Widen in fear. She can't believe what she's seeing.

MELISSA'S POV

Zooming past her sister, it looks like flames are shooting out of a nearby doorway and some reddish creature stamps out, breathing fire.

THE LOCKER DOOR

Almost slams shut on Melissa as she jumps back.

Tanya pushes the locker in anger.

TANYA

Just try to get through the morning
without embarrassing anyone.

Melissa looks around her sister to see if the creature really is down the hallway.

MELISSA

You mean try not to embarrass you.

She roughly pulls open the locker again, takes out some books.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Don't worry. You're the Teflon
princess. Nothing that I do will
stick to you.

She finally peers past Tanya and sees...

LUCAS

Standing hesitantly in the hallway, brushing his hair out of his eyes and trying to fade into the background. A woman next to him steps back from the office door. This is Lucas's mother, MRS. STANTON, tall and willowy with prematurely gray hair but a face that could have been Helen of Troy's. She walks with a cane. Her entire left side seems stiff and unforgiving.

MRS. STANTON

Thank you so much for understanding
our special situation. Your school
is lovely.

She closes the door and regards her son, who gives her a meek smile.

TANYA

Turns to see what Melissa's staring at -- and gets an eyeful of Lucas.

TANYA

Tall, dark and new. We never get new here. An air of mystery, a touch of the shy. I'm all over this.

She strides off down the hallway, leaving...

MELISSA

Drooping against the lockers.

TRINA (O.S.)

Sis-shit again?

Melissa nods, looks down at her one true friend, Trina -- small and feisty, she's had to yell louder and jump higher than most just to get herself noticed.

Trina suddenly squeals and points to Melissa's calf -- poking up over her white socks is a design in ink.

TRINA (CONT'D)

You did it! I can't believe it! No one inks here. Did you sneak over to Framington?

Melissa nods again, lifts up her leg and pulls down the sock to show off her new tattoo: a long serpent that runs up her calf.

MELISSA

He's my familiar, my protector.

TRINA

Most gals want a heart or an angel. Not my Melissa -- she goes for dragons and snakes.

MELISSA

To protect me from...

They join in the punchline:

MELISSA AND TRINA

Those damn smelly knights with their big ugly swords.

Melissa finally smiles, but the smile fades quickly as she gazes down the hallway.

MELISSA

I had another vision.

Trina shoots her a look of concern.

TRINA
 When? Where? You sure it wasn't
 just some Halloween decoration?

MELISSA
 Milliseconds ago. Down there.

She gestures down the hallway. Trina glances that way.

HER POV

Tanya is just about up to Lucas and actually has a hand out
 to greet him.

TRINA (O.S.)
 What is that?

TRINA

Pretends to swoon backwards onto Melissa.

MELISSA
 Something new.

TRINA
 Gimme something to throw at her. A
 quick concussion would do wonders.
 Why does she have to have everything?

MELISSA
 Been wondering that for years.

TRINA
 Well we can console ourselves with
 the knowledge that we'll be standing
 there to catch him if she casts him
 aside.

MELISSA
 When she casts him aside.

TRINA
 Truth becomes you. It always does.

INT. FURTHER DOWN THE HALLWAY

Tanya is right by Lucas. He turns from his mother and sees
 her. She holds out her hand. He can't bring himself to put
 his hand out.

MR. NICOLAS
 Tanya?

MR. NICOLAS, the assistant principal, stands in the now-open
 office door. He's perfectly dressed in a designer suit,
 every hair on his head has been groomed meticulously, his
 tanned skin isn't natural but it's so correct.

He's used to being obeyed.

Tanya tries to ignore him and pushes herself in front of Mrs. Stanton, who immediately sees what she wants.

MRS. STANTON
We're just going. He starts tomorrow morning. His name's Lucas. He's well-trained.

Lucas just backs up against a wall of lockers, mortified.

LUCAS
Mother...

Tanya thinks any guy that says "Mother" has to be special.

TANYA
I'm...

MR. NICOLAS
Tanya. Now, please. I need you immediately.

She hides her disappointment, puts down her hand. Lucas and his mother walk past.

TANYA
See you tomorrow?

Lucas turns around maybe too quickly.

LUCAS
Yeah, uh, can't wait.

TANYA
You've missed a month. I can get you up to speed.

Lucas nods and then moves down the hall with his mother. Tanya stares after them, hoping he'll look back again.

Mr. Nicolas puts his hand on Tanya's shoulder and she reacts as if his touch was poison.

MR. NICOLAS
I don't like being ignored, young lady.

She turns, her face stone, and follows him into the office.

She doesn't notice that on the lockers Lucas leaned against is now the dark, burnt imprint of his hand. The metal of the locker looks melted.

THE OFFICE DOOR

Closes and a shade is drawn over the window inside.

THE BURNT LOCKER DOOR

Smolders a bit. A student comes up to the damaged locker. This is GARY, a boy who could stand to lose a few pounds and who spends most of his time playing video games.

He looks at the hand imprint.

GARY

What's this supposed to be? A sign from another Sorcerer Master? Give it up, guys, I'm top Magic Man. Veneficus Est Mei!

Gary quickly pulls out a battered notebook and writes something in it.

The students around him do the eye-contact look about how Gary's not too grounded in reality. Gary opens his locker and a bunch of fantasy games fall out.

As he drops to his knees to get them, he chances a furtive look down the hallway to the girl he adores...

MELISSA

Moves back against her locker as Lucas and his mother walk past. Trina looks from Melissa to Lucas several times, then grabs Melissa by the arm and throws her into him.

Melissa leaps back, stunned with embarrassment. Lucas jumps away as if he's had an electric shock.

MELISSA

I am so...

Mrs. Stanton immediately is all over her son, whispering soothing words to him and hustling him out of the building. Melissa stares after him sadly.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Thanks, Treen-Machine. Thanks a lot.

TRINA

Well who knew he'd be Mr. Germaphobe-Plus? Icky human contact, how disgusto!

She plays it out dramatically and Melissa gives in and laughs.

A BELL rings.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Five minutes and we're in Miss Santos's class. Run!

They do, racing down the hallway around the rectangle of the structure to the far side of the school.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY

They run, weaving in and out of other students.

Two teachers, MR. BELL and MR. BRIGHTON, walk together towards the girls. It's obvious they enjoy each other's company and they almost dress alike, with vests and matching ties.

They look askance at the racing girls.

MR. BELL
Ladies, not so...

MR. BRIGHTON
Fast. We don't want any...

MR. BELL
Accidents.

MELISSA
Yes, Mr. B and Mr. B.

TRINA
Rocking those vests, Mr. B and Mr.
B.

The girls veer off into a classroom.

INT. MISS SANTOS'S CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A bright, airy, warm classroom, much like its teacher. MISS SANTOS rules with compassion. She's in her thirties, dresses conservatively but stylishly and has every boy in the class in love with her.

She is the woman Melissa yearns to be.

Melissa and Trina land in their side-by-side desks just as the second BELL rings. They're both panting.

GARY
I always make you breathe heavy,
don't I?

Gary is on the other side of Melissa, a computer game perched on the corner of his desk next to his ever-present notebook full of fantasy game notes.

MELISSA
Sometime...

TRINA
Never.

The girls laugh. Miss Santos calls the class to order.

MISS SANTOS
Listen to the words and what's behind
the words.
(MORE)

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

"Cruelty has a human heart, And
Jealousy a human face; Terror the
human form divine, And Secresy the
human dress..."

Melissa listens to the words and recalls her vision.

A FLASH OF FIRE

Her face clouds over. She looks out the window.

HER POV

A rose bush with pink roses in bloom, re-born in the Indian
summer. A large black bee buzzes around the flowers.

EXT. THE STANTON HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

A garden of dark red roses surrounds a small one-story house,
nearly a cottage. It's almost a model of a perfect home.
The small lawn is manicured.

The door opens and Lucas pokes his head out, seemingly afraid
to go out into the day.

He surveys the neighborhood.

HIS POV

It's a post-card view of lovely houses and beautiful yards.
Children leave some of the houses, hugging their parents as
they leave for school.

LUCAS

Allows himself a slight smile. He comes all the way outside.

MRS. STANTON (O.S.)

Have a wonderful first day. Make
friends.

Lucas shrugs at that. He leans over to the nearest rosebush
and holds the dark red petals in his hand, breathes in the
scent.

Then he lets go and heads down the street.

Behind him the rose turns black, decays, falls to dust.

ACROSS A TOMBSTONE AT LUCAS

Lucas walks to school past an old cemetery. He stops to
look at it.

HIS POV

It's compact but quite full. The tombstones date back to the
1700's.

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

Lucas walks up to the rusted gate of the cemetery, manages to wrench it open and goes inside.

ACROSS THE STREET

In front of a row of picturesque stores, a paunchy man walks his small dog and an older woman waters the flowers in the window of her antique shop.

They both watch Lucas go into the cemetery. The man, dressed in a comfortable sweater vest, is MR. OSWALD. The woman, tall and wispy but dressed frumpily is MRS. WINSLOW. They're town fixtures.

MR. OSWALD
Strange boy going in there like that.

MRS. WINSLOW
I do believe he's trespassing.

As they talk, something quivers in the air around them, formless but alive.

MR. OSWALD
What's going on?

MRS. WINSLOW
Smells like smoke.

The thing flies into Mrs. Winslow's open mouth and up Mr. Oswald's nose. They both jerk around like puppets, their limbs not under their control. Then they stop and are oddly still, no movement, not even blinking.

They stare over at the cemetery. Mr. Oswald's voice is toneless.

MR. OSWALD
We have found him.

A PINK BARBIE-EDITION VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

Passes Oswald and Winslow. Inside, Tanya drives and Melissa shrinks into her seat.

TANYA
There they are: Mr. and Mrs. Shit-talk. Now they'll say something about us.

MELISSA
They've already whispered every possible rumor. No one has any secrets any more.

Tanya shivers at that. Melissa's attention is diverted.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Who's in the old cemetery?

HER POV

Lucas stands in the middle of a forest of large grave markers. It looks like he's saying something.

IN THE CAR

Melissa and Tanya both look over at Lucas.

TANYA
Why would anyone go in there?

MELISSA
For some peace. It's very quiet.

TANYA
And you'd know that because...?

Melissa shrugs and continues to stare at Lucas till the car moves around the block. Then she looks out at the center of town and yawns.

HER POV

The town of Whitley is small, picture-perfect, clean and rather dull in its uniformity. It gleams under the unusually strong fall sun. Everything is in its place; every resident does what they're supposed to do.

EXT. CEMETERY - CONTINUOUS

Lucas finishes whatever he was saying. He touches a few headstones, turns and heads back to the entrance.

BEHIND HIM

Feet poke out from behind a tombstone, hidden in bushes. They're scuffed athletic shoes that should have been trashed long ago.

LUCAS

Stops, aware that someone is watching him. He gives a slight nod of acknowledgment and continues to the entrance.

THE FEET

Follow him carefully, dodging from grave marker to grave marker.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The first bell rings, making the students respond like lab rats, running into the building.

Tanya and Melissa are at the doors, but Melissa keeps looking over her shoulder.

HER POV

Lucas races down the street, backpack smashing against his back as he runs. He sweats and pants as he rushes up the front steps of the school.

MELISSA

Lets Tanya go in ahead of her, waits for Lucas.

Lucas is in such a state he doesn't see Melissa and barrels right into her. Melissa goes to one knee, her books cascade down the stairs.

MELISSA

Now we're even.

Lucas, frantic, picks up his backpack, her dropped books, then drops everything again, scrambles with all of it some more. Melissa straightens everything out, giving him his pack, taking her books.

LUCAS

Even?

He looks at her and remembers.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You lose your balance easily.

MELISSA

You put me off balance. Late your first day. What will everyone think?

LUCAS

I'm not good with time.

Melissa senses a kindred spirit.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

And I don't really care what everyone thinks.

TANYA

Well, hi again.

Tanya is back in the doorway, eyeing both of them.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Now we can meet for real.

She holds out her hand.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Tanya.

He puts his hand out, closes it so it's a fist and makes her do a fist bump.

LUCAS

I'm Lucas.

TANYA

Very Obama-esque. Can I escort you
in?

Melissa hides a frown as she's left outside.

Security guard Duffy eyes Lucas.

DUFFY

Tanya, is he OK?

TANYA

New. And very OK.

INT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL MAIN HALLWAY- MORNING

Tanya plays tour guide quickly since the clock is ticking.

TANYA

Lockers run from lowest to highest
this way up.

Lucas is a bit dazed.

TANYA (CONT'D)

They're metal, they hold books,
lunches, sometimes nerds. You've
seen them before, I imagine.

LUCAS

Sorry. I've been in six different
schools in two years. I get
disoriented a lot. Where's...
(consults a paper)
Room 222A with Mr. Nicolas?

TANYA

Quel surprise. You're in my first
period -- um, so to speak. Let's
find your locker and get you tucked
in.

Melissa is behind, burning at the whole conversation. She
deliberately walks into Lucas's path as he follows Tanya.
He stops abruptly.

MELISSA

Melissa.

LUCAS

Sorry?

MELISSA

Never sorry. Melissa, unabashedly.
That's me.

LUCAS
She's your... You're both...

And he's taken away by the tide that is Tanya down the hallway.

Melissa goes to her locker and angrily thrusts open the door, crashing it into the locker next to it.

TRINA
I take it that's a sign that you're in a super-positive frame of mind, as usual.

Trina avoids the locker door that sways back and forth.

MELISSA
Have I told you that sisters suck...

TRINA
Many times...

MELISSA
Dramatically...

TRINA
Repeatedly...

MELISSA
Humongously...

TRINA
Infinitely...

MELISSA
Ginormously...

TRINA
And we have about twenty-three seconds to get to class.

Melissa slams her locker shut and rushes off at a determined pace, leaving Trina in the dust.

Trina shrugs.

INT. MR. NICOLAS'S CLASS - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Nicolas struts like a rooster in his classroom. He is not thrilled with the new boy sitting next to Tanya; his frozen smile is proof of this. The class knows he's not happy and most give knowing looks to each other.

MR. NICOLAS
We'll allow Mr. Stanton here a day to get acclimated. But tomorrow I expect you front and center answering my questions on functions and derivatives...

He leans down to speak right into Lucas's ear, looking across him at Tanya while he does so.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
Do you understand? Or maybe your
last school didn't teach you calculus?

Lucas sweats a bit. He clutches the top of his desk with one hand tightly.

LUCAS
Yes sir. No sir. I mean they did,
sir. I understand, sir.

Mr. Nicolas giggles a very manufactured giggle.

MR. NICOLAS
Sir? There are no sirs here, Stanton.
This isn't Elizabethan England.

He looks for everyone to laugh at that, so they do.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
I think Miss Dalby will answer now --
but tomorrow you're in the hot seat,
my boy.

DALBY is the girl who always answers all the questions in this class and she shoots up like a rocket to stand by her desk.

As she goes into some arcane gibberish about functions, Lucas lets go of his desk top and sees he's burned the imprint of his hand into it. He quickly covers it up with his book just as Tanya turns and smiles at him.

Mr. Nicolas sees that smile and his mouth becomes tight and joyless.

On the other side of Lucas sits RYAN, a blond, buff guy who'd be at home on a California beach. He also smiles at Lucas and gives him a knowing nod. Lucas, surprised by the support, smiles back.

At the back of the room is MULDOON, all muscles and shaved head, used to being the center of attention. He scowls at the attention Lucas gets from Tanya.

Muldoon gestures to his lackeys on either side, the hirsute BALDWIN, a gorilla of a guy, and the scarecrow-like ERNO.

INT. MISS SANTOS'S CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Melissa, Trina and Gary sit in their row together. Melissa scribbles furiously on a pad. It's a bunch of arcane symbols that don't seem to make any sense. But Trina glances over and looks with concern at her friend.

Melissa mumbles something to herself, lost in her own world. But she's interrupted as Miss Santos leans over her and gives her a paper.

MISS SANTOS
 Remarkable work, Melissa. You have
 a gift.

Melissa's shocked into the real world. Trina and Gary make
 faces at her.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTER CLASS

Tanya points Lucas towards his next class. She doesn't see
 Muldoon and his cronies follow him down the hallway.

Mr. Nicolas watches everything Tanya does.

Mister Bell and Mr. Brighton walk past, deep in intimate
 conversation.

MR. NICOLAS
 Brighton, Bell, don't you have
 somewhere to go?

