

Persecution Hill  
an original screenplay by  
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FADE IN:

INT. UCLA LECTURE HALL - DAY

LAMB TYLER, 21, clad in a mini skirt and a nearly see-through shirt, nibbles on the end of her pen. Her blond hair is tied up, messily, studiously. Dark-rimmed glasses outline her sensuous green eyes.

The lecture hall is packed with STUDENTS. At the front of the hall behind a podium stands PROFESSOR BANKS. He's tall, composed, classic good looks, mid-forties.

His briefcase leans against the podium.

PROFESSOR BANKS

So in conclusion, fear is a legitimate response in certain situations. But often, fear is brought on by our own personal demons.

The CELL PHONE sitting on Lamb's desk VIBRATES. She picks it up and reads the text message.

INSERT TEXT MESSAGE

Lamb, pool is warm, drinx are cold.

END INSERT

Lamb shakes her head and smiles. She glances to the bored Students around her, then texts back.

INSERT TEXT MESSAGE

Be there around noon. Save some for me!

END INSERT

At the podium, the Professor grabs his briefcase and shoves his notes into it.

Lamb glances at her phone. It's only 10:29.

PROFESSOR BANKS (CONT'D)

And as Franklin Roosevelt so aptly stated, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

The Students begin to pack up their belongings to leave. Some of them begin to stand. There's a BUZZ OF CONVERSATION that's starting to grow louder.

PROFESSOR BANKS (CONT'D)

Have a great rest of the summer.

Lamb shoves her phone into her book bag and walks to the front of the class. She walks by Professor Banks. The Professor eyes her long legs.

PROFESSOR BANKS (CONT'D)

Lamb, you know you really didn't need to spoil your summer with this course. You're doing great.

Lamb stops in front of the podium. The Professor shovels the rest of his pens and papers into her briefcase.

LAMB

I find fear an interesting topic.  
Do one thing, every day-

Lamb stares hard into his eye, her hand wavers as she unbuttons the button of her shirt.

The Professor stares at her lacy, white bra.

LAMB (CONT'D)

-that scares you.

The Professor smiles at her awkward attempt at bravery.

PROFESSOR

Eleanor Roosevelt. Good quote.

Lamb beams a mischievous grin and walks off.

INT. LAMB'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Music blares from the car radio. Lamb bounces around in her seat and sings along as she drives.

She passes a road sign that reads: HWY 101. Then another that reads: Santa Clarita 25 miles. Still another one that says: DRIVE SAFELY, BUCKLE UP.

EXT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

The noon-day sun blazes above in a blue, cloudless sky.

Around a large swimming pool sits KUMAR SMITH, 22, a skinny East Indian, dressed in shorts and a t-shirt and JAMES PORTER, 22, dark and brooding, clad in a bathing suit.

CHRIS BARNES, 21, sultry brown hair, wears a red bikini that clings to her sexy curves and leaves nothing to the imagination. She lazes on a lounge chair with her eyes closed, baking in the sun.

DAN FOSTER, 23, football player physique, exits the house carrying a round of beer. He's got a Steelers jersey on over his swimming trunks.

Dan hands a can of beer to LEON MCGREGGOR, 21, plumb and red-headed, munching on a bag of potato chips, a beach towel wrapped around his chubby waist.

DAN  
(to Leon)  
You ever hear of the concept of  
sharing, Leon?

Leon takes the beer and offers the open chip bag to Dan.

LEON  
Sorry, man.

DAN  
Typical Com-Sci techie.

LEON  
Don't need social skills sitting in  
front of a computer all day.

Dan laughs; shakes his head as he walks to Chris.

CHRIS  
I'm hot...and bored.

Dan slides a beer along her arm. Chris SCREAMS and sits up.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Dan!

Chris rubs her arm.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Gezus!

She grabs the beer from Dan.

DAN  
Sorry, babe. Couldn't resist.

Dan leans down and they kiss.

James frowns and turns away from the lovebirds, uncomfortable.

Chris opens her beer and takes a drink.

KUMAR  
Chris, where's Lamb?

CHRIS  
She's on her way.

JAMES  
She's nuts. I couldn't wait to get  
out of classes this year.

DAN  
How is doctor school, anyway?

JAMES  
A grind. Not like riding through on  
a general arts degree, my friend.

DAN  
Only until I get called up to the  
pros, man. Steelers all the way!  
Kumar, think fast!

Dan throws a beer at Kumar. He fumbles but catches it.

LEON  
(to James)  
You see any cadavers yet?

JAMES  
Yep. There's nothing like cutting  
open a dead body after breakfast.

CHRIS  
Gross.

James shrugs.

JAMES  
You get used to it.

James' eyes betray him. He'll never get used to it.

CHRIS  
Lamb's so into her program.

LEON  
Good thing. We'll all need a shrink  
eventually.

Leon pours what's left of the chips into his mouth. Crumbs  
stick to his face. He crumples the bag and throws it on the  
ground next to him.

KUMAR  
Some sooner than later!

Kumar starts to open his beer, but it spurts out explosively.  
He tries to stop the flow with his mouth.

It ends up all over him.

EXT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Lamb pulls into the driveway behind a van.

INT. LAMB'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Something like RUN TO THE HILLS by Iron Maiden blares loudly from the radio. She sing with it, dramatically, as she applies fresh lipstick, until the song is over.

Lamb grabs her purse and gets out of the car.

EXT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Lamb peeks around the side of the yard. She hears the gang back there. She walks down the side of the yard and opens the gate.

EXT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - BACK - CONTINUOUS

Lamb enters the backyard.

LAMB

Heya freaks!

She drops her purse, strips off her shorts and t-shirt, and dives into the pool in her bra and panties.

Chris jumps in after her, then Dan cannonballs into the pool.

Lamb surfaces. She peels off her bra and snaps it at Kumar.

Kumar catches it, stares at it as though he's never seen one, then sets it down next to him.

LAMB (CONT'D)

James, c'mon!

James dives in. Kumar sits on the edge of the pool and dangles his feet in the water.

DAN

(to Kumar)

Dude, how come you never learned to swim?

Sadness washes over Kumar's face. He stands abruptly and goes into the house.

LAMB

Dan, no.

DAN

What?

JAMES

His real parents were killed in that  
big tsunami.

Dan's a blank.

JAMES (CONT'D)

The one that killed hundreds of  
thousands of people?

Dan shrugs.

LAMB

Kumar's still a work in progress.

Lamb gets out of the pool and enters the house through a  
patio door. Leon watches Lamb like a wolf in heat.

CHRIS

Stop drooling, Leon.

LEON

If she's gonna walk around half naked,  
I'm gonna look.

DAN

Yeah, but dude, that was a little  
creepy.

LEON

Creep this! Boner Cannonball!

Leon cannonballs into the pool.

INT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The kitchen is homey and clean, except for a litter of beer  
cans on the counter. On the wall is a calendar that shows  
the month of AUGUST.

Kumar roots through the fridge, pulling out a package of  
bloody hamburger, some buns and condiments.

Lamb walks up behind him, shivering, hugging herself; water  
dripping all over the floor.

Kumar tries to avoid looking at her boobs.

The group outside frolic at the pool, screaming, throwing  
each other in the water.

LAMB

Got a towel?

Kumar points down the hall.

KUMAR

Closet.

INT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - HALL - CONTINUOUS

The hall is lined with Kumar's family photos. Pictures of Kumar at various ages with his new parents.

Lamb walks down the hall. Across from the closet is a picture of Kumar's real parents, with an 8-year old Kumar, standing in front of a modest home. Lamb touches the frame and reflects for a moment, then turns to the closet.

The linen closet is partially open. Lamb opens the door and a black and white cat jumps out at her. She yelps.

LAMB

Simba!

Lamb quickly grabs a towel and wraps herself. She moves walks back to-

INT. KUMAR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kumar finishes mopping up Lamb's watery footprints. He puts the mop away and stands at the counter staring at the bloody meat package, in attempt to avoid looking at Lamb.

LAMB (CONT'D)

Dan's new with us. He didn't know.

KUMAR

I should be over it. It's been a long time.

Lamb hugs Kumar. Kumar's quite aware she's only wearing her underwear. He hugs lightly and lets go of her.

LAMB

No. You shouldn't be over it. But you could learn how to swim. You live in California, dude. You seem to be afraid of everything.

Lamb drapes her arm around Kumar.

Kumar produces a brief smile.

KUMAR

Even little things can hurt you.



The patio door sweeps open and the rest of the group rushes in.

DAN  
What's for lunch?

CHRIS  
We should have a picnic.

LAMB  
Hey, I'm done my last class. Let's  
go camping!

JAMES  
No thanks.

James folds his arms and steps away from the group. He spies the pictures of Kumar and his family on the hall wall.

DAN  
We have the whole week. Where's a  
good spot?

JAMES  
Not interested.

INT. KUMAR'S GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The garage is clean and neatly organized. Shelves line the walls and on the shelves are paint cans, tools, camping equipment and Christmas decorations.

Chris and Kumar pull a tent and camping supplies from shelves.

Lamb is dressed now. Chris has a towel wrapped around her waist.

LEON  
There's some sleeping bags over there.

Leon points to a shelf on the other side of the garage.

LEON (CONT'D)  
(to James)  
You've never been camping?

Lamb pulls down some sleeping bags and throws them to Dan.

JAMES  
Nope.

James sits on the stairs that lead into the house.

CHRIS  
Too beneath you or what.

LEON  
 Poor little rich kid.

JAMES  
 Piss off, Leon.

Leon leans against the wall and accidentally presses the controls to open the garage door.

Outside the garage, parked in the driveway is a van. The van is covered with colorful DECALS of the UNITED HOUSE OF GOD MISSIONARY.

DAN  
 Hey, can we take your parent's van?

They all walk out to the van in the-

DRIVEWAY

KUMAR  
 No, it belongs to the church. And my parents are in Guatemala this week.

