

CROWS END

Wey Loh

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FADE IN

A black blob lays dormant amongst a sea of white pixels.
Over this, WHITE NOISE.

As the noise begins to take form, similar to the sound of a horse's gallop, the blob begins to move around, morphing between various shapes, until it becomes a humanoid shape.

TECHNICIAN(O.S)

Magic.

Pull out to reveal we are in:

INT. RADIOLOGY LAB - NIGHT

And that we are looking at an ULTRASOUND.

Gathered nearby the screen are RICKY AND JAMIE. A teenage, mixed race couple. Star crossed lovers. Ricky is white. Jamie, aboriginal.

Ricky holds Jamie's hand as the TECHNICIAN runs a transducer over her belly. They are filled with a mixture of excitement and anxiety.

TECHNICIAN

Heart beat sounds normal.

The technician moves the transducer back and forth over a spot on Jamie's belly.

Jamie looks uncomfortable.

TECHNICIAN

Sorry, gets a bit ticklish.

The technician zooms in on the ultrasound image.

TECHNICIAN

Hmm. Fetal nuchal translucency is at three point four millimeters.

RICKY

What's that mean?

JAMIE

Is that bad?

TECHNICIAN

No. Not at all. Baby's nice and healthy.

The technician smiles. Ricky and Jamie breathe a sigh of relief. They finally smile and kiss.

As the technician begins to pack his equipment up-

TECHNICIAN
So your parents know?

Suddenly the mood turns sour. Jamie and Ricky look at each other. Concern across their faces.

JAMIE
We haven't-

RICKY
We were waiting. Till we knew for
sure. You won't...

The technician stops packing up. He reaches into his jacket pocket.

He hands Ricky a business card.

TECHNICIAN
I know someone who can help. If the
time isn't right for you both.

There is a genuine look of friendliness on his face. Utter sincerity.

Ricky and Jamie are speechless.

EXT. BACK OF RADIOLOGY LAB - NIGHT

In a vacant car park, Jamie waits as Ricky slips cash to the technician. Jamie is wearing her sunglasses, trying to disguise herself in case anyone should see her.

TECHNICIAN
Good luck eh.

Ricky nods.

He turns and walks towards Jamie, taking hold of her.

They walk off into the uncertainty of the night.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Jamie and Ricky wait at a bus stop on the side of a main road. This is Crows End, far north Queensland. An urban jungle nestled amongst sparse palm trees and hot humid air.

Ricky checks the bus timetable as Jamie nervously chews her nails. A bundle of nerves.

JAMIE

Do you think he's right? I mean
should we call?

Ricky doesn't answer for a moment.

Ricky then takes the business card out of his pocket.
Removes a lighter from another pocket.

He lights the card and lets it fall to the ground, where it
burns.

Ricky takes a hold of Jamie.

RICKY

Don't even say it. Not even a joke.
I love you. I love this.

Ricky puts his hand on her belly.

RICKY

We'll get through it.

Jamie puts her arms around Ricky. Sinks her head into his
neck.

JAMIE

I'm just-

RICKY

I know.

Right then the bus pulls up. It's LED sign reads "Crows
End".

The SQUAWKING of birds.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

FOCUS ON a flock of seagulls that sit on top of a wooden log fence.

Suddenly, a single crow alights the fence.

The seagulls scatter as the lone crow makes itself at home.

SHIFT FOCUS to behind the crow, where a party takes place on the sandy shore of the beach.

SANDY SHORES OF THE BEACH

This is a party of mainly aboriginal folks. There is a mixture of young and old. Of people dressed in traditional garments and body paint. Of people dressed in modern clothing.

Some of the crowd is gathered around a band of didgeridoo players. Dancing tribal to the low droning didgeridoo.

Jamie sits on the sand braiding a string with her mum AVA, an early forties aboriginal woman with a warm smile.

Beside them, a younger group of tweens play with their mobile phones.

Jamie's father KABI, late forties, a firm but fair man, sits nearby. He eats a sausage as he chats to BETTY, sixties, wild hair, an aboriginal shaman.

Betty holds a piece of steak up to chew. Her RING FINGER is missing. Just a tiny stump in its place.

KABI

(Speaking in Wulguru)

Kids. Moving forward so fast.
Leaving us old folks behind.

BETTY

(in Wulguru)

Your Wulguru is good. Been practicing?

KABI

Need to keep with tradition. Can't forget the past.

Betty smiles. She's impressed with Kabi.

Betty nods towards Jamie.

BETTY
 (in English now)
 Your girl now, she's old enough.
 Gonna marry my Peter. Been promised
 for a long time.

Kabi looks further up the beach. A young, handsome aboriginal teenager, athletic in build, throws a Rugby ball with friends. This is PETER.

Kabi nods. A solemn nod.

Jamie looks up from her braiding and catches Kabi and Betty staring at her and talking.

JAMIE
 They're talking about me again.

AVA
 (not paying attention)
 Uh huh.

A worried look on Jamie's face.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Jamie and a group of teen girls wade through shallow water, cooling off from the hot humid weather.

Jamie, subconsciously scoops water onto her belly.

TEEN GIRL ONE
 Heard she killed Dani's chihuahua.
 Mum says she's losing her touch.
 Tried to revive the thing but ended
 up making its belly explode. Guts
 and shit all over the walls. Took
 two days to clean it.

TEEN GIRL TWO
 Fucking disgusting!

SPLASH. A Rugby ball barely misses Teen Girl One.

TEEN GIRL ONE
 Fuck you. Watch where you throw it
 assholes.

Peter, topless, muscles shimmering in the sun, approaches the group of girls.

PETER
Sorry girls.

TEEN GIRL THREE
Sure you are hot stuff.

Peter ignores the comment, but nods at Jamie.

PETER
Jamie.

Jamie gives him a tentative smile.

JAMIE
Hi.

Peter runs back to his friends. Gives one look back at Jamie.

The girls all giggle.

TEEN GIRL ONE
Pity about his grandmother.

TEEN GIRL THREE
Speaking of...

All the girls turn as they see Betty, wading through the water towards them.

They all put on their smiles as they move past her.

TEEN GIRLS
Hi Betty!

Betty doesn't buy it, giving them a grunting noise as the girls pass.

Jamie and Betty are alone.

JAMIE
I'm gonna go and-

BETTY
Come talk girl.

Betty notices Jamie rubbing her belly.

BETTY
Eat too much eh?

Jamie immediately stops rubbing her belly. Looking a bit guilty.

JAMIE

Yeah. Ate too much.

BETTY

Skinny girl like you must eat. Grow bigger hips eh. You and my Peter have kids right?

JAMIE

Kids?

BETTY

Don't need to play games with me girl. Been promised to my Peter. Long time ago. You gonna have many babies. I seen it in my dreams eh.

JAMIE

I'm too young to get married.

BETTY

Not young. Right age girl.

Jamie starts moving past Betty, back to shore, trying to keep her distance.

Jamie accidentally stumbles. Betty catches her, one hand on her arm, the other hand --

-- on Jamie's stomach.

Something switches on in Betty's head and her eyes go wide.

They exchange glances for a moment. Does Betty know?

WOMEN'S VOICE

BETTY!

Betty turns to find a group of aboriginal women screeching out her name from further up the shore. Something bad has happened.

Betty and Jamie exchange one final stare off before Betty heads back to shore.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

A THIN MAN, old, pale and dead, lies on the ground. Mouth agape.

Betty is knelt beside him, along with a CRYING WOMAN. Around them a small crowd is gathered.

CRYING WOMAN

He just- He just dropped. Thought
the cancer was gone. He told me it
was gone.

BETTY

Crying ain't gonna bring him back.

Betty stands up. She gestures to two of the crying woman's
RELATIVES.

The relatives help crying woman up and lead her back into
the crowd.

Betty kneels beside the man.

She reaches into her DILLY BAG and takes out two HEALING
STONES.

Places them onto the man's chest.

Not far away, the didgeridoo band plays a repetitive droning
melody. The sound taking over everything.

Betty leans over the mouth of the thin man and begins to
repeatedly mutter something in Wulguru. It's very low and
guttural.

Soon, her eyeballs roll back into her head, leaving nothing
but a white abyss.

Parents in the crowd draw their young children away from the
front.

Teenagers and younger adults move in for a closer glimpse.

Some of them film on iPhones.

On the fence, the crow from before, flaps off in Betty's
direction.

It lands next to Betty, as she continues to mutter.

The crow edges closer until it is squeezed between Betty and
the thin man's mouth.

The crow dips its beak into thin man's mouth. Then soon,
it's entire head.

Betty suddenly stops chanting and her eyes roll forward.

The crow draws its head back out, then flies away.

Betty casually stands back up and makes her way out through the crowd. Leaving the dead man still on the ground.

Confused looks amongst the crowd.

Teen girls from earlier are amongst them.

TEEN GIRL ONE
Told you she lost her touch.

All of a sudden, people start to shiver.

TEEN GIRL ONE
What the hell is that?

TEEN GIRL TWO
Wind?

Teen girl two gazes at her hands. They're shivering, almost violently.

More people in the crowd begin to shiver.

Everyone looks at each other. What is going on?

Teen girl one points at thin man's stomach --

-- which has begun to expand like a balloon. The healing stones are knocked off.

TEEN GIRL ONE
Oh my god.

People react to a bad smell. They cover their noses and move away. Some of them coughing.

Thin man starts to seizure on the ground as his belly continues to expand.

Thin man snaps upright. He is awake and alive, but physically he looks like a train wreck.

EXT. BEACH - GRASSY KNOLL - LATE AFTERNOON

The last rays of sunlight pass overhead as Betty says farewells to some of the party goers.

She spots KABI, talking to his friend.

Then AVA, close by, talking to her friends.

Her eyes scout around for Jamie, but she's not there.

Thin man, who holds onto crying woman's arm, approaches Betty. He weakly puts his arm on Betty's shoulder.

THIN MAN

Thank you.

CRYING WOMAN

Thank you so much.

BETTY

Save the thanks. Lucky for you,
you'll live as long as I breath.
Gonna owe me sometime.

The momentary joy is drained.

BETTY

Don't forget that.

Betty walks off.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The end of a school day. Teenagers file out.

Amongst the crowd are Ricky and Jamie. Ricky is on his BMX. Jamie walks alongside.

They pass a group of POPULAR GIRLS who seem to be whispering about them.

Jamie glances back once, but decides to ignore it. She's got her mind on other things.

RICKY

Have you told em yet?

Jamie doesn't respond.

RICKY

I'm going to tell them tonight.

JAMIE

We should talk. I need to-

As Jamie is about to go on, Ricky's cell phone rings.

He removes it from his shirt pocket.

RICKY

(into phone)

Alright. I'll be there.

Ricky hangs up.

RICKY
Gotta go babe. Forgot about
training tonight. We'll speak
later.

Ricky kisses Jamie on the forehead, then rides off.

Jamie is left alone. That same worried look on her face.

The girls behind her continue to whisper.

INT. CAR - DAY

We see Betty from behind as she sits behind the steering wheel, watching Jamie through the windscreen.

We drift around to see that her eyes are rolled back in her head. The same white abyss. She knows everything now.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

A billboard of a bald headed man with a cheesy smile, stands atop of a grocery supermarket. Next to the face is written "Penny's - We pride ourselves on low prices".

A crow perches on top of the billboard and begins to shit.

The shit drips down the man's face.

INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

The same bald headed man, FRANK PENNY(late 50s), squints as he reads a price ticket on a shelf.

Frank is a cutthroat business man. A man who believes only in logic and practicality. He's also Ricky's dad.

FRANK
See there. Now that's wrong.

Frank takes the ticket off the shelf and hands it to Ricky.

FRANK
Gotta watch out for that son.
Leaving a sale ticket for longer
than it's supposed to, costs us
money. That's money from my pocket,
which inevitability means money
from yours. Got it son?

RICKY
 Money from yours. Money from mine.
 Got it.

FRONT END

Frank and Ricky push two pellets of stock past the checkouts.

Ricky spots Jamie working on a checkout.

Jamie gestures to him, like she wants to talk.

He mouths "Later" to her.

VARIOUS AISLES

Ricky's POV as he watches his dad speak to him about supermarket procedures. Ricky's in a world of his own though and we can't quite hear what Frank is saying.

Frank clicks his fingers at Ricky.

FRANK
 You get that? Ey son?

Ricky snaps out of it.

FRANK
 You're not taking this seriously.

RICKY
 I am. I just-

FRANK
 You just what?

RICKY
 I'm-

Ricky tries to bring up the courage to say what needs to be said.

FRANK
 You what son? Go on. Say it.

Right then, Kabi enters the aisle. He's a worker here to. He carries his backpack, ready to start his shift.

KABI
Hey boss. Hey Ricky.

The moment is gone. Ricky's lost his chance. He just smiles at Kabi.

Once Kabi has passed, Frank returns to talking.

FRANK
Now I know this is a lot to take on, but I've got dreams for you son. You're gonna be a manager one day. Have your own store. You can go anywhere you want.

Frank pats his son on the shoulder.

Ricky forces a smile.

VARIOUS AISLES

Ricky is stocking cans of pineapples onto a shelf. He looks up the aisle, where he spots Kabi who is also stocking shelves.

JAMIE(O.S)
Psst.

Ricky turns around, but can't find the source of the noise.

JAMIE(O.S)
Psst. In here.

Ricky moves a few cans of pineapples aside. Sees Jamie through them, in the opposite aisle.

REFRIGERATED AISLE - NIGHT

Ricky pretends to sort yogurt tubs as Jamie talks.

JAMIE
She knows. I know it.

RICKY
You can't be sure.

JAMIE
She's crazy. Who knows what she'll do. She thinks I'm going to marry Peter.

Ricky looks up from the yogurt tubs.

RICKY

She's crazy alright. You're mine.
And anyway, this sorcerer stuff.
Come on. Magic? It's bullshit.

He goes back to pretending to organize the tubs.

RICKY

She's harmless.

Jamie's anxious. Doesn't notice the dark figure creeping into her periphery.

JAMIE

You don't know her. Everyone's
afraid of her.

RICKY

She's just a crazy old lady.

WITHERED HANDS wrap around Jamie's stomach.

Jamie recoils in horror. SCREAMS. But they aren't Jamie's screams.

It's Betty screaming.

Betty points her finger at Jamie, as the whites of her eyes flick back and forth. She's half in this world. Half in her own.

The florescent light above starts to flicker.

BETTY

You done wrong.

JAMIE

Leave me alone.

Betty moves towards Jamie.

BETTY

Got one chance girl.

Ricky takes a hold of Jamie. Pulls her behind him.

BETTY

Get rid of it.

A few customers turn their attention to the commotion.

RICKY
Keep your dirty hands off her.

Betty snarls, then lunges at Ricky.

Ricky side steps with Jamie in his arms.

Betty topples onto the ground.

Betty, on the ground, looks up. She's pissed. Raises one hand.

Stacks of yogurt tubs fly off the shelves and onto the floor around Betty. Customers get out of the way.

STORE WORKERS from various sections make their way towards the scene. Frank and Kabi amongst them.

Betty scrambles across the floor, surprisingly quick. She grabs a hold of Jamie's leg. Jamie kicks her off.

BETTY
Get rid of it!

FRANK
What the hell is going on?

Betty gets up off the ground. She's almost growling. Then...

Her eyes flip back to normal. The anger vanished from Betty's face.

She begins to plead.

BETTY
Please girl. Has to go. Can't keep it.

RICKY
She's not getting rid of anything.

KABI
Betty?

BETTY
Your girl done bad.

Betty points at Ricky.

BETTY
They both done bad. What's mine has been taken. You promised her. You promised.

Betty moves her hands in a circular motion around her own belly. There's a vulgarity to it.

FRANK

You're crazy. Get her out of here.
And someone get this damn mess
cleaned up.

Store workers look at each other.

The aboriginal workers refuse to touch her moving away.
Leaving three white workers.

They grab Betty, whose eyes roll back to white. She fights back.

BETTY

Don't touch me. She the one you
get. She the one.

KABI

Jamie?

Jamie looks at her dad. She can't hide it anymore.

JAMIE

I was going to tell you.

Kabi doesn't know what to say.

Betty scratches one of the workers across the cheek.

WORKER ONE

Shit!

The other two workers restrain Betty, as they try to march her out.

Betty screams over the top of them.

BETTY

You'll regret it girl. You'll
regret it.

PRE-LAP: Howling wind.

EXT. A DESOLATE STREET - NIGHT

A GUSTY WIND BLOWS as a large murder of crows swarm around a single street lamp.

BELOW, a street full of run down houses and abandoned cars.

Betty storms down the street muttering to herself.

Betty passes by a stack of METAL TRASH CANS. The lids QUIVER in her wake.

She passes by a METAL LETTERBOX, the flap SNAPS SHUT.

She passes under a STREETLAMP. The bulb POPS.

Three PACIFIC ISLANDER TEENS loiter around a beat up Ford Sedan. They drink alcohol from wine bottles in paper bags.

They spot Betty, as she approaches.

ISLANDER ONE

Eh bro, check out this crazy bitch.

ISLANDER TWO

Bit late to be out from the nursing home eh?

The islanders block Betty's path, forcing her to halt.

The islanders circle her.

ISLANDER TWO

Hear what I said granny eh?

Betty whispers something under her breath.

ISLANDER THREE

What you say granny?

ISLANDER TWO

Speak louder eh. My ears a bit blocked granny. Like yours eh.

She gestures for Islander two to come closer. He leans in.

Betty turns her head and nuzzles up to his ear.

The other two teens look on. Uneasy.

Betty whispers.

Islander two's eyes go wide. Face slack. Like he's just seen the face of God.

A wet patch forms around his jeans.

Urine drips out of the cuffs of his pants.

Islander one pulls a flick knife on Betty.

ISLANDER ONE
The fuck you say granny?

Islander two recomposes himself. Pulls his friend back.

ISLANDER TWO
No.

Islander two hobbles towards the Ford, gesturing for the other two to follow.

They do, but all the while keeping an eye on Betty.

The Ford speeds off.

Betty hears LAUGHING. Turns around to find the culprit --

-- TERRY, a sixty year old Aboriginal man with a long grey beard.

He's sits on his porch, on the other side of the road, smoking a bamboo pipe. A small chihuahua, SIRUS, lies next to him.

Betty walks across the street toward Terry. The wind still HOWLING.

Terry continues to laugh. He's not phased.

Betty stops in front of his porch. SIRUS growls low.

Betty stands there. A face off.

Terry takes a puff of his pipe. Blows smoke casually.

Betty notices a stack of planks to Terry's right. Suddenly a strong gush of wind blows one plank at Terry.

Terry strikes out one arm confidently.

The plank shatters.

Terry laughs. Smokes his pipe.

INT. KABI'S CAR - NIGHT

Kabi drives his beat up station wagon. Jamie is in the passenger seat. There's still that awkward silence between the two.

JAMIE

I'm sorry.

Kabi just looks at his daughter. That disappointed look on his face. He doesn't have much to say.

Suddenly...

KABI

I thought I raised you better than this.

JAMIE

I love him. He loves me.

KABI

Love has nothing to do with this.

JAMIE

Love has everything. I don't love Peter. I don't even like him.

KABI

You don't understand what you've done. You've shamed us. Now Betty is-

JAMIE

Betty's just a psycho.

Kabi snaps.

KABI

Don't make me remind you again. That psycho you hate so much saved your life.

Kabi's hands tense around the steering wheel.

FLASH: A TWO WEEK OLD JAIME CRIES HER EYES OUT IN KABI'S ARMS.

INTERCUT BETWEEN FLASHBACK AND PRESENT DAY IN CAR.

IN THE CAR, Kabi stares out. It's starting to rain. He turns on the wipers.

KABI

Doctors couldn't do anything for you.

FLASH: BABY JAMIE LIES LIMP IN AVA'S ARMS.

FLASH: DOCTORS AROUND KABI AND AVA ARE SHAKING THEIR HEADS.

IN THE CAR, Jamie pays attention to her dad. This is the most emotional she's ever seen him.

KABI
She was our last hope.

FLASH: KABI HANDS A LIMP JAMIE TO A YOUNGER, FORTY YEAR OLD, TOPLESS BETTY.

KABI
Gave you life the only way she knew
how.

FLASH: BETTY SQUEEZES HER NIPPLE. A DROP OF BLOOD COMES OUT. SHE PLACES JAMIE OVER HER NIPPLE AND SHE STARTS TO SUCKLE.

KABI
That woman brought you back when no
one else could.

FLASH: BETTY IS STILL WET NURSING JAMIE. THERE IS ANOTHER BOY, 2 YEARS OLD, ON HER OTHER BREAST.

FLASH: BETTY HANDS JAMIE BACK TO AVA. JAMIE'S CRYING HER EYES OUT BUT SHE'S FULL OF LIFE.

FLASH: THERE ARE JOYFUL TEARS FROM KABI AND AVA. BETTY CONTINUES TO FEED THE OTHER BOY.

IN THE CAR, Kabi slams on the brakes. He looks directly at his daughter.

KABI
And this is how you repay someone
who gave you life?

Jamie can't say anything. She's frozen.

Kabi sees the fear in his daughter. He calms down.

KABI
You ain't hers to claim. But she
thinks you are.

And the weight of it all hits Jamie.

EXT. RICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A mini beachside mansion. Frank's got money and it shows in his abode. There are two Mercedes parked out front.

The CLINKING SOUND of cutlery at a dinner table.

INT. RICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Only the finest fittings and appliances.

In the dining room. a long glass table with a frosted glass top. Ricky is seated in the middle of the table. His parents on either end.

They eat in awkward silence.

Frank chews his food noisily.

Ricky digs at his steak. No appetite.

Susan puts down her fork. Decides to break the silence.

SUSAN

You're just so young Ricky. I mean you're not even eighteen.

Frank stops chewing and puts his fork down.

FRANK

Do you even understand the situation you've got yourself in son? Do you even comprehend?

RICKY

I love her.

Frank laughs.

FRANK

He loves her? Isn't that great. You love her. Cause love is going to solve all your problems. Love is going to put food on the table and feed that baby. Ha! You don't even know what love is!

SUSAN

Your father's right. You're too young to know. You're confused Ricky. You think it's love but it's not.

RICKY

I love her! I know how I feel!

FRANK

We had a plan. You were meant to finish your schooling and come work for me.

RICKY

That was your plan. I don't want any of that. We're keeping this baby.

FRANK

Over my dead body you are. You've got an entire life ahead of you. You're gonna let this destroy that?

SUSAN

You can't raise a child Ricky. You're going to miss out on living life.

RICKY

I'll do what I want. I'm almost eighteen.

FRANK

Almost. You're not eighteen yet. And as long as you're under this roof you're going to do as I say. And I'm telling you now you are not bringing up this child.

Frank stands up in his seat.

FRANK

Get up. We're going to sort this out right now.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Frank's Mercedes speeds down the streets of Crows End. The streets are wet from the earlier downpour.

INT. MERCEDES - NIGHT

Frank drives furiously. Ricky is petrified of his father.

FRANK

She trapped you son. She bloody trapped you.

Frank slams on the accelerator.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

The Mercedes rips through a puddle. Water splashes.

INT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A humble three bedroom bungalow. This is a far stretch from Frank's beach side mansion.

IN THE KITCHEN

AVA spoon feeds her ELDERLY MOTHER, who sits in a wheel chair.

IN THE LOUNGE ROOM

Kabi and Jamie, sit on a couch, they're in conversation with some unseen person. Behind them, the aboriginal flag is pinned up on the wall. Some traditional paintings also.

KABI

You offering money?

FRANK(O.S)

A substantial amount of money.

REVERSE ANGLE

Frank and Ricky sit on wooden chairs.

FRANK

It'll help with the upbringing of the child. And a little bit extra for whatever you want.

Jamie looks to Ricky. But he can't meet Jamie's eyes.

KABI
And in return?

FRANK
We keep this all between us. My son
doesn't get involved in how you
raise the child.

KABI
What your boy got to say bout this?
That what he wants?

Jamie glances to Ricky again. Desperately wanting him to
look back. Too declare he loves her. But he can't.

Frank puts his hand on Ricky's shoulder.

FRANK
It's best for everyone.

Jamie rushes out of the room. Crying her eyes out.

Ricky jerks his shoulder away from Frank. He sulks in his
seat.

IN THE KITCHEN

Ava leaves her elderly mother to tend to her daughter.

IN THE LOUNGE

Kabi stares at Frank. Long and hard. It's uncomfortable to
watch.

KABI
I worked long time for you boss. I
worked extra hours. On the weekend.
Times when my family needed me. But
no more. I'm done with you. Done
with this. You take your money. You
take it and get the fuck out of my
house. We don't need it. We'll have
this kid. We'll carry this shame
for you. Carry it for free.

Kabi gets up. Points towards the hallway.

KABI
You see yourself out boss.

IN JAMIE'S BEDROOM

Jamie cries as she is comforted by her mother. Posters of various EMO ROCK BANDS surround her. All looking down on her.

INT. RICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN RICKY'S BEDROOM

KINGS OF LEON plays loudly. Ricky sits on his bed throwing a tennis ball against the door. He's angry at his dad.

He stops throwing the ball. He breaks down and cries.

A knock at the door.

SUSAN(O.S)

Honey?

Ricky wipes his eyes.

Susan opens the door. Unlike Frank, she's not upset at Ricky. She's calm and controlled. She steps into the room.

SUSAN

Oh honey.

She sits beside Ricky. Puts her arm around him.

SUSAN

It's for your own good. Your father just wants what's best for you.

Susan embraces her son. Ricky pushes her off.

RICKY

Get off me. You're as bad as him.

Susan can't believe it. She's never been spoken to like this from Ricky.

RICKY

Get out of my room.

SUSAN

Honey.

RICKY

Get out mum. Get out!

Susan, shocked at the outburst, leaves.

Ricky flops back into his bed. He pulls out his wallet. Removes a photo from it.

ON THE PHOTO

It's a cheesy photo booth picture. Ricky and Jamie in a happier time.

INT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN JAMIE'S BEDROOM

Jamie finishes putting on her PJs.

She grabs a brush from her tallboy and begins to brush her hair in front of her cupboard mirror.

The cupboard doors FLING OPEN.

WITHERED HANDS reach out. Grab at Jamie's hair.

Jamie SCREAMS. Runs to her door. She's met there by Kabi and Ava.

JAMIE

Betty!

Jamie points to her cupboard, which is now closed.

Kabi moves towards the cupboard as Ava holds onto Jamie.

Kabi stands in front of the cupboard for a beat...Kabi throws open the doors...

CLOTHES.

He rummages past the clothes.

Kneels down and rummages some more.

SOMETHING brushes his hand.

Kabi yanks out a LARGE TEDDY BEAR. He looks at Jamie.

JAMIE

She was in there. I swear it.

A look of concern across Kabi's face. Is his daughter going crazy?

Ava strokes her daughter's head.

AVA

You've had a hard day. Get some rest babe.

JAMIE

I swear I saw her.

AVA

It's probably just the hormones. I remember when I had you. I was the same. Worked up over nothing.

KABI

Mother's right. Get some sleep.

Jamie looks defeated. Maybe she did just imagine it.

Kabi turns off the light. Just the silhouette of him and Ava as they shut her door.

Jamie hops into her bed.

Just as she's about to pull the sheet on, something catches her eye.

Her translucent window drapes blow back and forth. The window behind it is slightly open.

EXT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A lone crow sits atop the roof.

The crow takes off and we follow it as it soars into the SKY. Past a haunting MOON which seems painted amongst stars.

The crow suddenly dips and the TOWN of Crows End comes into view.

The ocean on one side.

The other side, a mixture of yellow and white lights dot the town's main streets and buildings.

The crow continues past the town. Straight into a thick formation of clouds.

It zips through the clouds, up and down, left and right, before it plunges head first, through the cloud's base. Revealing...

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Deep within the forest, the CAWS of a thousand crows. This is their home. Their territory.

BARE FEET tread across the muddy forest floor.

The feet reach a small lake.

WITHERED HANDS dip a DILLY BAG under the water's surface.

On CLOSER INSPECTION, the RING FINGER is missing on one hand.

The dilly bag, now full of water, is dragged across the muddy forest floor.

FADE TO BLACK

THE GENTLE SOUND OF WAVES LAPPING ONTO SHORE.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

SPARKLES of morning sunlight bounce off the pristine waters of Crows End beach.

INT. RICKY'S HOUSE - DAY

IN RICKY'S BEDROOM

Sunlight shines through window drapes.

Ricky lies in bed, staring at the same wallet photo.

Ricky smiles to himself.

He throws the covers off his bed. Ready for a new day. He's gonna make things up to Jamie.

INT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Jamie lies in her bed, still asleep. Suddenly...

A KNOCK at her door.

KABI

Jamie. Get up girl. Gonna be late for school.

Jamie slowly stirs.

KABI
(in Wulguru)
Hear me girl??

Jamie struggles out of her covers.

JAMIE
(in Wulguru)
Yes!

The sound of Kabi's FOOTSTEPS, as he walks away.

Jamie slowly readjusts herself to daytime. She yawns. Then sits up in her bed. She takes a deep breath.

BANG. A black object smashes through her bedroom window. Glass SHATTERS.

The object falls on her bed.

Jamie scampers up the head of her bed. She pulls up her knees in terror.

Kabi **bursts** into the room.

His eyes go to Jamie. Then dart to the object at her feet --
-- A DEAD CROW lies on its belly.

JAMIE
Get it out!

Kabi approaches the bird, hesitant.

Kabi prods at the bird.

Its WINGS FLAP. It ain't dead.

Kabi jumps back, startled.

The crow flaps around the room, bouncing off the ceiling and walls.

It makes strange coughing sounds, before something is ejected from its mouth.

The crow drops dead.

Kabi bends down and picks up the ejected object.

He holds it up to the window to examine --

-- A LONG STRAND OF HAIR. Tied at the bottom is --

-- a STINGRAY BARB.

EXT. JAMIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Kabi packs bags into a station wagon. There's an urgency to it.

Jamie, now wearing a white dress, struggles as she carries a duffel bag towards the car. She's exhausted emotionally and physically.

Kabi grabs the bag off her.

JAMIE

It's fine. I've got it.

KABI

You shouldn't be carrying heavy things. You don't look so good.

HIGH ABOVE, a crow lands on a tree branch. It watches on.

Kabi grabs a water bottle from the front of his car and hands it to Jamie.

She takes a long gulp of it.

Then places it on the roof of the car.

RICKY(O.S)

What's going on?

Jamie and Kabi turn around to find Ricky standing behind them. He's dressed in his school uniform.

RICKY

Babe? What's going on?

THE CROW'S EYE sheds a tear.

The tear drops into Jamie's WATER BOTTLE.

KABI(O.S)

Stay away. Don't need your trouble.
You caused enough already.

Ricky drops his bag down. Steps towards Jamie.

Kabi blocks Ricky's path.

RICKY
I just came to apologize.

KABI
Bit late.

Jamie, looking nervous, grabs the water bottle off the car.
Takes a sip.

RICKY
Jamie baby. I love you. I never
meant to...

Jamie steps in front of Kabi. Kabi shoots a worried look.

JAMIE
It's ok.

Jamie looks at Ricky.

RICKY
I'm sorry babe.

JAMIE
You couldn't even look at me.

RICKY
I don't know why. I just- I just
freeze around him. My dad.

JAMIE
All I wanted was for you to
acknowledge me. I needed you
yesterday. More than ever.

RICKY
I'm stupid. Should have held your
hand. Should have said something.
You deserve better than that.

JAMIE
I thought you loved me.

RICKY
I do. I'm here now.

Jamie looks away. Can't say the words to Ricky's face.

JAMIE
Now's too late.

Jamie walks back towards the car.

RICKY
I want this baby. Please. I can
make this up to you. I'll do
anything.

Jamie drops the water bottle.

KABI
Jamie?

Jamie drops to her knees and begins to dry retch.
Ricky and Kabi each grab an arm to stabilize her.

RICKY
What's wrong babe?

Jamie begins to vomit BLACK LIQUID. It runs down her white
skirt.

RICKY
What the hell is happening?

KABI
She ain't well.

RICKY
We have to get to the hospital.

Ricky notices black liquid leaking down the inside of her
thigh.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

In the HALLWAY

Kabi and Ava talk to a BLOND HAIREDOCTOR. In the
BACKGROUND, we see Jamie in her own room. She lies on a
gurney staring out into space, Ricky by her side.

BLOND DOCTOR
Some of the initial tests have come
back fine. Nothing out of the
ordinary. But we do want to keep
her for observation and a few more
tests tomorrow morning.

KABI
She got a plane to catch.

BLOND DOCTOR

There won't be any traveling today sir. I'm sorry. She's just had a large loss of bodily fluid and with her pregnancy, air travel is a definite no go.

Kabi watches as Ricky strokes Jamie's hair and leans into kiss her hand. Jamie seems oblivious to Ricky's presence.

KABI

She ain't safe here.

Ava butts in, not wanting the doctor to think her husband is crazy. Kabi still fixated on Ricky's interactions with Jamie.

AVA

My husband's just a bit worried for her. She's our only child.

BLOND DOCTOR

Sir, I guarantee you that this is the safest place for her at this time. We'll take good care of her.

With that, Blonde Doctor leaves. As he does, Ricky exits Jamie's room.

Kabi grabs him by the arm as he passes.

KABI

Ain't you got somewhere else to be?

RICKY

No.

KABI

Bet your dad wouldn't be too happy to see you here.

RICKY

I don't care what he thinks.

KABI

So suddenly you're a rebel. Where was that last night, when my daughter needed you?

An OLD HAND grips the STINGRAY BARB from earlier. The SOUNDS of low guttural chanting.

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

TERRY, the old bearded man from earlier, stands in the middle of

JAMIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

He's in a trance, the whites of his eyes show, the stingray barb gripped in his hand. He continues to chant.

Jamie and her family watch on as if this is an everyday occurrence.

Ricky watches, cynical. To him, this is just crazy superstition.

Terry comes back to reality.

Kabi looks on with nervous anticipation.

TERRY

Not good. Something bad coming.
Something evil.

Ricky snorts. Kabi shoots him daggers.

Terry puts his hand on her belly.

Concern across Jamie's face.

TERRY

She ain't happy with what you done.
Won't stop till she pays back what
you took.

JAMIE

Took?

TERRY

Yes. You took the only thing that
mattered to her.

JAMIE

What was it?

TERRY

A grandson.

Jamie's face drops.

JAMIE

But what makes me so special. I'm
just a girl.

TERRY

You're special to her. Something in you she wants. It's not all clear yet. But what I seen-

Ricky shows frustration. Can't keep quiet.

RICKY

This is bullshit. All this talk of ghosts and magic. This isn't Halloween. There has to be a rational explanation for this.

KABI

You ain't got a say in any of this.

RICKY

I've got every say. This is my kid.

KABI

And Jamie is my daughter.

Ava wants to play peacemaker.

AVA

Ricky could be right. It's old superstition. I'm sure-

KABI

Have you forgotten everything? You seen what she can do.

Ava stays silent. Ricky on the other hand...

RICKY

It's all smoke and mirrors. A magician who knows how to fool his audience. Betty hasn't got any magical powers. There's no spirits coming. It's just a string of strange coincidences which some how tie in with a crazy lady who is angry she can't have a grandchild. Simple as that.

A PRETTY NURSE enters the room with a tray of food.

Kabi furious, steps past her. Meets face to face with Ricky.

KABI

Had just about enough of you mouthing off. Don't like our ways, then leave. Ain't got time for you.

RICKY(O.S)

I just think it's a more sensible option to go with proven medical science. I want what's best for Jamie.

KABI

And I don't?

Ricky and Kabi's bickering fades into the background and we focus on the NURSE as she smiles at Jamie.

Jamie's face goes wide in TERROR.

JAMIE'S POV

The Nurse's face is stitched up at her eyes. Blood drips out from her sutured eyes, down her face.

JAMIE

Get away!

Jamie kicks the food tray off the overbed table. Food flies everywhere.

Kabi, Ricky and everyone jump back in shock.

The nurse, her face no longer stitched or bloodied, runs out of the room.

JAMIE

Get her away from me! She's horrible. Her eyes!

RICKY

She's just a nurse babe.

AVA

They're here to help.

JAMIE

No. I don't want them to help.

Jamie tries to get out of the bed, but Kabi and Ricky restrain her.

JAMIE

No. Let me go. I wanna leave.

TERRY

It's coming.

The nurse returns with a couple of doctors. Blond Doctor from before, plus another OLD LADY DOCTOR. They surround Jamie.

PRETTY NURSE
She just attacked me.

BLOND DOCTOR
Is this true?

JAMIE
Get away from me.

JAMIE'S POV

All the doctors have stitched and bloodied eyes.

JAMIE
Oh my god! They're all here to kill me.

RICKY
You're not well. These doctors will help you get better.

TERRY
They can't help.

Jamie struggles against the doctors as they try to subdue her.

Ricky watches on, horrified, as the love of his life battles something he can't understand.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

HALLWAY

Kabi and Ava sit outside Jamie's room holding hands. They're weary and fatigued.

Ricky approaches. Two cups of piping hot coffee in his hands.

Ricky holds out a cup to Kabi.

RICKY
I'm sorry about before. I'm just-

KABI
Save it.

Kabi stands and walks right past Ricky. Denying him.

Ava, apologetic stands and takes a cup from Ricky.

AVA

I'm sorry about him. He's just worried about her.

RICKY

I know. I love your daughter. I would do anything for her.

Ava notes the sincerity in Ricky's eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

JAMIE'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Jamie lies in her bed, asleep. She's calmed down with the help of a mixture of sedatives. A drip is in her arm.

Ricky holds her hand. He lifts it up to his mouth and kisses it.

Jamie gently stirs.

TERRY(O.S)

You might need this.

Ricky spins around to see Terry approach.

Terry hands Ricky two sachets of salt.

TERRY

Throw it around her. Keep the spirits away.

RICKY

Thanks, but I think we'll be right.

Ricky's not budging on this issue. He turns his back on Terry.

TERRY

Soon, things gonna get really bad.

Terry puts the sachets of salt on the overbed table.

TERRY

Just in case you change your mind.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Kabi paces into the store.

INT. SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Frank escorts potential JAPANESE INVESTORS through various supermarket aisles. An INTERPRETER follows them translating Frank's words.

FRANK

We're currently looking at opening another five stores country wide in the next six months. One in Brisbane. Two in Sydney. Another two in Melbourne. With the GFC and all, people are looking for no frills products at discount prices. Penny's provides that.

The interpreter finishes his translation.

The investors all turn and exchange pleased glances at each other.

Frank smiles. Happy with their reaction. He gives his thumbs up to the investors.

FRANK

Good investment.

Frank frowns.

He sees Kabi approaching down the aisle.

INT. SUPERMARKET - LATER

In the OFFICE

Frank finishes stashing a roll of hundred dollar bills into an already full, paper bag. He hands it to Kabi.

FRANK

So you're going to do it?

Kabi snatches the bag.

KABI

Soon, none of this will even matter.

Kabi leaves.

Frank's left their puzzled.

INT. KABI'S CAR - NIGHT

Kabi drives furiously. A man on a mission.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

A wood sign reads: Forest of Crows

On one side: An abandoned playground/picnic area.

The other side. A LOCKED Metal gate blocks entry to a dirt road which stretches into a dark and tall forest.

A DO NOT ENTER sign on the gate is covered in small black hand stencils.

From behind the fence, the CAWS of crows.

Kabi's car SMASHES through the metal gates.

It races up the dirt road.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS - NIGHT

Kabi's car GUNS through rough dirt roads. Clunk Clunk Clunk.

EXT. BETTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A battered WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE. Decrepit. You wouldn't think anyone could live here. In fact, it was most likely abandoned years ago.

Windows taped up with garbage bags.

A rusted out EJ HOLDEN. This could be at the ends of the earth.

A lone crow perches on a letterbox.

INT. BETTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We push slowly down a drab hallway. A light above flickers. The walls and ceiling are all covered in those same black hand stencils.

Up ahead, Betty, whom we can only see her back, exits a side room holding something--

-- a drip bag, half filled with fresh blood.

We stay behind her as she half shuts the door and walks down the hallway.

Through the gap in the door, a figure under blankets, its back turned to us, lies on the bed. A drip stand in the back ground.

The SOUND of a car pulling up. Betty stops. She turns around and stares at us. Whites of her eyes flicking back and forth.

INT. KABI'S CAR - NIGHT

Kabi sits nervous. He stares out the window at Betty's creepy house.

He grabs the money bag off the passenger seat.

EXT. BETTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kabi knocks on the door. No one answers.

He turns the door knob. Pushes. The door is unlocked.

A cautious look from Kabi as he enters.

INT. BETTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE HALLWAY

Kabi treads lightly.

He notes the black hand stencils on the walls.

Grips the money bag tight.

Kabi approaches the side room Betty exited before.

Kabi peers in.

The figure from the bed has gone. The drip stand still there.

A CREAK of the floorboards.

Kabi snaps around. But it's too late.

WHACK. A BLUNT OBJECT hits him in the back.

Kabi drops to the ground.

INT. BETTY'S HOUSE - LATER

IN THE BASEMENT

DARK. BROODING. KABI is seated upright but unconscious. A slither of light highlights his face.

Fingers CLICK.

Kabi eyes twitch open. They blink a few times until he realizes he is inside --

-- a LARGE BIRDCAGE.

All around is dark. Except for the moonlight which penetrates the one window down here.

Kabi jumps up. Grabs a hold of the thick metal bars which imprison him. Somehow thinking that brute force will free him. How wrong he is.

BETTY(O.S)

No use. You well trapped.

A figure steps into the light. But it's not Betty. It's --

-- PETER. He holds onto the money bag. His face expressionless. It's unnerving.

Peter tips the notes of the money bag onto the floor around the cage.

BETTY(O.S)

You keep your money.

KABI

Please. Take it.

Betty steps out of the shadows.

She moves up to the cage, joining Peter.

Her face right up against the bars.

BETTY

Don't need it. You keep it. Buy your girl a nice funeral.

Kabi grips at the bars. He's ready to breakdown.

KABI
Please. Call it off. Whatever it
is. Send it back.

BETTY
Too late. What's done is done.
There ain't no going back now.
Peter, bring it here.

Peter walks off into the shadows.

Kabi jumps at Betty. Desperate. His hands eager to grab any
part of her.

KABI
Don't you fucking touch her. Don't
you dare.

Betty just laughs it off.

BETTY
You can't touch me. But I
can...touch you.

Peter comes back into frame. He holds two small birdcages. A
crow inside each.

Fear forms across Kabi's face.

Peter begins to open the birdcage.

KABI
Peter. Please help me. I done
nothing wrong. Jamie's done nothing
wrong.

Peter looks at Kabi. His expression vacant. And then-

PETER
You've done everything wrong.

Peter takes one of the crows out of the cage and hands it to
Betty.

Kabi looks on as Betty whispers something to the crow.

Peter begins to unfasten the bolt on a small door at the top
of Kabi's cage.

BETTY
I make sure they leave one of them
eyes so you can watch your girl
die.

Kabi sinks back into the cage. Frightened like a little child.

EXT. BETTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hundreds of crows gather around Betty's house. The sound of them builds to a thunderous peak. And then we hear it. Sharp and ear piercing. Kabi's SCREAMS. They taint the night air with blood.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Jamie bolts upright, screaming.

Ricky holds her making sure to cover her mouth. Not wanting the doctors to run in again.

RICKY

It's ok.

Jamie sobs. Ricky comforts.

ANGLE ON JAMIE

She sheds a tear. The tear evaporates into fine mist. Unnoticed by either of them.

Ava pokes her head into the room from the hallway.

RICKY

She's ok.

Ava nods and returns to the hallway.

Ricky strokes Jamie's hair.

RICKY

I'm here for you. I won't leave. I promise.

Jamie turns away from Ricky. Remembering. She's still hurt from the previous night.

She lies herself back down. Back turned to Ricky.

She takes a deep breath before...

JAMIE

I think you should leave. You don't belong here.

Ricky's hurt by these words. But he doesn't say anything. He doesn't move from his seat. He just remains frozen.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

IN THE CAR PARK

Water spills out from a DRAIN. It settles around the drain. And then --

-- it begins to behave unnaturally. Hundreds of little droplets rise up millimeters off the bitumen. They sway back and forth, dancing around, before fusing together into a snake-like shape.

The water SLITHERS across the car park.

Towards the hospital entrance.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

IN THE CAFETERIA

Harsh florescent lighting. Sterile. No one around, except for Blond Doctor.

He reads a science magazine while he sips his coffee.

VARIOUS HALLWAYS

Quiet hallways. A few nurses and doctors clock off from their shifts. Other replace them.

The snaking water slithers along the floor, hugging the walls, undetected.

The water reaches a T junction in the hallway. It splits into two snakes, going in opposite directions.

IN THE CAFETERIA

Blond Doctor turns the page.

A title on the next page reads "Homunculus Nebula". Under the title, a double page spread of a peanut shaped nebula surrounded by a sea of red light. It resembles a baby in a womb.

Blond Doctor doesn't notice the water snake enter the cafeteria as it slithers towards him.

PRETTY NURSE(O.S)
Have a good night.

Blond Doctor turns around to see Pretty Nurse in the doorway.

BLOND DOCTOR
Thanks. See you tomorrow. Maybe we
can get a bite to eat after?

Blond Doctor is clearly flirting.

The water snake enters his coffee cup.

PRETTY NURSE
Maybe we can.

Pretty Nurse grins then leaves.

Blond Doctor smiles to himself. Returns to his magazine and picks up his coffee.

He takes a sip.

ON THE FLOOR, the coffee cup shatters.

Black coffee spills out like blood from a vein.

Blond Doctor is frozen in his seat, paralyzed.

He tries to move. His legs won't budge. Tries to talk. His cheeks and lips just twitch. Tries to blink, but can barely even move his eyelids.

ON HIS EYES, water seeps out of his tear ducts and begins to form into a thin liquid string.

The end of the liquid string forms into a sharp needle point, then begins to weave together each eyelid. Blood drips out each time the string penetrates the eyelids.

Blond Doctor looks terrified as this foreign presence takes complete control of him.

HALLWAY OUTSIDE JAMIE'S ROOM

Dark. Devoid of life. The only light comes from an adjoining corridor at the end.

Jamie's door is shut.

IN JAMIE'S ROOM

Ricky is asleep on his chair.

Jamie asleep on the bed.

Jamie's eyes flick open.

She sits up rigid. She hears the TRICKLE of water.

Her eyes dart around the room. Nothing unusual.

A bed pan.

A drip stand.

A sink.

The trickle sound begins to build. More like a fast moving river.

Then she sees it.

Under the door. Water creeps in through the gap and up the door. Unnatural. Freakish.

Alarmed, she shakes Ricky's shoulder. Ricky snaps awake.

RICKY

Wha- What's wrong?

Jamie points at the door.

The water climbs up the door at an incredible pace. It spreads like wildfire.

On to the ceiling.

Across the walls.

RICKY

What the hell-

Ricky jumps to a protective position in front of Jamie. But it's not going to be any use.

The water is all around them now. Shapes of hands stretch out from the water.

The door BURSTS open to reveal...

Blond Doctor. His eyes completely stitched and weeping blood. His face is contorted. DEMONIC. In his hand --

-- The BIGGEST SYRINGE EVER!

BLOND DOCTOR

It's time for your medicine. You've
been a bad girl.

Ricky sprints for the door.

He kicks it shut.

Presses his back against it as Blond Doctor pounds against
the door.

BLOND DOCTOR

Let me in you fuck! I'll stab your
eyes out!

Jamie SCREAMS.

Ricky snaps around.

Jamie is trapped under a film of water.

Like cling wrap, it molds against her body as it moves up
from her waist to her head. It's trying to suffocate her!

Blond Doctor pushes against the door. Ricky can barely keep
it shut.

Ricky spots a chair just a few feet to his right.

He stretches one leg out to hook a foot around it. His body
weight barely keeping the door shut.

The water continues to creep up Jamie. It's at her
shoulders. Ricky's running out of time.

More phantom hands reach out from the water on the ceiling.

Ricky finally hooks the chair. Drags it towards him. Shoves
it under the door knob. Good enough for now.

Ricky runs over to Jamie. The water up to her chin.

He tries to pull Jamie off the bed but she's firmly stuck to
it. The water is now over her mouth.

Jamie tries to wriggle her head but she can't break the film
of water.

The doctor continues to pound at the door. It's going to
break open any second.

Ricky spots something.

The SACHETS OF SALT on the over bed table.

He grabs them.

The door BURSTS OPEN. Even with closed eyes, Blond Doctor is aware of his surroundings, as he --

-- launches at Ricky.

They both wrestle across the room.

The doctor gets the upper hand on Ricky and then flings him against a supply cabinet.

Ricky crashes into a heap below the supply cabinet.

The doctor hovers menacingly over Jamie.

Jamie looks up terrified, as she suffocates under the film of water.

The doctor places one hand on Jamie's belly. She struggles against his touch but it's no use.

The doctor lifts up the syringe. Poised to strike her abdomen. And then...

He SCREAMS. Smoke billows off his shoulder.

He looks up.

Ricky holds an open sachet of salt.

RICKY
Back the fuck up!

Ricky threatens to throw more salt at the doctor.

The doctor, infuriated yet wary, backs away from Jamie.

Ricky rushes to Jamie's side. She's turning blue.

He sprinkles some of the salt and the film of water instantly evaporates.

Jamie bursts up, sucking in air.

The doctor hobbles in the corner of the room. Fueled with rage but unable to act.

HALLWAY OUTSIDE JAMIE'S ROOM

Jamie and Ricky race down the hallway.

The doctor bursts from the room.

Ricky and Jamie round a corner, knocking over a couple of nurses.

The nurses flail on the ground, unsure what just happened.

A SECURITY GUARD, further down the hallway, notes the commotion.

SECURITY GUARD

Hey you two!

Ricky and Jamie duck into a stairwell.

IN THE STAIRWELL

Ricky and Jamie race down the steps.

Jamie struggles to catch her breath.

Ricky takes Jamie's hands.

RICKY

We have to move quicker baby.

Jamie nods. She takes a deep breath then picks up her pace.

They race down about five levels.

They reach the bottom of the stairwell and Ricky goes for the EXIT DOOR

But it's locked.

RICKY

Shit.

SECURITY GUARD(O.S)

Get back here!

Ricky glances up to see the security guard enter the stairwell.

JAMIE

Oh my god. What do we do!

SPLAT!

Jamie squeals as she sees the Security Guard's splattered corpse on the ground next to them.

The back of his head cracked open. Blood spilling out.

Ricky glances up.

Blond Doctor stares back down at them. The stitching on his eyes loosening and tightening rapidly to show spinning eyeballs beneath.

JAMIE(O.S)

Keys!

Jamie points to the security guard. A LARGE KEYCHAIN hangs off his waist.

Ricky rushes to the splattered corpse. Yanks the key chain but it's attached to a TROUSER BELT LOOP.

The guard makes a grunting noise. He's still alive, but barely. His eyes flick open and stare at Ricky as he tries to remove his belt.

JAMIE

Oh my god.

The guard weakly grabs Ricky's T-shirt.

SECURITY GUARD

Heeey. What are you-

Blond Doctor sprints down the stairs.

JAMIE

Quick.

Ricky looks into the guard's eyes.

RICKY

Sorry.

He YANKS the key chain loose, tearing the belt loop with it.

Ricky throws the set of keys to Jamie.

Jamie tries each key in the lock. The first three don't work.

Blond Doctor is almost at the bottom of the stairs.

Ricky grabs the security guards bloodied baton from his dead hands.

Blond Doctor launches off the bottom step at Ricky. They both tumble to the ground.

Jamie tries a fourth key...It works!

Blond Doctor strangles Ricky.

Ricky drops his baton.

Ricky manages to gasp enough air to say.

RICKY

Go!

Jamie looks at Ricky. She can't leave him there.

She grabs the baton off the floor. Blood from the baton tainting her hands.

ON JAMIE'S FACE as she repeatedly strikes the doctor's head.

Blood splatters her face.

The Blond Doctor tumbles off Ricky.

Rolls onto the ground beside him. Seizures on the ground for a beat before he goes dead still.

The water stitching his eyes begins to unravel and then evaporate. His eyelids roll back. Bloody mucus oozes out as if a pimple had been popped.

Ricky regains his breath.

Jamie drops the bloody baton.

Her hands are RED.

She's beside herself.

JAMIE

Oh my god. I-

RICKY

You didn't have a choice. We have to get out of here.

Ricky drags Jamie towards the exit door.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Ricky escorts Jamie through the car park. Behind them, the glow and sound of police sirens.

EXT. 7-11 - NIGHT

A sign flickers above a 7-11 store.

A crow lands on top of the sign.

Below, Ricky walks in.

Jamie hides behind a charity clothing bin. The sound of a police car in the background.

When it passes, she reaches into the charity bin. Pulls out some clothes and searches through them.

Finds a scruffy t-shirt and jeans.

Undresses from her hospital gown and into the new clothes.

As she finishes changing, Jamie spots a poster on the side of the charity bin.

ON THE POSTER: A young homeless mother cries as she holds on to her baby boy.

Jamie puts her head in her hands and sobs.

A couples beats later, Ricky returns to her with a bottle of water.

RICKY

Here. Drink.

Jamie swats the bottle from Ricky's hands.

RICKY

It's safe. There's nothing-

JAMIE

Get it away from me. Haven't you noticed every terrible thing that has happened today, has had something to do with water. The bottle I drank before the hospital.

Jamie starts pacing.

JAMIE

The water up the walls of my room.
The water that nearly drowned me.
The doctor, he probably drank the
same water.

RICKY

Coincidence?

JAMIE

You're telling me that after
everything you've seen tonight,
you're putting it down to
coincidence?

RICKY

I'm just saying.

Ricky tries to pass the bottle to Jamie again.

RICKY

You're pregnant. You need to drink
something. It can't be good for
you.

Jamie pushes the bottle away.

JAMIE

No. I don't want to risk anything.

Jamie cradles her belly.

Above the convenience store, the crowd eyes Ricky and Jamie
in their despair.

INT. BETTY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The WHITES of Betty's eyes.

She exits her trance. Smiles satisfactorily.

Betty stands and moves to the cage where, KABI, bloodied and
barely alive, slumps.

ON KABI'S FACE -- A BLOODY EYE SOCKET, where his right eye
use to be.

Betty leans down and grabs something from the bottom of the
cage.

She throws it up and down in her hand, then opens it up to
show Kabi.

His MISSING EYEBALL. Bloodied nerves hang off it.

BETTY

All things come together now. Your girl, getting what's coming to her.

Kabi moans. Unable to express his sorrow verbally.

The BASEMENT DOOR opens. Peter stumbles in with a prisoner, a sack on their head.

BETTY

Got another surprise for you.

Peter rips the sack off the prisoner's head.

It's Ava. Her mouth taped. She's distraught and struggles against Peter.

PETER

Got her at the hospital. The spirits helped.

BETTY

Very good.

Kabi tries to claw himself up the cage.

He reaches his hands out.

Peter lets her go. Ava runs to him and takes his hands.

She holds them to her face.

She sees his eye socket and cries.

BETTY

Pathetic. Should have listened. Kept your promise. Watched your girl.

Ava tries to say something through the tape.

Betty nods for Peter to remove the tape.

Once Peter removes it-

AVA

Why are you doing this to us? Why is Jamie so important to you? So important that you could-

BETTY
Asking questions you aint' wanna
know the answers of.

AVA
I- I just want to know.

Betty smirks.

BETTY
Maybe later eh. This ain't the time
for bedtime stories.

Betty reaches out her arm. A crow comes out of nowhere and
lands on it. It startles Ava.

Betty strokes the crow. She shows it more compassion than
any human.

AVA
You are nothing but pure evil.

Betty gestures and Peter puts the tape back on.

Ava struggles against him but it's no use.

BETTY
I got a little house for you as
well.

Betty rips off a canvas covering an IDENTICAL BIRDCAGE.

Peter shoves her inside. Ava screams but the tape on her
mouth mutes her.

TERRY(V.O)
She ain't gonna stop till you dead.

INT. TERRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Terry sits on the floor in the middle of his

LOUNGE ROOM

It's sparse and archaic. No carpet, just floorboards, a few
cushions, a large rug and a couple of potted plants.

SIRUS lays beside him as he smokes a pipe.

Ricky stands by the window blinds. Sneaks a look outside.
He's cautious and wants to be ready for anything.

Jamie is huddled on the floor below him. Kneels to her chest.
Ricky moves from the window and stands beside Jamie.

RICKY

What are we dealing with here? I mean that doctor. His eyes. God, his eyes. And then he just went ballistic. And the water. All that water. It was-

TERRY

Mologai. Bad spirits. Tricksters. Live in the water. Take many forms.

RICKY

Oh my god.

TERRY

They will keep coming for your child.

Ricky looks to Jamie as she clings to her belly with both hands.

JAMIE

No. She can't. She can't have it.

Jamie rises up. Looks to Ricky. Then to Terry.

JAMIE

I won't let her. I wasn't sure about any of this before, but now I'm certain. I want this baby more than anything in the world and I won't let that bitch take it from me.

Terry takes a drag of his bamboo pipe. He's calm but concentrated.

He blows rings. And then...

TERRY

Then you gotta go after her. Only way. Fight curse with curse. You weaken her. Then you strike.

Terry smokes the pipe again.

TERRY

I can help. But it's gonna be dangerous.

Ricky takes a hold of Jamie's hand.

RICKY
I'll do it. Whatever it is.

Jamie looks into Ricky's eyes.

A slight smile to acknowledge she's forgiven him for earlier.

RICKY
Can't be any worse than what's
already happened.

Terry lays his pipe on the floor.

TERRY
You can help. Just like me. But in
the end, only Jamie can do what
needs to be done. Only the cursed
can curse back.

RICKY
It's too dangerous for her. She's
pregnant.

TERRY
Like I said. Ain't going to be
easy.

Ricky stands. Suddenly tense. It's all starting to get to him. He breathes deeply.

RICKY
Shit. I need some air.

Terry points to a hallway.

TERRY
Backyard that way.

Ricky exits.

TERRY
(to Sirius)
Go with him.

Sirius perks up and follows Ricky outside.

Terry picks his pipe back up. He holds it up to his mouth, about to take a drag. But instead, he turns to Jamie.

TERRY
I seen something else. Something
you did. You ain't told him yet,
have you?

A tense look takes over Jamie.

TERRY
Boy deserves to know.

EXT. RICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The moon sits overhead. The house is still. No lights.

Ricky, Jamie, Terry and Sirius cross the front garden. Past Frank's Mercedes.

Jamie stops to stare up at the monolith of a mini mansion.

Ricky notices her.

RICKY
What?

JAMIE
It's just. You've never brought me
around here before.

RICKY
It's nothing special.

JAMIE
It's nice. Really nice.

Terry grunts. He gives the two a look. They've got business to conduct.

RICKY
Better go in now.

Jamie nods.

INT. RICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The four of them creep down the hallway.

Even little Sirius is extra quiet on his little chihuahua paws.

RICKY

My parents are asleep but my dad's a light sleeper. Gotta be quiet as we can.

Terry chuckles.

TERRY

I'll try. But we're summoning spirits here. Ain't exactly silent night.

RICKY

Then we'll just have to be quick.

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

A large wall mounted plasma on one side. A large plush King Size bed on the other.

Frank and Susan are asleep.

Frank twitches.

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Terry walks around the edges of a crystal blue pool. LED LIGHTS and a few palm trees dot the pool's perimeter.

Terry peers into the pool. Studying it.

RICKY(O.S)

Well?

Terry turns to Ricky who is standing by the pool gate.

TERRY

It'll do.

EXT. BACKYARD - LATER

THE POOL AS SEEN FROM DIRECTLY ABOVE. Still and quiet. Slowly, smoke begins to move eerily across it.

As more smoke covers the pool, the water begins to bubble.

A PAIR OF KURDIATCHA SHOES. They are a mixture of feathers and human blood. Terry's feet step into the shoes as the smoke surrounds them.

Terry walks around the edge of the pool, towards a metal rubbish bin filled with burning wood. The source of the smoke.

The pool water is actually boiling now. Large bubbles rise and pop in the smoke. With each pop, a dark shape moves through the smoke.

Terry kneels beside the fireplace.

TERRY

Can't let it go out no matter what.
Until I finish, this must keep
burning.

Ricky and Jamie nod. They watch as the pool continues to boil.

Terry reaches into his waist pouch and removes a 6 inch sharpened BONE.

Holds it above the fire with two hands.

Begins to CHANT.

We continue to hear this chanting as we switch between locations.

INT/EXT. RICKY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Frank and Susan are still asleep.

ENSUITE

A TAP begins to turn. Some invisible force moving it. Water slowly drips out.

DOWNSTAIRS BACK ENTRANCE

Smoke begins to creep into the house.

BACKYARD

Sinister shapes twist and contort through the smoke.

Terry's eyes flip to white.

A crow CAWS.

Jamie and Ricky peer up. A dozen crows circle above.

Ricky grabs a nearby broomstick in anticipation.

ENSUITE

WATER pools inside the bathroom sink. It circles around the drain like a shark circling its prey.

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

Frank awakens. Something has set him off. He sniffs the air.

FRANK
You smell that?

Susan stirs. Turns in her bed.

Concerned, Frank gets up and hobbles to the bedroom window.

Glances out the window and notices all the smoke outside.

He spots Terry and the fireplace.

FRANK
Jesus Christ!

STAIRS

Frank descends the stairs through the thick smoke. He coughs and swipes his way through, until he reaches the bottom of the stairs. He moves through the

HALLWAY

into the

KITCHEN

Shapes in the smoke fly around. He reacts by dodging them, but they wrap around him. Enveloping him. He's frightened.

FRANK
What the-

Suddenly, one wraps around his neck. Starts to strangle him. Frank tries to pry himself free. It's no use.

He stumbles towards the kitchen door. The grip of the smoke shape tightening around his neck until...suddenly it lets him go.

It morphs into a foot shape and kicks him through the
KITCHEN DOOR into the

BACKYARD

Where he crashes onto the pavement. Glass from the kitchen door shattered around him.

Hunched over, he sucks in air to regain his breath. He wipes glass from himself. He is injured but ok.

BY THE POOL

More crows are circling above. Ricky stands in front of Jamie. His broomstick out.

RICKY

They must know what we're doing.

Sirus barks at the birds.

UPSTAIRS BEDROOM

The water slithers across the floor and climbs up the bed.

SUSAN'S EYES SNAP OPEN. She's paralyzed, like the doctor. Her face and body twitches as she tries to break the paralysis. But it's useless. She's being possessed.

Liquid seeps out of her tear ducts, forming into a string.

Liquid string begins to stitch her eyelids.

BACKYARD

FRANK, having regained his breath, a stumbles through the pool gate.

Ricky moves to cut Frank off. Frank is partly scared. Partly angry.

FRANK

What the hell is going on?

He looks up and sees the crows swarming.

FRANK

Blood hell Ricky. What have you done?

Frank points at Terry and the fireplace.

FRANK

What's he doing? He's causing this. Tell him to stop it now!

Jamie moves to protect the fireplace.

RICKY

No. We can't stop it. It has to be done.

Frank grabs a nearby bucket.

FRANK

I don't know what the hell has gotten into you lately, but this better stop real soon.

Frank leans beside the pool. The bubbles almost spitting in his face.

RICKY

I wouldn't do that.

Frank goes to scoop a bucket full of pool water.

He pulls the bucket out, only to find it melted. Only the handle remaining.

Frank's furious.

FRANK

Jesus Ricky!

Frank goes to move past Ricky, but Ricky stays firmly planted.

RICKY

No. You can't stop it.

FRANK

The hell I can't.

Frank tries to move past again. Ricky pushes him to the ground.

Frank slowly gets up. He grabs Ricky by the collar. Winds up to hit him.

RICKY

Go on. Do it.

Frank's eyes burn with rage.

STAIRS

Susan reaches the bottom of the stairs. Her gaunt and stitched face is horrific. Blood drips from her eyes--
-- onto the floor.

A sinister shape appears in the smoke. A LARGE MANDIBLE.

Susan GROWLS at the MANDIBLE, causing it to retreat.

As she continues towards the KITCHEN, the smoke hisses while seemingly keeping its distance from her.

Susan grabs a large knife from a wood block.

BACKYARD

Smoke shapes circle the bone.

Terry's head shakes violently. Seizure like.

Jamie, concerned.

She moves to Terry, unsure how to assist.

Frank still has Ricky by the neck. A stand off.

RICKY

Either take me out or put me down.

FRANK

Don't tempt me son. Don't tempt me.

Ricky grabs Frank's collar. Pulls him closer.

RICKY

Go on. Do it. It's what you want
isn't it?

FRANK

Believe me, I've thought about it.

RICKY

Well then...Do it. Or are you just
gutless!

Frank clenches his fists.

But he doesn't hit. He lets go.

Steps away from Ricky.

FRANK

I don't know where I failed you
son. I just don't-

Frank HOWLS in pain...

Blood spills out of his mouth. He looks down.

The BLADE of a large knife protrudes from his stomach.

Susan, the perpetrator, yanks the knife out.

Frank falls to the ground. Gaspng for oxygen.

Ricky scrambles to him.

RICKY

No!

Frank stares his son in the eye. A glimpse of regret and
then he is dead.

Ricky's focus shifts to his mum. He covers his mouth in
disbelief when he sees her horrific stitched eyes.

Susan's head tilts, quizzically at Ricky.

SUSAN

Are you okay, Ricky?

Ricky covers his mouth in horror.

Susan's head then turns towards Jamie's direction. Even
though her eyelids are closed, she senses Jamie's presence.

RICKY

Shit.

Jamie glances up from the head-shaking Terry.

Susan starts to move for Jamie, but she stops.

Sirus has attached to her ankle. Jaw locked on hard. He's
surprisingly strong for a little chihuahua.

Susan tries to kick Sirus away, but he's not going anywhere.

Ricky runs to Jamie's side. The CAWS of a thousand crows.

They both peer up to find a large murder circling the ink
black sky.

JAMIE
She sent them.

Suddenly, WOOSH.

Jamie dodges as a crow bombs her, Kamikaze style.

It lands in the fireplace. Sparks fly.

The fire dies a little.

RICKY
They're trying to put it out.

WOOSH. WOOSH. WOOSH. Three more crows.

Some of the fire sparks onto Terry.

Burns a scar on his face. But he remains firmly in trance.

More smoke shapes enter the bone.

JAMIE
We have to do something.

Ricky spots a large umbrella shade. Runs for it.

WOOSH WOOSH. More birds hit. Jamie jumps out of the way.

Ricky returns with umbrella. Jamie helps him open it.

They place it above Terry.

Crows bounce off the umbrella.

The fire remains - barely.

Susan slashes at Sirius with her knife. Gets him in the stomach.

Sirius rolls away. Weeping. Badly hurt.

The last smoke shape enters the bone.

Terry snaps awake.

Susan storms towards him with the knife out.

Terry stands tall. Puts his hands out.

Susan strikes out with the knife. It pierces through Terry's palm, but he grabs a hold of Susan's hand in the process.

He holds tight as Susan struggles to pull the knife away.

TERRY

Leave this body dark one. Leave it
now!

Susan still struggles. The stitching on her eyelids fight to
keep it shut. We glance eyeballs spinning beneath.

TERRY

I banish you from this body now!

Susan growls. The stitching still giving way.

TERRY

I BANISH YOU FROM THIS BODY NOW!

Susan drops to the ground. Unconscious.

Terry yanks his bloodied hand away.

The stitching unravels and evaporates from Susan's EYES.
Bloody mucus spills out.

Ricky drops down beside Susan. Shakes her.

RICKY

Mum! Oh god. Please no.

Terry scoops up Sirius. The little chihuahua is bleeding. He
puts his hand over the wound on Sirius' stomach.

TERRY

My little boy.

Jamie stares, distantly, at Frank's dead body. She's so
emotionally drained that it's as if nothing could shock her
anymore.

WOOSH. WOOSH. Crows start to rain down from the sky again.

TERRY

We gotta go now!

And with that, the mourning is over.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Frank's Mercedes guns it down streets.

INT. MERCEDES - NIGHT

Ricky is behind the wheel.

Jamie rides shotgun. She studies Ricky's face. Can see that a million thoughts are flying around his head.

JAMIE

I'm sorry babe. I'm sorry about
your parents.

Ricky doesn't respond. Continues to gun the car.

Terry sits in the back. Sirius wrapped in a towel in his lap.

TERRY

We go to her now.

JAMIE(O.S)

How do we know where to find her?

TERRY

I seen where she's going.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, OUTSKIRTS - NIGHT

The Mercedes speeds past the broken gates which Kabi crashed through earlier.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS - NIGHT

An EJ Holden idles nosily. Its headlights beam light across the vast darkness of the forest.

In the boot - Two black body bags. Both full.

A dark figure emerges from the surrounding bush.

It's Peter. He walks to the car, doing up his zipper.

INT. EJ HOLDEN - NIGHT

Peter hops into the driver's seat. Betty sits across. A frustrated look on her face.

BETTY

Told you to go before.

PETER
I'm sorry Grandmother. Couldn't
hold it in.

BETTY
Weak. Don't do it again. Don't have
time for this.

Peter nods then drives off.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, LAKE - NIGHT

A lake illuminated by the moon's glow.

The silhouettes of dead trees can be made out in the middle
of the lake. It's surreal and eerie at the same time.

The SOUND of the EJ HOLDEN disturbs the silence. It drives
close to the edge of the lake and parks.

Peter hops out and moves to the back of the ute.

He opens up tray door. CLANK.

Peter stares at the two body bags. Lifeless.

He begins to drag the bigger one out of the tray but it's
heavy. He pulls harder, until finally --

-- the body bag drops with a THUD onto the dirt ground.

COUGHING resonates from the bag on the ground. Something
inside moves.

Peter notices the other bag begin to slowly move as well.

PETER
Grandma. Think they're waking.

CUT TO:

Peter finishes tying AVA to a tree with thick rope. She's
got a drugged look about her.

KABI is tied to an ADJACENT TREE. Same drugged look as Ava.

ON THE SHORES of the lake, Betty kneels, a dagger held in
one hand. The blade placed in the palm of the other.

She squeezes her grip on the blade tight until blood seeps
out between her gripped finger.

BLOOD mixes in with lake water as we hear her CHANT.

Wind begins to howl. It whips up the lake's surface. Creates waves throughout.

Betty continues to chant as the rough waters crash onto shore.

Betty stops her chant and the waves cease. Eerie calmness.

Kabi and Ava exchange terrified looks.

Peter also has a worried expression.

THEN -- something BIG begins to form beneath the lake's surface.

A large mountain of water rises.

It moves from the middle of the lake towards shore.

Ava struggles against the ropes. They don't budge.

Kabi searches the ground around him. Frantic.

He sees a SHARP ROCK.

Kabi stretches a foot out. Desperate to bring the rock closer.

The mountain of water passes through the dead silhouetted trees. Crows sitting on branches are startled and fly off.

The WHITES of Betty's eyes reflect the moving mountain, illuminated by the moon.

Ava weeps. She senses the impending doom.

Kabi finally gets a foot on the rock. Manages to kick it closer to him.

As he tries to slide it up his leg, ANOTHER FOOT kicks the rock away.

It's Peter. Caught on to what Kabi was attempting.

Peter shakes his head.

PETER

Can't stop it. What you done to
Grandma. What you done to me. You
must all pay.

AVA
Let us go. Please.

KABI
I'm sorry about Jamie. I know you were keen on her but...None of this will change that. You'll just become an accessory to murder. It's not worth it.

PETER
It is worth it. Don't you understand? Me and Grandma are the same. Made from the same flesh and blood.

Peter's eyes flip to white. He speaks in **BETTY'S VOICE**.

PETER
(Betty's voice)
We are one. You hurt her. You hurt me.

Kabi's face is in SHOCK.

WE INTERCUT between Betty and Peter talking. Betty is controlling Peter's mouth movements telepathically. They are one in the same person.

BETTY looks on as the mountain of water approaches her.

BETTY
Years ago, I made a decision.

FLASH: A thirty year old Betty sits beside her father's death bed. He resembles a skeleton. Whatever disease he has, it's completely starved him. Around him relatives weep. But not Betty. She is silent. Unmoved.

PETER moves to AVA. Brushes his hands against her cheek.

PETER
(Betty's Voice)
Wasn't gonna leave this world like my father left.

FLASH: Betty travels the outback. Just her and a walking cane.

BETTY(V.O)
Went searching for answers. Walked for years. Looking for ways to preserve this body. Become immortal.

FLASH: Betty, now forty, her looks weathered, comes upon a WITCH DOCTOR by a creek bed. The witch doctor gives Betty a leather pouch. Then WHISPERS something in her ear.

The MOUNTAIN OF WATER is only feet away from Betty now.

BETTY

Started the steps. Did what had to be done.

FLASH: Betty fills a large glass jar with the contents of the witch doctor's pouch. It is a mixture of animal parts, herbs and human hair.

FLASH: On a kitchen bench, Betty lays her hand down on a chopping board. Her ring finger extended.

FLASH: Betty brings down a butchers knife, severing her finger. She grasps her bloodied hand before she collapses in shock.

Betty holds up her hand. Where the missing finger is, the mountain of water has become idle. Something BLACK rises from it.

FLASH: Betty drops her finger into the jar. Screws the cap onto the jar.

ON THE SHORE, a BLACK HUMANOID FIGURE emerges from the mountain of water. No eyes or ears. Two slit nostrils to breathe. A mouth crammed with sharp needle teeth. Hands feature a sharp set of CLAWS.

The humanoid CRAWLS UP SHORE. All fours. It's slow and deliberate as it moves past Betty.

BETTY

Was only four weeks before it all started happening.

FLASH: Betty stares in amazement as a small fetus floats, fully formed, in the jar.

BETTY(V.O)

Wasn't long after that you both came to me for help. Knew then it was all gonna work out.

FLASH: Betty squeezes blood from her nipple. Then attaches Jamie back onto it.

BETTY(V.O)

The child of Jamie and Peter was
gonna carry me in its blood. Passed
on generation to generation for
eternity.

FLASH: Betty wet nurses both Jamie and Peter.

Peter, eyes still white, GRINS at AVA. AVA is petrified.

PETER

But you just couldn't watch your
girl. Couldn't keep your promise.

The humanoid is inches away from Ava.

It CLAWS at the ground.

DIRT stuck to its nails.

Ava tenses.

Kabi struggles against the rope. Can't do anything.

KABI

Leave her! Please! Take me!

The humanoid is at Ava's feet.

It claws her at her legs, drawing blood.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, CLEARING - NIGHT

The Mercedes pulls up to a gravel path.

INT. MERCEDES - NIGHT

Terry leans into the front. Points out the windscreen at the
gravel path ahead. It stretches through the trees.

TERRY

This is it. We find her through
there.

JAMIE

What do I do when we get there?

Terry pulls the sharpened bone from his pouch.

Takes Jamie's hands and places the bone in them.

TERRY

You take this and you touch it to her head. Like this.

Terry shows her by moving the bone to his forehead.

JAMIE

That's it? Sounds pretty straight forward.

TERRY

I ain't finished. After you do that, you gotta wait for the right moment to strike again. When the curse weakens her. When the **smoke spirits** break her and send her mad, you gotta strike.

Terry takes the bone and points it to his chest.

TERRY

You gotta kill her.

Jamie gasps. Falls back in her seat, trying to grasp the nature of what they are about to do.

JAMIE

I have to- I don't know if I can do it.

Ricky sits up in his seat, finally snapping out of his reverie.

RICKY

You can baby. You have to. After all she's done. She has to go.

JAMIE

I don't know. It's- The doctor was in self defense. This is- I'm voluntarily murdering someone.

TERRY

She'll kill you and your baby if you don't kill her first. Only way. She brought those spirits here. She is their portal into this world. Without her here, they got no power. No way in.

Ricky puts his hands on Jamie's stomach. Jamie places her hand on his hands. She gives a solemn nod. It has to be done.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, CLEARING - NIGHT

Terry begins to walk towards the path.

Just as Ricky is about to follow, Jamie grabs him by the elbow.

JAMIE

Wait. I have to tell you something.

RICKY

What is it?

Jamie tries to bring up the courage to say it. She's been dreading this moment but she knows she has to tell him.

JAMIE

Be- Before this all happened.

Jamie starts to breath heavily. She's lost for words. She can't break the news.

RICKY

Breathe. Just...

Jamie keels over. Her breath rising. Ricky strokes her back tenderly.

RICKY

Maybe this can wait. Whatever it is, can wait.

Ricky puts his hand to Jamie's cheek. A loving gesture.

RICKY

I made the mistake of not believing in you earlier. Of not believing in us. I want to tell you I am in a hundred percent. I swear with my heart that I will never ever let you down again. We will get through this. We are going to have a family.

Jamie gathers her breath. She stands up and puts her arms around Ricky.

JAMIE

I love you.

CLOSE ON Jamie's face. She looks worried. She couldn't say what needed to be said.

A woman's SCREAMS.

Ricky and Jamie look up.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, LAKE - NIGHT

The black humanoid drags AVA by her hair, along the ground. She kicks and screams.

Swats and claws at its hands. But it is no use.

Before long she vanishes underwater.

Another black humanoid is knelt in front of KABI. We see the back of its head.

The humanoid claws down Kabi's body revealing --

-- A BLOODY CAVITY, where his stomach use to be. The rope which was holding him to the tree -- gnawed.

Kabi fades. He is dead.

Betty lets out a maniacal laugh. Peter as well. They both speak simultaneously.

BETTY/PETER
Shoulda listened. Kept your
promise. Now the spirits of the
forest will take care of you.

The humanoid begins to pull Kabi's corpse from the tree. The gnawed rope loosens.

AND THEN --

A WHITE BEAM OF LIGHT blinds everything.

The humanoid below him scampers away. Heads back into the water.

Betty and Peter cover faces with hands. Drop down.

EDGE OF FOREST

-- a LIGHT SOURCE. Three dark figures silhouetted around it.

Ricky, Jamie and Terry.

TERRY holds his pipe in his mouth. The end of the pipe BEAMS the blinding light.

Terry stops blowing the pipe. The light goes out.

TERRY

Go now!

Ricky and Jamie nod and race towards the lake.

Terry grabs some white powder from his pouch and empties it into the pipe.

Jamie grasps the bone in her hand firmly as she runs. Ricky beside her.

RICKY

I'll take care of Peter.

THE LAKE SHORE

Betty and Peter gather themselves from the momentary blinding. They stand upright when -- WHITE LIGHT floods the lake again.

They cover their faces.

Ricky and Jamie reach the shore and the light goes out.

They Spot the EJ HOLDEN.

Jamie makes out dead KABI by the tree. The large gaping hole in his stomach.

Jamie is distraught. Ricky notices.

RICKY

Can't do anything. Need to focus.

Jamie fights against her need to cry. Anger coming over her now.

LIGHT BLINDS AGAIN.

She looks around. Eyes scouting through the white.

BY THE LAKE, Betty on the ground.

Jamie races towards her.

Bone held like a dagger. Other hand acting like a visor.

She launches at Betty -- THUD -- She's sent flying to the ground.

Face in the mud. She looks up.

Sees Peter's grinning face as he stands over her.

The white light goes out.

AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

Terry reaches into his pouch --

No more powder.

A CRACK OF THUNDER overhead. Rain begins to pour down.

Terry sprints towards the lake.

BY THE LAKE SHORE

Peter kicks Jamie in the stomach. She recoils in pain.

He goes to kick again, but RICKY grasps Peter's shirt and pulls him away in time. The kick barely misses.

Ricky throws a RIGHT HOOK and connects.

Peter crashes to the ground.

Ricky jumps on top and they wrestle. Punches being landed by both parties.

Jamie rises. So does Betty. They stare down at each other.

BETTY

Been waiting for you girl. Gonna
make you pay.

JAMIE

Try me bitch!

Jamie runs at Betty again.

Betty smiles. Puts one hand out.

Jamie freezes. Can't move. Can't breathe.

The bone slips out of her hand as she suffocates.

It lands on the mud, which is like quicksand now.

Bone sinks in.

Peter and Ricky continue to wrestle.

They throw each other into the EJ holden, making work of the metal chassis.

Betty kneels beside Jamie.

BETTY

Ain't gonna be so easy.

Jamie starts to turn blue. No oxygen.

Before Betty can celebrate, she's thrown into the lake.

Terry has both his hands out. This is the first time we've seen his offensive magic.

He kneels beside Jamie and helps her up.

TERRY

You alrigh-

Before he can finish, Terry is jolted back.

Lands ten feet away.

Betty stands at the edge of the lake, arms out. She's seething with anger.

Her eyes are white.

Her breath heavy.

Terry looks down at his body. He's bleeding. A patch of blood around his chest.

He throws out his hands at her. Nothing happens.

He tries again. Nothing.

Betty throws her arms up.

Terry launches into the air then suddenly freezes, held in suspended animation.

He looks down, it's a large drop.

Jamie forages in the mud, seeking the bone desperately. Can't find anything.

She glances up at Terry, horrified at what she sees.

Terry screams in agony as his arms twist and contort involuntarily.

Bones CRACK and POP as they are bent into horrible angles and positions.

Below him, Betty swings her arms, gesticulating wildly.

Jamie attempts even more desperately now. Digging handfuls of wet mud.

Betty makes one last sweeping motion with her right arm.

Terry's right arm is torn off. Blood oozes out. His bone and stringy ligaments protrude.

TERRY
AGHRRR!!

He drops to the ground. THUMP.

Peter makes easy work of Ricky, who has no energy left.

Peter strikes one last time. Ricky falls to the ground. Barely hangs on to consciousness.

Jamie wipes her hair from her face. The rain is making it impossible to see anything. She digs back into the mud.

JAMIE
Come on! Come on. You've got to be-

A hand grabs her neck.

Jamie spins around. Finds Peter as he puts her into a choke hold. Pulls her up.

She tries to kick out but it's no use. He's too strong.

Betty stands beside Jamie's fallen comrades. Terry nurses his amputated arm. Ricky, is coughing up blood and clutching his ribs.

BETTY
Bring her to me.

Peter throws Jamie down at Betty's feet.

Betty kneels down in front of Jamie.

BETTY
Was always going to get you.

Jamie spits at Betty.

Ricky looks up through his bloodied face at Betty.

RICKY
Take me. Please. Leave her. I'm the one who should die.

Betty grins.

BETTY
Funny. Your loyalty.

Betty laughs.

BETTY
She ain't told you yet. Has she?

Ricky looks to Jamie. What the hell is she talking about?

Jamie can't make eye contact. Looks away.

BETTY
Lies girl. All lies.

RICKY
What's she talking about?

Jamie turns back to Ricky.

JAMIE
I- I was trying to tell you.

BETTY
Think your baby was an accident?
No. Did it all on purpose. Girl
been using you.

JAMIE
It's not true. I-

BETTY
I seen it myself. I seen what she
did. Been planning that baby for a
long time now.

Ricky is shocked.

RICKY
You- You got pregnant on purpose?

JAMIE
I didn't know what to do. I didn't
want to marry Peter. We'd been
going out for a year. I thought...I
had feelings for- I have feelings
for you.

RICKY
You used me? You made me think it
was an accident.

JAMIE
I love you.

RICKY
You lied to me.

Jamie looks away. Ashamed.

JAMIE
I'm sorry.

Ricky is upset and angry.

Betty looks Ricky in the eye.

BETTY
Tell you what. Leave her with me.

Betty looks at Terry with disgust. The man who had so much power, reduced to a cripple in an instant.

BETTY
Take old grandpa here with you. He ain't no harm to me now.

Betty points her finger into the shoulder socket of Terry's amputated side. He flinches.

BETTY
Go now and I let you both live.

Jamie's crying. Can't believe how badly this has ended.

Terry looks to Ricky.

TERRY
You can't leave her. There's a part of you inside her. Living. No matter what she done. That's still your child in her.

Ricky considers this. Can't shake the betrayal off his face.

He looks at the ground. Stares hard.

Looks at Jamie. Her tears.

Glances at Terry, his amputated arm.

Back to Betty. Waits a beat before...

RICKY

Fine. Let me go. You have her. I
don't need this.

Terry can't believe what he's hearing. Jamie is gobsmacked.

Peter grins.

Ricky slowly rises up from the ground.

Stumbles over to Terry and begins to help him off the
ground.

TERRY

Can't do this Ricky. It's wrong.

RICKY

She lied to me. Caused all this.
She's getting what she deserves.

Betty moves forward.

Ricky flinches.

Betty doesn't notice.

But Peter does.

PETER

Wait.

BETTY

What?

Peter moves toward Betty. Kneels down beside her feet,
when--

Ricky tackles him. Holds him down.

RICKY

The bone Jamie. Finish it!

AND EVERYTHING SLOWS DOWN

--Terry spots the bone by Betty's feet.

--Jamie sees it too.

--Betty's face. Can't believe she was fooled.

--Terry tackles Betty. Knocks her down.

--Jamie finally breaks free. She snatches up the bone.

BACK TO SCENE

Terry holds Betty down as she fights to get up.

TERRY

Ain't got much time. Straight for
the h-

Betty thrusts her palms forward. Sends Terry flying ten feet backwards.

Jamie dives on Betty. Bone held with both hands. She thrusts the bone down --

--But Betty catches both of Jamie's wrists. Grips tight.

Mutters something guttural as she stares deep into Jamie's eyes.

The skin on Jamie's hands and arms begins to bubble. Jamie screams as smoke rises off her limbs. She's being burnt from inside her.

Jamie can't hold onto the bone anymore and it rolls out of her palm.

Betty mounts herself on top of Jamie.

BETTY

Girl, gonna take this baby myself.

ON BETTY'S CRAZED FACE as she thrusts her hands out of FRAME. Somewhere in the vicinity of Jamie's nether regions.

Jamie's legs kick out as Betty violates her.

Betty laughs maniacally. Enjoying the moment. Savoring revenge.

Jamie yells in anguish as her skin continues to boil.

JAMIE

No! No please!

Jamie cries. She's powerless. Her world collapsing around her.

Everything GOES SILENT as she --

-- watches the smoke burn from her arm.

-- sees Peter pulverizing Ricky. Terry trying to help, but just being knocked back.

-- back to Betty as her hands continue to work their way OFF SCREEN.

-- She turns again and finds Kabi's dead body by the tree, his vacant eyes staring at her in the distance.

FLASH: KABI IN THE CAR SPILLING OUT HIS EMOTIONS TO JAMIE

KABI
She was our only hope.

FLASH: RICKY LIGHTING UP THE TECHNICIAN'S BUSINESS CARD. THEN HUGGING JAMIE.

RICKY
*Don't even say it. Not even a joke.
I love you. I love this.*

FLASH: KABI IN HIS CAR, SEEING THE FEAR IN JAMIE.

KABI
*You ain't hers to claim. But she
thinks you are.*

And this does it. Seems to spark Jamie.

ON BETTY'S FACE - ECSTATIC. LIKE SHE'S ORGAZMING.

ON JAMIE'S FACE - ANGRY. PISSED. DETERMINED.

JAMIE
I am not yours to claim!

Jamie reaches her fingers out for the bone. Smoke still rising from her arms. It hurts to move but she doesn't give a fuck.

She's just an inch out, edging closer --

-- and closer --

-- almost there --

-- and grips it. --

Betty, eyes closed, hands still working offscreen.

Jamie's HAND. BONE GRIPPED TIGHT --

-- LIFTED UP INTO THE AIR.

JAMIE
And either is my kid!

BONE THRUSTS DOWN INTO BETTY'S RIGHT EYE. SPLAT.

Betty screams. Yanks her hands from whatever she was doing.
Cradles her eye.

Jamie withdraws the bone.

SPLAT. Takes out the left eye.

FLIPS BETTY OFF her. Then jumps on top and straddles her.

Jamie RAMS the bone into Betty's throat. Blood oozes out.

Jamie twists the bone at every angle imaginable. Digging a
giant cavity. Wet noises.

Vocal cords visible. Stringy bits of tissue. Esophagus.

Jamie starts to cry as she does this. A catharsis of
emotions. Killing one of the biggest burdens of her life.

She yanks out the bone. Thrusts it multiple times into
Betty's face.

-- CHEEKS --

-- NOSE --

-- EARS --

Betty lets out a yelp, but no sound comes out, just blood
pouring out from the hole in her neck, and ever other
orifice Jamie has created.

Jamie wipes tears from her face as she sobs.

She lifts the bone once again.

Betty, absolutely weak now, puts her hand out to defend.

But it's no use, as Jamie --

-- DRIVES THE BONE DOWN. Straight into Betty's heart.

BETTY YELPS. SPITS OUT BLOOD.

Jamie tumbles off her as Betty writhes on the ground.
Seizure like.

Body contorting into sickening positions before finally --
 -- She is dead.

Jamie can't control her emotions, she's been holding this in for so long. But has to regain her composure because...

LAKE SHORE

A dozen or so HUMANOIDS ascend from the water. Water dripping off their dark coarse skin like black blood.

Jamie spots them. Can't believe this.

JAMIE

Oh my god.

Ricky, getting up off the ground. Nursing his swollen face. Terry also regaining his footing.

Both now seeing this dark army rising from the lake.

RICKY

What the hell are those things?

TERRY

Mologai. Same spirits that came for her at the hospital.

JAMIE

But they don't look anything like them.

TERRY

They got many different forms.

The humanoids make their way on land. They are ferocious. Edging closer to the group.

Terry notices Peter on the ground. Clutching his chest. Blood pours out from multiple holes in his face and neck. The same wounds as Betty.

TERRY

Gotta kill him to. They're linked.

Jamie pulls out the bone from Betty's corpse.

Humanoids edging closer.

RICKY(O.S)

No. Let me.

Jamie throws it to Ricky.

Ricky kneels beside Peter, who continues to spit up blood.

Glances to the humanoids. Only twenty feet away and making up distance quickly.

Ricky notices Peter's right arm. It's falling off. Soft tissue detaching as if he was stitched together like a doll.

Notices his other limbs. Also detaching.

TERRY(O.S)

Do it!

Ricky lifts the bone up above his head.

-- SHARP TEETH GRINDING TOGETHER --

Ricky closes his eyes

-- CLAWED FEET STOMPING INTO THE GROUND --

-- WHITE MIST EXHALED THROUGH SLIT NOSTRILS --

Ricky THRUSTS the bone down through Peter's heart.

Twists it for extra effect.

Peter's eyes go wide.

MINIATURE SWIRLS of smoke fill the whites of Peter's eyes. They circle the pupils for a beat, then descend into the black abyss.

Peter's eyelids shut.

The group watch in anticipation as the humanoids continue towards them. Only 8 feet away -- 7 feet away

-- 6 -- 5 -- 4 -- 3 -- 2 --1

The humanoids HALT... Then, in a flash --

-- WOOOOOSSH as they all vaporize into a cloud of black dust. The cloud rise up into the air, before being sucked back into the lake.

Terry wipes his brow in relief.

Ricky limps over to Jamie. He's physically messed up but he'll recover.

Ricky puts his hand on Jamie's belly.

RICKY
Are you ok? Did she?

JAMIE
She tried. But I think it's ok. I
mean. I feel fine now.

Jamie hugs Ricky. Needing his comfort right now.

JAMIE
I love you. I'm so sorry.

Ricky kisses her forehead.

RICKY
I know.

They embrace. Two lovers that have gone to hell and back and
are still together. In unison.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, LAKE SHORE - MOMENTS LATER

Terry is knelt down, over Kabi. A shirt is wrapped around
his amputated shoulder socket.

He closes Kabi's eyelids.

He starts to chant in Wulguru. A prayer of some kind.

Behind him, Jamie sobs, mourning the loss of both parents.
Ricky consoles her.

RICKY
It's ok baby. It's ok.

He puts his hand on her belly. Stroking it. And then, she
slides her hands over his. She turns to him. They look at
each other for a beat. They know they're fortunate enough
that their child is still alive.

Ricky takes her chin in his hand.

RICKY
It's going to be okay.

Terry stops chanting. He glances out at the still waters of
the lake, a stark contrast to only moments ago. The sun
beginning to rise in the distance. No crows to be seen.

Ricky and Jamie walk towards him.

RICKY(O.S)

I thought she took your power?

Terry turns and grins.

TERRY

I thought you didn't believe in magic?

RICKY

People's beliefs can change.

Terry gets up. Wipes the mud from his knees.

TERRY

She might have taken my power. But she didn't take my will. Didn't take my hope either.

RICKY

So he'll be ok? Wherever he is? And her mum?

Terry nods.

A look of peace washes over Jamie.

EXT. FOREST OF CROWS, CLEARING - DAY

Rays of light shine through trees.

The Mercedes is still parked. It's wet from the earlier rain.

Large puddles dot the area around it.

CLOSE IN on one particular puddle. Right by the passenger door. It is still at first, but then something unseen sends bubbles to it's surface.

A crow lands on a nearby tree. CAWS.

BACK TO THE PUDDLE. The sound of FOOTSTEPS, as Ricky, Jamie and Terry approach the car. JAMIE'S FEET step beside the puddle. Reflection of the car door as it swings open.

JAMIE(O.S)

I just want to go home and sleep. Maybe when I wake up it'll all just be a nightmare.

More bubbles rise to the puddle surface. Jamie's right foot steps over and into the car. Just as she brings her left foot over --

-- A BLACK WITHERED HAND reaches out and grabs her. Pulls into the puddle.

Jamie SCREAMS as she is dragged down. Splashing water as she tries to kick the hand away.

A second hand, which is missing a RING finger, grabs her other leg.

Ricky and Terry run to Jamie.

They grab hold of her arms and fight against the withered hands, which are surprisingly strong.

Jamie panics as she sinks deeper into the puddle. Water up to her chest.

Ricky and Terry give one last hard yank. Manage to drag Jamie away to safety.

Hands retreat into the puddle.

Ricky sits up.

RICKY

Shit. What the fuck was that?

TERRY

Coming back for her.

JAMIE

(desperate cries)

Why can't she just fuck off? Leave me alone.

Jamie can't believe it. Thought it was over.

RICKY

Oh my god.

ON RICKY'S FACE -- FEAR. PANIC. DREAD.

PULL OUT TO REVEAL

DOZEN'S of BLACK HANDS, rising out of the puddles surrounding the car.

Humanoids pulling themselves out of the earth.

And at the front of them all, stands --

-- BETTY, pale white, black lips, and face littered with the holes that Jamie just put in her moments ago.

BETTY

Didn't think it was gonna be that
easy girl. Did ya?

ABOVE THEM ALL, a CROW watches the showdown.

It CAWS, then takes off into the sky as we --

-- SMASH TO BLACK.