The men look annoyed, but then mask that feeling quickly.

MR. BELL
 I'm off to my second period European
 History.

MR. BRIGHTON
 And I'm overseeing study hall, as
 usual. No worries, Nicolas.

MR. NICOLAS
 And study hall is back that way.

He points the way they've come.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
 So go that way. You really do have
 to keep your personal lives out of
 public view, if you know what I mean.

Tanya hears that and her look would kill if it could.

Brighton and Bell split up but aren't happy about it.

Nicolas turns his attention to Tanya.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
 Tanya, dear, so nice of you to make
 the new boy feel at home, but maybe
 you should do a little background
 check before you become... friendly.

Tanya would prefer to slink away to any available hole, but
 she stands her ground.

TANYA
 Six schools in two years, so what?
 Is he an army brat or something?

MR. NICOLAS
 More than something. There were
 violent activities associated with
 him at most of those schools.

He holds up a folder.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
 I prevailed on Principal Gowers to
 admit the poor boy because I felt
 sorry for him. But sorry only goes
 so far.

He reaches out and lightly touches her arm.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
 You wouldn't want to jeopardize your
 stellar academic career... and those
 scholarships... for a pretty face,
 would you?

He leers. She turns and walks away.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas walks down another school hallway, checking room
 numbers. He doesn't notice Muldoon, Baldwin and Erno behind
 him.

He turns and finds they've surrounded him.

Muldoon wipes some lint from Lucas's shirt.

MULDOON
 Confused, Newby?

Lucas tries to smile.

LUCAS
 Yeah, sorry, just trying to find...

MULDOON
 You should be sorry. You don't get
 it.

Familiar territory for Lucas. He firms up.

LUCAS
 If you say so. And I guess you do.

Erno squawks like a chicken.

ERNO
 Whazzat supposed ta mean?

Lucas pushes close to Erno.

LUCAS

It means that I've played this little scene so many times it makes me sick. You're here to teach the new boy how it works because somehow I've breached some ridiculous rule of etiquette that there's no fucking way in the world I'd know about. So what is it? Didn't I genuflect at the right moment? Did I pass you on the right instead of the left? Did I...

He gets it.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Did I talk to the wrong girl? Tanya? You're pissed about Tanya?

He considers Muldoon's shaved head and shabby attire.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I've known her for, what, seventy-three minutes? And I already know something.

Muldoon has turned red.

MULDOON

Whaddya know, shitface?

LUCAS

Maybe she's out of my league -- probably is. But she's way out of yours. Does she even know your name?

Baldwin and Erno back off, knowing this means war.

BALDWIN

Oooh -- Doon Doom!

ERNO

Doon Destruction Definitively.

Muldoon pushes Lucas against the lockers.

He doesn't see a scarlet tint begin to come over Lucas's eyes. Lucas starts to sweat. He's holding back some force that's about to overpower him.

MULDOON

Hey, smartboy. You might think you have brains, but you ain't so hot at math. Case you haven't noticed, there's one o' you and five of us.

Lucas's voice is a hiss.

LUCAS

Five?

Muldoon raises his arm.

MULDOON

When I hit ya, it's like three of me
at once.

A hand grasps Muldoon's arm.

RYAN

Take it down a couple of notches,
Doon. Hulk isn't doing any smashing
today.

The blonde beach boy has no fear of Muldoon and his lackeys.
Muldoon turns to face him.

MULDOON

Joining the wrong team as usual, Rye-
boy. Always on the loser squad.

MR. BRIGHTON

Do I detect tension in the hallways
of Rose Whitley?

Mr. Brighton smooths his vest nonchalantly. He's a big guy,
though not exactly threatening.

MR. BRIGHTON (CONT'D)

Muldoon, true to form.

He leans in uncomfortably close to Muldoon, who backs away.

MR. BRIGHTON (CONT'D)

Is the world not obeying your orders
today, Mr. Muldoon. How troubling.
Why don't you and your compatriots
run along?

MULDOON

We'll run when we're ready.

Muldoon, Baldwin and Erno stand their ground.

MR. BRIGHTON

I'd say you're ready. Unless you
want detention with me for two hours
this afternoon. Might interfere
with your football practice -- too
bad.

Muldoon and his friends skulk off.

MR. BRIGHTON (CONT'D)

Ah, so they do understand English.
I wasn't certain.

Erno calls over his shoulder as they walk.

ERNO

No, we understand that you dig dicks.

BALDWIN

Yeah, Mr. Pork-in-butt.

They run. Brighton ignores the taunts.

RYAN

Thanks, Mr. Brighton but I could have handled it.

MR. BRIGHTON

Handling is my job, but I'm glad you're making friends with Mr. Stanton, is it?

Lucas nods.

LUCAS

Thanks, sir.

Brighton looks shocked.

MR. BRIGHTON

No sirs here. We're all equal, though some are more equal than others.

He walks off. Ryan holds out his hand. Lucas does the fist bump, which Ryan plays along with.

RYAN

You were holding your own. I'm impressed. I'm Ryan.

LUCAS

I've faced worse.

RYAN

What'd you do then?

Lucas tries to hold back a grin.

LUCAS

Ran.

RYAN

So where you headed?

LUCAS

Three-H.

RYAN

Phys Ed? Working out this early blows, but whaddya gonna do? I'll take you there and introduce you to Mr. Ely. He's a trip.

INT. GYM AREA - MOMENTS LATER

It's a huge gym area with a pool at one end, basketball courts at the other.

Melissa and Trina are both in swimsuits by the pool. Trina tests the water with a grimace.

TRINA

Only reason I joined the stupid swim team was to get out of gym class. Mr. Ely creeps me out.

Melissa lets her legs swing in the water carelessly. Her mind is elsewhere.

MELISSA

All older men creep you out because you think they're obsessed with sex.

TRINA

Am I wrong?

Melissa doesn't answer.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Paging Melissa... You're still pissed about Tanya and the new guy.

MELISSA

He was in the cemetery.

Trina almost screams.

TRINA

The cemetery?

Melissa gestures for her to keep it down.

TRINA (CONT'D)

What was he doing there?

MELISSA

It looked like he was talking. To the graves.

TRINA

Oh, this guy is so in your zone. He'll dump Tanya like the bland garbage she is when he gets to know your inner darkness.

Melissa looks across the gym and freezes.

MELISSA

He's here.

Trina grabs and towel and throws it around her and Melissa. It doesn't quite reach.

TRINA

He can't see so much skin so soon. He's not ready for the overwhelming womanliness that is us.

Melissa watches.

HER POV

Lucas and Ryan go over to the bored MR. ELY. Ely's short and muscular and can't wait to go back into his air-conditioned office.

Ryan pats Lucas on the shoulder and leaves. Lucas tenses at the touch but tries to hide his unease.

MELISSA

Takes it all in. She's an entomologist observing a new kind of creature. Trina nudges her.

TRINA (CONT'D)

So we get to see him in gym shorts.
Think he's hiding a big secret?

Melissa ignores her, intent on her study.

LUCAS

Hesitates in front of Mr. Ely, but finally speaks, his voice catching.

He doesn't see Erno and Baldwin come out of the locker area and catch sight of him.

LUCAS

Mr. Ely, sir.

Mr. Ely barely has the energy to raise one eyebrow to regard Lucas.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

At my other schools, they usually
let me work out in the gym or run
track during phys ed.

Mr. Ely stifles a yawn.

MR. ELY

Maybe you haven't noticed, this isn't
other schools.

Erno and Baldwin hang on every word.

LUCAS

I don't really play basketball, sir.

This makes Ely use both eyes to look at him as if he's some fungus growth.

MR. ELY

That's the most un-American statement
I've ever heard. Was your father
some kind of foreigner?

LUCAS

He, uh, wasn't around much.

MR. ELY

So you got sissified. Raised by pussy. Time you manned up.

He points to the locker room.

MR. ELY (CONT'D)

Change. Then learn.

Lucas shuffles off to the locker room. Mr. Ely strides over to his office, shuts the door and sits at his desk, giving his attention to his laptop. He can see the whole gym through the window in his room, but he's not watching.

INT. GYM AREA - CONTINUOUS

Trina splashes in the pool. Others in the swim team have lined up for a drill. Melissa hasn't moved, she's staring at the entrance to the boys' locker room.

TRINA

You never told me about the X-ray vision. How's he hanging?

Without changing her line of sight, Melissa throws water on Trina, who pretends to drown.

LUCAS

Walks slowly out of the locker room as if on his way to the electric chair.

He starts over to where teams are being chosen.

Suddenly Erno is in front of him holding a basketball. Erno throws it at him and Lucas misses it entirely.

ERNO

Whatsamatter, puss-boy? Don't know how to handle balls?

Erno expertly retrieves the ball, blocks Lucas again.

ERNO (CONT'D)

Or is that your problem? You've handled too many balls?

He smacks the basketball against Lucas's head.

Lucas stops.

LUCAS

Don't touch me.

ERNO

I'm not touching you. The ball is.

He smacks the ball against Lucas again. Lucas begins to sweat.

Baldwin and a group of boys make a circle around the two of them.

ERNO (CONT'D)

Puss-boy don't know how to play man games? What's wrong with puss-boy, huh?

He smashes the basketball against Lucas's skull repeatedly.

ERNO (CONT'D)

No Daddy to show puss-boy what to do with his balls?

He lets go with a really hard throw -- the ball hits Lucas in the face.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Melissa stands and walks forward, very concerned. Behind her, Trina starts to get out of the pool and follow her.

BACK WITH LUCAS AND ERNO

Lucas's eyes go completely red. He whispers.

LUCAS

Stop. It.

Erno cackles his chicken squawk.

ERNO

Or what, puss-boy? You gonna get medieval on us? How ex-frigging-actly are you gonna do that? Case you didn't notice, you are surrounded.

He smashes the ball one more time, as hard as he can, against Lucas's head.

It all happens in less than a second. If time slowed down, you'd see Lucas transform for just a milli-moment into something else, something big and scaly and red. You'd see some sort of flame shoot out from his eyes, his mouth, his nose right at Erno.

But what everyone in the room sees is: fire seems to erupt right under Erno, as if it was coming out of the ground, as if some kind of explosion occurred.

The floor under Erno has split open, revealing some kind of bottomless pit into the earth. The fire seems to come from there and wraps around him like a smothering blanket.

Erno screams, convulses, with flames covering every inch of his body.

Baldwin and all the others jump back, shocked. No one knows what to do for a moment.

Mr. Ely runs out of his office but halts, never having had to actually take charge of anything before.

Erno just screams and burns, his flesh turning black.

Then he runs like a rocket across the gym, almost brushing Melissa and Trina and dives into the pool.

Everyone in the room turns and watches him. And what everyone will attest to later is that it seemed like he continued to burn underwater, that the flames took quite a while to go out even then.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Lucas gets control of himself. The scarlet fades from his eyes.

IN THE POOL

The fire finally stops and Erno floats to the surface. Members of the girls swim team jump in and rescue him.

MELISSA

Stares only at Lucas now. She saw his transformation. She was the only one who did.

LUCAS

Stares back briefly. He turns and rushes back into the locker room.

Sirens sound in the distance.

FLAMES BURN

These flames are greenish and bluish. They burn in a dug-out hole in a field.

Hands occasionally put things into the flames: bits of paper, small wooden articles that look like stick figures, tresses of hair.

A chant is spoken over the fire, sometimes one voice, sometimes more.

VOICE

Ignis Incendat, ignis narravit, ignis
est veritas...

WIDER

It's Melissa, Trina and Gary feeding the flames and chanting. Melissa's fingers are dirty from digging the hole. Her eyes are closed as she chants earnestly. Gary watches her and mimics everything she does.

Trina finally stands in disgust.

TRINA
 May we inject some reality into the
 situation, please?

She brushes dirt and grass from her pants. Gary stops
 chanting. Melissa doesn't.

A small wind kicks up, almost putting out the fire.

TRINA (CONT'D)
 Just because there was a freak
 accident in the gym doesn't make
 this new guy a fire-breathing demon.

Melissa, eyes still closed, talks through her chanting.

MELISSA
 You didn't see him. I did.

Trina bends over and yells into Melissa's ear.

TRINA
 I was five feet from you. I was
 looking at him. I saw an explosion
 under Erno, like the Principal said.
 A gas explosion. Weird, but within
 the confines of, wait for it, reality!

Melissa finally opens her eyes and stares unblinking at Trina.

MELISSA
 I see things you don't. I see things
 no one else does.

TRINA
 Melissa, I love you like a true
 sister, not the envy-filled, complex
 sibling relationship you have with
 Tanya. But, dear sister of my heart,
 the reason no one else sees those
 things is they aren't there.

MELISSA
 I have the sight. You heard what
 that psychic said.

TRINA
 You mean the woman at the town fair
 who would have said anything if you
 paid her?

MELISSA
 I have a gift. My spells have worked.
 You know that.

Trina appeals for help.

TRINA
 Gary, say something!

GARY

Melissa did become swim captain after
whatsername sprained her knee.

TRINA

A jock girl hurts her knee -- nothing
magical about that.

GARY

And Miss Mullen did get transferred
just a week after we did the casting-
out spell.

TRINA

She applied for that job months ago.

GARY

And Tanya wasn't named Halloween
Queen last year.

TRINA

Neither was Melissa.

MELISSA

Magic works in mysterious ways.

TRINA

Melissa! We're kneeling in a cemetery
lighting colored fires. It's so
cliched they wouldn't run this on
one of those canceled daytime soap
operas. We are living triteness.
Can you stand it?

Melissa holds up her hand.

MELISSA

Sh! Someone's coming!

She points across the nearby headstones.

HER POV

Lucas stumbles a little as he wanders to the center of the
cemetery.

MELISSA

Gestures for the others to follow her behind some huge
markers. She quickly stamps out her little fire before she
hides.

Trina leans up close to Melissa.

TRINA

Why would he come here? Wouldn't he
be taking the escalator to hell or
wherever?

Melissa pushes her away so she can listen to Lucas.

LUCAS

Kneels down among some of the oldest graves. The dates are from the late 1700's and early 1800's.

He talks softly to himself, maybe praying.

The small breeze becomes stronger. Lucas pulls his open shirt closed across his t-shirt.

MELISSA

Moves from where she is -- briefly she's in plain sight, but Lucas isn't looking her way.

She rushes to a headstone closer to him - she has to lie down to hide behind it.

She breathes heavily from her exertion but tries to make no sound.

She can hear him now.

LUCAS

Save me from him. Save me from him.
You know, all of you know. How can
I stop him?

TRINA AND GARY

Strain from behind their hiding places to hear. Gary almost falls on Trina. She pokes him with her elbow and his head hits the gravestone, making a thunk.

LUCAS

Stops. He heard that. Then on the other side of the cemetery, voices.

Lucas gets up, dusts himself off and quickly leaves.

MELISSA AND THE OTHERS

Slowly come out into the open.

MELISSA

I heard him.

DRAYMAN (O.S.)

What did he say?

The three nearly jump out of their skins at the voice behind them.

It's a man about forty. He's got ripped blue sweatpants and old athletic shoes on. He hasn't shaved for a while and he's got permanent lines of tension on his face.

TRINA

Great, another cemetery stalker.
Which grave did you climb out of,
wackburger?

Drayman jerks his head in the direction that Lucas went.

DRAYMAN

You know him?

MELISSA

No one does. He just started at
school today.

DRAYMAN

And weird shit is already going down.
I heard about the explosion. Usually
it takes a little more time.

MELISSA

Usually?

TRINA

Come on, Melissa. He's another
nutbrain. He and Lucas probably
come from the same circle of Hades.

DRAYMAN

You're good. With the quips and the
location.

Now Trina likes him. Gary decides he'd better be the guy in
this situation.

GARY

Who are you? And what do you know
about him?

MELISSA

We don't talk to strangers.

TRINA

Let's vacate.

They start to walk away from him.

DRAYMAN

My son was his best friend.

That stops them.

DRAYMAN (CONT'D)

For a while. Then something happened.
Three weeks ago my son attacked him
with a gun.

Melissa regards him carefully.

MELISSA

Sounds like your son had the problem.

DRAYMAN

He was a straight-A student. Never had any trouble. Until he met him.

TRINA

Crap happens. Maybe it was about a girl.

They turn to go again.

DRAYMAN

He had silver bullets in his gun. Silver. You ever heard of such a thing?

Melissa, Trina and Gary shake their heads like the man's crazy and walk away.

