

**LIVING DEAD GIRL**

Written by  
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Based on the novella;  
'Living Dead Girl' by Chris Keaton

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**FADE IN:**

**EXT. AMBROSE BIERCE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY**

AMANDA BOCK (16), shy, hood over her head, stops at the entrance of the school and looks back at the darkening sky.

A group of long haired and bell bottom wearing TEENS watch her as they smoke. They're totally out of place, but ignored by the KIDS around them.

She shuffles past smokers. Some KIDS give her a weird look.

A group of ravens burst from a nearby tree and scatter.

Amanda slips earbuds on and blasts Industrial Rock to drowning out the world.

**INT. AMBROSE BIERCE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY**

Amanda shuffles through the crowd of teens keeping to herself and everyone lets her. Her music blasts out.

LOUIS WILSON (16), a gaunt grey boy, in a T-shirt and parachute pants appears out of the crowd stalking Amanda.

Amanda fumbles with her locker and switches out her books.

Louis keeps his distance, but intently watches her.

BANG - Her locker door slams shut.

Amanda jumps and looks up at BECCA (17), who slammed the door and now glares at her.

Becca speaks, but Amanda's music drowns out her words.

BECCA  
I'm talking to you.

Amanda removes an ear-bud and as she does, the music lowers to an indistinct, muffled roar.

BECCA  
Are you listening to me?!

AMANDA  
Sorry.

BECCA  
Where are they?

Amanda palms a pack of birth control pills over to Becca.  
Becca slips her a twenty.

BECCA

I know it's impossible for you to  
be normal, but at least stay  
unplugged among the living.

Becca walks off with a huff and gives ADAM WILLIS (17), a tall, handsome boy, the stink eye. Adam's ignores her and heads to Amanda.

ADAM

I don't know why you let her treat  
you like that.

Amanda just shrugs and jams in the ear bud, washing the world away in metal, leaving Adam at the locker.

He moves to say something else, but hesitates. He's nervous.

Louis ignores everyone else while he stalks Amanda.

#### **INT. HISTORY CLASS - DAY**

A packed class of SUBURBAN TEENS watch as DUANE JENKINS (40s), balding ex-high school football star, drones on. An impending storm builds outside draping the room in shadows.

DUANE

And this is why the Ottoman Empire  
invaded Malta.

Amanda looks past Duane and spots Louis standing in the shadowed corner behind Duane's desk.

Louis silently stares at Amanda.

Amanda returns her attention to Duane and avoids looking at Louis. No one else seems to notice him.

Duane writes chapter and page numbers on the board.

FRANK (O.S.)

Tell them!

Amanda snaps her head to the left and comes face-to-face with FRANK SPINOTTI (17), athletic and wearing a letterman's jacket from the 80s. His face, hair, and clothes are burned.

She gasps from his close proximity and sudden appearance. The students around her stare like she's crazy.

FRANK

Tell them.

She ducks her head and shushes him. The kids around her giggle.

DUANE

Amanda, do you have something to share?

Amanda shakes her head as the bell rings.

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY**

Final bell has rung and the students clear out of the hallways as the day winds down.

Amanda paces behind the crowd. Adam rushes up and taps her shoulder.

She turns, removes her ear-buds, and gives Adam a shy smile.

ADAM

I've got my dad's car. You want a ride?

Amanda glances to Frank and Louis standing next to a glassed-in display further down the hallway.

AMANDA

Nah...uh-

Amanda lets out a nervous giggle.

AMANDA

I have some stuff to do.

She hurries down the hallway.

Adam is disappointed but doesn't let it show too much as he shouts after her.

ADAM

Maybe next time.

Amanda nods as she rounds a corner.

She stands there a minute and looks back. Adam's gone, as is everyone else.

Amanda joins Frank and Louis at the display. Louis's back is a mess of burn scars. The display is a memorial to a school fire where Frank and Louis were killed.

The display shows pictures of Louis and Frank. Most are of Frank with friends and a few of Louis alone.

AMANDA

Get over it.

Duane stuffs papers into a bag as he rounds a corner. He stops and backs up when he spots Amanda talking to herself.

LOUIS

They should know.

AMANDA

You're dead. I don't think it matters one bit that you two were a thing.

FRANK

But it's the truth.

Amanda looks around and lowers her voice.

AMANDA

Sometimes the truth isn't as comforting as a lie.

Duane, flattens himself against the wall and listens.

AMANDA

Now if you could tell me that one of our teachers is a murderer running around free, then I can help.

Duane's curiosity turns to worry. After a brief moment he peeks around and watches as Amanda leaves the building.

#### **EXT. SALTONSTALL ST. - DUSK**

Amanda walks down a quiet tree-lined lower middle class street with her bookbag clutched in front of her. The clouds give everything a pall of gray.

A flock of ravens burst from a tree startling Amanda. She shakes her head as she watches the birds fly off.

When she looks back down she's face to face with a WAILING WOMAN, in a stained dress with a noose around her neck. Amanda jumps.

AMANDA

Shit! Again?

Wailing Woman lets out an extended moan. Amanda shakes her head and walks through her.

Amanda, ear-buds in, ignores the Wailing Woman's lament as she follows Amanda down the street.

Behind Amanda the Wailing Woman climbs into an old oak tree and watches her from a large branch.

WAILING WOMAN

He's coming.

Amanda can't hear the Wailing Woman over her music.

The Wailing Woman jumps from the branch and snaps stiff at the end of a ghostly noose.

A ways down the street Adam washes a sedan in his driveway.

He spots Amanda and waves, giving her a big smile. Amanda returns the wave.

PETER WILLIS (40s), in a business suit with suitcase in his hand, steps out onto Adam's porch.

PETER

I need to be on the road soon. When will you have that finished?

Adam grimaces and turns to his father.

ADAM

Just a second, Dad.

By the time Adam turns back Amanda is heading home.

She nervously flits past a girly car in her driveway and into her house.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda drops her bag beside the door and kicks off her shoes.

AMANDA

Mom! Is Aunt Heather here?

HEATHER NORRIS (late 50s), 80s new-age style with a vibrant energy, steps out of a small kitchen and opens her arms.

HEATHER

In the flesh. Come here girl.

The two embrace.

HEATHER

So did you see your man out there  
getting himself all wet for your  
enjoyment?

They look through a side window at Adam washing his dad's  
car. Amanda blushes.

HEATHER

That boy has had a shine for you  
since you all moved in.

AMANDA

I don't think so. No, he couldn't.

HEATHER

Don't play blind.

AMANDA

(hopeful)  
Really?

Heather smiles and nods.

HEATHER

Well, I've gotta run.

Amanda looks disappointed. Heather smiles and hugs Amanda  
again and passes her a package of birth control pills.

AMANDA

I told you, I don't need them.

HEATHER

Just in case. And besides they'll  
keep you regular.

Amanda groans in embarrassment.

AMANDA

Heather!

Heather laughs at this, but then gets serious.

HEATHER

Keep an eye on your mother. She's  
having a rough go of it lately.

AMANDA

When doesn't she?

Heather frowns, disappointed in Amanda.

HEATHER  
That's not fair, is it?

AMANDA  
No... But it's been fifteen years,  
I don't think she can blame him  
anymore.

Heather strokes Amanda's cheek and gives her a sympathetic smile.

**EXT. MARY GOWEN'S HOME - NIGHT**

A small ranch style home tucked into an aging subdivision.

**INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT**

MARY GOWEN (40s), stick thin and bubbly, in a bathrobe, holds a cordless phone to ear.

MARY  
Uh-huh... That Tashel girl better  
not be there... Sure.

BEEP - She pulls a bag of popcorn out of a microwave, transfers it to a bowl and the phone to her other ear.

MARY  
Don't do anything your father would  
do.

She pops a piece into her mouth and moves to the front room.

**INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Mary gets herself comfortable on a soft couch in front of a flat screen with the phone still to her ear.

MARY  
Okay, okay. Have fun... You know  
me. I'm just watching a romance...  
Love you.

She sets the phone down and flicks on the TV. A Jason Statham film jumps on the screen. She smiles and grabs some popcorn.

A televised explosion lights up the dark room revealing NICODEMUS (50s) hidden in shadows behind her. He whistles a tune.

Mary jerks her head around in terror.



**LATER**

Mary lifts her head. Snot runs down her tear-streaked face.

She's tied to a chair in the middle of the room. A lamp shines on her face. Terrified, she looks around.

MARY

What do you want? I told you where  
the money is.

Nicodemus is tall and everything you would think a mortician should look like. He stands silently hidden in shadows.

Mary fights her bonds.

MARY

Please let me go.

Nicodemus whistles a creepy ditty.

Recognition crosses Mary's face ratcheting up her terror. He cuts his song off short and finally speaks in a cultured, smooth voice.

NICODEMUS

I want what you ladies stole from  
me.

Mary's eyes widen. She looks down in fear at the ring of salt surrounding her.

MAR

You... You're dead!

NICODEMUS

Tsk, tsk.

Nicodemus steps forward out of the shadows. He's tall in a long black leather coat. A wide brimmed black fedora hides most of his face in shadows.

He leans closer. The right side of his face is mostly untouched by a burn scar that covers his left side. His left eye is blood shot and fire damaged.

Mary shivers and averts her gaze.

MARY

It was Barbara's idea. She said-

Nicodemus lifts a gloved finger to his mouth.

NICODEMUS

Shh, just tell me where my tools  
are.

Mary opens her mouth and stops. She shakes her head in defiance, gritting her teeth and cringing.

NICODEMUS

What you don't tell me in life, I  
can easily take in death.

Mary's head drops a moment. She nods toward fireplace.

MARY

Under the hearth.

Nicodemus strides across the room, grabs a poker, and whacks the bottom of the fireplace. The tile cracks.

He pulls the tile out uncovering a metal box. He yanks it open.

Inside sits a CAT O' NINE TAILS. Each of its nine strands is tipped with metal hooks. Its black wood handle is covered in gold occult symbols.

Nicodemus lifts the whip up and tests the weight in his hand. He tosses the box away.

NICODEMUS

Where's the rest of it?

MARY

We split them up.

NICODEMUS

Tsk, tsk, tsk.

He returns to calmly whistling his creepy ditty and slashes the whip across her face.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

A bedroom door creaks open. Amanda peeks in.

AMANDA

Mom?

She slinks in.

JULIA BOCK (40s), lies passed out on the bed next to a box of Kleenex and a bottle of vodka.

Amanda sets the bottle on the nightstand and cleans up the Kleenex. She covers her mother with a blanket.

When she turns she spots an ancient wooden box covered in dirt as if recently unearthed on the dresser.

The box is one foot by two and 10 inches tall. Amanda stares at it curiously. She touches the slats of wood covered with inlaid gold symbols. Bits of soil brush off onto her hands.

Amanda lifts off the lid revealing an interior lined with rotting velvet that nestles a large OBSIDIAN OBELISK. The obsidian has a single gold occult symbol carved into it.

She reaches out to touch the obelisk.

Amanda jerks her hand back as a spark jumps between her and the obsidian.

The symbol appears to glow for a flash. Amanda leans closer in disbelief.

JULIA (O.S.)

Amanda?

Amanda jumps. She hastily closes the box and turns to her mother.

JULIA

Amanda, is that you baby?

Amanda approaches her mother.

AMANDA

It's me.

Julia holds out her hand. Amanda takes it and sits down beside her mother.

JULIA

I love you.

Tears form in Julia's eyes.

JULIA

I'm sorry. I...

Amanda brushes some loose hair out of Julia's face.

AMANDA

It's all right, get some sleep.

Amanda tucks her in.

JULIA  
You're a good girl.

Julia closes her eyes.

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Amanda groans as she scratches away at her homework.

CASSANDRA ANN STEVENS (CASS 17), puffed out black hair, black eyeliner, stylishly ripped and pinned clothes, materializes behind Amanda.

CASS  
Hey.

Amanda looks up and spins around as Cass sits on her bed.

AMANDA  
Go away.

CASS  
I wish.

AMANDA  
What do you want?

Cass shrugs and lifts her chin revealing a wicked red rope burn around her neck.

AMANDA  
Okay, who killed you and when?

Bouncing off the bed, Cass tries to rifle through Amanda's stuff but her hand passes through it all barely nudging anything.

CASS  
Don't know.

AMANDA  
Then why are you here?

CASS  
This is... was my room.

Amanda looks confused.

AMANDA  
Why haven't I seen you before?

CASS

Who knows. I went to the funeral  
for those guys that died in the  
school fire. Then I went to a party  
and the next thing I know I'm here.

Cass touches the wall.

CASS

Is my stash still in the closet  
ceiling?

Cass tries to open the closet door, but manages to only move  
it a little.

She disappears into the closet. Amanda opens it all the way,  
but Cass is gone.

AMANDA

If it means anything, I'm sorry you  
were killed.

She turns on the closet light, revealing a ceiling panel that  
has been nudged out of place.

Amanda climbs into the attic space and pulls down a cigar box  
and a rolled up poster.

She slides the poster under her bed and sits at her desk.  
Amanda opens the cigar box to reveal some dried up black make-  
up, a dog collar, cassette tape, and some polaroids.

JULIA (O.S.)

Amanda.

She shuts the box and turns off her desk lamp.

**INT. AMBROSE BIERCE HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY**

Amanda sits at a PC scrolling through scans of school and  
local newspapers, but isn't finding what she wants.

An elderly LIBRARIAN spots her frustration and stops to help.

LIBRARIAN

Finding everything?

AMANDA

I'm looking for papers from the  
80s.

LIBRARIAN  
Oh, those haven't been digitized  
yet. You'll have to use the  
microfiche.

AMANDA  
The what?

**INT. MICROFICHE ROOM - DAY**

A thin layer of dust covers everything in this closet. The Librarian moves some boxes and uncovers a microfiche reader.

The Librarian gives quick instructions on using the reader.

