

"CURSED TIES"

WRITTEN BY

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EXT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - STREET - EVENING

People are cheerfully walking up the street, dressed in formal attire, smiling and talking as they prepare for tonight's event. It's been sixteen years in the making.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - IAN'S CAR

Unlike everyone else, IAN MCCARTHY (33), Caucasian, dirty blonde hair, chiseled jaw, green eyes, soft exterior but hardened by life; doesn't appear to be as excited about tonight's festivities.

JEREMY (O.S.)

We don't have go in there, ya know. We can do what I did for my high school reunion, watch "Can't Hardly Wait" and fantasize about having hair as perfect as Jennifer Love Hewitt.

Ian's fiancé, JEREMY PAUL (36), Caucasian, black hair, dark brown eyes, athletic build, charming; rubs the back of Ian's head soothingly. He knows how conflicted Ian has been over this event.

IAN

You? The captain of the wrestling team, class president, *and* valedictorian, didn't go to your high school reunion?

JEREMY

Well, I mean I figured I was worshipped enough back then, really didn't need to re-live the throne.

(laughs)

Of course, I went. Reunions are fun, babe! You get to see what everyone's been up to, who peaked in senior year, and most importantly...you get to show off your very hot *and* very successful fiancé.

IAN

(laughs)

Oh, so this about me being able to brag about you.

JEREMY

No. This is about *me* being able to brag about you. You graduated law school, top of your class. You should be proud of yourself. It's like I always tell my residents at the hospital when they start doubting themselves..."Life isn't about who people *think* you are...it's about showing them who you're *not*."

IAN

(sighs)

High school was just...it wasn't the best time for me, you know that. And...the people who actually made it bearable...I haven't spoken to them since we graduated.

JEREMY

You're worried about seeing Neeka and Mel. Ian, people lose touch after high school, it happens. But tonight, is the night that who knows...maybe you can re-connect with old friends.

Ian nods in agreement. The only problem is, he isn't sure if he wants to re-connect with his old friends...he's done his best to forget his high school experience.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #1

Former students, now in their adulthood, are walking to the cafeteria, the main staging area for the reunion. Many of them stop at their old lockers, reminiscing about the old days. The hallway is filled with photos of the attendees in their high school prime. Nostalgia fills the air.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2

CLOSE UP ON VARIOUS SENIOR CLASS YEARBOOK PICTURES POSTED ON THE WALLS

Groups of two or three huddle around their old yearbook photos, re-living times of the past in enjoyment and laughter.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2

On the far end of the hallway, MELANIE "MEL" WESTON (33), Caucasian, brown crimped hair, fair skin, dressed for a party but still conservative; stands in front of an old class photo of four students.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF THREE FEMALE STUDENTS AND ONE MALE STUDENT POSING FOR THE PHOTO

A small smile forms on Mel's face, remembering the exact day this photo was taken. The happier times of her high school experience.

IAN (O.S.)

Now, what kind of friends would let me do that to my hair? Like, did you guys secretly hate me or something?

Mel smiles, she knows that voice. Her head turns and her suspicions are confirmed when she sees Ian standing in front of her, Jeremy by his side.

MEL

(smiling)

Ian McCarthy.

Although, the two haven't seen each other in sixteen years, their connection is immediately re-ignited. They hug tightly.

MEL

I'm so glad you came. And by the way, the hair? Was *all* you. We tried telling you the mohawk thing was only for guys in the drama club.

IAN

Hm, is *that* why I was single for the entire senior year?

MEL

Well, it seems like you've broken that curse. Who's this?

IAN

This is Jeremy Paul. My fiancé.

Jeremy clears his throat.

IAN
 (laughs)
 Correction, my very hot *and* very
 successful fiancé. Jeremy, this is
 Melanie Weston.

Jeremy and Mel shake hands.

JEREMY
 Great to meet you, Melanie. And Ian
 was just exaggerating by the way, I'm
 only *mildly* successful. Star doctor on
 his way to becoming head of oncology
 but who's counting accolades?

MEL
 (laughs)
 It's nice to meet you too, Jeremy. Did
 you guys just arrive?

IAN
 Yeah. It took Jeremy some time to pry
 me out of the car but...I'm here.

MEL
 Well please, feel free to take as many
 walks down memory lane as you like.
 And I put you at the table with *me*,
 your names should be on it.

IAN
 You're not gonna come in and have a
 drink with us?

MEL
 Of course! But seeing as how I *am* the
 head of this whole thing; I need to be
 at the door and greet all the old
 faces. Plus, I like to see whose *old*
 face is now a *new* face courtesy of
 botched cosmetic surgery.

JEREMY
 Oh, *that* sounds way more entertaining
 than drinks. Can I do that with you?

Ian shakes his head with a smile, he loves Jeremy's sense of
 humor.

MEL
 Sure! It'll give us some time to get

acquainted.

IAN

I guess I will meet you guys in the
café.

(whispers; to Jeremy)

Don't leave me alone for too long.

MEL

Oh, you won't be alone. Neeka's
already inside.

Ian sighs, hearing the name of their other former high school
friend making him a tad bit anxious.

IAN

Neeka. Great.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA

Music plays loudly. Party goers are sitting at tables
commiserating with each other. Others are getting plates of
food from the buffet. Some are just milling around having
intimate one on ones, catching up with one another.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DANCEFLOOR

Some party goers are on the dance floor, re-living their
senior prom as they bust a move. One of these party goers is
former student, VERONICA "NEEKA" HARRIS (33), African-
American, beautiful, straight black hair, sexy, and the life
of the party. Neeka dances in the middle of a circle with
another male student as the crowd cheers them on.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2

CLOSE UP ON IAN'S FACE AS HE STARES AT SOMETHING ON THE WALL

It's the photo Mel was looking at earlier. Ian, Neeka, Mel,
and another female student as teenagers sitting at a wooden
table in the school's quad. They were so close back then.

NEEKA (O.S.)

Are you *still* ditching parties in
favor of spacing out in the hallway,

McCarthy?

Ian's head snaps around, the familiar voice taking him out of the past and back into the present.

IAN

Neeka Harris. I heard your name being chanted from out here. I see you haven't changed a bit, *still* the life of the party.

NEEKA

Somebody *has* to bear that burden and this Chanel wasn't made to just sit down and sip free liquor. Well, come *hereeee!*

Neeka pulls Ian into a hug, happy to see him.

NEEKA

Come on, the past awaits.

Neeka eagerly pulls Ian by the hand, he smiles slightly...maybe he missed these girls more than he thought.

MALE VOICE (O.S)

It's really great to see you all.
Honestly.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA

KILLIAN

Well...*some* of you, that is, because time? Has *not* been good to a *lot* of you.

The room laughs at KILLIAN TOMB'S (34) dig at his former classmates; African American, extremely handsome, jock turned businessman, exudes "Most Likely To Marry A Model" in the yearbook energy.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - TABLE

Ian, Mel, Neeka, and Jeremy sit at their table as they listen to Killian continue to give his speech.

NEEKA

How is it that Killian Tombs is still sexy as hell after all these years?

MEL

Botox treatments for men are very popular.

JEREMY

(whispers; to Ian)

That's the guy who...

IAN

Helped make my senior year a literal Hell? Yeah. That's Killian.

JEREMY

Did you ever get a...bi-curious vibe from him?

Ian shoots Jeremy a look of disapproval.

JEREMY

What? I'm just saying we talked about trying a threesome before we get married, and you know the jocks who were popular in high school make up eighty percent of the closeted gays in adulthood.

IAN

(sighs)

Shut up, sweetie.

KILLIAN

Sixteen years is a long time. I mean, you grow. You change. You...remember who you used to be and realize who've you become. Me? I've become a husband.

Killian raises his glass in the direction towards his wife, Camille Tombs (31), Filipino-American, beautiful blonde, amazing smile, very much the model Killian's classmates predicted he would marry.

KILLIAN

I've *also* become a father. To a beautiful little girl. We've all gone on to live great lives and...we should be thankful. Because some of us...didn't get a chance to really live life at all.

Killian's voice takes on a sad tone. His eyes moving toward a beautiful memorial set up by the cafeteria's entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - MEMORIAL TABLE

A GLASS CASE SITS ON A TABLE, DECORATED WITH FLOWERS, POM POMS, AND CANDLES. INSIDE THE CASE ARE PHOTOS OF A BEAUTIFUL BLONDE TEENAGE GIRL, SMILING.

THIS IS KELSEY DAVENPORT.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - EVENING - CONT'D

KILLIAN

I know if Kelsey were here with us, she'd probably round up all you cheerleaders and have you guys make the pyramid for old time's sake. And um...I know she would have made a great life for herself.

The air in the room gets very solemn. It's apparent everyone misses Kelsey's presence.

KILLIAN

She didn't deserve what happened to her. I know...we make mistakes when we're young. We do...stupid things and me and Kelsey, we...weren't always the nicest to everybody.

Killian's eyes move toward the table where Mel, Ian, Neeka, and Jeremy are sitting.

KILLIAN

But Melanie...I just wanna say on behalf of the class of 2007...thank you for bringing us together tonight. You really came through.

Mel smiles slightly, thankful for Killian's appreciation.

MEL

(raises glass)
To Kelsey!

KILLIAN

(raises glass; pause)
To Kelsey.

The rest of the room raise their glasses in honor of their deceased classmate.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - TABLE

As the party continues, Ian, Jeremy, Neeka, and Mel sit at their table, drinking and chit chatting.

JEREMY

(to Ian)

So, Kelsey really lived up to the image you painted of her. Seems like everyone really liked her.

NEEKA

Worshipped, groveled, laid bare at her altar is more like it.

MEL

She was the quintessential Queen Bee.

JEREMY

(to Ian)

And *your* former best friend.

MEL

Actually, she was *my* best friend until Ian moved here junior year and stole her from me.

NEEKA

And *then* she became Ian's obsession.

IAN

I was...*not*...obsessed with Kelsey, okay? I just...had a crush.

NEEKA

Back when he thought pussy was the bee's knees.

IAN

But...her and Killian became a thing and then *she* became...

NEEKA

A bitch.

MEL

Neeka...she *died*. Horribly, I might add. Have some consideration.

JEREMY

Yeah, Ian told me about your graduation...I can see why it took you guys so long to have a reunion. Nobody would wanna re-live something like that.

Mel, Ian, and Neeka stay silent. Their thoughts going to that tragic day sixteen years ago.

IAN

Yeah, it was pretty bad. It seems like Killian still isn't really over it. He found the *perfect* replica of his high school sweetheart.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DANCEFLOOR

WIDE ANGLE SHOT OF KILLIAN SLOW DANCING WITH HIS WIFE CAMILLE. THE TWO SEEM TO BE VERY MUCH IN LOVE.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - TABLE - CONT'D

MEL

Do you think it *bothers* her that she looks so much like Kelsey?

NEEKA

With Ian's bank account, I honestly don't think she cares.

(eyes go wide in shock)

Oh my God...I *can't* believe she came.

Ian, Jeremy, and Mel follow Neeka's gaze. Ian and Mel are equally as stunned at who they see standing in the entryway. PENELOPE "PENNY" STONE (33), Caucasian, shoulder length black hair, gothic aesthetic.

IAN

Did you...invite her, Mel?

MEL

She was one of my best friends in high

school of course I did...I just didn't think she would come after...everything.

Ian, Neeka, Mel, and Jeremy watch as Penny walks over to Kelsey's memorial. She stands in front of it, writing something down on the memorial table.

JEREMY

(to Ian)

You never mentioned *her*.
Does...somebody wanna fill me in?

IAN

That is...Penelope Stone. The completion of our high school foursome.