Leon kicks the tires; peers inside the van.

LAMB  
 They're missionaries, right?

KUMAR  
 Yeah, but...

LAMB  
 The kindest of all, just-wanting-to-help-a-buddy-out kind of folk.

KUMAR  
 I said no.

INT. KUMAR'S VAN - LATER

SUPER: 5 hours later

Kumar drives the van. James sits next to him, with Chris and Lamb in the seats behind them, Dan and Leon in the last seat of the van.

KUMAR  
 So how far is this place?

LEON  
 We've got another two hours or so from here. At your speed we should be there by dark.

Kumar steps on the gas.

They drive by a SMOKEY THE BEAR SIGN.

DAN

Lamb, what's your real name?

Lamb rests her head on a LAMB-SHAPED PILLOW. Chris takes a toke from a joint and passes it to Lamb.

Chris laughs. James smiles and laughs a little.

DAN (CONT'D)

(to Lamb)

Me next.

Dan holds out his hand, gimme gimme.

Lamb takes a toke and hands Dan the joint.

CHRIS

Didn't I tell you?

LAMB

Gertrude is my real name. Gertrude Dolores Tyler. Wasn't I blessed.

They all laugh.

DAN

I'll stick with Lamb. Where'd that come from?

CHRIS

Silence of the Lambs!

JAMES

(imitating Hannibal  
Lecter)

And what became of your lamb, Clarise?

LAMB

(over the top drama)

They killed him!

Lamb hits James over the head with her lamb-pillow.

LAMB (CONT'D)

They killed him!

She pulls the pillow back under her head and rests, gazing out the window.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
 Seriously, that was the best study  
 of the diabolical nature of the human  
 species I've ever seen.

The radio blasts out MAMA DON'T LET YOUR BABIES GROW UP TO  
 BE COWBOYS.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
 Hey, turn that up.

James turns up the radio.

The highway becomes a winding, two-lane road going up hill.  
 Ahead is a mass of brush and tall pines and in the distance,  
 a bit off the road is a HUGE OLD BARN.

ALL  
 (singing)  
 Mama, don't let your babies grow up  
 to be cowboys

Kumar's fists are white and clenched to the steering wheel  
 as he drives down the highway.

LAMB  
 Don't let'em play guitar-

CHRIS  
 Or drive them old trucks-

JAMES  
 Let'em be doctors-

The van passes a sign: PERSECUTION HILL

KUMAR  
 And lawyers-

DAN  
 And such! Hey how come I just get  
 and such.

ALL  
 Mama don't let your babies grow up-

A DEER runs out in front of the van. For one moment, the  
 deer's and Kumar's eyes meet. Then, the van collides with  
 the deer. The the airbags in the front seat deploy. The  
 deer rolls onto the hood of the car.

The radio continues to play but it's hard to hear over the  
 screams from the passengers.

The feet of the deer protrude through the windshield. Kumar's face is bloody.

Kumar swerves the van. The deer flies off the hood. The van skids off the road and tips over sideways.

The deer lays dead and bloody on the road. The van's tires spin aimlessly. CAMPING GEAR piled on top of the van is now scattered along the roadside. The radio fades.

Kumar opens the driver's door and pulls himself out of the van. James follows.

Chris and Lamb open and then climb out of the passenger door. James moves to help them. The girls moan as they make their way out and onto the side of the road.

LAMB

Holy shit.

James opens the back hatch and lets out Leon and Dan.

JAMES

You guys okay.

LEON

Yeah.

There's a bruise forming on Leon's forehead. He rubs it with his hand.

Blood runs down the side of Kumar's face.

DAN

I'm okay.

Dan grabs the food cooler that's inside the van. Leon grabs the other side of the cooler and they set it down on the side of the road. Dan steps behind the van looking for the other cooler. He finds it. The beer bottles that had been inside it lay in foamy pieces near it.

DAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

All the beer bottles in this one broke!

Kumar stands in front of the dead deer. The deer's eyes are open in a silent death stare. The body is a bloody heap of flesh and broken bones.

KUMAR

I didn't see it.

JAMES

Is everyone okay?

James walks to Kumar and pushes Kumar's bangs from his bleeding forehead.

KUMAR

I'm fine.

Kumar brushes him off.

JAMES

I just want to check for concussion.  
Stand still.

James pulls Kumar's eyelids up.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I need a flashlight.

KUMAR

I'm fine.

Kumar turns and looks at the van.

KUMAR (CONT'D)

No, I take that back. They're going  
to kill me.

LEON

Maybe they'll put you back up for  
adoption.

Chris pulls her cell phone out of her pocket. She punches a few buttons.

LAMB

(to Leon)

Stop being an asshole.

CHRIS

Anyone got reception out here?

They all try their phones. No reception.

EXT. THE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

The sun is almost setting. The group hobble down the road, toward the barn in the distance. Dan and Leon carry the cooler. Kumar carries a knapsack. James and Chris carry some sleeping bags.

Lamb, carrying her lamb pillow, turns and looks back at the van. Wind whips her hair and is the only noise. She stares out over the vacant landscape, then to the barn. Ominous storm clouds are moving in.

EXT. BARN - DAY

They stand in front of the barn. It's huge - 100 x 300 feet huge. It's at least a century old, grey-timbered, some planks are missing here and there, some are askew. The barn is banked by large oak trees and out further, a bank of brush.

Two huge doors stand before them. On one door is painted a fading red cross.

LEON

Home sweet home.

Leon and Dan drop the cooler. Dan reaches for one door, Leon the other.

LAMB

We can't stay here.

Dan and Leon open the doors.

Lamb looks across the road. There are the remnants of a few brick homes that are now nothing but rubble. There are low spots where roads once were, and set back further, a small village lay in ruins.

LAMB (CONT'D)

We could go see what's over there?

Lamb points to the ghost town across the road.

JAMES

No one will be looking for us - for days. The barn at least has a roof. We can explore later.

James takes a step into the-

BARN - CONTINUOUS

It's dark. Cobwebs fall on James' head and shoulders from the timbers above. He removes them with a swipe of his hand.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It's getting dark. There was that town about thirty miles back. We can head out first thing tomorrow.

Slowly, the group filters into the barn.

On the walls of the barn are hung an assortment of farm tools: a pitch fork, some hoes, rakes, old lanterns, and old fashioned saws, etc.

James spies some old fashioned light switches on the wall. He flicks them but they don't work.

Above their heads, from the rafters, hang some dear hanging hooks and a huge steel trap. Further back in the barn is too dark to see.

KUMAR

Look at how big that steel trap is!

LEON

Must be some big bears around here.

Leon ROARS, scares Kumar.

The tree limbs scratch the tin roof eerily.

CHRIS

It stinks in here.

LAMB

This place gives me the creeps.

KUMAR

It's empty. Just old.

Dan grabs the cooler and brings it inside. He opens the lid. Blood from the hamburger package covers the food, drink cans and ice.

DAN

Shit...

Dan shrugs and grabs a beer and wipes the top. He opens the beer and takes a huge swig.

LAMB

Let's go check out the ghost town.  
We'll be here all night.

CHRIS

Yeah, sounds fun.

Kumar grabs his knapsack and removes from it a CAMERA.

EXT. PERSECUTION HILL - DAY

They all head off across the road.

There's only a foundation left of what was once a house. A HALF-CHARRED DOOR lays off to the side. Dan flips it over. It's marked with a FADED RED CROSS.

A RAT scampers across Dan's feet and into the weeds. He jumps. No one notices.



Lamb walks over to the edge of the house and looks down into the foundation. At the bottom, with most of the remains of the house, rests a CHARRED DOLL.

LAMB

I wonder if anyone died in the fire.

CHRIS

The hair on my neck just stood up.

Dan grabs Chris by the shoulders.

DAN

Let me see that neck.

He kisses Chris' neck.

Kumar holds a hand to his forehead, scanning the village in the distance. He holds up his camera and snaps a picture.

KUMAR

Dan, Chris, stand right here.

Kumar directs Dan and Chris to stand in front of the burned out house.

DAN

How romantic.

CHRIS

Our first home.

James strikes off for the village. The rest of the group catches up with him.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

One main street that used to boast several stores is now completely burnt out and overgrown with weeds, thistles and trees.

Lamb runs to one of the buildings.

LAMB

Hey, look, this used to be the post office.

Lamb points at the POST OFFICE SIGN that's still attached to the brown brick wall that remains.

She steps closer and spots a postcard. She picks it up.

INSERT POST CARD

My Dearest Ambrose,

A sickness is sweeping through this town. I fear that I won't be here when you return. Please know I love you for always.

Your wife,

Elizabeth

END INSERT

CHRIS

What is it?

LAMB

A post card. It has a stamp on it but it doesn't look like it was ever mailed. Weird.

Lamb flips over the post card.

INSERT FRONT OF POST CARD

A picture of the local Catholic church.

END INSERT

Kumar picks up a TOY HORSE from the ground. It's badly beat up but still recognizable.

He hears CHILDREN LAUGHING. He looks to see if anyone else notices. No one else does.

KUMAR

We should head back.

Chris dances down the street.

CHRIS

No, look at this. This is history! I'm going to look this place up when we get back.

Dan moves across the street and inspects an old general store.

Chris steps over to a house that is in ruins. PIGEONS scare up from the trees growing inside the building's foundation, scaring her.

Chris sees something and reaches into the building debris to pick it up. Next to her is the REMAINS OF A DOOR. Same smeared, FADED RED CROSS on the door that has been on every door they've walked by.

JAMES

Careful, Chris. You don't know what's hiding in the bushes.

LEON

Boooooooooo.

JAMES

No, you idiot, snakes. I'm not carrying anti-venom on me.

Chris pulls out the dirty a PORCELAIN DOLL, still largely intact. Chris rubs the dirt from the doll's painted face.

Lamb walks over to see.

LAMB

Pretty good condition considering she went through a fire.

Chris turns the doll over, inspecting her dress and body.

CHRIS

Yeah, might be worth a few bucks.

Chris holds the doll up and Kumar takes a picture.

Dan strolls back.

DAN

It just looks like everybody vanished. Nothing was ever removed. The store's got canned goods scattered all over the place.

LAMB

This place was sick - maybe they all died.

CHRIS

And someone burned the buildings to get rid of the germs.

They are all creeped out at the thought.

JAMES

Maybe we should head back.

KUMAR

Yeah, good idea.

CHRIS

Looks like it's going to rain soon anyway.

The group start back but before they get too far, Lamb spies something in the field nearby.

LAMB  
Let's go over there.

They walk to the-

EXT. CEMETERY - MOMENTS LATER

A DILAPIDATED METAL GATE that's mostly fallen down guards what's left of the cemetery.

The group stands outside the gate, gazing at the cracked and fallen down TOMBSTONES.

LEON  
You brought us here to see this.

At the back of the cemetery is a deep depression - A GRAVE that was never filled.

LAMB  
Looks like there was no one left to fill that grave.

DAN  
Maybe the body's at the bottom.

KUMAR  
Can we go back now.

It begins to rain. They run back to-

INT. BARN - DAY

The barn doors are open and the group is inside. THUNDER cracks loudly and LIGHTENING strikes nearby.

James takes the bloody hamburger out of the cooler.

JAMES  
Anyone hungry?

Dan drains the bloody water out of the cooler near the front door.

CHRIS  
We can't cook in the rain.

It begins to pour. The rain pelts the tin roof.

James scouts the barn. To the left is a pile of broken boards. Beyond the boards are other rooms and stalls and more, well into the blackness.

JAMES  
 (to Chris)  
 Grab a few of those boards. Dan,  
 get some hay.

James points to the right, where off in the distance, is a huge pile of old hay.

CHRIS  
 Thought you didn't know how to camp.

JAMES  
 I know how to start a fire.

James looks up at her, sarcastically.

CHRIS  
 Oh, your boy scout badge. Right...

INT. BARN - LATER

James, Dan, Leon, Chris and Lamb stand before the small fire in front of the open barn doors.

Kumar enters from the back of the barn, holding a SMALL GRATE.

KUMAR  
 Will this work?

JAMES  
 That's great! What is it?

CHRIS  
 It doesn't have any cow dung on it,  
 does it?

KUMAR  
 No, I took it from a piece of  
 machinery. Looks like a rad grill  
 or something.

Dan spots some BRICKS by the barn door. He grabs them and places them around the fire.

Kumar hands the grate to James. James positions it over the fire.

James puts the hamburger patties onto the grate. They sizzle and smoke fills the room.

KUMAR (CONT'D)  
 This place is huge. I wonder what's  
 back there.

Kumar points into the darkness.

James grabs two sticks nailed together that formed A CROSS, he pulls the sticks apart and uses them to flip the burgers.

The girls cozy up to the fire, rubbing their arms to generate heat.

Out past the barn doors, the sun recedes beyond the trees. Night approaches.

Leon walks over to the wall where the LANTERNS are hung. He reaches for one of the lanterns. A PITCH FORK falls from the wall.

LAMB

Leon!

Leon jumps and falls, and the pitch fork narrowly misses his head, planting itself into the floor of the barn.

Leon gets up and grabs the lantern. He shakes it. It sloshes with lantern oil.

DAN

Try it.

Dan pulls a CIGARETTE PACK out of his pocket. Inside the pack is another joint and a lighter. He lights the joint and passes the lighter to Leon.

Leon lights the lantern. It works. Carefully, he grabs another lantern from the wall and shakes it. It's empty. He reaches for the third lamp. A LARGE, BLACK SPIDER jumps onto his hand.

LEON

Ah!

He shakes it off and takes down the lantern. It's got fuel in it. He lights the second lantern.

Dan takes a few drags off the joint and passes it on to Chris. She takes her share, then passes it to Lamb.

Lamb takes a drag and offers the joint to Kumar but he waves her off.

LAMB

You might as well. It's the only entertainment you'll get tonight.

Kumar shrugs and takes the joint. He takes a few puffs, coughs, then hands it to James.

James takes one of the lanterns from Dan and passes him the joint.

KUMAR

(to Dan)

Let's go explore.

Dan takes a quick toke and hands the joint back to James.

Dan and Kumar head to the back of the barn.

INT. BACK OF BARN - CONTINUOUS

Dan and Kumar walk down a passageway between a long series of empty wood-planked cow stalls. To the right is RUSTY OLD MILKING EQUIPMENT. To their left, another hall banked by doors.

PIGEONS COO from the rafters above.

Dan looks up. The last of the daylight dully infiltrates holes in the ceiling.

DAN

Only birds. Least it's not rats.

KUMAR

There were lots of rats in India.

DAN

I can't stand rats! I don't even like Mickey Mouse.

Kumar, holding the lantern, stands in front of a door. He tries the knob. It's stuck.

DAN (CONT'D)

Let me, little man.

Kumar moves out of the way.

Dan slams his shoulder against the door as he reefs on the knob. The door opens.

DAN (CONT'D)

Give me the light.

Kumar hands Dan the lantern.

Dan shines the light inside. To the right is a WOODEN DESK with A CHAIR pulled out in front of it, as if someone left in a hurry. On the desk is a NOTE PAD, A PENCIL HOLDER WITH ASSORTED PENS, PENCILS, SCISSORS, ETC.

They walk inside-

THE ROOM

Dan holds the light up higher. A PIGEON flies past them.  
Dan almost drops the light.

DAN (CONT'D)

Geezuz.

KUMAR

Let's go back.

DAN

No, wait.

Dan moves closer to the desk. On the wood-planked wall is tacked YELLOWED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

Dan holds the light closer to the news articles.

INSERT ARTICLE

The article is dated March 19, 1938

Article Headline: Pastor Sam brutally murders wife and sons

Local pastor, Sam Hinkley, has been arrested for the murder of his wife, Dolores, and sons Gene and Mark in what has been the most brutal murder this county has seen.

On March 16th, Pastor Hinkley conducted a final sermon at the local church, where he presided for the past five years. He then went home and shot his wife and children in the face.

END INSERT

Dan waves the light to the other articles. Headlines read:  
PASTOR GONE MAD, PASTOR WORKING WITH THE DEVIL

DAN (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

KUMAR

Nothing holy about this.

Dan shines the light around the small room. An OLD WAGON, SOME SMALL SKATES, A BAT, A BASEBALL AND OTHER ASSORTED SPORTS EQUIPMENT sit in a corner.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Kumar and Dan rush back to the fire where the others are finishing off their hamburgers.

LAMB

I'm stuffed. That was great.



LEON  
(mouth full)  
Hit the spot!

CHRIS  
Not bad for someone who hates camping.

JAMES  
I didn't say I hated it. I just  
don't do it, and so far this little  
expedition has only proved my point.

DAN  
Guys...

James, Chris and Lamb look up. Leon's still busy eating.

KUMAR  
We found something.

INT. THE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dan holds the lantern. James, Chris, Lamb, Kumar and Leon  
huddle around the desk, reading the article.

LAMB  
Now that's fucked up.

CHRIS  
This would make a great story for  
the university newspaper.

JAMES  
Are you ever not in journalist mode?

Chris gives him a dirty look.

Leon stands near the wagon and toys.

LEON  
I wonder if these belonged to his  
sons.

DAN  
Well who else?

Dan picks up a BASEBALL BAT. The wind howls outside and  
TREE BRANCHES scratch the roof.

Dan drops the bat.

LAMB  
Dan, you scared? A big guy like  
you?

DAN  
Nothin' ever get to you, Lamb?

LAMB  
Sure it does, but I like the rush of  
adrenaline.

The tree snaps and a large limb crashes into the roof, peeling it open.

They run from the room.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

The group huddles around the fire. The barn doors are closed. The lamps provide dim light.

LEON  
(mocking Lamb)  
I like the rush of adrenaline.

LAMB  
Shut up, Leon.

Dan reaches for his smokes and lights another joint.

DAN  
We need to relax.

He takes a toke and passes it down the line.

JAMES  
There's nothing to be afraid of.  
Morning'll come and we'll be on our  
way home.

LAMB  
How about a game.

LEON  
Spin the bottle!

Leon grabs an empty vodka cooler bottle and sets it on the ground between them. He gives it a spin. It points to Lamb.

LAMB  
Really? Aren't you still a virgin?

LEON  
No.

DAN  
Not if you count his hand.

They all laugh.

LAMB  
What about truth or dare?

JAMES  
Lame.

KUMAR  
How about I Never?

The group's interested.

LEON  
Except the penalty is you lose an  
article of clothes.

CHRIS  
Leon!

LAMB  
I'm in.

KUMAR  
I've never had sex-

They all laugh.

KUMAR (CONT'D)  
With James.

DAN  
I never had sex with James either!

It's Lamb's turn. She blows a sigh and removes her shoes.

James lowers his face.

CHRIS  
Lamb?

Lamb stares at her silently.

JAMES  
Kumar, why'd you start this shit.

LAMB  
No, that's fine. Sorry Chris, James  
and I slept together once.

Chris' eye widen with WTF!

LAMB (CONT'D)  
(to Chris)  
After you two broke up.

Lamb shrugs. No big deal.

LAMB (CONT'D)

My turn. I never broke up with a  
guy I loved.

It's Chris' turn. She freezes. Lamb looks to James.

LAMB (CONT'D)

Why **did** you and Chris break up?

JAMES

For fuck's sakes, that's it, game  
over.

James stands and walks away from the group.

LEON

We all thought you two'd get married.  
You went out together since jr. high.

LAMB

Neither of you ever said what  
happened.

JAMES

Dare.

KUMAR

It's not truth or dare.

LAMB

Okay, go back to creepsville and  
bring back the baseball bat.

James reaches for the lantern.

LAMB (CONT'D)

No light.

James looks at Chris. Tears run down her face. She shakes  
her head, no.

CHRIS

James, don't. Just tell them.

DAN

I'm going for a piss.

Dan stomps out of the barn, mad.

James steps off into the darkness.

CHRIS

For Christ's sake, Lamb. Can't you  
leave anything alone?

LAMB

If you still love him, why'd you  
break it off? And why are you with  
Dan - no offence. Nice guy, but...

CHRIS

I-I got pregnant.

KUMAR

A baby.

CHRIS

I couldn't...

From the back of the barn, James screams out in pain.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

(to Kumar)

Get the light!

Kumar grabs the lantern. They all run deep into the barn to find James.

EXT. BARN - NIGHT

It's sprinkling.

Dan walks twenty feet or so away from the barn. He looks around him. Nothing. But still he looks into the darkness.

He pulls down his zipper and takes a leak. The nearby bushes move. He pulls up his zipper.

DAN

Who's there?

Dan stares hard into the blackness. He sees something - a figure of some sort - but can't make it out. The large figure merges with the bushes.

DAN (CONT'D)

Quit messing with me! James? Kumar?

It attacks Dan from behind. Dan's legs fly off the ground and then a SNAP as Dan's head is ripped off his shoulders.

Dan's body slumps to his knees, then to the ground. Blood oozes from the veins in his neck. His hands flinch one last time, then his body falls to the ground.

INT. BACK OF BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Lamb, Kumar, Chris and Leon run down the long run between CATTLE STALLS.

James MOANS in the distance.

CHRIS

Hurry!

Chris runs faster, outpacing the rest of the group.

They get to the hallway outside of the room and slow down.  
The door creaks open.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

James?

A PIGEON takes flight from its perch above them.

JAMES

Here. I'm in here.

Chris grabs the lantern from Kumar and rushes into the room.

James' shoulder is pinned to the wall by a long metal arrow.  
He gasps.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I need someone to pull this out -  
very gently.

LAMB

What happened?

James points to a shelf above the desk. On the shelf is a  
HIGH POWERED HUNTING CROSSBOW pointed at James. Next to the  
crossbow are extra arrows.

JAMES

It was dark.

Chris sets the light down by James and slowly wraps her hands  
around the arrow's shaft.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It must have been loaded.

Chris pulls a little. James yells.

KUMAR

Let me try.

Chris moves out of the way. Kumar stands before James and  
takes the arrow in both hands.

JAMES

I bumped into the desk and fell  
against the wall. That must have  
somehow triggered the bow to go off.

LAMB

So it was sitting up there, loaded.

KUMAR

(to James)

This will hurt. It has to come out fast.

James nods.

Kumar yanks the arrow shaft hard. James screams. The arrow is free.

James steps away from the wall holding his shoulder.

JAMES

I'll be okay.

Chris rushes to his side.

CHRIS

Is it bad?

James pulls his shirt back and inspects the wound. The small puncture wound seeps blood.

JAMES

Didn't hit anything vital. But I'll need a sling and a bandage.

Lamb removes her shirt. Kumar looks at her - WTF?

KUMAR

What are you-

LAMB

My padded bra.

She tugs on the bra.

LAMB (CONT'D)

It'll make for a good bandage.

Lamb grabs the scissors and turns around, feigning modesty. She removes her bra, cuts out the padded pieces, then tugs her shirt back on.

KUMAR

(to James)

You were lucky. That could have hit you in the head.

She hands the pads to Chris.

Chris applies the pads to James' shoulder, tucking them inside his shirt.

CHRIS

Let's get back to the fire. Bring the scissors. I can cut up my pillow case for a sling.

Lamb tucks the scissors into her back pocket.

The group heads back to the fire.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

The fire's almost out. Leon grabs a few more broken boards he finds laying on the floor nearby and stokes the dying flames.

Chris cuts up her pillow case and fashions it into a sling.

She ties the sling around James' neck. James sits on the ground by the fire.

Kumar grabs the sleeping bags and unrolls them in front of the fire.

LAMB

Anyone see Dan?

Kumar, Lamb and James move to sit on the sleeping bags.

LEON

He wasn't with us.

Chris looks at Leon, concerned.

KUMAR

No, I remember. He got mad and went outside.

Leon pushes open one of the barn doors. The rain has picked up to a roaring downpour.

LEON

Dan? Yo, man, where are you?

Chris moves to the door and looks out into the blackness.

LAMB

He's probably just pouting. Give him time; he'll be back.

Leon closes the door.

Chris and Leon sit by the fire on the sleeping bags.



CHRIS

If you two hadn't stirred up a bunch  
of past history, none of this would  
have happened!

KUMAR

She's right. I'm always obnoxious  
when I'm stoned.

Chris goes to the door, opens it slightly and peeks out.

CHRIS

I told them, James.

James is unmoved.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Dan doesn't know.

Wind blows through the open doorway. The lantern lights  
flicker and die.

Chris screams and runs for the only light of the fire. She  
trips and falls. The lanterns flies through the air and  
lands on the base, then tips over. The glass globe cracks.

JAMES

Chris!

CHRIS

I'm okay. Just banged my knee.

She limps back to James and sits next to him. Chris wipes  
the blood from her knee.

LEON

Shit.

Leon searches his pockets.

LEON (CONT'D)

Dan had the lighter.

The building creaks loudly.

KUMAR

Do you think this place is haunted?

LAMB

There's no such thing as ghosts.

The flames of the fire rise suddenly.

CHRIS

Fuck!

James reaches behind him and grabs a thin stick of wood.

JAMES  
Everybody just relax.

James sticks the wood into the fire, lighting the end.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Leon, hand me the lanterns.

Leon passes the lanterns down to James.

James lights the first lamp.

Kumar looks up at the wall where the farm tools are hung.

KUMAR  
What the fu-

All the tools lay on the ground.

CHRIS  
What's going on? Where's Dan?

James lights the other lantern and shoves the burning stick into the fire.

Chris stands and takes a lantern to the door.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
We've got to get out of here.

Chris waits by the closed door. It's pouring rain outside. She looks down at her feet. She's standing in a pool of water.

But it looks odd. She lowers the light and sees that the water is light pink.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Guys...does this look blood?

INT. BARN - LATER

The group huddle around the fire. Kumar now has the bow from the back room. It's loaded with an arrow.

LEON  
(whispers)  
Do you think Dan's dead?

LAMB  
(whispers)  
Or hurt. We should go outside.  
Find him.

JAMES

If Dan could make it back here, he'd  
be here. We need to stay put.

James looks at his watch.

INSERT JAMES' WATCH

It's 11:00.

END INSERT

EXT. FIELD NEARBY - CONTINUOUS

It's still raining. BOB MORROW, late 60's, tall, graying hair, rides a HORSE as he drives his CATTLE toward a barn. A RIFLE is slung across his back. On Bob's face is a long scar that intensifies an already angry look.

He glances up and sees, in the far distance, a dim light coming from the barn in Persecution hill.

EXT. BOB'S BARN - LATER

He closes the barn door and jumps onto his horse. He reaches for his cell phone.

Dials.

BOB

It's Bob.

(beat)

No, I'll be over in a little while.  
Looks like someone's in my old barn.  
I gotta go check it out.

(beat)

Yeah, later.

EXT. BARN - LATER

Bob rides up to the barn. The pitch black of night is lit by the occasional lightening strike. He dismounts from his horse and ties it to a tree.

Bob pats the horse. She's nervous. WIND HOWLS and swirls the tree limbs above her head.

Bob grabs the riffle from his back and cocks it.

BOB

Guess it's time to play.

He walks to the barn.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

The group of kids are still huddled around the fire. Kumar has the bow trained on the door.

Blood seeps from James' bandages. He looks at his shoulder and winces.

LEON  
(whispers)  
What was that?

CHRIS  
Shhh.

KUMAR  
It's outside.

LAMB  
Maybe it's just Dan.

Kumar, shaking, brings the bow and arrow up and aims at the door.

KUMAR  
Maybe it's not!

The door opens forcefully. Bob steps inside. The light from the fire illuminates his large silhouette and the barrel of his riffle.

Chris and Lamb SCREAM.

Kumar shakes as he holds up the bow. His nervous finger hits the trigger, firing the arrow.

The arrow hits Bob in the face. Bob lets off a shot, hitting Leon's leg.

Leon SCREAMS in agony.

Bob falls backwards to the ground. Blood seeps from his wound. The arrow sticks up out of his face.

Leon writhes on the ground in pain.

JAMES  
(to Kumar)  
What did you do!

James gets up and runs to Bob's body. He kneels down next to him and takes a pulse. Yep, dead.

James he runs over to Leon.

CHRIS

Is he dead?

KUMAR

He - he had a gun.

Kumar throws the bow to the ground. He stares at Bob's lifeless body.

LEON

He shot me!

James bends down and inspects Leon's leg. There's no exit wound. Blood pours from the bullet hole. James applies pressure on the wound with his hand.

JAMES

It's lodged inside. The bullet.  
It's not coming out here.

He looks at Leon's waist.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Take off you're belt.

Chris walks over to Bob's dead body. The barn door's still open. She pushes Bob's legs into the barn with her feet, creeping herself out every time she touches his dead body.

LAMB

(to Chris)

What are you doing?

CHRIS

We should shut the door. I feel  
safer.

Leon takes off his BELT and hands it to James.

James wraps the belt around Leon's leg and cinches it tight. Leon winces.

LAMB

Well, dead guy can stay outside,  
can't he?

Chris looks outside. The rain is letting up. Bob's horse NEIGHS in the distance.

CHRIS

Hey, dead guy brought a horse. Maybe  
we could-

Lightening strikes, lighting up the scene. Chris sees the horse, and a few yards from it, she sees Dan's shoes and legs. The horse whinnies and breaks loose. It gallops away.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Dan!

Lamb jumps up to Chris' side.

LAMB

Where?

CHRIS

He's on the ground! I saw his shoes!

LAMB

I can't see anything!

James walks to the door.

He pulls Chris away.

JAMES

I'll go.  
(to Lamb)  
Keep her away.

Lamb takes Chris back to the fire.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Kumar.

Kumar sits on the floor, stunned.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Kumar! C'mon.

Kumar gets up.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Grab the lantern.

EXT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

James and Kumar stand in front of the barn. Other than the sound of the wind, and the occasional horse snort, it's quiet.

James takes a step. Kumar stands still. James grabs him.

The both walk a few steps. Kumar shines the light around them, lighting up the perimeter. Nothing.

They walk a few more feet. There, in the distance, on the ground, Dan's feet leading to...

They walk closer.

Dan's legs...

Then the light dies.

JAMES

Shit!

KUMAR

That's Dan. He's not moving. Let's go back.

JAMES

What if he's just hurt?

KUMAR

What if the dead guy killed him before he came to kill us?

JAMES

Ditch the lantern.

KUMAR

What?

JAMES

It's dead. Ditch it and grab a leg. Hurry!

Kumar and James feel around for Dan's feet and they each take a leg and drag Dan's headless body back to the barn.

Kumar drops the leg and opens the barn door. James drops the other leg and bends over, resting, breathing hard.

Lamb hugs Chris; they sit by the fire.

CHRIS

Did you find him?

Chris stands and grabs the other lantern. She walks quickly to the door. Lamb follows.

KUMAR

Yeah, sort of.

Chris pushes the lantern out in front of her and SCREAMS a blood curdling scream.

LEON

What's going on?

Chris faints. Lamb looks out and gags. She sits down on the ground next to Chris, stunned.

James and Kumar turn around. Dan's body - no head. Dan's neck shredded to bloody pink strings of muscle and tissue.

James and Kumar scream and run inside the barn and slam the door closed behind them.

JAMES

Fuck!

KUMAR

Fuck!

CHRIS

Dan! Oh my god! Dan!

KUMAR

Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! Fuck!

LEON

What's happening!

Kumar pulls Chris to him and hugs her. Chris slowly gains consciousness.

James kneels by Lamb and helps her up to her feet.

LAMB

I wanna go home.

Lamb sobs. James holds her, patting her hair.

CHRIS

I'm going to be sick.

Chris puts her hand to her mouth, then moves away from Kumar and pukes on the ground.

LEON

Where's Dan?

James stares out at Dan's headless body.

JAMES

He's dead.

INT. BARN - LATER

James, Chris, Lamb and Kumar huddle in silence by the fire. Chris whimpers and sobs quietly.

Leon dozes as he sits against a beam a few feet away from the group, a BAG OF CHIPS in his hand.

Bob lays where he fell.



LAMB  
What time is it?

James check his watch. Kumar looks at his as well.

JAMES  
Midnight.

KUMAR  
(whispers)  
How will we get Leon out of here?  
He can't walk.

LAMB  
We can't leave him here.

JAMES  
I only have one good arm. Kumar's a  
lightweight.

KUMAR  
Hey...

JAMES  
Well, can you carry him?

Kumar looks at Leon. Shrugs.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Even if we could get him to the van,  
and that will be an effort, he has  
to stay there. We can't take him.

James surveys the group.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
And I don't think we have any  
volunteers to stay behind, do we?

Chris, Lamb and Kumar look away from James.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
At first light, we pull Leon to the  
van and get him inside. Then we  
walk.

INT. BARN - LATER

At the fire, Kumar and Lamb sleep. James pokes at the fire  
with a stick. Chris stares into the flames.

CHRIS  
I'm sorry.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry I didn't tell you.

JAMES

Your career was more important than our baby. Than us.

CHRIS

I just got the scholarship to Ohio State - one of **the** journalism schools to get into.

JAMES

I bought you a ring.

Chris tears up.

CHRIS

I didn't know. I-

JAMES

I know. I bought it before you were pregnant. I just didn't know when to give it to you.

James stirs the fire.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Never seemed like the right time.

Chris laughs a little.

CHRIS

You never did like to take control. Who knows, it might have changed everything.

JAMES

Or nothing.

James looks into Chris' eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about Dan.

CHRIS

We were really starting to hit it off.

JAMES

He didn't seem-

CHRIS

-my type? I know. That's why I liked him. Now he's...

Chris shivers.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Did you find...his head?

James nods.

Chris shuts her eyes.

It's quiet. They both start to nod off.

Chris is asleep. James jolts awake. He nudges Kumar and Lamb.

JAMES  
You two stand guard. I've gotta sleep.

Kumar and Lamb stretch and sit up. James lays down and falls off quickly.

INT. BARN - LATER

The fire is down to RED EMBERS and the lamp is turned down low.

LAMB  
Go get more wood.

KUMAR  
Where?

LAMB  
Take the lamp. Go over past Leon,  
just over there.

Lamb points.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
I saw a few pieces of wood over there  
earlier.

Kumar gives her a dirty look.

KUMAR  
Then you should have picked them up  
earlier.

Lamb holds up the lantern.

LAMB  
Take the light, you big baby.

Kumar takes the light and slowly walks over by Leon.

Leon sleeps soundly, but there's blood slowly oozing from his wound.

Kumar grabs several pieces of wood, all that he can carry, and heads back to the fire.

KUMAR

Leon's leg - it doesn't look good.

Kumar stokes the fire quietly, not to wake James and Chris.

LAMB

James said he'd be fine until we get help.

A BASEBALL rolls over to Lamb from behind her.

LAMB (CONT'D)

Where'd you find this?

She picks up the ball.

KUMAR

I didn't.

Lamb tosses the ball up in the air and catches it.

CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER echoes in the air from the back rooms of the barn.

LAMB

There's kids in here.

KUMAR

It's your imagination.

They listen. FOOTSTEPS - the sound of two children running.

Lamb stands up.

LAMB

C'mon.

KUMAR

Where are you going?

LAMB

If there are kids in here, maybe they can lead us to a phone.

KUMAR

After the tsunami, it was common to hear voices of the dead along the beaches.

Lamb doesn't understand.

KUMAR (CONT'D)  
Voices of the dead.

She rolls her eyes.

LAMB  
Oh, for god's sake.

KUMAR  
This place is damned.

LAMB  
No. Dan was killed by something or  
someone...and you killed Mr. Dead  
Guy. No ghosts.

The fire burns brightly now.

KUMAR  
You go.

He hands her the lantern.

KUMAR (CONT'D)  
I'll stay here on guard duty.

Lamb grabs the light and stomps away, shaking her head.

The Children LAUGH in the distance.

INT. BACK OF BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Lamb climbs up a long ladder to the loft. CHILDREN GIGGLE.  
She stops and listens for a moment, then continues up the  
ladder.

Lamb peers over the top of the ladder. She sees a vague  
form of a young boy of 10 or so, running just out of sight.  
She climbs onto the loft, which sits high - 20 feet off the  
ground level.

Lamb hangs the light off the end of the ladder.

The loft is covered with scattered hay. A long beam stretches  
from the loft to the other side of the barn, over top of the  
area of the fire.

LAMB  
Hey - kid. Come back here.

The laughter fades off.

Lamb takes a step. A loose board flips up, hits her as her  
foot goes down with the board. She regains her footing.

LAMB (CONT'D)

Whew.

Lamb takes another step. The boards creak under her weight.

ALL THE BOARDS ON THE LOFT START TO GIVE WAY. Lamb jumps from board to board. Nails pop on each board her feet touch, causing the boards flip up. Lamb SCREAMS.

Boards fall to the ground, some hitting the floor, others hitting the hay below.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Kumar stands by the fire. Lamb's screaming and the falling boards wake up James, Chris and Leon.

KUMAR

Lamb!

James jumps to his feet.

JAMES

What's going on?

Kumar points back to the loft.

James rubs his sore shoulder.

LAMB

Help!

Leon looks up. He tries to move but winces in pain. Instead, he grabs a few chips out of the chip bag.

James runs to the-

BACK OF BARN

And climbs the ladder as best he can, favoring his good arm. The ladder swerves as he climbs.

LAMB (CONT'D)

Hurry. James, please.

JAMES

I'm coming.

James reaches the top, where the loft used to be. Now, only the frame is left, except for the two boards Lamb is standing on.

The loft frame creaks.

LAMB

Hurry!

James mounts the beams and slowly pulls himself across to the main beam. A ROPE is tied to the beam and trails off, somewhere down the beam. Another 20 foot section of the rope hangs loose.

James reaches into his pocket and pulls out his keys. On the key chain is a PEN KNIFE. He opens the knife and starts cutting the rope.

JAMES

I just need some rope.

James stares at the rope. There are TWO ROPES EACH TIED IN A KNOT around the beam - but only one is the knot he needs to cut. Which one? James decides on the knot closest to him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I need to cut through this knot.  
Then I can throw you the rope.

Lamb looks down into the darkness.

LAMB

Then what?

JAMES

You'll have to jump. There's a pile of hay below you. You should be okay.

James cuts away. As he does, the rope jiggles all the way down the beam to where it secures the steel trap that's perched over Leon's body.

James looks down. He can barely make out Kumar's body.

LEON

What's going on?

Leon munches on more chips.

Chris moves closer to Leon as she watches James above.

CHRIS

Lamb's stuck.

Leon drags himself a little ways from the pole so he can see better, wincing with each movement, dragging himself directly under the steel trap.

KUMAR  
(yells from below)  
Is she okay?

JAMES  
She's fine. Get a light. Something.  
She'll need to see where she's going  
to drop.

Lamb clings precariously to the barn wall, sobbing.

She looks to her right and off in the dark distance, she sees something. She rubs her eyes. It looks like a form but it's too dark to see.

Kumar runs to the fire and grabs a long stick that makes do for a torch.

He runs back and stands below James.

James saws through the rope. He's close to the last cut.

Kumar watches James and follows the rope down the beam to the steel trap.

KUMAR  
James, which line are you cutting?

James looks down.

JAMES  
What?

He draws his knife through for the final cut. The rope breaks free - but it's not the part he's after. James tugs the knot. Wrong knot.

Kumar watches the scene unfold, horrified.

KUMAR  
LEON!

Leon and Chris look up.

Chris jumps out of the way. The rope falls free of the beam and down falls the steel trap - right over Leon. The trap snaps shut tight.

The metal fangs crush Leon's ribs. Gurgling blood oozes from his mouth.

Chris runs to him and tries to pry the trap from Leon's body.

Kumar runs and helps.



LAMB  
What's happening?

JAMES  
Just stay put.

CHRIS  
James! I think he's dead.

LAMB  
Who's dead?

JAMES  
Lamb, focus!

James pulls the rope up and cuts it. He throws the rope to Lamb. She misses the first few times, then she catches it.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
You're going to have to swing and drop - right over the hay below.

Lamb looks down and sees Kumar's light. She steps close to the edge of the board, then jumps back. Another board falls.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Jump!

Lamb grabs the rope tight. She takes a deep breath and swings off the platform. It crumbles behind her.

Lamb lets go of the rope and falls into the pile of hay.

James climbs down the ladder holding the lantern.

INT. BACK OF BARN - CONTINUOUS

James helps Lamb off the pile of hay.

KUMAR  
Are you okay?

LAMB  
I think so.

Lamb brushes some hay from her hair.

JAMES  
C'mon!

Lamb, Kumar and James rush back to...

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

...Leon and Chris.

Chris cries as she tries in vain to pull the steel trap from Leon's body.

CHRIS

I don't think he's breathing!

James rushes to Leon's side and sets the lantern down. He pulls at the trap but it's stuck solidly on Leon's body.

James feels for a pulse. James tries to pry the trap off Leon, but his arm is sore and he's not able to loosen the trap.

Kumar, Chris and Lamb rush to help James. Leon looks up at James, chip crumbs on his face, and gives him a half smile. Then, he closes his eyes.

JAMES

Leon!

They all pull the trap even harder.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Leon!

CHRIS

Leon! Stay with us!

KUMAR

James?

Kumar silently pleads with James to call it. James takes Leon's pulse again.

JAMES

Leon...

James shakes his head. Kumar, James and Chris step away from Leon. Lamb remains standing with Leon, wiping the chips from his face.

LAMB

This is all my fault.

KUMAR

It was an accident.

Kumar steps over to Lamb and holds her in his arms. Lamb weeps.

JAMES

Get something to cover him.

Chris runs to the fire and grabs a sleeping bag.

James covers Leon and the trap with the sleeping bag.

LAMB

I heard kids. They were playing.

James lays a hand on Lamb's back.

JAMES

Let's go back to the fire.

LAMB

And laughing.

Lamb's losing it. Her eyes are wide and she looks crazed.

James looks at his watch.

JAMES

It'll be daylight soon.

EXT. BARN - LATER

Rats feed on Dan's corpse. More rats swarm from the nearby bushes. It's a feeding frenzy.

INT. BARN - LATER

Kumar, Chris, Lamb and James sit around the fire.

CHRIS

It's starting to smell in here.

KUMAR

The sweet stench of death.

Kumar turns and looks to where Leon's body rests, then to Bob's body, which is also draped with a sleeping bag.

A CELL PHONE RINGS.

KUMAR (CONT'D)

James, is that you?

James pats his pocket and retrieves his cell. He looks at the screen.

JAMES

No, I have no service.

Kumar, Lamb and Chris all check their phones.

CHRIS

Not me.

LAMB

Me either.

Kumar shakes his head no.

The phone keeps ringing. Lamb stands and walks toward Bob.

LAMB (CONT'D)

It's coming from dead guy.

James stands.

JAMES

Kumar, help me.

Disgust fills Kumar's face.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I need your help. I can't do this  
with one arm!

Kumar gets up.

He and James remove the sleeping bag from Bob. The arrow sticks through Bob's cheek. The flesh around it bulges and is blood covered. Bob's eyes have glazed over with a death-film. Kumar gags.

Lamb and Chris look away.

The phone stops ringing.

James bends down and checks a pants pocket. Kumar, on the other side, checks the other pocket. Nothing.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We're going to have to turn him.

Kumar looks at Bob, then to James, then back at Bob.

KUMAR

I'll push him to his side, you check  
his pockets.

James nods.

KUMAR (CONT'D)

There were many dead bodies on the  
beach, when my parents died.

James searches one back pocket. Nothing.

KUMAR (CONT'D)

The dead don't rest. I heard them.

James checks the other pocket. Bingo.

JAMES  
Heard what?

KUMAR  
I heard the children.

James looks to where Lamb sits, rocking.

JAMES  
Let's just...

KUMAR  
They're still here.

James looks at the phone. He tries several buttons.

JAMES  
Shit.

He hurls the phone to the floor angrily. The phone shatters.

CHRIS  
What the-

JAMES  
It's dead.

Lamb looks up.

LAMB  
We're not getting out of here, are  
we?

JAMES  
Only a couple of hours until daylight.  
Then we're gone.

KUMAR  
Or dead.

James and Kumar walk to the fire and sit.

CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER echoes from the room at the back of the  
barn.

JAMES  
Shhhh!

KUMAR  
You heard them.

JAMES  
Probably just the wind.

More LAUGHTER - louder this time.

CHRIS  
This place is damned.

The LAUGHTER grows even louder.

LAMB  
You here them? They're calling us.

Lamb begins to stand. Chris pulls her back down.

CHRIS  
No! Lamb, you have to stay here.

LAMB  
They're lonely.

JAMES  
They're dead!

The laughter suddenly stops. HEAVY FOOTSTEPS replace the laughter. Then, CHILDREN'S SCREAMS.

Lamb puts her hands over her ears. Chris' eyes open wide with panic.

LAMB  
He's coming for us.

The FOOTSTEPS grow louder. Suddenly, Kumar is lifted off the ground. He's suspended by an invisible force.

Kumar flails.

James jumps to his feet.

JAMES  
Kumar!

Chris and Lamb scramble away from Kumar.

At once, all the lights in the barn turn on. Hanging from the meat hanging hooks on the rafters at the far back of the barn, are several long-dead bodies.

The ENTITY LAUGHS madly, then drops Kumar.

ENTITY  
You think you're safe now?

They all scramble for the door. It won't open.

JAMES  
Push harder!

Still the door won't open. The lights flicker on and off, like an insane disco.

Chris and Lamb scream and pry at the door.

An eddy of wind swirls around the scattered hay on the floor of the barn.

The hay swarms around Kumar, pulling him toward the fire. The hay that swirls around the fire ignites and sparks like small fireworks.

CHRIS

Kumar!

All at once, the swirling hay propels itself at Kumar, penetrating his skin with thousands of pieces of hay.

Kumar SCREAMS.

Kumar looks like a skewered scarecrow. A screaming skewered scarecrow.

JAMES

Kumar!

He whirls around the room, screaming. Blood drips from each of the wounds.

James runs for Kumar. He gets slapped back, his body slams into the barn door.

James gets up again.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You fucker!

James runs for Kumar. Again, he's knocked back. This time it takes the wind from him. He labors to breath.

CHRIS

James, stop!

James gets up again and rushes to Kumar. At once, the lights stop blinking, the wind stops blowing.

Kumar falls to his knees.

James runs to Kumar and holds him up. As he does, he's pushing in the pieces of hay further into Kumar's skin. Kumar moans.

JAMES

Sorry.

James starts picking the hay from Kumar, one bloody sheath after another.

Chris runs to help.

Lamb remains by the door, her eyes wild with fear.

Kumar moans. His face is distorted with pain.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Chris)

Not slow. You have pull them out quickly.

KUMAR

Ohhhhh...

Chris and James work quickly, pulling out the shards of hay.

JAMES

Press on each wound for a bit to staunch the bleeding.

Chris looks at James. There's an exchange between them. A look that shares the knowledge that Kumar won't live.

INT. BARN - LATER

The lights are still on.

Kumar lays in Lamb's arms. He's a bloody mess and his blood is all over Lamb as well.

JAMES

(to Lamb)

He'll be okay. Just let him lay next to you.

LAMB

No. I'll hold him.

CHRIS

We need to look for a way out of here.

LAMB

We can't leave Kumar.

JAMES

If we stay, we'll all end up dead. We can go get help.

LAMB

He's so gentle.

(MORE)



LAMB (CONT'D)  
Only three years left of school and  
he'd be a lawyer. He always wanted  
to be a lawyer, remember?

CHRIS  
He's not dead!

James nods.

JAMES  
Yeah.

LAMB  
Remember in 7th grade, when we had  
to read To Kill A Mockingbird?

James nods.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
He'd already read it. For fun.

CHRIS  
Stop it, Lamb! Stop it!

Lamb looks down at Kumar's bloody face. She rubs his cheek  
gently with her hand.

LAMB  
It wants to kill us too, you know.

Lamb looks to the hanging corpses.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
We'll be like them.

Chris looks at the hanging, rotted flesh and bones.

JAMES  
We don't know who did that.

LAMB  
You think dead guy did that?

CHRIS  
It's possible. Maybe he was a mass  
murderer.

LAMB  
Yeah, could be. This place draws  
evil.

CHRIS  
Then why did it draw us here?

LAMB  
Evil needs fear to survive.

INT. BACK OF BARN - LATER

Lamb, Chris and James explore the back of now well-lit barn.

ASSORTED CROSSES of various shapes and sizes are nailed on the walls upside down.

CHRIS  
I'm scared.

LAMB  
Don't be. It feeds off our fear.

JAMES  
This is seriously fucked up.

The edge closer to the room they've already explored. James peeks into the room. Nothing has changed there.

They walk further down the passageway to the next door. They pause outside of it.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Be ready to run.

James twists the knob. The door SQUEAKS as it opens.

The room is draped in BLACK SATIN at the front of the room is a BLACK MARBLE ALTER adorned with WHITE CANDLES.

CHRIS  
A satanic cult?

LAMB  
Look, on the wall.

Lamb points to more NEWSPAPER ARTICLES that are tacked on the wall.

James rubs his shoulder.

They move into the doorway and crane their necks to read the headlines.

INSERT NEWSPAPER ARTICLE HEADLINES

Rick Sanchez guns down ten in local saloon

Local woman drowns three of her children

Crazed teacher stabs students

Town calls for investigation into murders  
Five dead in shoot out  
Seven children gone missing since last year  
What's happening in Persecution Hill?

END INSERT

They all step back.

JAMES  
Something infected the town.

LAMB  
A sickness...

CHRIS  
C'mon. I don't like it here.

Chris pulls James' arm and they walk further down the  
passageway.

Lamb lingers behind.

CHRIS (CONT'D)  
Lamb, c'mon!

Lamb catches up to them.

LAMB  
I thought there was a window in that  
room, behind the black curtains on  
the far wall. I thought I saw a  
sliver of light.

CHRIS  
I'm not going back in there. We'll  
find another room.

James points to a door on the left down the hall.

JAMES  
Like that one.

They start walking toward the door.

From the other part of the barn, Kumar screams.

James, Lamb and Chris run back.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

KUMAR IS SUSPENDED IN AIR, being bobbed up and down like a rag doll. His bloody arms and legs flail helplessly. His eyes are squeezed shut; he screams.

The FAINT APPARITIONS OF TWO BOYS, ages 8 and 10, run underneath Kumar, dancing and laughing.

James, Chris and Lamb stop and stare at the sight.

CHRIS  
What's happening?

Kumar screams and moans.

LAMB  
They're feeding on us. Our fears.

Chris begins to sob.

Lamb looks at her sternly.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
If you want to help Kumar, you need  
to chill.

Lamb starts walking toward the Boys.

JAMES  
What are you doing?

Lamb turns, her face rigid with determination.

LAMB  
I'm going to help Kumar.

Lamb walks closer to the Boys. She looks up at Kumar. He writhes in agony.

The Boys see Lamb and laugh louder.

Lamb slams into the barn doors, pushed by an invisible force.

James runs to Lamb, but he's slammed against the wall.

Chris stands in the far corner, shrieking. The Boys run to Chris and dance around her. She levitates and soon is hovering near Kumar.

Chris and Kumar dance a macabre dance as they float.

James rubs his head. It's bleeding. He looks to Lamb. She's still unconscious. He crawls to her and holds her in his arms. She starts to regain consciousness.

The lights begin fluttering. The Boys stop dead in their tracks, they look frightened. They fade away.

Chris and Kumar fall to the ground.

Lamb sits up.

LAMB (CONT'D)

He's coming.

JAMES

(yells)

Who?

The LIGHTS FLICK ON AND OFF. Inside the barn, it begins to RAIN. At first, it's WATER, then it slowly turns to BLOOD.

James runs to Kumar and Chris. Lamb stands up and smiles.

LAMB

I'm not afraid!

RAIN-BLOOD drips down Lambs face.

James, blood-soaked, props Kumar up on his lap. He checks for a pulse. There isn't one - and Kumar's bloodshot eyes stare off into space. James lays him down and moves to Chris.

JAMES

Chris! Chris!

Chris slowly raises her head.

LAMB

I'm not afraid! You hear me?

HIDEOUS LAUGHTER peals through the barn. HUNDREDS OF GHOSTLY APPARITIONS appear and fade and appear again, filling the barn.

Lamb shakes.

Blood rain drips down over barn until all at once, it stops.

Lamb wipes the blood from her eyes and looks around her, then to James.

The lights stop flickering.

All is quiet.

Lamb rushes to Chris and James. She tries the barn doors, but the won't open.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
Grab Kumar. We need to-

James shakes his head.

Lamb sighs deeply. She looks at Kumar's bloody body.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
We need to go back. There was window.  
I'm sure of it.

ANOTHER BASEBALL rolls by.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
We need to go before **he** comes back.

James helps Chris to her feet.

DAN'S HEAD rolls in from the outer reaches of the barn.  
Chris lets loose a blood curdling scream.

Dan's head stops rolling a few feet from her - his glazed-over eyes stare blankly at her.

Chris runs for the barn doors. She tries to open them again, but they're still locked.

RATS run in under the door. Chris screams louder as she watches them pounce on Dan's head. They chew chunks of skin from Dan's lifeless face and dig out his eyes.

James watches in horror and gags.

Lamb grabs Chris by the arm.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
C'mon.

CHRIS  
(screams)  
I can't!

Chris can't stop looking at Dan's head. She screams as she puts her hands over her ears.

LAMB  
We don't have time! James! Get her  
moving!

James looks at his watch

INSERT JAMES' WATCH

It's 3:30.

END INSERT

He looks again at Dan's dead head and the rats.

JAMES

Chris, we have to try.

Chris stops crying. She wipes the blood from her mascara-stained face.

She looks again at Dan's head and the rats and shakes her head.

CHRIS

Okay.

James, Lamb and Chris step around Dan's head and the rats. A BIG BLACK RAT leaps out at them. The girls shriek. James bats it away with the back of his hand.

The lights start to flicker.

LAMB

Run!

They start running towards cow stalls.

An AX whizzes past James' head. He turns. The FARM TOOLS that had been on the wall are flying towards them.

James grabs Chris and pulls her into a cow stall. Lamb jumps into a stall on the other side of the walkway.

Tools fly by- HATCHETS, CHAINS, MOTORS, HOES, etc. A PITCHFORK stabs the beam in front of Lamb, a SLEDGE HAMMER rips into the barn board stall, narrowly missing James and Chris.

JAMES

We're going to have to make a run for it.

Lamb looks out from the other stall.

LAMB

I'll go first.

A HAMMER narrowly misses Chris' head. She ducks and screams.

Lamb ducks and runs down the walk between the stalls. A BAG OF NAILS explodes into the stall wall. She's hit in the arm by a stray nail. Lamb looks down to her arm. The nail's embedded a few inches

LAMB (CONT'D)

Oh, God.

Lamb grits her teeth. She pulls out the nail. Blood oozes and runs down her arm.

Lamb rubs the blood from her arm. She waits for a moment, in between flying tools, and makes a run for it down the passageway to-

INT. BACK OF BARN - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Lamb ducks into the room and closes the door slightly. On the back of the door, scrawled by someone's finger in red paint: WE'RE ALL DEAD. Near to that A LARGE RED HAND PRINT SMEARED ON THE DOOR.

She glances frantically around the room and spots a grouping of PLASTIC FARM ANIMALS set out neatly on the floor in the corner, near a TOY BARN. Next to the PLASTIC COW and HORSE is a PLASTIC LAMB; it's head almost sheared from its body, just hanging on by a thin thread of plastic.

Lamb opens the door. Tools are still flying, the barn continues to crumble.

Lamb makes a run for it.

INT. BACK OF BARN - COW STALLS - CONTINUOUS

James and Chris watch Lamb run down the passageway between the stalls.

JAMES

Duck!

He pulls Chris down to the ground and narrowly misses being decapitated by a BUCKSAW flying their way.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We're going to have to make a break for it.

CHRIS

I don't wanna do this anymore.

James holds her head in his hands and looks into her eyes.

JAMES

You can do this.

CHRIS

It won't stop till we're all dead.

The Entities INSIDIOUS LAUGHTER rolls over them.



INT. BACK OF BARN - ALTER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lamb pulls the black satin from the walls exposing a WINDOW. There's a faint glow outside - daybreak is soon. She hears THE LAUGHTERS and shivers.

Lamb pulls the alter to the table and climbs on top, then pries at the window but it's not coming open. She looks up and sees two rusted latches on the window, holding it closed. Lamb tears at it with her fingers, ripping a few fingernails from their beds.

The BARN HEAVES AND MOANS as it falls apart piece by piece. She hears a commotion behind her, and keeps trying the window.

Lamb pounds on the window frame. She hits the frame hard and falls to the floor, knocking herself out.

INT. BACK OF BARN - COW STALLS - MOMENTS LATER

Chris stands and looks back into the main barn area, where Dan's head is still being chomped on by rats.

A red and gray fog slowly develops, forming a hideous specter with glowing yellow eyes. The Entity hovers over Dan's head. It smiles wickedly at Chris, then quickly slams into her and is absorbed into her body.

Chris smiles wickedly. She turns to James.

CHRIS

I know you hate me.

James reaches for her. Chris pulls away. Though tools and wood are still being hurled, nothing touches Chris.

JAMES

Sit down!

Chris grabs the pitch fork that was embedded in the beam.

CHRIS

I killed your baby. And I didn't care. I never loved you!

JAMES

Stop it. We need to go!

Chris takes a step closer.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What are you-

CHRIS

Always trying to save people but you  
didn't save your own child, did you.

Chris laughs an evil laugh. James realizes that she's  
possessed.

JAMES

You're not Chris.

CHRIS

(mocking)

You're not Chris.

James scampers away a few feet. Several LARGE SPIKES fly  
toward his head. He ducks. They miss and embed into the  
wood planks behind him.

Chris steps toward him and lunges the pitch fork at him.  
James dodges out of the way.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

You're not the man I thought you  
were, either.

Chris lunges again and this time, stabs James in the hand.  
Though the wound bleeds, she didn't pierce his hand clear  
through.

He shakes his hand and rubs the blood on his pants.

JAMES

Chris! It's me! James! Chris!

CHRIS

And you and Lamb! Ha! I saw that  
coming.

James crawls further away from Chris. Laying on the floor  
nearby is a HATCHET.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

I could tell by the way you looked  
at her.

JAMES

You're wrong! I loved you!

James edges closer to the hatchet.

CHRIS

You wanted her all along.

JAMES

We're just friends! I was lonely.

James moves closer to the hatchet. The barn moans louder and shakes.

Chris lunges again with hatred in her eyes. The pitch fork is inches from James' face. James grabs the hatchet and throws it, planting it in the side of her head.

Chris looks at James, sorrow and love fills her eyes. The Entity no longer in her, she drops the pitch fork and falls to the ground. The Entity LAUGHS.

James crawls to her and holds her in his arms, crying. James is slammed away from Chris by the Entity's invisible force.

James stands, crawls, runs, down the hall as the building falls down around him.

The Entity's LAUGHTER grows louder and the hay erupts into FLAMES throughout the building.

INT. BACK OF BARN - ALTER ROOM - LATER

James bursts into the room. He tries to catch his breath and spots Lamb on the floor unconscious.

Lamb's head is bleeding.

James rushes to Lamb and takes a pulse. A boom of flame rushes down the hall outside the room.

Lamb begins to come to.

LAMB  
James. The window...

James looks up at the window.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
It's stuck.

Lamb slowly sits up and looks around the room.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
Where's Chris?

James stands on the alter and pounds on the window.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
(yells)  
Where's Chris?

SMOKE fills the room. James coughs as he pounds on the window. He tries the latches but they won't give.

Lamb stands up and rushes to the bottom of the alter.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
James, where's Chris?

James turns to Lamb. Tears run down his face.

Lamb crumbles to the floor and weeps.

Flames lick the edges of the door frame.

JAMES  
Close the door!

Lamb rushes to the door and pushes it closed.

INSERT BACK OF DOOR

She stares at the words scrawled in red on the back of the door.

YOU'RE MINE NOW

END INSERT

LAMB  
No, we're not.

Lamb jumps up on the alter with James. Together, they pound on the latches. Finally, James' latch gives. James pulls the latch back.

JAMES  
Let me...

James and Lamb switch sides.

James works on the other latch. The ceiling boards are falling into the room. THE DOOR IS ON FIRE.

The Entity's LAUGHTER grows louder.

James flips the second latch and pushes the window open. As the smoke leaves through the window, the Entity LAUGHTER is replaced with a HIGH PITCHED SCREAM.

James and Lamb cover their ears momentarily.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
C'mon. I'll push you out.

James helps Lamb get to the window. She looks down. It's not far. She looks to the right and sees the building is in flames.

Lamb hoists herself to the window ledge and jumps.

EXT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Lamb looks up at the window.

LAMB  
James! Jump!

The HIGH PITCHED SCREAM gets louder. Lamb covers her ears.

LAMB (CONT'D)  
James!

INT. BACK OF BARN - ALTER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

James is temporarily overcome with smoke. He coughs and chokes for air.

He reaches his good arm up and pulls himself out of the window. James drops to the ground.

Lamb rushes to James. The sun begins to rise.

EXT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

James and Lamb run around to the front of the barn.

Dan's decapitated body shines with dew in the early morning light. Only a few rats are left to feed on it.

Lamb gags. James looks away.

JAMES  
Hurry.

James grabs Lamb's hand and run for the road.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

James and Lamb walk down the road, leaning on each other. Lamb's sobbing. James is defeated. Their clothes are pasted on them with the dried rain-blood. His shoulder wound bleeds fresh blood through the bandages and clothes.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

James and Lamb walk past the road sign.

INSERT SIGN

PERSECUTION HILL

END INSERT

They walk a few more feet, limping, holding each other up. Then, James' cell phone beeps.

He pulls the cell phone from his pants pocket.

James checks his phone...it works. He looks at Lamb, then they both realize that they're almost safe.

James dials 911.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Hello, 911. What's the nature of  
your emergency?

James glances up at Lamb. Tears run down her face. He looks behind to the burning barn.

JAMES  
There's a fire. And, and some people  
died. They're dead.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Sir, where are you?

James stares back at the sign.

JAMES  
Persecution Hill.

OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Are you hurt? Is anyone with you?

James drops the phone. Lamb picks up his phone.

LAMB  
Yes. Yes.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

James and Lamb sit on GURNEYS outside of an AMBULANCE, watching SEVERAL FIREMEN put out the barn fire.

A police car pulls up.

A POLICEMAN steps out of the police car. A SECOND OFFICER sits in the car, talking on the RADIO.

The Policeman stands in front of Lamb and James.

POLICEMAN  
You wanna tell me what happened here?

James and Lamb look up at the Policeman.

INT. UCLA LECTURE HALL - DAY

Lamb rushes meekly to a seat at the back of the class. She's late; the room is full of STUDENTS.

The Professor steps into the room.

A Student next to her DROPS THEIR BOOKS on the floor. Lamb jumps, scared. She puts her pen to her notebook and begins to write, but her hand shakes.

The lights overhead flicker. Lamb starts to hyperventillate.

She grabs her books and runs from the room.

INT. UNIVERSITY HALL - LATER

Lamb walks, down the hall, head lowered, eyes averting everyone.

The Professor walks past her, then stops.

PROFESSOR BANKS

Lamb?

Lamb turns to face him. Black circles hang under her eyes. Scratches mark her face.

LAMB

No one ever told me that grief felt  
so like fear.

The Professor thinks for a moment.

PROFESSOR BANKS

C.S. Lewis.

He smiles. Lamb doesn't smile back.

PROFESSOR BANKS (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Lamb stares hard into his eyes. The professor sees her fear. Lamb turns and walks away.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

James lays in a bed, sweating. Lamb wipes his forehead with a cloth.

INSERT JAMES' DREAM

CHRIS, DAN, LEON AND KUMAR'S GHOSTLY APPARITIONS swirl around the barn with the evil Entity. They SCREAM AND MOAN. All the OTHER SOULS that they Entity had killed are also with them, screaming and crying to be set free.

ENTITY

You will never be free!

END INSERT

On the stand next to his bed is a BOOK ABOUT DEMONS. James' mother, JANE PORTER, Mid-40's, well dressed, says her rosary in the corner of the room. The Doctor enters.

DOCTOR  
Mrs. Porter?

Jane stands and holds out a hand. The doctor and Jane shake hands.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
I'm Dr. Rosenthal. I've seen James' x-rays and blood work.

JANE  
Will he be okay?

James starts to wake. Lamb leans down and caresses his face.

DOCTOR  
Yes. We'd just like to keep in a few days and give him some antibiotics by IV.

The doctor leads Jane out of the room.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
He'll be fine.

James opens his eyes. He looks up at Lamb; she's finally smiling.

JAMES  
(whispers to Lamb)  
He's still there.

The smile falls from Lamb's face.

LAMB  
I know.

JAMES  
We have to go back.

Fear is etched on Lamb's face.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
We have to free the others.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

James and Lamb attend the joint funeral of their friends.



On their way out of the church, James spots a young PRIEST. James waits for the crowd around him to thin out, then he moves to him.

JAMES

Father.

The Priest looks at James' obvious wounds, then to Lamb, who is also pretty beat up.

PRIEST

You must be James.

JAMES

That was nice. The service.

PRIEST

You were all so close; you all attended St. Matthew. Part of our flock. It was only fitting they were laid to rest together.

James nods.

JAMES

Father can evil keep souls from moving on? You know, like, keep them bound to earth?

The priest looks at James, perplexed.

PRIEST

If the evil is strong enough, I suppose.

James nods to Lamb.

EXT. PERSECUTION HILL - ROAD - MORNING

The sun is high in the sky. James and Lamb drive up to the crumbling remains of the barn.

The WIND SWIRLS AN EDDY OF DUST around them. The Entity is still there.

James carries with him A BIBLE. He opens it and walks around the barn as he reads.

JAMES

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

The wind grows and blows CHARRED DEBRIS in their faces.

JAMES (CONT'D)

The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

GHOSTLY FORMS begin to emerge from the ground. Their hands grabbing at the wood and stone, pulling their spirits upward.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

Lamb walks around the barn, throwing HOLY WATER at the charred boards. The water lands with a HISS.

The sun is starting to set.

Lamb grabs some HOMEMADE, WOODEN CROSSES from the car and carries them to James. Each cross has a name on it...Leon, Chris, Kumar, Dan...

JAMES (CONT'D)

Our Father, who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done...

Lamb and James plant the crosses in the ground at the front of the barn.

LAMB AND JAMES

On earth as it is in heaven...

The spirits emerge from the hole in the ground and dance in a WHITE LIGHT. The Entity WAILS with grief. The sound drowns out James and Lamb's prayers.

James and Lamb watch, amazed.

The souls form a STREAM OF WHITE LIGHT that reaches up to the sky. They slowly dissolve into the white light and clouds above. Free.

The wind is furious, tossing leaves and debris at Lamb and James. The Entity's laughter blows away, across the road, into the abandoned village, then fades off.

James and Lamb sit on the side of the road, holding one another, listening to the signs of life. (Birds, animals, etc.)

JAMES

Time to go home?

Lamb nods. As she gets into the car, she looks back over the deserted town. Something's still there...but where...

INT. JAMES' CAR - LATER

James passes the PERSECUTION HILL road sign.

LAMB

Stop!

She gets out of the car, riffles through her purse, finds a sharpie. She gets out of the car and stares at the sign.

INSERT SIGN

PERSECUTION HILL

END INSERT

underneath the words PERSECUTION HILL, she writes DAMNED DO NOT ENTER

END INSERT

Lamb gets back in the car. They drive away.

As the car drives out of sight, a furious eddy of wind SWIRLS to the sign post and EXPLODES THE WOODEN ROAD SIGN to the sound of SWIRLING WIND and HIDEOUS LAUGHTER.

THE END

FADE OUT