

**THE CORN WALL**

by

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EXT. WOODLAND (1740 A.D.) - NIGHT

A comet slowly travels across a starry night sky, above a deciduous woodland.

A small MOB of angry, ragtag villagers, led by a large man with a big bushy beard, hurry along a woodland track, carrying fiery torches.

They reach a grim thatched cottage. The LEAD VILLAGER kicks in the front door and the mob surges inside.

INT. COTTAGE HALLWAY - NIGHT

The mob disperses throughout the dark cottage. A few dart upstairs, others down a hallway. The lead villager rushes into a room to his left.

INT. COTTAGE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The lead villager searches the room, shining his torch into every dark corner.

(O.S.) Sounds of the mob ransacking the place.

He pauses, spotting a desk and shines his light upon it. Its surface is covered with wood shavings and rudimentary carving tools.

(O.S.) Distant sound of a child sobbing.

The lead villager instantly darts out of the room.

EXT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

The lead villager bolts out the front door. The sobbing has stopped. He listens attentively.

The rest of the villagers exit the cottage one after the other.

(O.S.) Distant sobbing.

They hasten towards the sound.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

The mob speedily maneuvers through the dark woods, towards the continuous sobbing.

EXT. WOODLAND EDGE - NIGHT

The mob stops on a path, running alongside the wall like edge, of a very tall, very dense cornfield.

All is silent.

They shine their torches around the vicinity but see no sign of the child.

(O.S.) Sobbing coming from within the cornfield.

They rush into the corn.

EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

The mob bustles through the dense cornfield.

(O.S.) The sobbing becomes increasingly louder, until it abruptly stops.

The mob enters a grassy clearing in the middle of the field and halts.

A CLOAKED AND HOODED FIGURE is kneeling by a stream, next to a large apple tree.

The lead villager is horrified to see TWO YOUNG BOYS lying dead on the ground, next to the figure. Their hands and feet are bound with rope.

A single RAVEN is perched in the tree. It spots the mob and squawks.

The figure pulls its hands out of the stream and glances over its shoulder. Its face hidden by the hood, it spots the mob and urgently plunges its hands back into the water.

The lead villager tosses his torch aside and rushes towards the figure, closely followed by the mob.

The raven frantically squawks.

The lead villager bears down on the figure. As he gets close, he realizes the figure is drowning a third, YOUNGER BOY.

He wraps his arm around the figure's neck, vigorously yanks it to its feet and chucks it to the mob, who instantly restrain it.

The lead villager urgently lifts the young boy out of the stream. He's still alive, coughing and gasping for air. His hands and feet are bound with rope.

The lead villager drops to his knees, with the boy in his arms. They are overjoyed to see each other and lovingly embrace. The lead villager pulls out a small knife and cuts the rope bindings.

Clasped in the boy's hands is a small wooden carving of a raven. The lead villager takes it and suspiciously glances at the figure.

He urgently cuts the ropes from around the dead boy's clasped hands. One holds a wooden carving of a dog and the other, a carving of a toad.

The lead villager notices a small chunk of wood has been chopped from the base of the apple tree. He angrily throws the carvings into the stream.

He looks upon the dead boys with great sorrow, softly closes their lifeless eyes, and kisses their foreheads. He picks up the boy he saved, along with a bundle of cut rope and stomps towards the hooded figure.

Passing the boy to one of the villagers, he steps up to the figure. He pulls down their hood, revealing a BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN with fair skin and long jet-black hair.

He glares into her unblinking alluring eyes.

She spits in his face and cackles with laughter. Her teeth are black with decay. He wipes the vile phlegm off his cheek and powerfully head-butts the bridge of her nose.

She instantly falls unconscious, the restraining villagers keep her on her feet.

The lead villager grasps a fistful of her hair, yanks her from the villagers arms and drags her limp body towards the tree.

He heaves her up and slams her against the tree trunk. He wrenches her arms behind it and binds her wrists and legs with rope.

The villagers gather wood and dry corn husks from the surrounding field and place them at the base of the tree, around her bare feet.

They back away and watch on.

The lead villager stands in front of the woman and tears the clothes from her body, revealing her naked flesh. He grabs her hair and lifts her drooping head. Her bruised face is not so beautiful now. Blood spurts out her mangled nose.

The lead villager slaps her about the face. She regains consciousness and scowls at him.

LEAD VILLAGER

Time to pay for your sins,  
witch.

He spits in her face and strides over to the mob. He takes the young boy from one villager and a torch from another.

He steps back to the woman, her eyes fix on the young boy. He sets the tinder alight and backs away.

Smoke begins to billow from her burning clothes and the crackling corn husks. The flames rise and lick against her bare flesh. She groans in pain, closes her eyes and rhythmically chants.

The raven flies off its perch. It hovers in the air over the woman, frantically flapping its wings.

The woman thrusts her head back, her eyes wide open and full of pain. Grimacing, she stares deeply into the raven's black eyes. Her chanting becomes increasingly intense. Her body convulses and her eyes roll back to white.

The flames engulf the woman's body. She screams out in excruciating agony.

The raven's eyes transform to a pearly white color.

The woman abruptly falls silent. Her head droops and the raven flies out of the clearing.

The young boy watches the witch burn, the wild flames reflecting in his smoke glazed eyes.

INT. JEWELRY SHOP (PRESENT) - DAY

JACK, a mid-30s, average looking bloke, wearing a checkered shirt and light wash denims, who has a small scar under his left eye, is stood at the counter of an up market jewelery store.

The ATTENDANT, a pompous looking man in a black tailored suit, is stood behind a counter, watching Jack from the other end of the store.

Jack places a electronics stores carrier bag on top of a glass cabinet and admiringly browses the ring display.

EWAN (O.S)

I can't see.

Jack looks down to the floor.

JACK

Sorry buddy.

He bends down and picks up his son EWAN, a cute 4 year old boy, who's long blonde hair pokes out from under a little red beanie on his head.

Ewan tightly holds on to his teddy bear as Jack sits him on the counter.

ATTENDANT

(to Jack)

Could you please refrain from placing the child on the glass sir.

Jack looks to the attendant

JACK

Oh, sorry.

Jack picks up Ewan and holds in his arms.

JACK  
(to Ewan)  
So, which one do you think  
she'd like?

Jack gestures to the rings.

EWAN  
Um.

Ewan scans over them.

EWAN  
That one.

He points to a triple diamond, platinum ring.

JACK  
Yeah, I think so too.

He looks to the attendant.

JACK  
(to Attendant)  
Excuse me.

The attendant acknowledges him.

JACK (cont.)  
Could we take a look at this  
one please.

The attendant walks over.

ATTENDANT  
Which ring would sir care to  
see?

Jack points it out.

JACK  
That one please.

The attendant removes it from the cabinet and  
showcases it to Jack, in it's ring box.

JACK  
It's beautiful.

Jack agreeably nods to himself.

JACK  
(to attendant)  
How much is it?

ATTENDANT  
Nine hundred and ninety nine  
pounds.

Ewan reaches for the ring.

JACK  
(astounded)  
How much?

The Attendant snaps the ring box closed just before  
Ewan touches it.

ATTENDANT  
(condescending)  
Perhaps sir would be more  
interested in our...

He judgmentally looks Jack up and down.

ATTENDANT (cont.)  
Meretricious range?

Jack gives the Attendant an unappreciative look.

JACK  
Perhaps.

The attendant re-opens the box and places it back on  
display, in the cabinet. He leads Jack along the  
counter and presents him with another selection of  
rings.

ATTENDANT  
I believe these should be more  
suited to sir's price range.

Jack and Ewan scan over the far less attractive  
collection of rings.

Jack looks underwhelmed.

JACK  
(to Ewan)  
So which one do you think she'd  
like?

EWAN

The other one.

Ewan points to the previous cabinet.

JACK

That one's too expensive Ewan.  
Which one of these?

EWAN

But they're horrid.

Jack looks over the selection of rings.

JACK

Yeah, they are.

He thinks for a moment.

Jack nods to himself, deciding something.

JACK

(to Attendant)  
Are you commission based?

ATTENDANT

No I'm not sir.

JACK

Good, then we'll take the first  
ring we looked at please.

The attendant looks embittered.

ATTENDANT

Very well. Will that be cash or  
card?

Jack takes out his wallet, pulls out a credit card and  
hands it to the attendant.

The Attendant walks off.

JACK

Remember Ewan, this is our  
little secret. You can't say  
anything to Mummy about the  
ring.

Ewan

Why?

JACK  
Because we don't want to ruin  
the surprise.

EWAN  
Okay. I won't tell.

The Attendant returns and hands Jack his card and receipt.

JACK  
Thank you.

He slips them into his wallet.

They all move along the counter, towards the original cabinet.

The Attendant removes the ring from the cabinet, snaps the box closed, places it in a small carrier bag with the stores logo on and hands it to Jack.

Jack takes the ring box out of the bag and slips it into his pocket.

JACK  
You can keep that.

He hands the bag back to the Attendant.

JACK  
I don't want anyone to know I  
was in here.

The Attendant looks aggrieved.

Jack picks up his electronics stores carrier bag, smiles at the Attendant and heads out of the shop.

Just as they walk out the door, Ewan looks over Jack's shoulder and waves goodbye to the Attendant.

INT. CAR - DAY

ALICE, a late 20s, very attractive blonde, wearing a flowery Autumn dress, is sat in the passenger seat of modern economical family car, delicately filing her long manicured finger nails.

A light drizzle of rain patters against the windscreen.

The back door opens and Jack sits Ewan in his booster seat.

Alice turns to the back.

ALICE  
(to Ewan)  
Hey sweetie. Did you have fun?

EWAN  
Yep.

Jack puts Ewan's seat belt on and closes the door.

Alice puts the file into her handbag.

The drivers door opens and Jack climbs into the car, with the electronic stores carrier bag.

ALICE  
What took you so long?

JACK  
The ques were a nightmare.

ALICE  
At this time of the morning?

JACK  
Yeah, I know.

ALICE  
Did you get what we need?

Jack passes her the carrier bag.

Alice peers into the bag.

ALICE  
It wasn't too expensive was it?

JACK  
No, I got the cheapest one they had.

Jack reaches into his pocket and pulls out a yellow post-it note.

JACK  
There's the address.

He hands the post-it to Alice.

ALICE

How long is it going to take to  
get there?

JACK

Not sure. Set it up and find  
out.

Alice reaches into the bag and pulls out a new boxed  
sat-nav.

Jack looks in the rear view mirror.

JACK

(to Ewan)  
You excited buddy?

EWAN

Uh-huh.

JACK

Right then, lets go.

He starts the engine and pulls away.

EXT. MOTORWAY - DAY

It's stopped raining and the sun is breaking through  
the cloud covered sky. Keeping within the speed limit,  
Jack drives along the middle lane of a busy motorway.

They pass under a road sign stating, M5 THE SOUTH WEST.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

It's become a clear, sunny autumns day. The car  
travels along a single lane A road.

They pass a sign stating, WELCOME TO CORNWALL.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Jack drives through a small village, passing by a  
couple of shops and a country inn.

The car leaves the village and turns down a narrow country lane.

INT. CAR - DAY

JACK busily presses buttons on the mounted sat nav while driving.

Alice is asleep in the passenger seat, with her head rested against the window.

Ewan is fast asleep in back, snuggled up with his teddy.

The car bumps over a pothole, waking Alice. She looks out the window at the surrounding deciduous woodland.

ALICE

(sleepily)

How much further is it?

JACK

The sat nav says we've reached our destination. I guess it's going to be on this road somewhere.

Alice looks at the clock on the dashboard - 12:30 a.m

ALICE

God, four hours sat in a car.

She fidgets in her seat, trying to get comfortable.

JACK

We're almost there.

Alice checks on Ewan in the back. He's still asleep. She notices his teddy has fallen onto the floor. She picks it up and places it on his lap.

ALICE

I still don't see why you had to drag us all the way out here for the weekend.

She picks up a bottle of water from off the dashboard, opens it and takes a sip.

JACK

You know why. There's just too much light pollution in the city.

ALICE

I know, but why Cornwall?

She passes him the bottle.

ALICE (cont.)

Why couldn't we just go to the caravan park like we usually do? It would have been a hell of a lot cheaper.

JACK

But this place is cheap, and I thought you'd enjoy doing something different this weekend.

ALICE

Different? This is what we always do.

JACK

Yeah, but not in Cornwall.

He takes a gulp of water and passes the bottle back.

JACK (cont.)

Besides, it's a special occasion.

ALICE

How's it special? To me it just seems like every other weekend we spend indulging in your obsession.

JACK

It's special because this comet only passes by the Earth every two hundred and seventy-three years and...

ALICE

(annoyed)

God Jack, I know. That has to be the two hundredth and seventy-third time you've mentioned it.

She screws the top back onto the bottle and chucks it onto the dashboard.

JACK

I'm pretty sure that's only the two hundredth and sixty-third time.

She sarcastically smiles and gazes out the passenger window, ignoring him.

JACK

Come on Alice, don't be like that, it's going to be great.

She looks back to him.

ALICE

Will it Jack? Because normally it's just me and Ewan hanging about, playing second fiddle to that telescope of yours.

She gazes back out the window.

JACK

Look, I know how bored you get at the caravan park, so that's why I thought it would be a nice change to come to Cornwall for the weekend.

She sighs.

ALICE

I'm sorry hun. I know you've been looking forward to this trip. I'm just cranky from being in the car for so long.

Jack turns away from the road and looks at her.

JACK

It'll be worth it, you'll see.

He suddenly glances out the window behind her and slams on the brakes.

ALICE

(anxiously)

What? What is it?

JACK

I think we're here.

He gestures out the window. She looks out.

THROUGH WINDOW: The witch's thatched cottage from scene one, set back from the lane, partially hidden by the trees.