NEEKA

Yeah, she um...she spent five years in a mental hospital after Kelsey died. Her death hit Penny pretty hard.

JEREMY

Whoa. Were they close?

MEL

Not hardly.

Penelope turns around, locking eyes with Ian, Mel, and Neeka. The tension is thick between the four of them. Without saying a word, Penny walks out of the cafeteria.

JEREMY

Well...*that* was weird. A little...spooky, actually.

IAN

Yeah well...Penny was always a little...spooky.

Jeremy can tell that Ian is unnerved by seeing his old friend again.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA

The reunion is ending, mostly everyone has headed out for the night except Ian, Jeremy, Mel, and Neeka. The four stand by the cafeteria door, saying their goodbyes.

NEEKA

I *really* wish I could stay longer but I'm flying back to L.A. tomorrow. I have this big meeting for one of my actors in this new sitcom pilot.

MEL

You suck.

IAN

I thought she did enough of that during study hall.

JEREMY

I know I did.

NEEKA

(laughs)

You? Are an asshole, McCarthy. But congratulations on your engagement, I'm so happy for you.

IAN

It was really good seeing you again, Neeka.

NEEKA

(sighs)

You guys too. I forgot how much fun we had together. Let's try to maybe, get together a little more often?

MEL

Well, I'm not going anywhere. I've become attached to the students here, so you know where to find me.

Neeka gives hugs to Mel, Ian, and Jeremy before she waves goodbye, leaving the cafeteria.

IAN

I agree with Neeka. There's *no* reason I live twenty miles from you, and I *hardly* ever see you. I'm sorry about that.

MEL

It's a two-way street. But that's what reunions are for, re-igniting old friendships. So, I will *also* do my best to keep this fire burning.

JEREMY

See babe? Told you this would be a good night. Now, I don't know about you guys, but I am beat, and I have rounds tomorrow afternoon so...

Mel and Ian take Jeremy's hint and decide to leave. Jeremy and Ian walk out first. Mel stays behind, her hand lingering on the light switch as she looks at Kelsey's memorial one last time, the candles almost burning out. Mel turns off the lights and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - MEMORIAL TABLE

FAR SHOT on Kelsey's memorial. The camera moves closer, SLOWLY, until we're close up on the glass case holding Kelsey's photos. There's a headshot photo of Kelsey in a glass frame...the glass frame, CRACKS, SPLINTERING OUTWARDLY.

CUT TO:

INT. NEEKA'S CAR - ROAD

Neeka is driving down a dark road, music playing as she grooves to the beat. The song ends and another one begins to play. Neeka looks down at the song's title and sighs...it takes her back to a memory of the past.

SLAM CUT TO:

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - AFTERNOON - YEAR 2007 - 16 YEARS AGO

Kelsey (17) stands in front of a line-up of eight female students awaiting their fates. Neeka (17) is one of them.

TEENAGE KELSEY

So, we have our chosen ones for the new inductees to the Elmwood Elites. I would say all of you guys did great, but...I don't really care about your feelings.

Neeka closes her eyes and sighs, her heart beating faster as the anxiety revs up.

TEENAGE KELSEY

If I hand you this pin, that means your life has changed. You will eat with us. You will party with us. You will end high school as one of the remembered...and not the forgotten.

Kelsey begins to go down the line. She hands a pin to FEMALE STUDENT #1. A pin to FEMALE STUDENT #2. A pin to FEMALE STUDENT #4. A pin to FEMALE STUDENT #6. A pin to FEMALE STUDENT #7.

TEENAGE KELSEY

(smiling)

Congratulations. Welcome to my world.

The girls who received their pins celebrate with each other in glee. Neeka looks angry in disbelief. Kelsey begins to walk away but Neeka stops her.

TEENAGE NEEKA

What the hell, Kelsey? You know I was the *best* one on this floor. I did that routine better than you.

TEENAGE KELSEY

(pause)

Exactly.

(whispers)

No one likes a show-off, Veronica. Know your place, bitch.

Kelsey walks away from Neeka, leaving her fuming and dejected.

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. NEEKA'S CAR - ROAD - CONT'D

Neeka lets out a deep sigh.

NEEKA

Rest in Hell, Kelsey Davenport.

NEEKA'S PHONE RINGS

Neeka looks over to the passenger seat to check her phone... it's a number she doesn't recognize. When she looks back at the road...

A BLONDE-HAired LITTLE GIRL IN A BLUE DRESS STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!

Neeka swerves to the right quickly to avoid hitting the child, her car skids off the road and into a ravine, continuing to slide off of the dewy leaves until it slams head onto a tree.

FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE

Neeka raises her head slowly from the steering wheel, a bloody gash on her forehead. Neeka is dazed from the impact. Though, she remembers what she saw. Neeka turns her head to the left, looking out the driver's side window for any sign of the little girl.

CLOSE UP ON NEEKA'S RIGHT EAR

We partially see the ROTTING FACE of The Little Blonde Girl, edging closer to Neeka.

LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE
(whispers demonically)
Veronicaaaaaa!

NEEKA SCREAMS

Frightened by the voice, Neeka instinctively opens the driver's side door, throwing herself to the ground and turns to look inside the car. However, no one is there.

LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
(child-like)
You should run. It's more fun that way.

Neeka bends her head back, seeing The Little Blonde Girl standing over her!

NEEKA SCREAMS

Filled with terror, Neeka scrambles to her feet, running deeper into the woods.

NEEKA'S HEAVY BREATHS

Neeka continues to move at a fast pace, her heels making it hard to run through the dirt and fallen tree branches. Neeka stops at a tree to catch her breath...

CLOSE UP ON A ROPE WITH A NOOSE TIED AT THE END HANGING FROM

A TREE BRANCH

Without warning, the noose drops around Neeka's neck, tightening quickly! Her hands grasp at the rope, trying to loosen it up as she's hoisted up into the air, struggling and gasping for air. Higher and higher. Neeka looks down...she sees The Little Blonde Girl in the blue dress, smiling up at her and waving.

NEEKA
(strained)
What...the *fuck*...is happ...ening?!

LITTLE BLONDE GIRL
(snickers)
You're dying.

The Little Blonde Girl waves goodbye at Neeka as the noose tightens one final time.

SNAP!

Neeka's neck breaks. Her limp body, sways slightly as she hangs from the rope in the dead of the night.

CUT TO:

INT. IAN AND JEREMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

WE OPEN on the stove. Scrambled eggs, bacon, and pancakes being made.

IAN
Babe! How much bacon do you want?!

JEREMY (O.S.)
I'm gay! Give me *all* the meats,
please!

IAN
(smiles)
I guess that was a dumb question.

Ian begins making two plates of food.

JEREMY (O.S.)
(alarmed)
Ian! Ian, come in here!

Hearing the concern in Jeremy's voice, Ian hastily finishes making their plates and walks toward the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. IAN AND JEREMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Ian walks into the living room, standing behind the couch, holding the two breakfast plates.

IAN

What's up, what's going on?

JEREMY

(shocked)

This.

Jeremy points the remote at the television, raising the volume on a news report.

CLOSE UP ON BYLINE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN:

"WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN WOODS. SUICIDE IN ELMWOOD".

NEWS REPORTER (ON T.V.)

The deceased, Neeka Harris, was apparently last seen at her high school reunion before her body was found, hanging from a tree in the woods off of Highway 46...

JEREMY

It's...it's Neeka.

(pause)

She's dead.

Ian drops the plates in shock, they shatter on the floor, food spilling everywhere. This is unbelievable. Ian looks over towards the window, he sees The Little Blonde Girl in the blue dress standing on the grass, outside.

JEREMY

This is...

Ian looks back Jeremy.

JEREMY

Crazy. Why would Neeka kill herself?

Ian doesn't answer. He looks outside again, out the window...The Little Blonde Girl in the blue dress is gone.

MEL (O.S.)

I cannot believe Neeka's...gone.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD DINER - TABLE

Mel and Ian are sitting at a table, talking.

IAN

We were *just* with her. She was so happy at the reunion.

MEL

And from what I know about her, she...she had a great job, no kids, was making a bunch of money in L.A...her killing herself, it just...it just doesn't seem right.

IAN

(pause)

Sometimes you have no idea what a person's going through. They could be...suffering. Silently. Feeling like they have no one to talk to.

MEL

Are you...are you saying this could be...our fault? Because we lost touch?

IAN

(sighs)

We were best friends, Mel. And then we...

MEL

Grew up? Got lives of our own? Ian, that happens with mostly *everyone* after they graduate high school.

IAN

Yeah, Mel but...

(leans in; softly)

We were different. Not everybody is bonded together the way we were. And maybe if we were there for Neeka the way we *should've* been for Penny...

MEL

Penelope spent *five* years locked in a padded room and *she's* still alive. Maybe Neeka just...maybe the reunion was...

IAN

Too much for her to handle? It didn't seem that way to me.

Mel and Ian both stay silent for a moment, their thoughts about the circumstances of Neeka's death distracting them.

MEL

(smiles slightly)

Do you remember the day me and Neeka "brought you into the fold"?

Ian smiles slightly, remembering that day fondly.

IAN

Of course, I do. You guys, you...you saved my life.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON - YEAR 2007 - SIXTEEN YEARS AGO

The first day of senior year. Teenage Kelsey (17) is standing by her locker with Teenage Killian (17) and two other students, talking and giggling. Ian stands a few feet away from them, nervous. This is the scariest thing he's ever done. Ian walks over to them.

TEENAGE IAN

Hey...Kelsey.

TEENAGE KELSEY

Um...hi.

TEENAGE IAN

I was um...I was wondering uh...if we could...I know we had uh, talked about um...Homecoming? Over the summer. Uh...ya know...maybe going together?

TEENAGE KILLIAN

(laughs)

Why would she go with a fag?

TEENAGE IAN

(bewildered)

What?

TEENAGE KILLIAN

Hey, it's cool. I'm glad I could be part of your fag awakening.

TEENAGE KELSEY

Yeah Ian, I mean...you *told* me you sneak peeks at the guys in the locker room, it's...and ya know, it's okay! If you...have those kinds of feelings.

TEENAGE IAN

(shocked)

What?! I never said that, Kel...

Teenage Killian steps in front of Teenage Kelsey, getting into Teenage Ian's face.

TEENAGE KILLIAN

Listen, McCarthy, this is what it is. Kelsey's dating *me* now. *She's* cool, you're not. So...leave her the fuck alone...*fag*. Let's go guys.

Teenage Killian rounds up his group, including Teenage Kelsey, who looks back at Ian regretfully as she walks away with her new group of friends. Ian's eyes well up as he fights back tears.

MEL (O.S.)

Doesn't feel good to lose your best friend, does it?

Teenage Ian turns around seeing Teenage Mel and Teenage Neeka standing in front of him.

MEL

Believe me, I know. Me and Kelsey were like sisters until she met you last year.

(sighs)

She's a leech, Ian. A social *leech*. The only loyalty *she* has? Is to herself.

Ian wipes the tears from his face that have managed to fall.

NEEKA

You wanna get lunch? There's an open seat at our table.

Ian takes a deep breath...he may have lost his best friend,

but it seems he may have found new ones.

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD DINER - TABLE - CONT'D

MEL

Even though Neeka...is gone...you'll
always have a seat at our table.

Ian nods his head in agreement, remembering his lost friend and thankful for the old friend he has in front of him.

DOORBELL RINGS

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - FOYER - EVENING

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STRIKE AND CRASH

Camille walking towards the door. She opens it.

CAMILLE

Hi. Can I help you?

The person standing on her doorstep is Penelope, the strange woman who came to the reunion just to sign Kelsey's memorial.

PENELOPE

Is Killian here?

CAMILLE

No, my husband is actually out at a business meeting, well, business dinner. Who are you?

PENELOPE

I'm an...old friend of Killian's.
Penelope Stone. We went to high school together.

Camille takes a moment, taking Penelope in, shaking her hand.

CAMILLE

I'm Camille, Killian's wife.
(remembering)
You...you were at the reunion, right?
I thought you looked familiar.

PENELOPE

Very briefly. Do you mind if I come in?

CAMILLE

My daughter and I were just about to have dinner but if you're an old friend of Killian's than sure, he should be back soon.

Camille steps aside and Penelope walks in, she looks around the beautiful house as Camille walks in front of her, leading her to the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. - KILLIAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

CAMILLE

Would you like something to drink? Wine? Water? Protein shake? Killian loves those things.

Penelope ignores Camille's question, she's too fixated on a photo sitting above the fireplace.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF KILLIAN IN SENIOR YEAR WITH SOME HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS, INCLUDING KELSEY

Camille notices what has Penelope distracted.

CAMILLE

Killian loves that photo. He'll never get rid of it.

Penelope continues to look at the photos on the fireplace's mantle. She comes across one of a little girl with brownish blonde hair.

CAMILLE

That's Alyssa. Our daughter.

Penelope finally turns her attention toward Camille, her daughter's name snapping her out of her daze.

PENELOPE

(pause)

That's a...it's a pretty name.

CAMILLE

Believe me, it was battle. I wanted

Persephone but Killian was very insistent.

Camille takes a seat on the couch and Penelope sits across from her.

CAMILLE

So, were you and my husband close in high school? I'm sorry but he never really mentioned you.

PENELOPE

We were...acquainted. But we moved in different social circles. I had my own group of friends.

CAMILLE

Oh. Did you...keep in touch with them after all these years?

PENELOPE

Not with *them*, unfortunately.

CAMILLE

Well, don't feel bad. I can count the number of people on my hand that Killian still talks to from those days. He told about your graduation. I can understand how that kind of thing would push people away from ever wanting to remember anything about Elmwood High.

PENELOPE

(pause)

He's...talked to you...about Kelsey?

CAMILLE

When we first got together, he told me he lost his high school sweetheart in a tragic accident. That it...it did a number on him for a couple of years.

PENELOPE

Kelsey and Killian. "The Killer K's." That's what we used to call them.

CAMILLE

That's sweet.

PENELOPE

We called them that because they made it their job to kill anyone's spirit who didn't fit in their little clique.

CAMILLE

(taken aback)

Oh. Well, Killian did tell me he wasn't the best person in...

PENELOPE

He and Kelsey were shitheads.

Camille begins to get uncomfortable with Penelope's attitude.

FOOTSTEPS COMING DOWN THE STAIRS

ALYSSA (O.S.)

Mommy, is dinner ready? We're hungryyyyy.

ALYSSA TOMBS (6), Caucasian, pretty, innocent, brownish blonde hair, walks into the living room standing by Camille.

CAMILLE

Yes, sweetie, dinner is *almost* ready.

ALYSSA

(looks at Penelope)

Who's that?

CAMILLE

This is...Penelope. One of daddy's old friends.

Penelope waves kindly at Alyssa.

ALYSSA

Can you make the dinner fast? My friend said she's *really* hungry. I don't wanna keep her waiting.

CAMILLE

Oh now, we can't have *that*, now, can we? I *promise* you it'll only be a few more minutes.

ALYSSA

Okay!

Alyssa happily runs back up the stairs.

CAMILLE

She started this whole "imaginary friend" thing last night. Kids, right?

PENELOPE

Did you know that Kelsey's middle name was Alyssa?

Camille is caught off guard by this new fact.

CAMILLE

(pause)

Um...no. No, I wasn't aware of that.

PENELOPE

It doesn't seem...odd...that your husband named *your* daughter after his dead high school girlfriend?

Camille has had enough of Penelope's creepiness.

CAMILLE

You know what, I really need to finish dinner so I can get Alyssa to bed. I'll tell Killian you stopped by.

Camille gets up from the couch, walking towards the door. Penelope stands up as well, following quickly behind Camille, walking around her so that they're face to face.

PENELOPE

She's come back...Camille.

CAMILLE

(annoyed)

Who are you talking about?

PENELOPE

(pause)

Kelsey. She's come back for what's rightfully hers.

CAMILLE

Kelsey Davenport? Is dead.

PENELOPE

The dead have needs too. *Sometimes* even more so than the living.

CAMILLE

(pause)

Get out of my house, you weird bitch.

Penelope stares at Camille for a moment, then turns around, and walks to the door. Before she leaves, she looks back at Camille.

PENELOPE

Alyssa is a very pretty name.

(pause)

I'm sure *Kelsey*...would've loved it.

Penelope leaves the house, closing the door behind her. Camille stands there, trying to make sense of this very unexpected and honestly very unnerving visit.

CUT TO:

EXT. - KILLIAN'S HOUSE - STREET

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STRIKE AND CRASH

Penelope sits in her car, staring at Killian's front door as the rain pours down. A memory floods her mind.

TEENAGE PENELOPE (V.O.)

I'm Penelope. But everyone calls me, Penny.

TEENAGE NEEKA (V.O.)

Neeka.

TEENAGE IAN (V.O.)

Ian.

TEENAGE MEL (V.O.)

I'm Melanie. And I don't know why but...I feel like the four of us are...kind of meant to be.

Penelope wipes a tear from her face, the thought of her old friends stirring up emotions. Penelope starts her car and speeds off. The camera pans up to the second story of the house...

Alyssa was watching Penelope the entire time from her bedroom window.

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - MEL'S OFFICE - EVENING

RAIN POUNDING ON THE WINDOWS

Mel is sitting at her desk, a small lamp sits on it, illuminating some of the room. She's looking through photos of herself, Ian, Neeka, and Penelope in their high school days. Happier times than what she's currently experiencing with the loss of Neeka. Her eyes move to a photo sitting on her desk.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF MEL AND KELSEY IN JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

Mel sighs, touching the photo fondly, remembering the times she shared with Kelsey when they were high school best friends.

LITTLE GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)
Melllllanieeeee.

Mel looks up from her desk. A figure walks by the door, though Mel only catches a glimpse of them. Mel shakes it off, maybe she's seeing and hearing things...her eyes going back to the photo of her and Kelsey.

DEMONIC VOICE (O.S.)
MELANIE!

Mel's head snaps up...she definitely heard that.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #1

Mel steps out of her office, into the hallway...again catching a glimpse of the figure turning the corner. A little girl with blonde hair in a blue dress. Mel puts her hand around a purple crystal hanging from her neck, continuing to walk down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2

Mel turns the corner; the little girl is nowhere in sight. However, she stops momentarily, seeing the doors to the auditorium which are usually closed, wide open.

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM

Mel steps inside the auditorium, looking around at the vastness of the room. She hates this room. The dead quiet of it all. The students love it because they can tell their ghost stories but to Mel...this was her life. Mel walks further down the aisle, looking from side to side at the empty chairs, almost as if she's being drawn to the stage. Mel stops a few feet away from the stage, looking up at the podium...and she's instantly taken back to that day from sixteen years ago.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 2007 - AUDITORIUM - STAGE - AFTERNOON

TEENAGE KELSEY'S POV

The seats are filled with friends, family, and faculty. The graduating class of 2007 all line the front seats in their cap and gowns as they look at their valedictorian standing at the podium in the middle of her speech.

TEENAGE KELSEY

And it has been *such* an honor to be spend these last four years with you all. I don't know how I'm gonna make it through the next four, honestly. But luckily...I won't be leaving all of you.

CLOSE UP ON TEENAGE KILLIAN'S FACE LOOKING ON PROUDLY AT KELSEY

TEENAGE KELSEY

High school is supposed to be a time for growth...where you learn who you are and where you wanna go in life...and hopefully, who you'll be able to see the people you love grow because...

(pause; holds back tears)

You'll stay in touch. In this place, we...we make what we hope are lifelong friendships...

CLOSE UP ON TEENAGE IAN AND TEENAGE MEL SITTING IN THEIR CHAIRS NEXT TO ONE ANOTHER

TEENAGE KELSEY

And we *also*...make a lot of mistakes.

CLOSE UP ON TEENAGE NEEKA AND TEENAGE PENELOPE SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN THEIR CHAIRS

TEENAGE KELSEY

(tearfully)

So, to those I may have...hurt...I just wanna say I'm sorry. And that going forth...I am going to make sure that I am the person I need to be. For everyone in my life.

Ian and Mel look at each other, almost sadly. This is the Kelsey they remember. This is the girl they both fell in love with as a best friend.

TEENAGE NEEKA

(to Penelope)

Could she be *anymore* fucking Miss America right now?

TEENAGE KELSEY

So, to the class of 2007...let's make each other proud!

The audience claps, loving Kelsey's speech. Kelsey smiles brightly.

METAL BREAKING!

CLOSE UP ON LIGHT FIXTURE

Sparks fly to the ground as a large lighting fixture falls from the side of the stage, swinging across the stage and hitting Kelsey dead on! Kelsey's body flies across the stage, landing on the floor and sliding across the floor to the end of it. The audience is stunned, some murmuring in shock, some screaming. Killian jumps up from his seat, running over to Kelsey's still body.

CLOSE UP ON KELSEY'S BLOODIED BODY, ARM DRAPED OVER THE STAGE, EYES OPEN BUT LIFELESS.

TEENAGE IAN

Kelsey? Kelsey, baby come on, come on!
KELSEY!

Kelsey doesn't move. Some faculty members run over to Killian, also checking on Kelsey.

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 2007 - AUDITORIUM - SEATS

Ian, Mel, Penelope, and Neeka are equally as stunned as the rest of the people in their class.

IAN
(shocked)
Oh my God.

MEL
That...that didn't just happen.

NEEKA
Holy fuck.

Penelope stays quiet, her eyes fixed on the scene around Kelsey's corpse. Teenage Killian is being held back by friends while teachers are huddled around Kelsey.

CLOSE UP ON KELSEY'S BLOODIED BODY, ARM DRAPED OVER THE STAGE, EYES OPEN BUT LIFELESS.

Kelsey Davenport is dead.

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM

Mel sighs, shaking the memory off.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STRIKE AND CRASH

Mel realizes that she was just seeing things, it has to be the storm playing tricks on her mind. There was no little girl.

ALL THE CHAIRS START SLAMMING UP AND DOWN ON THEIR OWN!

Mel looks around in fear and confusion, seeing the seats being moved by an unseen force. She starts to walk backward slowly, almost mesmerized by what's happening. Mel stops suddenly, her body running cold.

Something is here with her...she can feel it.

DEMONIC VOICE (O.S.)
Melanieeeeeee!

Mel hears the words directly in her ear, as though someone was standing behind her.

She takes off running.

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - MEL'S OFFICE

Mel dashes into her office, slamming and locking the door behind her. She breathes hard, looking at the door, waiting for the next supernatural event...but nothing happens.

SOUNDS OF GLASS CRACKING

Mel snaps her head around towards the noise. Again, her blood runs cold.

CLOSE UP ON PICTURE FRAME OF TEENAGE MEL AND TEENAGE KELSEY

The glass frame now has a crack in it, straight down the middle...just like the frame in Kelsey's memorial at the high school reunion.

CUT TO:

INT. IAN AND JEREMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ian is sitting on the couch looking through old photos. As he continues to flip through them, he stops on a photo.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF IAN AND KELSEY IN THEIR JUNIOR YEAR

Ian shakes his head, remembering exactly how he felt back then.

POUNING ON FRONT DOOR

Ian looks up, curious as to who would be knocking so incessantly. He gets up and peers out the window panel next to the front door...he knows this person. Ian opens the door.

KILLIAN

Where the fuck is Penelope?

IAN

(sighs)

Killian...

Killian walks past Ian and comes into the house. Ian closes the door behind him.

KILLIAN

Have you spoken to her?

IAN

What would make you think I've spoken to Penny?

KILLIAN

She was part of your little weirdo foursome. Just using my head.

IAN

Nice to know that speech about *not* being an asshole anymore was a bunch of bullshit.

KILLIAN

You know what *wasn't* bullshit? That I'm a husband. *And* a father. And your friend came to my house last night and creeped my wife the *fuck* out!

IAN

Well, I'm sorry to hear that, Killian but *I've* been a little preoccupied processing the fact that after seeing my friend, who I hadn't seen in over a decade, killed herself on the night we *finally* saw each other again.

(pause)

I haven't talked to Penelope in the past sixteen years.

KILLIAN

Yeah, well, Penelope was talking a lot. About Kelsey.

Ian's interest is piqued.

IAN

Kelsey? What about her?

KILLIAN

She told Camille that I named our daughter after her. And that she's "come back for what's rightfully hers". Whatever the *fuck* that means.

IAN

(sighs)

Well...Penny was always a

little...different.

KILLIAN

I don't give a *shit* what she was. Just make sure she stays away from my family. Because next time? I won't be so fucking nice.

The front door opens, Jeremy walks in as Killian walks out.

JEREMY

(confused)

What was...Killian doing here?

Ian stays silent for a moment; it's apparent Killian visit has unnerved him.

CUT TO:

INT. OCCULT SHOP - AFTERNOON

Mel stands near a bookshelf, looking over the titles. She pulls out a book and opens it, smiling fondly on a memory.

TEENAGE PENELOPE (V.O.)

We have to do it this way, Ian.

TEENAGE MEL (V.O.)

Yeah, don't you wanna be friends for life?

TEENAGE IAN (V.O.)

You guys know I hate fucking needles.

TEENAGE NEEKA (V.O.)

Okay, I'm bored, gimme your hand.

TEENAGE IAN (V.O.)

Ow! You bitch!

The girls laugh. Mel laughs to herself as well...that was a great day.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Can I help you?

Mel snaps around, startled by the voice. Though, she's soothed when she sees that it's just the shopkeeper, ANGELICA (51); brown rimmed glasses, African American, pleasant but also ominous.

MEL
I'm just...looking for some
protection.

ANGELICA
I remember when I sold you *that*.
(points to Mel's crystal)
Not enough protection for you?

MEL
Just...want a little reinforcement,
that's all.

Angelica stares at Mel for a moment, then smiles.

ANGELICA
(sighs)
Trying to escape an abusive boyfriend
or...do you feel like you're being
attacked?

MEL
(unnerved)
Attacked?

ANGELICA
Spiritually, I mean. Energy wise.

MEL
(pause)
Um...a friend of mine...Neeka...

ANGELICA
She died. I saw it on the news.
Suicide.
(pause)
Although, you don't believe...it's
suicide. Do you?

Mel swallows hard, it's almost like Angelica can read her
soul.

MEL
Something...happened to me last night.
Something I...I can't explain but...it
feels like *something* is *after* me. And
I read something online about...a
warding spell.

Angelica gives Mel the once over. She then starts walking
around the shop, grabbing supplies and takes them to the

register.

ANGELICA

Chapter five in this book will tell
you all you need to know.

Mel picks up the book and opens it to chapter five.

CLOSE UP ON PAGE. IT READS: SPELL TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS

MEL

(pause)

I'll take it.

Mel takes out her credit card and hands it to Angelica.
Angelica bags the items and hands them to Mel.

ANGELICA

Sixteen years I don't see you or your
friends and now...I see two of you in
two days.

MEL

(surprised)

Ian?

ANGELICA

No. The other girl.

MEL

Penelope? Was she looking for a
protection spell too?

ANGELICA

No. *Penelope*...was looking for
something else.

(pause)

Because apparently, she's come
back...to claim what's rightfully
hers.

Angelica's words chill Mel to the bone.

CUT TO:

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - EVENING

CLOSE UP ON A BLACK CANDLE BEING LIT

Penelope blows out the stick she just lit the candle with and
sits in a circle, surrounded by four PINK CRYSTALS. A picture

of Kelsey lays next to the candle.

PENELOPE

"Spirit in the dark...I bring you to
light...release yourself from
death...release yourself from spite."

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - BATHROOM - EVENING

Camille is in the shower, washing her hair.

PENELOPE (V.O.)

*"Spirit in the dark...I bring you to
light...release yourself from
death...release yourself from spite."*

THE LIGHTS FLICKER ON AND OFF IN THE HOUSE

Camille doesn't notice, her eyes closed as she washes the soap suds out of her hair.

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - MASTER BEDROOM

Camille is in her pajamas, looking in the mirror, tying her hair back into a bun. Camille drops her hair tie and bends down to pick it up.

IN THE MIRROR'S REFLECTION THE LITTLE BLONDE GIRL IN THE BLUE DRESS WALKS PAST CAMILLE'S BEDROOM DOOR.

Camille looks up into the mirror again, finishing the fixing of her hair.

SOUND OF THE TELEVISION COMING ON DOWNSTAIRS

Camille turns to the doorway, shaking her head. Why is her daughter up at this time of night?

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - STAIRCASE

Camille walks down the stairs.

CAMILLE

Alyssa, baby...I told you it was time
for bed...

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - LIVING ROOM

Camille stops at the bottom of the stairs...something is off.

CAMILLE'S POV

Camille sees the top of Alyssa's head, her blonde hair and head still, as she sits on the couch, fixated on the television.

TEENAGE KELSEY (ON T.V.)

(tearfully)

*To those I may have...hurt...I just
wanna say I'm sorry. And that going
forth...I'll make sure that I am the
person I need to be. For everyone in
my life.*

Camille is shaken, seeing what's playing on the television.

CAMILLE

Alyssa...honey...

Alyssa doesn't answer. Camille walks slowly towards the couch.

TEENAGE KELSEY (ON T.V.)

*So, to the class of 2007...let's make
each other proud!*

CAMILLE

Alyssa...

Camille reaches out to touch her daughter's hair. The Little Blonde Girl's head spins around one hundred eighty degrees! Presenting the same rotting face Neeka saw before her death.

CAMILLE SCREAMS

Camille stumbles backward, losing her footing, hitting the floor. The Demonic Little Blonde Girl supernaturally peels herself over the back of couch, crawling towards Camille who shuffles backward as she tries to get away from the entity. Camille makes it to her feet...

THE DEMONIC LITTLE BLONDE GIRL LETS OUT A CHILLING GROWL TYPE SCREAM

Camille runs up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - HALLWAY

Camille runs down the hallway quickly, going to a door, knocking furiously.

CAMILLE

Alyssa, honey! Alyssa! Alyssa, it's
mommy, open the door!

Camille turns her head towards the stairs, seeing The Demonic Little Blonde Girl reaching the top of the stairs, crawling like a spider. Camille moves to her bedroom door, running inside.

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - MASTER BEDROOM

Camille closes the door and locks it, putting her back up against it.

POUNDING AGAINST THE DOOR CAN BE HEARD

The bedroom door shakes with each hit it takes. Camille closes her eyes, scared out of her mind...this can't be happening. Camille uses all of her strength to press against the door, hoping whatever's outside doesn't get in. After a few more seconds, the pounding against the door stops. Camille is too frightened to move and stays pressed against the door for several moments.

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS THEN CLOSSES

KILLIAN (O.S.)

Cam! You left the t.v. on again, baby!

CAMILLE

(relieved)
Killian.

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - HALLWAY

The door to Camille's bedroom opens, she steps out, the entity is gone...and all she wants to do is get to her husband.

CAMILLE
Killian, oh my God, something...

Camille gets to the banister, looking over and expecting to see the calming face of her husband...but there's no one there.

CAMILLE
(scared)
Is in the house.

Camille turns around...

THE DEMONINC LITTLE BLONDE GIRL RUNS TOWARD HER!

CAMILLE SCREAMS

And Camille stumbles, falling back over the banister.

SNAP!

Camille's lifeless body lies on the ground.

CLOSE UP ON CAMILLE'S BROKEN AND LIFELESS BODY, EYES OPEN BUT VACANT. DEAD.

CUT TO:

EXT. IAN & JEREMY'S HOUSE - MORNING

A car pulls up outside the house. Ian walks out of the front door; Mel gets out of the car. Ian walks over to her.

MEL
Ian...I don't know what's happening.

IAN
Neither do I. You said...

MEL
There was *something* at the school. I don't know what but...it was *there*, Ian. I felt it.

IAN
(sighs)
Killian came to see me yesterday.

MEL
Killian? Why?

IAN

Penelope. He said she made a pitstop by his place and scared his wife. Telling her that...that Kelsey was back and she...

MEL

Wants to claim what's rightfully hers.

Ian is surprised but also disturbed.

IAN

How did you know that?

MEL

Because Angelica said the same thing.

IAN

You saw *Angelica*? Mel, come on we said we wouldn't...

MEL

She *also* said that she saw Penelope. The day *before* I came in.

IAN

What the hell was Penny doing there, Mel?

MEL

I don't know. But I think we *both* need to find out.

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Killian is sitting on the couch, looking devastated and annoyed. There's an officer sitting across from him.

KILLIAN

I *told* you...I was at work late and I came home this morning and I...I found my wife just...*lying* there.

POLICE OFFICER

I just trying to get all the facts, Mr. Tombs. Your daughter said she *thought* she heard her mother calling for her but that...she thought it was just a dream. That's why she didn't

open her bedroom door.

KILLIAN

(pained)

God...Alyssa.

POLICE OFFICER

From everything I gathered, Mr. Tombs,
it seems like your wife
just...suffered a very terrible
accident.

(pause)

Thank you for your cooperation. And
again, I'm...I'm sorry for your loss.

The police officer gets up from her seat, going over to the door. Alyssa comes down the stairs, she walks over to Killian and sits on his lap.

ALYSSA

Are you sad about mommy, daddy?

KILLIAN

(wipes tears)

Yeah, baby. Daddy's just a little sad.

ALYSSA

Don't be. My friend said we're gonna
be a family again, just the way it's
supposed to be.

Killian looks at his daughter, confused.

KILLIAN

Who...who's your friend, honey?

ALYSSA

(smiles)

Kelsey, silly!

Killian freezes. What the hell is going on?

CUT TO:

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The front door opens. Ian and Mel are standing there.

PENELOPE

Is it time for study hall?

MEL

Funny.

Penelope steps aside, Ian and Mel walk in.

PENELOPE

I'm just saying that's the only reason both of you would be here. To take a stroll down memory lane, right? It's not like you've reached out to me in sixteen years.

IAN

Penny, listen. We're sorry...

PENELOPE

Sorry for leaving me to rot in an insane asylum?

MEL

You put yourself there. We didn't have *anything* to do that.

PENELOPE

Really, Mel? Time doesn't erase...*anything*. It just makes it easier to *not* remember. But believe me...I remember *every single day* I spent in that place. *Every single day* that I felt abandoned by the people I cared about the most.

IAN

We *didn't*...we didn't *abandon* you, Penny. We just couldn't...I couldn't have any reminders. And that included all of you.

MEL

Well, I got one *big* fucking reminder last night.

Mel steps up to Penelope.