DRAYMAN (CONT'D)

Google it. Hiram Bellevue High. It was all over the internet. And that wasn't the first time with this Lucas.

They keep walking until he's out of sight.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER

Melissa, Trina and Gary walk to the corner, where they're going to go their separate ways. Trina's looking at her smartphone.

MELISSA

What did you find out?

Trina hides the phone quickly.

TRINA

No service here. Please get me a carrier that works everywhere in Whitley.

GARY

We're so far out in the sticks that the sticks look down on us.

Trina pats him on the head.

TRINA

Not bad, G-man. So will school even be happening tomorrow?

MELISSA

I think so. Erno's in the hospital. No gym class probably.

GARY

My dream come true. One of them, anyway.

He looks pointedly at Melissa.

GARY (CONT'D)

You know if any creepozoids did come after you, I'd stop them.

Melissa is genuinely moved.

MELISSA

Muchas thanks, Gary. But I'll be OK. I've got some skills.

TRINA

No social graces, but plenty of skills

They each leave in a different direction. Gary stops for a moment, writes something in his notebook.

GARY

You think silver bullets can stop a demon?

The wind is stronger now -- colder. Indian summer is being chased away.

ACROSS THE STREET

Mr. Oswald watches them. Even though he's far away, it seems like he's heard every word.

IN THE CEMETERY

Drayman shakes his head, watching Melissa and the others in the distance. He takes out his cell phone. The phone case has the same trident symbol on it as Daniel's backpack.

There's movement in the bushes behind Drayman: a dark form slides among the graves.

INT. MELISSA AND TANYA'S HOME - LATER

A big oak-paneled place -- one of the better homes in Whitley. MRS. ARMSTRONG sets the dining room table. She looks like an older version of Tanya -- blonde, beautiful, athletic. MR. ARMSTRONG sips white wine and watches, occasionally correcting her placement of silverware or plates. He's darker and more dour. You can see Melissa in him.

MR. ARMSTRONG

All these years and you still don't know how to do it.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

You didn't marry me for my homemaking instincts.

He nods in agreement.

MR. ARMSTRONG

I married you because you were good breeding stock.

She throws a napkin at him.

MR. ARMSTRONG (CONT'D)
OK, maybe it was the other way around.

Melissa bursts in the front door.

MRS. ARMSTRONG
Melissa! Where's Tanya? We heard
about the accident.

MELISSA
Thanks for the concern. She had
practice.

MR. ARMSTRONG
Where were you, anyway?

Her father comes over and brushes cemetery dirt off her jeans.

MR. ARMSTRONG (CONT'D)
We never know where you go, you and
those strange friends...

ELISSA
Had nothing to do with the accident.
And they're not strange. No more
than I am.

The parents exchange glances on that one.

MRS. ARMSTRONG
They said you saw the whole thing.
It must have been terrifying.

Melissa downplays it, pours herself some water and sits at
the foodless table.

MELISSA
It all happened fast. I couldn't
really see much.

Tanya comes in the front door, ruddy and smiling after her
practice.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Some people say the new boy had
something to do with it.

That was said for Tanya's benefit and her smile disappears.

TANYA
What? He dug into the concrete floor
of the gym and lit the gas leak
himself? Does your brain work
properly, little sis?

MELISSA
There's something off about him.

TANYA

The only thing off is people like you who act afraid of anything new. You should be more open, more welcoming.

MELISSA

Like you.

TANYA

Like me. I'm going to see him tonight.

That hits Melissa like a silver bullet.

MELISSA

You're going to see him?

MR. ARMSTRONG

Do you think that's a good idea? We don't much about him.

TANYA

What's to know? He's moody, sensitive and lonely. I'm probably the only one who called him.

MELISSA

You called him?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Was that smart? We should find out a little more about his background.

MELISSA

Like why he left his last five schools. You talked to him? You couldn't have. I just saw...

She spoke too soon and fades out the sentence.

MR. ARMSTRONG

You saw him? Where exactly were you?

TANYA

In your secret cemetery again? You know how many people have teased me about you hanging out with corpses?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

The cemetery? Melissa! What will the neighbors think.

MELISSA

Whatever they want to think. Who cares?

She looks piercingly at her sister.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

You spoke to him?

TANYA

His mother. Very nice woman. She said she'd make iced tea. I said I'd bring dessert.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Very neighborly. But not wise. I forbid...

TANYA

Don't fall into the stereotype, Daddy-dear. You've never been able to forbid me and you know it.

He acknowledges this but doesn't like it.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Let's eat. I don't want to keep my new friends waiting.

They move to the table as Mrs. Armstrong begins to clumsily bring out dishes.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Five schools? Why ever would he leave five schools?

Tanya glares at Melissa for giving their parents that ammunition. Melissa smirks back at her.

EXT. STANTON HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas rushes up the stairs of his house, accidentally brushing the roses in the front yard. A few of them die.

He runs inside.

INT. STANTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The inside looks even smaller than the outside -- very few personal items hang on walls or stand on the mantle. Just three photographs. Everything else looks like it came with the house.

Lucas rushes to his mother.

LUCAS

I couldn't help it, mother, I couldn't stop it.

MRS. STANTON

We'll fight it together, we'll fight him. Together we can stop him.

Lucas holds her, wants to believe, but his eyes betray him.

EXT. CEMETERY - EVENING

Drayman still lurks in the cemetery. The wind blows through the trees near him, making a sighing noise. He takes out his cell phone and punches in information, considers it, then punches in a number. The trident symbol on the phone case glows a bit.

DRAYMAN

It's Drayman. I've got a line on him.

The phone suddenly flies out of his hand as if it was pushed but no one is near him.

Drayman looks confused, walks to the phone. It moves feet away again.

The phone stops at a pair of shoes. Drayman looks up from the ground to see Mrs. Winslow, a charming older woman with an otherworldly smile on her face.

DRAYMAN (CONT'D)

Would you mind, uh, stopping that phone for me?

She nods and steps on the phone hard. A cracking sound is heard. Drayman angrily starts towards her, then stops when he sees Mr. Oswald appear next to her. Both have strange grins on their faces.

MR. OSWALD

No calls.

DRAYMAN

Who are you?

MRS. WINSLOW

We have many names.

MR. OSWALD

You might say we are legion.

DRAYMAN

You work for him. That boy.

They both nod.

MR. OSWALD

He must be preserved until the day of inheritance.

DRAYMAN

Look, I don't know what you know about him, but you have to listen to me. He brings nothing but disaster everywhere he goes...

MRS. WINSLOW

The world rages against that which it does not understand.

Winslow and Oswald each walk in a circle around Drayman, so they end up standing equidistant from him on either side.

DRAYMAN

I don't know what you're up to, but I'm leaving now and having a discussion with the police.

MR. OSWALD

He must be preserved. So you will not go.

Drayman tries to move his feet. They're stuck to the ground.

DRAYMAN

What are you doing?

MRS. WINSLOW

You chose this place. It is fitting for you.

Drayman feels something and looks down. His feet are now a mass of writhing worms and maggots.

DRAYMAN

Stop! God save me!

MR. OSWALD

He's not listening right now.

The worms and maggots rise up his legs. Drayman falls to the ground as his legs are devoured. He screams a constant, painful scream.

But Oswald and Winslow gesture and the noise is diverted to become the sound of the wind sighing in the trees.

Drayman tries to crawl, but his arms are now filled with the vermin. Soon his screams stop as they fill his mouth and eyes.

In moments there's nothing left.

Oswald and Winslow disappear like shadows.

INT. A SECRET ROOM - NIGHT

This is a dark room filled with witches' charms and symbols. A form moves in the shadows of a fire.

The fire is set in a proper brazier. The flames are dark red. The form puts things into the flames and chants a chant. This isn't Latin -- it's something older and more primal. This is a professional spell being performed by someone who knows what they're doing.

On a table near the brazier sits a smart-phone with a digital picture on it. It is a picture of Lucas, taken in school that same day.

The chant rises and falls as the flames do the same. Then some of the flames jump from the brazier onto the wood floor, but they don't burn the wood.

Instead they form the outline of something -- something large and not human.

As the chanting continues, the outline becomes steadier and the something starts moving and breathing.

INT. MELISSA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The room is a cave of fantasy and supernatural paraphernalia. Melissa's desk is full of figurines and carvings. There's barely room for her computer. Melissa skypes with Trina.

MELISSA

She's going over there right now.

TRINA

So what are you doing sitting there?
Follow her.

MELISSA

What, like spy on them?

TRINA

Duh. Of course spy on them. He may
roast your sister. Don't you want
to be there to witness that?

MELISSA

We can only hope.

TRINA

If you're not going, I am.

MELISSA

Wait! Trina!

TRINA

See you there.

Trina signs off. Melissa stands, not sure what to do. She hears something and looks out her window.

HER POV

Tanya leaves the house, carrying a tupperware container.

MELISSA

Watches her, gets a determined look on her face and heads
out the door of her room.

EXT. THE STANTON HOUSE - NIGHT

Tanya pulls up to the house in her Barbie Beetle, parks and gets out, carrying the container.

She goes to the front door and rings the bell.

ACROSS THE STREET

Someone watches Tanya from the shadows.

TANYA

Tries the bell again. The door opens hesitantly. Lucas stands there, not looking well.

TANYA

Hi. Your mother said I should come by.

LUCAS

I know. Look, this isn't a good time...

The door opens all the way and Mrs. Stanton stands there.

MRS. STANTON

Nonsense. It's always a good time to meet our neighbors. Hello, Tanya.

She holds out her good right hand. Tanya shakes it warmly.

TANYA

I brought banana cream pie.

MRS. STANTON

How nice. Home made?

TANYA

Sorry. Store bought. Mom's great but she can't cook.

Mrs. Stanton gestures for her to come inside.

INT. STANTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Tanya comes in and looks around, zeroes in on the few photos on the mantle.

Lucas closes the door slowly. Mrs. Stanton makes room for them at their small table.

Tanya points to the photos of a young Lucas on his mother's lap.

TANYA

You were a happy little boy.

Lucas doesn't know what to say to that.

MRS. STANTON

He was always a good boy.

LUCAS

Mother.

Tanya assesses their relationship.

TANYA
I think he'd do anything to please
you.

LUCAS
I would do anything for her.

TANYA
What about your father? No photos?

Dead silence for a few moments.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Embarrassed moment ensues. Didn't
mean to bring up bad memories.

Lucas gestures her to the table.

LUCAS
Not your fault.

TANYA
Those kinds of things are usually
nobody's fault.

LUCAS
Oh, I'd say it was most definitely
someone's fault.

Mrs. Stanton brings in coffee and iced tea, serves the pie.

MRS. STANTON
Let's talk about something more
cheerful.

Lucas and Tanya look at each other, wondering what could
possibly be cheerful right now.

MRS. STANTON (CONT'D)
You. Tanya. You seem to be quite a
success at school. Maybe you can
teach your winning ways to my son.
He never seems to fit in.

LUCAS
Again, mother!

TANYA
Oh, I don't know. I just believe
that if you look for the positive
side of everything, people are
attracted to that.

Lucas is.

LUCAS
I see. But bad things do happen.

TANYA

You can't dwell on them, let them eat you up inside. That's no way to live.

Lucas considers that.

EXT. STANTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Outside, Melissa and Trina peek in a back window of the Stanton house. Melissa, of course, has forgotten her jacket and she's cold.

MELISSA

They're going to see us! I can't believe I let you talk me into this.

TRINA

You were here so fast your feet were burning. I didn't talk you into anything.

They move away quickly as Mrs. Stanton comes into view in the window. She's putting dishes into the sink. Then she turns and goes back to the dining room table.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Do you think Tanya's in danger? Is that really why you ran the sixteen blocks here?

Melissa waves at her to shut up.

TRINA (CONT'D)

It's him, isn't it? Even after you've supposedly seen him transform into a fire-breathing demon, you still want him. You get all gooey when you look at him.

MELISSA

He's tortured.

TRINA

So was Hitler, but you wouldn't date him. Or would you? I hear Vlad the Impaler was pretty tortured, what about him? You googled Lucas Stanton, didn't you? You saw all the things that happened at all the schools he went to. Are you just naturally obtuse? I'm proud I learned that word just for you.

BEHIND THE GIRLS

In the small back yard of the cottage, two figures stand side by side, unmoving. Oswald and Winslow. They listen to every word.

MELISSA AND TRINA

Are unaware of the eavesdroppers.

MELISSA
Maybe he can be saved.

TRINA
Ha! By the love of a good woman?
Has that ever really worked out in
all those vampire stories? Doesn't
she usually end up sacrificing
herself?

INT. THE STANTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Stanton clears away everything.

MRS. STANTON
It's late for me. I'll be in my
room. Don't worry, I keep the TV up
very loud.

She walks with dignity to Tanya and holds out her hand.

MRS. STANTON (CONT'D)
Very pleased to have you as a guest
in my house. I hope you'll be back
soon.

TANYA
I hope so, too. If I'm invited back.

LUCAS
I think you will be.

Mrs. Stanton departs and there's another awkward silence
between Lucas and Tanya. She breaks it.

TANYA
It'll be much more comfortable talking
over here.

She goes to a small sofa and sits on it, points to the space
next to her.

TANYA (CONT'D)
Get it? See the void, you come and
fill the void. That's the way it
works. Boys come and sit near girls.
Do I have to teach you everything?

He smiles and slowly gets up, comes over and sits.

LUCAS
Maybe you do.

OUTSIDE

Melissa is just about losing her composure.

MELISSA
 She's already got him on the sofa.
 That's her. Everything she wants,
 she gets.

She squeezes Trina's shoulder hard.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
 And I end up with leftovers.

TRINA
 Maybe you should try wanting something
 she doesn't like. Why don't you go
 for the non-hot but OK guy? Someone
 like Gary...

MELISSA
 Trina. Would you go out with Gary?

TRINA
 I'd rather sleep with my redneck
 cousin, if I had one.

MELISSA
 So why should I settle for him?

TRINA
 I'm just trying to help. Lower your
 expectations.

MELISSA
 I expect nothing. I just know what
 I want inside. Someone like him.

She peers inside.

ON THE SOFA

Tanya has gotten as close as she can, but Lucas holds back.

LUCAS
 Tanya, you don't know much about
 me...

TANYA
 What's to know? You're a guy, I'm a
 girl. We kind of like each other,
 right?

In spite of himself, he smiles.

LUCAS
 Yes, but my situation is more
 complicated...

She takes his face in her hands.

TANYA
 Every guy thinks he's complicated.
 (MORE)

TANYA (CONT'D)

Every guy thinks he's different.
It's the woman's curse in life that
she has to prove to him that it's
all very simple.

She frees one hand and points to him.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Guy meet girl. Guy like girl. Guy
kiss girl.

She kisses him fully on the lips. He struggles a bit... and
starts to sweat.

OUTSIDE

Melissa turns away, tears in her eyes. Trina watches
intently.

TRINA

He's fighting her. When does a guy
ever fight with a girl over kissing --
unless he's gay.

Melissa turns back as she hears that.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Can demons be gay?

INSIDE

Lucas is shaking violently. He sweats and tries to pull
away, but Tanya wants him and she's not letting go. Lucas's
eyes begin to turn red.

Then: smoke starts to rise. Tanya breaks away, gasping.
She holds her mouth.

TANYA

You burned me. It was like you were
on fire.

Lucas hides his red eyes from her.

LUCAS

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. It's a
condition I have. I can't explain
it.

He's up out of the sofa, across the room.

TANYA

What kind of condition? You can
tell me.

She crosses to him, touches his shoulder. He flinches, pulls
away.

LUCAS

You wouldn't, couldn't understand.
You better go.

TANYA

I won't move an inch until you tell
me. You have to tell me.

She takes his hand and pulls him towards her -- then there's fire, flames rising from his arm. A wall of fire flows between them.

She screams and steps back. This is something she doesn't understand, something beyond anything she's ever thought of.

Lucas cries out and runs from the house.

Mrs. Stanton appears in the doorway of her bedroom, looking frightened. The fire disappears near a shell-shocked Tanya.

OUTSIDE

Melissa and Trina have seen the whole thing. Trina can't speak. Melissa's shaking, maybe from the cold, maybe not.

MELISSA

I know where he's going.

She leaves. Trina watches her, then takes out her smartphone and dials.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF STANTON HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Lucas runs down the street in the darkness, his arm still glowing.

Melissa crosses from behind his house and follows him.