ALICE

Did you really have to brake like that?

She checks on Ewan. He's still asleep but his teddy has fallen to the floor again. She picks it up and places it back on his lap.

JACK

Almost drove straight past it.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

The car backs up a little and turns down a woodland track leading to the cottage.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

The car pulls up in front of the slightly decrepit looking cottage. Jack and Alice exit the car. He notices a plaque next to the front door.

JACK

(reading the plaque)

Raven's Cottage. This is the place.

ALICE

Really? But it's old and creepy.

He walks around the car and puts his arm around her.

JACK

It's not creepy. It's a quaint, eighteenth-century cottage, set within a beautiful Cornish woodland. Well, that's what the agent said on the phone.

She looks disappointed.

JACK (cont.)

I just hope it's not haunted.

She lightly punches his arm.

JACK

Ow. What?

ALICE

Don't say stuff like that. You know it'll only creep me out.

JACK

(laughing)

Oh come on, I'm only joking. There's no such thing as ghosts...probably.

ALICE

(sarcastically)

Oh, ha ha. Very funny.

He approaches the front door.

JACK

The agent said the key would be left under the...

He bends down, lifts a plant pot and picks up a set of keys from underneath.

JACK (cont.)

...plant pot.

He puts the key into the door and unlocks it.

JACK

This is definitely the right place.

He walks over and puts his arms around her waist.

JACK

Don't worry. I'm sure it's much  
nicer on the inside.

He kisses her forehead.

JACK

Come on. You get Ewan and I'll  
grab the bags.

He steps around to the boot of the car and opens it.

Alice opens the passenger door. Ewan wakes as she  
unbuckles his seat belt.

ALICE

We're here sweetie.

Jack lifts out a couple of bags and a cool box,  
leaving a large telescope carry case in the boot.

ALICE

(to Jack)

You know, I have to say, I'm a  
bit surprised you chose to stay  
at a place called Raven's  
Cottage.

JACK

(scoffs)

Why? It's only a name.

A voice suddenly comes from behind him.

MOON (O.S.)

It is not just a name.

Jack spins around to see MOON, a mid 60s woman in  
hippie hemp clothing, with long gray hair and bare  
feet.

MOON

Greetings.

JACK

Hi.

MOON

(smiles)

My apologies. I did not mean to  
startle you.

Alice lifts Ewan out of the car.

EWAN

(whines)

Teddy.

He reaches for his teddy, left on the car seat. Alice  
picks it up, passes it to him and stands by Jack.

Moon's smile momentarily drops when she sees Ewan. She  
looks back to Jack and her smile returns.

She approaches the family.

MOON

I am Moon. It is very nice to  
meet you all.

She puts her hand out to shake.

MOON (cont.)

I live across the glen.

She gestures to somewhere in the distance.

JACK

Oh, okay.

He puts the bags and cool box down and shakes her hand.

JACK

Hi, I'm Jack and this is  
Alice.

Moon shakes Alice's hand.

MOON

Welcome.

ALICE

Thank you.

Moon looks to Ewan. She takes his hand and softly  
wiggles it.

MOON

And who might you be? Hmm?

Ewan doesn't respond and shyly turns away.

ALICE

Sorry, he's just woken up. This is our son Ewan. Say hello to the lady.

He turns back to Moon.

EWAN

Hello.

MOON

Hello Ewan.

She oddly stares into Ewan's eyes, making Alice feel uncomfortable.

MOON

He's lovely. Isn't he?

Alice subtly moves Ewan away from her.

ALICE

So. Is that Mrs Moon or..?

Moon smiles.

MOON

No, just Moon.

ALICE

Oh.

There is a moment's silence.

MOON

So, you are here on holiday?

JACK

Yeah, just for the weekend.

MOON

I have to say, I would imagine a young family like yours would be more comfortable staying at village bed and breakfast, most visitors do.

JACK

Well, we're actually here to do a bit of star-gazing, so we need some space to set up my telescope. There's going to be a comet tonight which only passes by the earth every two hundred and...

MOON

(interjects)

Seventy-three years.

JACK

Oh, you know about it?

MOON

Indeed I do. It shall be a very...enchanted evening.

JACK

Yeah, I think so too.

He lovingly puts his arm around Alice.

JACK

(to Alice)

You see, it's special.

Moon adoringly gazes upon them.

MOON

I can sense there is much love between you.

They're flattered.

MOON (cont.)

It is a powerful thing indeed. And how long have you been married?

They're taken back by the question.

JACK

Um, we're not.

Alice holds up her ring-less hand.

ALICE  
(disillusioned)  
We're not even engaged.  
Someone...

She gestures towards Jack.

ALICE (cont.)  
...thinks marriage is a  
outmoded tradition and it's  
just names on a document  
somewhere.

MOON  
I see.

There's an uncomfortable silence.

JACK  
(to Moon)  
So, apart from star-gazing,  
what else is there to do around  
here?

MOON  
Well I would most certainly  
recommended taking a stroll  
through the woods.

She admiringly gazes at the surrounding woodland.

MOON (cont.)  
They're truly magical this time  
of year.

JACK  
Okay. We might just do that.

Her smile drops and her tone momentarily becomes more serious.

MOON  
Just be sure to stay out of the  
cornfield.

JACK  
Oh. Okay. We will.

MOON  
Good.

Her smile returns.

MOON

I shall leave you to it then.  
Let you get settled in. It has  
been a pleasure meeting you  
all.

JACK

Okay thanks, nice to meet you  
too.

ALICE

Bye.

Moon walks off down the track.

MOON

And if there is anything you  
need, just ask, I will be  
around.

Jack closes the car boot and picks up the bags and  
cool box.

JACK

(calls out)  
Oh, what did you mean when you  
said it's not just a name?

MOON

You shall see.

She walks out of view, behind the treeline.

Jack looks concerned. The family heads inside the  
cottage.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - DAY

Jack walks into the rustic, shabby kitchen, which  
looks like it hasn't been renovated for decades. Alice  
walks in behind, carrying Ewan.

Jack places the bags and cool box on the kitchen  
table.

JACK

See, it's not so bad on the  
inside.

She scans over the room.

ALICE  
(disgruntled)  
Yeah but it's not much better.

She sniffs the air.

ALICE  
And it smells of damp.

EWAN  
Mummy, it smells funny.

ALICE  
I know sweetie.

She strides over to a window above the sink with Ewan. She tries to open it but it's stuck. She chips one of her manicured nails trying to budge it.

Jack comes to help but also struggles to open it. He forces it open with a bang of his fist, which makes a cupboard door on a wall unit break off its hinges and crash onto the floor.

Alice jumps with fright.

ALICE  
I don't know Jack. Maybe we should just stay at that B&B she mentioned.

JACK  
What are you talking about?  
This place is fine.

He picks up the door and places it on the table.

JACK (cont.)  
It's got everything we need.

He steps over to a switch on the wall and clicks it. A light flickers on.

JACK  
See, we've got lights.

He switches it off, steps over to the sink and turns the tap. The pipes grumble and water sputters out.

JACK

We've got running water, just about.

He turns it off and glances around the bare and basic kitchen.

JACK

We've got our cooking stuff.

He gestures to a small, portable, plug-in hob with a kettle on top and a couple of pots and pans hanging on hooks along the wall.

JACK

Um, let's see, what else?

He notices the cupboard door under the sink is ajar.

JACK

And we've got...

He bends down and opens it. A black cat instantly leaps out of the cupboard and scampers under the kitchen table.

They all jump with fright.

JACK (cont.)

A cat in a cupboard.

They look at each other and smirk.

JACK

Everything you need for a family getaway.

They inquisitively peer under the table. The cat calmly stares at them.

ALICE

Where do you think it came from?

JACK

Don't know. Damn thing must of snuck in somewhere.

Alice kneels down and reaches her hand towards the cat.

JACK

Careful.

ALICE

It's all right.

She smooths the cat. It purrs and rubs it's head against her hand.

ALICE (cont.)

It seems friendly enough.

Ewan stretches his hand towards the cat.

EWAN

I want to smooth him.

Alice puts Ewan down. He knells next to the cat with his teddy and smooths it.

Jack puts his arm around Alice.

JACK

I know it's not great but it'll do won't it?

ALICE

Yeah, I suppose.

JACK

Good, because it's already paid for.

He pecks her on the lips.

ALICE

Besides, I think Ewan's made a new friend.

They watch Ewan introducing his teddy to the cat, while softly smoothing its head.

Jack opens the cool box and rummages through.

Ewan takes off his beanie and playfully tries to put it on the cats head. The cat moves away and Ewan follows it out into the hallway.

JACK

(to Alice)

Do you want to have some lunch then?

ALICE

No, I can't eat anything in here, not with this dank smell.

JACK

Oh.

He puts the lid back on.

JACK (cont.)

Well why don't we go for a walk then? Let the place air out for a bit.

ALICE

(pleased)

Yeah, all right. I'll get Ewan and we'll head off right now.

JACK

Okay then.

She walks out to the hallway.

INT. COTTAGE HALLWAY - DAY

Alice steps into the hallway. The cat is sitting by the front door, next to the red beanie, but there's no sign of Ewan.

ALICE

Ewan?

Alice walks along the hallway, picks up the beanie and hangs it on the bannister post at the bottom of the stairs.

INT. COTTAGE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alice pops her head into the living room.

ALICE

Ewan?

The room is empty apart from an old tweed sofa and a small wooden coffee table.

(O.S.) Floor boards creak above her head.

Alice looks up to the ceiling.

(O.S.) They creak again.

ALICE  
(calls out)  
Ewan?

She leaves the room.

INT. COTTAGE HALLWAY - DAY

Alice climbs the stairs. The old wooden panels creak with every step.

INT. COTTAGE UPSTAIRS LANDING - DAY

Alice reaches the top of the stairs.

(O.S.) The sound of a child whispering, coming from one of the bedrooms.

Alice walks along the landing, towards the whispers.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - DAY

Ewan is standing with his teddy, whispering towards a corner of the single bedded room.

EWAN  
(whispering)  
That's my Mummy and Daddy.

He pauses as if listening.

Alice walks in.

ALICE  
Come on sweetie. We're going  
for a walk.

Ewan turns around.

EWAN

In the magical woods?

Alice picks him up.

ALICE

Yeah, in the magical woods.

As they leave the room, Ewan glances back at the corner and waves.

EXT. COTTAGE GARDEN - DAY

Jack, Alice and Ewan exit the cottage, leaving the back door half open.

They stroll along the grassy lawn, which leads them directly into the woodland.

Once they are far enough into the woods, Moon cautiously steps out from behind a tree. She checks that they're out of sight before heading towards the back door.

She checks no one is watching before going inside the cottage.

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

Jack and Alice stroll hand in hand through the woods.

Ewan skips on ahead with his teddy, his long blonde hair flops about as he playfully kicks through the autumn leaves.

Jack slightly slips on a patch of mud. Alice helps to steady him.

JACK

Thanks.

He looks down at their inappropriate footwear.

JACK

We really didn't bring the right kind of shoes for this, did we?

ALICE  
(smirks)  
Not at all.

Jack gestures towards Ewan.

JACK  
At least someone was smart  
enough to pack their wellies.

They watch Ewan effortlessly skipping through the muddy patches.

ALICE  
(to Ewan)  
Don't go too far ahead,  
sweetie.

Ewan glances back with a big smile on his face.

EWAN  
Okay.

She admiringly looks around the woodland and rests her head on Jacks shoulder.

ALICE  
I'm sorry for complaining  
earlier. This does make a nice  
change. It really is magical.

Jack smirks. She lifts her head off his shoulder.

ALICE  
What's so funny?

JACK  
Sorry, it's just all that stuff  
about magical woods and feeling  
the power of our love.

ALICE  
What about it?

JACK  
I mean, come on, what a load of  
old hippie rubbish.

She shakes her head.

ALICE  
You're so cynical.

JACK  
I'm not being cynical. I just think she's probably been listening to too much Huey Lewis.

He chuckles to himself.

ALICE  
Well, I thought it was nice what she said about us. Even if she was a bit creepy. I mean, did you see the way she look at Ewan?

JACK  
God, here we go.

ALICE  
What?

JACK  
You, thinking everything's creepy.

ALICE  
I do not.

He looks at her with disbelief.

JACK  
Oh come on. First the cottage, now the neighbour. Just this morning you said the little old guy who lives down our street is creepy.

ALICE  
But he is. He's like some kind of limping zombie.

JACK  
He's an old guy, who's just had a hip replacement.

ALICE  
Yeah I know and he creeps me out.

He shakes his head.

JACK

You're not going to be creeped out by everything this weekend are you?

ALICE

No. In fact, I promise not to say anything else is creepy for the rest of the weekend...

JACK

Good.

ALICE (cont.)

As long as you promise not say anything else that's going to creep me out. Deal?

JACK

Deal.

They shake hands.

There is a moments silence.

ALICE

But you have to admit, she was a bit creepy.

Jack laughs and shakes his head.

They notice Ewan has stopped up ahead and is staring down at something on the ground.

ALICE

(to Ewan)

What are you looking at, sweetie?

He doesn't reply. Jack and Alice approach him.

As they get closer, they realize Ewan is standing over a dead raven. Its bodies ripped open with its guts spilling out over the ground.

Jack instantly freezes, feeling ill at ease.

ALICE

Oh, God. Ewan, get away from that, it's disgusting.

She takes Ewan's hand and ushers him away.

EWAN

What happened to it Daddy?

JACK

I don't know. Maybe a fox or something. Let's just keep on moving.

They continue walking.

EXT. WOODLAND EDGE - DAY

Jack, Alice and Ewan reach the path at the edge of the woodland and are fronted by a tall dense cornfield.