LIBRARIAN  
This moves up...down...zoom.

The Librarian opens a file cabinet.

LIBRARIAN  
What year and month?

AMANDA  
March, Nineteen Eighty-Six.

The Librarian freezes.

LIBRARIAN  
You're looking up those poor boys.  
I don't understand your insatiable  
interest in the dead. It's just  
morbid.

AMANDA  
History. I love history... But,  
actually I'm looking for anything  
concerning a girl, missing persons  
case, or-

The Librarian, feeling bad for her outburst, dives into the files.

LIBRARIAN  
Oh, the Stevens girl.

AMANDA  
Who?

The Librarian searches the files as she talks.

LIBRARIAN  
 Tragic really. Right after those  
 lovely boys die, she goes missing.  
 A sweet churchgoing girl.

The Librarian produces the sheet of microfiche and hands it to Amanda.

LIBRARIAN  
 That was a bad year.

# **LATER**

Amanda finds the headlines for the accident like, "Hero dies in attempt to save science prodigy", "Faulty experiment to blame," "Football hero dies in rescue attempt."

She scrolls through until she finds another headline, "School reels after student declared missing."

Amanda scribbles down the name, 'Cassandra Ann Stevens.'

# **INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS**

Duane watches as Amanda steps out of the microfiche room.

He looks around to make sure the coast is clear as he slips into the room.

# **INT. MICROFICHE ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Duane shuts the door behind him and flicks on the projector. The article about Cass's disappearance appears on the screen.

The Librarian steps in just as Duane stuffs the microfiche into his pocket.

LIBRARIAN  
 Oh, Mister Jenkins! Did you see the  
 Bock girl in here?

DUANE  
 No.

He barges past the Librarian, earning her glare. She mutters to herself.

LIBRARIAN  
 Rude as a child, rude as an adult.

Duane fumbles for a cell phone in his pocket.

**EXT. BARBARA WALSH'S HOME - NIGHT**

This quiet upper class neighborhood is disturbed by screaming coming from a well-kept home.

The front door bursts open and BARBARA WALSH (40s), a bloodied trophy wife, runs into the front yard setting off all the motion-detecting flood lights.

She stumbles to the ground. Her clothes are slashed and her face scratched.

Barbara gets to her feet and runs. Nicodemus's creepy whistle follows her out of the house.

Nicodemus stands hidden in the shadows of the doorway with the Cat o' Ninetails whip in one hand and a forearm length bracelet made of strips of wood and bone in his other.

NICODEMUS

Tsk, tsk, Barbara.

He snaps the whip in Barbara's direction, though it's nowhere near long enough to hit her.

Barbara stops dead in her tracks and grabs at an invisible force around her neck.

Nicodemus slashes the whip up toward the sky and at the same time Barbara's jerked into the air.

POLICE SIRENS approach followed by flashing lights.

Frustrated, Nicodemus lashes the whip down causing Barbara to crash to the ground with a sickening crunch.

Nicodemus disappears into the dark of the house whistling calmly to himself.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT**

Amanda carries a box of recycling to the back gate.

As she steps under a large oak tree MAC (20s), dressed in 1920s boxing attire, steps out from behind the trunk.

MAC

The money.

AMANDA

Look, I've told you there is no one left alive to claim it.

(MORE)



AMANDA (CONT'D)

And besides I dug where you said  
and didn't find anything.

Mac doesn't really listen.

MAC

Under the oak. Our savings.

Amanda walks past him and drops the bottles off into a  
recycling bin in the alley.

MAC

The money.

Amanda shakes her head as she passes him.

AMANDA

(to Mac)

I bet in another decade or two you  
won't even remember why you're  
here...

She turns toward the alley in which float two REVENANTS, dead  
spirits. They stare at her with vague faces, black wisps for  
clothes, and mist in place of feet.

AMANDA

(toward the Revenants)

...You'll just become... vacant.

Amanda emerges from under the tree to spot Adam setting up a  
telescope on the roof.

ADAM

Hey, Amanda.

She looks up and waves.

ADAM

Who's down there with you?

AMANDA

No one. Just thinking aloud.

Adam takes a deep breath gathering his courage and speaks  
entirely too fast.

ADAM

There's going to be a killer meteor  
storm tonight you wanna watch it  
with me I have snacks and a blanket  
they say it's going to have three a  
minute I think you'll like it-

He stops himself to take a breath.

Amanda tucks a strand of hair behind her ear.

AMANDA

Uh...I'll think about it.

Adam slumps defeated as Amanda heads back into her house with a nervous smile on her face.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Julia sits at the small kitchen table reading through bills. She doesn't look up when Amanda enters.

JULIA

Was that the neighbor boy?

AMANDA

Yeah and that dead boxer.

Julia slams her hand down on the table.

JULIA

Why are you doing this to me?

Amanda is sick of the denial and itching for a fight.

AMANDA

I can talk to dead people. Ignoring it isn't going to make it go away.

Julia looks out the back door and lowers her voice.

JULIA

Hush, do you want the whole neighborhood to think you're crazy?

AMANDA

Maybe I am!

Amanda storms off.

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda slams the door behind her.

Cass sits on Amanda's bed with the cigar box.

CASS

You found my stash.

Amanda opens the box and pulls out a dog collar bracelet that Cass's ghost is wearing, and some dried out black makeup. And a couple Polaroid boudoir photos that have yellowed with age.

She picks up a cassette tape.

AMANDA

This should be in a museum.

CASS

You should totally check it out.  
Siouxsie and the Banshees are  
wicked.

Amanda flips it over and reads the back.

AMANDA

Carcass, Premature Burial,  
Spellbound...

She drops the tape back into the box and spots a small book.

AMANDA

No thanks. People think I'm weird  
enough already....

Amanda picks it up. It's a diary. She flips through it. It's filled about halfway and stops.

CASS

Hey, that's private.

Amanda drops it back into the box.

AMANDA

Oh... You know what's really weird?

Amanda smiles as she pulls a folded piece of paper from her pocket and sets it in front of Cass.

AMANDA

What's this?

It's a year book photo of Cassandra Ann Stevens (aka Cass). The picture shows a nerdy girl with glasses in a conservative sweater and a cross hanging around her neck.

CASS

(sad)

My friends called me Cass.

Cass looks at the picture with remorse. For a flash Cass is the wholesome Cassandra in the picture.

Amanda reaches out to touch Cass's hand, but it passes right through.

AMANDA

Have you figured out who killed you yet?

CASS

Nope, but what does it matter anyway?

Amanda looks at her confused.

AMANDA

That's how it works. I find out who did it and drop an anonymous tip to the police and then you're free to head over to the never-never.

CASS

Rad, but this ghost thing is still new to me.

AMANDA

You're different.

CASS

That's a good thing right?

AMANDA

Most ghosts aren't so laid back. They're usually rather single-minded, which naturally involves me doing something for them.

Cass shrugs. Amanda glances at her clock.

AMANDA

Shit. I'm late.

She grabs her book bag and runs out of the room.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Amanda stumbles down the porch steps heading toward the sidewalk.

Adam nearly bumps into her as he heads for the front door.

ADAM

Whoa. Amanda... I'm sorry about being weird earlier... I just.

Amanda bounces ready to run, but waits. She's nearly as nervous as he is.

ADAM

I wanted to, uh.... ask you on a date.

Amanda blushes and a small smile forms on her lips.

ADAM

I thought we could watch the stars together. I'll order some pizza from Gino's. I know it's your favorite-

AMANDA

I have a writing group that I'm late for.

Amanda starts down the sidewalk. Undeterred, Adam continues.

ADAM

That's cool. The meteor shower doesn't really peak for a couple hours.

Amanda's mom steps out onto the porch and yells at her.

JULIA

I want you home promptly!

Adam waves to Julia. Amanda cringes.

ADAM

Hello, misses Bock.

Julia nods and returns to the house.

AMANDA

(to Adam)

Okay. Ten.

Adam, stunned, watches as Amanda runs off down the street.

ADAM

Yeah. Ten.

As realization sets in, Adam smiles and hurries back to his house with a skip in his step.

**INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - NIGHT**

An intimate group of POETRY NERDS occupy a corner of the small library.

The EMCEE, in a flamboyant scarf, addresses the group from behind a make-shift podium.

EMCEE

Thank you Katherine for another  
steamy sonnet.

He looks around the small group.

EMCEE

There's one person we still haven't  
heard from... Amanda, would you  
please?

Amanda looks around nervous as hell. The small group nudges her with encouragement.

The Emcee claps as Amanda approaches the podium.

Amanda pulls a piece of paper from her pocket. She pulls her hoodie down and nervously tucks her hair behind her ear.

She looks past the group to three GHOSTLY CHILDREN watching from the bookshelves.

AMANDA

I call this, 'the dead don't lie.'

**EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT**

From the shadows, a HOODED MAN watches Amanda through the window.

Duane approaches from behind the Masked Man. He suddenly turns.

DUANE

She's still in there.

The Masked Man nods. Duane slips on a mask.

**EXT. SMALL DOWNTOWN - NIGHT**

Nicodemus's blacked out '60s Lincoln pulls to a stop outside the library.

**INT. NICODEMUS'S LINCOLN - CONTINUOUS**

Shadows obscure Nicodemus. His gloved hand drifts down to the Cat O' Ninetails.

He gingerly plucks a strand of the whip.

Mary Gowen's ghost appears SCREAMING in the passenger seat. She stops screaming as soon as she's completely materialized. Mary stares forward, vacant.

A faint blue strand of spirit leads from Mary to a hook on the strand of whip Nicodemus is holding.

NICODEMUS

Where?

MARY

I'm not sure.

NICODEMUS

You said she'd be here.

Mary slowly turns her head to face Nicodemus.

MARY

Barbara knew for sure.

Nicodemus tightens his grip on the steering wheel. He puts the car in gear and drives past the library into the night.

**INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT**

The small group watches Amanda with a horrified silence.

AMANDA

Be careful what you do, even in  
death your actions will haunt you,  
cuz the dead don't lie.

Amanda stuffs the paper back into her pocket.

The Emcee pauses a moment and gives her a subdued applause.

AMANDA

Thank you Amanda. That was, uh  
dark... Everyone, Amanda.

The small group gives a polite clap.

EMCEE

Great session guys. I'll see you  
all next month, same time.

Amanda slips her earbuds in and pulls her hoodie up. The ghost children follow her to the door.

They whisper to her, but she can't hear them.

GHOST CHILDREN  
You're going to die.

**EXT. WOODED STREET - NIGHT**

Amanda walks down a barren street edged by a forest. She ignores the revenants drifting through the trees.

A truck's headlights crest a hill behind her. She scoots over to make sure the truck has room to pass.

The truck slows down behind her. She glances back and the truck speeds by, disappearing over a hill.

Amanda keeps walking.

The white truck's lights appear over the hill heading towards her. As it passes her she picks up her pace. She knows something's up.

A Hooded Man jumps from the trees and grabs her. Amanda SCREAMS.

The white truck's tires squeal as it spins around and heads back toward Amanda.

Amanda struggles, but she's no match for the Hooded Man.

AMANDA  
Help!

The truck roars up and stops. Amanda is tossed into the back and restrained by another Hooded Man.

HOODED MAN 1  
Go! Go!

The truck leaps forward unsettling everyone.

Amanda takes her shot, hitting Hooded Man 1 in the face and kicking the other.

She makes it to the side of the truck, but they grab her legs.

Amanda cries out to two DEAD CYCLISTS at the side of the road.



AMANDA

Help me!

Revenants and old spirits line the street.

AMANDA

Help!

The ghosts just watch with blank stares.

HOODED MAN 1

Shut up!

Hooded Man 2 slips a bag over her head.

HOODED MAN 2

You need to learn to keep your  
mouth shut.

Nicodemus's Lincoln crests the hill a little ways down the  
road.

**EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ROOF - NIGHT**

Adam sits on the roof eating cold pizza. He checks his watch  
and sighs.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT**

A dejected Adam raises his hand to knock on the door when it  
swings open revealing Julia.

JULIA

Have you seen Amanda?

ADAM

No.

Julia looks worried.

JULIA

She was supposed to be home an hour  
ago.

**EXT. WOODED STREET - NIGHT**

Adam walks the street swinging a flashlight along the path.

Adam's cell phone rings and he answers it.

ADAM

What did they say at the library?

A piece of paper blows into Adam's path.

ADAM

I'm sure she stopped somewhere and  
lost track of time.

Adam spots the paper and picks it up.

He shines his flashlight into the tree line and spots  
Amanda's spilled bag.

The light flows farther into the woods and spots the white of  
Amanda's still leg.

ADAM

Oh god!

Adam dives into the trees.

#### **INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT**

PARAMEDICS push a stretcher containing a near dead Amanda to  
DOCTOR PRICE and a team of NURSES.

Adam and a COP follow close behind.

PARAMEDIC

Multiple lacerations and blunt  
trauma indicative of-

DOCTOR PRICE

We'll take her from here.  
(to nurses)  
Prep for surgery.

Amanda is wheeled into another room. Adam tries to follow,  
but the Cop stops him.

COP

Tell me how you found her.

Julia runs down the hallway.

JULIA

Where is she? Where's my baby?

COP

Ma'am, they're taking care of her  
now.

**INT. SURGICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Nurses cut off Amanda's top revealing deep gashes down her chest. Another nurse hooks Amanda up to a heart monitor.

Doctor Price swings a light over Amanda, illuminating her multiple wounds.

Amanda coughs, letting out a weeping moan.

Revenants, a DEAD DOCTOR, a Couple BURNED-SCARRED NURSES, and a few GHOSTLY PATIENTS crowd the room, watching.

The BEEPING of the machines and the voices of the frantic doctors and nurses fade into nothing as the light above Amanda grows in intensity.

Everything grows silent and slows down. Amanda blinks back at the light, but smiles. She reaches out for the light.

The ghosts watch with an intense hunger as the heavenly light slides down Amanda's arm.