Behind her, Winslow and Oswald watch.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Lucas huddles near one of the oldest, largest gravestones, crying to himself. Moonlight illuminates him and the old marker which lists the name "Rose Whitley" and the years 1789-1838. He whispers to the dead lying around him.

LUCAS

Help me, help me please.

From the shadows comes a soft voice.

MELISSA

They can't help you but maybe I can.

Lucas starts, about to run. Melissa walks into the moonlight.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I know what you are. I'm here to help.

Lucas shakes his head.

LUCAS
You don't know. You can't help.

MELISSA
I might. Not like your friends here.

Lucas half smiles.

LUCAS
They listen. They understand. You
couldn't possibly understand.

MELISSA
I saw you, in the hallway in school,
in the gym, in your house moments
ago, I saw what you became. I have
visions sometimes.

LUCAS
Then why are you here? Aren't you
frightened like everyone else?

She puts her hand softly on his arm.

MELISSA
No.

LUCAS
You shouldn't touch me.

MELISSA
We'll take it slow. Right now, we'll
just do this.

She takes his hand in hers and sits next to him.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Tell me. How it happened. Were you
cursed? Are you centuries old?

LUCAS
No. I'm just about to turn eighteen.
That's the problem.

MELISSA
Eighteen?

LUCAS
Three sixes. Adulthood. Saturday.

MELISSA
You were born on Halloween?

Lucas shakes his head.

LUCAS
All Saints Day.
(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

November first, two minutes after midnight. My father comes for me then, to go with him.

Melissa swallows hard at that.

MELISSA

Your father? He's...

LUCAS

The worst of the worst. And I'm his son. I'm becoming like him.

MELISSA

It doesn't have to be that way. We aren't our parents. We choose who we want to be.

Lucas looks at her closely.

LUCAS

Don't you think I've tried? Don't you think I've been to every church, tried every ritual, prayed every prayer?

MELISSA

Sometimes it's not the act, it's what goes on inside. You're not like that. I know.

LUCAS

I burned that boy today. I wanted to, it made me feel powerful. It could happen again.

She holds his hand tighter.

MELISSA

We'll find a way. I promise, we'll find a way to fight him.

LUCAS

My mother has tried. She's got all kinds of protections and charms. Nothing works.

MELISSA

He... took your mother?

LUCAS

That's what he does, corrupts the good ones, the saintly ones. He gets joy out of that. Then he comes for their children and they become his.

MELISSA

He's done this before?

LUCAS

He's done this forever. I'm his latest creation.

MELISSA

You won't be. We'll find a way.

DEEPER INTO THE CEMETERY

Oswald and Stanton watch and listen. Then they start to move forward.

MELISSA AND LUCAS

Sit quietly. It's very cold now and Melissa leans in to Lucas's body warmth. Then Melissa's cell phone rings. She swears, takes it out and starts to turn it off, but sees a text: "Ultra-urgent - T."

She answers the phone.

TRINA AND GARY

Are crouched near the outskirts of the cemetery, watching everything.

TRINA

Incoming -- two people but they don't move like people.

MELISSA

Pulls Lucas to his feet.

MELISSA

Someone's coming.

OSWALD AND WINSLOW

First come upon Trina and Gary. Oswald and Winslow's eyes glow and something shoots out at the two teenagers.

Trina and Gary yell and try to move but they're too slow.

Some kind of dark, cloudy energy heads their way.

But at the last moment something stops it -- an outline in orange that moves on all fours. The new creature absorbs the blast and seems to grow bigger.

Trina and Gary see it but don't understand any of it.

TRINA

This is way more than I signed up for.

GARY

It's like one of my videogames.

TRINA

This is no game.

Oswald and Winslow have not noticed that the creature saved Trina and Gary -- they're headed to Melissa and Lucas.

NEAR THE FRONT OF THE CEMETERY

Melissa and Lucas move quickly to the main exit.

MELISSA

Have you ever tried to control your power? Use it without freaking out?

LUCAS

I can't.

MELISSA

Have you tried?

LUCAS

No, I don't want the power, I don't want any part of it.

MELISSA

Well you might want some of it now.

LUCAS

It's something that just takes over. I can't control it.

MELISSA

Try. Try now.

The shadows move in front of them and suddenly Oswald and Winslow are there. But now they look perfectly normal.

MRS. WINSLOW

Melissa Armstrong. What are you doing running around a cemetery at night?

MR. OSWALD

Your parents will be very disappointed in you. You should go home to them now.

MELISSA

Mrs. Winslow? Mr. Oswald? What are you doing here? You two don't even like each other.

MRS. WINSLOW

Alone at night with a strange boy. Just come with me right now and we'll call your mother.

Trina and Gary push through the brush behind Melissa and Lucas.

TRINA

Probably not a good idea. They just tried to destroy us with some supernormal energy force. I shit you not.

GARY

She doesn't. They're not right.

MR. OSWALD

You youngsters should mind your own business.

He gestures with his hands and a swarm of countless buzzing, large black flies flow from his fingers right at them.

MELISSA

Try now, Lucas. Try now.

LUCAS

No.

She violently grabs him and takes both his arms, points his hand at the swarm.

MELISSA

Now!

LUCAS

No!

Flames shoot out of Lucas's hands.

The flames hit the flies and there's an explosion, knocking all four teenagers to the ground.

When they recover, Oswald and Winslow float above them, like puppets or scarecrows. Their eyes are white and their skin is stretched taut.

MR. OSWALD

You should have gone home.

MRS. WINSLOW

You should have listened. Now you'll be punished.

The air around Oswald and Winslow quivers. Whatever is inside them is coming out.

MELISSA

Lucas, run.

LUCAS

No, they don't want to hurt me.

MR. OSWALD

True. We are your protectors.

MRS. WINSLOW

But your secret must be kept till
the day of inheritance.

LUCAS

My father's creatures. Asmodeus and
Jezebeth.

TRINA

I'm just guessing, but they probably
aren't happy we know about them.

MELISSA

(to Lucas)

Can you stop them?

He raises his hands to fight them, sweats, shakes and flames
pour again from his hands.

The demons casually flick the fire aside.

MRS. WINSLOW

Baby games.

MR. OSWALD

You have much to learn, son of the
master. Now your friends must die.

The air ripples around them as their supernatural forms
coalesce into some kind of demon form. This force towers
over them and raises taloned hands to point at them.

Green energy flows from its hands right at them.

At that moment, there's a growl behind Melissa and the others.
The creature that saved Trina and Gary leaps over their heads.
It looks like a wolf made of fire. It roars at the green
energy and smacks into it, forcing it back.

Then the hell-wolf drops to the ground and quickly traces a
circle around Melissa, Lucas, Trina and Gary. The circle
glows the same red color as the wolf.

TRINA

OK, why is this demon dog on our
side?

MELISSA

It's a Teufelhunde. I've heard of
them.

The hound never stops circling them.

GARY

I've been one, in the Hellhound Game.

LUCAS

Someone is protecting us.

Oswald and Winslow have retreated a few yards and now stand like normal people again.

There are other forms with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong walk forward into the moonlight. Tanya is behind them.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Melissa, what silly game are you playing now?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

Come with us, come with your family. This is where you belong.

TANYA

Do you have to embarrass me again? Come on, sis, come home.

MELISSA

What are you seeing?

TRINA

My folks.

GARY

My mother and brother.

MELISSA

Big mistake.

TRINA

Yeah, we all hate our families.

GARY

These demons are too old school. They don't get dysfunction.

MELISSA

But we're still stuck in the middle of a cemetery.

LUCAS

I need to banish them.

MELISSA

I know a spell of banishment. I think it worked.

TRINA

It didn't...

GARY

It might have...

LUCAS

Then you speak it and I'll try something.

Melissa thinks hard, then starts chanting in Latin. She starts to do some hand gestures with the chant, but Lucas makes her use his hands. As she gets to the end of the chant, he points his hands at Oswald and Winslow.

MELISSA

Discedo!

This time it's not fire but a wave of white light that shoots from Lucas, bathing the two demons in brightness. Everyone hides their eyes from this sudden daylight in the middle of the night.

When their eyes adjust, it looks like they're alone in the cemetery.

The Teufelhunde stops circling them and walks away.

The four of them consider the situation.

GARY

Did we win?

TRINA

Or are they just waiting out there to eat our souls?

MELISSA

We can't let fear rule us. Let's go.

Lucas reacts to that.

LUCAS

I've learned some things tonight. From you.

MELISSA

I think you knew them all along. You just needed someone to show you.

TRINA

Is this where we all learn a lesson and go home to be good to our families?

GARY

Come on, Melissa. I'll walk you home, make sure you get there OK.

Melissa gently takes Lucas's hand.

MELISSA

Come with me. You can't go off by yourself. Stay at my house.

He pushes her hand away and strides off into the darkness.

LUCAS

I have to see if my mother is all right.

GARY

See: he's just a Momma's boy.

TRINA

Mommy's precious little demon. What just happened again?

GARY

We were just attacked by demonic forces. Someone should know. Who do we tell?

Wind whips Melissa's hair.

MELISSA

Tell? You think the two Whitley police deputies can handle this?

TRINA

Do you think the entire armed forces can handle this?

GARY

But...

MELISSA

Who do you trust, Gary? What person besides us would believe us?

TRINA

I'm not even sure I believe us.

GARY

Right. Just checking. That's what I thought all along.

Melissa gives him a suspicious look.

The three of them head to the cemetery gate.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CEMETERY - NIGHT

Melissa, Trina and Gary walk out onto the street cautiously, looking all around.

Melissa sees something out of the corner of her eye.

HER POV

A flash of the outline of the Hell-hound slinking around a corner.

MELISSA

Disengages herself from her friends.

MELISSA

Go on without me. I have to do something.

TRINA

At three ayem in Whitley? This isn't New York. We don't even have a 24-hour drive-through anything.

GARY

I have to protect you.

MELISSA

I'll be fine. I just need to see something.

TRINA

Yeah, like when we need to make reservations for the Apocalypse. Come on, Gary. I need to get home and pretend I've been a good girl all snug in my bed.

GARY

Have you ever been a good girl all snug in your bed?

TRINA

What kind of a question is that? Hold my hand, I'm a little nervous. Melissa knows what she's doing.

She gives Melissa a look, figuring she's helping her friend out in the romance department.

Melissa gives her a quick smile. And then Melissa is alone on a very dark street.

EXT. STREET NEAR TOWN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

She walks slowly around a corner and sees a form in the shadows near a streetlight shaped like an old gas-lamp.

The hell-hound nuzzles the hand of the form and then disappears in an alley.

The form walks forward. It's Miss Santos.

MISS SANTOS

Melissa.

MELISSA

Miss Santos. That thing is yours? What the hell is going on in this town?

MISS SANTOS

I told you that you have gifts. I should know. I have similar gifts.

MELISSA

You're a w--

MISS SANTOS

We don't use that term. I can help your friend. You should bring him to me.

MELISSA

Excuse me while I doubt the intentions of anyone I don't know really, really well.

MISS SANTOS

So get to know me. I can help you, instruct you. You have powers but they aren't focused. I will show you how to use those powers properly.

MELISSA

How do I know I can trust you?

MISS SANTOS

I saved you from those things. If I meant to cause any of you harm, I would have let them get you.

Melissa turns to go.

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

Come to my house after school.

Melissa hesitates, then walks off into darkness.

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

You have to trust someone.

INT. PRISON

A maximum security facility. The doors are rusty but clang shut with certainty.

Prisoners look gaunt and haunted.

A man in black approaches a cell.

INT. CELL

Staring at scratchy drawings on the wall of his cell is Daniel, the boy who tried to shoot Lucas with silver bullets. He's intent on some kind of arcane symbols he's making with one long fingernail. The trident symbol is prominent.

Suddenly he's aware that someone is in the cell with him. He looks over and sees Mr. Oswald.

MR. OSWALD

Your father is dead.

DANIEL

He did it.

Oswald nods.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Get me out of here and I'll destroy
him for sure this time.

Oswald puts a skeletal hand on Daniel's shoulder.

MR. OSWALD

I'll get you out, but you have to
leave him to me.

Daniel tenses and an insane gleam comes into his eye.

DANIEL

No! He's ruined the entirety of my
existence. I have to ruin his.

MR. OSWALD

You'll do that by killing the ones
he loves. If you do that, then he'll
be vulnerable to me.

DANIEL

I have to kill him.

MR. OSWALD

Think. You know what he is. You
know you can't kill him. But you
can hurt him. Then I'll take him.

Oswald gestures to the wall of the cell, which becomes
transparent.

DANIEL

What's that?

MR. OSWALD

A doorway out. Do we have an
agreement?

DANIEL

You promise he'll suffer the agonies
of the damned?

MR. OSWALD

Oh, I can definitely promise that.

Daniel heads for the dimensional door in the wall.

INT. MELISSA AND TANYA'S HOME - LATER

Melissa softly opens the door of her house and enters. She
carries her shoes in her hands so she'll be as quiet as
possible.

MR. ARMSTRONG
About time you showed up.

All the lights are on in the living room. Melissa's parents sit with Tanya, who's a wreck. She's been crying; there are burn marks around her lips. She halfheartedly holds a bag of ice to her lips when she remembers the pain. Her arm is bandaged as well.

MELISSA
I was just...

MR. ARMSTRONG
Yes, yes, out with your wacko friends.
I should bolt the door of your room.
But this isn't about you.

MRS. ARMSTRONG
Your sister needs our help.

Tanya looks over, her eyes filled with tears.

TANYA
I just don't know what to do.

MELISSA
That's a first.

MR. ARMSTRONG
I believe I banned sarcasm from this household.

MRS. ARMSTRONG
We have to decide what to do about that boy.

Melissa realizes she has to play dumb.

MELISSA
You went to the new guy's house?

Tanya nods, then starts sobbing.

MR. ARMSTRONG
He hurt her, the freak.

Tanya grips his arm nervously.

TANYA
He didn't mean to! It's his...
condition. It's a medical condition.
We have to help him.

MELISSA
He's got a medical condition?

MRS. ARMSTRONG
We want to tell the school about
this, so he doesn't hurt anyone else.

TANYA

Then they'll send him away. And it will be my fault. I can't do that to him.

MELISSA

What medical condition?

MR. ARMSTRONG

His body temperature or some strange crap. He literally burned her. Somehow. I still don't understand it.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

I looked it up online. I think it must be a skin allergy that reacts like a burn.

MELISSA

Why don't you talk to his mother about it?

MRS. ARMSTRONG

That's exactly what I was thinking. I'll go over there tomorrow and we'll have some lady talk.

MR. ARMSTRONG

In the meantime, I don't want either of you near him.

Tanya grips her father even harder but doesn't say anything. She gives Melissa a pleading look.

MELISSA

Right, Dad. We'll stay away from him. No sweat.

INT. MELISSA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Melissa tries to Skype Trina on her computer, but there's a soft knock at the door. She lowers her laptop.

Tanya meekly opens the door and comes in. She whispers to her sister.

TANYA

Thank you.

MELISSA

I didn't do anything.

TANYA

I'm glad you didn't.

Then she's up next to her sister -- violating her personal space in a way that obviously has never happened before.

TANYA (CONT'D)

I don't know what it is about him.
He scares me but I have to see him.
Can you understand that?

MELISSA

I think so.

TANYA

I'm afraid for him and I'm afraid of
him. I've never been afraid of
anyone.

Melissa experiments with a sisterly pat on the shoulder.

MELISSA

It'll all be fine.

TANYA

I'm still not sure what happened.

MELISSA

Maybe you should get some rest.

Tanya nods and heads dejectedly to the door.

TANYA

I've never felt like this before.

She leaves the room. Melissa looks at her own reflection in
the dark screen of the laptop.

MELISSA

Me either.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Tanya and Melissa pull up to Rose Whitley High in Tanya's
Barbie Car. They don't speak to each other.

As they get out, both search the arriving students, but
there's no sign of Lucas.

The sky is full of dark clouds.

INT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL MAIN HALLWAY- MORNING

Tanya rushes up to Duffy, the security guard.

TANYA

Lucas, the new boy, has he come in
yet?

Her tone is shrill and nervous.

DUFFY

Don't think so. What, he owe you
money?

Duffy's joke falls flat. Tanya just walks past him. He looks at Melissa who's just coming in the door.

DUFFY (CONT'D)
Something wrong with your sister?

MELISSA
When has anything ever been wrong with my sister?

Melissa shrugs at Duffy and moves inside.

