

"CURSED TIES"

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FADE IN:

EXT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - STREET - NIGHT

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

It's been eighteen years in the making.

IAN'S CAR - NIGHT

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 reluctantly nods in agreement.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT - CONT'D

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 AT A WOODEN TABLE IN THE SCHOOL'S QUAD

A small smile forms on Mel's face, remembering the exact day this photo was taken.

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.

Ian and Mel 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 our 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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Some party goers are on the dance floor, re-living their senior prom as they bust a move.

VERONICA "NEEKA" HARRIS (33), African-American, beautiful, straight black hair, sexy, and the life of the party, dances in the middle of a circle with another male student as the crowd cheers them on.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

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

It's the group photo Mel was looking at earlier.

CLOSE UP ON PHOTO OF TEENAGED IAN, MEL, NEEKA, AND ANOTHER FEMALE STUDENT POSING FOR THE PHOTO AT A WOODEN TABLE IN THE SCHOOL'S QUAD

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.

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - TABLE - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - MEMORIAL TABLE - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT - 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.

EVERYONE

To Kelsey!

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - TABLE - NIGHT

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 even went and found the *perfect* replica of his high school sweetheart.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

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

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - TABLE - NIGHT - 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

Mel...did you...invite her?

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

The reunion is ending, mostly everyone has left for the night except Ian, Jeremy, Mel, and Neeka. The four of them stand by the cafeteria door.

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.

Mel turns off the lights and leaves.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - MEMORIAL TABLE - NIGHT

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.

INT. NEEKA'S CAR - ROAD - NIGHT

Neeka drives 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 - DAY - YEAR 2007 - 18 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 enough to lie.

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 on in disbelief and anger. 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 even 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

INT. NEEKA'S CAR - ROAD - NIGHT - 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.

The title card appears on the screen, flashing rapidly...

"CURSED TIES"

INT. IAN AND JEREMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

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.

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

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. He can't believe it.

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...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.

INT. ELMWOOD DINER - TABLE - DAY

Mel and Ian sit 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

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY - YEAR 2007 - 18
YEARS AGO

The first day of senior year. Teenage Kelsey (17) stands 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, Ian.

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

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

TEENAGE IAN

(shocked)

What?! I never said that Kels...

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

INT. ELMWOOD DINER - TABLE --DAY - CONT'D

MEL

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

Ian nods his head in agreement, thankful for Mel.

PRE-LAP

DOORBELL RINGS

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

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STRIKE AND CRASH

Camille walks towards the door. She opens it.

CAMILLE

Hi. Can I help you?

Penelope, the strange woman who came to the reunion just to sign Kelsey's memorial, stands in front of her.

PENELOPE

Hi. 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.

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

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 a 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 who 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 into 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 and stands 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*, 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 very unnerving visit.

EXT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

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 stands at her bedroom window with a blank expression on her face.

She was watching Penelope the entire time.

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

RAIN POUNDING ON THE WINDOWS

Mel sits at her desk, a small lamp stands on it, illuminating some of the room. She looks through photos of herself, Ian, Neeka, and Penelope in their high school days. Then her eyes

move to a photo that's on her desk.

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

Mel sighs, touching the photo fondly.

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

Mel looks up from her desk as a figure, walks by the door, though Mel only catches a glimpse of them. Mel shakes it off. Her eyes go back to the photo of her and Kelsey.

DEMONIC VOICE (O.S.)
MELANIE!

Mel's head snaps up.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

Mel steps out of her office, into the hallway. She catches 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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

Mel turns the corner; the little girl is nowhere in sight.

She stops walking, seeing the doors to the auditorium which are usually closed, wide open.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Mel steps inside the auditorium, looking around at the vastness of the room. She hates this room and the dead quiet of it all.

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 tragic day.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - STAGE - DAY - YEAR
2007 - 18 YEARS AGO

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, you'll be able to see the people you grew up with continue to 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 NEXT TO EACH OTHER

TEENAGE KELSEY

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

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

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.

(beat)

For everyone in my life.

Ian and Mel look at each other, almost sadly. This is the Kelsey they remember.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - SEATS - DAY - YEAR
2007 - 18 YEARS AGO

TEENAGE NEEKA
(to Penelope)
Could she be *anymore* fucking Miss
America right now?