Complete silence. The doctors work frantically in slow motion trying to save Amanda, but she is blissfully disconnecting from her body.

The heavenly light burns down Amanda's arm and swirls around her heart.

The room's door bursts open with a BANG as Julia pushes past the Cop and into the room.

The sound rushes back in and everything speeds back up. Amanda lies still on the bed as she flat lines.

Julia brushes a nurse away to hug Amanda.

JULIA

Don't you leave me. Come back. I'm  
sorry, Amanda. I'm so sorry.

Amanda GASPS and the monitor BEEPS to life. Doctor Price pulls Julia away and passes her to a Nurse.

The ghosts in the room watch Amanda with awe and a bit of surprised respect as they slide back out of the room.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

A bandaged and bruised Amanda lies on her side vacantly staring at the wall pretending to sleep.

Julia slips into the room.

JULIA  
How're you doing?

Amanda sighs.

Julia pulls a chair beside Amanda and gingerly runs her hand over her hair.

JULIA  
You don't need to say anything.

Julia sits down and takes her daughter's hand. A small tear runs down Amanda's cheek.

**INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY**

Adam approaches Amanda's room with flowers in his hand. Outside the room stands DETECTIVE MORROW (late 30s), a tough, but friendly cop.

MORROW  
Adam, you have anything more for me?

Adam shakes his head.

ADAM  
I wish I did. Sorry, Detective.

Adam reaches out to knock, but hesitates. Morrow notices his nervousness.

MORROW  
I'm sure she'll be happy to see you.

Adam takes a deep breath.

**INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Julia hugs Amanda and chokes back tears.

JULIA  
If Adam hadn't found you-

Amanda squeezes her hand.

AMANDA  
I'll be okay.

Julia smiles and kisses her.

JULIA  
I'm the one that's supposed to be  
comforting you.

A quiet knock gets their attention.

Adam nervously enters, carrying a bouquet of flowers.

ADAM  
I hear you're doing good.

Amanda wipes her eyes, tucks her hair behind her ear and  
nods.

ADAM  
If you need anything. Anything at  
all. Just call me... I've got to  
got to work, but I'll be back  
later.

Julia, overwhelmed with appreciation, insists on giving Adam  
several hugs before he leaves.

Amanda waves as Adam leaves.

JULIA  
He's a nice boy.

#### **INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

A Nurse enters to check Amanda's vitals. Julia who's fallen  
asleep in the middle of a Stephen King novel, stirs awake.

Julia wipes the sleep from her eyes and nods to the nurse who  
leaves.

She looks out the window. A street light flickers over a  
dozen revenants and other ghosts floating outside the window  
unseen by Julia.

Julia snaps the curtains closed.

#### **INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Amanda sleeps, tossing and turning.

The nurse pushes a medicine cart into the room. She's  
followed by the Dead Doctor.

NURSE

Good morning, time for your pain  
meds.

The Nurse preps a syringe. The Dead Doctor looks over her  
shoulder.

DEAD DOCTOR

No.

The Nurse checks Amanda's head bandages.

NURSE

You're healing up nicely.

Unseen by the nurse, the Dead Doctor squirts out the excess  
medicine in the syringe and shakes his head in disgust.

NURSE

All right. Give me that arm.

#### **INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT**

Amanda and Julia play a game of cards. Amanda yawns as she  
lays down her hand.

JULIA

I should let you get some sleep.

Amanda lies down and one of the Burnt Nurses walks into the  
room through a wall and fluffs her pillow.

Julia gets comfortable and lifts a book into her lap. She  
pauses, wrestling with something.

She looks at Amanda and sighs.

JULIA

Do you still see them?

Amanda's eyes open, not sure what her mother has asked.

JULIA

Are they here now?

AMANDA

I'm not crazy.

JULIA

I know, baby. I know.

Amanda looks behind Julia at the Dead Doctor and the Burnt  
Nurse watching over her.

AMANDA

Yes. They're always around us.

Julia takes Amanda's hand.

JULIA

I believe you. I do.

Julia blots tears from her eyes.

JULIA

I don't want this distance to come  
between us again.

Julia scoops Amanda up into a tight embrace.

AMANDA

Why did you pretend I couldn't see  
them?

JULIA

I was afraid... It was stupid.

Tears form in Amanda's eyes. She's confused and a bit angry.

AMANDA

Afraid of what?

JULIA

Your father saw them... It changed  
him, he soured... I was afraid...

Amanda slumps back in shock.

AMANDA

He... saw them? And you let me  
think I was crazy.

JULIA

I'm sorry. I thought it would go  
away. That you'd grow out of it...  
I'm sorry.

They hug again.

**INT. JULIA'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY**

Amanda stares out the passenger window into the passing trees  
spotting a few ghosts and even more revenants as they pass.

Julia steers the car onto their small suburban street.

They pass the wailing woman and a few new ghosts standing in the shadows.

Amanda spots the ghost of Adam's mother CAROLINE (30) standing at his window.

JULIA  
Good. They're still here.

Amanda glances up and spots a police car parked across the street from their house.

Julia pulls in beside Heather's car.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Julia helps Amanda into the house.

AMANDA  
I'm not a gimp.

Heather rushes up and gives Amanda a big hug. Amanda grunts in mild pain.

JULIA  
Careful.

HEATHER  
How are you?

AMANDA  
I'm fine.

Amanda moves past the two toward her room.

HEATHER  
Oh, I straightened up your room. I hope you like it.

Amanda enters her room.

HEATHER  
(to Julia)  
She seems to be doing really well.

JULIA  
Yeah, maybe. I hope.



**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Amanda collapses onto her bed. She rolls over and spots a 'Siouxsie and The Banshees' poster on her wall with Siouxsie in all her goth glory. On her dresser sits an iPod in a speaker cradle.

She stares at the ceiling clutching her pillow, tears form in the corners of her eyes.

A KNOCK disturbs her silence. She wipes her eyes.

AMANDA

Come in.

Heather steps in.

HEATHER

I found the poster under your bed.  
I admit, a little surprising.

Amanda glances at the iPod.

HEATHER

I found your tape. I didn't think  
you kids used those anymore, so I  
got you an new iPod loaded with  
songs in that... style. I hit all  
the Goth boards and I think I  
nailed this one.

Amanda returns to staring at the ceiling. Heather sits on the edge of Amanda's bed.

HEATHER

I'm sorry. I'm just running off at  
the mouth.

Heather sits down beside her.

HEATHER

It's all catching up to you now,  
isn't it?

Amanda barely chokes back a sob as she nods. Heather gives her a hug.

HEATHER

It'll be all right, you'll see.

Amanda smiles and dries her eyes. Heather's eyes light up.

HEATHER

I got you a gift.

She lifts her purse into her lap.

HEATHER  
Remember Daniel?

AMANDA  
Vaguely.

HEATHER  
He left this for me.

Amanda doesn't know what to expect. Heather lifts a revolver from her purse.

Surprised, Amanda gasps and pushes the gun back into Heather's purse.

AMANDA  
The hell?

HEATHER  
I'm just thinking next time you can  
shoot the bastards in their-

AMANDA  
Heather! Uh... Thank you, but keep  
it.

Heather shrugs and puts the gun away.

AMANDA  
You're either the coolest aunt ever  
or the most irresponsible.

HEATHER  
I vote for the coolest.

A doorbell RINGING catches their attention.

Heather gives a mischievous smile.

HEATHER  
I think I know who that is... So  
you're finally interested in Adam?  
I guess he did save you.

AMANDA  
It's not that. We had a date that  
night.

Heather takes Amanda's hand.

HEATHER  
I know you may want to thank him,  
with you know what.

AMANDA  
Heather!

HEATHER  
I'm just saying if you do just use  
protection.

Adam appears at the door with a pizza box.

HEATHER  
I'll leave you two alone.

Heather hugs Amanda again and drops a strip of condoms in her lap.

Heather stands and gives Adam a hug.

HEATHER  
Not to long, all right?

He nods and sets the pizza down.

Amanda spots the condoms and hides them under her pillow before Adam can see them. Her face beet red.

ADAM  
I figured I owed you Gino's... And  
I wanted to see how you're doing.

AMANDA  
I'm alive.

Amanda smiles up at him.

AMANDA  
I'm better now.

Adam fidgets, unsure what to say.

ADAM  
Uh... If you ever want to talk, I'm  
right next door.

AMANDA  
Thank you. I uh-

ADAM  
I'll see you at school, right?

Amanda nods, confused, as Adam nervously flees the room.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Amanda fills a glass of water at the sink looking out into the back yard.

Mac stands under the tree, but he's not alone. Several other ghosts and revenants now stand vigil outside.

The outside light shining onto the ghosts flickers as a group of revenants joins their vigil.

The kitchen's light flashes on. Amanda looks over as her mother enters the kitchen.

JULIA

You'll need something stronger than that.

AMANDA

Now you sound like Heather.

JULIA

Sit. Sit.

Amanda sits at the small table as Julia pulls a pint of ice cream out of the freezer and two spoons from the drawer.

JULIA

This is my therapy.

Amanda chuckles and grabs a spoon. The two dig in.

JULIA

Now doesn't that make things a little better?

Amanda stares out the window at the group of ghosts.

JULIA

I'm sorry. I know it doesn't really help.

AMANDA

I've dealt with it. I dealt with it alone. I haven't let them change me.

JULIA

Are you going to let the bastards that hurt you do it?

Amanda looks away.

AMANDA  
This is different.

JULIA  
If you let it be.

Julia takes Amanda's hand.

JULIA  
I would do almost anything to keep  
you safe. But being locked up isn't  
a life.

Afraid of Amanda's response Julia blurts out.

JULIA  
I let your writing group know you  
would be returning... This  
Saturday.

Amanda's stunned.

#### **INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Amanda turns on her laptop. Sets a stack of homework assignments on her desk she needs to make up. She's annoyed, it's like she's being punished for missing school.

Time passes and no work gets done. Amanda surfs the internet, desperately procrastinating.

CASS (O.S.)  
How'd it go?

Cass steps out of the closet through the door. Cass looks surprised.

CASS  
You've changed.

AMANDA  
You don't say.

Cass approaches Amanda, eyes wide, and reaches out but stops short of touching her.

CASS  
You're glowing.

Cass stands in awe.

CASS  
I... Don't know what it is... I  
feel alive.

AMANDA  
Great, I'm glad.

Amanda turns back to her homework.

AMANDA  
But, if you don't mind. I really  
have a lot of homework assignments  
to make up.

**INT. KITCHEN - SAME**

Julia pours wine down the sink. Amanda's faint voice travels down the hallway. Julia shouts toward the bedroom.

JULIA  
Amanda, you all right?

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda shouts back.

AMANDA  
I'm fine, just talking to a dead  
girl.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Julia cringes and tosses the last bottle into a recycling bin.

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda turns back to her stack of overdue assignments.

CASS  
I can help.

AMANDA  
Whatever.

CASS  
I'm dead, not stupid. I was a nerd,  
remember.

They both reach for the pencil simultaneously. Instead of Amanda's hand going through Cass's, they collide.

Both girls jerk their hands back in shock.

AMANDA  
How-

CASS  
What-

Cass reaches out and touches Amanda; where she touches glows. Cass jerks her hand back.

CASS  
I... You've really changed...

Cass flexes her fingers.

CASS  
I feel different.

AMANDA  
What is it?

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

Cass grabs the closet door and can open it, where before she could barely move it.

She turns and looks at Amanda, who is totally freaked out.

CASS  
It's you.

A KNOCK at the door gets Amanda's attention.

AMANDA  
Back into the closet.

Cass flies back into the closet through the door. Amanda's eye's widen in shock.

The KNOCK comes again.

AMANDA  
Come in.

Adam enters the room, nervously.

ADAM  
How was your first day back?

Amanda glances to her stack of homework.

AMANDA

Busy.

ADAM

I was wondering if you'd-

Amanda takes his arm and leads him out of the room.

AMANDA

Yes. Let's go.

Adam's surprised, but follows her lead.

ADAM

Uh, okay.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT**

Amanda and Adam sit under the oak tree. Ghosts and Revenants surround them, but they keep a respectful distance and Amanda tries to ignore them.

AMANDA

What did you want to ask me before  
I dragged you out here?

ADAM

My dad will be gone again tomorrow,  
so I was thinking you could-

Amanda slugs Adam's shoulder.

AMANDA

Adam!

Adam is totally thrown off his game. He stammers out his words.

ADAM

Uh... It's not like that, I-

Amanda laughs.

AMANDA

I'm joking.

Adam breathes a sigh of relief.

ADAM

Well I was thinking of having a  
picnic, would you be interested?



Amanda leans in and kisses his cheek.

AMANDA  
Of course I would.

She hops up surprised by her boldness and happy about it.

AMANDA  
But I really need to get my  
homework done.

She runs off back to the house. The ghosts part giving Amanda space.

**EXT. AMBROSE BIERCE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY**

Amanda rubs her temple. People are still looking at her strangely.

**INT. AMBROSE BIERCE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY**

Amanda walks to her locker. Kids give her nervous glances and exchange whispers as she passes.

She hurries with her books, slams the locker and takes off.

The football team's QUARTERBACK acknowledges her existence with a smile and nod. A CHEERLEADER rushes in to hug her.

CHEERLEADER  
I'm so glad you're okay.

Amanda is stunned and spits out a thanks and hurries away from the insanity.

She rounds the corner and nearly runs into Duane. He backs up shocked.

DUANE  
Oh, Amanda.

He watches her for a reaction, but she remembers nothing.

AMANDA  
Sorry, Mister Jenkins.

Duane's sweating bullets.

DUANE  
Well, uh, that's okay. Just get to  
class.

She hurries into a classroom. Louis and Frank swoop in and follow a few paces behind her.

**INT. CAFETERIA - DAY**

Amanda dumps the remains of her typical school lunch slop while talking on her phone.

