

THE HIDDEN

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. DARK STREET - NIGHT

A terrified MAN runs wild through dark, deserted city streets, desperately looking behind for his attacker.

Frantic, he stumbles and half falls. Scuttling on all fours, he is desperate to keep moving. Rising awkwardly off his hands, he stumbles again, loses his footing and falls to the ground.

He screams for help as unseen hands grab his leg and drag him into the shadows.

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING

Drag lines in the dusty floor lead to the man, exhausted but still grasping for hand holds on the passing walls and floor. Each fumbling hold breaks and his strength fails.

His journey ends, deposited in the centre of a large room. His ragged breaths tear through the silence, sending small dust clouds into the air.

Raising his head warily he searches for his attacker and receives a kick that throws him onto his back. A tall, silent figure in a heavy black cloak stands over him, the SOURCE. From inside the dark hood he peers down quizzically.

The man tries to scuttle backwards but is blocked by something unseen. Stuttering fearfully he dares to speak.

MAN

Who. . .Who are you?

Unmoved, the Source continues to stare from the darkness.

MAN

What do you want from me?

(begins to sob)

Please, I'm not important. I'm nobody.

A gnarled, long limbed SERVANT creature slinks out from behind the Source's cloak to study the terrified man. Turning its deformed head side to side it muses with its round blue eye and then with its black slitted eye.

Stretching its scaled neck it sniffs the whimpering man and is pleased. Turning, it nods to its Master.

The deep unhallowed voice of the Source resounds from the hood; startling the man and making him cower.

SOURCE

STAND.

He cries out as strong invisible hands force him up right.

MAN

Please, I want to go home. I won't
tell anyone, please just let me go.

The man hovers above the ground arms length from the Source. The Source's head tilts inquisitively and the folds of the hood shift revealing his fetid skinned face. A map of thick black veins pulsate under the thin grey skin.

Inching closer to the man, the Source curls his black lips into a malicious grin and exposes jagged yellow teeth.

Petrified the man's bladder releases, soaking his pants and spilling to the floor beneath his hanging feet.

MAN

What are you?

The Source takes the man by the throat and pulls him close, their faces almost touching.

SOURCE

HUNGRY.

Rope like veins emerge from the Source's wrist and plunge deep into the man's neck. His body convulses as black ooze pumps into him, filling his body with darkness.

His eyes blacken and his skin pales to chalk before becoming a scaled fetid grey. His limbs shrink and distort, cracking and splintering as his new form takes shape.

Thick claws tear through his fingers and toes, and razor sharp fangs protrude from his blackened lips. The man's torn and bloody clothes fall to the ground.

The rising sound of screaming animals echo through the room, cheering on the transformation. Once invisible CONVERTED begin to appear circling their Master and his prey. The biggest of them, holding what was once the man.

The metamorphosis complete, the NEW CONVERTED is released onto the man's clothes, where it inspects its new form. Pleased, it roars its joy and the other Converted quickly join in.

Raising his long clawed fingers, the Source silences them.

SOURCE

GO. HUNT. FIND MY TREASURE AND
BRING IT TO ME.

The creatures roar again and run out with its new kin.

The Servant grins maliciously and disappears back behind its master robes once again.

INT. DUNKELD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL (ANNA'S ROOM) - DAY

ANNA TAYLOR's (23) bright golden eyes stare blankly out the window of her hospital room. Her arms wrapped protectively around her body, she watches nurses and patients shuffle around the luscious flower garden below.

A half filled, battered suitcase lays open on the bed. An aged photo of a laughing woman lies beside it.

Nurse SANDRA HOFFMAN (40) enters and pauses, a look of brief disappointment flashes across her face. Approaching the suitcase she speaks cheerfully.

SANDRA

Good, you're all packed. The car will be here soon.

Sandra picks up the photo and places it delicately into the suitcase before closing and latching the lid.

SANDRA

I'll be waiting downstairs. I've cleared the path for you.

Anna nods slightly and Sandra leaves with the suitcase. Sighing, Anna closes her eyes remembering her meeting with DOCTOR JOSEPH MALIK (56).

DR MALIK (V.O.)

You've been with us for 8 years now Anna and you've made magnificent progress.

FLASHBACK BEGINS

INT. DUNKELD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL (DR MALIK'S OFFICE) - DAY

Anna's eyes open. She sits timidly in a leather armchair. Dr Malik leans against his desk, his warm caring face smiles reassuringly, over his wire rimmed glasses.

DR MALIK

That's why I believe, returning home will be best for everyone.

Timid but still desperate to stay, Anna argues.

ANNA

But this is my home.

DR MALIK

This is a hospital, not a home.

ANNA

I didn't do anything wrong. CLOVER attacked me, why am I being punished?

DR MALIK
You're not being punished.

ANNA
Send her away.

DR MALIK
Now Anna, Clover needs much more
help than you, you know that.

A knock precedes Sandra's head poking through the door.

SANDRA
Doctor Taylor is here.

Anna quickly stands and turns nervously to the door.

DR MALIK
Show him in.

The door opens wide, revealing DOCTOR BRIAN TAYLOR's (50) heavy muscular frame, dressed in a dark blue suit and a stern face. Marching across the room he glares at Anna and shakes Dr Malik hand firmly.

BRIAN
Good morning Doctor Malik.

Dr Malik is unnerved by Brian's cold, clinical voice and stern expression.

DR MALIK
Thank you for coming Doctor Taylor,
I know you have a busy schedule.

Releasing hands, Brian inspects Anna closely.

BRIAN
Anna.

Anna averts her eyes to the floor and speaks quietly.

ANNA
Hello father.

BRIAN
Sit.

Anna immediately obeys. Dr Malik opens his mouth to object but is cut off.

BRIAN
What are her prescriptions?

DR MALIK
Er, Chlorpromazine four times a day
and I've prescribed Librium to
reduce any stress she may have
during her settling in period.

Dr Malik pleasantly gestures towards the chairs.

DR MALIK

You may like to sit together for a while. I understand you haven't seen each other in many years.

BRIAN

Not necessary. What of her condition?

DR MALIK

Oh alright. . . Um. . . Yes TEDDI, we have not had a mention of him in some time.

Brian growls at Anna.

BRIAN

Do you still see him, girl?

ANNA

No father.

Dr Malik attempts to soften Brian's aggression and speaks proudly of Anna.

DR MALIK

Anna has been incident free for four months.

BRIAN

And the other one?

DR MALIK

You mean ANIN.

Brian nods curtly, still staring at Anna.

DR MALIK

As I said, Anna has not had an incident in months. We believe the medication is adequately. . .

Brian turns sharply, growling harder.

BRIAN

Is she gone?

ANNA

Yes father.

BRIAN

Good.

(to Dr Malik)

When do you expect me to take her?

DR MALIK

Ah, we need a couple of days to clear the paperwork. Thursday?

BRIAN

Thursday I have surgery. I'll send a car.

DR MALIK

A car?

BRIAN

The nurse will be with her?

DR MALIK

Of course. Sandra is one of our best. . .

Brian clearly impatient cuts Dr Malik off again.

BRIAN

I'll leave the key with the driver. Good day.

Brian turns and leaves without a second glance at Anna.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DUNKELD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL (ANNA'S ROOM)

Anna stares blankly out the window of her hospital room. Steeling herself, she takes a deep breath and turns.

She looks sadly at her room, her safe place. Holding out her hand at waist height, she says:

ANNA

Alright Teddi, I'm ready.

A small chocolate skinned, clawed hand delicately takes her hand and squeezes it reassuringly.

Anna smiles lovingly at Teddi, a waist height Converted with smooth chocolate skin, bright blue round eyes and thin limbs. Teddi smiles back and nods he is ready too.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (FOYER) - DAY

The large wooden door opens, revealing Anna and Sandra with their suitcases. Sandra waves to the luxury car as it pulls away from the house before closing the door.

In the foyer they pause to look over the large neat rooms and curving staircase.

SANDRA

Your father is loaded.

Anna silently moves to the staircase. Sandra follows.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (STAIRCASE)

They pass various medical awards, trophies and conversation pieces on the wall and ledges.

SANRDA

Wow he certainly is successful.
Look. . .

Anna turns unimpressed to see the photo of her father.

SANDRA

. . . it's your father with the
Mayor.

Sandra moves to another photo.

SANDRA

And here with Gabriel Byrne.

Anna briefly stares unimpressed before continuing upstairs, leaving Sandra to lag behind, gawping at photos and awards.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (HALLWAY)

Anna walks the long hallway as though she had never been away. Coming to a door, she opens it and continues forward.

SANDRA

Where are the photos of you?

ANNA

There isn't any.
(pointing behind)
That's your room.

SANDRA

Where's yours?

Reaching the next room she opens the door.

ANNA

Here.

SANDRA

Do you want help getting settled?

ANNA

No.

Sandra sadly watches Anna disappear into the room.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (ANNA'S ROOM)

Anna looks coldly over her room and the limited furnishings of a double bed, chest of draws and a single arm chair.

Placing the suitcase on the bed, Anna moves to the window to stare blankly at the outside world.

Teddi climbs up onto the bed and begins her unpacking.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (KITCHEN) - NIGHT

In the large immaculate kitchen, Sandra plates a simple dinner of tomato sauce pasta. Anna silently appears, seating herself at the bench.

SANDRA

Sorry it's nothing exciting. Your father doesn't have a lot in the house. He must eat out.

Anna looks at her plate blankly and responds without emotion.

ANNA

I'm not hungry.

SANDRA

You're never hungry.

Sandra puts a glass of water and a small orange pill next to the plate.

SANDRA

You need something in your stomach for your pill.

Sandra watches Anna closely as she swallows the pill and begins to eat. Grabbing her own plate she twirls pasta on her fork.

SANDRA

The driver said the market is walking distance from here. We'll go down tomorrow and load up on groceries.

Anna's fork clangs against her plate, making Sandra look up.

ANNA

What do you mean, we?

SANDRA

We, you know, it means you and I.

ANNA

Can't you go by yourself?

Sandra puts down her plate and speaks firmly.

SANDRA

Anna, you are not going to stay in your room and stare out the window for the rest of your life. This is your world and you have to learn to live in it. It's my job to help you, whether you like it or not.

Anna begins to object but Sandra raises a finger halting her.

SANDRA

No. We are going shopping tomorrow.
The end. Now eat.

Begrudgingly Anna shoves a forkful of pasta into her mouth.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (STAIRCASE) - NIGHT

In a long worn nightgown Anna freezes halfway down the staircase at the sound of keys jingling in the front door.

Brian enters the house and stops when he spots Anna frozen in place. Startled he barks at her.

BRIAN

What are you doing?

ANNA

(timidly)
I wanted some water.

BRIAN

Where's the nurse?

Sandra emerges from a side door.

SANDRA

I'm here, Sir.

BRIAN

Let me make myself plain. I am a very important man in this town. I work long hours and when I return home I expect quiet and not to be disturbed. Do you understand?

Sandra nods her understanding.

BRIAN

(pointing at Anna)
You will keep her medicated and quiet. As far as I am concerned, in this house, neither of you exist.

SANDRA

Sir, I am here to help Anna integrate, not. . .

Brian interrupts, his voice vicious.

BRIAN

You are here to do as I say or you can find yourself another position.

Sandra backs down submissively.

BRIAN

I promised to look after her and to give this a chance. But I have no qualms in sending her far away to whatever filthy institution will take her. You will follow my rules. Have I made myself clear?