MEL

What you did? Is coming back to us.

PENELOPE

(laughs)

What I did? You really *don't* remember, do you?

(whispers)
It was a group effort.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

CUT TO:

INT. PENELOPE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - YEAR 2007 - 16 YEARS AGO -
EVENING

Teenage Penelope, Teenage Ian, Teenage Mel, and Teenage Neeka
sit crossed leg in a circle.

TEENAGE IAN

So, what, we're...a *coven*?

TEENAGE NEEKA

Are boys *allowed* to be in covens?

TEENAGE MEL

Yeah, if they're gay.

TEENAGE IAN

Haha, very funny Mel.

TEENAGE PENELOPE

A coven is just a group or gathering
of witches who meet regularly. *Anyone*
can be in a coven. It's very co-ed.

TEENAGE IAN

Penny, we've only done a couple of
spells and it's not like we know if
they even work.

TEENAGE NEEKA

Well, I *did* make the cheerleading
squad...because Stacy Taylor broke her
arm.

TEENAGE MEL

And I *have* been getting A's on *all* my
AP physics exams.

TEENAGE IAN

(laughs)

Because you've been getting the
answers from Harold.

TEENAGE MEL

Who *never* even *talked* to me until

after we did that spell.

TEENAGE IAN

(sighs)

And Neeka, Stacy? Is just clumsy. All the hairspray *probably* fucked with her equilibrium.

TEENAGE PENELOPE

You guys wanna do something bigger? To prove that we're *actually* a coven? That we can *make* things happen?

TEENAGE NEEKA

(intrigued)

Bigger like how?

Penelope smiles excitedly. She gets up and goes to her closet, pulling out a book, and sits back down.

TEENAGE PENELOPE

I lifted it from the shop.

Penelope places the book on the floor.

CLOSE UP ON BOOK. THE TITLE READS:

"THE BOOK OF FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE"

TEENAGE IAN

And what's so forbidden about it?

TEENAGE MEL

Yeah, I mean...what's in there that could be "so much bigger"?

Penelope smirks and opens the book to a certain page.

CLOSE UP ON PAGE. THE CHAPTER READS:

"DEATH MAGIC: SPELL TO SNATCH A LIFE"

TEENAGE PENELOPE

(pause)

We're gonna *kill* that bitch, Kelsey Davenport.

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONT'D

MEL

We did that spell as a *joke*.

PENELOPE

If you think it was a "joke"? Then you still underestimate the power of a coven.

IAN

We weren't in a coven, Penny! That was all in our fucking heads! Something to make us feel powerful in a place where we felt like we had none.

PENELOPE

We weren't just friends. We were *different*. We had a common goal, a *shared* intent. And a bond. Or did you forget that too?

MEL

(pause)

The binding ritual we did at the shop. To...tie us together forever.

PENELOPE

It turned our friendship into something we *didn't* know we had. We...were the thing that magic is made of. And you *all* knew it when we watched Kelsey die. We...did that. And now she's back to claim what's rightfully hers.

IAN

You *cannot* believe that Kelsey is...haunting us.

PENELOPE

Have you seen her? The little blonde girl in the blue dress.

The mention of the little girl sends shivers down Ian and Mel's spines.

PENELOPE

I'll take that bone chilling silence as a yes.

Penelope goes to her bookshelf and takes out a book, it's their high school yearbook. Penelope opens it to a page; all the cheerleaders are posted on it along with their childhood pictures. The little blonde girl looks exactly like Kelsey's childhood photo.

MEL
(shocked)
Oh my God.

IAN
I knew she looked familiar but I...I just couldn't place her.

PENELOPE
I heard her voice. Every day for five years. Kelsey has *never* left me... unlike other people.

MEL
That's why you were locked up.

PENELOPE
It wasn't until I told her that I would set her free that the voices stopped. I think her soul has been trapped in some sort of...purgatory because she died from supernatural means.

MEL
But *why* is her spirit showing up as the child version of herself?

PENELOPE
I think it's the innocence that Kelsey still had inside of her, we're being showed what we destroyed. I don't know maybe...it's just to make us feel worse.

IAN
You said you've tried to set her free. Has it worked?

PENELOPE
I said...I *tried*. But there isn't...

MEL
Shut up.

Mel sees something on the television screen and grabs the remote, turning the volume up.

REPORTER (ON T.V.)

Another sad tragedy has hit our town, a woman was found dead in her home this morning, it appears she fell from the second story of her home while her daughter was sound asleep.

A PHOTO OF CAMILLE APPEARS ON THE SCREEN

Ian, Mel, and Penelope look at each other. This can't be a coincidence.

CUT TO:

INT. MEL'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Mel is driving. Ian sits next to her in the passenger side seat. Both are still processing what they learned from Penelope.

IAN

You know...I never let myself believe in any of it. I was just so happy to have friends. *Real* friends. It wasn't until Kelsey that I...really realized we were messing with forces we didn't understand. And I never went near that stuff again.

MEL

(sighs)

Good for you. Because seeing what happened that day had the opposite effect on me.

IAN

What do you mean?

MEL

I always believed. I believed in us. The *four* of us. We made each other stronger, shit, I mean that's how we survived that last year of school. And after we parted ways...I kept practicing. Doing spells on my own. If we could...take someone's life then I could get myself a new car, right? Go on a much-deserved vacation. And they

worked. Every...single...spell.

IAN

The first thing Penny told us was that personal gain was the biggest no-no in the book. But back then, when we...when we did that death ritual, a small part of me...felt like Kelsey deserved it. For how she treated us. For how she treated *everyone* that didn't fit the new image she made for herself. But the denial...it let me believe she only died because it was her time.

MEL

We *made* it her time.

IAN

But you know what I don't get? Why now? I mean, *why* is she coming after us now? Sixteen years? I didn't know ghosts had patience.

MEL

(thinks)

Maybe it was us. The four of us, being in the same place again, the place where we were ki...where she died...maybe that allowed her to come back for her revenge.

IAN

But she killed Camille. Why?

MEL

Killian and Kelsey were supposed to go to college together and have lots of babies. Maybe ghosts *also* get jealous.

IAN

And thanks to us she never got the chance to.

(pause)

She went after you, she killed Neeka and Camille, but I haven't had contact yet. Do you think that instead me, she might...come after Jeremy?

Mel looks at Ian with a worried expression, that thought never crossed her mind.

CUT TO:

INT. OCCULT SHOP - EARLY EVENING

Penelope walks into the shop, going over to a section and looking through books, determined.

ANGELICA (O.S.)

You're not gonna find what you're looking for there.

Penelope turns, seeing Angelica standing in front of her with her arms crossed.

PENELOPE

How do you know what I'm looking for?

ANGELICA

Unlike you and your friends, I'm an *experienced* witch. I smelled the death on you and your friend the minute you crossed my threshold.

PENELOPE

Then why did you give me that chain breaking spell?

ANGELICA

Because it's what you asked for. But chain breaking *isn't* going to protect you from a demon.

PENELOPE

(surprised)

Demon? We're not dealing with a demon...

ANGELICA

That is *exactly*...what you're dealing with.

Angelica goes behind the register, looking at a painting on the wall. She slides the painting to the side, revealing a safe. Angelica inputs the combination and opens it. The safe is filled with books. She takes one out, going back over to Penelope.

ANGELICA

I decided to put my most dangerous texts where *inexperienced* children couldn't get their hands on them.

Angelica opens the book, stopping on a page.

ANGELICA

If you *snatch* a life before its time, which is the darkest magic you can touch...you and your coven do not do that yourselves...what you're doing is *summoning* something to do the act for you.

Penelope reads the page.

PENELOPE

A...death demon?

ANGELICA

The nastiest thing from the very pits of Hell. And my dear, a death demon doesn't just *bring* death. It corrupts and defiles. The soul It takes doesn't just go off into the ether to live happily ever after...the soul is bent. And it is twisted, and it is *tortured*...until that soul becomes a death demon all of its own.

Penelope's hard exterior breaks, realizing the extent of what her and her friends did to Kelsey.

PENELOPE

I...I didn't know that would happen; I didn't even think it would work!

ANGELICA

Next time? Read the fine print before you commit supernatural murder in the first degree.

PENELOPE

What...what does she *want*? I--I mean, I've been doing my best to free her spirit from whatever Hell we damned her to...

ANGELICA

"Free" has a lot of meanings. The thing a death demon wants most? Is the life *stolen* from them. Kelsey doesn't want go into the light...she wants to come into the *world*. But she can *only* do that through a member of the coven.

PENELOPE

But she *killed* Neeka.

ANGELICA

Then *Neeka*...was lucky because from what I know, possession is a fate worse than death. You take the place of the death demon, *here*...

Angelica points to a photo in the book, depicting a level of Hell with death demons "playing" with innocent souls. Torturing them.

ANGELICA

While *they* take your place in our world.

PENELOPE

(realizing)

So, Kelsey doesn't want to kill us.

ANGELICA

Oh, she *wants* to kill you. She just needs *one* of you alive.

PENELOPE

(pause)

How do we banish her?

ANGELICA

You don't *banish* a death demon...you *kill* it. *Extinguish* its flame. Death rituals don't just work on people, you know.

PENELOPE

(realizing)

We have to do the ritual again. The same one we used on Kelsey but this time...we have to use it on the thing she's become.

ANGELICA

And it's going to require the full coven. The same number of people who created the demon needs to be the same number of people to destroy the demon.

The dread sets in. Penelope knows that isn't possible.

PENELOPE
We don't have Neeka.

ANGELICA
(sighs)
Then sweetie...I suggest you start saying your prayers. *Loudly and clearly.*

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETARY - EVENING

CLOSE UP ON KELSEY DAVENPORT'S TOMBSTONE

Mel stands in front of Kelsey's grave, looking at the fresh flowers that lay on the dirt.

MEL
You know...I loved you. Like...*really* loved you. From freshman year to junior you were--the Eve to my Eve. And then you met Ian and...
(sighs)
You just left me. And I got angry. Then you treated Ian like he was dirt on your shoe and embraced the popularity you always so badly and...I was jealous. Because you didn't take me with you. So, I made my own group of friends. But Kelsey, I...I *didn't* hate you. But you *tortured* us. And we were young and...*resentful*...it was *supposed* to be a *prank*.
(wipes tear)
I *never* wanted you to die. You were like a sister to me. Please...*forgive* us. We're sorry.

DEMONIC VOICE (O.S.)
Melllllanieeee!

Mel turns around, she sees the Demonic Little Blonde Girl standing before her. Although filled with fear, Mel tries to maintain her composure.

MEL
Kelsey, *please*. Let me help you. Let me...let me make up for what we did to you.

Mel digs in her bag and pulls out a small bottle filled with red liquid and a bag filled with herbs. Mel swallows the liquid quickly and takes out a lighter, setting it on fire.

MEL

"Elements of sun, elements of day, I
call on thy protection, ward this evil
away."

(repeats)

"Elements of sun, elements of day, I
call on thy protection, ward this evil
away."

The Demonic Little Blonde Girl's head twists and bends unnaturally, the spell having little effect. Suddenly, Mel drops the items in her hand, grabbing at her neck. It feels as though she's being strangled! The Demonic Little Blonde Girl looks over at an open grave next to them...Mel is thrown by unseen force into the six-foot-deep hole, unconscious.

MEL'S POV

As Mel's body lies still in the grave, mounds of dirt begin to fall on top of her. More and more...

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETARY - CONT'D

CLOSE UP ON THE UNMARKED GRAVE COMPLETELY FILLED WITH DIRT WITH MEL'S BODY UNDERNEATH.

CUT TO:

INT. IAN AND JEREMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ian and Jeremy are sitting on the couch in silence. Jeremy looks like he's trying to understand something Ian has just told him.

JEREMY

So...you're telling me that you,
Neeka, Mel, and this Penelope
woman...you were...you were *witches* in
high school?

IAN

We were *friends*. Who...got into
witchcraft.

(sighs)

For fun.

JEREMY

Because joining the yearbook committee
or running track was too boring?

IAN

(sighs)

Penny is the one who brought it up.
She said that her mother used to
practice witchcraft and that it was
just gonna be something that would...
bring us closer.

JEREMY

But instead, it turned you into
a...coven?

IAN

Yes. And we...killed Kelsey Davenport.
Using magic.

JEREMY

And now her...*spirit* is...trying to
kill all of you.

Jeremy shakes his head; this is all too much.

JEREMY

Ian, listen...we all do dumb shit in
high school, okay? I mean, if I could
take back some of the things I did
when I was seventeen? I would. But
killing someone...with *magic*? Come on.

IAN

We did a *death* ritual on her. A girl
both me and Mel had at one point
considered our best friend. And we
all--hated her. She made our lives
Hell and...we *wanted* her to pay for
it.

JEREMY

Well...as sad as her death was, there
is a thing called karma. *That*? I
believe in. But magic? Magic isn't
real, Ian.

Ian sighs deeply. Something has been weighing on him for
years and if he's going to make Jeremy believe, he has to
tell him.

IAN

I felt the same way you did. For years. I convinced myself that magic, witchcraft, all of the things that happened to us after we did those spells in school and what happened to Kelsey...it was all just a coincidence. Just...chance.

(pause)

And then I met you four years ago.

Jeremy shifts in his seat. What is Ian getting at?

IAN

When I met you in that bar and we spent that night together...*that* was magic to me. I had *never* felt so strongly for someone in my entire life.

JEREMY

Neither did I. But Ian what does this have to do with...

IAN

You were *married*, Jeremy. *Happily*. And over those two months that we snuck around behind your wife's back, I *begged* you to tell her the truth. To tell her that we were in love, and that you were living a lie and...

JEREMY

And I didn't. I *couldn't*, you know that. Not until I realized that neither of us, me or her, would ever be truly happy if I wasn't honest about who I was.

IAN

(sighs)

Jeremy...you left your wife because I *made* you leave your wife.

JEREMY

(confused)

Ian, that doesn't make any sense.

IAN

I *never* had a reason to touch magic again. I didn't want anything to do

with it, but I was so...so *desperate* to be with you that I...I did a love spell. On you. And you know what happened? Within a *week*, you were filing divorce papers. And that's when I knew *magic*? Was real. And that me, Neeka, Penny, and Mel were to blame for happened to Kelsey.

Jeremy can't believe what he's hearing. His mind goes back to that time in his life...it can't be true.

JEREMY

No. No, *I'm* the one who made that decision. *I'm* the one who decided to leave my wife for you.

IAN

You don't get it! I took away...your *choice*. Your *free* will to satisfy my own desires. The *same* way I took Kelsey's life because I wanted her to pay for the things, she'd done to me.

Jeremy just stares at Ian...he can tell that his fiancé really believes everything he's saying. And in some way...it's making him believe too.

JEREMY

(pause)

I...loved you from the first moment I saw you. You were...this light in a dark room that I felt I could never escape from. And when I did, I felt so...so empowered. So strong. Because *I'd* chosen myself over what people wanted *for* me. *I* had done that.

(pause)

At least that's what I thought.

(thinks)

Was *any* of this real, Ian? These past four years, have you just been "enchanted" me, or--or doing your little tricks...

IAN

No. No, I *swear*. After we got together, officially, that is *all* us. That is *me* and that is *you*...following our hearts and just...loving each other.

JEREMY
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT?!

Jeremy stands from the couch, his anger setting in.

JEREMY
Because *apparently*, I don't know
anything! Least of all, anything about
you.

Jeremy picks up his keys from the table and walks out of the house, leaving Ian a tearful mess. Ian picks up his phone and looks at his call log, he's called Mel ten times, but she hasn't answered. Ian dials her number again...finally someone picks up.

DEMONIC VOICE (O.S.)
Iannnnnnnnnnnn!

Ian drops the phone quickly, staring at in shock.

CUT TO:

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ian and Penelope sit on opposite chairs.

IAN
I think...I think Kelsey got Mel.

PENELOPE
Or maybe she skipped town.

IAN
I *heard* the *fucking* thing on her
phone, Penny! And I called the school.
Mel didn't show up for work today.

PENELOPE
Melanie *can't* be dead, Ian.

IAN
And what if she is?

PENELOPE
Then we're dead too!

Penelope tries to hold her composure, but she knows what's happening.

PENELOPE

I went to the shop, and I spoke to Angie. She told me there's a way to stop all of this. A way to save us.

IAN

How? How do we stop her?

PENELOPE

The same way we created her. Angie told me that Kelsey's soul...the *thing* we've been seeing *isn't* her spirit... it's a death demon. The same entity we called on to kill her. It's Kelsey's soul but a...twisted, evil, *demonic* version of it.

(pause)

We'd have to use the death ritual again. But we would need the full coven to perform it. And the death demon must know that so...it's picking us off one by one until...the person It wants is the only one left alive.

IAN

The person It *wants*? What does that mean?

PENELOPE

We took Kelsey's life before it was her time. And now, Kelsey...wants that life back.

IAN

What are we talking about, are--are we talking about possession?

Penelope nods.

IAN

(sighs)

So, I lost my fiancé and now you're telling me I could lose myself?

PENELOPE

I thought that even if we had the three of us, we could maybe supplement the ritual, make it stronger *without* Neeka but now with just the two of us...

IAN
We're completely fucking screwed.

CUT TO:

EXT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

The front door opens. Killian is surprised by who it is, and he doesn't look well, unshaven, unkempt hair, the loss of his wife has taken a toll on him.

JEREMY
Hi. Um, I'm...Ian McCarthy's fiancé.
Jeremy Paul. I was sorry to hear about
your wife. Do you mind if I come in
for a second?

Killian looks at Jeremy for a moment.

KILLIAN
Why didn't you bring a cake? Or a pie?

JEREMY
I'm sorry, what?

KILLIAN
Everyone's been attaching their
condolences to some kind of baked
good.

JEREMY
You wouldn't want anything that came
out of my stove if I made it.

Killian smirks slightly. Even though he doesn't know Jeremy, the company would be a welcome distraction.

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - LIVING ROOM

KILLIAN
If you're here about me coming to your
house and pressing Ian...I'm sorry,
okay? My wife was upset and...I
thought Ian would be able to keep
Penelope away from us.

JEREMY
I've...been with Ian for four years
and he *never* spoke about Penelope.

First time I ever heard about her was at the reunion. What exactly...happened to her?

KILLIAN

(pause)

She lost her mind. Kelsey's death hit a lot of us hard, me especially but, Penelope for some reason, from what I heard...Kelsey's death drove her over the edge.

JEREMY

And that didn't seem weird to you? I mean, it's not like they were friends.

KILLIAN

I coulda' gave a shit about Penelope Stone and what padded walls she was running herself into in that institution.

(pause)

The love of my life was gone. I'm surprised I didn't end up in one.

JEREMY

When you guys were in school...did you...hear anything about Ian and the girls? Like maybe, I don't know...

KILLIAN

You mean the witch thing?

(laughs slightly)

Yeah. I heard that; we all did. Word around the school was that the four of them were into some pretty weird shit. One of the cheerleaders swore up and down that Neeka had "hexed" her in order to get her spot on the squad.

Jeremy takes that in. Though, he needs more information.

JEREMY

What about Kelsey? Did she ever feel like she was being..."hexed" by them?

KILLIAN

No. But she *did* feel bad about how she treated them. And after she died, I...I felt pretty shitty about it too. I mean, they didn't deserve the shit

we did to them sometimes, but it was high school. You have The Haves and The Haves Not. The four of them just fell on the wrong end of the spectrum.

Jeremy looks at a photo on the table next to the couch, he notices it's a picture of Killian with his high school friends, including Kelsey.

JEREMY

You must've really cared about her a lot.

KILLIAN

High school sweethearts. Some times...it's hard to let go of that, especially when it was snatched from you.

(sighs)

And it's even harder when your daughter starts talking to the dead girl you thought you were gonna spend the rest of your life with.

Jeremy perks up. Did he hear correctly?

JEREMY

I'm sorry, did you say your daughter is...talking to Kelsey?

KILLIAN

The night we got back from the reunion, Alyssa started talking to an "imaginary friend". And the other day, she gave this friend a name. She called it Kelsey.

Jeremy gets chills. Maybe Ian isn't crazy after all.

JEREMY

(pause)

Killian...what if I...told you that Kelsey's death...may not have been an accident.

KILLIAN

Of course, it wasn't.

JEREMY

(surprised)

You know?

KILLIAN

Yeah. Kelsey's parents sued the hell out of the high school. Apparently, that lighting fixture was years old. Kelsey just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

JEREMY

What if she wasn't? What if she was...put there. On purpose.

KILLIAN

What are you getting at, man?

JEREMY

I...have reason to believe...that Kelsey's death wasn't an accident. I think something was...done to her.

KILLIAN

Something like what?

JEREMY

(sighs)

Ian, Neeka, Mel, and Penelope, they...did some sort of...spell. To-- to kill Kelsey. And I think that's why she died and that...she may have killed Neeka and your wife.

Killian's anger begins to rise.

KILLIAN

Get the fuck out of my house.

JEREMY

Killian, I'm just--I'm just trying to figure all of this out. Believe me, when Ian told me, I wanted to write it off too, but you just said your daughter is having tea parties with a girl who's been *dead* for *sixteen* years. I know it sounds insane, but Ian could be in danger, and I don't know...maybe your daughter could be too.

Killian stands up, looking down at Jeremy with a stone face.

KILLIAN

I said get the *fuck*...out of here.

Jeremy can't blame Killian for his reaction. Jeremy gets up from his seat and walks to the door. He looks back at Killian.

JEREMY

I *am* sorry about your wife. But...if any part of you believes me, that means you might have a chance to get closure with the girl you loved. And keep your daughter safe.

CUT TO:

INT. IAN AND JEREMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ian and Penelope are sitting in the living room, various books lay on the coffee table. Penelope and Ian each have a book, looking through it intently. Ian slams his book shut.

IAN

Nothing. We've looked through countless books, dark arts, necromancy...this is your whole collection?

PENELOPE

No, I left the book with the answer to our problems at home.

(pause)

Yes, Ian, this is everything.

IAN

So, basically...

The front door opens.

IAN

We're gonna die.

JEREMY

Like hell you are.

Ian turns around, his heart drops at the sight of his fiancé.

IAN

Jeremy...you came back.

Jeremy closes the door, walking up to Ian. He stares at him for a moment, he's still angry but...this is the man he loves. Jeremy hugs Ian tightly.

JEREMY

Where else would I be if not with you?
Besides...we have a wedding to plan.

Ian pulls back from the hug.

IAN

Well, I might not even make it to the
rehearsal dinner.

JEREMY

Ian, we are gonna get through this...

IAN

There is no *us*, Jeremy. You have
nothing to do with this, this is our
problem.

PENELOPE

I don't think we've been formally
introduced.

(waves)

Penelope Stone.

Jeremy moves Ian to the side, anger in his eyes as he looks
at Penelope.

JEREMY

You bitch.

PENELOPE

Excuse me?

JEREMY

This is *your* fault. You started *all* of
this.

PENELOPE

Is accountability not a thing around
here? Ian was a big boy...I'm sure you
probably have more knowledge on that
than anyone. He knew what he was
getting into.

IAN

Actually, I *didn't* but...Jeremy, she's
right. I *chose* to do that ritual. I'm
in this position because I put myself
here.

Jeremy notices all the books on the table.

JEREMY

And it looks like you've been trying to find your way out of it. Anything come up?

PENELOPE

The only thing that is going to help us is the death ritual. Which is a dead end, both literally and figuratively.

JEREMY

What's Charmed girl talking about?

IAN

(sighs)

What's after us is something called a death demon. It attaches itself to the soul of the person it kills, and we can kill it but...we need the original coven to do it.

JEREMY

Well, Neeka's gone but where's Mel?

IAN

(pause)

I think she's dead.

Jeremy realizes what that means.

JEREMY

Then we'll *find* another way.

DOORBELL RINGS

The three of them look at the front door, slightly scared at who or what could be on the other side.

PENELOPE

I don't think demons ring doorbells.

Penelope gets up and goes to the front door, opening it. It's Killian.

PENELOPE

(surprised)

Killian?

Killian walks into the house without asking. Jeremy and Ian are also surprised at his arrival.

IAN

Killian, what are you doing here?

KILLIAN

Jeremy paid me a visit. And either I'm still drunk or I'm as crazy as Penelope because...a part of me believed what you said. About Kelsey.

PENELOPE

You've *seen* her?

KILLIAN

No. But I think my daughter has. I think she's been coming to her.

IAN

Killian, I'm...I'm so sorry for what we did.

KILLIAN

You *should* be. Though, it seems like you're paying for your little parlor tricks now, aren't you?

JEREMY

Why are you here, Killian?

KILLIAN

I lost Camille. And if...Kelsey is the reason she's dead, she killed her because of me. I think...she wants me.

PENELOPE

Well...we did rob her of a life with you. So, that would make sense.

KILLIAN

(to Jeremy)

You mentioned closure. That was something me and Kelsey never got. Maybe...if I could talk to her somehow, tell her how much I've missed her, how much I...how much I've still loved her...she'll go away.

IAN

Killian, that...that isn't work. What we're dealing with is not some angelic spirit playing a harp...it's *evil*. It's not a human soul anymore. All It

wants to do is bring death.

KILLIAN

She hasn't hurt Alyssa. That's gotta mean something, right?

JEREMY

It means we need to *kill* It.

PENELOPE

Alyssa isn't in danger. Me and Ian are. It wants one of us.

JEREMY

Well, it's not getting the man I love. So that leaves you.

IAN

It's not gonna get Penny either.

(pause; to Penelope)

I left you alone once before. I'm not gonna do it again.

Penelope is touched, for the first time since they've reunited, she actually feels the bond her and Ian used to share.

PENELOPE

But the death ritual, it's...it's *useless* without Neeka and Mel. Our coven was a coven of four. The ritual won't work any other way.

IAN

And it's not like we can just order a coven from Amazon.

Jeremy looks around the room...he suddenly gets an idea. A crazy idea...but it's their only shot.

JEREMY

Or maybe we can.

SLAM CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH - AUDITORIUM - STAGE - EVENING

CLOSE UP ON PENELOPE'S FACE LOOKING AROUND AT THE PEOPLE IN FRONT OF HER.

Penelope is sitting in a circle, her legs crossed. Ian,

Jeremy, and Killian complete the circle, sitting in the same position as Kelsey. A spirit board, a candle, a skull, and four black crystals sit in the middle of them. Four white crystals surround them on the outskirts of the circle.

KILLIAN

I can't believe I'm really doing this shit.

PENELOPE

Believing is the *strongest* part of magic. If you don't believe, then you *don't* need to be here.

KILLIAN

Apparently, I do, because you and Ian can't save your asses without me. So thank us later.

PENELOPE

Us?

Killian moves his blazer to the side, revealing a gun tucked into his pants.

KILLIAN

Just in case.

JEREMY

(to Ian)

This is gonna be one hell of a story to tell at our toast.

Ian smiles slightly, reaching over to grip Jeremy's hand.

IAN

You *don't* have to do this. This is my mess.

JEREMY

(pause)

And you're *my* mess.

Although Ian doesn't know what to expect in the coming moments, he can't help but be glad that Jeremy is here with him.

PENELOPE

Alright. Let's get started.

Penelope lights the candle, blowing out the stick and places

it down.

PENELOPE

Now, remember what I said. We have to contact her first. Pull Kelsey into the circle and trap her, bind her within the circle. Once we have her, we hold the black crystals and say the incantation and that...

JEREMY

Should send her back to Hell where she belongs.

Killian shoots Jeremy a disapproving look.

JEREMY

(to Killian)

Remember, this thing *isn't* the girl you knew.

KILLIAN

(sighs)

Let's just get this over with.

Penelope takes a breath, preparing herself. Penelope places her hands on the spirit board's oculus.

PENELOPE

Close your eyes. Keep your thoughts on Kelsey. What she looks like...

CLOSE UP ON JEREMY WITH HIS EYES CLOSED

PENELOPE (O.S.)

What she sounds like...

CLOSE UP ON IAN WITH HIS EYES CLOSED

PENELOPE (O.S.)

What she smelled like...

CLOSE UP ON KILLIAN WITH HIS EYES CLOSED

PENELOPE

Kelsey Davenport, we call out to you. In the realm where spirits roam. The place where you call home. Are you with us?

Ian, Killian, and Jeremy open their eyes. For a few moments,

the oculus doesn't move. Suddenly, Penelope's hands begin to move with the oculus.

CLOSE UP ON THE OCULUS STOPPING OVER THE WORD "YES"

KILLIAN

How do we know you're not doing that?

PENELOPE

Kelsey...it's Penelope. Do you remember me?

CLOSE UP ON THE OCULUS MOVING OFF OF THE WORD "YES" AND THEN BACK ONTO THE WORD "YES"

Seeing what's happening, Ian begins to get overwhelmed with emotion.

IAN

Kelsey. Kelsey, we're sorry! I'm sorry. You were my best friend and I know that...I know that you made mistakes, we all did but...

The spirit board burns bright red, as though it were on fire.

PENELOPE

(pulls hand back)

Shit!

THE OCULUS SLIDES ACROSS THE SPIRIT BOARD QUICKLY WITHOUT PENELOPE TOUCHING IT! IT SPELLS OUT:

"N" "O" "A" "P" "O" "L" "O" "G" "Y"

JEREMY

No apology.

PENELOPE

She's here. Now!

Jeremy, Ian, and Killian fumble in their pockets. They take out two small pieces of paper, reading from it.

PENELOPE/IAN/JEREMY/KILLIAN

"Spirit lost, spirit found, we bind you to this circle, tethered ground."

(repeat)

"Spirit lost, spirit found, we bind you to this circle, tethered ground."

CLOSE UP ON THE FOUR WHITE CRYSTALS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE CIRCLE GLOWING WITH A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT.

PENELOPE

Keep going!

PENELOPE/IAN/JEREMY/KILLIAN

"Spirit lost, spirit found, we bind
you to this circle, tethered ground!"

Suddenly, the wind kicks up. A mist begins to form above them. The four look up at what at they're seeing, unable to believe what's happening. The mist moves, forming itself...into the ethereal body of eighteen-year-old Kelsey Davenport, wearing her cap and gown.

KILLIAN

(eyes wide)

Kel...Kelsey?

KELSEY'S SPIRIT

(lovingly)

Killian.

PENELOPE

The death incantation, we need to do
it now!

Ian looks at another small piece of paper. Jeremy is stunned at the sight of seeing an actual spirit.

IAN

Jeremy, now!

Jeremy is snapped out of his wonderment. He looks at his piece of paper.

KILLIAN

(emotional)

Kelsey, oh baby...I missed you so
much.

The wind kicks up more intensely.

PENELOPE/IAN/JEREMY

"We call on the deep below, your
lifeline no more, soul and essence
taken, death is what you owe."

KELSEY'S SPIRIT SCREAMS IN PAIN

KELSEY'S SPIRIT
It hurts! Killian, it hurts!

KILLIAN
Stop! Stop this, you're killing her!

PENELOPE/IAN/JEREMY
"We call on the deep below, your
lifeline no more, soul and essence
taken, death is what you owe."

KELSEY'S SPIRIT SCREAMS IN PAIN AGAIN

Seeing the girl, he once loved writhing in pain, Killian is taken back to the day he watched her die. He couldn't save her then...but he can save her now.

KILLIAN
No. Not *again*.

Killian gets up from the circle and grabs one of the white crystals, throwing it as hard as he can against the wall.

THE CRYSTAL SHATTERS IN AN EXPLOSION OF WHITE LIGHT SENDING KILLIAN FLYING BACKWARDS!

And all Hell breaks loose.

The wind blows fiercely, hard enough to throw Ian, Jeremy, and Penelope off the stage and to the floor. Lights flicker on and off. The chairs slam against themselves.

IAN
What the hell is happening?!

PENELOPE
Killian broke the circle! The demon
it's...

Penelope, Ian, and Jeremy look over at the stage...Killian is levitating in the air, surrounded by the mist as it swirls around him rapidly.

PENELOPE
It's free.

Thinking fast, Ian grabs Penelope's hand.

IAN
"Ward off this evil, protect us from
harm, return to the dark, spirit be

gone!"

The mist dissipates. Killian drops to the floor, looking around in disbelief.

IAN
Killian, come on!

Killian looks at Ian, fear in his eyes. Without a second thought Killian jumps off the stage.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #1

Ian, Jeremy, Penelope, and Killian burst through the auditorium doors, moving at a fast pace.

PENELOPE
Where did you learn that?

IAN
It was a banishing spell. Saw it in one of the books. But it's not gonna stop her for long.

KILLIAN
What the fuck do we do now?

PENELOPE
She's still in here. I can feel her.

JEREMY
Then we find her. I grabbed these.

Jeremy takes out two black crystals and two white crystals from his pocket. Ian takes one of each.

PENELOPE
So, we find her, come back together and complete the ritual.

IAN
I'll go with Killian. You go with Penny.

The group nods in agreement. Ian looks at Jeremy, then kisses him on the lips.

JEREMY
You better bring your ass back to me.

IAN

The feeling is mutual.

The group splits into two, going down different hallways.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2

Ian and Killian move slowly down the hallway. Ian holds the white crystal in his hand.

KILLIAN

How are we going to even see this thing?

IAN

This crystal senses the presence of an entities on the spiritual plane. If the death demon is close...we'll know.

Killian and Ian continue to walk. However, Killian's mind is pre-occupied.

KILLIAN

I saw her. She...was really here.

IAN

Killian, that wasn't Kelsey. It tricked you so you would free it from the circle.

KILLIAN

But...I *felt* her. The same...feelings I would get when we were together all those years ago, when It--when It *had* me...I could feel her in there.

Ian sighs, shaking his head. He stops walking, looking at Killian.

IAN

Killian...I am so sorry for what I did. For what I took from you. I never...I never realized you and Kelsey were genuinely in love, all I could think of back then was what I'd lost when we stopped being friends.

KILLIAN

(pause)

Not like it wasn't warranted. I mean, what you did...not saying she deserved it but...we were young and dumb. And it's not like me and my friends didn't push you and your friends to the point where you felt like you needed to get back at us.

IAN

Yeah, but wishing someone dead? Someone I loved? There's no excuse for that.

Ian takes off his engagement ring, coming to a decision.

IAN

And if Kelsey wants a life...she can take mine.

KILLIAN

What are you talking about?

IAN

It's what this thing wants. A life for the life that was taken. And if we can't stop her...