She looks down the hallway to where Lucas's locker is located. No activity around it.

TRINA (O.S.)
You think he got spooked and ran?

Trina appears next to Melissa's locker.

MELISSA
That's what he did before. Ran. I thought he might have changed.

TRINA
Because of the love of a good woman? Miss Meliss, you spent one night in a cemetery with him and you barely held his hand. This isn't one of those vampire romance novels: Count Dickula renounced his whole heathen empire when he gazed into the eyes of the lovely Lucinda...

MELISSA
Stop. He needs friends. He's up against something he can't face alone.

Miss Santos walks down the hallway and gives Melissa a knowing nod.

Then someone touches Melissa on the shoulder.

RYAN
Have you seen him?

She looks up into the blonde hair and blue eyes of Ryan, looking very concerned.

Trina steps back, shocked that a normal boy is talking to them.

MELISSA
Lucas? No, sign of him since...

RYAN
Since when?

MELISSA
 Yesterday at school. Maybe he's
 sick.

RYAN
 I called his home. No answer.

MELISSA
 You like him?

RYAN
 He's all right. Just a little out
 of place. Like you said, he needs
 some friends.

He puts his hand on her shoulder.

RYAN (CONT'D)
 You're all right, too, Melissa. You
 know, you could have hung out with
 us if you wanted. Some of us think
 you're pretty interesting.

TRINA
 So you've gotta find me just abso-
 frigging fascinating, right?

FURTHER DOWN THE HALL

Tanya looks lost near her locker. Then she glances up at
 the door of the Assistant Principal's office near her. Her
 nervous eyes fix on the small window in the door.

HER POV

In the window is curly black hair that looks hauntingly
 familiar to her.

The door opens -- and it is indeed Lucas. He's been meeting
 with Mr. Nicolas and talks to him as he leaves.

LUCAS
 Sorry to have been so much trouble,
 Mr. Nicolas.

MR. NICOLAS
 No trouble for me, son. I'm sorry
 you have to leave us so soon.

Mr. Nicolas enjoys seeing Lucas leave.

TANYA
 You're leaving?

She can't hide her emotions.

TANYA (CONT'D)
 Is it because of me? What happened
 wasn't your fault.

Mr. Nicolas scowls as he hears all this.

DOWN THE HALLWAY

Melissa, Trina and Ryan look over and see the confrontation between Tanya and Lucas.

MELISSA

There he is. But something's majorly wrong.

Behind them, Muldoon and Baldwin also see Lucas and Tanya. Muldoon punches his friend in the shoulder, points, and they march down the hall.

OUTSIDE NICOLAS'S OFFICE

Lucas sees that Tanya's distraught.

LUCAS

It's all my fault, Tanya. I can't stay here. I'll hurt you again and who knows who else.

MR. NICOLAS

The hallway is not the place for this type of discussion.

The bell RINGS.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)

And there's the bell. Go to class, Tanya.

TANYA

Don't go, Lucas. I need you to stay. I need to understand.

LUCAS

I don't know if I can explain...

TANYA

Give me a chance. You owe me that. Let's go outside...

MR. NICOLAS

You'll go to your class right now, young lady.

He puts his hand possessively on her shoulder and Tanya explodes.

TANYA

Don't touch me, you fucking creep. Don't ever touch me again.

She slaps Mr. Nicolas. Lucas starts to get what this is all about between Nicolas and Tanya.

Melissa and Trina stand nearby watching -- and Melissa gets it, too.

MELISSA
Oh, not Mr. Nicolas. That perv.

TRINA
That's grosser than gross.

Lucas steps between Nicolas and Tanya.

LUCAS
Leave her alone.

MR. NICOLAS
You are not a student here any longer,
Mr. Stanton. You are trespassing.
I'll summon security.

Muldoon grabs Lucas's shoulder and spins him around.

MULDOON
No prob, Mr. N, we'll dispose of the
trash right now.

Ryan joins Lucas, making a barrier in front of Tanya.

RYAN
Back off, Doon.

Mr. Nicolas tries to move around Lucas to get to Tanya so she'll shut up.

MR. NICOLAS
Calm down, Tanya. Just step into my
office and we'll work this out.

LUCAS
I told you to leave her alone.

MULDOON
You don't exist here, zero. You
don't tell our teachers nothing.

Nicolas manages to get his hand on Tanya's arm. She screams.

TANYA
Don't touch me!

LUCAS
Last time I'm telling you -- leave
her alone.

MULDOON
You don't give orders, ex-student.

BALDWIN
Let's relocate the twerp.

He and Baldwin take each of Lucas's arms. Ryan tries to pull them off of him.

Mr. Nicolas pushes Tanya towards his office. She shoves him back.

TANYA

Never touch me, I said.

Melissa moves in to her sister.

MELISSA

Tanya, come with me.

Nicolas pushes Melissa out of the way.

MR. NICOLAS

This has nothing to do with you, Melissa.

MELISSA

I think it has a lot to do with me and my family and the authorities.

Everyone freezes at that.

MR. NICOLAS

I'm calling security right now.

He takes out his cell phone -- which melts in his hand.

Lucas has a finger pointed at it. He's focused his power and used it.

Melissa looks amazed at what he's done. The rest of the group is shocked.

Tanya's whole concept of reality is coming undone. She starts sobbing.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)

Now, Tanya, everything's all right. Just come into my office.

He tries again to lead her. Lucas stands in front of the office door.

LUCAS

I think you need a lesson, teacher.

A large group is gathering around them, including Miss Santos, Mr. Bell and Mr. Brighton -- none of them move to help Nicolas.

DOWN THE HALLWAY

Duffy sees the disturbance and starts to move. He gets on his radio and talks to the school receptionist.

DUFFY

Tell them to get a car over here.
The new student is making trouble.

MR. NICOLAS

Can't quite fathom that he's being threatened in the midst
of his kingdom.

MR. NICOLAS

What did you say? Was that a threat?

MULDOON

Move on, idiot. Security's coming.
You're outta here.

RYAN

We should go, Lucas.

LUCAS

I see what you are, Nicolas. My
father has his claws deep in you.
Was Tanya the only one? No, there
have been many, many others.

This gets Nicolas frantic.

MR. NICOLAS

Security! Duffy! Get this trespasser
out of here.

MULDOON

You're moving now, you're moving
right now.

Melissa gets to her sister and pulls her away.

MELISSA

Tanya, come with me.

Tanya allows herself to be helped by Melissa. Trina joins
them and they start to move down the hallway.

LUCAS

No one can help you, Nicolas. It's
time you paid for your crimes.

MR. NICOLAS

How dare you insinuate...

LUCAS

I'm not insinuating, I'm stopping
you. Now.

He raises his hands. Mr. Nicolas covers his face.

MR. NICOLAS

Help!

Muldoon and Baldwin again try to get to Lucas. Duffy has arrived on the scene and also puts his hands on Lucas.

With a gesture, Lucas moves Muldoon, Baldwin and Duffy away. Muldoon and Baldwin slam hard into the lockers.

Some students scream at that.

The group encircling the confrontation starts to move back from Lucas.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

A police car pulls up in front of the school and two DEPUTIES get out.

They hear the commotion inside and speed up their entrance.

IN THE HALLWAY

Lucas stares intently at Mr. Nicolas. Everyone has moved away from the two of them except for Ryan, standing as Lucas's lieutenant.

Melissa, Tanya and Trina watch the whole thing.

MELISSA'S POV

There's a red outline around Lucas that looks hulking, leathery, large.

LUCAS

Smiles grimly. It's a scary smile.

He doesn't move his hands. He just stares at Nicolas.

A RED SPLOTCH

Appears at Nicolas's crotch.

Most people are watching the faces of the combatants, so they don't notice. But Tanya and Melissa notice.

The splotch becomes more intense, more fiery.

Nicolas feels it and his hands go to his groin. He holds it and he screams, a high-pitched whine of agony and bewilderment.

Then he doubles over and falls on the ground.

DOWN THE HALLWAY

The deputies rush into the corridor and run in the direction of the scream. They draw their weapons.

NICOLAS

Rolls on the ground and groans.

MR. NICOLAS
What are you doing to me?

LUCAS

Has a look of empowerment and strength.

MELISSA

Is frightened by this look.

TWO SHOT: LUCAS AND NICOLAS

Lucas takes a few steps forward and stands over the writhing Nicolas.

LUCAS
I've stopped you.

THE DEPUTIES

Run forward and hold their weapons on Lucas.

FIRST DEPUTY
Put your, uh, hands down. No keep them up.

Lucas turns calmly towards them.

LUCAS
I didn't touch him.

RYAN
He didn't do anything.

Nicolas groans and rolls. Mr. Bell and Mr. Brighton finally come forward to help Nicolas up.

FIRST DEPUTY
You're going to have to come with us.

Lucas seems bigger, taller, more powerful.

LUCAS
No, I don't.

He walks directly at them. It's obvious neither deputy has had to pull weapons on anyone in a long time. They're not sure what to do.

Their guns shake as they point them at him.

SECOND DEPUTY
Stop there.

Lucas doesn't. The second deputy nervously flexes his finger, which starts to pull the trigger.

Lucas looks at the gun. It turns red-hot and the deputy drops it.

The first deputy cocks the trigger of his gun.

FIRST DEPUTY

Don't move.

Lucas flicks his hands at them and both policemen go flying feet through the air, smashing onto the floor.

Lucas walks away to the exit. Ryan tries to follow him, but with a gesture, Lucas stops him.

Lucas disappears out the closest door.

MR. NICOLAS

Sags between Brighton and Bell.

MR. NICOLAS

What did he do to me?

Woozily, he actually puts his hands down his pants. This time the scream is full-throated.

Bell and Brighton, surprised, let go of him.

Mr. Nicolas screams again and runs to his office.

MR. NICOLAS (CONT'D)

It's gone!

His screams are muffled as he shuts his office door.

MELISSA

Looks at Tanya and Trina.

MELISSA

Sis, we have to talk.

A BELL rings. But no one moves.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Melissa and Tanya sit off to the side of the entrance of the school, talking softly. Tanya tries to get up and leave, but Melissa holds her arm.

TANYA

I won't listen to any more.

MELISSA

You saw what he did.

TANYA

I didn't see him do anything.

MELISSA

You saw.

TANYA

There's an explanation for all of that. His body chemistry...

MELISSA

And Muldoon? The deputies?

TANYA

In all the confusion, they slipped...

Melissa lets go of her.

MELISSA

Fine. Live in your world of reasonable explanations. That's not going to help him. You do want to help him?

TANYA

Do you know where he went? We have to go to him.

MELISSA

No. But I know someone who might know.

It starts to drizzle.

ACROSS THE STREET

Daniel watches the sisters. He's got a new backpack with a suspicious bulge in it.

EXT. MISS SANTOS'S HOUSE - LATER

Melissa pauses near the last house on a cul-de-sac. It's a dark place, hidden among a few very large trees. This end of the street seems perpetually windy. Raindrops fly into Melissa's eyes.

Melissa pulls a jacket closer around her and goes to the door, knocks and is admitted.

INT. MISS SANTOS'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The inside of the house doesn't look like a witch's lair. It's homey and cozy, with many feminine touches. But no photos anywhere.

Miss Santos takes Melissa into a small day room that contains a piano. Melissa sits on a small love seat. Miss Santos takes the piano, noodling the keys as they speak.

MISS SANTOS

So?

MELISSA

I came. Isn't that what you wanted?

MISS SANTOS

Is it what you wanted?

MELISSA

I need two things from you.

MISS SANTOS

Only two?

MELISSA

I need to find him. I think you can do that.

MISS SANTOS

I can. When you find him, bring him here.

Melissa is silent for a beat.

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

If you don't, I'll go to him. Things may get even more public.

Melissa struggles with herself.

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

Melissa, I can help him. I have the power to help him. Why do you think he came here?

MELISSA

Are you saying you brought him here?

MISS SANTOS

Hardly. Out of my league. But this town, Whitley. Rose Whitley was a witch. This town was founded by witches. Why do you think Halloween is such a big deal here?

MELISSA

(thinking about that)

He was at her grave.

MISS SANTOS

It's a place of power. This town is a place of power. That's why he's here. Because he needs power to fight the forces against him.

Melissa comes to a decision.

MELISSA

All right. I'll bring him to you. But he'll be on his guard.

MISS SANTOS
No doubt. And the other thing?

MELISSA
What?

MISS SANTOS
Your other... request.

MELISSA
I need a spell of protection. A
major spell of protection.

Miss Santos looks puzzled.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
So that I can't be burnt if I touch
him.

Miss Santos smiles.

EXT. MELISSA AND TANYA'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Tanya hurries home, not with her confident stride, but with
a nervous rush.

Behind her, Daniel follows, keeping back far enough so he's
not noticed.

Tanya runs into her house.

Daniel examines the exterior of the house carefully, adjusting
his backpack. Raindrops splotch the backpack.

INT. GYM - EVENING

The gym is still a mess. The floor around the area where
Erno was on fire has been broken up. The floorboards are
smashed and holes go down into the earth.

The pool hasn't been cleaned in a while. The few lights are
reflected in its water and cast an eerie, shimmering glow on
the walls.

There's tape with the word "Caution" on it all around,
blocking the doors and windows.

The repair work has been abandoned for the time being.

A shadow moves near one entrance. A door rattles, but it is
chained shut.

Another door slowly scrapes open, the Caution tape sticking
to its inside.

Melissa ducks inside the door, under the tape. She walks
forward, stands near the pool. Her shadow is gigantic on
the wall.

She walks around the pool, sensing someone or something nearby.

She goes to the holes in the floor, looks over into them.

HER POV

Darkness -- the holes could go on forever. It's hard to tell.

BEHIND HER

A form moves. A hand reaches out and touches her.

She doesn't jump, forces herself to stay calm as she turns around.

Lucas stands in the shadows.

MELISSA

I found you.

LUCAS

I thought you would.

He gestures to the ruined gym.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Only place they won't look for me.
Scene of the crime. Gym class
canceled.

MELISSA

Lucas. You know what you did. To
Mr. Nicolas.

LUCAS

He deserved it.

MELISSA

Did he? Did he deserve that?

LUCAS

You know what he was doing to your
sister?

MELISSA

Yes, it's terrible. But let the
authorities deal with him.

LUCAS

Authorities? I'm the authority now.

MELISSA

You're frightening me.

LUCAS

You taught me how to control it,
Melissa. I thought you'd be happy.

MELISSA
It's changing you already.

He has nothing to say to that.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Maybe your father has already won.

She sees a red flare erupt around him.

LUCAS
Fine! Then leave. If you think I'm
some kind of monster, then go.

She moves to him, takes his hand.

MELISSA
I know you're not a monster. And I
want to make sure you don't become
one. Come with me.

LUCAS
Outside? Not smart. Some one will
see me.

MELISSA
So you're afraid?

He lets go of her hand.

LUCAS
No, of course not.

Then he just kind of falls down into a sitting position.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Yes. I'm afraid. Very afraid.
Afraid of what's out there. And
afraid of what's in here.

He touches his chest, his head.

She puts her arms around him and holds him. He lets her for
a moment, then realizes what she's doing, tries to jump up.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
What are you doing? You can't...

She won't let go.

MELISSA
It's all right. I'm protected.

LUCAS
You can't...

He starts to sweat, tries to control himself, but flames
shoot from his hands.

He desperately tries to pry her loose, but she holds on.
And the flames don't do a thing to her.

MELISSA
I told you. I'm safe.

Now she lets go of him and he turns to face her.

LUCAS
No one can do that.

MELISSA
Just call me no one.

She puts her arms around him again.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
Has anyone ever done this?

She kisses him long and fully. He struggles at first, then gives in and enjoys it. Flames do spark around their mouths, harming neither of them.

When they part, they look into each other's eyes for a while.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
See: there's nothing to be afraid
of.

This time he kisses her, hard, hungrily. He just about devours her -- this is a lifetime without human contact finally coming to an end. This is him finally able to connect and share with another person. They barely come up for air.

LUCAS
I've never --

She doesn't let him finish. Kisses him again. They drop to the floor, removing each other's clothes.

The lovemaking starts tenderly but as Lucas gets passionate, he does lose control. Flames envelop them, but Melissa is unharmed. She is caught up in the whole experience and their mutual climax literally burns.

INT. TANYA'S ROOM - EVENING

Tanya works furiously at her computer. Her room is a shrine to her academic and athletic achievements: trophies, plaques, photos of her on teams.