Louis and Frank keep a comfortable distance behind her. They no longer pester her.

AMANDA  
I'm fine. Really, it's going well.

A BLONDE GIRL rushes up and hugs her.

BLONDE GIRL  
It's great to see you back to school. We were so worried.

Amanda smiles, nods, and makes a break for the exit.

AMANDA  
(into phone)  
People I don't even know are being nice to me... It's creepy.

Just as she leaves Adam steps in with a bag lunch. He looks around the cafeteria for Amanda.

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY**

Amanda hustles through the empty hallway. She crams her books into her locker.

Becca slaps the locker next to Amanda with a bang.

Amanda groans. Becca isn't happy.

BECCA  
You're getting a sympathy pass from everyone because you were dumb enough to get yourself jumped. But you'll get-

AMANDA  
(quietly)  
Shut up!

Becca is taken aback.

BECCA  
What did you say?

Amanda turns and faces Becca.

Becca gets right in her face, crowding her closer to the locker.

BECCA  
What did you say?

AMANDA  
I said. Shut up! I'm not in the mood for your shit!

Becca jerks backwards, as if she's been pushed, though Amanda didn't touch her.

BECCA  
(incredulous)  
You pushed me!

Amanda looks stunned at Louis and Frank who've appeared between Becca and Amanda.

AMANDA  
Just leave me alone.

Becca charges.

AMANDA  
Stop!

Louis and Frank grab Becca's arms. Becca tries to move but they have her tight.

Becca fights to move. Panic crosses her face.

BECCA  
The hell?

Amanda looks to the ghosts and realizes that they are helping her.

Becca's panic turns to terror as Amanda advances.

Louis and Frank drag Becca back away from Amanda, her feet barely touching the floor.

AMANDA  
I've had enough of you always playing the bitch.

Becca slams into the lockers on the other side of the hallway by a force unseen to her.

The light over their heads flickers. Becca cries.

BECCA  
Amanda, please.

AMANDA  
Shut up!

Becca tries to speak, but Frank holds her mouth shut. Becca's eyes go wide in total fear.

Amanda looks down and Becca has wet herself. Amanda is stunned and a little ashamed. She backs away.

AMANDA  
I... I... Just leave me alone.

Adam rounds the corner.

ADAM  
Amanda!

He can see that Amanda and Becca had some altercation.

Adam rushes over, pulls Amanda away protectively, and gives Becca the evil eye.

ADAM  
Just stay away from her.

Amanda slumps into Adam's arms.

AMANDA  
I just want to get out of here. Can  
you take me home?

He nods and leads her towards the exit as the bell rings.  
KIDS rush out into the hallway.

Louis closes Amanda's locker as students surround Becca, who shivers in fear.

#### **EXT. SIDE ALLEY - DAY**

The blacked out Lincoln sits partially hidden in the shadows of trees. Nicodemus watches a large house with a sprawling well-manicured lawn.

He rolls the whip in the palm of his hand and whistles his creepy ditty.

Mary's battered ghost whimpers in the back seat.

**EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DUSK**

Adam helps Amanda sit down on a blanket, he's got a variety of food, but no pizza. Ghosts and revenants fill the alley keeping their distance, but watching her.

ADAM  
I didn't know what you really  
liked, beside pizza... so I got a  
variety.

Amanda looks to the ghosts. Adam is really nervous, he doesn't want to screw this up.

AMANDA  
This is great.

ADAM  
I have some beer or wine inside if  
you'd like.

AMANDA  
No thanks. I don't drink.

ADAM  
Of course. Yes.

Thunder rumbles. They both glance up as clouds roll in.

**INT. ADAM'S ROOM - NIGHT**

Adam squeezes into the typical boy's bedroom mess. Star charts and shuttle designs adorn his walls instead of pin-ups and sports memorabilia.

He kicks some clutter into his closet.

Next to the closet is an old rocking chair and rocking gently in it is Adam's ghostly mom, Caroline, unseen to him.

Amanda brushes past Adam and spots his mother as Adam closes the closet doors.

Caroline watches the pair.

Amanda checks out his nerd trophies and NASA memorabilia on the way to sitting on his bed.

AMANDA  
Looks like you're really into NASA.

He gestures to a small refracting telescope.

ADAM  
My mother got me my first  
telescope.

AMANDA  
It's cool.

Adam smiles, relieved that she doesn't think he's a nerd. He sits down beside her.

ADAM  
I'm going to be an astronaut. I've  
already written to my congressman  
for his recommendation to the Air  
Force academy. Humans shouldn't be  
stuck on this rock. We need space.

Amanda's attention wanders to his mother standing in the corner and watching them.

Adam notices.

ADAM  
I'm sorry. I'm rambling. You seem a  
little-

Amanda tries to focus.

AMANDA  
It's cool. You have a plan.

Caroline leans down, whispers in Amanda's ear, and backs out of the room with a smile on her face.

AMANDA  
We are all children of the stars  
and when we grow up we need to  
return to them.

Adam is stunned.

ADAM  
My mother always said that.

Impulsively, he leans forward. They hover just inches apart when Amanda kisses him and he kisses her back.

Adam is raring for more, but Amanda pushes off and shakes her head.

AMANDA  
This is wrong.

Adam's offended and stands up.

AMANDA  
I'm a liar. I've been lying.

ADAM  
What do you mean?

AMANDA  
I like you and I want you to like  
me for who I am.

Adam sits back down and takes her hand.

ADAM  
Who are you then?

Amanda bites her lip and looks to Adam's mom, but she just watches impassively.

ADAM  
I'm sure whatever you say won't  
change the way I feel about you.

AMANDA  
I can see dead people.

Adam draws back and looks to the empty rocking chair that's gently rocking, could be a breeze causing it.

ADAM  
Uh... What? Like-

Amanda pleads with her eyes. She wants him to believe.

AMANDA  
Ghosts.

Adam moves away from Amanda. He lets out a nervous laugh, unsure how to respond.

ADAM  
Maybe the attack-

AMANDA  
No.

Amanda stands and move to the door. Her first thought is to flee, but she needs something, someone.

AMANDA  
I've seen them my whole life, but  
it's different now.

Adam waves his hands as if to make it all go away.

ADAM  
This is... It's unreal.

Realization crosses his face.

ADAM  
What you said-

AMANDA  
It's true.

ADAM  
No. About being children of the  
stars... You heard that-

AMANDA  
From your mother.

Adam steadies himself on his desk as if he'd been punched in the gut.

He's done trying to be understanding and his face knots up in anger.

ADAM  
Get out.

Amanda is taken aback.

AMANDA  
I-

ADAM  
Get out!

Amanda runs out of the room with tears running down her face.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Amanda storms back to her house. In the driveway sits an unmarked police car.

**INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda bursts into the house. She spots Julia sitting with red eyes swollen from crying.

Detective Morrow stands up from the couch.



JULIA

Amanda.

Amanda wipes her eyes.

MORROW

How are you doing? I was giving  
your mom an update.

AMANDA

Did you find them?

JULIA

They're giving up!

Morrow looks to Julia.

MORROW

We're not. No. We just don't have  
any more leads.

AMANDA

I don't need you! I don't need  
anyone.

Amanda marches to her room. Morrow and Julia watch her leave  
with concern on their faces.

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda storms into her room. She pushes play on her iPod, her  
face a knot of anger.

A tear rolls down her cheek as a dark rhythmic Goth song  
plays.

She stares in the mirror and takes off her shirt revealing  
the deep scars down her chest.

Amanda pokes at her faded bruises.

AMANDA

Who am I? What am I?

She runs her fingers down her scars.

AMANDA

No one understands.

Cass steps up from behind her with a dark glint in her eyes.

CASS

I understand.

**EXT. ROSE COLLUM'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

A Towncar pulls up to the front entrance. The DRIVER hops out retrieving luggage from the trunk.

ROSE COLLUM (40s), a well-dressed professional, thanks the driver and carries her bags to the door.

Across the street hidden in the shadows sits Nicodemus's Lincoln.

**EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DUSK**

Amanda looks over her shoulder at the small downtown before stepping into the library.

**INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda spots the writing group, but ducks into a side row before they can see her.

She walks until she reaches a small set of stairs stepping down into an older part of the library.

A sign hanging above reads, "Original Library Built 1872".

AMANDA  
(whispers)  
Hello... I know you're in here.

The ghostly laughter of children echoes through the room.

One of the three ghost children dart in front of her smiling.

AMANDA  
I just want to ask you some  
questions.

Their laughter answers her as another darts past.

Amanda looks behind her to see if anyone is watching as she moves farther into the old wing.

AMANDA  
Please.

Another round of laughter hits her as GHOST BOY 1 attempts to run past her, but this time she reaches out and grabs him.

He jerks to a halt and stares at her hand in shock. He tugs, but it's useless.

AMANDA

Tell the rest of them to show  
themselves.

The other ghost children, GHOST GIRL and GHOST BOY 2, step  
out of the darkness and join their friend.

They are followed by a tall matronly DEAD LIBRARIAN, then  
several older ghosts and a host of revenants.

Amanda gives a little gasp at their appearance.

AMANDA

Do you remember the last time I was  
here?

The children nod.

AMANDA

What happened after I left?

The children exchange puzzled glances and shrug.

DEAD LIBRARIAN

You're going to have to be a bit  
more direct with this lot.

Amanda thinks for a moment.

AMANDA

Did someone follow me when I left?

The little girl nods.

AMANDA

Who was it?

The girl shrugs.

AMANDA

What did they look like?

GHOST GIRL

Masked men.

GHOST BOY 1

Three masked men.

Ghost Boy 2 tugs at Ghost Boy 1's shirt sleeve.

GHOST BOY 1

One showed his face.

AMANDA  
What did he look like?

GHOST BOY 1  
A man.

Amanda grunts in frustration.

DEAD LIBRARIAN  
He tells the truth. We have little  
need for what goes on out there.  
The man was not known to me or  
mine.

The Dead Librarian pauses.

DEAD LIBRARIAN  
But... There was a truck. A white  
truck that picked the men up.

AMANDA  
Did you get a license plate or-

EMCEE (O.S.)  
Amanda?

The revenants and most of the ghosts disappear.

EMCEE  
Is that you?

He rushes up to her and gives her a big hug.

EMCEE  
I'm so glad you came back.

Amanda looks back as the dead librarian shepherds the  
children through the wall, revealing a large bear claw wound  
running down her back.

#### **EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT**

The writer's group disperses into the night. The Emcee gives  
Amanda another hug.

EMCEE  
Let me give you a ride.

AMANDA  
It's okay.

EMCEE  
I have to insist.

AMANDA  
It's all right, my aunt is picking  
me up.

He frowns.

EMCEE  
You sure?

Amanda nods.

She leans against the building until everyone is gone, then  
begins her trek home.

Cass steps out of the shadows.

CASS  
Hey.

Amanda turns, shocked.

AMANDA  
How are you here?

CASS  
Totally weird, right? I thought I  
was bound to your room too, but it  
just felt natural to follow you.

Amanda returns to her walk.

AMANDA  
Great. All I need is a herd of  
ghosts following me like lost  
puppies.

Cass laughs as she follows along. A couple revenants drift  
behind them.

#### **EXT. SMALL DOWNTOWN - NIGHT**

Amanda and Cass pass an alley. A MUGGER slips out of the  
shadows.

Cass spots him and moves out of his way. He reaches around  
Amanda's neck and presses a knife into her back.

Amanda lets out a yelp.

MUGGER  
Don't scream.

He spins Amanda around and slams her against a wall.

AMANDA

Cass!

The Mugger looks around.

MUGGER

Do you think this is a joke?

AMANDA

Okay. Okay, just take my purse.

Happy that he has the upper hand he gives her a leer.

MUGGER

I could really damage that ass.

Cass leans in to whisper in Cass's ear.

CASS

Use them.

She gestures to the two revenants watching a short distance away.

MUGGER

I think we're going to become real friendly.

Amanda has had enough and looks to the revenants.

AMANDA

Get him off of me.

The Mugger looks around gets pissed when he realizes there's no one around.

MUGGER

That earned you a cut.

He lifts the knife and a revenant grabs his arm. He struggles to move the knife forward, but can't.

MUGGER

What? I-

Amanda laughs.

AMANDA

Good bye.

The mugger is thrown to the center of the street. His knife goes flying.

Amanda steps away from the wall, picks up her purse, and dusts herself off.

Confused, the mugger climbs to his feet. As soon as he stands he's violently thrown against a wall across the street, then jerked 10 feet into the air.

MUGGER

Help!

Amanda frowns, terrified with herself.

AMANDA

Stop it!

The mugger drops to the ground and Amanda strides off.

Cass glances at the mugger with a smile and follows Amanda.

#### **INT. ROSE COLLUM'S HOME - NIGHT**

Hands bound by cord squirm, loosening the knot. ROSE COLLUM (40s), cries as she works herself free.

Nicodemus walks to a fireplace mantel.

On the mantel, sitting on a mounted display, is an ornate ritual knife with an ivory handle and black blade.

NICODEMUS

Oh, the arrogance. You just display  
your plunder out in the open.

Nicodemus reaches out with his left hand revealing the forearm-length bracelet of bone and wood. He grabs the knife.

NICODEMUS

Your sisters had the discretion to  
hide their betrayal.

A lamp whizzes past his head and smashes into the mantel.

Nicodemus whips around as Rose runs for the door.

He lashes the whip out, but there is no way he could reach her-

But Mary's ghostly hand materializes and trips Rose.

Nicodemus pounces and stands over Rose. He slashes the whip down, but it doesn't bite into her flesh; it stops just an inch above her back.

He pulls the whip back and draws out Rose's tortured spirit.

NICODEMUS  
You will tell me where to find the  
last one.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY**

Amanda steps out of her room in full Goth glory.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Julia prepares a full breakfast robotically, her mind a million miles away.

Amanda bounds into the room, scoops up a piece of toast as she passes through.

Julia sighs and she sits.

JULIA  
I've been thinking and it's time-

Amanda interrupts her with a mouthful.

AMANDA  
I've gotta run. We'll talk later  
okay? Okay.

Julia's resolve melts.

AMANDA  
Love ya.

Amanda darts out of the room.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Adam steps up to the door with a bouquet of flowers and reaches out to knock.

The door flies open and Amanda nearly barrels into him.

ADAM  
Amanda!

He's taken aback by the Goth attire.

AMANDA  
Adam!



Her surprise turns to anger.

ADAM  
I'm sorry-

Amanda pushes past him.

AMANDA  
Sorry?

Adam pleads and Amanda keeps walking.

ADAM  
I was freaked out. I didn't know  
what to think.

Amanda stops.

ADAM  
I believe you.

Her anger melts, but she turns to hide that from Adam.

ADAM  
I want to make it up to you.

AMANDA  
Maybe later, I'm following a lead.

Amanda runs off.

**EXT. SMALL DOWNTOWN - DAY**

Amanda smiles at passing pedestrians who give her a double-take as she passes.

She ducks into an alley. Cass appears in the darkest shadows.

AMANDA  
What do you have?

CASS  
I've found someone who-

Cass steps forward, but as she steps into the light she fades.

CASS  
Oops.

She backs up.

CASS  
Some old guy sitting outside the  
bakery. Well it was a corner store  
when he was alive and then it was a  
seamstress and then-

AMANDA  
Cass.

CASS  
Believe me, I had to hear it all,  
but yeah, we've found the truck.

**EXT. BOBBY'S GARAGE - DAY**

Amanda crosses the street, presses against a wall and watches  
the small two bay garage.

She slinks into an alley.

**EXT. GARAGE ALLEY**

Amanda steps around back. From the shadow of a doorway Cass  
calls to her.

CASS  
It's in there.

Amanda approaches a window looking into the garage.

She rubs accumulated dirt away and peers into the darkness.  
Inside is the white pickup used to kidnap her.

Amanda squints and reads the writing on the side of the  
truck, 'Bobby's Garage' and under that, 'Bobby Terrano,  
owner'.

The back door opens with a CLANG. Out steps BOBBY TERRANO  
(40s), balding, overweight, and carrying a box of parts.

BOBBY  
Hey!

Amanda looks up frightened and runs.

BOBBY  
Come back here!

**INT. BOB'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS**

Bobby runs into his office, snatches up a phone, and dials.

BOBBY

I thought you said that bitch  
didn't remember anything... Then  
why is she slinking around my  
place?

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Amanda rushes into her room and grabs Cass's cigar box. She  
dumps the contents.

Cass steps out of the closet.

CASS

What are you looking for?

Amanda picks up the diary. She flips to the last written  
page.

AMANDA

Steve invited me to a party. I've  
always liked Steve, but since he  
started hanging out with Duane and  
that meat head, Bobby Terrano I  
didn't think he'd ever notice me. I  
hope this night will be bitchen!

CASS

I kissed Steve in the third grade.

AMANDA

I think they attacked me because I  
was looking for your killer... The  
truck belongs to Bobby Terrano.

Cass rubs her rope burn-scarred neck.

AMANDA

Remember. You know who killed you.

Cass glances around confused. She stumbles clutches her  
stomach as if she'd been punched.

Cass loses her Goth look for a moment, flickering back to  
innocent Cass.

**BEGIN CASS' MURDER FLASHBACK**

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT**

A bonfire burns. STEVE (18) necks with Cass who is dressed Goth Lite.

Steve's hand wanders and Cass stops him.

CASS

No.

STEVE

Don't you wanna have a little fun.

A YOUNG DUANE and YOUNG BOBBY, both drunk and carrying beer.

DUANE

I told you she's still a prude.

Duane grabs at Cass's breast and tears away her shirt. Cass screams, but Bobby covers her mouth.

Bobby throws her to the ground. Her head slams into a rock and she stops moving.

STEVE

Shit man!

**END CASS' MURDER FLASHBACK**

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Innocent Cass disappears and Goth Cass returns. She looks up at Amanda.

CASS

I know who killed me.

**INT. AMBROSE BIERCE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY**

Amanda loiters around the memorial. Kids have mostly left as the school day ends.

Frank steps through the wall and nods to her.

She turns and studies the memorial.

AMANDA

I know who did it. I know who killed Cass. I'm going to the garage at midnight to find the evidence I need to put those bastards away.

Amanda marches off as Duane peeks around the corner.

Louis materializes beside her.

AMANDA  
Did he hear me?

Louis nods and disappears as Amanda steps out into the sunlight.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Amanda steps out of her room in full Goth attire with Cass on her heels.

Julia hangs up a phone with a trembling hand. She's terrified and clutching a framed photo.

JULIA  
Amanda...

JULIA  
...I need to talk to you.

AMANDA  
Later, I'm going out.

JULIA  
I... It's important.

AMANDA  
Later!

Julia sets the frame onto the table face down. She frowns and looks away.

JULIA  
You have your father's eyes.

Amanda storms out of the house.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Amanda strides onto the sidewalk heading into town.

Adam steps out of his house with a telescope under his arm.

ADAM  
Amanda.

Amanda is oblivious and keeps walking as revenants, the Wailing Woman, Cass, and a few other ghosts follow her.

ADAM

Amanda?

He stops, confused by her brusqueness.

**EXT. BOB'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Amanda slinks up to the back door. Cass appears behind her.

CASS

There's two of them here, in the  
back office.

Amanda goes to open the door, but it's locked. She glances at Cass, who reaches through the door, and it pops open.

**EXT. ADAM'S HOUSE - ROOF - NIGHT**

Adam adjusts his telescope, but is distracted when a blacked out 60s Lincoln pulls up in front of Amanda's home.

Adam peers over the edge and spots Nicodemus as he kicks open the front door.

**INT. BOB'S GARAGE - NIGHT**

Amanda quietly slinks through the dark.

**INT. OFFICE - NIGHT**

An older STEVE (40s), dressed in a suit with a loosened tie. He paces as Bobby watches him with irritation.

STEVE

This is going to ruin us.

BOBBY

We'll take care of it.

Steve is a nervous wreck.

STEVE

Maybe if we come clean. It was an  
accident. She'll have to leave us  
alone.

Bobby looks to Steve like he's a fool.

AMANDA (O.S.)

Accident!

Steve grimaces.

Amanda stands in the doorway.

STEVE  
Look, there's been a  
misunderstanding.

Bobby moves to get up, but Steve stops him.

STEVE  
We just want to talk. Just talk.

She backs up into the shadows.

AMANDA  
What you did wasn't an accident.

Bobby stands. Both men approach the door.

AMANDA  
If you turn yourself in-

CASS  
Amanda!

Cass shouts, but it's too late. Duane pistol whips Amanda in the back of the head.

Amanda drops. Duane pulls her up roughly by her arm.

DUANE  
Looks like I showed up just in  
time. Now if you two idiots could-

Duane lets out a GRUNT as Amanda twists free and punches him right in the crotch.

A GUNSHOT rings out. His shot just misses her.

Amanda runs.

While doubled over Duane waves for the men to follow her.

DUANE  
Get her!

Amanda scrambles through the dark.

Steve and Bobby spread out.

Amanda reaches a wall of shelves. She tries one direction and stops at a stack of boxes.

CASS  
Over here.

Amanda runs for Cass's voice just as Bobby closes in.  
She hits a door and runs outside.

**EXT. GARAGE ALLEY - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda stumbles into the alley and darts to the left. She stops at a wall and looks right, left. It's a dead end.

Bobby steps out of the garage blocking her escape. He's followed by Steve.

Amanda moves to the right and Bobby shadows her. She's trapped.

Steve holds out his hands in peace.

STEVE  
If you let us explain. Try to talk  
some sense into you.

AMANDA  
What, so you can try to kill me  
again?

Bobby is pumped and ready for a fight.

STEVE  
It wasn't like that. You fought and  
fell out of the truck. We were  
afraid and took off. We just wanted  
to scare you... To stay quiet-

DUANE (O.S.)  
It's too late for talking.

Duane steps out of the garage carrying a gun.

CASS  
Him!

**BEGIN CASS MURDER FLASHBACK**

Younger Steve panics as Duane and Bobby lifts Cass into the bed of a truck.

DUANE  
(to Steve)  
Just go. We'll take of it.



Steve runs to his car.

Cass coughs.

BOBBY  
Guess who ain't dead?

Duane picks up a length of rope.

DUANE  
Not for long.

**END CASS MURDER FLASHBACK**

**EXT. GARAGE ALLEY - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda points to Duane.

AMANDA  
Oh, but killing Cass was no  
accident, was it?

STEVE  
It was. She hit her head. We were  
just messing around.

BOBBY  
(to Steve)  
Shut up.

Amanda laughs, with a fake confidence.

AMANDA  
They didn't tell you, did they? The  
rock didn't kill her. They  
strangled her.

Steve looks at Duane and Bobby in disbelief.

Cass whispers in Amanda's ear.

CASS  
Use the ghosts. Make them visible.  
Think about you want them to do and  
they'll do it.

STEVE  
She was dead?

CASS  
Focus.

DUANE

I did what needed to be done.

Duane lifts the gun up, aiming at Amanda.

DUANE

It's clear you can't keep your  
mouth shut.

Concrete chips explode over Amanda's shoulder where the  
bullet strikes.

Amanda yelps and cringes.

DUANE

Stay still.

Cass smiles.

CASS

Show them your power.

Amanda clenches her eyes shut. When she opens them, She  
smiles.

The light over the alley flickers.

AMANDA

Wanna see something really cool?

Duane smirks. Steve looks to Bob, confused and concerned.

Amanda screams as a horde of ghosts erupts from the wall  
behind her.

#### **INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Adam enters the pitch black house through the kicked open  
door. He listens, but the house is silent.

He takes a few more steps into the house. A rustle and bump  
gets his attention.

ADAM

Misses Bock?

Adam pulls his cell phone out. The screen illuminates the  
dark house.

Mary's ghost screams out of the dark, dives at Adam.

**EXT. GARAGE ALLEY - NIGHT**

Duane's scratched and bloody hands cover his face.

DUANE

Stop. Make them stop, please.

AMANDA

Enough.

The ghosts dissipate as Amanda picks up Duane's gun.

Bobby is knocked out among a pile of garbage. Steve is curled into the fetal position.

Amanda strides down the alley, a girl in tear streaked makeup, but all control and confidence. Until she's out of sight.

She holds her right hand as if it was injured.

**EXT. SMALL DOWNTOWN - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda stops to make sure the coast is clear. She opens her right hand and the pinky has gone an ashen gray.

She flexes it and the flesh tone returns. Cass steps up to her out of the shadows.

CASS

That was totally awesome! I think  
they take a little out of you.  
Still totally awesome!

Amanda crosses to a pay phone outside the small Post Office. She drops the gun into her bag and dials 911.

**EXT. SALTONSTALL ST. - NIGHT**

Amanda smiles, smug and proud of what's she's done. Cass bounces behind her.

AMANDA

Who says revenge doesn't make you  
feel better?

Police lights catch their attention. Two police cars are parked outside of her home.

AMANDA

Oh, no.

Amanda moves to run, but Cass touches her arm.

CASS  
I don't think they are here for  
you.

A stretcher with an unconscious Adam is loaded into the back of an ambulance. The ambulance is surrounded by concerned neighbors.

Amanda's face goes white and she runs. Cass disappears.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda stares in shock at a paramedic doing chest compressions on Adam as the ambulance doors are closed.

A crowd of onlookers murmur rumors.

CROWD MEMBER 1  
A home invasion, here?

CROWD MEMBER 2  
I wouldn't be surprised if her kid  
was involved.

CROWD MEMBER 1  
She was odd, but killing her own  
mother?

This shakes Amanda out of her haze and she bolts toward the house.

AMANDA  
Mom!

Cops try to stop her, but she squeezes past them.

Ghostly hands slam the door shut behind her. The cops push on the door, but can't open it.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

The front room is a wreck: furniture overturned pictures smashed on the floor, and in the center of it, Julia's body covered with a white sheet.

AMANDA  
Mom?

Amanda uncovers Julia. She sobs and hugs her mother.

She stands on jittery legs as cops beat on the front door.

AMANDA

Mom.

She looks around.

AMANDA

Mom, where are you?

Detective Morrow rushes out from the back of the house.

MORROW

What in the hell is going on?

He stops when he sees Amanda standing over her mother's body.

MORROW

Amanda, you shouldn't be in here.

Amanda stares at him with dead eyes.

AMANDA

Where's my mother?

MORROW

I'm sorry...

Amanda runs for another room.

Morrow reaches out to embrace her, but an invisible force knocks him back.

She runs past him.

AMANDA

Mom! I know you're here. Where are you?

She moves to another room.

AMANDA

Why are you doing this? Tell me what happened! I'm sorry.

The front door finally gives in with a CRASH.

AMANDA

Where are you?

Amanda runs back into the front room.

A BURLY COP tries to tackle her but an unseen force knocks him back.

A couple other cops go for her arms, but are held back.  
Morrow straightens his jacket.

MORROW  
Gentle. She's lost it.

AMANDA  
Mom!

Amanda breaks down and collapses and so does all the ghostly resistance.

As the Burly Cop scoops her up, his boot crunches down onto the photo that Julia was holding earlier.

The 1980's era photo shows Nicodemus's four victims holding babies. Standing in the forefront is a younger Julia with an infant Amanda in her arms.

#### **INT. PSYCHIATRIC OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY**

Amanda, dressed in a hospital gown, stirs awake on a plain bed in a sterile white room.

A YOUNG DOCTOR (30s) stands over her smiling.

YOUNG DOCTOR  
You gave us all a fright there.

She tries to speak, but the doctor puts a finger to his lips and shushes her.

YOUNG DOCTOR  
They'll be in soon to check on you.  
It would be best if you played it cool.

The Young Doctor turns and passes right through the door.

A PSYCH NURSE peeks into the room. Noticing Amanda's awake, she enters.

PSYCH NURSE  
I see you're awake.

The nurse hands her a small cup of water and a pill.

AMANDA  
What's this?

PSYCH NURSE  
Just a mild sedative. You've had quite a shock.

AMANDA

I don't need it.

Amanda gives the pill and water back and glances around the room.

AMANDA

Where's my clothes? I'd like to leave now.

The Psych Nurse stammers.

PSYCH NURSE

Uh, I'll talk to Doctor Weiss.

The Young Doctor enters through the wall.

YOUNG DOCTOR

Shh, don't talk to me. They have cameras watching.

(beat)

Right now they really have nothing to hold you for any longer. The doctor on shift will review your case and ask you some questions. How you answer those questions will determine if they release you.

#### **INT. DOCTOR WEISS'S OFFICE - DAY**

Amanda sits in a comfortable leather chair across from Dr. WEISS (60s) who looks over his glasses at her. The Young Doctor stands behind her.

A few ghosts stand around the room. A dead patient with BURN MARKS on his temples from a botched electroshock therapy stands behind the doctor and a DEAD NURSE stands at his side.

The light from the windows behind the desk makes the ghosts shimmer in and out of view.

Dr. Weiss pulls the curtains closed darkening the room.

WEISS

And what do you plan on doing when you get home?

The Young Doctor whispers in her ear.

AMANDA

I'll spend time mourning with my Aunt Heather and I'll want to take some time off before I go back to school.

Dr. Weiss nods, but he keeps a poker face as he sits down.

WEISS

How has the recovery from your assault progressed? I see you didn't receive any therapy.

Amanda answers before the Young Doctor can speak.

AMANDA

I'm over that, now that they caught the guys.

Dr. Weiss looks confused and flips through his file.

WEISS

Hmm, I guess my paperwork isn't quite up to date.

YOUNG DOCTOR

Ugh, dodged a bullet there.

Amanda rolls her eyes at the Young Doctor.

WEISS

Those are all the formal questions I have. But... I've read the police report and while it was quite thorough I do have some questions that maybe only you can answer.

YOUNG DOCTOR

He's going fishing now, don't bite.

Amanda twists in her chair.

WEISS

It says you were calling for your mother despite discovering her body.

AMANDA

I was in shock. I didn't believe it was her.

WEISS

Why were you apologizing?



AMANDA

Who knows?

The Young Doctor whispers in her ear.

WEISS

You've frankly had a rough year.

Amanda glances up at the Young Doctor before answering.

AMANDA

Yes and I understand that I'll need  
some time to heal and the best  
place I feel I can do that is with  
my aunt in an environment I'm  
familiar with.

WEISS

Of course you may feel that way,  
but....

YOUNG DOCTOR

I was afraid of this.

Amanda looks up at the Young Doctor.

WEISS

...it's my professional opinion...

YOUNG DOCTOR

He's not going to let you go. He's  
getting paid per head.

WEISS

...that further observation and  
therapy will help you make a  
smoother transition back.

Dr. Weiss closes the folder. He's made his decision.

AMANDA

(slightly panicked)

No.

Amanda looks around the room at the ghosts.

AMANDA

Anything?

Dr. Weiss shakes his head at Amanda's odd behavior.

WEISS

It's clear that you do need our assistance to recover from this shock.

The Dead Nurse points to Dr. Weiss's computer and whispers.

The Young Doctor leans over and whispers into Amanda's ear.

AMANDA

(to Nurse)

Oh, really?

Dr. Weiss looks behind him and doesn't see anything.

WEISS

I've seen enough.

Amanda turns her attention to him.

AMANDA

(calmly)

No.

(beat)

I have a question for you, Doctor.

WEISS

If the answer will help you accept our help, then I'm willing to listen.

AMANDA

What do you think the police, or for that matter your grand children, would think of the contents of your computer?

Dr. Weiss is taken aback.

WEISS

I... I have no idea what you're talking about.

AMANDA

Do you know what they do to perverts like you in prison?

Dr. Weiss is pissed. He jumps to his feet.

WEISS

This conversation is over.

AMANDA

Sit!

Burn Marks shoves Dr. Weiss back into his chair.

Dr. Weiss attempts to stand, but does no more than wiggle against the hold of ghostly hands.

AMANDA  
The dead don't lie.

Dr. Weiss looks fit to scream.

AMANDA  
Don't try to yell for help or I'll  
have them hold your tongue.  
(beat)  
You won't like that.

Terror etches Dr. Weiss's face.

AMANDA  
You're going to sign whatever you  
need to sign to get me out of  
here... or everyone will learn  
about your perverted little  
collection of pictures.

Amanda waits for a reply, but Burn Marks is holding his head still.

AMANDA  
(to Burn Marks)  
Please let go of his head so the  
good doctor can answer.

Dr. Weiss, feeling his head release, nods.

WEISS  
Yes... Please let me go.

AMANDA  
I want out now!

#### **INT. LOBBY - DAY**

Amanda stands outside a reception counter where a several foot high wall of lexan separates her from the Psych Nurse.

The Psych Nurse stamps a piece of paper and slides it to her through a narrow slot.

Detective Morrow steps into the lobby and raises his eyebrows at the sight of Amanda.

MORROW

I thought they were keeping you for another forty eight hours?

AMANDA

Really? Well, change is the only thing guaranteed in life, Detective Morrow.

MORROW

I've got some questions.

AMANDA

So you haven't given up already?

Morrow glances at his shoes.

MORROW

I deserved that, but we have your attackers in custody.

Amanda's not surprised.

AMANDA

And my mother's murderer?

MORROW

Uh, yes... we have a solid lead-

Heather bursts into the lobby nearly knocking Morrow out of the way.

Amanda practically jumps into her arms and hugs Heather.

HEATHER

I would've gotten here sooner, but no one knows their head from their backside in this dump.

Emotion takes over Amanda and her eyes filled with tears.

HEATHER

Let's get you home and into a nice bubble bath.

MORROW

Miss Norris, I'll follow you back. I need to update you both.

Amanda stops.

AMANDA

(to Morrow)

I need to tell you something.

She pulls him aside and shakes her head in disgust.

AMANDA

Well, it's about something I saw-

Fresh tears form in Amanda's eyes.

AMANDA

It was disturbing.

(beat)

I... What he had on his computer.

Morrow frowns concerned.

MORROW

What is it? You can tell me.

AMANDA

On Doctor Weiss's computer.

(beat)

He didn't know I saw, but-

She stretches up and whispers in his ear. A flicker of anger crosses Morrow's concerned face.

MORROW

I'll look into this. You just get home and relax. I'll come speak with you and your aunt tomorrow.

Amanda wipes her tears away and nods.

Morrow puts a comforting hand on Amanda's shoulder.

MORROW

You're strong. You'll get through this alright. I know it.

Amanda puts on a brave smile and joins Heather.

HEATHER

What was that all about?

AMANDA

Justice.

Morrow storms up to the desk.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Heather's convertible pulls up into the driveway. Amanda looks at the house with trepidation.

Heather glances over and shock crosses her face.

HEATHER

Oh my God! I'm sorry. I wasn't thinking. My place is a tiny dump and I thought... Oh, I didn't think-

Heather puts the car into reverse, but Amanda stops her.

AMANDA

It's alright. Really.

Amanda steps out of the car.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

The house has been cleaned and restored to it's pre-crime condition.

Heather closes the front door behind Amanda.

HEATHER

I cleaned up and stocked the fridge. You won't have to leave until you're ready.

Amanda walks off.

AMANDA

I'm going to take a bath.

**INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT**

Amanda soaks in a bubble bath staring at the ceiling.

Cass steps through the bathroom door.

CASS

I'm glad to see you came back.

AMANDA

Why are you still here? Your killers are in jail.

CASS

Who else has your back?

(beat)

There's a lot more spirits here. I'm keeping them out of the house. I figure you aren't ready for visitors yet.

AMANDA

Thanks.

Amanda gestures to the iPod.

AMANDA

Can you hit play on that and dim  
the lights on your way out?

Cass nods, starts the music, and dims the lights. She melts  
back into the wall.

Amanda slips into the bubbles letting the music and water  
wash over her.

She sobs in the darkness.

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Amanda yawns as she climbs out of bed. Heather and Morrow's  
voices echo down the hallway.

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY**

Amanda steps silently down the hall to hear better.

**INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Heather sits across from Morrow.

MORROW

The Willis boy-

HEATHER

Adam.

MORROW

Yes, Adam's still in a coma. And  
Barbara is in critical condition.

Heather covers her mouth.

HEATHER

Barb. He got them all. How could  
this have happened?

MORROW

I've reviewed the files and there  
was no possible way he survived  
that fire.

HEATHER  
Well, he apparently did.

MORROW  
What does Amanda know about her  
mother's past?

Heather shakes her head.

HEATHER  
She doesn't know.

Amanda walks in.

AMANDA  
What don't I know?

Heather's shoulders slump.

HEATHER  
Come sit down.

Amanda wearily sits down.

MORROW  
We know who killed your mother.

Amanda takes a deep breath.

MORROW  
Nicholas Deemus a.k.a. Nicodemus...  
Your father.

Amanda looks to Heather who nods and looks away ashamed.

AMANDA  
My father?

MORROW  
We believed he died in a fire as  
part of a suicide pact. Your mother  
and three other cult members  
escaped with their children.

Morrow passes the picture of her mother and the other women  
holding babies to Amanda.

MORROW  
He's gone after each of them. Your  
mother was last.

Amanda stands and turns her back to him.



AMANDA  
Why?

MORROW  
We suspect-

AMANDA  
No!

Amanda looks to Heather.

AMANDA  
Why did you lie to me all these  
years?

Heather stands.

HEATHER.  
Thank you for stopping by  
Detective.

Morrow nods and stands.

MORROW  
I'm sorry for your loss. I'll keep  
you up-

AMANDA  
All I want to hear from you is  
where to find this monster.

Morrow shakes his head.

MORROW  
We're following some leads.

AMANDA  
I'll do it myself.

Morrow is momentarily confused.

Heather leads him out of the house.

MORROW  
I'll keep in touch.

Heather closes the door.

AMANDA  
Why?

HEATHER  
We thought it best.

AMANDA  
Best for who? You? My mother?

Heather slumps into her seat.

HEATHER  
Your mother loved you and that part  
of her life was-

AMANDA  
Tell me.

HEATHER  
I don't know it all. I was married  
and living in Europe at the time.  
(beat)  
She met a man.

**INT. CHURCH - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

HEATHER (V.O.)  
A tall man.

Nicodemus, a tall skinny, but magnetic man, stands before a  
congregation made up of young woman.

Julia, Barbara, Mary, and Rose, all much younger and  
pregnant, are in attendance.

He flips his palm face up and a small flame bursts into  
existence.

HEATHER (V.O.)  
She said he could do things.

Nicodemus raises his hands and the flame leaps to candles.  
The now lit candles float out into the air over the crowd.

HEATHER (V.O.)  
She loved him, they all loved him  
in a fashion.

The four devoted victims fawn at Nicodemus's feet.

**INT. BACK ROOM - NIGHT**

Nicodemus meditates surrounded by candles. The large obsidian  
obelisk with the occult symbol carved into its face stands in  
front of him.

HEATHER (V.O.)  
Things got dangerous. He became  
dangerous.

Nicodemus picks up the Cat O' Ninetails whip and lashes his own back.

**INT. BUNK ROOM - NIGHT**

A young Barbara holding a baby slinks past plain thread bare bunk beds.

She stops by a sleeping Julia and nudges her awake.

HEATHER (V.O.)  
When they learned he intended to  
sacrifice their children they ran.

**INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Candles blaze, illuminating the decadent room. Nicodemus lies drunk on his bed. A spilled drink lays next to his hand.

Julia holds two children as Barbara roots under the bed.

Rose adjusts her baby revealing the ceremonial knife in her belt. Mary clutches her baby while the Cat O' Ninetails dangles from her hand.

Barbara pulls the obsidian obelisk out from under the bed and slips it into a bag.

She hefts the bag over Julia's shoulder and takes her baby. Nicodemus's bracelet hangs loose around Barbara's forearm.

HEATHER (V.O.)  
They vowed never to see each other  
again.

Julia, Mary, and Rose slip off into the night.

Barbara gives Nicodemus one last look and intentionally knocks over a candle holder on the way out.

**END FLASHBACK**

**INT. FRONT ROOM - DAY**

Amanda holds the picture of her mother and the other women.

HEATHER  
She thought it would be best.

AMANDA  
I know.

Amanda pulls the picture to her chest, one last embrace for her mother.

AMANDA  
Was the fire a lie? I heard the detective.

HEATHER  
No, there was a fire. Some say it was a mass suicide. We all believed he died.

Amanda looks at the picture again.

AMANDA  
Someone survived?

HEATHER  
Yes, Barbara. The cops showed up before he could-

AMANDA  
And Adam. How is Adam?

HEATHER  
He's in a coma.

Amanda stares at the floor.

AMANDA  
I need to see them.

#### **INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY**

Amanda stands next to a sleeping Adam. She glances out the door to make sure Heather is still talking to a DOCTOR.

AMANDA  
Cass.

Cass materializes in the shadow behind a curtain.

AMANDA  
What's wrong with him? They say he wasn't injured. Why won't he wake up?

Amanda squeezes Adam's hand.

CASS  
Close the curtains and I think  
it'll be easier to see.

Amanda shuts the curtains blocking a lot of the natural light.

CASS  
Let your eyes adjust.

A thin blue thread of spirit stretches out of Adam's chest.

AMANDA  
What is this?

She reaches out and brushes it with her hand.