SANDRA

Yes Sir.

Brian turns his aggression to Anna.

BRIAN

Now, you go to your room.
(to Sandra)
And you get her some water, then confine yourself. I do not wish to see or hear either of you.

Brian storms directly to his downstairs den.

Sandra watches dumbfounded as Anna quietly returns to her room, unfazed. Alone and disgusted Sandra mutters to herself.

SANDRA

What. . . an asshole.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

Anna pushes a full trolley through the aisles. Teddi sits happily on top watching the passing shelves. Sandra talks as she too inspects the shelves, grabbing random items.

SANDRA

Because really, I don't give two shits what your father said, you can't live like that. I'll tell you what he can do with his rules.

Arriving at the counter, Teddi moves quickly to the handles as Sandra begins unpacking onto the counter.

SANDRA

We'll be quiet when he's home but what he doesn't know won't hurt him. Right?

Anna suddenly becomes anxious and looks around, searching for some threat inside the store.

SANDRA

Like he said, he's never around much anyway.

Anna pales and begins to fidget nervously with her sleeve. Teddi reaches out, gently touching her face.

With all the groceries on the counter, Sandra finally notices Anna's increasing panic.

SANDRA
Anna, what is it?

ANNA
I need to go home.

SANDRA
Alright, we're almost done.

Anna turns suddenly and stares through the wall. Her breathing increases and Teddi takes hold of her arms trying to calm her, but she pushes him away.

SANDRA
Anna, you need to calm yourself.

ANNA
I have to get out of here.

The STORE CLERK slows the scanning to watch. Sandra grabs hold of Anna's arms, but on contact she cries out, throws up her arms and pushes Sandra backwards.

Anna doubles over and clutching her head, mumbles loudly.

ANNA
Too close. Too close. It's too close.

Teddi launches from the trolley to stand guard over her. Shoppers stop to watch and whisper as Sandra approaches cautiously, her hands raised defensively.

SANDRA
Anna, I won't come too close OK,
but you need to take a deep breath
and calm down.

STORE CLERK (O.S)
Should I call an ambulance?

Sandra turns quickly to the clerk.

SANDRA
No! She'll be OK. Just hurry up
with those groceries.

Anna collapses to the ground groaning and crying. The collection of onlookers increases as she cries louder.

Sandra launches forward on her knees and grabs Anna by the shoulders. Anna's head whips up. Her face angry and her eyes no longer golden but a solid deep green. She is ANIN.

ANIN
Get us out of here!

The change in the tone of her voice and her eyes surprises Sandra and she recoils. She knows that Anna has gone.

SANDRA

Anin?

Her head drops and Anna's voice returns crying and sobbing.

Sandra retrieves a mobile phone from her bag, dials rapidly and speaks with military authority.

SANDRA

We have an incident. I need you.

Hanging up, she turns to the clerk and barks.

SANDRA

Aren't you done yet?

The clerk quickly returns to scanning and bagging the items.

The store's electronic doors open and DALE HUNTER (29) enters, his sunflower coloured eyes flash angrily beneath his heavy hooded coat. His scowl amplifying the large scar running from his forehead to jaw bone.

SANDRA

Get her out of here.

Teddi growls low, making Dale stop mid-stride.

SANDRA

(to Teddi)

He won't hurt her. I promise.

Shocked and confused, Teddi stands aside and watches Dale take Anna in his arms and leave the store.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (ANNA'S ROOM) - DAY

Anna lies on the bed staring at the wall. Teddi watches closely at her feet. Anin sits in the arm chair, looking bored.

ANIN

Bit of an unnecessary freak out don't you think. If you ask me, that institution made you soft.

Anna rolls her eyes and groans.

ANNA

What are you doing here?

ANIN

Usual, protecting your sorry arse.

ANNA

I don't need your protection.

ANIN

Well you need something. That beasty you felt was miles away. Even Teddi didn't feel it. You're rusty. And rusty will get us killed.

Anna rolls over and sits up, to yell at an empty chair. Teddi jumps and stumbles off the bed.

ANNA

Well I'm sorry I'm so out of practice!

Anin pleased with the reaction smirks mischievously.

ANIN

You're forgiven, Sis.

Anna throws herself backwards on the bed in frustration.

ANNA

Why are you here?

Anin crosses her legs and pushing her finger tips together, taking on the tone of a psychiatric doctor.

ANIN

Hmm, yes that is an interesting question. I believe that would be best answered by your nurse and her tall, dark and muscular friend downstairs.

Sitting up again Anna looks to Anin for an explanation.

ANIN

Well, I've been getting more and more alert over the past month. No thanks to you, by the way. So what ARE those pills you're taking?

ANNA

Sandra wouldn't do that to me.

ANIN

Yeah, and she wouldn't be able to see Teddi either.

Anna looks to Teddi, sitting quietly back on the bed, eagerly listening to the one sided conversation.

ANIN (O.S)

Ask him.

Cautiously quiet, Anna asks Teddi.

ANNA

Did Sandra see you?

Teddi signs that she spoke to him and Anna gasps. Her shock quickly turning to anger she storms from the room.

ANIN

This will be interesting.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (KITCHEN)

Sandra is neatly folding empty shopping bags and talking sternly to Dale on the other side of the kitchen bench.

SANDRA

No, I won't let you.

DALE

It's time.

SANDRA

She's not ready. I've been studying her for months, I know what she's capable of.

DALE

Yeah and look where your studies have gotten you. In a cushy house with pretty things while the rest of your people die.

SANDRA

Don't you pull that on me! I didn't choose this assignment. I know damn well what's at stake here!

DALE

Then take her in.

ANNA (O.S)

I'm not going anywhere with you people?

Turning quickly, they see Teddi and Anna in the open doorway, her fists clenched at her side.

Sandra moves towards her slowly but stops when Anna shies away.

ANNA

You're a liar. You've lied to me all this time.

SANDRA

No, not exactly. . .

ANNA

You changed my pills. You let Anin out!

SANDRA

OK. Yes we did that but. . .

ANNA
And YOU CAN SEE TEDDI!

Sandra gives up trying to find the right words.

ANNA
I trusted you. Leave. Get out of my house.

DALE
No.

Anna turns quickly on Dale.

ANNA
I said get out.

DALE
And I said no.

ANNA
I'll call my father. I'll call the police.

DALE
You do that. I'm sure they'll believe a nut job over a trusted nurse and a mental house full of doctors. Use your brain girl.

Anna glares into Dale's yellow eyes.

ANNA
Teddi!

SANDRA
Anna, what are you doing?

ANNA
Using my brain.

Teddi claws extend three inches from his thin fingers and he roars a deep warning that shakes the kitchen cupboards.

Dale pulls a long pistol from under his cloak but Sandra, desperate to regain control stands between them.

SANDRA
OK, OK. We've been watching you. I'll tell you everything, but we have to all just calm down.

Teddi and Anna both glare dangerously at Dale.

SANDRA
Teddi doesn't want to hurt anyone and neither do you.

Speaking to Dale she doesn't take her eyes off Teddi.

SANDRA

Dale, weapons.

Dale doesn't move, but continues to stare down Teddi.

SANDRA

Dale!

Dale slowly puts the pistol down on the floor and slides out a long blue edged sword and a twin pistol from under his cloak. He kicks them all aside.

SANDRA

Good, now the knives.

DALE

Sandra. . .

SANDRA

Don't mess about! Do it!

Two large blue lined knives appear and are tossed over with the others.

SANDRA

Good, now Anna please ask Teddi to stand down.

Anna glares at Dale, before nodding her agreement to Teddi.

Teddi's claws retract slowly into his long fingers and Sandra takes a deep breath of relief.

SANDRA

Good OK.

Sandra motions to a stool and Anna reluctantly moves to sit.

SANDRA

We took notice of you last year when orderly, RALPH BOWMAN, was attacked.

DALE

Gutted more like.

Teddi hisses in anger.

ANNA

I had nothing to do with that. I was unconscious and tied to a bed.

DALE

Didn't you ever ask your little friend what happened?

ANNA

I had other things going on.

Sandra glares at Dale to shut up and takes a seat next to Anna.

SANDRA

My orders were to find out as much as I could about you both, without drawing unwanted attention.

ANNA

Orders? Who are you people?

SANDRA

Anna, we're not from this world.

Anna rolls her eyes in disbelief.

SANDRA

We're from a parallel world.

ANNA

Parallel world. Right.

Sandra touches Anna's arm but she pulls away in disgust.

SANDRA

We came through a rift between our two worlds.

Anna nods cynically. Dale shifts angrily.

DALE

You got a CONVERTED sitting next to you, another person in your head but you've got problems believing there's a parallel world.

SANDRA

Jesus, Dale.

Teddi growls a guttural warning and Dale takes a step back.

ANNA

Converted?

SANDRA

It's what we call them. The monsters you see. They used to be people, before they were. . .
Converted.

ANNA

You can't change a whole person, that's ridiculous.

Sandra gazes seriously into Anna's eyes.

ANNA

You're serious? What converts them, then?

DALE

We don't know.

SANDRA

We know it is a single creature but no one's ever seen it.

ANNA

What has this got to do with me?

SANDRA

Well your files only say so much. We don't understand why you see them when others from Earth don't.

Anna, unnerved, shifts uncomfortably in her seat.

ANNA

Teddi said my brain works differently than other peoples. It lets me see through their veil.

SANDRA

Then there's Teddi. He's unlike any Converted we've ever seen. We know that both of you can tell where the other ones are and you're stronger when Anin is around.

ANNA

You have no idea what you've done, setting her free.

SANDRA

We saw no real threat from her.

ANNA

No threat! She killed my mother!

Sandra takes a deep breath and speaks firmly.

SANDRA

Anna, my world is overrun. We have been at war for decades and we're losing. Most of our people are now converted or dead. You can help us get upper hand. Hunt them down with us. Find that one creature. . .

Anna stands quickly making the chair scream across the floorboards and backing away in horror. Teddi close by her side for protection.

SANDRA

My world is dying and they are rooting themselves in yours. You can help stop this. You can help save both of our worlds.

Teddi exposes his jagged teeth in warning.

ANNA

You saw me in the store. I can't!

SANDRA

We'd protect you. You'd be safe.

ANNA

Safe! I'm never safe! They can tell where I am as well. Didn't my files tell you that too?

Sandra and Dale look at each other quickly.

ANNA

They can smell me. If I go near them I'm dead.

Anna flees from the room with Teddi trailing behind.

SANDRA

I told you she wasn't ready.

INT. BRIAN TAYLOR'S HOUSE (ANNA'S ROOM) - NIGHT

Moonlight pours through the window onto Anna's sleeping form. Her golden eyes open quickly but the gold lazily retreats like thick honey, leaving the deep green of Anin's.

Her eyes search her surroundings and quickly recognise a soft snuffling sound. She smiles broadly and carefully sits up to peer into a bundle of blankets on the end of the bed.

A corner of the blanket falls aside, exposing part of Teddi's face. Opening an eye, he looks blearily at Anin before closing it again. He quickly sits up, his blankets falling away, and sees Anin smirking back at him.

ANIN

Hey little man.

Teddi squeals and launches himself at Anin. The violent impact of the hug throws her back on the bed. She laughs and hugs him back.

ANIN

Shh. . . You don't want to wake Anna. Yes I've missed you too.

Standing, she holds Teddi against, her like a mother carrying a child.

ANIN

Come on, let's get some food. I'm starving.

Anin heads out of the door with Teddi in her arms.