But the Tanya in the room now seems very separate from the one in the photos: she's haunted, driven, scared.

ON HER COMPUTER

She researches demons and demonology -- drawings and strange symbols cover the screen.

EXT. MELISSA AND TANYA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

The house is just settling into darkness. A shadowy form vaults up onto the porch roof.

It's Daniel and he's got his eyes set on the window of Tanya's room. He almost slides on the slick surface -- it's still raining lightly.

He moves to the window and quietly slides it open.

IN THE STREET BELOW

Trina and Gary see him. Gary takes off his rain-fogged glasses.

TRINA

Do we think that's a demon burglar
or just a regular old psycho?

GARY

That's not Melissa's room.

TRINA

And you'd know that how?

He blushes.

GARY

If we raise an alarm, he might hurt
someone.

TRINA

We need reinforcements.

INT. GYM

Melissa and Lucas lie in each other's arms.

LUCAS

This is what I want. A normal life.
A normal love.

She hits him.

MELISSA

I'm anything but normal.

LUCAS

You know what I mean. In two days,
things change. For good.

MELISSA

They don't have to. I know someone
who can help.

He looks suspicious.

LUCAS

No one can help.

MELISSA
Listen to me. I want us to be
together. She can help us.

LUCAS
She?

MELISSA
You have to trust someone.

INT. TANYA'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Tanya is on her computer, reading about demons in human form.

DANIEL
So you know what he is.

Tanya gasps, turning to see the intruder who's closing the window behind him.

He's got a Beretta 25 caliber nine-shot pointed at her.
It's small but dark and deadly.

TANYA
Who are you?

DANIEL
An old friend of Lucas. Not so
friendly any more.

TANYA
You're crazy. My parents --

DANIEL
Wouldn't want their daughter shot.
So keep quiet.

He gestures with the gun.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Silver bullets for him. But they'll
do just as much damage to you.

The DOORBELL rings. Daniel puts the gun close to Tanya.
She stares at it and at the trident symbol Daniel has stitched
on his shirt.

DOWNSTAIRS

Mrs. Armstrong answers the door. Tina and Gary stand there
with big fake smiles on their faces.

TRINA
Collecting for the school's charity
drive!

MRS. ARMSTRONG
What?

GARY

You remember: we do this every year!

As they talk, Trina takes Gary's notebook and writes in block letters: "Intruder in Tanya's room. Don't let on."

Mrs. Armstrong starts to the stairs, but Trina holds her back.

TRINA

We'll take a check, but cash is best.

She writes again: "Where is power?"

Mrs. Armstrong looks confused.

IN TANYA'S ROOM

Tanya holds very still as they listen to the conversation below.

She whispers to Daniel.

TANYA

What do you want?

Daniel smiles and puts his lips to her ear.

DANIEL

I'm thinking you're his type. He always goes for the popular blondes. So if you're in danger, he'll come for you.

He drags her over to the inside door and listens. He can hear Trina's voice.

TRINA (O.S.)

Thanks, Mrs. Armstrong. Maybe we'll name a wing of the school after you.

The door below slams shut.

Daniel relaxes a bit, lets Tanya go. She rushes across the room, as far away from him as she can get.

TANYA

What are you?

Daniel proudly points to the trident logo.

DANIEL

Demon hunter. We dedicate our lives to wiping them out.

He moves towards her.

And the lights go out. He swears. There's a crash. But this is Tanya's room -- she knows every inch.

In a flash, she's out the door.

DOWNSTAIRS

Tanya stumbles down the stairs in the dark, sobbing, then screams as she runs into her parents.

Mrs. Armstrong takes her daughter in her arms and holds up a flashlight.

Mr. Armstrong holds up a shotgun.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Whoever the fuck that is just came
to the wrong house. You OK, honey?

He goes up the stairs.

EXT. MELISSA AND TANYA'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Gary and Trina watch from outside -- they see Daniel leave by the window and jump down from the porch roof. They don't reveal themselves or follow him, but Trina takes video of him with her phone.

Gary makes notes in his ratty notebook. Rain splotches the ink on the paper.

INSIDE

Mr. Armstrong kicks in the bedroom of Tanya's room as the lights come back on.

He almost shoots his reflection in the mirror, but stops.

DOWNSTAIRS

Trina shows the video to Mrs. Armstrong and Tanya.

TANYA

He wants Lucas. He was going to do
something to me to get to him.

Mrs. Armstrong gets on the phone.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

First I'll let his mother know, then
the police.

TRINA

He oozes psychoses. Did Melissa
sleep through this?

TANYA

She's not here. Never came home
after school.

Gary and Trina look at each other.

GARY
We better go find her.

Trina dials Melissa on her phone, shakes her head as she gets voicemail.

TANYA
I'll go with you.

Mr. Armstrong comes back downstairs, the shotgun over his shoulder.

MR. ARMSTRONG
With that gunslinging wacko out there?
You'll stay here where I can protect
you.

TRINA
The parental unit may be right for
once. We'll find your sib and bring
her home in case Weirdo McWack wants
her, too.

TANYA
Leave the phone so we can show the
police.

Trina does. She and Gary leave. Tanya heads back upstairs with the phone.

TANYA (CONT'D)
I'll be in my room.

Mr. Armstrong follows.

MR. ARMSTRONG
With me. Time for that father-
daughter bonding experience.

EXT. MISS SANTOS'S HOUSE - LATER

Melissa leads Lucas to Miss Santos's house. Lucas has a hoodie pulled up so no one can see his face. They're both rather wet. Melissa softly knocks on the door. Miss Santos opens it and regards Lucas.

MISS SANTOS
Yes. I see.

She gestures for them to come in.

INT. MISS SANTOS'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They all sit in the piano room, Melissa and Lucas scrunched on the love seat.

MISS SANTOS
We haven't much time. You'll stay
here until the night of the ceremony.

MELISSA

He can't stay here.

MISS SANTOS

Where else can he stay? My house has defenses. No one will sense him while he's here.

LUCAS

What ceremony?

MISS SANTOS

On the night of your birth, we'll have to perform the Rasman Ritual that will protect you from your father.

LUCAS

And how do I know you aren't one of my father's servants? How do I know you won't deliver me to him?

Miss Santos takes both his hands and stares into his eyes.

MISS SANTOS

Look at me. You know. You can tell when your father touches someone.

Melissa doesn't like this hand-holding stuff.

Lucas stares back intently.

LUCAS

No, you're not his. I'll stay here.

MELISSA

So will I.

MISS SANTOS

And have the police out looking for you? Go home and let your parents see you. Then return when no one will be suspicious.

Miss Santos turns back to Lucas. Melissa does a few covert hand gestures, which Miss Santos feels.

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

You don't need to do that. He'll be safe here, I promise.

But Melissa feels something's wrong. She looks down and sees her serpent tattoo glowing.

LUCAS

It's OK, Meliss. I'll be fine.

He stands and goes to her, kisses her passionately.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Come back to me. I need you.

She kisses him again, gives Miss Santos a look and then goes.

MISS SANTOS
There are things you must learn right
away.

She gestures for him to go to the back part of the house.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE CEMETERY - NIGHT

Melissa hurries home past the cemetery. It's raining hard
now. She looks over at the graves and stops.

HER POV

The graveyard seems alive with movement, but there is no one
in it. Forces are at work in it, though.

A HAND

Comes from behind Melissa and touches her.

She jumps.

TRINA
You need security. Or a xanax. Or
both.

MELISSA
Maybe both.

Gary's in sensible rain gear. Trina has an umbrella.

GARY
Besides all the supernatural bullshit,
there was a stalker with a gun at
your house.

MELISSA
Mom and Dad!

TRINA
The parental units are fine. He
threatened your sis. Was trying to
use her to get to Lucas. Have you
seen Mr. tall, dark and demonic?

Melissa hesitates.

MELISSA
He's somewhere safe.

TRINA
I wish I knew where safe was. Let's
get you back to the familial
household. Dad will be shooting up
the neighborhood if we don't.

They walk away. Shadows continue to move in the cemetery.

INT. TANYA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tanya's at her computer. Dad sits on the bed next to his shotgun.

TANYA

It's him. The one that tried to
shoot Lucas last month.

She compares a photo of Daniel with Trina's grainy video.

The DOORBELL rings.

MR. ARMSTRONG

If the cops can't handle him, I can.
We take care of our own problems in
Whitley.

He heads to the door to talk to the police.

MONTAGE: THE NEXT TWO DAYS

Time passes swiftly up to Halloween. The normal activity contrasts with the secret supernatural things occurring beneath the everyday surfaces of the real world.

It rains harder and harder as Halloween comes closer.

IN THE SCHOOL

The School auditorium is being dressed for the big Halloween party and talent show.

The gym remains closed off and dark.

MELISSA

Tries to act normal around her family, is seriously concerned about Tanya. But mostly sneaks away from home and school to go to Miss Santos's house. At the house, she learns more spells and more rituals from Miss Santos.

LUCAS

Learns how to control his powers more and how to see into the ethereal world.

Miss Santos makes him carry charms and talismans, including an amulet with runic symbols on it.

GARY

Is on his computer in his dark, cave-like room, copying things into his ragged notebook.

TRINA

Follows Melissa and sees her go into Miss Santos's house. She consults her smartphone and seems to have some secret plan.

TANYA

Haunts her school hallways now, but isn't the same center-of-the-universe attention-getter. She's nervous and her smile is brittle.

DANIEL

Hides in the back of Mrs. Winslow's shop. Amidst the antiques, he works on a computer and makes notes of his own.

Winslow and Oswald watch him with blinkless eyes.

On Daniel's computer screen is a picture of Lucas and Daniel from happier times. Daniel is doing some kind of analysis of Lucas's face and skin.

LUCAS

Is alone with Miss Santos, as she makes him perform a ritual. He is shirtless, with red symbols painted on his chest.

Miss Santos looks at him sometimes as if she were a cat and he the mouse.

Lucas says the words of the ritual and power courses through him, light spills out of his eyes, ears, hands. It causes him pain, this ritual, but he pushes on to finish it.

Miss Santos smiles one of her knowing smiles.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Halloween Morning. The school front is now being decorated, welcoming the students to the big celebration. It's a Saturday.

The theme of the party is Angels and Devils.

The rain has stopped temporarily. But the clouds above are threatening.

Melissa walks past and regards a caricature-drawing of a devil with a pitchfork.

TRINA (O.S.)
Remind you of anyone?

MELISSA
Oh, no, I was just...

TRINA
Skulking off to your hiding place again. Don't trust your old friends?

MELISSA
Sure I do, it's just...

She stops, not sure what to say.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
I have to keep him safe. You can't
do that.

TRINA
You'd be surprised at what I can do.

That makes Melissa smile.

TRINA (CONT'D)
Just know that I'm here for you.
We're here for you.

She points over to where Gary sits on a school step, looking
very serious.

TRINA (CONT'D)
He's jealous, but he'll still help.
Remember that.

Melissa touches Trina's cheek.

MELISSA
I will.

TRINA
Remember: don't trust those damn
smelly knights...

MELISSA
With their big smelly swords. Right.

TRINA
Who knew you'd fall for the dragon,
instead?

She fades back and allows Melissa to proceed.

Melissa turns back and looks at her friends before she
disappears down the street.

INT. MRS. WINSLOW'S STORE - CONTINUOUS

The always-staring Winslow and Daniel peek out the front
window at Melissa and Trina.

MRS. WINSLOW
She goes to him.

DANIEL
I can stop her from helping him.

MRS. WINSLOW
Tonight it ends. Tonight you must
remove those who help him.

Daniel smiles and pets his backpack.

DANIEL

Oh, I'll remove them, gladly.

EXT. CUL-DE-SAC NEAR MISS SANTOS'S HOUSE - MORNING

Melissa walks to the cul-de-sac and makes certain no one is watching her, then heads to Miss Santos's house.

INT. MISS SANTOS'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Melissa walks in without knocking and finds Miss Santos running her hands on Lucas's chest and abdomen.

MELISSA

You better have a good reason for feeling him up or I'm going to use a few spells you don't know about.

MISS SANTOS

I know them all. He's changing, transforming already, not just his spirit side, but all of him.

Lucas looks worried.

LUCAS

Can't we stop it? I don't want to change.

MISS SANTOS

But you must. Embrace it. You will go through a re-birth, but it doesn't have to be on your Father's terms.

MELISSA

Why can't we just leave? Run somewhere so that we can't be found.

MISS SANTOS

He knows where Lucas is at every moment. He knows Lucas is here now. It's best for the transformation to occur at a place of great power, so that Lucas can use that power to cut off all ties from his father.

MELISSA

And that'll work? Satan isn't just some angry Dad who will walk away if it's too much trouble.

MISS SANTOS

You've read the Bible and the other great books of the past. People have defeated him before. Lucas can do it, but he must have the power.

LUCAS

So where do I have to be tonight?

MISS SANTOS

Rose Whitley built it upon the stones
that held the greatest power in this
part of the country. The school.

MELISSA

My school is the power center? That's
wrong on so many levels.

LUCAS

They're holding that party there
tonight. How can we get in?

Miss Santos goes to a closet door and opens it, gestures
inside.

MISS SANTOS

Disguised, of course. In costumes
so you won't seem out of place.

MELISSA

We're going to be in the middle of
the high school Halloween talent
show when Satan attacks? I don't
need witch's powers to foresee
disaster.

MISS SANTOS

I'll be with you. I'll protect the
innocent. But you must be there,
both of you.

LUCAS

I think Melissa should stay out of
it -- it's not her fight.

MELISSA

I've made it my fight.

MISS SANTOS

Don't worry about her. Melissa comes
from a long line of sorceresses.

They're both surprised.

MELISSA

Me? If you met my mother, you'd
reconsider that.

MISS SANTOS

Didn't your parents tell you that
you're descended from Rose Whitley?

MELISSA

I think they'd be embarrassed about
that.

MISS SANTOS

The Whitley blood flows in you. Try
on the costumes -- make sure they
hide you.

Melissa takes out a red dress and stares at it.

Lucas holds up an X-men outfit of the character Angel. With a black mask included.

MELISSA

No way.

LUCAS

I can't do this.

MISS SANTOS

No one would look for you as an angel, Lucas. And that outfit would be the opposite of what they'd expect you to wear, Melissa.

MELISSA

Yeah, they'd be right.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - EVENING

Devils and Angels flow into the school. It's raining again, so some wings droop and some red horns shed their paint.

Mr. Bell and Mr. Brighton, both discrete, gentlemanly devils, watch them as they go past.

MR. BELL

We're probably the only school in the country...

MR. BRIGHTON

That acknowledges our students are demons.

Miss Santos walks past in an all-red tux carrying a jeweled pitchfork.

MR. BRIGHTON (CONT'D)

Almost makes one want...

MR. BELL

To go to the other side, yes. But not quite.

He smiles at Brighton.

Tanya wanders in past them, dressed in angel wings and a white dress. Her parents have to push her inside.

INT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Tanya turns to face her parents inside.

TANYA

This is stupid! Look at me, I'm ridiculous.

MR. ARMSTRONG

It was never stupid the last three years we did it.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

You're being crowned Halloween Queen tonight. You have to be here.

TANYA

I've got two crowns. I don't need another one.

MRS. ARMSTRONG

You're under a lot of stress. Once you get inside with your friends, I'm sure you'll be fine.

MR. ARMSTRONG

Whether you like it or not.

They move on down the hallway.

Nearby, Muldoon and Baldwin, both devils, ogle Tanya.

MULDOON

Since I'm gonna be king, I claim her for my queen.

BALDWIN

She may need some convincing.

MULDOON

How can she resist my devilish charm?

BALDWIN

Uh, she's done it for almost three-and-a-half years.

MULDOON

Tonight Doon triumphs.

They follow Tanya.

NEAR THE DOOR

Trina and Gary, sort of New Wave angels, watch everyone entering.

TRINA

Tell me again why the son of Satan would come to the high school party?

Gary refers to his ratty notebook.

GARY

The ley lines converge here. This is a place of power, where all the magic intersects. I ran a program that mapped it out.

He shows her some scribblings.

TRINA
Can't you just use an I-Pad?

GARY
No one can eavesdrop on a hard copy.

RYAN (O.S.)
You're looking for them?

Surfer-type Ryan stands in a tux with tiny wings. Gary snaps his notebook shut.

GARY
We're waiting for our friends. And you're not even a subset of that particular group.

Ryan smiles.

TRINA
He's OK, Gary. He had Lucas's back through that whole super-extra-ultra-normal event last week.

She smiles back at Ryan.

TRINA (CONT'D)
Mr. No Manners here seems to think they'll just waltz in the front door. I beg to differ. I've begged a lot and he won't give it up.

EXT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Lucas and Melissa walk towards the school. Lucas has a blue-and-yellow spandex superhero outfit on, with large white wings. He's also got a black mask that covers his face and a wig of light-colored hair. The rain makes dark patches on his yellow suit.

Melissa has the red dress on, but covers herself in a dark red cloak. She's got devil horns on a small tiara in her hair.

They nervously approach the teachers.

MR. BELL
Melissa, you usually...

MR. BRIGHTON
Skip this illustrious event. Can't say we blame you.

MR. BELL
I don't recognize your date.

MELISSA
 It's a secret. You'll never guess
 who it is! Just wait for the
 unmasking!

The teachers look concerned.

MR. BELL
 We don't want...

MR. BRIGHTON
 Any trouble, Mister...?

He touches Lucas's shoulder and Lucas tries not to flinch.
 He speaks in a high, obviously disguised voice.

LUCAS
 No trouble at all, sir. We're just
 here to have fun.

And they disappear inside. Bell and Brighton glance at each
 other, wondering if they should do something.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The auditorium, decorated with funny devil and angel posters,
 is filling up. Tanya tries not to mingle, but her parents
 push her into groups of students.

Baldwin and Muldoon watch her.

Across the room, eyes hidden under a plastic devil mask,
 Daniel also watches her.

The band on stage starts playing some rockabilly. The dance
 floor is filled with fake paper flames.

INT. ROSE WHITLEY HIGH SCHOOL MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Melissa and Lucas enter and hurry down the hallway. Trina,
 Ryan and Gary see them and follow.

HALLWAY NEAR AUDITORIUM

Melissa and Lucas continue quickly, going past the auditorium
 doorway, headed towards the dark, foreboding gym area.

Duffy steps out of the shadows of the gym entrance, blocking
 them.

DUFFY
 No making out in the gym tonight,
 kids. Not safe in there. I suggest
 the parking lot. It's a little wet,
 but you can find some dry spots.

Melissa grins nervously and starts to turn around.

DUFFY (CONT'D)
 Melissa! And with a date. Boy, I
 guess everyone can change.

Melissa doesn't stop to talk to him.

MELISSA
 See you, Duffy.

As she and Lucas turn, they run right into Trina, Gary and
 Ryan.

TRINA
 Well look who we just happened to
 bump into.

They stand, blocking any exit.

Trina drops her voice to a whisper.

TRINA (CONT'D)
 You know, we'd like to help, if you'd
 just let us and stop playing the old
 'us against the world' tragic game.

GARY
 I have a plan that might work.

Melissa and Lucas try to push past.

RYAN
 Lucas, please. I'm your friend.

Duffy hears that and starts forward.

Melissa and Lucas continue to shove past the others. Trina
 grabs Melissa's cloak and holds on.

Just as Melissa breaks free, the huge auditorium doors open
 wide.

MELISSA
 Please! Let us go!

IN THE AUDITORIUM

The shout makes everyone turn to the doorway.

IN THE DOORWAY

Melissa is revealed in her stunning red dress, looking
 absolutely gorgeous.

IN THE AUDITORIUM

Everyone is shocked and barely recognizes her. Murmurs start
 and people begin pointing from Tanya to Melissa, obviously
 weighing things in Melissa's favor.

Tanya stares at her sister. Her parents see Melissa, too, and are very confused.

MR. ARMSTRONG
What happened to our little dork?

But what really has Tanya's attention is the disguised Lucas. Even underneath the costume, she knows instinctively who it is.

She knows better than to say his name, but she rushes to him.

Her father starts to go over to her, but his wife stops him.

MRS. ARMSTRONG
Tanya and this boy might need some alone time.

Muldoon and Baldwin watch Tanya as well and get suspicious. They follow.

The rest of the auditorium spontaneously applauds Melissa and her new look.

She is embarrassed and would love to duck away, but accepts their enthusiasm.

Miss Santos smiles as well, taking credit herself for Melissa's transformation. She checks her watch, sees there's plenty of time before she's needed and continues to mingle.

IN THE HALLWAY

Tanya runs to Lucas and puts her arms around him. Melissa frowns at that.

TANYA
You're safe.

MELISSA
Not yet.

TRINA
Could this get more complicated?

She sees Muldoon and Baldwin coming.

TRINA (CONT'D)
Answer: holy crap, yes.

She gets Melissa's attention and shows her what's about to happen. Melissa starts pushing Lucas and Tanya down the hallway, just as Duffy comes up.

DUFFY
Who are you?

He blocks Lucas's path.

MELISSA

He's my date, Duffy. Don't be rude.
He's from another town.

MULDOON

So let's take off his mask and meet
him.

BALDWIN

Yeah, let's take it off right now.

They move to Lucas. Lucas backs away, towards the auditorium door.

Sweat breaks out on his forehead.

BEHIND HIM

In the auditorium, up near the roof, blending in with the Halloween decorations and unnoticed by anyone: a red mist fills the air. It looks like blood.

Beneath the red mist, Daniel watches the commotion and moves forward, reaching into his costume.

IN THE HALLWAY

Baldwin pins Lucas's arms behind his back as Muldoon reaches for his mask.

Duffy draws out a baton and knocks Muldoon's arms away.

DUFFY

Back off, Muldoon. I'll handle this.

He pokes Baldwin with the baton.

DUFFY (CONT'D)

Let him go.

MR. BRIGHTON

Problem, Duffy?

Brighton and Bell have arrived on the scene.

MR. BELL

Not being very hospitable to our out-of-town guest.

DUFFY

You know him?

MR. BRIGHTON

Not as well as we'd like. But he's welcome here.

MR. BELL

In fact, we were about to have a private talk with him over there.

He points down towards the gym.

DUFFY
No one's supposed to--

MR. BRIGHTON
I'll take full responsibility, Duffy.

Duffy pauses, baton in mid-air.

MR. BRIGHTON (CONT'D)
With Mr. Nicolas gone, I am in charge.
Are you questioning my authority?

MULDOON
Limp authority.

Quick as lightning, Brighton brings a wooden paddle out of his costume and smacks Muldoon on the head.

MR. BRIGHTON
You'll be in detention Monday,
Muldoon. Go away. You and your
little lap-rat. Now.

Muldoon and Baldwin step inside the auditorium, but it's obvious they haven't given up yet.

MR. BELL
Come, children, let's have that talk.

Bell and Brighton gesture the group towards the gym.

After a moment, Daniel makes sure the coast is clear and follows them.

INT. GYM - CONTINUOUS

The group enters the mostly dark gym. Brighton switches on a light. One lone overhead comes on, illuminating:

A Pentagon drawn in large scale on the gym floor.

They all stop and stare at it.

It's the five-star symbol inside a circle, but the circle around it is not closed yet.

GARY
I drew it myself. From all the
correct historical designs.

Melissa turns on him.

MELISSA
Gary, what are you talking about?

GARY
It'll protect you.
(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

It'll protect him, all of us. Tonight when all that shit is supposed to happen.

TRINA

We even learned a spell of enclosure that we can read together.

MELISSA

Both of you?

Tanya takes all this in, but hasn't let go of Lucas.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Why are you saying this in front of them?

She points to Brighton and Bell, who hover near the door.

GARY

I, uh, told them.

LUCAS

What did you tell them?

TRINA

About you, about what's going to happen. We had to trust someone.

Melissa looks nervously at Bell and Brighton.

Brighton holds his finger to his lips and stands near the side of the door.

The door starts to open.

Daniel's face appears in the open door. And Brighton brings his wooden paddle down on Daniel's head at top speed.

There's a crack and Daniel is out on the floor.

MR. BRIGHTON

Thought there might be an interruption.

MR. BELL

I like having you in charge.

MR. BRIGHTON

Now to your little problem. I do think the pentagram is a fine idea. It's been used throughout history to thwart evil forces. I taught a class in it some years ago.

MELISSA

You believe them, uh, us?

MR. BELL

Let's just say we know what it's like to be harassed...

MR. BRIGHTON

And attacked for no reason. Plus there are more things in heaven and earth...

MR. BELL

Always the literati.

TRINA

I don't think we're dealing with heaven or earth here.

Ryan regards the Pentagram with disdain, he turns to Lucas.

RYAN

This is all silly. Let me help you. We need some kind of real weapons.

Lucas takes off his mask and wig, rips off his spandex top. He's got a t-shirt on, with the runed amulet around his neck that Miss Santos gave him.

LUCAS

Real weapons aren't going to help against what's after me. You should all leave me to face this alone. I couldn't bear it if any of you were hurt.

TANYA

We couldn't bear it if you were hurt.

MELISSA

I know how to help you. We're a team, remember?

Lucas looks from sister to sister.

Then, as if a door suddenly opened, a wind blows through the gym.

Oswald and Winslow hover over the pool across the room.

MR. OSWALD

Come, Dark Son.

MRS. WINSLOW

The Time of Inheritance approaches.

MELISSA

We banished you before and we'll do it again!

MR. BRIGHTON

Whatever you things are, don't you threaten our students.

He raises his wooden paddle, which seems rather silly, but he's trying.

Oswald gestures at Brighton -- both he and Bell are thrown across the room as if they were rag dolls.

Melissa starts chanting the spell of banishment. She stands behind Lucas and uses his hands to make the movements for the spell.

In the doorway, Daniel wakes up and sees what's happening. No one else sees him.

He gets unsteadily to his feet and takes out his Beretta.

Gary and Trina go to help Bell and Brighton.

GARY

Everyone inside the Pentagon now!

They move the injured teachers into the circle.

Melissa, Lucas, Tanya and Ryan are not in the circle.

Melissa continues her spell and it's obvious that some kind of power is being summoned.

Tanya looks in shock at what her sister is doing.

TANYA

You're right. You can help him.
How?

Melissa just gives her a nod to acknowledge her and continues the spell.

A look passes between Oswald and Daniel as Daniel aims his Beretta.

A whirlpool of light opens up near Oswald and Stanton.

Gary and Trina run out of the circle, try to get the others into it, as the wind kicks up even stronger, dragging them all towards the two hovering demons.

THROUGH ANOTHER DOOR

Muldoon and Baldwin burst into the gym from a back door and can't understand what they're seeing.

MULDOON

What the...?

OSWALD

Sees them and smiles a scary smile.

MELISSA

Is just about to finish her banishment spell. Flames come out of Lucas's hands, eyes, orifices as the spell builds.

DANIEL

Points his gun at Melissa and Lucas.

HIS POV

He aims at Lucas's head, then moves it over to Melissa's.

OSWALD

Nods to Daniel and speaks to his demon cohort.

MR. OSWALD

These bodies will be banished, but not those.

He gestures to Muldoon and Baldwin.

WIDE: THE GYM

As Melissa finishes her spell, white light billows out towards Oswald and Winslow.

At that same moment, the glowing life-forms leave the bodies of the older couple and head for Muldoon and Baldwin.

They each invade the boys' bodies, jerking them about, puppet-like.

DANIEL

Squeezes the trigger of his gun.

TANYA

Sees him now for the first time. She pushes Lucas and Melissa out of the way.

TANYA

Watch out!

The gun fires and Tanya takes the bullet in her chest.

Trina screams. Melissa and Lucas turn and take in what's happened.

MELISSA

Sis!

Melissa and Lucas start to her.

Daniel aims again at Melissa.

Lucas steps in the path of the gun.

LUCAS
No, Daniel, no more.

Daniel smiles.

DANIEL
Right. Not her. You're the one I
have to stop. See if your black
magic will stop silver bullets.

ACROSS THE ROOM

Controlled by the demons, Muldoon and Baldwin fly through
the air at Daniel.

MULDOON
You will not harm the chosen one.

BALDWIN
The Dark Son must be protected.

Daniel sees them and fires at them.

DANIEL
Then you can go to hell with him!

The bullets hit the faces of Muldoon and Baldwin, causing
major damage, but the demons are unfazed and move the bleeding
bodies onto Daniel.

His gun now empty, he tries to fight, but they each grab and
arm and pull.

He screams loud and long -- as they literally rip him in
half.

IN THE PENTAGRAM

Melissa and Trina carry Tanya inside the Pentagon. Gary
and Ryan are already inside with the teachers.

Only Lucas stands outside, confronting the demonic Baldwin
and Muldoon.

LUCAS
Whatever form you take, I'll know
you, demons.

The bloody bodies move towards him. He raises his hands and
shoots flames at them.

It fries the flesh but does not stop them.

Melissa runs from the Pentagon and takes Lucas's arm.

MELISSA
Inside, it's the only way!

Lucas allows himself to be brought into the Pentagon.

Gary and Trina quickly pull out chalk and complete the circle of the Pentagram.

GARY
Everyone stay inside. They can't
get in.

He and Trina start reading from his notebook the spell of enclosure.

Melissa leans down to her wounded sister. Tanya is not doing well.

MELISSA
Hang on, sis!

She thinks for a moment.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
You have the power, too. We have
witches' blood in us. Use the power,
Tanya. Save yourself.

Muldoon and Baldwin come close to the Pentagram. Trina and Gary finish the spell but it doesn't look like it worked.

Muldoon and Baldwin fly up above them and start to descend.

TRINA
Melissa -- you read the spell! You
know how it's done!

Melissa leaves her sister, takes the notebook and holds onto Lucas as she reads the spell of enclosure.

MELISSA
...Secura!

Just as she says the last word, Muldoon and Baldwin are repelled away from the Pentagram.

The creatures hang in the air and eye their prey.

The wind disappears and the demons that are Jezebeth and Asmodeus appear in outline form around Muldoon and Baldwin. They're huge, scaly things of great power.

MULDOON
Join us, Dark Son.

BALDWIN
All this power and more will be yours.

MULDOON
Join us and your friends will go
free.

Lucas looks at the group in the Pentagram with him and the bleeding Tanya on the ground with Melissa next to her.

LUCAS

I can't ask you to put yourselves in any more danger.

MELISSA

You don't have to ask.

RYAN

We're your friends.

LUCAS

Begone, demons. Tell my father I am not his creature.

The outlines of the Demons explode in fury: flames, wind, lightning rain down on the Pentagon.

It seems impossible that the dome of safety around them will hold.

Outside the dome: hundreds of demonic creatures with long teeth and red eyes appear, pushing up at them, closer and closer.

MELISSA

Everyone stay inside, stay close.

She looks worriedly at her sister.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

We have to get her to a doctor or a hospital.

Tanya weakly puts her hand up towards his sister, touches her face.

TANYA

I stay with him, with you. You're doing good, sis. Proud of you.

The storm of creatures and forces smashes against them.

Suddenly: a breeze wafts across their faces.

Melissa, Trina, Gary look at each other, scared and confused.

Gary sees it first: a break in the circle. Someone has erased part of the outline around the Pentagon. There's about a foot of it open, and things are starting to come in.

Gary pulls out his chalk and runs to the break, tries to re-draw the protective outline.

GARY

Melissa, say the spell again!

MELISSA

Gary!

TRINA
Don't go out there!

Gary frantically draws the circle, but a demon grabs his leg.

GARY
Melissa!

He's thrown to the ground and begins to be dragged outside the circle. As he's hauled, he looks over and sees something that startles him.

HIS POV

Chalk smudges on Ryan's shoe.

GARY

Screams as he's dragged out of the Pentagram.

GARY (CONT'D)
Ryan! He erased the circle! Stop him!

Melissa rushes to where Gary is being taken -- she takes his hands and tries to pull him back in. Trina and Lucas join her and all of them pull, but they're fighting an army.

MELISSA
I won't let you go!

GARY
I did protect you, didn't I? I tried my best.

And he's gone. The horde of demons surround him and we hear his final scream.

Trina sobs and hides in Mr. Brighton's chest.

Melissa stands there, stunned.

MELISSA
Gary?

His tattered notebook lies just outside the pentagram.

The demons come at the hole in the circle. Lucas holds his arms up and blasts flame at them, holding them at bay for the moment.

He turns to Ryan.

LUCAS
You killed him. You killed all of us.

He grabs the other boy and lifts him.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I'm giving you to them!

But Ryan transforms in his hands, growing larger, scaliier, redder. His voice is like a thousand flies in your ear.

RYAN

Did you think your father would allow you your freedom? Did you think he would only send those two?

He gestures to Muldoon and Baldwin.

LUCAS

Belial. I should have smelled you.

RYAN

You're a pup. You have much to learn.

The demon that now is Ryan takes its claws and throws Lucas out of the Pentagram, across the room.

He lands in a heap below Muldoon and Baldwin.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Take him to his father now. It is time.

The demon looks over at Melissa and the others.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'll leave you to the minor demons. They're still hungry.

But Lucas isn't down. He gets up and uses all the skills Miss Santos taught him to blast Muldoon and Baldwin, then he scatters the lesser demons away from his friends.

The Ryan-Demon clomps across the gym on hooves. He holds his red claws up and claps his hands a few feet from Lucas. It's like a nuclear explosion.

Everything in the gym rises and falls. The minor demons fly to all corners of the room. Many of the walls collapse. Lucas is stunned and unable to move.

The walls between the gym and the auditorium fall.

IN THE AUDITORIUM

The students are in the middle of their Halloween talent show -- they scream and run from the falling walls.

Duffy thinks about doing something, but just joins the crowd exiting the room.

Above them, the red glow near the roof has become a whirling maelstrom of scarlet.

Miss Santos looks over, surprised as well.

BALDWIN AND MULDOON

Swoop down and lift Lucas, carrying him into the auditorium.

BACK IN THE GYM

Flames from the explosion start a fire. Melissa lifts her sister.

MELISSA

The pool! Take her in there. Keep her safe.

Bell and Brighton take Tanya from her, but Trina stands in her way.

TRINA

What about you?

MELISSA

I have to try and save him. Look sister of my heart, go with them and protect my blood sister.

TRINA

You can't go up against those things.

MELISSA

Somebody has to. And I have back up. Take care of my sister.

She turns and heads to the auditorium.

IN THE AUDITORIUM

Lucas hangs suspended over hundreds of screaming students. Most are exiting as quickly as possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are caught in the mess.

Hovering around Lucas in the air are the Muldoon, Baldwin and Ryan demons.

The red maelstrom above them glows brighter and brighter.

MULDOON

The time of inheritance comes.

RYAN

Our lord approaches.

IN THE RED GLOW

A shape appears. It dwarfs conception. It's the uber-mega-demon in silhouette. It could lift worlds with its finger.

Red light shoots from this super-demon, right at Lucas.

But the amulet on Lucas's chest rises up and intercepts the light, sucking it inside.

MISS SANTOS

Smiles and walks confidently over to where Lucas and the demons hover.

MELISSA

Rushes into the auditorium against the flow of the frantic crowd.

She runs right into her parents.

MR. ARMSTRONG

You get home right now, young lady.
It's not safe here.

MELISSA

Who wants to be safe? You go home,
both of you.

And she pushes them into the flowing crowd. They disappear through the doors, looking back at her.

She runs to Miss Santos's side.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

How do we save him? What do we do?

MISS SANTOS

I know exactly what to do.

Miss Santos raises her hands and chants in an ancient tongue. Wind whips her hair and she revels in the chaos and release of energy around her.

LUCAS

Yells in pain as the light flows into the amulet and into him, then comes back out the amulet and flows to Miss Santos.

Miss Santos seems to be sucking in the power that the Uber-Demon is forcing into Lucas.

MELISSA

What are you doing? You're hurting
him!

MISS SANTOS

Only for a moment. Once I divert
all the power to me, his usefulness
will be over. Say the Rasman Ritual
with me, as I taught you.

MELISSA

You're taking the power? Satan's
power? Lucas's power?

Miss Santos smiles a huge smile.

MISS SANTOS
All of it. I'll be the most powerful
being in the universe. You can be
my sister in power.

THE DEMONS

Ryan, Muldoon and Baldwin hear this and see what she's doing.
They start towards her.

But Miss Santos moves her hands and a pack of Teufel-Hounds,
Hell-Wolves, run into the room and attack the demons.

MELISSA

Starts chanting a spell herself, trying to throw anything at
Miss Santos, but Miss Santos just shrugs it all off.

LUCAS

Is in agony and seems to be physically shriveling.

MISS SANTOS

Absorbs the light, the power and seems to grow larger.

THE DEMONS

And the Hell-Hounds engage in a raging battle.

IN THE POOL

Brighton and Bell have dressed Tanya's wound as best they
can. They hold her afloat, with Trina doggie paddling nearby.
Fire rages all around them.

TRINA
How's she doing?

The look Bell and Brighton give each other speaks volumes.

MELISSA

Looks frantically around the auditorium. She runs behind
the bar and comes back with some bottles of liquor and liquer.
She rushes to the growing Miss Santos and smashes her in the
head with a bottle with all her might, then pours the rest
of the liquor all over Miss Santos.

Miss Santos, stunned for a moment, waves her hand and Melissa
is thrown across the room.

IN THE RED MAELSTROM

The form of the huge demon becomes clearer and clearer. But
still power flows from this demon through Lucas, to Miss
Santos. Something has been started that can't be stopped.

MELISSA

Dazed, gets up, picks up some wood fallen from the wall, wraps it in paper Halloween decorations and runs from the room.

IN THE GYM

Melissa runs into the blazing gym, puts her home-made torch to the fire and then runs with it back to...

MISS SANTOS

Melissa puts the torch to Miss Santos's tux, which starts burning immediately.

Miss Santos doesn't notice at first, but then she does and she starts screaming.

MISS SANTOS

What have you done?

Distracted, she tries to both beat the fire out and use a spell to put it out.

But she's stopped the spell that draws the power from Lucas.

LUCAS

Suddenly takes the full brunt of whatever is coming from the Uber-Demon. He cries out, then falls to the floor.

MISS SANTOS

Puts the fire out and runs over to where Lucas is, putting herself in the path of the power that still pours from the Uber-Demon.

MISS SANTOS (CONT'D)

It's mine, all of it, mine. Not his.

Too late. Whatever connection she had to the power is broken. She looks up to see...

A HUGE DEMON HAND

Coming out of the portal above. It closes around her. She screams as she's carried back up and into the portal to hell.

MELISSA

Is at Lucas's side. She gets him to his feet. The flow of power to him has stopped for the moment.

MELISSA

We have to get out of here.

She looks over to see the Demons still battling the Hell-Hounds, but the Demons are winning.

Lucas manages to move, faltering a bit. They run from the room.

IN THE GYM

Lucas and Melissa enter the gym, but a wall of fire is between them and their friends in the pool.

Melissa raises her hand and chants. Lucas watches her in amazement, notices the serpent tattoo on her leg glow and literally move off her leg to become a huge shining thing over them.

Melissa stops for a moment and yells across the room.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Hold on to the side!

IN THE POOL

Brighton and Bell take Tanya to the stairs and all of them hang onto the side. Trina holds onto a ladder.

THE WATER

In the pool rises in the air and comes crashing down on the fire in the gym.

The flames on the floor go out. Melissa and Lucas run to their friends.

TRINA

I'll never make fun of you again.
Tonight, anyway.

MELISSA

We have to get out fast. Can you
carry her?

Brighton and Bell can. Melissa looks at her sister, sees she's very far gone. Tears come to her eyes.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

Let's go.

They go to a far exit, away from the auditorium.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Outside they run into the night, stopping once to look at the burning school.

The rain comes down in torrents, which is helping to put out the fire.

Sirens sound and fire trucks pull up.

TRINA

Wonder how those firemen will do
with hellfire?

MR. BRIGHTON
We could leave Tanya with them.

MELISSA
They'll be too busy to help her.

Brighton and Bell look over at the parking lot. A lot of the school has fallen on the cars there.

MR. BELL
And we're not driving anywhere.

Lucas looks at the black field ahead of them.

LUCAS
Where does this lead?

MELISSA
Football field, then the cemetery.

LUCAS
Let's go there.

He takes Tanya from Brighton and Bell.

TRINA
Like tonight couldn't get any creepier.

LUCAS
I have an idea.

MELISSA
I hope it's a good one.

She's looking back at the burning school. Forms walk through the fire: Muldoon, Baldwin and the Ryan-demon. Smaller demons scurry around them like rabid puppies. Behind them stalks something big and timeless.

Lucas, Melissa and the others run into the darkness.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

The group rush into the cemetery from the north end. The rain begins to let up. Brighton and Bell run towards the street.

LUCAS
Go for help. We'll wait here.

BRIGHTON
Shouldn't you all come with us?

MELISSA
And bring those things into town?
We have to stop them here.

Lucas lays Tanya on the ground and passes his hands over her.

Flames shoot from his fingers and surround her but don't harm her.

He yells over his shoulder to the teachers.

LUCAS

Hurry! I'm not sure how long I can keep her with us.

Melissa kneels down and looks at her sister, brushes Tanya's hair out of her eyes.

MELISSA

Underneath all that attitude, she was pretty damn good.

LUCAS

She was very good. Is very good.

NOISE comes from the north end of the cemetery. And a red glow.

TRINA

All right, so what's the magic formula for stopping an army of demons?

Lucas stands, raises his hands and strains. Light flows from him outwards into the cemetery, penetrating all the graves.

He strains and strains but nothing happens.

LUCAS

I can feel them, but they can't move.

TRINA

You can feel people who've been dead for a few centuries? I think I'm leaving, too.

She starts for the street.

MELISSA

Maybe if I help. Start with Rose. She and I have a connection.

The move to Rose Whitley's grave. Melissa tries some gestures and Lucas strains again, but nothing.

Trina sighs and goes back to them, pulls out her smartphone.

TRINA

Do you ever even go to the sorcery sites? This is the spell for revival. Do it together, like before.

The CRASHING comes closer. The huge demon is now visible. The other demons run forward and burst into the clearing.

Melissa quickly goes behind Lucas and uses his arms as she reads the spell from Trina's phone and gestures with his hands. Light blazes from his fingertips, bathing the entire cemetery.

They end the ceremony. The Demons are just feet from them. The smaller ones make a circle around Melissa, Lucas, Tanya and Trina.

RYAN

Come now, Lucas. You can't run any longer. And your friends can't help you.

LUCAS

I'd like to introduce you to some old friends. I think they can help me.

Bony hands burst up through the earth from every corner.

Some skeletal fingers come up right under the demons, grasping their feet.

The small demons try to run, but now skeletons and partial corpses block their way, surround them.

Every grave is open and every occupant of every grave is up and out, making a zombie-like army that attacks the demons.

The smaller demons are ripped apart by the corpses. The larger ones fight but their human bodies are held fast.

Muldoon and Baldwin suddenly collapse. The demon things inside them float as energy above the bodies.

Then a ghostly scream comes from the grave in front of Lucas and Melissa.

A form bursts up through the headstone, not just a skeleton, but a full-fledged spirit.

This is Rose Whitley, the most powerful of witches. She's dressed in nineteenth-century garb and she is dominant and powerful. Her face could be a double for Melissa's.

This spirit floats over to the energies that are Jezebeth and Asmodeus. She gestures with her ghostly hands, there's a flash of light and those energies are gone.

Then the spirit of Rose Whitley floats down to the creature that was in Ryan: Belial.

RYAN

You cannot destroy me, witch!

She doesn't. Instead she gestures and some kind of vortex opens next to Ryan-Belial. She gestures again and he is sucked into it, screaming. The vortex closes.

There's a moment of silence in the cemetery.

TRINA
I like your friends.

The Rose Whitley spirit flows down near Melissa and looks directly at her. Some unspoken communication goes between them. Then the spirit goes back to her headstone and into the ground.

The rest of the skeletons and corpses also climb back into their graves.

Melissa, Trina, Lucas and Tanya are alone. Almost.

Melissa touches Lucas's arm.

MELISSA
She told me she can't stop him.

Melissa points up.

ABOVE THEM

The Uber-Demon stands, huge and powerful. His face is hard to make out but it's obvious who he is.

MELISSA AND LUCAS

Look up in fear.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
She said you have to deal with him.

Trina tries to make herself very small. She looks at her smartphone.

TRINA
Twelve-oh-two exactly.

A VOICE comes from above them.

VOICE
It is time, my son.

A flash of flame descends towards Lucas. Lucas pushes Melissa out of the way and stands alone, waiting to be engulfed.

Just as the flames are about to reach him, a form emerges from the bushes and stands in front of him. There's a flash and the flames disappear.

MRS. STANTON
You will not have him.

Lucas's mother stands there, her walking stick held up, but it is not just a cane. It was able to dissipate the flame, so it is an object of protection.

MRS. STANTON (CONT'D)
I kept him from you before. You
will not have him.

There's a hint of admiration in the voice above.

VOICE
I like the fire in you. But it is
his time. I can destroy you where
you stand.

MRS. STANTON
Then do it. You will not have him.
Run, Lucas. I'll hold him here.

Lucas puts his hand on his mother's shoulder gently.

LUCAS
Thank you, mother. But it really is
up to me.

There's another blast of flame and it comes more rapidly at
Lucas.

Lucas puts up his hands and expertly flashes light back at
the flames, pushing them away.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
No more running.

VOICE
Then you must come now. You know I
can force you.

Melissa has an idea.

MELISSA
What's the fun in that?

That stops everyone. They all look at her.

MELISSA (CONT'D)
You're the great deceiver. You're
in all the old books. You trick
people into doing your will. You
seduce them. You take pleasure in
corrupting them. You don't force
them. Never have.

TRINA
Hell, yeah!

Lucas smiles and looks up at his father.

LUCAS
You can force me, but you won't have
me. I will always resist you if you
take me. Wouldn't you prefer that I
become yours willingly?

It's almost as if the voice above clears its throat.

Then there's a blinding flash and the sky is filled with a vision of gold, silver, money.

VOICE

See what will be yours if you agree
to come with me.

LUCAS

Never much cared about money.

The vision changes to one of a throne miles high.

VOICE

Power, you will have dominion over
all things that I control.

LUCAS

Not interested.

VOICE

Then I give you... her.

And Tanya rises to her feet, looking perfectly healthy and well. Blood still stains her shirt, but she's normal.

She sort of floats over to where Lucas is.

Melissa is stunned and doesn't know what to do.

VOICE (CONT'D)

I can save this one for you. Just
say yes and she is yours for eternity.

Lucas falters. He looks at Tanya, looks at Melissa.

LUCAS

If I come with you, could she have
her old life back? Here in this
town, just as it was before?

VOICE

Yes.

MELISSA

Lucas!

MRS. STANTON

Son!

Melissa rushes to Lucas and her sister. There are tears in Melissa's eyes.

Then Tanya breathes and looks at both of them. She puts her hand out, gently pushes Melissa's hair out of her face, touches Lucas's cheek.

TANYA

No.

She looks up in defiance at the demon above them.

TANYA (CONT'D)

I chose this. I chose to give my life to save you, both of you. Don't let my sacrifice be wasted. If you go to him, the only brave thing I've ever done will be lost.

Melissa is fully crying now.

MELISSA

Tanya!

She throws her arms around her sister.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I love you, sis!

TANYA

And I've always loved you, Meliss. Even if I didn't show it.

VOICE

Refuse and she dies in front of you.

Tanya lets go of Melissa, puts her hands on Lucas's shoulders.

TANYA

Refuse and I live forever in your heart.

Lucas stares only into Tanya's eyes.

LUCAS

I'll never forget you.

He continues to stare into her eyes.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I refuse. Now and forever.

Tanya smiles, her eyes close and she falls white and lifeless to the ground.

Melissa sobs and goes to her, holds her.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Go now. I refuse you and all your works.

VOICE

I go for now. But I am patient. Soon you will need me. And then you'll be mine.

There's a red flash.

And Lucas's father is gone.

The clouds in the sky are also gone. A full moon shines in the sky.

Trina comes over from where she was cowering and holds up her phone.

TRINA

So when I put this up on YouTube,
will people think it's fake?

Lucas bends down to Melissa and helps her up. Then he picks up Tanya's body.

LUCAS

I'm sorry. For everything. If you'd
never met me, your life would be
normal and happy.

Melissa, face still wet with tears, touches him softly.

MELISSA

Maybe normal, but never happy.

MRS. STANTON

Come home, son. Come home and rest.

Lucas holds Tanya, looks around at the graveyard.

LUCAS

Let's leave this place.

Melissa takes his arm.

MELISSA

Back to the real world. Are we ready
for that?

TRINA

Are they ready for us?

Melissa, Lucas, Mrs. Stanton and Trina leave the land of the dead and head out into the world of the living.

FADE OUT

THE END