#### **BEGIN SERIES OF SHOTS**

- Adam's mom smiling
- Amanda smiling
- Amanda and Adam kissing
- Amanda at school
- Nicodemus hovering over lashing his whip down

#### **END SERIES OF SHOTS**

Amanda jumps back.

CASS  
No one's home.

AMANDA  
Where is he?

Cass shrugs.

CASS  
Everyone can travel when they  
sleep, but most come back. If his  
soul stays out much longer it may  
not be able to come back.

AMANDA  
Nicodemus. He has him.

An ELDERLY DOCTOR with a bullet wound in his chest steps through the wall.

ELDERLY DOCTOR  
Ma'am. The woman you inquired about, a Barbara Walsh. Despite their best efforts she is about to pass to the other side.

Alarm crosses Amanda's face.

AMANDA  
I've gotta talk to her. Where is she?

**INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY**

Amanda runs from the room past Heather and down the hallway.

HEATHER  
Amanda!

Heather excuses herself from the conversation with a particularly handsome doctor and moves to follow.

Peter Willis steps around the corner and spots Heather.

PETER  
Heather?

Heather stops and looks behind Peter, but Amanda is gone.

PETER  
I'm Adam's dad, Pete.

Recognition crosses Heather's face.

HEATHER  
I'm so sorry.

**INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - BARBARA'S ROOM - DAY**

Amanda approaches Barbara's room as a CRASH TEAM rushes in. The Elderly Dead doctor stops Amanda.

ELDERLY DOCTOR  
She's beyond talk in your world.

Barbara backs out of the room through the door. She turns and spots Amanda.

BARBARA

Julia?

(beat)

No, Amanda. I see your mother in you.

AMANDA

Ma'am. I need to talk to you about... my father.

BARBARA

We're dead now, we can forget that world.

AMANDA

I'm not dead.

Barbara reaches out, touches Amanda's cheek, and pulls her hand back confused.

BARBARA

No. No, you're not.

AMANDA

He killed my mother and has my friend.

A nurse and doctor step out of Barbara's room. They look at Amanda talking to herself.

Amanda rolls her eyes and turns to the Elderly Doctor.

AMANDA

Give me some privacy.

He nods and disappears.

BEEPS and ALARMS erupt from every room. The beeper on the doctor's belt goes off.

Every available nurse and doctor scrambles to answer the false alarms.

A small glow forms at the end of the hallway and grows into a doorway.

As the light grows the clamber of the alarms dies away so only Amanda and Barbara can be heard.

BARBARA

I'm sorry about your mother. She was the best of all of us.

Barbara walks toward the light.

AMANDA  
Where can I find him?

Barbara looks back over her shoulder.

BARBARA  
Look for him where there are hungry  
ghosts... hungry ghosts.

Barbara disappears into the light.

Cass steps up beside Amanda.

AMANDA  
Another chance for you to go.

CASS  
It's time to find your daddy. I  
wouldn't miss that for the world.

The glowing door closes and the noise of the alarms burst  
back to the forefront.

Amanda walks toward the exit with a purpose. Quickly followed  
by Cass as the alarms shut off at once.

Doctors and Nurses look at each other confused.

#### **INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Amanda sits in front of the glow of her laptop scouring the  
internet for 'Hungry Ghost' and not getting anywhere.

She grunts her frustration and pushes away from the desk.

AMANDA  
I've got nothing.

Cass steps into the room through the closet door.

AMANDA  
An insatiable spirit whose desires  
can never be satisfied... How in  
the hell does that help?

CASS  
I may know someone who can help.  
(beat)  
Follow me.

Cass steps through the bedroom wall.



AMANDA

Funny.

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Amanda slinks down the hallway. Her broom skirt only causing a slight rustle.

She peeks into a bedroom. Heather's sound asleep.

Amanda grabs a jacket from a hook and slips outside.

**EXT. BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda steps through the crowd of ghosts and revenants. She joins Cass and Caroline, the ghost of Adam's mom.

AMANDA

I'm sorry. He was coming for my-

Caroline puts a hand on Amanda's shoulder.

CAROLINE

Shhh. He's still alive, but his soul must be returned.

AMANDA

I don't know where he went.

CASS

She said she knew where.

Caroline's face grows more serious.

CAROLINE

He's your father. Are you working with him?

Amanda's shocked at the thought.

Cass steps forward.

CASS

She could make you tell us.

Amanda pulls Cass back.

AMANDA

I'm not like him. Adam was... is my friend.

Caroline softens.

CAROLINE  
You'll bring him back?

Amanda nods.

CAROLINE  
He's gone to Las Vegas.

Realization crosses Amanda's face.

AMANDA  
Hungry ghosts.

CAROLINE  
You have to hurry. Adam doesn't  
have much time.

CASS  
But he could be with you again.

CAROLINE  
I'll welcome him when he grows old.

AMANDA  
(to Caroline)  
Thank you.

Amanda turns, but Caroline isn't finished.

CAROLINE  
He's got your mother.

AMANDA  
What?

CAROLINE  
I don't know how, but he's taken  
your mother.

**INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Amanda shoves the revolver she took from Duane into her bag.

Mac and Cass materializes behind her.

MAC  
You can have my clams, if'n it'd  
help.

AMANDA  
Thank you, but not many places take  
turn of the century money now a  
days.

Amanda rummages through the freezer and pulls out money hidden in a T.V. Dinner box.

She plasters a sticky note on the refrigerator and writes, 'Gone to save Adam.'

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Amanda stands in the street light glow next to Cass.

CASS  
So we hitting the Airport?

A crowd of ghosts and revenants move to surround them.

The street light flickers. Amanda looks up.

AMANDA  
That'd be a little dangerous.

**INT. BUS STATION - NIGHT**

Amanda strides into the bus station.

Everyone she passes shivers as if a cold breeze hit them.

She walks up to the ticket counter manned by a sleepy ATTENDANT. Behind her stands a host of ghosts and revenants.

The Attendant shivers.

AMANDA  
I need a ticket to Las Vegas.

The Attendant punches some keys.

ATTENDANT  
I can get you on the nine a.m. To  
Innsmouth and then onto Riley. I  
can get you into Las Vegas Tuesday  
morning.

Amanda looks at Cass.

AMANDA  
That's too long.

**EXT. LONG TERM PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

Cass reaches through the drivers side glass of a bland SEDAN and opens the door. Amanda looks around nervously.

CASS  
I can't believe you don't have a  
license. I got mine the day I  
turned sixteen.

AMANDA  
Those were the olden days.

**EXT. SEDAN (MOVING) - NIGHT**

Cass drives the sedan down a dark highway. Amanda sits in a passenger seat reading a map.

A stream of ghosts follow in their wake.

Another car pulls along side them, the DRIVER nearly swerves off the road when he looks over at the empty driver's seat.

**EXT. SEDAN (MOVING) - DAWN**

The morning flickers over the horizon making Cass fade in and out.

Amanda sits next to her dozing off.

CASS  
Uh, it's time for you to take over.

Barely awake Cass's comment doesn't register.

AMANDA  
Huh?

CASS  
We're also going to need-

Just then the sun shines full and Cass disappears sending the car uncontrolled down the highway. Amanda screams and takes the wheel.

Amanda grabs the wheel steering it to the side of the road. She's wide awake now.

AMANDA  
Okay. I got this.

She climbs into the drivers and takes off.

With a few jerks of the wheel she gets the hang of it. Moments later the engine chugs and sputters.

AMANDA  
What? I didn't do anything.

The gas light flashes and the car dies. She steers it off the road.

**EXT. SEDAN - DAY**

Amanda hikes her bag over her shoulder and sticks out her thumb.

**EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY**

Amanda walks a slow pace as she nears an ancient roadside graveyard.

She steps off the road and finds a tall enough gravestone to cast a shadow and reads the name.

AMANDA  
Sorry Jebediah, I need to get some sleep.

Amanda collapses in the shadow of the tombstone and sleeps.

**EXT. ROADSIDE GRAVEYARD - DUSK**

Amanda sleeps soundly as the sun dips below the horizon.

Cass steps out of the shadows solidifying in the growing night. She nudges Amanda with her toe.

CASS  
No rest for the wicked.

Amanda yawns, stretches, and stands up. She climbs a top the headstone and looks into the distance

She looks back at the small remains of a graveyard and whistles.

AMANDA  
Come on.

Revenants rise from the ground and join the other ghost horde materializing in the dark.

She moves to get down from the headstone, but slips.

Ghostly hands catch her and gently set her down on her feet.

AMANDA

I think...

As if reading her mind Cass joins in.

CASS

I don't see why not. But remember  
they do feed a bit off of your  
engery to become solid.

Amanda spreads her arms.

AMANDA

I'll risk it. Just do it.

She holds her arms out and rises a couple feet and drops a couple steps forward.

AMANDA

You have to keep lifting. Again.

She holds her arms out to her side again. Ghostly hands ruffle her clothes. This time she shoots up twelve feet.

Amanda gasps in shock, but smiles.

AMANDA

Whoa!

Amanda leans forward and this moves her forward.

She looks up and she shoots high into the sky lifted by a storm of ghosts.

They carry her forward shooting off like a plane.

#### **EXT. HIGH DESERT - DAWN**

Amanda's head bobs as she nods off. The rising sun nips at the ghost storm's substance.

Amanda points to the ground.

The storm lashes out like a tornado and burrows into the hard packed clay of the high desert.

The ghosts tuck the exhausted Amanda into the cool burrow.

#### **INT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - DAY**

Detective Morrow takes notes as Heather, tear streaked and upset, twists a handkerchief in her hand.

HEATHER

Her note said she was going to save Adam.

MORROW

We've checked the hospital and Amanda hasn't been spotted.

HEATHER

Could it have been...?

Morrow tucks his notepad away.

MORROW

We have the other children under police protection-

HEATHER

That doesn't help Amanda.

MORROW

It doesn't appear she was taken, but we're still exploring all possibilities.

Heather's head drops.

MORROW

I won't stop until she's found.

(softer)

Look, she's a tough kid. I think she'll be fine, but she may be a little confused because of everything she's gone through.

#### **EXT. HIGH DESERT - DUSK**

The ground rumbles and what few desert animals there are scurry away from its epicenter.

Amanda bursts from the ground and shoots up twenty feet and hovers with her arms out stretched.

She's dusty and mud has streaked down the side of her eyes.

A troop of dead SHOSHONE WARRIORS approach the tumult. Amanda nods and they merge with the ghost storm.

Amanda shoots off into the night toward the artificial glow of Las Vegas in the distance.

**INT. LUXOR CASINO - NIGHT**

An elevator door slides open revealing a posh interior.

Nicodemus in all his mortician style strides into the elevator carrying an ancient leather case.

A tropical shirt clad OVERWEIGHT COUPLE rush to enter the elevator but stop short when they see Nicodemus.

He smiles, but that does nothing to help his charm. The doors slide closed leaving him alone.

**EXT. VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT**

PEDESTRIANS on the strip rub their arms as if a chill hit them when the ghost storm passes overhead.

Visible dust and debris sent airborne by the ghosts darkens the glittering landscape.

**INT. LUXOR CASINO - PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT**

The furniture in this posh luxury suite has been moved out except for a coffee table covered with black cloth.

Nicodemus lights two candles on the makeshift altar.

He reverently lifts the obsidian obelisk out of the leather case and sets it onto the altar.

He lights a stick of incense.

Nicodemus sets his long leather coat aside. A few cockroaches tumble out and seek darkness.

He sits lotus style in front of the altar looking across the room at a window overlooking the strip. He closes his eyes.

NICODEMUS  
Qarin. Attend to me.

Nicodemus looks at the obsidian with irritation.

NICODEMUS  
Jean Phillip Qarin. Out now!

He leans forward and puts his ear to the obsidian.

NICODEMUS  
What?



Nicodemus pulls the ceremonial knife from the case.

He taps the obsidian obelisk with it and then listens.

NICODEMUS

He's gone!

Nicodemus stands and pulls the Cat O' Ninetails from his leather coat. He gives it a twirl and lashes it out.

Nine ghosts, including Mary, Rose, Julia, and a haggard Adam fly forth from the whip each attached to a strand of the whip by a spectral string.

He sets the whip down on the altar.

NICODEMUS

What did you do?

The ghosts stand silent.

With two fingers, Nicodemus pulls up the strand of whip that leads back to Julia.

NICODEMUS

Julia dear. Where is Qarin?

Julia shakes her head. He jerks the strand causing it to tear at her essence dragging her to the floor.

NICODEMUS

What did you do to him?

Julia shivers. Her voice comes out as a whisper.

JULIA

I didn't do anything. I swear it.

Nicodemus sighs and smiles.

NICODEMUS

The dead don't lie.

Rose and Mary help her to her feet. Adam has stood the whole time, eyes closed and unresponsive.

NICODEMUS

Never mind. I've gotten everything  
I need from him.

He strolls around the room running his hand down through Mary, Rose, and then Julia.

NICODEMUS

Too bad Barbara couldn't be here.  
It's only right that you all watch  
my reemergence.

He returns to his altar.

NICODEMUS

No more petty cults. I'm going to  
build an empire and burn this world  
to the ground.

Nicodemus plucks up the whip strand that is holding Adam. He gently touches the thread of spirit leading to Adam.

Adam's spirit string lights up as Nicodemus touches it.

Unlike the other ghosts, Adam's string leads from Adam to the whip and back out through the room's massive window.

With every touch, the end that passes out of the window flickers.

**INT. HOSPITAL - ADAM'S ROOM - SAME**

Adam stirs as if caught in a nightmare.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

Nicodemus pulls Adam's spirit string free from the whip's hook and he loops it around the obsidian obelisk.

Nicodemus straps on his bone and wood bracelet.

NICODEMUS

I'll bleed this place.

He bends over peering down at the string following it with his eyes out the window.

NICODEMUS

Now lead them to me.

He plucks the string like a guitar. The string's glow intensifies as it hums.

**INT. HOSPITAL - ADAM'S ROOM - SAME**

Adam coughs. The monitoring equipment sounds the alarm as he seizes.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

Nicodemus picks up the whip.

NICODEMUS  
Follow his life.

He stands expectant.

A lone DEAD TOURIST floats along the line like a hooked fish.

Nicodemus lashes out the whip and all the enslaved ghosts fly out and capture the tourist ghost.

NICODEMUS  
Where are they? There has to be  
thousands of hungry ghosts in this  
Babylon.

He strums Adam's spirit string.

Adam crumbles to the ground at the base of the altar. His essence withers.

NICODEMUS  
Come on. Follow the light.

**EXT. VEGAS STRIP - CONTINUOUS**

Free ghosts rise up to join Amanda's storm.

Cass points out Adam's spirit string coming out of a window high in the Luxor pyramid.

A few straggler ghosts follow the string in.

Amanda turns and dives toward the Luxor.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

More ghosts come in and Nicodemus captures them.

NICODEMUS  
Where are all my spirits!

He stares out the window in shock at the approaching storm of ghosts.

NICODEMUS  
No! That's more than-

The window explodes as the storm breaks through.

Nicodemus is thrown back against the wall.

Amanda floats into the room. She stumbles, weakened, but recovers.

NICODEMUS

Bravo!

Nicodemus lashes his whip out and the enslaved ghosts dive towards Amanda.

She puts her arms up and the storm deflects the attack.

NICODEMUS

That's a neat trick. How do you control them?

Nicodemus doesn't seem too worried.

AMANDA

(sarcastically)

I ask nicely.

Amanda's tattered and dirty blouse opens enough to reveal the scars down her chest. Cass slinks up to stand beside her, her eyes silver globes.

Recognition crosses Nicodemus's face. He points his finger.

NICODEMUS

You!

Cass slips behind Amanda and disappears into the storm off ghosts.

NICODEMUS

I recognize you. The girl that fell out of that truck.

Amanda steps back.

#### **EXT. WOODED STREET - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

Amanda fights her captors in the back of Bob's white truck.

She knees one and swings for the other, but slips and falls out of the pickup truck onto the shoulder.

Headlights come over a rise in the road. The truck takes off.

Amanda tries to get up, but stumbles into the trees at the roadside.

A shadow passes over her.

**END FLASHBACK**

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT**

Amanda clutches her chest.

NICODEMUS  
You live.

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

Amanda falls to her back and Nicodemus lashes the whip into her flesh, but there is no spirit interaction like there was with his other victims.

Amanda lays open-eyed and lifeless.

NICODEMUS  
Interesting.

On the street the would-be kidnappers search the tree line.

DUANE  
Where is she?  
(beat)  
Keep looking, damn it.

Nicodemus slinks away, disappearing into the darkness.

**END FLASHBACK**

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT**

Nicodemus smirks.

NICODEMUS  
But alas, death seems to have done  
wonders for your self-confidence.

Amanda lets out a battle scream and her storm of ghosts rip toward Nicodemus.

Nicodemus raises his vambrace and the storm crashes into an invisible sphere surrounding him.

NICODEMUS  
Impressive.

Nicodemus lashes the whip and the enslaved ghosts strike out.

Amanda ducks and her ghosts deflect the assault, but she drops to a knee with exhaustion.

NICODEMUS  
How long do you think you can keep  
that up?

AMANDA  
As long as I need.

Nicodemus brings the whip tight against his leg and the enslaved ghosts flow to a stop next to him.

Julia sobs as she looks at Amanda.

AMANDA  
Mom?

Nicodemus looks to Julia and back to Amanda.

NICODEMUS  
What?

Nicodemus sees Amanda differently, in an almost fatherly way.

NICODEMUS  
My child. Why didn't you say, Julia  
dear?

Nicodemus's face turns into a devious snarl.

NICODEMUS  
If I had only known what I had.  
(beat)  
We could've had such fun.

A wisp of Adam's spirit crawls out from under the altar and reaches out to Amanda.

AMANDA  
Adam!  
(to Nicodemus)  
Let him go! Let my mother go!

Cass slinks up behind Amanda and whispers in her ear.

CASS  
His vambrace.

Amanda's brow furrows, she doesn't understand.

CASS  
His bracelet. It's what's  
protecting him.

Nicodemus picks up his knife and lets it hover over Adam's spirit string.

NICODEMUS

One little slice and your  
boyfriend's miserable afterlife as  
my slave begins.

AMANDA

Hey dad! Does your shield stop  
bullets?

Nicodemus looks up in shock as Amanda aims her gun at him.

Ghostly hands guide her aim.

With a boom the bullet shatters the bracelet.

Nicodemus drops the knife and ducks. He grasps his bleeding wrist.

Another shot rings out. A bullet size hole explodes into the wall right where Nicodemus's head was an instant before.

Nicodemus tries to keep the bracelet on, but it disintegrates into pieces.

He picks up the knife.

NICODEMUS

That was made out of the original  
cross. Do you know how many years  
that took me to make, insolent  
child?

Another shot ricochets off the altar.

Nicodemus lashes the whip out. The enslaved ghosts knock Amanda's next shot off and it thuds into the ceiling.

He lashes again and the enslaved ghosts knock the gun from her hands.

Burn Wounds dives at Nicodemus who slices him in half with his knife. In an instant Burn Wounds dissipates into vapors.

Amanda slaps her hands together and the storm of ghosts split and sandwich Nicodemus.

Nicodemus slashes the whip using the enslaved ghosts as a shield as he cuts down ghosts with his knife.

AMANDA

How long do you think you can keep  
that up?

In the fog of battle Cass pulls the obsidian obelisk from the altar. It pulls her arms down as if it's many times heavier than it is.

Adam climbs to his feet as Cass slips his spirit string off the obsidian obelisk serving as his anchor.

Nicodemus spots them and swings his knife hand around.

The blade just touches Adam's neck when he's pulled like a shot out of the window.

**INT. HOSPITAL - ADAM'S ROOM - SAME**

Doctor Price and Nurses work over Adam as the EKG machine buzzes indicating that he's flat-lining.

DOCTOR PRICE

Clear!

Doctor Price presses defibrillator paddles onto Adam's chest and he tenses.

The EKG shows his heartbeat picking up.

DOCTOR PRICE

He's coming back!

A nurse points to a small cut on Adam's neck.

NURSE

What's that?

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

The room is a spinning tornado of ghosts and debris.

Amanda reaches out toward Nicodemus, closes her hand, and a host of ghostly hands grab onto the whip.

She jerks her arm back and the whip is ripped from Nicodemus's hand. It flies back and out the broken window.

**EXT. LUXOR - CONTINUOUS**

The whip falls 30 stories down and slams into the pavement, freeing the enslaved ghosts.



The freed ghosts instantly rush back up toward Nicodemus's penthouse.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - SAME**

Amanda breathes heavily, but smiles in her triumph.

A shot rings out. Amanda grimaces and looks down at the blossoming blood spot on her blouse.

Nicodemus steps out of the storm holding her gun.

Amanda collapses to the floor and so do all the flying ghosts and debris.

Nicodemus steps over her and aims the gun at her head.

NICODEMUS  
Enjoy your death.

The gun clicks. Its empty.

Nicodemus grunts his frustration and tosses the gun.

He picks up his knife, slips it into his belt, and throws on his leather jacket.

Nicodemus looks around for the obsidian obelisk.

NICODEMUS  
Where is it?

He turns to Amanda's lifeless corpse. He lifts the blade.

SIRENS echo through the open window.

Nicodemus reaches down, closes Amanda's eyes, and rushes out of the room.

The ghostly Dead Doctor materializes over Amanda.

DEAD DOCTOR  
Nurse stat!

A medical team of dead doctors and nurses attend to Amanda. Vacant Revenants stand back watching the scene impassionately.

One of the doctors pushes the others out of the way.

DEAD DOCTOR  
You aren't alive anymore.

He pushes his hands into Amanda's chest. He wriggles them around pushing the bullet out of the wound.

Cass is nowhere to be seen.

**INT. LUXOR - ELEVATORS**

Nicodemus scurries out of the elevators as a team of police rush in.

He covers his wounded wrist, hiding the blood.

**INT. LUXOR - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

Nicodemus rushes past the faux Egyptian decorations and out to the valet.

He hands the valet his stub.

NICODEMUS  
Make it fast.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

The Burned Nurse holds the wound closed.

BURNED NURSE  
Doctor her heart's stopping.

The dead doctor with a couple other ghosts dive into Amanda's chest.

Two streaks of gray hair form on the right and left side of Amanda's hair, but still no life.

Julia climbs into the room through the broken window and rushes to Amanda's side. She pulls Amanda into her arms.

JULIA  
I'm sorry Amanda. I should've told  
you everything... It's not your  
time. It's not your time.

Ghostly fingers pinch the wound closed from the inside.  
Amanda's chest heaves.

Amanda coughs.

AMANDA  
Mom?

JULIA  
I'm here baby.

AMANDA  
I'm sorry. I should've protected  
you.

JULIA  
Shh. None of that.

AMANDA  
Am I dead?

JULIA  
No, but I'm afraid your father is  
escaping.

Amanda closes her eyes and moves to rise. The ghosts help her  
to her feet.

AMANDA  
No, he's not.

#### **INT. LUXOR - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda storms out of the room and out onto the landing  
overlooking the massive faux Egyptian art and main floor many  
feet below.

An elevator opens and a gang of COPS pour out.

Amanda stops when she sees them. She gives them a smile.

COP  
Stop! Put your hands up.

Amanda jumps up onto the ledge. Two cops move toward her.

Room doors are opening from the commotion. Cops try to usher  
people back into their rooms.

COP  
You don't want to do that. Step  
down. We can talk this out.

Amanda waves and jumps. A woman screams.

#### **INT. LUXOR - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda, carried by her ghosts, flies down to the lobby floor.

She reaches out and spreads her arms apart and the ghosts cut a path through the shocked TOURISTS.

Amanda lands softly on her feet.

The crowd of ONLOOKERS break out into applause.

ONLOOKER 1  
That show was awesome!

ONLOOKER 2  
I could see the wires.

**EXT. LUXOR - VALET - SAME**

Nicodemus watches as more police pull up. He tries to hide, but gets strange stares from the other guests.

His Lincoln pulls up and the valet gets out.

Amanda steps out into the desert heat and spots him.

Nicodemus senses something. He grabs his knife and whips around. His jaw drops when he sees her.

NICODEMUS  
Shit.

A woman screams.

Amanda swings her arm out like a hammer and a fist of ghosts slam into Nicodemus's knife wrist snapping it.

His knife clatters to the ground.

Amanda flicks her wrist and the ghosts slam him against his car causing it to rock back on it's springs.

NICODEMUS  
But, I'm your father.

AMANDA  
You're nothing.

NICODEMUS  
Traitor!

Cass whispers into Amanda's ear, her eyes silver globes.

CASS  
Kill him!

She raises a fist. Julia stops her.

JULIA

Don't. You'll be just as bad as him.

Amanda looks at Nicodemus with all the hate she has, but doubt creeps into her eyes when she sees Julia pleading.

JULIA

You're better than that.

Amanda lowers her fist.

Nicodemus lets out a sigh of relief.

Amanda jumps and the ghost storm effortlessly whisks her and a screaming Nicodemus into the air.

The witnesses stand in shock not sure what they just saw.

**EXT. REMOTE POLICE STATION - NIGHT**

Nicodemus falls battered and bruised onto a sidewalk.

Amanda settles gently down onto her feet. She rips her arm down and ghostly hands pulls the tattered remains of Nicodemus's shirt off.

She wiggles her finger as if she is writing in the air.

At the same time ghastly claws carve the word 'murderer' into Nicodemus's chest. He screams his complaint.

With a flick of her wrist Nicodemus is tossed into the police station door.

Amanda turns and attempts to stride off confidently, but she stumbles. The ghosts catch her.

She clutches her bullet wound and fresh blood seeps through her fingers.

AMANDA

Mom.

Julia holds her hand as the ghostly storm scoops Amanda up and off into the sky.

**EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - DAWN**

The storm of ghosts gently lays Amanda onto the lawn and dissipates in the dawn light.

Julia bends down and kisses the sleeping Amanda on the cheek.

JULIA  
You'll be just fine. I know you  
will.

Julia joins Mary and Rose.

A glowing door opens behind them and Barbara steps out waving for them to join her.

Julia turns her back on Amanda, picks up a rock, and throws it at the front door. She then steps into the light with her friends.

Heather opens the door and spots Amanda on the ground.

HEATHER  
Amanda!

# **INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

SUPER: THREE WEEKS LATER

Amanda, dressed for a date and still has the streaks of gray hair, looks in her closet.

AMANDA  
Cass?

# **EXT. AMANDA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT**

Amanda peeks out into the night.

AMANDA  
Mac? Anyone?

HEATHER (O.S.)  
Amanda?

# **INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Amanda closes the back door. Heather looks at her curiously.

HEATHER  
What's wrong?

Amanda looks confused.

AMANDA  
I think I lost something.

HEATHER

Oh, what?

Amanda shakes her head and smiles.

AMANDA

Nothing.

HEATHER

Don't you have someplace to be?

**INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

Amanda looks around the tight, but trendy spot and not a ghost in sight. Adam smiles across the table.

A COUPLE next to them stand up to leave. The woman swings a bag over her shoulder and backs up.

The bag speeds toward Amanda's drink. Unseen by anyone, including Amanda, an invisible hand scoots the glass out of the way of disaster.

AMANDA

Tell me again about our brave new future.

Adam smiles.

**EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

Unseen to anyone, a whirlwind of ghosts spins over the restaurant.

People on the street give their arms a rub fighting off a mysterious chill.

**INT. AMANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Under Amanda's bed. Cass, her eyes mirrored globes, pulls the obsidian obelisk under the bed with her.

**FADE OUT.**