Ian holds out the ring towards Killian.

IAN

I need you to give this to Jeremy...and tell him I did what needed to be done.

Killian looks at the ring for a moment and then back at Ian, admiring his bravery.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #3

Penelope and Jeremy are walking cautiously through the halls, Penelope holds a white crystal in her hand. As they pass one locker, she stops, looking at it fondly.

PENELOPE

This is where we met. The four of us.
(sighs)
The first time I ever felt like I

belonged somewhere.

JEREMY

(pause)

Penny. Ian...he didn't mean to leave you.

PENELOPE

I was so angry. With all of them for a long time but...being locked up in that place...it was what I deserved. You were right. I started this and...

Suddenly, the white crystal begins to glow. They both know what it means.

JEREMY

And it looks like we're gonna end it.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH - STAIRCASE

The door opens, slowly. Jeremy walks into the staircase first, looking down the stairs, unsure of what he's looking for.

JEREMY

I don't see anything.

Jeremy is met with silence from Penelope.

JEREMY

This is where the crystal was pointing to, right?

DEMONIC VOICE (O.S.)

Jeremmyyyyyy.

Jeremy turns around and comes face to face with Penelope, possessed by the Death Demon! Her face monstrous and twisted. Death Demon Penelope attacks Jeremy, he fights her off, throwing her into a wall and running out of the staircase hastily.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #3

Jeremy begins to run down the hall but suddenly, he stops. Frozen in place. Death Demon Penelope walks slowly through

the door from the staircase, entering the hallway, feet away from Jeremy. Jeremy's body slowly turns around, controlled by an unseen force until he is once again face to face with the death demon inhabiting Penelope's body. Jeremy struggles to reach for something inside his pocket. His body begins to levitate inches from the ground.

SNAP!

JEREMY SCREAMS IN PAIN

Jeremy's arm has been broken by Death Demon Penelope. She moves closer to Jeremy, looking him in the eye, tilting her head. Jeremy's neck begins to twist, slowly, to the side...mere inches away from snapping.

IAN (O.S.)
Kelsey, stop!

Death Demon Penelope snaps her head around, seeing Ian and Killian at the end of the hallway. Jeremy's body is thrown into the lockers, and he falls to the ground, unconscious. Ian begins to walk towards The Possessed Penelope.

IAN
Please. Leave him alone. He has *nothing* to do with this.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE
A life...for a life.

IAN
I know. I know *exactly*...what you want. So, take...*me*. Let Penelope go. Let them all go and...I won't fight you.

Killian walks up to Ian, seeing the man ready to sacrifice himself.

KILLIAN
No. You have a family. Just like I do.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE
(as Kelsey)
Killian, it's *me*. You saved me.

Hearing Kelsey's voice nearly breaks Killian.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE
 (as Kelsey)
 All this time. All these years...I've
 never stopped loving you.

KILLIAN
 (fighting back tears)
 Neither have I.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE
 I knew in my heart...always. That we
 belonged together.

Killian looks at Death Demon Penelope speaking as the girl
 who was taken from him, and he almost gives in. But then he
 remembers...

KILLIAN
 Maybe...we did. Before.
 (pause)
 But you killed my *fucking* wife.

GUNSHOT!

Killian shoots Death Demon Penelope square in the head. She
 falls to the ground. Ian looks at Killian in shock...but also
 grateful. Suddenly, Death Demon Penelope stands up from the
 ground, blood pouring down her face from the gunshot wound in
 her forehead.

KILLIAN
 (confused)
 What the fuck?

Killian's body is thrown into another set of lockers by an
 unseen force, he hits the floor, unconscious. Ian is left
 face to face with Death Demon Penelope. This is the end. But
 he knows has to try.

IAN
 "We call on the deep below...your
 lifeline no more...soul and essence
 taken...death is what you owe."

Death Demon Penelope stops, the expression on her face
 turning to worry.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE
 (as Kelsey)
 Ian, *stop*. You *don't* understand.

Ian's hears his former friend's voice...he wants to stop. But he knows he has to keep going.

IAN

"We...call on the deep below...your
lifeline no more...soul and essence
taken...death...is what you owe."

Death Demon Penelope inches toward Ian. The death incantation isn't working, and Ian realizes why.

IAN

(tearfully)

I can't do this alone.

Ian shivers...preparing for the end to come.

CLOSE UP ON WHITE CRYSTAL ON THE GROUND NEXT TO JEREMY'S UNCONSCIOUS BODY GLOWING WITH A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT

FEMALE VOICES (O.S.)

"We call on the deep below...your
lifeline no more...soul and essence
taken...death is what you owe."

Ian looks over to his right, unable to believe what he's seeing.

The spirits of Mel, Neeka, and Penelope stand beside him...completing the covenant.

They continue to say the incantation.

MEL/NEEKA/PENELOPE'S SPIRITS

"We call on the deep below...your
lifeline no more...soul and essence
taken...death is what you owe."

Wind begins to intensify. The locker doors slam and shut over and over again. The lights flicker and burst. Death Demon Penelope begins to twitch and twist, screaming in pain. Ian's body is let loose, he regains control and joins in the incantation with the spirits of his three dead friends.

THE COVEN

"We call on the deep below...your
lifeline no more...soul and essence
taken...death is what you owe!"

Death Demon Penelope's head snaps back...with one final scream, her body falls to the floor. Unmoving. Dead. Ian

looks down at Penelope's body, sadly. He looks over at the spirits of Neeka, Mel, and Penelope...happy to see his friends one last time.

MEL'S SPIRIT

(smiles)

Told ya we were meant to be.

Neeka and Penelope smile as well. Then they're gone.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ian sits by Jeremy's bedside. Jeremy sits upright in the bed, his arm in a cast.

JEREMY

So, the police believed us.

IAN

Yeah. Penelope had a mental break, called us to the high school and...tried to kill us. Killian shot her to save our lives.

JEREMY

(sighs)

I should've *never* made you go to that reunion.

IAN

(pause)

I ran from what I did for years. And if I hadn't seen Mel and Neeka, and Penelope again? Who knows how long I would've been running.

(pause)

Can you forgive me?

JEREMY

(smiles)

I became a *witch* for you. What do you think?

Ian smiles slightly, just the sound of those of words causing him a small amount of amusement.

JEREMY

But the question really is...how long is it gonna take for you...to forgive

for yourself?

Ian ponders that...he honestly doesn't know.

KNOCK KNOCK

Ian turns around towards the door. Killian is standing there with his daughter, Alyssa.

IAN
Killian. Hey.

KILLIAN
Hey.

Killian steps into the room, holding his daughter's hand.

KILLIAN
(to Jeremy)
You're on the mend.

JEREMY
I've gotta dance with my future
husband in a few weeks so hopefully
this thing is off by then.

KILLIAN
Well, you can't get married without
this.

Killian goes into his pocket and takes out Ian's engagement ring, handing it to him. Ian takes it, thankful.

IAN
I totally forgot I even gave you this.

KILLIAN
We were battling the forces of evil
so...it's kind of expected.

The three of them stand in silence for a moment. Their experience together, forever bonding them in an odd way.

KILLIAN
Well, I better get going. It's family
day.

ALYSSA
Yeah! Daddy's taking me out for a
whole day of fun!

IAN
 (laughs)
 We are so jealous.
 (pause)
 Thank you, Killian. For everything.

Killian and Ian shake hands, silently squashing the animosity between them. Killian leaves the room with his daughter. Ian looks down at his engagement ring, putting it back on his finger. An older man wearing a white coat, walks into the room, it's Jeremy's doctor.

DOCTOR
 Okay so...now that we got you all patched up, I think we can send you right on home.

JEREMY
 Music to my ears.

DOCTOR
 I was sorry to hear about your friend, Ms. Stone. Young woman like that dying so soon...
 (pause)
 Reminds me of a former patient of mine.

IAN
 I'm sure you...see a lot of people passing on before you'd like them to.

DOCTOR
 Unfortunately. But this one...she's always stayed with me. High school girl, eighteen. Died at her graduation.

Ian and Jeremy look at each other. Their faces with grave expressions. They know who he's referring to.

DOCTOR
 Freak accident killed her. But...she also had a brain tumor. The girl wasn't gonna survive more than a year, at most. And...she was pregnant.

Ian and Jeremy look shocked at the new information.

IAN
 So...her baby...

DOCTOR

Died when she did. I'd spoken with her, her parents, and...she wanted to have it. We thought she'd be able to carry to term but...life had other plans.

JEREMY

Did you...ever tell the father?

DOCTOR

The father was already devastated over losing his girlfriend. Her parents didn't wanna ruin him any further by telling him he'd lost their baby too. It's a shame really, *her* life was going to be cut short but...there's no telling what that child could've become had their life not been snatched from them.

IAN

(pause)

What was your patient's name?

DOCTOR

Kelsey Davenport.

Ian's heart drops.

DOCTOR

I'll be back with those discharge forms in a moment.

Ian's mind is racing, taking in everything he was just told.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE BEGINS

CUT TO:

INT. - ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 2007 - AUDITORIUM -
AFTERNOON

TEENAGE KELSEY

I am going to make sure that I am the person I need to be. For *everyone* in my life.

CUT TO:

EXT. - KILLIAN'S HOUSE - STREET

IAN

Penelope. He said she made a pitstop
by his place and scared his wife.
Telling her that...that Kelsey was
back and she...

MEL

Wants to claim what's rightfully hers.

CUT TO:

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

PENELOPE

It's picking us off one by one
until...the person It wants is the
only one left alive.

IAN

The person It wants? What does that
mean?

PENELOPE

We took Kelsey's life before it was
her time. And now, Kelsey...wants that
life back.

CUT TO:

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #3 - EVENING

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE

(as Kelsey)

Ian, *stop*. You *don't* understand.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

A creepy feeling seeps into Ian as he comes to a realization.
Jeremy has also come to a realization.

JEREMY

Ian...if Kelsey was...going to
die...then the death ritual, it
didn't...it didn't *take* her life. It
took...

IAN
The life of her and Killian's baby.
(pause)
I think we made a mistake. The
ritual...I don't think it *killed* the
death demon...

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Killian and Alyssa put on their seatbelts, ready to start
their day.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

IAN
I think it...killed Kelsey's spirit.
Oh my God.
(disbelief)
We killed her...

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

IAN (V.O.)
Again.

Alyssa looks over at Killian, happily. Though, her face
becomes sad.

ALYSSA
Daddy...I miss my friend. They don't
talk to me anymore.

KILLIAN
Don't worry, sweetheart. Kelsey's
always gonna be with us.
(pause)
And the three of us...we're gonna be a
family. Just the way it's supposed to
be.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

CUT TO:

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - LIVING ROOM

ALYSSA
Are you sad about mommy, daddy?

KILLIAN
(wipes tears)
Yeah, baby. Daddy's just a little sad.

ALYSSA
Don't be. My friend said we're gonna
be a family again, just the way it's
supposed to be.

KILLIAN
Who...who's your friend?

ALYSSA
Kelsey, silly!

FLASHBACK ENDS

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Mirroring the words Alyssa was told by her "imaginary" friend "Kelsey", Killian starts the car. Killian fixes the rearview mirror, looking at his reflection.

THE REARVIEW MIRROR CRACKS.

THE DEATH DEMON, THE DEMONIC SPIRIT OF KILLIAN AND KELSEY'S UNBORN CHILD, THE ENTITY THAT'S BEEN DOING THE HAUNTING, HAS FOUND THE PERSON IT WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR.

IT'S FATHER...KILLIAN TOMBS.

SLAM CUT TO BLACK:

CREDITS ROLL.