JACK

Wow. You can see where the name Corn-Wall came from.

They look along the wall-like edge of the cornfield.

JACK

Why do you suppose she told us not to go in?

ALICE

Don't know.

Jack briefly thinks.

JACK (cont.)

I bet she's growing pot. She certainly seems the type.

Alice chuckles.

JACK

Let's go take a look.

She stops laughing, realizing he's serious.

ALICE

Seriously?

JACK

Yeah.

ALICE

Jack, there's probably a good reason she told us not to go in there.

JACK

Such as?

ALICE

I don't know. Maybe there's a crazy farmer, who shoots all trespassers or something.

JACK

(smirks)

You've been watching too many movies.

He picks Ewan up.

JACK

(to Ewan)

Do you want to go see if the funny lady's growing any funny plants?

EWAN

Yeah.

JACK

(to Alice)

Well we're going in. You coming?

She anxiously considers it.

JACK

Come on. It'll be fine.

ALICE

All right. But not too far.

Jack steps into the cornfield with Ewan. Alice hesitates but reluctantly follows in behind.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Jack and Alice struggle through the dense cornfield.

ALICE

Jack, let's go back. There's nothing out here.

JACK

Hang on. I think I can see a clearing up ahead.

They step out into a clearing. There's no vegetation growing out from the dark muddy ground. There's only a blackened withered tree, next to a stream.

JACK

(sarcastically)  
Well this is nice.

ALICE

Jack, let's go.

He turns to her.

JACK

(smirks)  
You think this is creepy, don't you?

ALICE

No. I just think we should go.  
Ewan must be starving by now.

(O.S.) A bird squawks.

They look into the tree and see a white-eyed raven perched on a branch, watching them. Several other ravens fly into the clearing and land in the tree.

JACK

(apprehensively)  
Okay. Lets head back.

He ushers Alice out of the clearing.

ALICE

(smiles)  
Now who's creeped out?

He sarcastically smiles at her.

The white-eyed raven squawks.

Jack nervously glances back at the ravens as he steps back into the corn.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - DAY

Jack, Alice and Ewan are sat at the kitchen table, eating lunch. The back door is wide open, airing out the room.

Ewan plays with his food, nudging it around the plate with his fork.

ALICE  
(to Ewan)  
Eat up, sweetie.

EWAN  
But I don't like it.

ALICE  
Just a few more mouthfuls.

He scoops up some food and shoves it into his mouth.

ALICE  
Good boy.

He loudly chomps on his food, making Jack look up.

Ewan playfully opens his mouth to reveal the chewed-up food. Jack laughs.

Alice notices what Ewan is doing.

ALICE  
Ewan, stop that.

He quickly closes his mouth.

ALICE  
(to Jack)  
And don't you encourage him.

She looks at them both and smiles.

ALICE

Boys.

She shakes her head and continues eating.

Jack and Ewan glance at each other and smirk.

Jack finishes his lunch and takes his empty plate over to the sink. He opens the cool box and checks its minimal contents.

JACK

Right.

He closes the lid.

JACK (cont.)

I'm going to pick up some more supplies from that shop we passed in the village.

ALICE

I told you we didn't bring enough.

Jack heads towards the hallway.

JACK

See you in bit.

ALICE

(surprised)

Hang on. Just give us a minute and we'll come with you.

Jack pauses.

JACK

No it's okay. I'll go. You two finish your lunch.

ALICE

But we're almost done.

JACK

No it might be closing soon. I better be quick.

She checks her wrist watch.

ALICE

But it's only just gone two.

JACK

Yeah but you know what these village shops are like. You never know what time they might close. I better be quick.

He kisses the top of her head.

JACK

I'll be back before you know it.

ALICE

(disappointed)

Alright then.

He ruffles Ewan's hair and heads out of the kitchen.

He stumbles to avoid stepping on the cat as it enters from the hallway.

JACK

Bloody cat.

Ewan gets down from the table with his teddy and smooths the cat.

ALICE

Oh, get some cat food while you're there.

JACK

Cat food? What, we're feeding the thing now?

ALICE

That's right.

He looks at Ewan happily playing with the cat.

JACK

Fine. See you in a bit.

He leaves the kitchen.

Alice continues eating her lunch.

(O.S.) Sound of front door closing.

Ewan follows the cat out the open back door.

Alice finishes her lunch, takes her empty plate over to the sink and starts washing the dirty dishes.

(O.S.) Sound of the car pulling away.

Alice watches Ewan out the window, playing with the cat in the garden.

ALICE

Stay where I can see you,  
sweetie.

EWAN

Okay.

She collects Ewan's plate from the table and scrapes the left overs into the bin.

She spots the cat strolling back into the kitchen alone.

(O.S.) A child's laughter outside.

She looks out the window.

THROUGH WINDOW: Ewan running into the woods at the bottom of the garden.

ALICE

(calls out)  
Ewan.

She rushes out the back door.

EXT. CAR - DAY

Jack drives along the narrow country lane. Reaching the end, he turns the corner and drives towards the village.

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

Alice rambles through the woods, desperately searching for Ewan.

ALICE  
(calls out)  
Ewan. Ewan.

EXT. VILLAGE SHOP - DAY

Jack pulls up outside a small village shop.

He exits the car and closes the door. He presses a button on the car keys, the lights briefly flash and the doors lock.

He enters the store.

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

Alice comes to a halt, frantically glancing around the woodland for Ewan.

ALICE  
(calls out)  
Ewan. Where are you?

(O.S.) A child's laughter.

She turns towards it and catches a glimpse of Ewan running off, through the trees.

ALICE  
(calls out)  
Ewan. Wait.

She runs after him.

INT. SHOP - DAY

The shop is small but the shelves are randomly jam-packed with goods.

Jack's the only customer. His arms are filled with supplies. He steps over to the unmanned till and clumsily dumps the goods onto the counter. He spots a kid's coloring book with crayons on a magazine rack. He takes one, and places it on the pile of supplies.

He scans over the alcohol laden shelves behind the counter while he patiently waits for service, but no one shows up.

Noticing a open doorway leading to the back of the shop, he peers through.

JACK

Hello.

A short OLD MAN, wearing thick-lensed glasses, suddenly pops up from behind the counter.

OLD MAN

(strong Cornish accent)

Hello sir.

JACK

(surprised)

Hi.

OLD MAN

Can I help you?

JACK

Yeah, I'd like to pay for this stuff.

OLD MAN

What stuff that be?

Jack gestures to the goods on the counter. The old man momentarily just blankly stares at them.

OLD MAN

Oh right, yes, of course.

The old man scans over the goods, moving some aside to see what's there. He begins to input prices into the till, slowly jabbing the buttons, one by one.

Jack scans over the alcohol on the shelves again.

OLD MAN

Not from around here are ya?

JACK

No, just down for the weekend with my family. Doing a bit of stargazing.

OLD MAN

Oh, well that sounds nice.

JACK

(nodding)

Yeah.

Jack scans over the alcohol on the shelves again.

JACK

(hopeful)

Might be a long shot, but I don't suppose you have any champagne do you?

The old man stops inputting prices.

OLD MAN

Champagne eh? Cause for celebration?

JACK

I hope so. I'm going to propose to my girlfriend tonight.

OLD MAN

Oh, anything nice you got planned?

JACK

Yeah, if the weather holds out. There will be a comet visible tonight and I'm going to propose as it makes its way across the starry night sky.

OLD MAN

Oh well, that sounds romantic. Women love all that stuff. I'm sure she'll say yes.

He grins at Jack and resumes jabbing till buttons.

JACK

So...do you have any?

OLD MAN

Any what?

JACK

Champagne.

OLD MAN

Oh that's right. You asked for  
champagne didn't you.

He stops inputting prices and scans over the shelves  
of alcohol.

OLD MAN

(to himself)

Champagne, champagne. Ah yes, I  
remember.

He pulls a small stool out from under the counter and  
steps upon it. Stretching up to the top shelf, he  
moves some bottles to one side and pulls another out  
from behind.

OLD MAN

A bottle of...

He holds the bottle farther away from his glasses,  
trying to read the label.

OLD MAN (cont.)

Bo...lling...er? Will that do you?

JACK

Bollinger? Well yeah, that  
would be perfect.

He steps down from the stool.

JACK (cont.)

But how much is it?

The old man checks over the bottle.

OLD MAN

Hmm, doesn't seem to have a  
price. Let's say...twenty  
pounds?

JACK

Twenty pounds? For a Bollinger?

OLD MAN

That too much?

JACK  
No, no. That's fine.

The old man grins and bangs the bottle down on the counter.

OLD MAN  
Now where was I?

He continues to slowly input prices into the till.

EXT. WOODLAND EDGE - DAY

Alice darts out of the woods and comes to a halt. She anxiously looks up and down the path but sees no sign of Ewan.

ALICE  
(calls out)  
Ewan.

She spots his teddy lying on the ground, dashes over and picks it up.

(O.S.) A child's laughter within the cornfield.

She rushes in.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Jack is stood at the counter, patiently waiting for the old man to finish inputting prices.

Something dawns upon him.

JACK  
Oh yeah, do you have any cat food?

The old man closes his eyes and thinks for a moment.

OLD MAN  
(to himself)  
Cat food, cat food.

He opens his eyes and points to a shelf behind Jack.

OLD MAN

Third shelf down, if I'm not mistaken.

Jack steps over to the packed shelf but struggles to locate the cat food.

OLD MAN

Next to the toothpaste. Tuna flavor I believe. The cat food that is, not the toothpaste.

Jack finds the tin.

The old man continues inputting prices.

OLD MAN

(chuckling to himself)  
Tuna toothpaste.

Jack returns with the cat food and places it on the counter.

OLD MAN

Brought your cat stargazing did you?

JACK

(smirks)  
No, no. We found someones cat in our cottage when we arrived and now we're buying food for it.

Jack shrugs his shoulders.

OLD MAN

Ah, staying at Ravens cottage are you?

JACK

(surprised)  
Yeah. How did you know that?

OLD MAN

Lets just say you're not the first guests at Ravens Cottage who bought food for Ms Moons cat. It's always hanging around that place.

JACK

Ms Moon? You mean the hippie lady with the long gray hair?

OLD MAN

That sounds like her.

JACK

Yeah, we meet her when we arrived.

OLD MAN

Don't surprise me that, she's always pestering the guests at Raven's Cottage.

He finishes inputting prices and pulls out a carrier bag from under the counter.

OLD MAN

Strange lady. Ain't lived around here long. Moved into little old Ms Heather's cottage, after she died she did. She was a strange one too.

He bags up the goods.

OLD MAN

Tell ya to stay out of the cornfield did she?

JACK

Yeah, she did.

OLD MAN

Always telling people to stay out of there she is.

JACK

Do you know why?

OLD MAN

Not too sure. Probably something to do with where that witch was burned, I reckon.

He fills the bag and places it on the counter. He pulls out another but struggles to open it.

JACK

Sorry? Did you say witch?

OLD MAN

Yeah, a witch was burned there,  
back in the eighteenth century.

He licks his fingers, trying get a better grip on the plastic bag.

JACK

Are you talking about the  
clearing in the cornfield with  
the black tree?

He manages to open the bag.

OLD MAN

Ah, I see you already ventured  
in. That be the place.

He continues bagging up.

OLD MAN

Bit of a legend round these  
parts it is. Folk say a witch,  
from some satanic coven, use to  
live in Raven's Cottage and  
that she used that clearing to  
perform her black magic.

Jack crosses his arms.

JACK

(dubious)

Really.

OLD MAN

Yeah. It's said that she  
would possesses the bodies of  
the woodland creatures and try  
to lure lost children to that  
place. That is until some folk  
tied her to that tree and burnt  
her alive. Caught her drowning  
the bastard sons of some local  
farmer, if I'm not mistaken.

He bags the last item.

OLD MAN

Don't really know the whole story myself. Even farmer Branwell who owns that land don't know, and he's directly descended from the family of them murdered boys.

He places the bag onto the counter.

OLD MAN (cont.)

Now Ms Heather on the other hand, she seemed to know all about it. Always blabbering on about that witch, when she was in here, she was.

Jack tries to interject.

OLD MAN (cont.)

Going on about why that witch murdered them lads and how it was all part of some dark spell, which she never completed and how one day there's a chance that...

JACK

(interrupts)

Well, witch or not...

He takes out his wallet and opens it.

JACK (cont.)

...it sounds like she got what she deserved. Now how much do I owe you?

OLD MAN

Oh right, of course. Just listen to me. Now who's the one blabbering on about it?

He checks the total on the till.

OLD MAN

That'll be forty four pound and ten pence please.

Jack counts some cash and hands him a few notes.

JACK  
Keep the change.

OLD MAN  
Thanks very much.

Jack takes the bags off the counter and heads out of the shop.

OLD MAN  
Have a good weekend, sir and  
good luck for tonight.

JACK  
Thanks.

Jack opens the door, pauses and turns back to the old man.

JACK  
Oh, if I do happen to come in  
here again with my family, it's  
probably best you don't mention  
anything about this witch.

OLD MAN  
Oh, right you are, sir.

Jack leaves the shop.

OLD MAN  
(to himself)  
Nice chap.

He puts the cash into the till and bends back down behind the counter.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

Alice bustles through the cornfield until she enters the clearing. She sees Ewan standing next to the stream, staring into the water.

The white eyed and many other normal ravens, are perched in the tree, watching him.

Alice quickly trudges through the mud, crouches, and lovingly takes hold of him.

ALICE

Ewan why did you run off like that? Didn't you hear Mummy calling you?

EWAN

I was playing with the boys.

ALICE

Boys? What boys?

He points to his reflection in the water.

ALICE

That's just your reflection sweetie. Come on let's...

She notices he's holding something in each of his hands.

ALICE (cont.)

What have you got there?

She takes them from him.

CLOSE ON: The wooden carvings of the toad and dog, but old and dirty-looking.

ALICE

Where did you find these?

Ewan points to his reflection.

EWAN

The boys.

Alice curiously inspects them, getting soggy dark mud on her hands.

ALICE

Yuck. They're filthy.

She drops them to the ground and rubs the dirt off her hands.

ALICE

Come on, let's go.

She hands him his teddy and picks him up.

CLOSE ON: Two sets of barefoot child's footprints in the mud, next to the stream.

Alice doesn't notices the footprints.

EWAN

No, I have to keep them.

He reaches down for the carvings.

ALICE

You can't keep them. They're grubby.

She heads out of the clearing.

All the ravens become restless and manically squawk.

Alice anxiously glances back at them and quickens her pace.

The white-eyed raven swoops down. It hovers in front of her, furiously flapping its wings and squawking.

She desperately swings her free hand, shoos it out of the way. The raven backs off and Alice flees into the cornfield with Ewan.

She bustles through the corn until she comes to a sudden halt, facing a double-barrel shotgun pointed at her head.

She gasps and protectively shields Ewan. A FARMER with a big bushy beard and dirty overalls, similar in appearance to the lead villager in scene one, lowers the gun.

FARMER

Who're you? What you doin' on me land?

ALICE

(flustered)

Sorry, we were just...I mean, I was...we're just leaving.

She takes a step past the farmer.

(O.S.) A raven squawks from the clearing.

Alice anxiously glances back. The farmer aggressively stares towards the sound.

FARMER

God-dam pests. Always at me  
corn, they are.

He glares at Alice.

FARMER

You shouldn't be here. Almost  
shot you, I did. Thought you  
were one of them rustling  
through the corn.

ALICE

I'm sorry.

FARMER

You will be if you're not  
careful. They ain't like normal  
birds, you know. Vicious little  
buggers they are.

He unhooks something from the back of his belt and holds up a couple of shot ravens, skewered onto a spiked metal rod. Blood trickles and drips from their disheveled black feathers.

FARMER

(pleased)

But at least I get enough meat  
out of them for some nice,  
juicy pies.

Alice is disgusted.

ALICE

I'm sorry. I promise we won't  
come here again.

She hastens past the farmer.

FARMER

Just make sure you don't. It's  
dangerous, you hear.

Alice quickens her pace.

FARMER (cont.)  
(calls out)  
It's dangerous!

(O.S.) A raven squawks from the clearing.

The farmer swiftly turns towards the sound, aims his shotgun and stealthily approaches the clearing.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Jack pulls up outside the cottage and exits the car.  
He opens the trunk, takes out the bags and closes it.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - DAY

Jack cautiously steps into the kitchen, carrying the bags of shopping.

JACK  
(calls out)  
Alice? Ewan?

There's no reply.

He quickly places the bags on the table and takes out the champagne. He glances around the room until he spots the cupboard under the sink. He opens it and hides the bottle inside.

(O.S.) Sounds of Alice and Ewan approaching from the garden.

Jack quickly closes the cupboard and spins around.

Alice walks in through the open back door, carrying Ewan.

JACK  
Hey.

ALICE  
Hey.

Jack begins to put the supplies into the cupboards.

Alice helps Ewan take off his muddy shoes before taking off her own.

Jack notices the state of their footwear.

JACK

What have you two been up to then?

ALICE

Oh, just playing in the garden.

Ewan climbs onto a dining chair and rummages through the shopping bags.

Alice washes her hands in the sink.

ALICE

You got to the shop before it closed then.

JACK

Yeah.

She turns off the tap and dries her hands.

Ewan pulls the coloring book out of the bag.

EWAN

Is this for me?

JACK

Sure is buddy.

EWAN

Thanks.

The cat strolls in from the hallway.

Ewan spots it. Leaving the coloring book on the table, he slides off the chair and smooths the cat.

Jack pulls the cat food out of the bag.

JACK

Got some cat food.

EWAN

(excited)

Can I feed him, Mummy?

ALICE

Of course you can sweetie. Let me just put it in a bowl for you.

EWAN

Thanks.

Jack passes Alice the tin. She opens a cupboard next to the sink and takes out a bowl. She glances out the back window.

THROUGH WINDOW: The white-eyed raven is perched in a tree at the bottom of the garden, watching the cottage.

She opens the tin, fills the bowl and hands it to Ewan.

ALICE

There you go.

The cat gets excited at the anticipation of food.

EWAN

(to the cat)

Come on. I'll feed you in my room.

He runs out of the kitchen. The cat swiftly follows.

ALICE

Ewan, stay where I can see you.

He pays no attention and scampers up the stairs.

JACK

He's okay. He's only going upstairs.

She steps over to the sink and finishes washing the lunch dishes.

JACK

You okay?

ALICE

Yeah, fine.

JACK

You sure?

ALICE

(smiles)

Yeah.

JACK

Okay then.

Jack puts the last item into the cupboard and places the carrier bags onto the kitchen counter.

JACK

I'm just going to pop back out to the car, bring in the telescope.

ALICE

Already? But the comet's not for a few hours yet.

JACK

I know, but I just want to make sure I've got it ready in time.

He leaves the kitchen.

Alice glances out the window.

THROUGH WINDOW: The white-eyed raven is no longer perched in the tree.

She looks relieved.

INT. COTTAGE HALLWAY - DAY

Jack opens the front door. Moon is standing on the doorstep, holding a large pie.

JACK

(surprised)

Oh, hello.

MOON

My apologies. I did not intend to startle you again. I have brought you a welcoming gift.

She presents him with the pie.

JACK

Oh, right. Thank y...

He attempts to take it from her but to his surprise, she walks straight past him, into the cottage.

Alice steps out from the kitchen.

ALICE

Oh, hello. I thought I could hear voices.

Moon passes her the pie.

MOON

A welcoming gift for you and your family.

ALICE

Oh right, thank you. It looks delicious.

Moon glances around the hallway.

MOON

And where is your little one?

JACK

He's upstairs.

She gazes up the steps.

There is a moment's silence.

JACK

Well, I was just on my way to the car, so...

MOON

Please do not let me keep you.

She averts her gaze to Alice.

MOON

Shall we have a slice of pie with a nice cup of tea then, my dear?

ALICE

Um, sorry but I don't think we have any tea.

JACK

No, it's okay. I just bought some.

Alice gives him a disapproving look.

MOON

Wonderful. I shall wait in here.

She walks into the living room and sits on the sofa.

ALICE

I guess I'll put the kettle on then.

Alice gestures to Jack to come with her.

ALICE

(aloud)

Would you like a slice of pie and a cup of tea as well Jack?

He smirks and shakes his head.

JACK

(aloud)

Not right now thanks Alice.

He walks out the front door and closes it behind him.

Alice looks annoyed and heads back to the kitchen with the pie.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Jack strolls towards the car. A strong, cold wind has started to pick up.

He opens the car boot and leans in. Checking no one is watching from the cottage, he reaches into his pocket and pulls out the ring box.

He opens it and admires the ring. He smiles to himself, closes the box and slips it back into his pocket.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - DAY

The kettle is heating on the hob. Two slices of pie have been prepared onto plates.

Alice opens the new packet of tea bags and plonks two of them into teacups. She takes a spoon out from a drawer and is about to scope some sugar into the cups but pauses and walks out of the kitchen.

INT. COTTAGE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alice walks into the room.

ALICE

Do you take sugar in your..?

Moon is gone.

Alice peers out the window to see if she's outside but she only sees Jack lifting the telescope carry case out of the car.

(O.S.) Floor boards creak above her head.

She instantly looks up to the ceiling and listens. She hears them again and swiftly heads up stairs.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - DAY

Alice enters the room. The cat's startled and darts under the bed.

Ewan is sitting cross-legged on the floor with his teddy, next to the half eaten bowl of cat food. Moon is knelt next to him, whispering.

ALICE

(alarmed)

What are you doing?

She rushes over and protectively picks Ewan up.

MOON

I was just on my way to use the bathroom when I saw your little one playing. I meant no harm.

ALICE

No, I'm sure you didn't.

There is an uncomfortable silence.

MOON

You know, I am afraid I shall have to pass on that tea my dear. I really should be on my way.

Moon heads out of the room. Alice follows with Ewan.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

Jack approaches the front door with the telescope case slung over his shoulder.

The door opens and Moon steps out, followed by Alice and Ewan.

ALICE

(to Moon)

I'm sorry for reacting like that.

MOON

It is perfectly fine, my dear. There is no need for apologies.

Jack looks on confused.

MOON

(to them both)

I truly hope you have a very pleasant evening.

JACK

Thanks.

A strong gust of wind blows in. Moon looks up to the sky.

MOON

Though I do hope you are prepared for a rough night. I feel there is a storm approaching.

Jack looks up to the relatively clear sky.

Moon walks off down the track.

Jack questioningly shrugs his shoulders at Alice. She gestures for him to come inside.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - DAY

Jack, Alice and Ewan walk into the kitchen.

JACK

What was all that about then?

He places the telescope carry case on the table.

ALICE

Oh, I feel bad about it now.

JACK

About what?

ALICE

I kind of snapped at her when I found her in Ewan's room.

JACK

She was in his room?

ALICE

Yeah.

JACK

What, she just wondered upstairs without asking?

ALICE

She said she was going to the bathroom.

The kettle boils and starts to whistle.

Alice sits Ewan on a dining chair.

JACK

(to Ewan)

You okay buddy?

He lovingly ruffles Ewan's hair.

EWAN

Uh-huh.

Alice turns off the hob and the kettle quietens down.

ALICE

What do you think she was up to?

JACK

Up to? I don't think she was up to anything. She's just a strange old lady, with some serious boundary issues.

ALICE

So it was harsh to snap at her?

He puts his arms around her.

JACK

Don't worry about it. She seemed to understand.

He gives her a kiss.

Jack spots the slices of pie.

JACK

Oh, pie.

He grabs a slice, takes a big bite and chomps away.

JACK

(mouthful)  
Mm, it's really good.

He shoves the rest into his mouth. A joyful smile briefly appears on his face before he suddenly begins to choke.

ALICE

(concern)  
Jack, you all right?

He can't speak, gasping for air. Alice and Ewan look on with great concern.

EWAN

Daddy?

ALICE

Oh my God.

She rapidly slaps him on the back.

Jack violently coughs up a chunk of pie and gulps the air.

ALICE  
You all right?

JACK  
(croaky)  
Yeah, yeah, just went down the wrong way.

Alice quickly gets him a glass of water from the sink.

He downs it in one and clears his throat.

JACK  
(to Alice)  
Thanks.

He passes her the glass and licks some apple off his fingers.

JACK  
It really is good, you should try it.

ALICE  
Yeah...

She glances at the pie.

ALICE (cont.)  
...Maybe later.

Jack clears his throat again.

JACK  
Right. I'm going to set up the telescope.

He picks up the carry case.

JACK  
(to Ewan)  
Do you want to help Daddy set it up.

EWAN  
Yeah.

Jack glances out the window.

JACK

We'll have to do it in side,  
it's getting a bit blowy out.

EWAN

Can we do it in my room?

JACK

Sure.

He picks Ewan up and walks out of the kitchen with the telescope.

ALICE

(calls out)

I'm going to take a shower.

JACK (O.S.)

Okay.

She steps over to the counter and places the glass next to the sink.

JACK (O.S.)

(to Ewan)

Did you know that there's going  
to be a very special star  
tonight, which no one has seen  
for two hundred and seventy  
three years.

EWAN (O.S.)

I know. You already told me  
that, Daddy.

JACK (O.S.)

Oh did I?

Alice smirks and heads out of the kitchen. She pauses and turns back to the window. She looks out and glances around the garden.

THROUGH WINDOW: The white-eyed raven is nowhere to be seen.

Alice looks relieved and leaves the kitchen.

EXT. CORNFIELD - DAY

The farmer stealthily walks through the corn. He stops when he hears an approaching raven. He raises his shotgun and aims it upwards.

A raven flies overhead.

The farmer tracks it with the barrel of the gun and pulls the trigger, blasting the raven out of the sky. He grins to himself and goes in search of the bird.

The farmer finds the still-twitching and shrieking raven. He stomps on its head with his hefty boots, crushing the bird's skull and popping out its jet-black eyes balls.

He unhooks the metal rod and spikes the carcass onto the end, leaving no room for any more ravens. He clips the rod back onto his belt and heads out of the cornfield.

EXT. FARMER'S BARN SHED - DAY

The farmer walks along the path next to the cornfield until he reaches an old, rickety barn shed. He unlocks the padlocked door, enters and slams the door behind him.

EXT. COTTAGE - TWILIGHT

The cold wind has picked up, blowing the last of the autumn leaves off their branches.

The bedroom light is on. Through the window, Jack can be seen moving around.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Ewan giggles while playing with his teddy, running bare foot around the room.

Jack finishes assembling the telescope, steps back and admires it.

JACK  
Thing of beauty.

INT. COTTAGE BATHROOM - TWILIGHT

Alice steps into the shower and turns the taps. The water pressure continuously fluctuates, sputtering out one second, surging the next, splashing water all over the bathroom floor.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Ewan runs circles around the telescope, as if playfully chasing something.

JACK

Ewan be careful.

At that moment, Ewan slips and accidentally knocks the telescope's tripod stand, sending it toppling over. Jack tries to catch it in time but fails. It crashes down onto the hardwood floor.

The lens cap pops off and rolls under the bed.

Ewan abruptly stops running, looking extremely guilty.

JACK

(raised voice)

Ewan, I told you to be careful.

Jack bends down and stands the telescope upright.

JACK

Why don't you go draw in your coloring book or something?

EWAN

Okay.

He slowly walks out the room with his head drooped low.

EWAN

Sorry Daddy.

Jack looks extremely guilty.

JACK

Ewan, wait.

Ewan pauses in the doorway and turns around, his gaze fixed to the floor.

Jack steps forward, squats next to Ewan and gives him a hug. Ewan's hands remain motionless at his side.

JACK

I'm sorry buddy, I didn't mean to shout. It's only because the telescope is really expensive and it's very important to me. You have to be more careful

EWAN

(glum)  
Sorry.

JACK

It's okay, it was an accident.

Jack breaks the hug.

JACK

Forgive me?

Ewan looks up from under his brow, smiles and nods his head.

JACK

Good lad.

Jack ruffles his hair.

Ewan turns to walk out the door.

JACK

Where you going?

EWAN

To draw in my coloring book.

JACK

You don't have to, you can still help me with the telescope.

EWAN

No it's okay. I want to draw Mummy a picture.

JACK

(smiles)  
Oh okay, I'll be down in a bit.

Ewan walks out the room.

Jack steps over to the telescope, looks through the viewfinder and fiddles with the focus.

He steps over to the window and opens it. A strong gust of wind blows into the room.

He positions the telescope by the window, points it towards the early evening sky and looks through the viewfinder.

He sees a blurry image and adjusts the focus.

CLOSE ON: The surface of the Moon through the telescope.

JACK  
(relieved)  
Still working.

INT. COTTAGE BATHROOM - TWILIGHT

Alice turns off the taps and steps out of the shower, into a shallow puddle of water. She wraps herself in a towel and dries her hair with another.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack is about to close the window but pauses.

THROUGH WINDOW: Flickering light in the distance, on the other side of the glen.

Jack points the telescope towards it, looks through the viewfinder and adjusts the focus.

THROUGH TELESCOPE: A roaring bonfire out in the open. The wind wildly swirls the flames in all directions. Jack pans around until he spots a cottage through the trees. The front door opens and Moon steps out. He follows her as she makes her way towards the bonfire.

INT. COTTAGE BATHROOM - TWILIGHT

Alice finishes drying her hair and clears a spot in the centre of a steamed up mirror above the sink.

She looks at her reflection. Her hair's a scruffy mess.

She rummages through a small cosmetic bag, pulls out a hair brush and proceeds to brush her long blonde hair.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

THROUGH TELESCOPE: Jack continues to watch Moon. She's reached the bonfire. She closes her eyes and rhythmically paces around the flames while mouthing some words.

JACK (O.S.)  
(smirks)  
What a hippie.

He looks up from the telescope.

JACK  
(calls out)  
Hey Alice. You have to come  
take a look at this.

INT. COTTAGE BATHROOM - TWILIGHT

Alice hears Jack. She puts the hairbrush back into the cosmetic bag and leaves the room.

She doesn't notice the child's hand print which has suddenly appeared in the corner of the steamed mirror.

INT. COTTAGE UPSTAIRS LANDING - TWILIGHT

Alice walks along the landing, leaving water footprints on the creaky wooden floor.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack looks back through the viewfinder.

THROUGH TELESCOPE: Moon has stopped rhythmically pacing and is staring directly at him.

He quickly lifts his head and looks out the window to judge how far away she really is.

There's no way she could see him from that distance.

Alice walks into the room and instantly wraps her arms around herself.

ALICE

Jack, close that window. It's absolutely freezing in here.

Jack steps over to the window.

ALICE

What did you want me to take a look at?

JACK

Oh...

He glances at the distant flickering bonfire.

JACK (cont.)

...nothing.

He closes the window.

ALICE

(confused)

Okay.

She glances around the room.

ALICE

Where's Ewan?

JACK

Drawing.

ALICE

Drawing? Where?

JACK

Downstairs.

ALICE

(alarmed)

By himself?

JACK

Yeah, he's drawing you a picture

ALICE

God Jack, he's only four.

She heads out of the room.

JACK

What? He's okay.

ALICE

This is exactly what I was talking about.

JACK

What is?

ALICE

Me and Ewan playing second fiddle to that telescope.

She pauses in the doorway.

ALICE

You know Jack, sometimes I think you care more about that thing than you do about us.

She leaves the room.

JACK

Oh come on, Alice.

INT. COTTAGE UPSTAIRS LANDING - TWILIGHT

Alice strides along the landing. She pauses when she spots watery child footprints leading from the bathroom, down the stairs.

JACK (O.S)

Alice.

She doesn't reply and follows the footprints down the steps.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack steps towards the doorway.

JACK  
(calls out)  
Alice.

He hears her walk down the stairs.

JACK  
(to himself)  
Damn it.

He steps over to the telescope. He hesitates to do so but he looks through the viewfinder.

THROUGH TELESCOPE: Moon is no longer by the bonfire. He pans around but she's nowhere to be seen.

Looking up from the telescope, he gazes out the window.

JACK  
(to himself)  
Creepy.

INT. COTTAGE HALLWAY - TWILIGHT

Alice descends the stairs following the gradually fading footprints, which continue down the hallway and into the kitchen.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack closes the curtains and steps over to the telescope. He attempts to put the lens cap on but it's missing.

JACK  
Where did it go?

He scans over the floor.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Ewan is sitting at the kitchen table. The coloring book and crayons are laid out in front of him. He's staring into the corner of the room whispering.

EWAN  
(whispering)  
Why did she tell you to do  
that?

Alice walks in.

Ewan quickly looks down at the coloring book and continues drawing, playfully swinging his legs and humming.

She sees the last partial watery footprints lead to where the coloring book was left on the table.

She crouches next to him.

ALICE  
You okay sweetie?

Ewan  
Yep.

He continues humming and drawing.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack is on his hands and knees, searching for the lens cap. He peers under the bed, spots it and stretches his arm under but can't quite reach it.

Getting flat on the floor, he spots a small object farther under the bed, hidden in the shadows.

JACK  
(to himself)  
What is that?

He grabs the lens cap and stretches his arm, trying to reach the object.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Alice stands behind Ewan and lovingly strokes his hair.

ALICE  
What are you drawing sweetie?

She looks down at what he's drawn on the inside cover of the coloring book.

CLOSE ON: A crayon picture of three children and a black tree full of birds, with a taller, long-haired figure standing next to it.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack can't reach the object. He maneuvers himself farther under the bed.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Ewan points to the middle child in the picture, who's shorter than the other two.

EWAN

That's me.

He points to the other two children.

EWAN

And that's the boys. They're brothers.

ALICE

And who's that?

She points to the figure next to the tree.

EWAN

(quietly)  
That's the lady.

He looks up at Alice.

EWAN (cont.)

(whispers)  
She tells the boys to do things  
but they're scared of her.

Alice looks concerned.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack stretches for the object. Just as his fingertips touch it, the cat leaps out from the shadows and viciously scratches his hand.

Jack yelps, quickly retracts his hand and shimmies out from under the bed.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Alice is scared, hearing the commotion upstairs.

ALICE  
(calls out)  
Jack? What's going on?

JACK (O.S.)  
It's that damn cat.

She looks relieved.

She pulls out a chair and sits next to Ewan.

ALICE  
Let's draw something else,  
sweetie.

EWAN  
Okay.

Alice turns the page and picks up a crayon.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack gets to his knees and examines the bleeding scratch across the top of his hand.

JACK  
Damn it.

He peers under the bed, keeping a safe distance.

The cat stands over the object, staring and hissing at Jack.

JACK  
You little bastard.

He glances around the room for something. Spotting the pillows on the bed, he quickly grabs one.

He cautiously maneuvers himself under the bed and tries to push the cat away from the object, using the pillow. It hisses and stubbornly holds its ground.

Jack pulls away when it tries to claw at him again.

JACK

Right, you little fuzz ball.  
You asked for it.

He swings the pillow as hard as he can, whacking the cat out from under the bed.

It yelps and scampers out the room.

Jack grabs the object and maneuvers out from under the bed.

He stands and immediately throws the object onto the floor, realizing he was holding a dead raven chick, with thistle leaves caught up in its feathers.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Alice and Ewan are sat at the table, drawing in the coloring book.

Grasping his scratched hand, Jack enters and strides over to the sink.

Alice notices he's bleeding.

ALICE

What happened?

JACK

(angry)

That damn cat scratched me.

ALICE

Why? What did you do?

JACK

I didn't do anything.

He turns on the tap and runs the cold water over his hand.

JACK

I saw something under Ewan's bed and when I went to grab it, the little bugger scratched me.

ALICE

Under his bed? What was it?

JACK

A dead bird, which that bloody cat must of brought in because as soon as I touched it, it got all protective over it.

ALICE

(concerned)

What kind of bird?

JACK

I don't know. It looks like a chick. Probably a raven.

He turns off the tap and dries his hands.

JACK

Pass me one of those, will you?

He gestures to the empty carrier bags on the counter.

ALICE

For the bird?

JACK

Yeah.

She gets up and passes him one.

ALICE

What are you going to do with it?

JACK

I'm going to take it to that hippie and show her what her bloody cat bought into our cottage and tell her to come and take the dam thing back.

He heads out of the kitchen.

ALICE

It's Moon's cat? How do you  
know it's hers?

He momentarily pauses in the doorway.

JACK

Oh, the guy in the shop  
mentioned it.

He leaves the kitchen and stomps up the stairs.

EWAN

Mummy? Why does Daddy hate the  
cat?

ALICE

He doesn't hate it, sweetie.  
He's just a bit upset because  
it brought a dead bird into the  
cottage.

EWAN

Daddy's scared of birds isn't  
he?

ALICE

Just a little.

EWAN

Why?

He continues drawing.

EWAN (cont.)

I like birdies.

Alice picks up a crayon and continues drawing.

ALICE

Well, when Daddy was about your  
age, a little birdie flew into  
his bedroom window.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack walks into the room with the carrier bag. He clips the lens cap onto the telescope and carries it out of the room.

ALICE (V.O)

So Daddy went outside to check if it was okay but when he found it, the poor little thing was hurt and couldn't fly away.

Jack returns and steps over to the dead bird on the floor.

INT COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Alice and Ewan continue drawing.

EWAN

Because it broke its wing?

ALICE

Yes because it broke its wing and Daddy wanted to help it.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Jack stands over the bird, hesitant to pick it up.

ALICE (V.O)

So he picked it up but the little birdie didn't know Daddy was only trying to help and it got so scared, it scratched Daddy's face. That's how he got that little scar under his eye.

Jack builds up the courage to quickly pick up the bird, drop it in the bag and wrap it up.

He takes a breath and stomps out of the room.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - TWILIGHT

Alice and Ewan continue drawing.

EWAN

What happened to the birdie?  
Did Daddy help it?

Jack stomps down the stairs.

ALICE

I don't know, sweetie.

JACK (O.S)

I'll be back in a bit.

ALICE

Jack, wait.

He steps into the doorway, holding the wrapped-up bird.

ALICE

Don't go. It's not worth it.  
It's only a dead bird. Just  
throw it outside and stay here.

JACK

I'm not going because of the  
bird, it's because of the cat.  
That bloody thing's vicious and  
I want it out of here.

ALICE

It's not vicious.

JACK

Really. What do you call that  
then?

He holds up his scratched hand.

JACK

Just keep Ewan away from it  
while I'm gone.

He leaves the cottage.

Alice sighs and checks her wristwatch.

ALICE

(to Ewan)

Come on then sweetie, lets get  
you ready for bed.

EWAN

Can't I watch the stars with  
you and daddy this time?

ALICE

Sorry sweetie but you know  
it'll be way past your bed  
time.

EWAN

(begrudgingly)  
Okay.

He puts down the crayons and picks up his teddy.

EWAN

Can we read a book before bed?

ALICE

Absolutely.

EWAN

The one about the planets?

ALICE

Which ever one you like.

She picks him up and leaves the kitchen.

EXT. WOODLAND - TWILIGHT

Moon strolls through the wind blown woodland with a  
wicker basket in hand.

She spots some withering flowers and kneels next to  
them. She picks the dry petals and places them into  
the basket.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

Ewan is in his pajamas, tucked up in bed with his  
teddy. Alice is sat on the edge of the bed, reading  
from a storybook.

ALICE

(reading)

When you look at the night sky,  
you can see shining stars, far  
away in space. You might be  
able to spot the moon too.  
Everything you can see is only  
a tiny part of space. The Moon  
looks small, but it would take  
about four days to drive all  
the way around it.

She realizes Ewan has fallen asleep.

She closes the book and places it on a sideboard. She lovingly strokes his hair, kisses his forehead and creeps out of the room, switching off the light before she leaves.

EXT. MOON'S COTTAGE - TWILIGHT

Jack pulls up and parks.

He exits the car with the carrier bag in hand and approaches the cottage.

He notices a plaque next to the front door with the name, Earn Cottage.

Jack knocks on the door and patiently waits.

After a brief moment he impatiently knocks again, but this time a little harder. The door's unlocked and slightly creaks open. He pushes it a little wider and pops his head inside.

INT. MOON'S COTTAGE - TWILIGHT

The living room is dark and rustic. Semi-burnt candles of various sizes and colors are scattered all around. An old grandfather clock ticks away in the corner.

JACK

(calls out)

Hello. Moon?

There is no reply.

He is about to leave when he spots something inside. He pushes the door open and enters the cottage.

Stepping over to a desk, he reaches down and picks up Ewan's red beanie. Some cuttings of thistle leaves are laid upon a closed, leather bound book. Jack picks up one of the cuttings.

He takes the dead bird out of the carrier bag and compares the leaves.

They're the same.

Only then does he realize the leaves aren't actually caught up in the feathers, they have been tied onto the bird, using loose strands of Ewan's blonde hair, from the inside of the beanie.

He drops the bird back into the bag and brushes the leaves off the book, to reveal a pentagram symbol on its cover.

He notices another book underneath.

He moves the top book to one side, to reveal the cover title of the one underneath; *Demonic and Spiritual Possession*. There's a bookmark poking out between the pages.

He opens the book.

CLOSE ON: On one page there's a printed copy of a Biblical oil painting, depicting a comet passing above a dark woodland. A sinisterly grinning creature with burning fiery red eyes, stands upon a pool of water. Its body is an amalgamation of a dog, toad and raven. Two young boys are lying on the ground, one holding an effigy of a toad, the other a dog. A smaller, third boy is standing between them, holding an effigy of a raven and staring into the creature's burning red eyes. The creature's dog-like paws rest upon the boy's shoulders.

Jack reads the line of text underneath the picture.

JACK

(reading)

The Hala Demon, Bastard  
Sacrifice. Twelfth Century,  
Macedonia.

He scans over the text on the opposite page.  
CLOSE ON: 'Demon of bad weather', 'Eater of children',  
'Human possession', 'Its favor gained with human  
sacrifice, granting its summoners every desire'.

Jack looks abashed, puts the book down and heads  
towards the front door.

He suddenly stops, returns to the desk, arranges the  
books, thistles and Ewan's beanie back to how he found  
them.

Jack urgently leaves the cottage.

EXT. MOON'S COTTAGE - TWILIGHT

Jack opens the car door. He pauses before getting in,  
realizing he still has the bird in the bag. He wraps it  
up tight and lobs it into some bushes.

He gets into the car and drives away.

INT. COTTAGE 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice is in her underwear, getting dressed. The  
telescope stands proudly in the centre of the room.

(O.S.) A child's laughter.

ALICE

Ewan?

She pulls on some jeans and leaves the room.

INT. COTTAGE UPSTAIRS LANDING - NIGHT

Alice heads to Ewan's room.

(O.S.) The laughter again, coming from behind Ewan's  
door.

ALICE

Come on sweetie. You should be  
asleep.

She opens the door and steps inside.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - NIGHT

The room instantly falls silent.

Alice switches on the light. Ewan is fast asleep in bed, cuddled up with his teddy.

She switches the light off, leaves the room and closes the door.

(O.S.) The laughter again.

She opens the door and switches on the light. Ewan is wide-awake, standing up in bed, silently staring into the corner of the room.

ALICE

Ewan?

He doesn't respond. She notices his teddy has fallen onto the floor. She picks it up and is about to pass it to him.

ALICE

Come on sweetie, time for...

She notices he is holding something in each of his hands and takes them from him.

CLOSE ON: The wooden carvings of the dog and toad.

ALICE

What? How did you get these?

EWAN

The boys just gave them to me.

He points to the corner of the room. She looks but sees nothing.

ALICE

Enough with the boys, Ewan. How did you get them?

EWAN

The boys. The lady told them to give them to me.

ALICE

The lady? Is that who gave them  
to you? When she was here  
earlier?

He doesn't reply.

ALICE

(inquisitive)

Ewan, what did she whispering  
to you?

EWAN

She told me not to be afraid of  
the boys.

Alice looks creeped out.

She places the carvings on the sideboard.

ALICE

(smiles)

I think it's about time you  
were asleep, sweetie.

Alice tucks him back into bed and hands him his teddy.

She leaves the room, switching off the light.

INT. COTTAGE UPSTAIRS LANDING - NIGHT

Alice closes the door. She waits and listens but hears  
nothing.

She turns to head down stairs but bumps straight into  
Jack.

She jumps with fright.

JACK

Whoa, sorry, didn't mean to  
scare you.

ALICE

Christ Jack, you nearly gave me  
a heart attack.

JACK

Sorry.

He kisses her forehead and heads to the bedroom.

ALICE

So, what happened? What did she say?

JACK

Oh nothing. She wasn't there.

She follows him.

INT. COTTAGE 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack walks over to the telescope.

ALICE

So what did you do with the bird?

JACK

I just chucked it into some bushes. Lets just forget about it.

He folds down the telescope's tripod stand.

JACK

Where's Ewan?

ALICE

He's asleep.

JACK

That cat's not in there is it?

ALICE

No, I haven't seen it.

JACK

Good. Hopefully the bloody thing's buggered off.

He picks up the telescope and heads out of the room.

JACK

We better head out. The comet might be visible soon and its starting to get a bit overcast out there. We don't want to miss it.

ALICE

All right, just give me a minute.

JACK

I'll be in the garden.

He leaves the room.

Alice continues getting dressed.

EXT. FARMER'S BARN SHED - NIGHT

The old barn shed creaks and sways as gusts of wind beat against it.

INT. FARMER'S BARN SHED - NIGHT

A shadeless light bulb dangling from the ceiling, rocks from side to side. Dozens of plucked and beheaded ravens are hung along a line by their feet.

The farmer is standing at a work bench. Several knives and cutting tools are scattered across the blood and feather-coated worktop.

He picks up the metal rod and slides off the last of the shot ravens. He slaps it down onto the bench and picks up a large meat cleaver. He decapitates the bird with one swift stroke and chucks its head into a bucket full of more decapitated raven heads.

He picks up a small knife and carefully slices along the raven's belly. He slides his fingers into its stomach and vigorously tears out its innards and slops them into another bucket, full of guts and blood.

The farmer starts to rapidly pluck the raven's feathers.

(O.S.) The faint and distant sound of multiple squawks on the wind.

The farmer instantly stops plucking, turns to the door and attentively listens.

(O.S.) The sound again, but louder and clearer.

A look of pure hatred is cast across the farmer's face. He stomps over to the door and swings it open.

EXT. FARMER'S BARN SHED - NIGHT

The farmer steps out of the barn shed. He can just about see and hear dozens of ravens in the distance, flying out of the cornfield clearing, heading towards the woodland.

He dashes back inside and quickly returns with his shotgun and spiked metal rod. He locks up the barn shed and marches off towards the woods.

EXT. MOON'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

The strong wind continues to blow through the trees.

Moon strolls out of the woods and heads towards the cottage. Her wicker basket's full of dry petals and leaves.

She stops by the front door and spins around, as if sensing something. She suspiciously looks around but sees nothing.

She slowly turns back to the cottage and goes inside.

INT. MOON'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

Moon steps inside the dark cottage and closes the door behind her. She slips her hand into her pocket and pulls out a slenderly carved short stick.

She holds it close to her mouth and whispers whilst gently blowing. Its tip begins to glow bright red. She holds it aloft and continuously flicks her wrist.

Tiny orbs of fire emerge from the glowing tip and float towards the candles around the room. Each orb lands on a single wick, setting it alight.

The room is lite up by dozens of flickering candles.

Looking pleased with herself, Moon heads to her desk, with the wicker basket in hand.

Without looking or breaking her stride, she forcefully flicks the stick, shooting a larger orb towards an open fireplace and igniting it in a burst of blue and green flame.

She slips the stick back into her pocket and places the basket on the desk. She sits down and opens the pentagram-covered book.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

The farmer traipses through the woods, tracking the sound of the squawking ravens.

He stops, hearing flapping wings in the trees above.

He aims his double-barrel shotgun into the trees, but struggles to see any ravens in the dark. He catches a glimpse of one and fires a shot.

A couple of ravens drop down dead.

The farmer smirks, dashes over and spikes them onto the metal rod.

The flapping and squawking suddenly ceases.

The farmer aims his gun around the wind-swept branches, but sees no sign of the ravens. He spins around, hearing a squawk from behind.

The white-eyed raven is perched on a branch, watching him. The farmer quickly fires the second barrel, but the raven evades the shot.

A multitude of manic squawks surround him.

He urgently tries to reload, but a dense pack of ravens emerge out of the darkness and swiftly strike against his chest. He crashes to the ground, dropping his gun.

He gets to his knees and anxiously fumbles around the woodland floor for the shotgun. But before he can find it, the pack attacks, clawing and pecking at every part of his body.

The farmer punches, flings and even bites any raven he can get his hands on, but more and more join in the foray.

The ravens concentrate their onslaught at the back of the farmer's neck. They rip and tear away flesh until they get down to the spinal cord. Beak after beak plunges into the wound, fiercely pecking until they destroy his cervical vertebrae. His body goes limp and he falls flat onto his back, paralyzed.

The ravens halt their attack and withdraw. The farmer lays there, unable to move, except for his distressed eyes, which frantically scour the tree tops.

Out of nowhere, the white-eyed raven lands on his chest. Petrified, the farmer whimpers. The raven ferociously screeches in his face and proceeds to peck out his eyes.

(O.S.) The farmer shrills with total anguish.

EXT. COTTAGE GARDEN - NIGHT

The stormy weather has intensified. A gale-force wind has picked up.

Jack and Alice are standing next to the telescope, his arms wrapped around her, keeping her warm. They stare up to the overcast night sky.

Jack turns his head and stares inquisitively at the trees at the bottom of the garden.

ALICE

What is it?

JACK

Thought I heard something.

ALICE

Like what?

Alice looks towards the trees.

JACK

I'm not sure.

ALICE

It was probably just the wind.

JACK

Yeah, probably.

They look back to the night sky.

Alice checks her wristwatch.

ALICE

It's getting late Jack. I don't think we're going to be able to see it. Maybe we should go in.

JACK

No, not yet. We just need a break in the clouds.

She scans over the cloud-covered sky.

ALICE

But there aren't any.

JACK

Just wait.

They both look to the sky.

After a few seconds, a strong gust of wind topples the telescope but Jack catches it just before it hits the ground.

ALICE

Come on, Jack. Let's go in.

JACK

Hang on a sec. Look.

He gestures to the sky. There's a break in the clouds.

He stands the telescope upright and peers through the viewfinder.

JACK

Ah, look, look. There it is.

He watches for a moment.

JACK

Wow.

He steps aside so Alice can take a look. She peers through the viewfinder.

THROUGH TELESCOPE: A comet slowly passing through the night sky.

JACK

It's beautiful isn't it?

ALICE

Yeah. It really is.

She moves out the way so Jack can look again.

JACK

(excitedly)

Wait right here.

He heads towards the cottage. She begins to follow him.

ALICE

Where you going?

JACK

Just stay right there. I'll be back in a minute.

ALICE

(bemused)

Okay.

He dashes across the garden and into the cottage.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack enters the kitchen, opens the cupboard under the sink and takes out the bottle of champagne.

EXT. COTTAGE GARDEN - NIGHT

Alice peers through the viewfinder.

(O.S.) Brief sound of a cackling squawk, on the wind.

She spins around and glares into the dark woods at the bottom of the garden. She sees and hears nothing but the wind-blown trees.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack places the champagne down on the table. He opens one of the cupboards, takes out two wine glasses and places them next to the bottle. He puts his hand into his trouser pocket and pulls out the ring box. He opens it and smiles.

EXT. COTTAGE GARDEN - NIGHT

Alice continues to glare into the dark woods.

A trickling of rain begins to fall. She looks up to the sky. The comet is no longer visible.

(O.S.) Multiple squawks coming from the woods, as if the trees are full of birds.

She strains her eyes to spot any birds in the moving branches but sees nothing.

The squawks simultaneously cease.

After a few seconds, the white-eyed raven comes forth and perches on a branch. It silently stares into Alice's eyes.

The heavens open and a heavy rain hammers down.

Alice anxiously steps back, spins around and briskly walks towards the cottage.

The raven squawks and she quickens her pace.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack closes the ring box and slips it back into his pocket. He picks up the champagne and glasses and is about to walk outside when Alice runs straight into him.

JACK  
Whoa, what's wrong?

She glances back to the trees but sees nothing.

JACK

You okay?

ALICE

Yeah, yeah, fine. I was just getting out of the rain. It's really hammering it down out there.

JACK

Is it?

He looks out the open door and sees the pouring rain.

JACK

Is the comet still visible?

ALICE

No, the skies completely covered.

JACK

Damn it.

Alice swiftly closes the door.

ALICE (cont.)

I'm sorry hun. At least we saw it for a little bit.

She notices the champagne and glasses.

ALICE

Bollinger? What's that in aid of?

She takes her wet jacket off and hangs it up.

JACK

(disappointed)

Um well, you know. It was meant to be a special occasion.

ALICE

Aww I'm sorry, hun.

She comfortingly wraps her arms around his waist.

ALICE

It can still be. What do you say we take this bottle upstairs and have our own special occasion?

She seductively smiles.

JACK

(smiles)

That sounds good.

She heads out of the kitchen but pauses, realizing he's not following.

ALICE

You coming then?

JACK

Yeah, I just need to get the telescope in first.

ALICE

It'll be all right. Let's just go upstairs.

JACK

I can't just leave it out there.

He passes her the champagne and glasses.

JACK

It won't take a sec.

He puts up his jacket hood.

ALICE

Be careful.

JACK

It's only a bit of rain.

He opens the door and dashes out into the stormy weather.

Alice anxiously watches from the doorway.

EXT. COTTAGE GARDEN - NIGHT

The rain hammers down. Jack reaches the telescope, quickly folds down its tripod stand, and carries it into the cottage.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack dashes into the cottage. Alice quickly closes the door behind him. He disconnects the telescope from its stand and carefully lays them both on the table. He takes off his jacket and hangs it up.

ALICE  
(playfully)  
Shall we?

She holds up the champagne and glasses.

JACK  
(smiles)  
Let's.

He switches off the light and follows her upstairs.

EXT. MOON'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

It's become a pitch-black night. The rain pounds against the cottage's roof. Smoke billows out from its chimney.

INT. MOON'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

The candles around the cottage flicker from a slight draft. The roaring fire burns in the fireplace. The grandfather clock ticks away in the corner.

Moon is seated at the desk.

The contents of the wicker basket are spread out across the desk's surface, along with several little grinding bowls.

Moon busily grinds the contents of one of the bowls.

INT. COTTAGE 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

The creaking room is in darkness. The wind and rain pound against the window.

Jack and Alice are fast asleep in bed. Their clothes lie scattered around the room. The empty champagne bottle and wine glasses sit on the bedside table, next to an old alarm clock.

INT. MOON'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

Moon continues to grind the contents of the bowl.

The cat scampers in from an adjacent room. It's dripping wet and carrying the wrapped-up carrier bag in its mouth.

It rubs against Moon's leg, getting her attention.

MOON

(apprehensive)

What are you doing here?

She takes the carrier bag from its mouth and unravels it.

She looks shocked when she pulls out the dead raven. She urgently stands, instantly looking to the grandfather clock.

The time is eleven-fifty eight.

INT. COTTAGE 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack and Alice are still peacefully asleep. Water slowly drips onto Jack's hand, which hangs off the side of the bed.

He wakes up, wipes his hand dry and switches on the bedside lamp, which dimly lights the room. He looks up to the ceiling. Water drips from a small leak in the roof.

He checks the time on the alarm clock. It reads eleven fifty-nine.

He checks on Alice. She's still asleep. He softly brushes her hair off her brow and lovingly gazes upon her serene face.

Jack leans out the bed and picks up his trousers and fumbles through one of the pockets until he finds the ring box. He opens it and sighs with disappointment. He glances back to Alice and contemplates something. He gently nods to himself, making a decision.

He reaches his hand onto her shoulder and is about to wake her up...

(O.S.) A child sobbing in the other room.

Alice stirs from her sleep.

ALICE  
(sleepily)  
Is that Ewan?

JACK  
Yeah, I'll go.

He closes the ring box.

ALICE  
What time is it?

He looks to the clock, which reads twelve.

JACK  
It's midnight. Go back to sleep.

He climbs out of bed, wearing only his boxer shorts. He pulls on his trousers, slips the ring box into his pocket and leaves the room.

Alice turns on her side, pulls the blanket over herself, and falls back to sleep.

INT. COTTAGE UPSTAIRS LANDING - NIGHT

Jack continues to hear the sobbing while he approaches Ewan's room.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack opens the door and the sobbing instantly stops. He switches on the light and sees Ewan fast asleep in bed.

Jack checks on him.

Ewan's peacefully cuddled up with his teddy.

JACK  
(softly to Ewan)  
You having a bad dream buddy?

Jack does a double take when out of the corner of his eye, he spots the wooden carvings on the sideboard.

He picks them up and stares at them with great trepidation.

(O.S.) A strange cackling coming from outside the window.

Jack places the carvings down and goes to check it out. He pulls back the curtains and peers out into the darkness.

He struggles to see past his own reflection in the glass. He moves closer, pressing his forehead against the window and cupping his hands to the side of his eyes, trying to block out the light.

THROUGH WINDOW: Nothing but wind blown trees.

The white-eyed raven suddenly swoops up against the glass.

Jack jumps back with fright.

It cackles and squawks while it strenuously pecks at the window. The glass cracks and the raven flies off.

Jack momentarily just stands there, petrified.

He builds up the courage to creep back towards the window and peer out into the darkness but sees no sign of the raven.

IN WINDOW GLASS: A black figure's reflection, standing by the door, behind Jack

Jack swings around but the figure is nowhere to be seen.

He quickly glances back to the window but it's no longer in the reflection.

(O.S.) The sound of two children sobbing echos around the room.

Jack anxiously glances around but sees nothing apart from Ewan asleep in bed.

INT. COTTAGE 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice is asleep on her side. The sound of the sobbing makes her restless. She stirs from her sleep and turns onto her back.

The dark figure of the naked burnt witch stands over her. Her skin is a crisp and flaky, her eyes a pearly white.

INT. COTTAGE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack is freaked out by the continuous sobbing. He lifts Ewan out of bed and protectively holds him. Ewan wakes, tightly clinging onto his teddy.

EWAN

She's here.

Before Jack can ask who, the sobbing stops and Alice screams out in total terror.

JACK

(apprehensive)

Alice!

He darts out the room, carrying Ewan.

INT. COTTAGE 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice's terrible screams fill the room.

Jack pauses in the doorway, shocked to see Alice uncontrollably convulsing and her eyes rolling back to white.

JACK  
Oh my God! Alice!

He takes a step towards her but freezes when he spots the witch's reflection in a mirror.

The dark figure is sitting on the edge of the bed, leaning over Alice. The witch's head swiftly jerks towards the mirror. Her white eyes stare directly into Jack's.

He panics and tries to turn on the light but struggles to find the switch. His hand fumbles along the wall until he finds it and flicks it on.

Alice stops convulsing but continues to scream. Jack glances back to the mirror. The witch has vanished.

He rushes over to Alice, sits Ewan on the bed, and takes Alice in his arms.

JACK  
Alice! Alice!

He gently shakes her.

JACK  
Wake up.

Her eyes roll back to normal but are full of fear. She struggles in his arms, trying to break free.

JACK  
(reassuring)  
Alice it's me, it's Jack.

She realizes it's Jack holding her and ceases to struggle and scream.

ALICE  
(scared)  
Oh Jack.

She tightly takes hold of him.

ALICE

There was something in here. I could feel it pressing down on me. And a voice, I could hear a woman, chanting.

(O.S.) A crack of thunder.

The lights go out.

(O.S.) An evil cackling laughter echoes all around.

ALICE

(petrified)

What's happening?

JACK

We're getting the hell out of here, that's what's happening.

He helps her out of bed. She's only wearing a thinly layered silk nightgown. He picks Ewan up and they flee the cottage.

EXT. COTTAGE - NIGHT

The front door swings open. Jack urgently ushers Alice outside. The wind and rain lashes against them. They briskly step towards the car when Jack looks up and freezes.

ALICE

What's wrong?

Jack gestures to the surrounding trees.

Dozens of ravens are perched on the branches, watching them.

JACK

(calmly to Alice)

Slowly.

They cautiously step towards the car. They pause again when all the ravens viciously squawk.

Jack passes Ewan to Alice. He takes the car keys out of his trouser pocket and points them at the car.

One of the ravens flies off its perch and lands on the car roof. Jack freezes, feeling ill at ease. He stares into the bird's black eyes.

ALICE

(anxious)

Jack.

Without taking his eyes off the raven, Jack presses the button on the keys. The cars lights briefly flash and the doors unlock.

The raven on the roof furiously screeches and all the others fly off their perches and swoop down to attack.

JACK

(yells to Alice)

Run.

They dart to the front door and scamper back inside the cottage.

INT. COTTAGE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jack slams the front door and quickly bolts it shut. The squawking ravens pound against it, viciously pecking and clawing at the wood. He backs away from the door and protectively stands in front of Alice and Ewan.

The ravens cease attacking and there is an eerie silence.

(O.S.) Floorboards creak above.

Jack and Alice instantly look up.

(O.S.) The evil cackling laughter echoes all around.

Ravens suddenly smash through the living room window and converge towards them.

JACK

(panicked, to Alice)

Go! Go!

They flee down the hallway and into the kitchen.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack slams the kitchen door and braces himself against it. He struggles to keep it closed from the relentless pounding ravens.

JACK  
(agonized, to Alice)  
Go! Get out of here!

She hesitates to leave him.

The door is slightly forced open. Ferociously flapping wings and pecking beaks squeeze their way through.

JACK  
(yells to Alice)  
Run.

She dashes over to the back door, opens it and flees the cottage with Ewan.

Jack strains to keep the door closed. He anxiously glances around the room until he clocks the telescope on the kitchen table.

The ravens edge the door further open. He can no longer hold them at bay. He leaps away from the door and grabs hold of the telescope.

The door flings open and dozens of ravens burst into the kitchen. A pack instantly bears down on Jack while the rest swoop out the open back door, in pursuit of Alice and Ewan.

Jack wildly swings the telescope, fending off the attacking birds.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Alice flees through the dark woods with Ewan. Their clothes and hair are dripping wet.

She comes to halt and turns back towards the cottage.

ALICE  
(yells)  
Jack!

There's no reply.

(O.S.) The faint sound of squawking birds. The squawks become increasingly louder. They're heading in her direction.

Alice holds Ewan tight, turns, and runs as fast as she can.

INT. COTTAGE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jack continues to fight off the relentless pecking and clawing ravens. His arms and torso are scratched up and bloody.

One of the ravens flies right up to his face and claws him across his scarred eye. He yelps with pain and sees red. He grabs hold of the raven's neck and furiously slings it across the kitchen.

It crashes into the apple pie and falls to the floor.

Jack goes on a wild rampage, swinging the telescope like a baseball bat.

He clobbers bird after bird, pounding them against the walls and cupboards, sending the last one smashing straight through the kitchen window.

He stops his attack. All the ravens are dead. He pants with exhaustion as he vigilantly glances around the blood-splattered kitchen.

(O.S.) A squawk behind him.

He immediately goes on the defense, lifting the telescope above his head as he spins around. One of the ravens is still alive but badly injured. It frantically squawks, trying to flap its broken wings.

Jack creeps towards it, ready to strike.

He stands over the apple pie covered bird and stares into its black eyes. It flails around the floor, viciously screeching at Jack.

Jack lifts the telescope high above his head and strikes down with all his might. He ferociously strikes again and again until the telescope snaps in two and the raven is nothing more than a bloody mess of guts and feathers.

Jack triumphantly tosses the broken telescope to one side, composes himself, and darts out the back door.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

Alice sprints through the woods with Ewan. She dodges trees and flailing, windblown branches.

(O.S.) The sound of squawking and flapping wings surrounds her.

She glances around the trees but sees no ravens in the darkness. She suddenly trips over something and crashes face-first into the muddy ground, just as there's an almighty crack of thunder.

Ewan sobs.

Alice composes herself and lifts herself off the floor. Her face is plastered with mud. She tries to move, but her foot is caught on whatever she tripped on. She looks to her feet, but can't see in the darkness.

There's a long, sustained flash of lighting. Alice shrieks when she clearly sees what she tripped on.

It's the mutilated, dead body of the farmer. His face is torn to shreds, and his eyes completely pecked out. Rain splashes in little puddles of water which have formed in his empty eye sockets.

Alice protectively holds onto Ewan and scrambles away from the body.

The ravens fall silent, and the wind and rain ceases. Alice anxiously glances around the momentarily calm woodland.

(O.S.) The evil cackling laughter echoes all around.

EWAN

(sobbing with fear)

Mummy.

He closes his eyes. Alice holds him close. She peers into the darkness. Something approaches. Her eyes widen with fear.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

The wind and rain pound against the tree tops. Jack aimlessly runs through the woods, frantically searching for Alice and Ewan.

JACK  
(calling out)  
Alice! Alice!

(O.S.) In the distance, Alice screams out in total terror. Jack sprints towards the sound.

Eventually, he comes to a halt. He leans over, putting his hands on his knees, catching his breath.

(O.S) There's a crack of thunder.

JACK  
(breathless)  
Alice.

He desperately scans the dark woods for any sign of Alice and Ewan.

There's a strike of lightning, illuminating the woodland.

Jack spots something on the ground, he bends down and picks up Ewan's soggy and muddy teddy. He fears the worst.

JACK  
(hysterically)  
Alice! Ewan! Where are you?

(O.S.) Faint sound of a child sobbing in the distance.

JACK  
Ewan?

He sprints towards it with the teddy in hand.

EXT. WOODLAND EDGE - NIGHT

Jack runs out of the woods and, stops to listen.

(O.S.) The child's sobs coming from within the cornfield.

JACK  
(yelling)  
Ewan!

He rushes into the cornfield.

EXT. CORNFIELD - NIGHT

The wind and rain batters against Jack as he bustles through the windblown cornfield. The sobbing becomes increasingly louder.

He enters the rain sodden, muddy clearing and freezes.

A couple dozen ravens are perched in the dead tree, watching Alice carry Ewan towards the stream.

Ewan looks over Alice's shoulder and spots Jack.

EWAN  
(sobbing)  
Daddy.

JACK  
Ewan.

All the ravens simultaneously look towards him. They squawk and cower, fearful of Jack.

Jack rushes over, slipping and sliding through the boggy mud.

The ravens excitedly squawk.

JACK  
(to Alice)  
Are you two okay?

Alice slowly turns around, her dripping wet hair covers her face.

Jack reaches his hand towards her, while anxiously glaring at the ravens in the tree.

JACK (cont.)

Come on, we need to get out of...

As soon as he touches her shoulder, she swings her arm out, striking him with such force that both his feet lift off the ground before he crashes down into the mud.

Jack lies there, dazed and caked in mud.

Alice walks to the water's edge and kneels next to it.

Jack composes himself and gets to his feet.

JACK

(shouting)

Alice! What are you doing?

She lifts Ewan into the fast-flowing stream, dunks his head under the water and holds him there.

JACK

(shouting)

No!

Jack drops the teddy and rushes over to stop her.

Without even turning to see where he is, she easily pushes him away with her free hand, launching him through the air and smashing into the dead tree. The impact breaks a branch, which crashes down to the ground with Jack.

Alice continues to drown Ewan.

Jack picks up the branch, awkwardly gets to his feet and charges towards her.

The ravens squawk to warn. She jerks her head towards Jack but it's too late.

JACK

(yelling)

Let him go!

Jack swings the branch with all his might against her shoulder. The impact snaps and splinters the branch, making Alice crumble to the floor and lose her grip on Ewan.

Jack hurriedly lifts Ewan's lifeless body out of the stream and rapidly backs away from Alice.

JACK

Ewan.

He gently shakes Ewan's body, trying to revive him. Ewan suddenly coughs up water and opens his eyes.

JACK

(smiling)

Ewan. You okay buddy?

Ewan calmly stares at him. Jack notices Alice getting to her feet.

JACK

(shouting at Alice)

What the fuck do you think  
you're doing?

Alice is hunched over and covered in mud. Her dripping wet hair conceals her face. She slowly steps towards them.

Jack backs away.

JACK

(shouting)

Stay back.

She stops.

JACK

(shouting)

Why are you doing this?

She doesn't reply.

JACK

(shouting)

Answer me!

She gradually rises onto tiptoes and slowly lifts her arms out towards them.

JACK

Alice?

She lifts her head and screeches out a terrifying cackle.

She rapidly glides towards them, the tip of her toes scraping through the muddy surface.

Jack tries to back away but slips and falls onto his back.

(O.S) A crack of thunder.

Jack quickly rolls Ewan to safety, just before Alice jumps on top of him. Jack grabs hold of her wrists, stopping her from clawing at his eyes.

There's a strike of lightning.

Jack looks horrified when Alice's wet hair moves away from her face and he sees her eyes are rolled back to a pearly white.

He struggles to overpower her. Her clawing finger nails inch closer and closer.

He manages to bend his legs up under her and pushes her away with his feet.

She rolls over on the ground and scurries toward a large rock. She picks it up, gets to her feet and stands over him. She lifts the rock high above her head. Jack protectively holds his hands out in front of himself.

She's about to slam the rock into his skull when...

(O.S.) The sound of a twig snapping.

They both look towards the cornfield to see Moon entering the clearing.

Alice turns to face her, casually dropping the rock.

Jack quickly rolls out of the way of the falling rock. He scrambles over to Ewan and protectively takes hold of him.

Moon approaches, her gaze is fixed on Alice. She stops, reaches into her pocket and pulls out the dead raven.

JACK

What have you done to Alice?

Moon takes her eyes off Alice and looks to Jack.

JACK

What the hell is that thing?

Jack gestures to the dead raven.

MOON

Your sons protection. You should not have removed it from the cottage.

JACK

Protection? From what?

She looks back to Alice.

MOON

Her.

JACK

(confused)  
Alice?

MOON

Not Alice, but from the evil that has possessed her.

JACK

(incredulously)  
She's possessed?

Moon glances at Jack.

MOON

Yes, by a satanic spirit who intends to sacrifice your son and invoke a demon into mortal form.

She holds the dead raven out in front of herself.

MOON (cont.)

And I'm here to stop her.

She cautiously approaches Alice.

MOON  
I know who you are.

Alice silently stares at her.

MOON (cont.)  
But who I am, you do not.

She holds the dead raven aloft and slowly steps towards Alice.

MOON  
(with conviction)  
For I am Moon, white witch of  
the Ros an Bucca, like my  
grandmother Heather before  
me...

She thrusts the dead raven towards Alice.

MOON(cont.)  
And I command that no harm  
shall come to this child.

Alice sinisterly smiles and wiggles her index finger.

Moon pauses, perplexed. She stares at the dead raven in her hand.

MOON  
(to herself)  
It has no power in this place.

Alice swoops her arms towards Moon, magically commanding a pack of ravens in the tree to fly off their perch and attack.

Moon quickly pulls the stick out from her pocket and holds it close to her mouth. She blows and whispers words, making it glow red. She holds it aloft and rapidly flicks her wrist, shooting tiny orbs of fire at the advancing birds.

Each orb strikes a raven, engulfing them in a ball of fire. They screech in agony and plummet to the ground in piles of smoldering ash.

The rest of the ravens in the tree viciously squawk.

Alice shrieks with anger. She raises her hands into the air and thrusts her fingers towards the sky. A cold blast of air shoots out from her finger-tips, freezing the falling rain above Moon into tiny spikes of ice.

In an instant, hundreds of frozen rain-drops pierce Moon's skin. She turns away and protectively holds up her arms.

Alice cackles with laughter.

Moon reaches into her pocket and pulls out a handful of ground powder. She flings it into the air above her, simultaneously shooting it with an orb from her stick.

The cascading powder sparks with blue and green flame which surrounds Moon in a glowing, protective orb. The ice rain instantly melts and turns to steam when it strikes against it.

Alice falls silent and scowls at Moon. She lowers her hands from the sky and thrusts them towards the flowing stream.

A whirlpool forms within the stream, and a swirling vortex of water rises from its center.

Alice swings her arms forwards, channeling a funnel of water towards Moon.

A continuous flow of water blasts against Moon's protective orb, instantly turning into a cloud of steam.

The orb's glow slowly diminishes until it suddenly vanishes. The funnel of water smashes against Moon making her drop her stick.

Once more, Alice swoops her arms towards Moon, commanding the rest of the ravens to attack.

Moon frantically swings her arms around, trying to fend off the wildly pecking and clawing birds.

Alice spins around to Jack and Ewan.

Without taking his eyes off her, Jack puts Ewan down and protectively stands in front of him.

JACK

Alice if you can hear me, you  
have to stop this. You have to  
fight her.

Alice's head wrenches back and she cackles a  
horrifying laugh. She swings her arms forward and  
speedily glides towards him.

Jack tries to grab hold of her but she simply knocks  
him down. He crashes to the ground, hitting his head  
on the rock.

Alice stops in front of Ewan. He calmly stands there,  
staring into her eyes. She steps towards him.

Jack is dazed and his head is bleeding.

JACK

(mumbles)

Leave him alone.

Moon struggles to fight off the relentless attacking  
ravens. Her body and face are scratched up and bloody.  
She falls to her knees, succumbing to the birds.

At that moment, the cat leaps out of the cornfield. It  
attacks the ravens like a rampaging wild beast,  
clawing and biting at their wings and necks.

Jack forces himself to stand, slightly stumbling as he  
gets to his feet.

Alice reaches down for Ewan.

JACK

(yelling)

I said leave him alone!

He charges towards her and mightily tackles her into  
the stream. They splash down hard into the deep water.

The cat continues its wild attack. Feathers and fur  
swirl around in the wind. Several of the ravens have  
already been killed, enabling Moon to get to her feet  
while fending off the rest.

MOON

(shouting to Jack)

Drown her. It's the only way.

Jack and Alice grapple in the water.

JACK

What? I can't.

Alice breaks free of his grip, tightly grasps hold of his neck and hurls him out of the stream.

He thumps down hard onto the muddy bank.

Alice magically rises above the water's surface, cackling with laughter. Her head jerks towards Ewan, who calmly stares at her.

(O.S.) The sound of children's laughter emanates from the stream.

Just as Alice begins to glide towards Ewan, two sets of children's hands rise out of the water and grab hold of her ankles, stopping her in her tracks. Alice struggles but can't break free of their grip.

MOON

(yelling)

Now! Drown her now!

Jack jumps into the water and quickly wades towards her. He grabs hold of her and pulls her back down into the stream. The children's hands clamber over her body, helping to restrain her, until only her head remains above the water's surface.

MOON

Do it!

(O.S) A crack of thunder.

Jack hesitates to plunge her head under the water.

Alice viciously hisses at him. She frees one of her arms from the children's grip and claws Jack across his face. He yelps and immediately dunks her head under the water.

He turns his face away from her flailing hand as it wildly claws at his neck and chest.

There's a burst of lightning flashes.

He holds her there until her hand becomes motionless and flops down into the water.

The remaining ravens instantly fly off in retreat. Moon picks up her stick and rushes to Jack's aid.

Jack lifts Alice's lifeless body out of the stream and carries her to the bank.

Moon helps him out of the stream. He drops to his knees, holding Alice in his arms. He gently slaps her face, trying to revive her.

JACK

Alice, wake up. Please wake up.

He gently lays her on her back, breathes into her mouth and vigorously pumps her chest.

JACK

Come on Alice, come back.

He repeats this several times but his attempt to revive her fails, she's dead.

Moon kneels next to him, her face scratched and bloody. She comfortingly puts her hand on Jack's shoulder.

MOON

She's gone.

He stops pumping her chest and weeps beside her.

Moon glances over to Ewan, who is calmly looking on.

Jack puts his hand in his jacket pocket and pulls out the ring box. He opens it and takes out the ring.

JACK

(weeping)

I was going to ask her to marry me.

He lifts Alice's droopy hand, slips the ring onto her finger and softly kisses her lips.

Her eyes suddenly open wide, rolling back to their normal state. She takes a deep gasp of air and coughs.

JACK  
(amazed)  
Alice!

Jack takes her in his arms.

He looks at Moon in disbelief.

JACK  
(to Moon)  
How?

MOON  
(smiles)  
Your love is a powerful thing  
indeed.

Alice glances at them both.

ALICE  
(confused)  
What? What happened?

JACK  
Don't worry about that right  
now.

ALICE  
We were in bed and then...I  
can't think...I can't...

She suddenly remembers something.

ALICE  
(alarmed)  
Where is she?

She anxiously glances around the clearing.

JACK  
Who?

ALICE  
The woman. Where is she?

MOON  
She has gone now. She can do  
you no more harm.

Alice momentarily looks relieved but something else suddenly dawns upon her.

ALICE

(alarmed)

Ewan. She wanted to hurt Ewan.

JACK

It's okay. He's right here.

She looks over Jack's shoulder and sees Ewan standing next to the tree, calmly staring at them.

Jack helps her up and she rushes over to Ewan.

Alice falls to his knees and lovingly wraps his arms around him. Ewan is unresponsive, his hands staying clasp at his side.

Jack picks up Ewan's wet and muddy teddy and follows her over.

Moon picks up her haggard cat and appreciatively smooths it.

ALICE

(to Ewan)

You okay, sweetie?

He doesn't reply. He just expressionlessly stares into her eyes.

ALICE

(to Jack)

What's wrong with him?

JACK

He's in shock.

ALICE

Why? What happened?

Jack hesitates to answer, not knowing where to begin.

MOON

I can explain everything, but let us first get out of this storm.

Alice looks at Moon stroking her cat, with her long, wet hair hanging over her scratched and bloody face.

JACK

She's right. We should go back to the cottage first and get you and Ewan into some dry clothes.

ALICE

All right.

He puts his hand out and helps her up, then bends down and picks Ewan up. He puts his arm around Alice and they follow Moon out of the clearing.

ALICE

(quietly to Jack)  
I don't care what you say.  
She's creepy.

He smirks.

JACK

(quietly to Alice)  
Yeah. She is a bit.

Alice notices the ring on her finger.

ALICE

(surprised)  
Where did this come from?

She holds up her hand and admires the diamond ring.

JACK

Oh yeah. Well, there's something I've been meaning to ask you.

She smiles and tightly hugs him, resting her head against his chest.

ALICE

Yes.

He grins and kisses her forehead.

Jack passes Ewan his mud sodden teddy.

JACK

Don't worry buddy, we'll get it  
cleaned up.

He ruffles Ewan's hair. They walk into the cornfield and  
disappear into the darkness.

EXT. COTTAGE - DAY

It's the morning after. The storm has passed and the  
sun rises into a clear, blue sky.

The cottage door opens. Jack steps out with their bags  
and Alice steps out carrying Ewan. They've all changed  
into dry, clean clothes. Moon follows behind, carrying  
her cat and wearing Jack's jacket, keeping her warm  
from her still-wet clothes.

They all head to the car.

Moon stands by while Jack loads their bags into the  
trunk and Alice puts Ewan in the back seat.

Alice locks Ewan's seat belt. He blankly stares  
forward, somewhat detached.

ALICE

I'm so sorry, sweetie.

She remorsefully strokes his hair.

ALICE

You know Mummy would never do  
anything to hurt you, right?

He pays no attention to her.

ALICE

Look sweetie.

She pulls out his cleaned but slightly damp teddy.

ALICE

I cleaned teddy for you.

She tries to hand it to him. He blankly stares at it  
for a few seconds then turns away. She sighs, places  
the teddy on his lap and kisses his forehead.

She stands by the door.

ALICE

(to Moon)

He's still not talking. Are you sure he's all right?

MOON

He is still in shock but do not fret my dear, he shall be fine.

Jack closes the trunk, walks over to Alice, and puts his arm around her.

JACK

You're both alive, that's all that matters right now, but I promise we'll get him checked out as soon as we get back.

Jack peers into the car before he closes the back door.

Ewan continues to blankly stare into space.

ALICE

Do you think he'll ever forgive me?

JACK

He will. Just give it time.

They approach Moon.

JACK

Well, we're going to hit the road. I don't know how to thank you enough. God only knows what would of happened if you didn't show up.

Alice embraces her.

ALICE

(sincerely)

Thank you.

MOON

You are most welcome.

Alice lets go. Jack shakes Moon's hand.

MOON

Farewell to you both.

Jack opens the passenger door and Alice gets in.

ALICE

(to Moon)

Bye.

Jack closes the door, walks around to the driver's side and is about to get into the car.

MOON

Wait.

He stops and looks at Moon.

MOON (cont.)

Your jacket.

She gestures to the jacket she's wearing.

JACK

Keep it, something to remember  
us by.

Moon smirks.

JACK

Bye.

Jack gets in and starts the engine. Alice and Moon wave goodbye as the car pulls away. Moon spots something on the ground. It's Ewan's teddy.

She picks it up and is about to call out but is aghast when she sees Ewan leaning over the back seat, playing with the wooden raven carving.

CLOSE ON: Ewan sinisterly grins and his eyes briefly flash a burning, fiery red.

Moon is aghast.

(O.S.) A ravens squawk.

She rapidly turns toward the sound.

The white-eyed raven is perched in a tree, watching her.

Moon quickly pulls the stick out from her pocket but the raven swoops down and snatches it out of her hand with its talons.

The white-eyed raven momentarily hovers above Moon, staring into her eyes. It lets out an almighty shriek before turning away and pursuing the car.

THE END