TEENAGE KELSEY (O.S.)
So, to the class of 2007...

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - STAGE - DAY - YEAR
2007 - 18 YEARS AGO

KELSEY
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 ceiling, swinging across the stage and hitting Kelsey dead on! She flies into the air and lands on the stage, sliding to the edge of it.

Some of the audience is stunned. Some murmur in shock.

Killian jumps up from his seat, running over to Kelsey's bloody and still body.

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

TEENAGE KILLIAN
Kelsey? Kelsey, baby come on, *come on!*
KELSEY!

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

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - SEATS - DAY - YEAR
2007 - 18 YEARS AGO

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 huddle around Kelsey.

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

But Kelsey Davenport is dead.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STRIKE AND CRASH

Mel sighs, shaking off the memory.

MEL
 You're just seeing things, Melanie.

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.)
 Melanieeeeee!

Mel hears the words directly in her ear!

She takes off running.

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

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. 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.

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

Ian sits 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. He gets up and peers out the window panel next to the front door...he recognizes the visitor. 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 almost twenty years, killed herself on the night we *finally* saw each other again.
(pause)

I haven't talked to Penelope. At all.

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. Killian's visit has unnerved him.

INT. OCCULT SHOP - DAY

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 fucking hate needles.

TEENAGE NEEKA (V.O.)

Okay, I'm bored, gimme your hand.

TEENAGE IAN (V.O.)

Ow! You bitch!

The girls laugh.

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.

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 a few supplies and a book. She takes them to the register.

ANGELICA
 Chapter five in this book...
 (hands Mel the book)
 Will tell you all you need to know.

Mel takes 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
 Eighteen 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.

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

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 a teenaged Kelsey is placed next to the candle.

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

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

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.

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

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 as she finished fixing her hair.

SOUND OF THE TELEVISION TURNING ON DOWNSTAIRS

Camille turns to the doorway, shaking her head.

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Camille walks down the stairs.

CAMILLE

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

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

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

(pause)

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.

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

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.

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

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.

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.

SOUNDS OF THE FRONT DOOR OPENING AND THEN CLOSING

KILLIAN (O.S.)

Cammy! You left the t.v. on again, babe!

CAMILLE

(relieved)

Killian.

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - SECOND LEVEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

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 DEMONIC 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. Her neck broken.

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

EXT. IAN & JEREMY'S HOUSE - DAY

A car pulls up outside the house. Ian walks out of the front

door. Mel steps out of her 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. She told 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 she saw Penelope. The day *before* I came in.

IAN

What the *hell* was she doing there?

MEL

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

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

Killian sits on the couch, looking devastated and annoyed. A detective sits 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'm 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

But from everything I gathered, 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 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.

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

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 into the apartment.

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
the last eighteen 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 with 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*
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, sweetie.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. PENELOPE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT - YEAR 2007 - 18 YEARS AGO

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 are going to *kill* that
bitch...Kelsey Davenport.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - 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 in the blue dress 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
shown 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.

MEL'S CAR - DAY

Mel is driving. Ian sits next to her in the passenger seat. Both are still processing what they learned from Penelope and Camille's death.

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.

(pause)

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 is shocked.

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 eighteen years later? 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 killed...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 do any of that.

(pause)

She went after you, she killed Neeka and Camille, but I haven't had any contact yet.

(worried)

Do you think that instead of me, she might...come after Jeremy?

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

INT. OCCULT SHOP - EVENING

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

ANGELICA (O.S.)

You're not going to 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 that other one 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.

(pause)

Like you did.

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 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 to go into the light...she wants to come back 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. But she only needs to keep *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.*

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

CLOSE UP ON KELSEY DAVENPORT'S TOMBSTONE

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

MEL

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 wanted 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.
 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 the bag of herbs 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. She's being strangled by an unseen force!

The Demonic Little Blonde Girl looks over at an open grave next to them. Mel is thrown by the unseen force into the six-foot-deep hole, unconscious. As Mel's body lies still in the grave, mounds of dirt begin to fall on top of her.

More and more...

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT - CONT'D

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

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

Ian and Jeremy sit 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...random 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 entirely life.

JEREMY

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

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)

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 strong. Because I'd chosen myself over what people wanted for me. I had done that.

(pause)

At least that's what I thought.

(scoffs)

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 (ON PHONE)

Iannnnnnnnnnnn!

Ian drops the phone quickly, staring at it in shock.

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

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 Angelica. 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. The *thing* we've been seeing *isn't* Kelsey's spirit... it's a death demon. The 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*?

PENELOPE

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

IAN

Are we...are we talking about possession?

Penelope nods.

IAN

(sighs)

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

PENELOPE

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

IAN

We're completely fucking screwed.

EXT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

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.

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

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. Stacy swore up and down that Neeka had "hexed" her in order to get her spot on the cheerleading 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 got "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. Sometimes...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.

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...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 *eighteen* 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 relents. He 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.

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

Ian and Penelope sit in the living room, various books lie 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 going to get through this...

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

PENELOPE
And 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 "Ms. Charmed" 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

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...

(to Jeremy)

A part of me believed what you said. About Kelsey.

PENELOPE

You've *seen* her?

KILLIAN

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 still loved her...she'll go away.

IAN

Killian, that...that isn't gonna 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 - NIGHT

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

Penelope sits in a circle, her legs crossed.

Ian, Jeremy, and Killian complete the circle, sitting in the
same position as Penelope.

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 going to be one hell of a story to tell during 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, blows 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 bind her within it. 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 looked like...

CLOSE UP ON JEREMY WITH HIS EYES CLOSED

PENELOPE (O.S.)

What she sounded 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've 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 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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT

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

KILLIAN

How are we going to even see her?

IAN

This crystal senses the presence of 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

Killan, 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.

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

IAN

Killian...I am so sorry for what I did. For what we 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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

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.)

Jeremmmmyyyy.

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.

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

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 is 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

(in Kelsey's voice)

Killian, it's *me*. You saved me.

Hearing Kelsey's voice nearly breaks Killian.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE

(in Kelsey's voice)

All this time. All these years...I've
never stopped loving you.

KILLIAN

(fighting back tears)

Neither have I.

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE

(as Kelsey)

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
(in Kelsey's voice)
Ian, *stop*. You *don't* understand.

Ian 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...I can't do this alone.

Ian shivers. His body tenses. Freezing in place. Ian is lifted off the ground a few inches...he prepares for the end.

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 coven.

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.

Mel winks at Ian. Neeka and Penelope smile as well.

Then they're gone.

INT. HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

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 ever forgive me?

JEREMY

(smiles)

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

Ian smiles slightly, the sounds of those of words bringing him the slightest bit of comfort.

JEREMY

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

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

KNOCK KNOCK

Ian turns around towards the door. Killian stands 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 forgot I gave this to you.

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.

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. 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, grave expressions on their face. They know who he's referring to.

DOCTOR

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

(pause)

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. 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

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - STAGE - YEAR 2007 - 18 YEARS AGO - DAY

TEENAGE KELSEY

I am going to make sure that I am the person I need to be.

(pause)

For *everyone* in my life.

Kelsey touches her stomach behind the podium, feeling her baby inside.

EXT. IAN'S HOUSE - STREET - DAY

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.

INT. PENELOPE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

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*?

PENELOPE

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

INT. ELMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

DEATH DEMON PENELOPE

(in Kelsey's voice)

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

FLASHBACK MONTAGE ENDS

INT. HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

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)

We made a mistake. The ritual...I don't think it *killed* the death demon...

INT. KILLIAN'S CAR - DAY

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

INT. HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

IAN

I think it killed...Kelsey's *spirit*.
Oh my God.

(disbelief)
We killed her...

INT. KILLIAN'S CAR - DAY

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 going to be a family. Just the way it's supposed to be.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. KILLIAN'S HOUSE - FIRST LEVEL - DAY

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, honey?

ALYSSA
(smiles)
Kelsey, silly!

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. KILLIAN'S CAR - DAY

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

AND 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 FINALLY FOUND THE PERSON IT WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR. THE LIFE IT'S BEEN WANTING TO POSSESS SO THEY COULD BE A FAMILY. ITS FATHER.

KILLIAN TOMBS.

SLAM CUT TO BLACK:

The title card appears on the screen, flashing rapidly...

"CURSED TIES"

FADE OUT: