

THE HALL

Written by

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Adapted from

The Hall

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. - DAY

A black Sedan Limo is parked at the curb. RICHARD, the driver, is a tall, thin, black man holding a sign with the name: MARCUS BISHOP. It's a cold and miserable winter day.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. - DAY

MARCUS BISHOP, dragging a suitcases behind. He stops a few feet from Richard. Marcus stands about 6', has dark brown hair, and is dressed in a suit and heavy long wool coat.

MARCUS
Don't you think that's a little
absurd, Richard?

RICHARD
Been a long time, boss.

MARCUS
Only two years. I haven't changed
that much...I'm happy to be home.
No more globetrotting for me.

RICHARD
I'm just glad you're home; I'm
tired of runnin' the show.

MARCUS
Oh, come on, don't tell me you
didn't like begin' the acting
CEO of a multi-million dollar
publishing company?

Richard opens the door for Marcus, then loads the baggage into the trunk.

RICHARD
No, it wasn't fun. You can keep it!
I think I like my job just fine,
thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

Marcus sits in the backseat, Richard driving.

MARCUS
So how is the ol' town?

RICHARD
More depressing than you left it.

MARCUS
Damn...Come on, let's head home.

CUT TO:

EXT. FREEWAY. - DAY

Limo driving. Freezing rain coming down, wind blowing.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

RICHARD glances at the GPS.

RICHARD
I think we're gonna take a detour;
GPS says there's an accident on the
I-55/I-240 interchange.

MARCUS
That's fine. I'm in no hurry to get
home.

RICHARD
I figure you'd be, since you've
been gone all this time. I'm sure
you missed home.

MARCUS
Yeah, I missed home, but business
calls.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIMO. - DAY

Runs into another traffic jam on LAMAR AVE.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

RICHARD
I'm sorry, boss, there seems to be
an accident on this road as well.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIMO. - DAY

Stuck in traffic. To the RIGHT is ASHLAR HALL.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

Marcus looking out the window. He's drawn to the creepy building.

MARCUS
Richard?

RICHARD
Yes, boss?

MARCUS
Can you do me a favor? Can you pull over into one of the apartment building parking lots?

RICHARD
What for?

MARCUS
Well, traffic's at a standstill,
and I wanted check out that old building.

RICHARD
Ashlar Hall? Are you crazy?!

MARCUS
What? It's just a dilapidated mansion.

RICHARD
Some say the place is haunted.

MARCUS
Nonsense! You say that 'cause they used to hold a haunted house there.

RICHARD
No, I've heard a few local folk say they've seen and heard things.

MARCUS
Oh? Like what?

Richard pulls the car into a parking lot.

RICHARD
Like the gargoyles screaming.

MARCUS
Come on, that's silly.

Marcus gets out.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Are you coming?

RICHARD
Oh no, not on your life!

Marcus laughs and closes the door.

MARCUS
Fine, I'll go by myself.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Various shots of Marcus walking around the building. He stops on the WEST PORCH and looks in the window.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Beautiful.

A loud shrieking reaches his ears. He steps off porch and looks up.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Water dribbles from the mouth of a gargoyle. Wind and rain lash the Hall. More shrieking comes from a different part of the house. Marcus quickly retreats to the Limo.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

Marcus climbs in and shuts the door.

MARCUS
Wow!

RICHARD
Is that place scary, or what?

MARCUS
Beautiful, in a decidedly haunting fashion.

RICHARD
Okay, boss, have you had enough spookin' for the day?

MARCUS
Yes, I think so.

Marcus takes off his jacket. Looks out window at Ashlar Hall as it disappears behind the apartment buildings.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM. - MORNING

Marcus sits up in bed.

CLOSE UP:

Marcus's bloodshot eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN. - DAY

There is knocking on the door. Marcus goes to it and opens.

MARCUS
Morning.

RICHARD
You okay, boss?

Marcus rubs his face. He forgot to shave.

MARCUS
Mmm, didn't sleep well last night.

RICHARD
That ol' place give you a scare?
You come out awful quick.

MARCUS
No, I came out quick 'cause it started raining harder.

RICHARD
Not the way I saw it.

MARCUS
Shut up...

He goes into the kitchen.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
You want some breakfast?

RICHARD
Naw, I'm fine.

Marcus has cereal and milk for breakfast.

MARCUS
I wanna take a walk on South Main
today...What's been going on down
there?

RICHARD
Not much, just a lotta boarded-up
warehouses in between a few
businesses that managed to make it
through the recession.

MARCUS
Such a shame. This city has so much
to offer.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEMPHIS SOUTH MAIN STREET. - DAY

Marcus and Richard stand on a street corner.

MARCUS
Hey, Rich?

RICHARD
Yes, boss?

MARCUS
When we get back, can you bring the
car around?

RICHARD
Sure. You wanna make a run to the
factory?

MARCUS
Yes, and I also wanna go by Ashlar
Hall again.

RICHARD
You're crazy! What is it about that
place?

MARCUS

I dunno. The architecture's
downright amazing. I kinda hate
seein' it go to waste. And the
location's horrible.

Marcus holds out his hands.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

A building like that should be
placed on a gently sloping, grassy
hill with lots of mature trees
around it...Yes, that's what'd do
the place justice.

RICHARD

(Aghast)

Don't tell me you're thinkin' of
makin' that a pet project?

MARCUS

Maybe.

Crosswalk changes and Marcus and Richard cross the street.

RICHARD

Don't you go gettin' me involved in
that place, I intend on stayin' as
far away as I can. I still says
it's haunted.

MARCUS

Come on, quit saying that. Yes,
it's an imposing looking house, but
I hardly think it's haunted.

RICHARD

I swear, boss, on my Pappy's grave,
you buy that house, I ain't never
steppin' one foot in it. No way!

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Marcus's limo pulls up into the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

MARCUS

So, I guess you're gonna stay in
the car, huh?

RICHARD
Damn straight!

MARCUS
Wuss!

CUT TO:

EXT. LIMO. - DAY

Marcus gets out and goes to the old iron fence in front of Ashlar Hall. He sees a real estate sign, takes out his cell phone, and dials.

MARCUS
Hello? Yes, my name is Marcus Bishop...Uh, yeah, that Marcus Bishop. You've heard of me? Oh, yes, books, right...Hey, I'm standing here in front of Ashlar Hall, and I'd like to see more of it...You can? Fantastic! Forty-five minutes? Okay, we'll hang out until you get here. Thanks, good-bye.

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

A car pulls up, and PHILLIP BOND gets out. He is an older man in his late 50s with gray hair ringing his head and a short-cropped beard. He finds Marcus on the North Porch steps.

PHILLIP
Howdy.

Phillip offers his hand. Marcus gets up and takes it.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)
Phillip Bond.

MARCUS
Marcus Bishop.

PHILLIP
Nice ta meet ya. I've heard lots about your generosity.

MARCUS
This city's always been kind to me;
I wanna give back.

PHILLIP
Well, we certainly appreciate it...Shall we go take a look inside?

MARCUS

Yes, I've been around the outside a few times, so I'm ready to see what the inside has to offer.

Phillip unlocks the door and pushes it open.

PHILLIP

Supposedly, nearly everything has been kept as close to original as possible. But I think that's a stretch considering the last use of the building had been a nightclub.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, CENTRAL HALL. - DAY

Marcus walks through the entryway and into the central hall. He stops and gazes up through the upstairs opening.

MARCUS

(softly)

Wow.

PHILLIP

Where would you like to start?

MARCUS

Uh, please, lead on.

PHILLIP

How about we start to our left and work our way around?

MARCUS

Sounds good.

As Marcus follows Phillip into the first room, he feels something brush against the back of his neck (SARA). He glances over his shoulder and finds nothing.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

Showing Marcus and Phillip meandering through the house.

MARCUS

My God, I never thought the place would look like this!

PHILLIP

A rare beauty, huh?

MARCUS
Definitely. Quite rough, though.
Being a nightclub didn't do it
justice.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

More of Marcus and Phillip going through the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Marcus and Phillip are standing in the parking lot.

PHILLIP
Well, what do you think?

MARCUS
I like it.

He looks up at the building.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I have to make a few phone calls
and I'll let you know my decision.

PHILLIP
It was a pleasure meetin' you, Mr.
Bishop. I hope we can do business.

Marcus turns to leave.

MARCUS
I'm sure we can...By the way, I've
had numerous people say Ashlar Hall
is haunted. Do you know if there's
any truth to that?

PHILLIP
Well, Sir, I can tell you, I've
been in there quite a few times
showing it to folks, and I've never
seen or heard anything strange.

MARCUS
Right, thanks. I'll be in contact.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, ASH BEDROOM. - DAY

SARA is a ghost. She is a nearly translucent skeleton clothed in a cream-colored Victorian dress. Standing next to her is KHYRIPZHUS, a demon who has taken on the form of a gray lion-like gargoyle. It has glowing red eyes, and is about medium dog sized.

They look out the window at Marcus below in the parking lot.

SARA
Marcus Bishop. Handsome...I want.

She turns to Khyripzhus.

SARA (CONT'D)
Kill him.

KHYRIPZHUS
Yes, Sara.

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus is asleep in bed.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

Marcus is having a dream. He sees a ghostly woman in a cream-colored Victorian dress (SARA). She is holding a small black and white purse. She stops in front of Marcus and opens it. A demon, (KHYRIPZHUS) shrieks and leaps out.

Marcus turns to run, the demon chases him. He looks over his shoulder and realizes there are seven demons chasing him. He runs through some trees and tries to hide. The demons converge on him, attacking. He falls down a black hole.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus crashes to the floor as he falls out of bed. He is covered with sweat, gasping for air. He looks around wildly.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM. - MORNING

Marcus is face down in bed. He sniffs a few time, raises his head, and realizes Richard is holding a cup of coffee near his face.

RICHARD
Rise and shine, beautiful.

Marcus pulls the covers over his head.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Come on, you got work today. The
plans for the paper mill are
sittin' on your desk.

MARCUS
Leave me alone. I had a horrible
nightmare last night.

RICHARD
See, I told you, that ol' place is
gonna haunt you.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

The office is small, cramped, cluttered, dark, and decorated in furniture left over from the 80s. There is one small window on a side wall. Marcus is at the desk. Richard is sitting on the old leather sofa.

MARCUS
Hey, Rich?

RICHARD
Yeah, boss?

MARCUS
I wanna take a drive north today.

RICHARD
Why? I thought you were gonna
situate the paper mill on
President's Island?

MARCUS
Yes, that's my intention...I wanna
go north to see where some green
space is.

RICHARD
Green space?

MARCUS

You know, trees, grass, fields,
flowers--green space.

RICHARD

What on earth for?

MARCUS

If I buy Ashlar Hall, and move it,
I need somewhere to put an eleven
thousand square-foot mansion. I
want a nice few acres of green in
which to put it.

Richard rolls his eyes.

RICHARD

You're not gonna leave well enough
alone, are you?

Marcus shakes his head.

MARCUS

Nope.

Richard leaves. Marcus picks up the phone.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Amelia, would you come in here
please?

A few moments later, AMELIA walks in.

AMELIA

You rang?

MARCUS

Can you get on the internet, or
maybe even the phone book and find
me a building mover?

AMELIA

A what?

MARCUS

A building mover. Some company that
can pick up a big ol' building and
move it to another location. You
know, like those house movers.

AMELIA

Oh, right. Yes, I see...But why do
you want it?

MARCUS

You've spent your whole life in
Memphis, right?

AMELIA

Yes, haven't found any reason to leave.

MARCUS

Well, then I'm sure you know about Ashlar Hall.

AMELIA

Of course I do. My mother used to take to me garden parties there when I was little...It's a shame that Ashlar Hall lost all its property and those hideous highrises are there now.

MARCUS

What would you think if I bought Ashlar Hall and moved it to someplace more befitting?

AMELIA

Oh, I don't know. I'm not sure if the ghosts would be very happy.

Marcus puts his hands on his face.

MARCUS

Please, not you too!

AMELIA

Marcus, honey, everyone knows that Ashlar Hall is haunted.

MARCUS

Come on, Amelia, it's just stories. People make 'em up because the building's spooky looking.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRESIDENT'S ISLAND. - DAY

Marcus is concluding some business. Richard holds the limo door open for him.

RICHARD

You gettin' hungry?

MARCUS

Actually I am.

RICHARD

I'm so hungry my stomach's touchin' my spine.

MARCUS

Good, we'll grab lunch and head north.

Marcus's cell phone rings. He answers.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Hello? Oh, hi Amelia...I what? I do? Why didn't you tell me about this earlier? You forgot...And I thought I hired you to keep me from forgetting things...Yes, yes, I'll be there...Thanks...Bye.

He hangs up.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Wonderful.

RICHARD

What?

MARCUS

She called to remind me that I have a black-tie function at the convention center tonight...Some charity event I agreed to be part of.

RICHARD

Is that the bachelor auction?

MARCUS

(frowning)

Dear God, I hope not.

CUT TO:

INT. MEMPHIS CONVENTION CENTER, STEAMBOAT ROOM. - NIGHT

The room is packed with 400+ women, cheering and screaming as a bachelor is being auctioned on stage. Marcus enters the room and stops. He is dressed in a tux, unshaven.

Marcus makes his way down the side of the room and finds JILLIAN PATE. She is in her mid to late 40s, blonde, beautiful, and very rich.

JILLIAN

Oh, Marcus, I'm so glad you made it. I was getting worried.

MARCUS

(sheepishly)

Well, I'm here.

Jillian plays with his hair.

JILLIAN
Ah, and looking handsome as always.

MARCUS
Uh, yeah, I was goin' for the rugged look.

JILLIAN
You certainly nailed it.

The bidding for the bachelor on stage reaches \$5,000, and he is sold.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)
Okay, cutie, you're up next.

MARCUS
Aw, shit.

As Marcus walks up the steps to the stage, Jillian gives him a pat on the behind. Marcus looks over his shoulder at her. He goes on stage and squints in the bright lights.

ANNOUNCER
And now, ladies, our last and final bachelor for the night.

Marcus tries to see into the crowd.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Marcus is a thirty-five-year-old native Memphian. He's the owner of Bishop Publishing Company, a multi-million dollar corporation that employs over one thousand local residents...He's just over six feet tall, and weighs one hundred ninety pounds...Marcus enjoys foreign travel to exotic locations, quiet walks around downtown, and a good glass of wine. How much to start for an opening bid?

WOMAN 1
One thousand!

WOMAN 2 (JENI)
Two thousand!

The bidding war goes on until Marcus's price is \$9,000.

ANNOUNCER
I have a high bid of nine thousand, any more bids?

WOMAN 1
Nine-five!

WOMAN 2 (JENI)
Ten thousand!

Silence falls on the crowd.

ANNOUNCER
Ten thousand going once, twice,
sold!

There is wild cheering from the crowd.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Thank you ladies for your
generosity. The proceeds from the
auction tonight will benefit St.
Jude's Children's Hospital.

Marcus walks off the stage. Jillian meets him.

JILLIAN
Fabulous, dear, you were the
highest bid of the evening.

MARCUS
Where do I meet the lady who won
me?

JILLIAN
There's a payment table in the back
of the room.

MARCUS
Oh, right...Good seeing you again,
Jillian.

Marcus hurries off. He goes to the payment table and waits in line. The bachelor ahead of him leaves with his buyer. There is no woman waiting for Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Hello. Where's the lady that bought
me?

AUCTION CASHIER
She had to take an important call;
she said she'd be right back.

MARCUS
If I may ask, who was it that
purchased me?

AUCTION CASHIER
Jeni Turner.

MARCUS

Oh, is she kin to Ted Turner or something?

AUCTION CASHIER

Nope, sorry. I don't have much info on her.

JENI TURNER rounds the corner and stops at the table. She has shoulder length rusty auburn hair and green eyes. She is wearing a tan dress that resembles a business suit. Marcus is taken by her beauty.

JENI

Hello.

MARCUS

Evenin'.

Jeni opens her little purse and nervously dumps everything out on the table. Finding her checkbook, she writes the check and hands it over.

JENI

Well, that's done.

She thrusts her hand out at Marcus.

JENI (CONT'D)

Jeni Turner.

MARCUS

Nice to meet you.

He shakes hands gently.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I suppose I need no introduction.

JENI

No, not at all.

MARCUS

I don't believe I've ever seen you at one of these events before.

JENI

No, this is my first, last, and only charity event.

MARCUS

Oh, pity to hear that...Well, I'll endeavor to make our evening out a nice one.

JENI

Thanks, because it just cost me
three years of savings.

MARCUS

You saved up three years to go on a
date with me?

JENI

(squeaking)

Yes.

MARCUS

May I ask why?

Jeni looks down at her feet.

JENI

I love your books.

MARCUS

My books? Uh, I don't write books,
I just publish 'em.

JENI

Yes, I know...Uh, let me start
over...My name is Jeni Turner, and
I write a book blog for the
Commercial Appeal.

Marcus folds his arms, smiling.

MARCUS

Now I get it.

JENI

I've read stories about what you've
done for Memphis, and after I saw a
picture of you on your website,
well...I've kinda had a major crush
on you.

She cringes.

JENI (CONT'D)

God that was really awkward!

MARCUS

(chuckles)

I'm flattered.

JENI

I feel like a school girl that's
now face to face with the cutest
guy in class.

MARCUS

Well, you get this cute guy all to
yourself for a night...Speaking of,
when would you like to have our
date?

JENI

Gee, I've got such a busy social
calendar.

MARCUS

That sounds like bullshit to me.

JENI

Yeah, completely...In truth, I
haven't been out with a guy in
probably four years.

MARCUS

Why not?

JENI

I guess lack of effort on my part.
Geez, I almost chickened out coming
here tonight.

MARCUS

I'm glad you didn't.

He points over his shoulder.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You saved me from the likes of
them.

JENI

(giggles)

Well, is guess in this book, the
heroine saves the day.

They laugh.

MARCUS

So do I publish good books?

JENI

Yes, don't you read any of them?

MARCUS

Oh, hell, I'm usually so busy I
hardly get time to read...Hey, you
never did tell me when you want our
date?

JENI

Umm, well, this Friday I'm covering
a reading by a local author, but
Saturday, I'm available.

MARCUS

You're gonna make this bachelor
wait a whole week?

He reaches into his pocket and takes out a business card.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

There's my phone number. When you
call, my secretary, Amelia, will
get the details of where I should
pick you up...And if there's
someplace in particular you'd like
to go, let her know...Money is no
object.

He steps close, leans down, and gives her a gentle kiss on
the cheek.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Until then, Jeni Turner.

CUT TO:

INT. MEMPHIS CONVENTION CENTER, HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Marcus walks out of the room, Richard is waiting for him.

RICHARD

So, you like your date?

MARCUS

I think I was the luckiest guy in
there tonight.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

Marcus comes out of his office, tying his tie. Amelia is at
her desk.

MARCUS

Amelia, any messages for me?

AMELIA

Oh, actually you've got three.

She hands him the slips of paper.

MARCUS

Ah, good, a message from the owner
of the parcel of land up north. One
from a building mover...And, most
important, one from Jeni...She
didn't say where she wanted to eat?

AMELIA

No, she only gave me the address
and about what time she wanted to
be picked up.

MARCUS

Hmm, maybe she's leaving that up to
me?

Amelia gets up and fusses with Marcus's tie.

AMELIA

I don't know. She sounded like a
lovely girl.

She finishes fussing with his tie, then runs her hands down
the lapels of his coat. Marcus leans over and gives her a
peck on the cheek.

MARCUS

Thanks, Mom...And yes, she's a
lovely girl.

He returns to his office.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

Marcus sits down at his desk, slips of paper in hand. He
picks up the phone and dials.

MARCUS

Good afternoon, my name is Marcus
Bishop, and I live in Memphis.
There's an old building that I'm
interested in buying, but it sits
in a terrible location...I'd like
to have it moved.

He opens a drawer and takes out a flyer of the building.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

It's over eleven thousand square
feet, and has a full basement...Uh,
stone exterior with heavy timber
framing...Age of the building?
(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Uh, let's see...Built in
1896...Yes, I have more information
on it. Would you like me to email
that?

He grabs a pen and writes down the email address.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I'll get everything I have and send
it to you shortly...No, I'm not
particularly pressed for time. I
still have to purchase the land
it's going on...All right, thank
you...Good-bye.

Marcus hangs up. He takes the building flyer and compares it to the message from Jeni.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Jeni is at 1387 Central Avenue.
Ashlar Hall is at 1397 Central
Avenue. Is she right next-door to
it?

CUT TO:

INT. JENI'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT

Jeni is panicking as she tries to get ready for her date with Marcus. There is knocking on the door.

JENI

Oh, God, that's got to be him!

She goes to the door and opens it. Marcus is dressed in a black suit and holding a white rose.

MARCUS

Good evening.

JENI

Hi.

He presents the rose to her.

MARCUS

For a lovely lady.

JENI

Thank you, it's beautiful.

MARCUS

Uh, in the message you left, you
didn't say where you wanted to eat.

Jeni grabs her purse and closes the door.

JENI
I really wasn't sure.

MARCUS
Well, there's lots of great places
to eat...Money is no object, I'm
yours for the evening.

CUT TO:

EXT. JENI'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT

Richard waits at the curb. He holds the door open to the limo.

JENI
Wow, a limo.

MARCUS
Yeah, Richard is my babysitter. I
don't tend to be a very good
driver.

They climb into the limo.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are in the back.

MARCUS
Hey, you still haven't said where
you wanna go for dinner.

JENI
Where do you like to go?

MARCUS
Me?

JENI
Yes. I'm sure you have a favorite
haunt.

Marcus smiles.

MARCUS
Yes, I do.

He leans through the glass partition window to the front seat. After a moment, he sits back, and yanks his tie off.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Okay, on our way.

JENI
Downtown?

MARCUS
Of course! And on more than one occasion after a crazy night, I've staggered back to my apartment...Not sure how I didn't get run over or mugged, but I always made it home.

JENI
So you live in downtown?

MARCUS
Yeah, 67 Madison.

JENI
I've heard that's quite a nice place.

MARCUS
It's okay. Actually, I'm in the process of seeking another, more interesting abode.

JENI
Downtown?

MARCUS
Nope. In fact I think you know the place.

JENI
I do?

MARCUS
Yes, it's quite close to you.

JENI
Snowden House?

MARCUS
Uh, not exactly. And even closer.

JENI
I'm afraid I don't have a clue.

MARCUS
What's right next-door to your building?

JENI
Ashlar Hall? Oh, God, that place is creepy! You're gonna buy it?

MARCUS
It interests me.

JENI
You're gonna trade your upscale downtown living for an old, creepy castle in a bad part of town? Are you crazy?

MARCUS
Richard seems to think I am.

JENI
I've heard it's haunted.

MARCUS
Everyone says that! Besides, I'm looking to relocate the hall to another, more suitable tract of land to the north of here.

JENI
How the hell are you going to move a building that big?

MARCUS
They have companies that can come in and move the building. Although I reckon they'll have to disassemble it to move it to the new location.

JENI
So you're gonna pick up the building and move it just like that?

MARCUS
Yeah!

CUT TO:

EXT. BEALE STREET. - NIGHT

Marcus's limo pulls up in front of the BLUES CITY CAFE. Richard gets out and opens the back door. Marcus gets out and helps Jeni.

JENI
Blues City Cafe?

MARCUS
Yup, does that suit you?

JENI
I love that place!

RICHARD
What time do you want me to pick
you up?

MARCUS
How about I just give you a call?

CUT TO:

INT. BLUES CITY CAFE. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are at a table tucked away in a corner. Blues music plays from a band, the place is noisy. They are partway through dinner. Marcus chomps on a rib, then licks the BBQ sauce off his fingers. Jeni laughs.

MARCUS
What? Never seen a millionaire lick
his fingers? It's good stuff!

JENI
You're not at all what I expected.

MARCUS
I'm not?

JENI
Oh, I don't mean it in a bad way--
sorry. What I meant was, when I
read your bio on the website, you
seemed like a rather stiff and
starched individual who's generous
but aloof.

MARCUS
Well, what do you expect? It was
written by someone paid to do the
website for the company.

JENI
Why didn't you have them change it?

MARCUS
Hmm, in a way, it's kinda close.
Maybe more eccentric than aloof,
but then again, I don't seem to
have much of a life, so maybe I
come across like that.

He finishes the last rib and gives his fingers a thorough licking.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Are you up for dessert?

JENI
Dessert? I'm stuffed!

MARCUS
A walk on Beale Street?

CUT TO:

INT. BLUES CITY CAFE. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are leaving. Just as Marcus goes to open the door, it is opened from the outside. PRINCE MONGO peers in at them.

PRINCE MONGO
Good evening, Spirits.

MARCUS
Evening.

He guides Jeni out the door past Mongo.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEALE STREET. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni walk along the street. There is a storm brewing.

MARCUS
Interesting person.

JENI
Yeah, that's Prince Mongo. He owns Ashlar Hall.

MARCUS
Oh? You know, I've lived here all my life, and that's the first time I've actually seen him.

JENI
How can you not have seen the Prince?

MARCUS
Dunno, just never have.

JENI
Well, now you have. From what I've heard, he claims to hail from the planet Zambodia, and is 333 years old.

MARCUS
(chuckling)
Uh, okay.

JENI
Don't get him wrong, he's evidently
a shrewd businessman. He owns lots
of properties in downtown,
especially near the
waterfront...He's run for mayor a
few times and always loses...Some
say he's got millions.

CUT TO:

INT. JENI'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Marcus walks Jeni to her door.

JENI
I had a great time.

MARCUS
So did I.

He leans down and gently kisses her, lingering slightly. As he draws back, he smiles.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Uh, so, um, when can I see you
again?

JENI
What? You wanna go out again?

MARCUS
I'd like to very much. Really, I
had a wonderful time.

He takes out another business card and writes down a different number.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Here, this is my cell number--I
promise I'll either answer it, or
call you back.

JENI
Um, thanks. Wow, a second date?

MARCUS
Second, third, forth...Who know?

He turns to leave.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Until we meet again, Miss Turner.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus slides between the sheets.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

Marcus begins to dream. He sees Ashlar Hall, dark sky, twisted black trees. He looks to an upstairs bedroom and sees glowing red eyes. The eyes transform into the goggles of Prince Mongo.

PRINCE MONGO (V.O.)
Do not trifle with the spirits...Do
not trifle with the spirits.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus opens his eyes and sits up abruptly. He looks around for a moment, then goes back to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

Marcus sees the woman in the Victorian dress. He turns to run, but green vines capture his legs. He tries to flee. The woman approaches and opens her purse. Glowing red eyes peer from it. Slowly the demon crawls out and circles Marcus. It shrieks.

MARCUS
No! What do you want from me?

Marcus struggles more, the vines release, he stands. The demon rises up until it is eye-level with Marcus. It wears Mongo's gold goggles.

KHYRIPZHUS
Do not trifle with the spirits.

The lenses of the goggles burn bright red.

CUT TO:

INT. AMELIA'S OFFICE, PRINTING FACTORY. - EVENING

Marcus comes from his office. Amelia looks up and sees him.

AMELIA
How was your date with Jeni?

MARCUS
Mmm, she's wonderful. I can't wait
to see her again. I'm gonna head
home, see you tomorrow.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT

Marcus trudges through the door, tossing keys on the kitchen counter. He gets a beer and then plops down in his chair in the living room. He takes a few drinks. His cell phone rings.

MARCUS
Hello? Jeni! Nice to hear from
you...No, no, you're not
interrupting anything, I just got
home from work...Ugh, what a day! I
don't even wanna talk about it. Uh,
me? No, nothin' right now, just
drinkin' a beer...Get together? Us?
Oh, uh, yeah, I'd like to...I'll
see you shortly.

CUT TO:

INT. JENI'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Marcus stops at Jeni's door and knocks. She opens.

MARCUS
Evenin'. Have you had dinner?

JENI
Um, no, actually I haven't.

MARCUS
Good, let's go find something to
eat.

JENI
You like pizza?

MARCUS
Sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. COLETTA'S PIZZA. - NIGHT

A cab pulls up and Marcus gets out. He helps Jeni.

MARCUS
Coletta's, eh?

JENI
Yeah, good food, comfy atmosphere,
and nice people.

MARCUS
I'm game.

CUT TO:

INT. COLETTA'S PIZZA. - NIGHT

An empty pizza pan and several carafes of wine litter the table where Marcus and Jeni sit.

MARCUS
When I was in China, I was taken out to dinner by some publishing big wigs; there was one dish I think still had the hair on the skin of whatever animal it used to be.

JENI
Ew! How revolting! Did you eat it?

MARCUS
Uh, no. I found some barbecued duck; more my style.

JENI
Ah, spoken like a true Memphian.

Marcus puts his hand over his heart.

MARCUS
I'm just a simple Southern gent.

Jeni reaches over and takes his hand.

JENI
You? Simple? I don't think so.

MARCUS
No, really, I am. Just 'cause I was born into a rich family doesn't mean I'm some deep, complex person. Hardly!

JENI
Your parents--

MARCUS
What about 'em? They're gone.

JENI
I'm sorry.

MARCUS
Killed by a drunk driver on the way
home from a charity event.

JENI
Oh my God!

MARCUS
I was twenty, living at home, going
to college...With a year left in
school, having to bury my parents,
and run a publishing
company...Small wonder I didn't
have a mental breakdown.

He drinks the last of his wine.

JENI
How come after all this time you're
not married?

MARCUS
Mmm, it's a combination of lack of
time and lack of availability.

JENI
What about all the high-society
women?

Marcus shrugs his shoulders.

MARCUS
What about 'em?

JENI
Don't you go out with them? I mean,
for all I've ever seen, money tends
to stick with money.

MARCUS
I want a relationship, not a
business partnership. I want
someone to love me just the way I
am: plain, simple, uncomplicated
me.

He puts both hands onto Jeni's hand. Rising up, he leans across the table and kisses her. Jeni cups her hand to the side of his face, feeling his stubble. Their lips part.

JENI
Oh.

MARCUS
Are you okay?

JENI
More than okay.

MARCUS
Once in a while I like to do something impetuous.

Jeni blinks a couple of times.

JENI
I'd say!

CUT TO:

INT. COLETTA'S PIZZA. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are getting ready to leave. Marcus helps Jeni into her coat, then puts on his.

MARCUS
Oh, I had too much to drink!

JENI
Yeah, so did I.

CUT TO:

INT. JENI'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni stand in front of her door. Jeni works the lock, opening the door.

JENI
I had a wonderful time tonight.

MARCUS
Me too.

He leans forward and catches her lips; although it's more of a controlled fall. He crashes through the doorway into her apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. JENI'S APARTMENT. - MORNING

The ringing of Marcus's cell phone wakes him. He's in Jeni's bed with her. He struggles to answer the phone, realizing it's not where it's supposed to be.

MARCUS
Hello? Oh, Richard, hi. Umm, no,
I'm not home.

He rolls over and sees Jeni. She is smiling.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I'm at Jeni's...Meeting with Prince
Mongo? What time? Crap. Come get
me...Bye.

He looks at Jeni.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Uh, hi.

Jeni giggles.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Is there something I need to know?

JENI
Uh, last night, you were so drunk,
you kinda fell in my door.

MARCUS
I did?

JENI
Yeah, you passed out.

MARCUS
I didn't make an ass out of myself
or do anything un-gentlemanly, did
I?

JENI
No, no, you were so blitzed, I
helped get you undressed, and put
you to bed.

Marcus lifts the covers to see what state of undress he is in.

MARCUS
I do apologize for being so drunk.

He pulls the covers off and swings his legs around.

JENI
Are you okay?

MARCUS

Don't suppose you have a couple of aspirin?

JENI

Do you want that with a coffee chaser?

Marcus collects his clothes from the floor.

MARCUS

That would be lovely.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

Marcus is sitting at his desk. He's a bit hungover from his night with Jeni. The desk phone rings. He answers.

MARCUS

Yes? Please show them in.

He stands, brushing his hands down his coat. The door opens, and Marcus's lawyer, BRENT GIBSON, enters, followed by Prince Mongo, and his lawyer.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Good morning, gentlemen.

BRENT

Marcus.

Prince Mongo steps forward and offers his hand.

PRINCE MONGO

Spirit Marcus.

MARCUS

Pleasure to meet you. Please, have a seat.

Everyone sits down.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I appreciate you meeting with me today, as I'm very interested in purchasing Ashlar Hall.

PRINCE MONGO

Why do you wanna buy my castle?

MARCUS

It fascinates me. I like the architecture.

PRINCE MONGO

Mmm, it is a unique building.

MARCUS

The asking price is a million and a half...I'm interested in hearing what you think is a fair price.

PRINCE MONGO

I believe my asking price is quite fair. You know, you're not the only offer on the table.

MARCUS

If you're interested in selling, I'm sure you have an agreeable figure in mind.

Prince Mongo gets up and walks around. His bare feet scuffing on the floor.

PRINCE MONGO

How much do you know about me?

MARCUS

You're a businessman like me...A tad curious, but a businessman.

PRINCE MONGO

Yes, and on top of that, I'm quite fond of charity work. I did a little reading up on you, and that seems to be an interest of yours as well.

MARCUS

My father taught me to take care of those who are less fortunate. I do my best to provide jobs in this town.

Prince Mongo stops his circling.

PRINCE MONGO

A noble undertaking...My proposal: the price is one and a half million.

He holds his finger up to stop Marcus from saying anything.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

I shall discount the price to one and a quarter--provided you donate the rest to a homeless shelter.

MARCUS

That's it?

PRINCE MONGO
I believe that's fair enough.

MARCUS
(chuckles)
Amusing.

PRINCE MONGO
Amusing?

MARCUS
You haven't read enough about me.
I've been trying to purchase an old
warehouse on South Main for over a
year. Plans were to turn it into a
shelter and work rehabilitation
center.

PRINCE MONGO
Well, I'll be. How come I've never
heard of it?

MARCUS
The mayor's been giving me hell
about it; says it'll run down the
value of businesses there.

PRINCE MONGO
He's not at all a politician, rat
turd more like.

They laugh.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
Perhaps with our combined interest,
finances, and power, we can make
Mr. Mayor see it differently...I
own a group of warehouses on South
Main. Maybe we can discuss this at
greater length.

Marcus stands.

MARCUS
I agree to your proposal. An
alliance between us, however
unusual, might help both of us
attain our goals.

He offers his hand to Mongo. They shake.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I guess this settles it. We'll let
our lawyers figure out the details.

Mongo turns to leave.

PRINCE MONGO

I hope, Spirit Marcus, we can work
together to turn this town back
into something. It's a sad state,
what it's become.

MARCUS

Gonna be an uphill battle...Oh,
Prince, I have a question?

PRINCE MONGO

What?

MARCUS

Folks have told me your castle is
haunted.

Mongo opens the door. The two lawyers file out ahead of him.

PRINCE MONGO

If I may offer advice--don't trifle
with the spirits.

Mongo exits.

CUT TO:

INT. BUTCHER SHOP RESTAURANT. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are having dinner. A bottle of champagne sits
by the table. Marcus picks up his glass.

MARCUS

Here's to the new bachelor pad.

JENI

I can't believe you bought that
place. It's so creepy.

MARCUS

It's not creepy, just imposing.
Have you ever been inside?

JENI

No.

MARCUS

It's beautiful. Once restored,
it'll be quite cozy.

JENI

You gotta get it moved first.

MARCUS

I'm not looking forward to that
part.

He takes a bite of steak.

JENI

Marcus? How did you meet Richard?

MARCUS

I found him about six years ago wanderin' around South Main. He'd lost his job, his wife divorced him, and he was days away from being homeless. There was something about him...I pulled over and asked if he needed help. He broke down and cried.

JENI

That's so sad.

MARCUS

He's a terribly proud man. Wouldn't take a handout. So I offered him a job. He started on the floor, moving paper. He showed me he was a hard worker...When I was having some problems with the business, and had a series of car accidents, I asked him to be my driver.

JENI

You picked him up from destitution and made him into something.

MARCUS

No I didn't.

JENI

But you just said--

MARCUS

I said I offered him a job. Richard took it upon himself to do the best he could.

He takes a drink.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Why do you think I'm building the new paper mill here? There're cheaper places to put it. No, I'm building it here so I can offer jobs to people who need them.

JENI

You're the knight in the shiny black business suit.

There is an uneasy silence for a few moments.

MARCUS

Umm, hey. I was wondering if you'd
like to join me back at my place
for drinks?

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT

Marcus approaches Jeni with a glass of brandy. She takes it and sets it down on a table. Putting her arms around him, she kisses him.

JENI

I'll have that later...But for now,
I want you to make love to me,
Marcus Bishop.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Series of shots as Marcus and Jeni make love.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are curled up together. Marcus drifts off to sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

He is walking up the driveway to Ashlar Hall. The building now sits on a beautiful, grassy hill with fields and trees around it. He stops at the North Porch. Jeni is seated under a tree reading a book. The door opens, and he sees a pair of red eyes peering from the blackness.

Marcus turns to run, but is captured by black, snake-like tendrils. He cannot move. The woman in the Victorian dress comes out. She waves to him, beckoning him inside. The gargoyles climb from their places on the roof and circle him. They snap and snarl.

Marcus is dragged into the house by the tendrils. They stop in the middle of the central hall. The gargoyles group around him. Marcus sees Mongo standing on the grand staircase.

MARCUS

Please help me!

Mongo shakes his head slowly.

PRINCE MONGO
I told you not to trifle with the
spirits.

A column of black smoke engulfs Mongo. He disappears. Marcus tries to fight the demons.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus thrashes about in bed. He wakes Jeni.

JENI
Marcus? Marcus?

Marcus sits up, opening his eyes.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus, are you okay?

MARCUS
Yeah, just a bad dream.

He snuggles up with her and goes back to sleep.

CUT TO:

EXT. MONGO'S WAREHOUSES ON MAIN. - DAY

Marcus, Richard, and Mongo come out one of the doors.

MARCUS
I think the place shows real
promise. We'll have to set up some
time to devise a game plan.

PRINCE MONGO
Good. It'll be nice to see these
ol' buildings used for somethin'
positive.

MARCUS
Well, you got me for a quarter
million, probably more.

PRINCE MONGO
So you're gonna donate that to our
charity?

MARCUS

Why not? Only makes sense. I guess
our next fight will be with city
council.

PRINCE MONGO

Then I shall gird up my loins with
Zambodian armor and prepare for
battle!

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus is in bed. He slowly opens his eyes and sees a pair of red ones staring back. Khyripzhus is clinging to the ceiling. Marcus looks around and realizes his bed is surrounded by demon gargoyles.

MARCUS

What do you want?

The gargoyles close in. Marcus springs from bed and runs out of the room. He is dressed only in a pair of boxer shorts.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT

Marcus runs to the living room and finds more gargoyles. They shriek and scream. He is desperate to get away. The ones from the bedroom follow.

MARCUS

Go away! Get out of here! You're
not gonna scare me!

Khyripzhus moves in closer. Marcus backs away.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

It's my house...You should be happy
I bought it. I'm gonna move it, and
bring it back to what it used to
be...I don't want any ill feelings.
Can't you understand?

Khyripzhus stands up and lets out a loud shriek. Marcus hurriedly gets the front door open and escapes.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Marcus finds the stairs and hurries toward the roof.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT, ROOFTOP. - NIGHT

Marcus bursts out the door and slips on the gravel roof, falling. He gets up. The gargoyles force him back to the wall at the edge of the roof.

MARCUS

Please, please go away, spirits. I don't mean to upset you.

The demons snarl and move closer.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Can't you understand, I mean you no harm.

Khyripzhus shrieks and snaps at Marcus, forcing him onto the wall. Marcus slowly climbs up, turning away from the attackers.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

No, I don't wanna die!

As he is looking out over the Mississippi river and some of the Memphis landmarks, a cold breeze hits Marcus, waking him up. He blinks a few times, getting coherent.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Oh!

He looks over his shoulder to find no gargoyles. Gripped in fear, Marcus lurches backward and falls heavily to the roof landing on his back and side. The sharp gravel pierces him like razorblades.

CUT TO:

INT. MUNICIPAL BUILDING. - DAY

Marcus and Brent Gibson, his lawyer, walk into the building. They find Mongo with his lawyer waiting. Mongo is dressed in a white fuzzy loin cloth, t-shirt, green top coat, and an assortment of beaded jewelry. His goggles cover his eyes, and he carries a large bone in one hand.

PRINCE MONGO

Good morning, Spirit Marcus. Are you okay?

MARCUS
Didn't sleep well last night.

PRINCE MONGO
Are the spirits haunting you?

MARCUS
No.

He looks at Mongo's attire.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Nice loincloth. I thought you'd be
wearing your Zambodian armor.

PRINCE MONGO
Oh, I am, but it's invisible.

He waves his arms around his body.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
Zambodian armor is spiritual armor.
It's designed to protect the wearer
from the evil spirits of city
council.

Marcus tugs at his coat cuff.

MARCUS
Gotcha. Mmm, I guess that means I'm
wearin' my Armani armor.

They chuckle.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
From lookin' at the folks I saw
headin' into the meeting room,
we're gonna need all the help we
can get.

PRINCE MONGO
How about I give you some Zambodian
armor?

He waves his hands around Marcus.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
There, now you got some too.

MARCUS
Uh, thanks.

Mongo wags his finger at Marcus.

PRINCE MONGO
You have to be special to get that.
I don't hand it out to everyone.

MARCUS
The gesture is appreciated, I
assure you.

They walk toward the meeting room doors.

CUT TO:

INT. MUNICIPAL BUILDING. - DAY

Marcus and Mongo walk out of the meeting room. Both are smiling.

PRINCE MONGO
Ah, I think we need to celebrate.

MARCUS
Now?

PRINCE MONGO
Yes, I have a nice stash of vintage
champagne in the cellar of The
Butcher Shop.

MARCUS
I have a meeting shortly. Can we
postpone the festivities until this
evening?

PRINCE MONGO
Oh, I don't see why not.

MARCUS
Good. And hopefully by then we'll
have more good news to celebrate.

PRINCE MONGO
Another business deal?

MARCUS
You'll see.

CUT TO:

INT. BUTCHER SHOP RESTAURANT. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni come in. They find Mongo waiting for them.

PRINCE MONGO
Evenin' Spirit Marcus, Spirit Jeni.
I got us a nice table. The owner's
bringin' up a couple bottles of the
good stuff.

MARCUS

Very nice.

PRINCE MONGO

Where's Spirit Richard? Is he not joining us?

MARCUS

Umm, well, normally he doesn't dine with me when it's business.

PRINCE MONGO

Spirit Marcus! This is not business, this is a celebration!

MARCUS

Okay, okay, I'll get him. Would you please see to Jeni for me?

PRINCE MONGO

Certainly!

CUT TO:

INT. BUTCHER SHOP RESTAURANT. - NIGHT

Marcus, Jeni, and Richard sit at the table. Mongo is standing, easing a cork out of a champagne bottle. He pours glasses for all, returns the bottle to the bucket, and picks up his glass.

PRINCE MONGO

A toast, to victory over the city council, and the beginning of the shelter.

MARCUS

Here, here.

They clink glasses. Marcus takes a sip and sets his down.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

My turn.

He gets up, goes around to Jeni, and drops to one knee. Reaching into his coat pocket, he produces a small box. Jeni gasps.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Miss Jeni Turner, would you do me the honor of marrying me?

He opens the box. Jeni puts her hands to her face in shock.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Jeni?

PRINCE MONGO
Well, come on, girl!

Jeni looks at Mongo, Richard, and then Marcus.

JENI
Yes.

Mongo jumps up and lets out a loud whoop.

PRINCE MONGO
May the spirits of Zambodia bless
this marriage!

Marcus slides the ring on her finger. There is applause from all over the restaurant.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
Spirit Marcus?

MARCUS
Yes, Prince?

PRINCE MONGO
I'm ordained by the High Priest on Zambodia to perform marriages here on earth, would you like me to marry you?

MARCUS
(chuckling)
Uh, not just yet. I think Jeni and I wanna have some time to think this through.

PRINCE MONGO
Well, should you desire my services, I work cheap.

Mongo winks at Marcus.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT. - DAY

Marcus sits in a chair, reading a book.

MARCUS
Hmm, earthbound spirits. I wonder if that's what's living in the hall?

He reads a little more.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Maybe I should try talking to them.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL. - EVENING

Marcus sits in a chair in the center of the central hall. It is getting dark outside. He closes his eyes and tries to meditate. Sara moves around him, disturbing the air.

MARCUS
Hello?

He looks around.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
My name is Marcus...I know you're not happy with me because I bought Ashlar Hall.

He sees Sara on the landing of the grand staircase. Light filters in, making it hard to see her.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
And I'm sure you know I want to relocate the building.

Sara comes down the stairs and approaches Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I understand you're angry with me, but I only want the best for this old house.

Sara stops in front of Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
If no one takes care of the place, it'll fall apart and you'll have no home...I only seek to return Ashlar Hall to its former glory. When the building is moved, you're welcome to live there with me.

Sara opens her mouth to speak, but no words come out.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Please, talk to me.

Sara waves her arms in frustration. He gets up.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I don't wish ill will between us. I want you to know I love this house, and I wanna take care of it.

Sara goes back up to the landing.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Can you please help me?

Sara stops.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I don't want you to be mad at me.
Almost every night you haunt me in
dreams, or you send the gargoyles
to terrorize me. Please, can we be
friends? Can you call off the
demons?

Sara continues up the stairs out of sight.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURT SQUARE PARK. - DAY

Prince Mongo sits on a park bench feeding squirrels and pigeons. Marcus approaches from behind. He is still at distance and stops. He watches as three men in suits approach Mongo. They offer their lunch leftovers to Mongo and walk off. Marcus approaches.

MARCUS
Confusing you for a homeless man?

PRINCE MONGO
Yeah, I get that a lot.

MARCUS
Gee, I wonder why?

He gestures to Mongo's bare feet.

PRINCE MONGO
Not working today?

MARCUS
Not in the mood.

PRINCE MONGO
That doesn't sound like you.
Somethin' wrong?

Marcus sits down next to Mongo.

MARCUS
Oh, I guess feeling like I'm losin'
my mind is a start.

PRINCE MONGO
How so? The spirits bothering you?

MARCUS

Would I sound completely off my
rocker if I said yes?

PRINCE MONGO

No, not in the slightest.

MARCUS

What am I to do?

PRINCE MONGO

Have you tried talkin' to 'em?

MARCUS

Actually, yes. I was reading a book
on haunted buildings, and it said
to start by talking to them...So I
went there Saturday, and God's
truth, I saw her.

PRINCE MONGO

Who?

MARCUS

The woman in my dreams--well,
nightmares. The woman in the
Victorian dress.

PRINCE MONGO

Oh. That might be Sara. She used to
live there.

MARCUS

You know her name?

PRINCE MONGO

Mmm, I know of her.

MARCUS

What about?

PRINCE MONGO

Not much, I was told she lived
there, that's all.

MARCUS

Mongo. Come on, can't you tell me?

PRINCE MONGO

You're high falutin', go look it up
on the internet.

MARCUS

Why won't you tell me? Is it bad
form to talk about ghosts by name?

PRINCE MONGO

Maybe.

MARCUS

Well, can you at least tell me
about the gargoyles?

PRINCE MONGO

They're decorative statues that
drain water off the roof.

MARCUS

No! Not those--well, they're one in
the same.

PRINCE MONGO

Spirit Marcus, now I'm beginning to
wonder if you've lost your mind.

MARCUS

I've been trying to tell you
that...The...the gargoyles...they
haunt me, they chased me through my
apartment building!

PRINCE MONGO

Fascinating.

MARCUS

No, downright frightening.

Marcus pulls up his shirt sleeve, showing abrasions from his fall.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

They chased me onto the roof and
wanted me to jump.

PRINCE MONGO

Are you sure that's what they
wanted?

Marcus gets up and paces back and forth.

MARCUS

It was either jump, or get torn
apart by them!

PRINCE MONGO

So how did you escape?

MARCUS

I woke up...Mongo, I woke up
standing on the edge of the wall,
fifteen stories up!

He points into the air.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I could've died!

PRINCE MONGO
Your body would have died, but your spirit would continue on.

Mongo crumples up the bag.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
Why do you think I call everyone 'Spirit'? I'm reminding those I have contact with that we're all spirits in this life.

MARCUS
With all due respect, Prince, I'd like to stay on this earth a little longer!

PRINCE MONGO
I'm sorry, Spirit Marcus, I'm not meanin' to upset you...But it appears you've awoken something far more sinister in that old building.

MARCUS
So what can I do?

Mongo gets up and throws the bag away.

PRINCE MONGO
I'm not sure, my spirit friend.
I'll have to meditate on that awhile.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Several large trucks are in the parking lot. Prince Mongo stands outside the fence. A limo pulls up, Marcus gets out. He is on his cell phone, his voice stern and unyielding. Richard gets out and heads to Jeni's apartment. Marcus concludes his call.

PRINCE MONGO
Something wrong, Spirit Marcus?

MARCUS
Problems with my factory in Illinois.

PRINCE MONGO
What sort?

MARCUS

It appears my manager has been
skimming profits.

PRINCE MONGO

That doesn't sound good.

MARCUS

Might have to take a trip up there
and do some firing.

PRINCE MONGO

I always hate that part of
business.

He gives Marcus a friendly pat on the shoulder.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

So, today's the day, huh?

MARCUS

Yup, they're gonna start taking the
interior apart. I have a warehouse
a few miles away where they'll take
the decorative items for
restoration and storage.

Richard brings Jeni.

JENI

Hi!

She grabs Marcus and kisses him. He is still upset from his phone call.

MARCUS

Hello, sweetheart.

JENI

Aren't you happy to see me?

MARCUS

Yes, I am. Apologies, I just got a
bad phone call, and I'm a bit
ticked off.

JENI

Business?

Marcus kisses her on the top of her head.

MARCUS

Yes. So please forgive me if I'm a
little cranky.

Jeni runs her hands over the lapels of his suit.

JENI

Maybe later I can make your mood better.

MARCUS

I might be heading to Illinois.

JENI

Tonight?

MARCUS

Business calls, sweetheart.

ROGER DOWNING approaches Marcus. Roger is in his mid 60s, has brown hair with a lot of gray, and wears a tattered baseball cap with the company logo on it.

ROGER

Mornin' is there a Marcus Bishop here?

MARCUS

That would be me.

Marcus forces a smile and shakes hands with Roger.

ROGER

Nice to meet you, Sir. I'm Roger Downing; I'll be the man in charge of this whole process.

MARCUS

Ah, I suppose you want the keys so you can get to work?

ROGER

That would make it easier.

Marcus takes out a small key ring.

MARCUS

Here's the key for the house. The other two are for the warehouse.

ROGER

We'll take good care of it.

Roger takes the keys and heads to the house.

MARCUS

Oh, wait!

He runs to Roger.

ROGER

What?

MARCUS

Uh, can you give me a few minutes
alone?

ROGER

In the house?

MARCUS

Yes.

Roger hands the keys back.

ROGER

Okay, let us know when you're
ready, Sir.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, CENTRAL HALL. - DAY

The door opens and Marcus walks in. The house is quiet. He sits down in the chair and closes his eyes. It doesn't take long before Sara moves past him in a cold gust of air. Marcus shivers slightly.

MARCUS

Sara? Sara? I need you to listen to
me. There are men outside. They're
here to start moving the
hall...Please, can you be nice to
them? They mean you no harm.

Sara goes by.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Please, Sara, please don't get
upset. Remember, I promised you
that when the house was moved,
you'd be welcome to share it with
me. Don't you trust me?

Sara moves behind Marcus, caressing him on the neck.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

All right, my spirit friend, I'm
gonna leave you in their capable
hands.

Marcus gets up and walks out. Mongo meets him at the door.

PRINCE MONGO

Smooth things out with Sara?

MARCUS
Yeah, I hope she's happy.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Marcus walks out and hands the keys back to Roger.

MARCUS
Please take utmost care with
everything. I'm not the only one
living there.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL, METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS. - NIGHT

Marcus dials his cell phone and puts it on speaker.

JENI (O.S.)
Hi, handsome.

MARCUS
Hello, sweetheart. I'm so sorry I
haven't called. I've been extremely
busy.

JENI (O.S.)
Where are you?

MARCUS
Metropolis.

JENI (O.S.)
What? Are you joking? Hanging out
with Superman?

MARCUS
No, I'm not joking. I'm in
Metropolis, Illinois...It's right
on the Ohio river. Look it up.

JENI (O.S.)
When will you be home?

MARCUS
A couple more days.

Marcus shuffles some papers. He is dressed only in a silly
pair of red boxer shorts with big pink hearts.

JENI (O.S.)
Do you need to go?

MARCUS

Mmm, I suppose so. I just called to
hear your lovely voice, and to tell
you I love you.

JENI (O.S.)

I love you too.

MARCUS

I'll call you tomorrow...Bye,
sweetheart.

JENI

Bye, handsome.

Marcus hangs up and looks down at his shorts.

MARCUS

Gotta love Valentine's Day.

He chuckles, climbs into bed, and turns off the light.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

Marcus dreams he is standing outside Ashlar Hall. Jeni is there, working in a flower bed, picking roses.

The front door opens and Sara comes out. She raises her arm and waves in a friendly manner.

As Marcus starts to walk toward Jeni, he hears the shrieks of the gargoyles. They tear from the house heading straight for Marcus. He can see Sara gesturing, trying to call them back.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL, METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS. - NIGHT

Marcus springs from bed and crashes around the room, frantically trying to get away from the attacking gargoyles.

He makes it to the door, opens it, and runs down the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL, HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Marcus runs down the hall, turns a corner, slips, and slams into a wall. He looks behind to see the gargoyles closing the distance.

Scrambling to his feet, he continues to run, stopping at Richard's door.

MARCUS
(softly)
Richard.

Marcus is backed against the door by half a dozen snarling, shrieking gargoyles. They close in on him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Go away! Go away, demons!

Khyripzhus rears up and hits Marcus, knocking him against the door. Marcus covers his face in attempt to protect it. The demons converge, tearing at Marcus.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL, RICHARD'S ROOM. - NIGHT

Richard jumps out of bed when he hears Marcus's cries. He opens the door, Marcus falls in, pale and shaking violently.

RICHARD
Boss? Boss? What the hell's goin'
on?

He grabs Marcus, drags him in, and closes the door. He pats Marcus on the face.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Boss? Are you okay? Come on, talk
to me.

He wrestles Marcus to his feet and guides him to the sofa, sitting him down. Then Richard gets the comforter off the bed and drapes it around Marcus.

Marcus is catatonic appearing: eyes open, staring into space. He is still shaking.

Richard pours a whiskey and offers it to Marcus.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Boss? Here, have a drink.

After a few moments, Marcus blinks several times and starts to look around.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Marcus takes the cup and has a sip.

MARCUS
They were gonna kill me.

RICHARD
Who? Who's they? Talk to me, boss.

Marcus looks at Richard.

MARCUS
Richard?

RICHARD
Yes, boss?

MARCUS
How'd I get here?

RICHARD
I was hopin' you'd explain that.

MARCUS
Uh...You were right...Ashlar Hall
is haunted. All these months
they've been after me.

RICHARD
Was it them chasin' you down the
hall?

MARCUS
They chase me through my dreams, no
matter where I am.

RICHARD
Boss, you need help.

MARCUS
Help?! Who the hell is gonna help
me?

Marcus senses Sara moving about.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Sara?

RICHARD
Boss?

MARCUS
Sara? Is that you?

RICHARD
Boss?

MARCUS
Shhhh!! Go away!

Marcus waves his hand at Richard, then pulls the comforter over his head.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Sara? Sara?

SARA (V.O.)
(whispers)
Marcus. Marcus.

MARCUS
Why did you turn them loose? I
thought we had a deal?

SARA (V.O.)
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to.

MARCUS
How can I get rid of them?

SARA (V.O.)
There is one, the leader--

MARCUS
Yes, I know.

SARA (V.O.)
Uttering its name may control the
demon.

MARCUS
The demon has a name? What is it?

SARA (V.O.)
It is written in the dust. You will
find it there.

MARCUS
Dust? What do you mean? Why can't
you tell me?

SARA (V.O.)
A spirit cannot utter the name of
evil.

Sara's presence drifts away. Marcus pulls back the comforter and regards Richard.

MARCUS
We have to go!

RICHARD
What? Who were you taking to?

MARCUS
Sara.

He tips down the last of the whiskey and stands.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
We need to get home.

RICHARD
Home? We still have things to do
here.

MARCUS
We'll come back.

He goes to the door.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
She left me a message--I need to
get to Ashlar Hall.

RICHARD
Boss, it's the middle of the night.

MARCUS
We need to go now.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - MORNING

The limo pulls into the parking lot, and Marcus leaps out. He runs to the door, unlocking it.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, CENTRAL HALL. - DAY

There is dust everywhere from the work crews.

MARCUS
Sara? Where is it?

He walks around the perimeter of the room, searching.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Come on, Sara, where is it? Help me
out here.

He goes to the space under the grand staircase. Kneeling down, he sees a faint name written in the dust.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Khy...Khy...rip...zhus?

He looks around.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Khyripzhus? That's its name?

Sara moves behind Marcus, touching him on the back of his neck. Marcus takes out a business card and writes the name on it.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Okay, now that I know its name,
what do I do?

There is no response from Sara.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Well, thanks, honey for the info.
I'm sure I'll figure it out.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - MORNING

Marcus returns to the car. Richard is leaning against it.

RICHARD
Did you get the name?

MARCUS
Yeah, I got it. Let's get back to Metropolis. I wanna finish up there. Mongo and I have some demolition work to do this weekend.

CUT TO:

INT. MONGO'S WAREHOUSES ON MAIN. - DAY

Mongo and Marcus are demolishing a wall. Marcus is dressed in jeans and a t-shirt. The Prince wears his usual adornments and no shoes.

MARCUS
Hey, Prince?

PRINCE MONGO
Mmm?

MARCUS
You said you knew all the names of the ghosts in the castle.

PRINCE MONGO
Yes.

Marcus takes out the business card and hands it to Mongo.

MARCUS

Have you ever heard of one with
this name?

PRINCE MONGO

Kyhripzhus?

MARCUS

Shhhhhh! Sara said spirits
shouldn't say its name.

PRINCE MONGO

She did, huh?

MARCUS

It's pure evil. She couldn't even
tell me, she had to write it in the
dust.

Mongo leans against the wall.

PRINCE MONGO

Interesting. Why'd she tell you?

MARCUS

When I was in Illinois, I had a
nightmare...Sara and I had come to
terms about moving the castle...But
she accidentally let the demons
loose, and they chased me through
the hotel. If it weren't for
Richard, I'd be a dead man.

PRINCE MONGO

She accidentally let them out?

MARCUS

She said she was sorry.

PRINCE MONGO

Mmm, that name...No, I don't recall
hearing it.

MARCUS

From what I've read, that thing's a
demon. Have you ever had dealings
with 'em?

PRINCE MONGO

I've dealt with some troubled
spirits, but never a demon. That's
pretty hard-core.

MARCUS

The book I was readin' said I
should call a priest.

PRINCE MONGO
I have one, a friend, if you need.

MARCUS
This just sounds so outlandish to
me.

Mongo folds his arms.

PRINCE MONGO
Didn't you ever stop to think being
haunted by demons, talking to
ghosts, and asking advice from
someone most people consider a
freak, is a bit outlandish?

MARCUS
Mmm, point taken.

PRINCE MONGO
You're a good spirit, Marcus, and
I'd hate to have anything happen to
you.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO. - DAY

Marcus and Jeni are in the back, Richard is driving. They are approaching her apartment building.

RICHARD
Boss? You gonna go next door and
talk to Sara?

JENI
Sara?

RICHARD
Oops!

MARCUS
A friend.

JENI
A friend?

MARCUS
Trust me, you have no reason to be
jealous.

JENI
Marcus, I never said I was jealous.
Who is Sara?

There is a long pause before Marcus answers.

MARCUS

A ghost.

JENI

A ghost? You expect me to believe
that?

Marcus takes her hand.

MARCUS

Yeah. I know, it's hard to believe.

JENI

Hard to believe you're saying it.

MARCUS

And I didn't wanna worry you.

JENI

Why would I be worried? If it's
just a ghost?

MARCUS

Mmm, she's not bad...But the demons-

JENI

And there's demons? What's next
Marcus Bishop? Huh? Mummies?
Vampires? Zombies?

MARCUS

Jeni, please.

RICHARD

Miss Jeni, he's not playin'. The
other night, when we was in the
hotel, the demons chased him down
the hall to my room. I heard him
hollerin', and when I opened the
door, he was lyin' there shakin'
like a leaf, and as pale as
death...I'm sorry, boss, I didn't
know you hadn't told her.

MARCUS

It's okay. I guess it was gonna
come out in due time.

Jeni puts her hands on the side of his face.

JENI

I love you--a lot, but you can't
live like this. You need some help.

MARCUS
I did some reading, talked to the Prince, and it looks like I may need an exorcism.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

Marcus has his head down on the desk, asleep. Amelia opens the door and creeps in.

AMELIA
Marcus?

MARCUS
Huh?

He lifts his head up. A piece of paper is stuck to his face. He swats it off.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
What?

AMELIA
Oh, you look horrible. When was the last time you got some sleep?

MARCUS
Uh, not counting the nap I just had, probably three weeks or so.

AMELIA
Prince Mongo's here, should I have him come back another day? You really need rest.

MARCUS
No, no, I need to see him.

AMELIA
All right...Promise me you'll go home early.

She leaves and Mongo enters and sits down.

PRINCE MONGO
Oh, my dear spirit, you look mighty rough.

MARCUS
Thanks, Prince.

PRINCE MONGO
Are the demons haunting you that bad?

MARCUS

I'm afraid to close my eyes at night.

PRINCE MONGO

Have you given any more thought to having an exorcism?

MARCUS

I've been doing a lot of thinking and reading. They say it's not easy to get rid of a demon...And you can't kill 'em.

PRINCE MONGO

No, true, you can't kill what isn't alive.

MARCUS

Sara told me I have to send it back to hell.

Mongo leans forward and rests his elbows on the desk.

PRINCE MONGO

Of course she didn't tell you how to perform said task.

MARCUS

Of course not. And I'm not sure where she is either. I've been by the hall every day, and tried to communicate with her, but she's not answering.

PRINCE MONGO

How much is left of the building to move?

MARCUS

Roger says there's a little less than half. But it's the most difficult parts. He figures another couple of months.

PRINCE MONGO

Maybe she moved already.

MARCUS

I dunno. I need her help, and she's left me hanging.

He rests his chin on his hands.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I can't fight the demon if I don't know how.

PRINCE MONGO

I see you have a great battle ahead. If it were in my power, I'd stand and fight with you...I can only try and help safeguard you with Zambodian prayers and blessings.

MARCUS

Thanks...What's up with the shelter?

PRINCE MONGO

I have construction crews arriving tomorrow.

MARCUS

Good. I'll stop by.

Mongo gets up to leave.

PRINCE MONGO

Until then, my spirit friend. May you be blessed with a peaceful night's sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus and Jeni are in bed, curled up, asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

Marcus slips into a dream. He sees Jeni in the KITCHEN of Ashlar Hall. She is baking cookies. As she turns toward him, Marcus sees her heavy with child. She brings him a plate of chocolate chip cookies.

As Marcus reaches to take one, he hears shrieking. He runs into the central hall just in time to see the gargoyles come down the grand staircase. They stop at the bottom and line up.

MARCUS

You think you can scare me? This is my house. You go back to hell!

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Jeni wakes up and sees Marcus leaping out of bed.

JENI
Marcus! Marcus!

MARCUS
(screaming)
You go to Hell, Khyripzhus!

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S MIND.

Marcus is face to face with Khyripzhus. The demon shrieks so loud that Marcus has to cover his ears.

MARCUS
Khyripzhus!

The demon gets even closer.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
You're not gonna win this battle. I
said go to hell!

Marcus locks eyes with the demon.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
It's my soul, and it belongs to me!

The other gargoyles circle around him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I said, you can't have me, and you
can't have my house. I own it, and
I own you. You're not gonna take
what I have.

Khyripzhus snarls and leaps into the air.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Jeni watches in horror as Marcus screams and falls backwards, right toward the bedroom window. She lurches and grabs his hand, but Marcus crashes through the glass and almost falls to his death.

JENI
Marcus!

She desperately tries to pull him inside.

JENI (CONT'D)
Wake up, Marcus! Please!

Marcus is screaming and in total panic.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus!

She finally gets him inside. His body hits the floor face first. Blood is pouring from wounds on his neck and back. Marcus continues to thrash about.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus, stop it!

She looks around and sees the cell phone on the nightstand.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus, wake up!

Marcus continues to struggle. Jeni smacks him across the face as hard as she can. His head snaps around, and he flops to the floor, unmoving.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus?

Blood pours from Marcus's body. Jeni gets up and grabs the cell phone.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY WAITING ROOM. - NIGHT

Jeni, Richard, and Prince Mongo sit in chairs. A DOCTOR comes out.

DOCTOR
Are you with Mr. Bishop?

All three stand.

RICHARD
Yes.

DOCTOR
You can come see him. He's very lucky to be alive.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus is lying almost face down. An I.V. Line runs to his arm. His back, neck, and head are covered in bandages.

DOCTOR

I have him heavily sedated. It seems he's had a very traumatic psychological experience.

RICHARD

Understatement.

DOCTOR

Anyone care to explain?

PRINCE MONGO

Spirit Marcus is doing battle with a demon that haunts him.

DOCTOR

Excuse me?

PRINCE MONGO

He bought my castle, decided to move it, and awakened a demon that lives there. It didn't like the idea of being moved, and now it's after him.

DOCTOR

(aghast)

You expect me to believe that?

Mongo nods.

PRINCE MONGO

It's the truth.

The doctor looks at Mongo, who is wearing his usual trappings.

DOCTOR

And who are you?

PRINCE MONGO

Prince Mongo from the planet Zambodia.

DOCTOR

Huh? Yeah, right.

Richard turns to the doctor.

RICHARD

He's also one of the wealthiest businessmen in Memphis. It's best to just roll with it.

The doctor studies Mongo for a moment.

DOCTOR

I see.

JENI

How long are you going to keep
Marcus?

DOCTOR

At least a couple of days.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM. - DAY

Marcus is in bed, he opens his eyes, and finds Jeni, Richard, and Mongo around him. Bandages still cover parts of his body.

PRINCE MONGO

Ah, Spirit Marcus, you're coherent.

MARCUS

Finally. I don't want any more of
those drugs.

Jeni caresses Marcus's arm.

JENI

Some of them you have to take,
they're antibiotics so you don't
get an infection.

MARCUS

That's fine. But the others, get
rid of 'em.

Mongo sits down on the end of the bed.

PRINCE MONGO

I just spoke to my friend, Father
Dennis. And I told him about what's
been going on. He said he'd prefer
to wait until your wounds have
healed before doing an
exorcism...But he's coming over to
speak with you.

MARCUS

Why do I have to wait? I'm fine.

PRINCE MONGO

Sometimes it can be a rather
violent undertaking.

MARCUS

Oh, this sounds like so much fun.

Mongo gets up and walks around.

PRINCE MONGO
I feel bad, Spirit Marcus. I knew
the castle was haunted; I never
knew it'd be like this.

He looks out the window.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
The spirits have never been evil--a
little malicious maybe, but not
evil.

The doorbell rings. Richard goes to answer. He returns with FATHER DENNIS. The father is about six feet tall, has blue eyes, short-cropped salt-and-pepper hair, and a matching beard.

FATHER DENNIS
Hello, everyone. I'm Father Dennis
Minicus from the Catholic Diocese
of Memphis.

Mongo returns to his seat at the foot of the bed.

PRINCE MONGO
I've known Father Dennis probably
fifteen years. He helps a lot with
finding the homeless places to
stay.

Marcus offers his hand.

MARCUS
Nice to meet you. Marcus Bishop.

FATHER DENNIS
I think we should pass on the
handshake. If you are indeed
possessed by a demon, it won't take
kindly to that.

Marcus withdraws his hand.

MARCUS
Oh, right.

FATHER DENNIS
So, tell me about this demon.

MARCUS
It all started when I wanted to buy
Prince Mongo's castle.
(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I began having nightmares, and they got worse and worse to the point I have a bunch of gargoyles trying to kill me.

FATHER DENNIS

And you have no history of mental or psychological problems?

MARCUS

None.

FATHER DENNIS

Is there a leader you can identify?

MARCUS

Sure, I even know its name.

He takes his wallet from the nightstand and produces the card. He gives it to the father.

FATHER DENNIS

Mmm, not a familiar name, but there are many. You say it takes the form of a gargoyle?

MARCUS

Yeah, about the size of a medium dog with glowing red eyes. And it has friends, usually eight or nine other gargoyles.

FATHER DENNIS

Those aren't my concern. But the leader will have to be dealt with.

MARCUS

Why only the leader?

FATHER DENNIS

Because the others are sub-manifestations from the lead demon; you get rid of the leader, the others will disappear.

MARCUS

So, you're trained to do exorcisms?

FATHER DENNIS

I attended the Athenaeum Pontificium Regina in Rome. There, I learned the basics of exorcism. Be assured, I don't take this lightly. I'll consult with my peers.

(MORE)

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
If we feel it's not some sort of
psychological illness, we'll begin
preparations for the rite.

JENI
How long will that take?

FATHER DENNIS
Maybe a couple of weeks...I think
Marcus needs to heal from his
wounds.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

Marcus sits at his desk. All the bandages have come off, and he's once again himself. The phone rings.

MARCUS
Amelia?

The phone continues to ring. Marcus answers, poking the button for speaker phone.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Hello? Bishop Publishing.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Hello, may I please speak to Marcus
Bishop?

MARCUS
Speaking.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Ah, good, it's Father Dennis. How
are you feeling?

MARCUS
Fine, fine. The stitches came out
yesterday.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Good to hear. I've consulted with
my peers, and we feel an exorcism
may benefit you.

MARCUS
Great, thank you.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
I did some research on your demon.

MARCUS
And?

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Son, you got yourself tangled up
with something mighty nasty.

MARCUS
Coulda told you that, Father.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
I must warn you, going up against a
demon like that'll be a serious
fight...I need to make sure you're
healthy enough.

MARCUS
Is there anything else I need to do
besides being healthy?

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Are you a man of faith?

MARCUS
Not really.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Well, my best suggestion would be
to practice meditation and some
sort of prayer...Have your mind and
spirit as prepared as possible.

MARCUS
I think I can manage that.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
When do you want to do this?

Marcus looks at his desk calendar.

MARCUS
Would next Monday, say four
o'clock, be good?

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Yes, that's fine. You've got us
worried.

MARCUS
How so?

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
It's an offspring of Baal, a very,
very powerful demon who rules sixty-
six legions in hell.

MARCUS
Oh, great, I got a real winner,
huh?

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
I can promise we'll do our best.

MARCUS
Where are we gonna do this?

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
The best place would be where the
demon sprang from.

MARCUS
Ashlar Hall? There's not a whole
lot left, but I suppose we can be
close to it.

FATHER DENNIS (O.S.)
Okay, see you then.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

The sun is out after a brief rain shower. The limo pulls up, and Marcus gets out. He is wearing jeans and a t-shirt. He is met by Mongo, Jeni, Father Dennis, FATHER TONY, and FATHER CHARLES. Richard parks the car and joins them.

MARCUS
Hello, Father.

FATHER DENNIS
Well, son, are you ready to do
this?

MARCUS
About as ready as I can be.

FATHER DENNIS
Let me introduce you to my
colleagues. This is Father Tony and
Father Charles. They'll be
assisting me today.

MARCUS
(awkwardly)
Fathers.

FATHER TONY
Let's get to work.

They lead Marcus over to the WEST PORCH. Jeni, Mongo, and Richard retreat to a safe distance in the yard.

FATHER CHARLES
Please, Mr. Bishop, remove your
shoes.

Father Charles holds a hank of rope.

MARCUS
What's the rope for?

FATHER CHARLES
Restraint. Sorry, but none of us
wanna be attacked by an angry demon
that's being dispelled from its
host.

MARCUS
Oh, I see.

He sits down and removes his shoes.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Where do you want me?

FATHER TONY
There.

He points to the middle of the tile porch. Marcus gets on his knees, and Father Charles binds his hands and feet. Marcus looks over at Jeni.

MARCUS
I love you, Jeni.

The three priests begin to pray. Then Father Dennis goes forward and touches Marcus on the forehead, making the sign of the cross. Marcus growls deeply.

After a few more prayers, Father Tony comes forward. He makes the sign of the cross on Marcus's forehead. Marcus growls louder. The priest then sprinkles some holy water on Marcus. Marcus cries out and shakes violently as the water touches his skin.

Father Dennis comes forward again.

FATHER DENNIS
I call you out, demon. I call you
out by the name Khyripzhus.

Marcus bares his teeth and roars.

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
I call you Khyripzhus, and banish
you back to hell.

He manages to make the sign of the cross on Marcus as he is fighting violently.

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
I command you to leave this man!

Marcus growls and starts speaking gibberish.

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
I cast you out in the name of the
Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit...Silence your tongue,
Khyripzhus.

Father Dennis touches Marcus with a scared relic. Marcus continues to fight.

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
Khyripzhus, your soul is mine to
command. I command you to return to
hell. Your spirit is not wanted
here.

Marcus thrashes violently.

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
By the grace of our Lord, Jesus
Christ, I command you to leave!

He puts both hands on Marcus's forehead. Marcus fights even harder.

FATHER DENNIS (CONT'D)
Tony, Charles, help!

The two fathers join in, grabbing Marcus by the shoulders. Marcus coughs. He opens his mouth wide. The shriek of Khyripzhus can be heard. The demon leaves its host.

Marcus collapses to the floor, unconscious. A trickle of blood runs out his nose.

JENI
Marcus!

Jeni runs to him. In her haste, she stumbles up the stairs and falls next to him. She places his head in her lap and cradles him.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus?

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

The hall is now situated in the NEW LOCATION. It is WINTER. Marcus pushes open the front door. He has one hand over Jeni's eyes.

MARCUS
Keep your eyes closed.

JENI
Marcus, come on.

MARCUS
Just a moment, sweetheart, I
promise this'll be good.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, CENTRAL HALL. - DAY

He stops her right in the middle of the central hall and removes his hand.

MARCUS
Ta-da!

JENI
Oh my God, this is amazing!

She turns around, taking in the beauty.

JENI (CONT'D)
I never dreamed this spooky old place would look like this inside.

MARCUS
Ah, ah, don't judge a book by its cover.

Jeni throws her arms around Marcus.

JENI
It's beautiful!

MARCUS
There's still some things needin' to be done, so it won't be ready to live in for another few weeks.

He leads her upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, UPSTAIRS HALLWAY. - DAY

JENI
Will Richard stay living in 67 Madison?

MARCUS

If he wants. He makes his own
money. I think he's been eyeing the
pool house out back, however.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - DAY

Marcus brings Jeni in.

MARCUS

He'll never step foot in this house
after what he saw of the exorcism.

JENI

I can't blame him. This place still
scares me.

MARCUS

Don't let it. I haven't even seen
or heard from Sara.

JENI

Maybe the priests scared her off.

MARCUS

I dunno. She'll come out if she's
still here.

JENI

I can't see how we'll be
comfortable living here with a
ghost.

MARCUS

She's not around all the time.

JENI

Marcus, I'm not sure I want a ghost
around watching us. This is gonna
be our house.

MARCUS

It won't be so bad. Think of the
history this place has.

He takes her in his arms.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Or the history we'll make in it.

He kisses her passionately.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Make love to me.

JENI
Here?

MARCUS
Yes.

JENI
We don't have a bed.

MARCUS
That's never stopped us before.

He begins to undress her.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Come on, it's okay.

Jeni gives in and begins to undress Marcus. She gets his jeans down to his knees, and Marcus loses his balance. He falls loudly onto the hardwood floor.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Shit!

JENI
Oh, sorry! Are you okay?

MARCUS
Yes, I'm fine. How about joining me so we can finish what we started?

Jeni slides her panties off and straddles Marcus. They make love.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, UPSTAIRS HALLWAY. - DAY

Sara hovers just outside the master bedroom door. She watches Marcus and Jeni make love. She balls her fists up and flies off in a rage.

CUT TO:

EXT. PAPER MILL. - MORNING

There is a crowd of media, employees, and city officials. A stage has been set up near a warehouse door. Marcus stands near the stage. Mongo appears at his side.

PRINCE MONGO
Good morning, Spirit Marcus.

Marcus looks at him.

MARCUS

What, not wearing your good
loincloth for the occasion?

PRINCE MONGO

It's in the dry cleaners.

They laugh. They mayor steps on stage to the podium.

MAYOR

Today we open a new industrial
venture here on President's Island.
It's owned by a man who has long
been a champion of those less
fortunate. A man who goes the extra
mile to help make Memphis a great
city...Marcus Bishop!

There is a round of applause. Marcus walks up on stage.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

Please, let's cut the ribbon on
this beautiful factory and let
these folks standing over here get
to work.

He grabs a few pairs of scissors and hands them out. Marcus takes his pair and gives them to Mongo.

PRINCE MONGO

It's your factory, Spirit Marcus,
you should have the honors.

He tries to give the scissors back, Marcus refuses.

MARCUS

I've opened plenty of factories.

He leans close to Mongo.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Besides, I thought you'd love to
piss off all the politicians by
being a part of the ceremony.

PRINCE MONGO

Any chance I get to rub their rat
turd noses in it!

He laughs loudly.

MARCUS

Shhhh! Some diplomacy, please.

Mongo smiles devilishly.

PRINCE MONGO
I shant say a thing, my spirit
friend.

MARCUS
Actions speak louder than words in
this case.

He goes up and cuts the ribbon with the others. Then Mongo
hoots and hollers.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
The Bishop Paper Mill is now open!

He throws up his arms and has a holler as well.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

There is a reception for the paper mill opening. Guests
mingle about the house. Marcus sits on the landing of the
grand staircase, his back to the sun. Mongo approaches.

PRINCE MONGO
Playing politics doesn't agree with
you, Spirit Marcus.

MARCUS
Most certainly not.

PRINCE MONGO
Nowadays if you wanna get
somewhere, you have to play the
games.

MARCUS
Why? You don't.

PRINCE MONGO
True. And if I did, I'd probably be
mayor.

MARCUS
I can see it now. The headlines
would read: Memphis elects first
mayor in loincloth!

They laugh. Marcus looks at Mongo. His goggles are resting
just above the hairline on his head. The sun reflects off the
shiny mirrored surface.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Mongo, lemme see your goggles.

PRINCE MONGO
What? Why?

MARCUS
Lemme see 'em, please.

Mongo removes them, handing them to Marcus. Marcus holds them up to his eyes for a few moments, then he looks back at the windows on the landing.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Windows.

PRINCE MONGO
Uh, no, goggles.

He points to the window.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
Those are windows.

MARCUS
No, these are windows.

He stands.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Hear me out--and tell me if this makes sense. When I first wanted to buy the castle, I had nightmares.

PRINCE MONGO
Yes, and you know what they became.

MARCUS
How did they know how to get to me?

PRINCE MONGO
I dunno.

MARCUS
These. I kept seeing them in my nightmares...The demon was using 'em to spy on me.

PRINCE MONGO
How?

MARCUS
Through these, they could see everything you saw. And they got a good look at me when I toured the house.

He gives the goggles back.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

In my nightmares, I'd see the goggles and not understand their meaning. It was watching me through you all this time.

PRINCE MONGO

I've inadvertently betrayed you, my spirit friend.

MARCUS

It's okay, you didn't know, and neither did I.

PRINCE MONGO

Then I won't wear them around you.

He shoves them in his pocket.

MARCUS

Don't worry about it; what's done is done. I've beaten the demon, and so far it hasn't tried to come back.

PRINCE MONGO

And I hope it doesn't...So what's next on the list for Spirit Marcus Bishop?

MARCUS

That would be gettin' married.

PRINCE MONGO

When's that gonna be?

MARCUS

The tenth of May. I figure on having you and Father Dennis officiate; that way our marriage is legal on both planets.

Mongo puts his hand on his chest.

PRINCE MONGO

I'd be honored! My dear spirit friend, you are now a true Zambodian--you understand spirits united as one are beyond the limits of just planet earth.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - DAY

Marcus sits on the bench at the foot of the bed. He is dressed in a tux. There is knocking on the door.

MARCUS
Come in.

Prince Mongo enters. He is dressed in his best white fur loincloth, bare feet, white shirt, and tux coat and tie. Marcus looks at him and starts to laugh.

PRINCE MONGO
What's so funny?

MARCUS
(laughing)
Now that's a sight you don't see everyday!

PRINCE MONGO
Spirit Marcus!

MARCUS
Sorry, but you, my friend, are a study in contrasts.

PRINCE MONGO
I did this for you. I know you're still hesitant over the whole Zambodian wedding thing, so I toned it down a little. Normally I wouldn't be wearing a shirt, but I figured your guests might not appreciate the whole spectacle.

Marcus stands and gives Mongo a hug.

MARCUS
You're a true friend.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

The lawn outside the mansion is decked out in rows white chairs filled with guests. There is a small stage at the front, a piano player off to one side. Flowers are everywhere.

Marcus, Jeni, Father Dennis, Richard, and Prince Mongo are on the stage. Father Dennis is just finishing his part of the ceremony. He raises his arms.

FATHER DENNIS

May Almighty God bless you all, in
the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit. Amen...You may
kiss the bride.

Marcus and Jeni kiss, the crowd applauds. Mongo steps in,
giving Father Dennis a little elbowing.

PRINCE MONGO

Hey, you stole my line!

FATHER DENNIS

Sorry, force of habit. I'm sure
they won't mind kissing again!

As Jeni and Marcus part lips, Mongo lets out a loud whoop.

PRINCE MONGO

My spirit friends. Standing before
me are Marcus and Jeni, who have
fully consented to be married in
the ancient Zambodian rite.

He holds his hands high.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

Marriage is a beautiful, sacred vow
a man and woman freely exchange.
It's a joining of more than just
two bodies. Each has started life
as their own spirit, now they wish
to become one.

He holds his hands out to them.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

May I have the bags?

Marcus and Jeni each hand over a small leather bag. Mongo
takes them and holds them up.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

I have asked each spirit to place
something meaningful in their bag.
Notice the bags are separate, the
contents not mixed; this denotes
their individuality.

He places the two bags in a larger leather bag.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

This symbolizes the joining of
their spirits into one. At such
time, when you feel your spirits
have truly become one, you may open
the bag and examine the contents.

He puts his hands on Marcus's and Jeni's.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
I now channel your souls together.
You must promise that you will
love, respect, and always put each
other first above all else. Do you
promise?

MARCUS AND JENI
Yes.

PRINCE MONGO
I pronounce you one spirit. You may
kiss the bride.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, NORTHEAST BEDROOM. - DAY

Sara is having a temper tantrum as she watches the wedding.
She knocks over a lamp in the process.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, DINING ROOM. - NIGHT

The massive table shows the remnants of Thanksgiving dinner.
Marcus, Mongo, JOE, and TODD sit around the table. Jeni comes
from the kitchen.

PRINCE MONGO
Spirit Jeni, I can't remember when
I had such a wonderful
Thanksgiving.

JENI
You're welcome, Prince.

She stands behind Marcus's chair. She gives him a nudge.

MARCUS
Now?

Jeni nods.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
All right, everyone, we have an
announcement to make.

JENI
Well, it looks like there'll be a
little Bishop on the way.

Mongo bolts from his chair, dashes over, and hugs Jeni.

PRINCE MONGO
May all of Earth and Zambodia
rejoice!

He gets Marcus in the hug.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
This is truly a day to give thanks!

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

Showing the progressing on Jeni's pregnancy.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM. - DAY

Jeni is getting her 20 week ultrasound. Marcus is with her.

MARCUS
How on earth can you make anything
out? It's just a bunch of black,
gray, and white fuzz.

ULTRASOUND TECH
You get to know all the anatomy...
Oh!

MARCUS
What? What?

ULTRASOUND TECH
Umm, well, did you wanna know the
sex of the baby?

MARCUS
You can see that?

ULTRASOUND TECH
(giggling)
Of course you can.

Marcus looks at Jeni.

MARCUS
Well, sweetheart?

JENI
All right.

ULTRASOUND TECH
See this, right here? That is a
little boy if I've ever seen one!

MARCUS
A boy? We're gonna have a boy!

ULTRASOUND TECH
Congratulations.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL, HALLWAY. - DAY

Marcus and Jeni are leaving the hospital.

JENI
Marcus?

MARCUS
Yes, sweetheart?

JENI
Now you get to think of a name.

MARCUS
Me?

JENI
He's your son. And I know you have
a proud family heritage. So I want
you to think of a name.

MARCUS
I'm gonna need some time to think
about that.

JENI
Well, you got about nineteen weeks
or so to think of one.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS

Showing further progression of Jeni's pregnancy.

CUT TO:

INT. HOMELESS SHELTER, KITCHEN. - DAY

Marcus is flipping pancakes, SISTER EMILY is pouring batter.
Outside, is the noise of dozens of homeless eating breakfast.

SISTER EMILY
How's Jeni doing?

MARCUS

Miserable. This summer's been so hot and humid.

SISTER EMILY

Soon it'll be over and you'll have a beautiful gift from God.

MARCUS

Pretty much any day. Richard is staying back with her and I have my trusty cell phone.

Just as Marcus goes to flip a pancake, his phone rings. Instead of flipping, he flings it across the room.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Shit! Oh, sorry, Sister!

He drops the spatula and grabs the phone.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Jeni? Is it time? It is? Crap!
Okay, sweetheart, get Richard and I'll meet you at the hospital. I love you!

Marcus hangs up. Mongo walks into the kitchen.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

That was Jeni. Baby coming!

PRINCE MONGO

Come, on, let's go have a baby!

He grabs Marcus and hurries him out of the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WAITING ROOM. - DAY

Marcus and Mongo await Jeni's arrival. Jeni is being pushed in a wheelchair by a nurse.

MARCUS

Sweetheart!

Richard jogs in.

RICHARD

Oh, boss, you're here.

PRINCE MONGO

We wouldn't miss this for the world!

(MORE)

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
Let the universe celebrate, another
little spirit will be joining us
shortly.

JENI
Marcus?

MARCUS
Yes?

JENI
I know you've been keeping your
son's name a secret, but isn't it
time to share it with me?

PRINCE MONGO
Yes, yes, Spirit Marcus, what are
you going to call young Master
Bishop?

MARCUS
Well, after many hours of thought
and meditation, I believe I've come
up with the perfect name.

PRINCE MONGO
Mongo!

MARCUS
No! I've chosen his first name in
consideration of my two closest
friends.

He gestures to Richard and Mongo.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Neither of you may realize it, but
you have something in common...So
I've decided to call him Robert
Cecil Bishop.

There is silence.

JENI
Honey? I don't get it.

MARCUS
Robert is Mongo's earthly first
name, and it's also Richard's
middle name.

JENI
Ohhhh!

PRINCE MONGO
Three cheers for Spirit Robert! May
he wear his name proudly!

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, ROBERT'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Sara looks into the crib of little Robert.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, BASEMENT. - NIGHT

Sara squeezes through a vent in the furnace door.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURGATORY. - DAY

Sara hurries toward a mountain. Purgatory is bare, lifeless, and has a few black, twisted small trees around black pools of stagnant water. Sara is transformed into the image of her living self.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELL'S MOUNTAIN. - DAY

Sara reaches the top of the mountain. There are hundreds of thousands of cages stacked one upon the other as far as the eye can see. The sky is reddish and dark, despite being daytime.

CUT TO:

EXT. KHYRIPZHUS'S CAGE. - DAY

Sara runs over to the cage. The demon is frantically trying to get out.

SARA
I'm here!

She tries to get the lock open, and pulls on the bars.

KHYRIPZHUS
Key.

SARA
What?

Khyripzhus points down the row of cages.

KHYRIPZHUS
Key.

SARA
There's a key? Where?

KHYRIPZHUS
Pa-ras.

SARA
Paras? Paris?

Khyripzhus points again.

KHYRIPZHUS
Pa-ras. Go!

SARA
Okay, okay.

Sara hurries off in the direction Khyripzhus indicates.

SARA (CONT'D)
Paras?

She comes over a small hill. There is a beautiful palace ahead.

SARA (CONT'D)
Oh, palace.

As she gets closer, she sees a guard on duty. It is an ogre-looking beast. Sara spies a key ring on its belt, a key with a golden skeleton skull. Sara hides behind a rock.

SARA (CONT'D)
That must be it.

She observes the guard for a few moments, then she picks up a rock and throws it. The guard rushes out to see what the noise was. Sara darts out, grabs the key ring, and hurries away. The guard sees her, gives chase, but quickly tires.

CUT TO:

EXT. KHYRIPZHUS'S CAGE. - DAY

Sara returns with the key. She opens the lock, Khyripzhus bursts out.

SARA
Come on!

Sara and Khyripzhus run toward the edge of the cliff. Guards chase them. Sara reaches the edge and finds more guards. Khyripzhus attacks, allowing her to jump. Sara tumbles down the hillside.

CUT TO:

EXT. PURGATORY. - DAY

Sara anxiously awaits Khyripzhus. After several tense moments, the demon shrieks and runs down the hill toward her.

SARA
Oh, you made it! Come on, we have work to do.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, LIBRARY. - NIGHT

Marcus is sitting in a chair reading a book. Sara appears.

MARCUS
Hello, Sara. I haven't seen you much.

SARA
You've been busy.

MARCUS
Busy, yes, but that doesn't mean I don't look for you...Sara, just like Jeni, Robbie, and my friends, you've become a part of my life too--part of my family.

SARA
Do you love me?

MARCUS
Love you? Like in what sense?

SARA
Do you feel for me?

MARCUS
Sara, you're a ghost. I mean, I'm sure sometimes you don't consider yourself one, but I'm afraid you're not of my world anymore...I like you, care about you, and that's the extent of the feelings I can have.

SARA
Oh.

Sara leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Jeni is packing a suitcase. Marcus watches.

JENI

I'll only be gone the weekend. Are you sure you can handle everything?

MARCUS

Piece of cake.

JENI

All right, if you think you can handle it.

MARCUS

Sweetheart, I got it. Come on, I run a multi-million dollar publishing company. One baby, one weekend, how hard can it be?

Jeni wags a finger at him.

JENI

Harder than you think.

MARCUS

We'll be fine. Mongo's gonna come over too.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, DINING ROOM. - NIGHT

Mongo has baby ROBBIE tucked in the crook of his arm, feeding him with a bottle.

PRINCE MONGO

Such a sweet little spirit.

MARCUS

Nothing sweet at two in the morning.

PRINCE MONGO

He still keepin' you up?

MARCUS

Nearly four months old now. He's not as bad as before.

PRINCE MONGO

Ah, he'll probably grow out of it.

MARCUS

Prince?

PRINCE MONGO

What?

MARCUS

Are any of your other properties
haunted?

PRINCE MONGO

Yeah, got one in a warehouse down
on Front St. He's not malicious,
more mischievous.

MARCUS

What did he do?

PRINCE MONGO

Used to snatch things from me. I
got so tired of it, I had a
conversation with him and told him
he better knock it off--or else.

MARCUS

Or else what?

PRINCE MONGO

I'da told him to leave.

MARCUS

(chuckling)

And you think he would?

PRINCE MONGO

He knows better than to mess with
me.

Mongo gets up and hands Robbie over to Marcus.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

Okay, I'd better hit the road. I
promised Spirit Joe I'd help him
out on some crazy project for the
shelter.

MARCUS

Crazy? I find that funny.

PRINCE MONGO

What?

MARCUS

You, considering something crazy.

PRINCE MONGO
(chuckles)
Mmm, you're right--it's some sort
of normal project!

He puts on his coat.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
I'll see you tomorrow, Spirits!

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, ROBERT'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus tucks Robbie into his crib.

MARCUS
Now to bed with you, young Master
Bishop. And can you please be quiet
tonight? Daddy really needs to get
some sleep.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus climbs into bed and turns off the light. The house is
silent.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, UPSTAIRS HALLWAY. - NIGHT

Sara and Khyripzhus come down the hall. They pause before
going into the master bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Sara and Khyripzhus stop at the edge of the bed.

SARA
Go ahead.

Khyripzhus opens his mouth and lets its breath out into
Marcus's face. Marcus stirs once, but does not wake.

SARA (CONT'D)
Too bad you can't make enough to
finish him. That's good, let's go.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, ROBERT'S BEDROOM. - NIGHT

Sara and Khyripzhus stop at Robbie's crib.

SARA
Up!

Khyripzhus jumps into the crib.

SARA (CONT'D)
Kill this one.

Khyripzhus puts its face down to the infant and sucks the life out of the child.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - MORNING

Marcus wakes up, stretches, and gets out of bed. He trudges across to Robbie's room.

MARCUS (O.C.)
Robbie? Robbie? NOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, PARLOR. - DAY

Marcus sits on a sofa, sobbing. Prince Mongo is with him. Paramedic crews are in the house tending to the corpse.

MARCUS
I don't know what happened. He was fine when I put him to bed.

PRINCE MONGO
My dear spirit friend, I don't know what to say. I'm at a loss for explanation. I loved that little spirit too.

Marcus continues to cry.

MARCUS
It's all my fault. It's all my fault! Jeni's gonna hate me.
(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)
She entrusted me to care for him
and I couldn't even do that.

PRINCE MONGO
It could've happened while she was
here, too.

MARCUS
Yeah, but it didn't! It happened
while she was gone.

One of the ambulance crew approaches.

PARAMEDIC
Mr. Bishop?

Mongo gets up.

PRINCE MONGO
I'm a friend of Mr. Bishop; he's
too distraught right now to talk.
Can I help you?

PARAMEDIC
I was gonna tell him we're taking
the body to the coroner's for an
autopsy.

PRINCE MONGO
All right. I'll let him know.

PARAMEDIC
We examined the infant and couldn't
see anything physically wrong. I
suspect a SIDS death.

PRINCE MONGO
I was here last night and I can
tell you, Robbie was as lively as
any baby I've ever seen. He drank
his bottle, I burped him, and then
Marcus put him to bed.

PARAMEDIC
It'll probably take a couple of
days to get the autopsy results
back.

PRINCE MONGO
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY. - DAY (RAINING)

The graveside service for little Robbie is concluding. Father Dennis performs the ceremony. Marcus and Mongo are walking toward the cars.

MARCUS
Can I ask you something?

PRINCE MONGO
Sure, ask away.

MARCUS
I don't think Robbie died of SIDS.

PRINCE MONGO
The demon?

MARCUS
That night I had a strange dream, I could hear it shrieking. And then I saw it walking around a golden basket on a table...The whole dream didn't make sense until the other day.

PRINCE MONGO
You think Sara had the demon kill him?

MARCUS
I dunno, but something isn't right.

PRINCE MONGO
Why would she want that? She seems like a pretty nice ghost.

MARCUS
I'm beginning to wonder. One night, she asked me if I loved her.

PRINCE MONGO
She what?!

MARCUS
You said you knew how to get rid of a ghost? I can't let her ruin my life. If she was behind my demonic possession, and Robbie's death, I can't let her do it again.

PRINCE MONGO
Sara won't go down without a fight. And if the demon is back, it's gonna be an ugly fight.

MARCUS

Do I need to call the Fathers
again?

PRINCE MONGO

I don't think they can help. You're
the master of your castle; you have
to fight this one.

MARCUS

And should I lose?

PRINCE MONGO

You die.

MARCUS

I can't tell Jeni about any of
this. She was against having Sara
in the house from the start.

PRINCE MONGO

My good spirit friend, you had no
idea you'd be dealing with a
jealous, love-struck ghost. For all
you knew, Sara was a lonely
apparition who just wanted a friend
to acknowledge her existence.

MARCUS

God, I was so stupid! What have I
done?

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S OFFICE AT THE PRINTING FACTORY. - DAY

Marcus is sitting at his desk, Richard is on the sofa.

MARCUS

She's still mad at me.

RICHARD

I'm sure Miss Jeni will get over
it.

The door opens and Mongo pokes his head in.

PRINCE MONGO

Not interrupting anything, am I?

MARCUS

No, come in.

Mongo enters and sits down.

PRINCE MONGO
Do you have much on your schedule
today?

MARCUS
No, my head's not in the game.

PRINCE MONGO
Perhaps you can join me on a little
outing?

MARCUS
Prince, I'm really not in the mood.

PRINCE MONGO
You'll find it helpful, trust me.

CUT TO:

INT. MONGO'S WAREHOUSE ON FRONT ST. - DAY

The warehouse is dimly lit. Mongo and Marcus enter.

PRINCE MONGO
Okay, time for you to do some ghost
busting!

MARCUS
You're joking.

PRINCE MONGO
Sit in that chair over there. I'm
gonna go wrestle up your ghost.

MARCUS
This is absurd.

PRINCE MONGO
Sit!

Marcus sits down. Mongo disappears. A few moments later, Marcus startles as he feels a presence around him. Mongo returns.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
His name is Chappy. He's a slave
that was murdered here back in the
day.

MARCUS
What do you want me to do?

PRINCE MONGO
Control him.

MARCUS

How?

PRINCE MONGO

Watch.

Mongo holds his hands up, palms out. Closing his eyes, he engages the spirit, pushing it back.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

Now you try.

Marcus gets up. The ghost approaches. Marcus closes his eyes and tries to duplicate what Mongo did. The ghost hits Marcus.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

You use your energy, channel it, and then you'll force the ghost into a portal.

MARCUS

Portal?

PRINCE MONGO

Most buildings have one or more portals to the underworld.

MARCUS

And when I find this portal, are Sara and Khyrpizhus gonna go, just like that?

PRINCE MONGO

Oh, hell no! You're gonna have a war on your hands. The demon's not gonna go without a serious fight. And if you make it really mad, it might materialize and take you on.

MARCUS

Wonderful. How do I find these portals?

PRINCE MONGO

Sometimes they're easy to find, like a fireplace or stove burner.

MARCUS

How do you know they're a portal?

PRINCE MONGO

Sometimes there's a little draft you feel.

MARCUS

How do you know about these portals?

PRINCE MONGO
Chappy told me.

MARCUS
So I have to go through that huge
house and find the portals?

PRINCE MONGO
You got it!

MARCUS
That could take weeks!

PRINCE MONGO
Start with the obvious. I suggest
you get a few cigarette lighters
and use those.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, KITCHEN. - NIGHT

Jeni is standing at the sink washing dishes. Sara hovers near the ceiling, and Khyripzhus is hiding in the butler's pantry.

Jeni accidentally drops a spoon into the garbage disposal. As she reaches in to retrieve it, Khyripzhus springs from the pantry, hitting Jeni in the back, driving her hand into the disposal. Sara darts down and turns on the switch.

JENI
Ahhhhhhh! Marcus!

Sara and Khyripzhus quickly disappear. Blood splatters from the disposal. Jeni gets her hand out, blood pours into the sink.

JENI (CONT'D)
Marcus!

Marcus runs in. He sees Jeni with blood all over. She is crying.

MARCUS
Sweetheart, what happened?

He grabs a towel and wraps her hand.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Oh God, what happened?

JENI
It had to be Sara!

MARCUS
Why do you say that?

JENI

There's no way I can reach the switch from here. It came on when I stuck my hand down to get a spoon...And something hit me from behind and held me.

MARCUS

Come on, let's get you to a hospital.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY WAITING ROOM. - NIGHT

Marcus sits in a chair, his head in his hands. Mongo arrives.

PRINCE MONGO

How is she?

MARCUS

I dunno. It was bad, really bad, Prince.

He wipes a tear from his cheek.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Damn Sara.

PRINCE MONGO

Sounds like the war's beginnin'. Are you ready?

MARCUS

I'm ready.

PRINCE MONGO

I've done everything I can to help you out.

MARCUS

I appreciate it. You're the only one who understands.

PRINCE MONGO

You mean I'm the only one crazy enough to understand.

MARCUS

All the normal folk would probably wanna lock me up for reasons of insanity. If it weren't for you, I'd probably be in a rubber room.

PRINCE MONGO

You and me both.

The DOCTOR comes out.

DOCTOR
Marcus Bishop?

MARCUS
Here!

DOCTOR
You may see your wife, briefly. We
need to get her to surgery.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM. - NIGHT

Jeni is in a bed, her right hand heavily bandaged. Marcus comes in and approaches.

MARCUS
Sweetheart!

JENI
I'm not going back into that house.

MARCUS
But--

JENI
Once I'm out of the hospital, I'm
going to my brother's house to
stay.

MARCUS
But--

JENI
No buts. I'm staying there until I
can think this through.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, MASTER BEDROOM. - MORNING

Marcus is alone in bed, dozing. He feels something moving under the sheets between his legs.

MARCUS
Sara!

He throws back the covers. Sara retreats to the corner of the room.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

SARA
Marcus, love me.

MARCUS
No!

SARA
Love me, please.

MARCUS
No, if anything, I hate you!

SARA
Please don't hate me.

MARCUS
You killed Robbie, didn't you?

Sara flees from the room.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, LIBRARY. - DAY

Marcus kneels in front of the fireplace, cigarette lighter in hand. He flicks it and moves his hand toward the back fire bricks. The flame is nearly sucked into a crack.

MARCUS
Bingo! A portal! Now to the basement.

Marcus sighs heavily. He takes out his cell phone and dials.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Hey, Prince, what mischief are you up to? Nothing? Can we get together for dinner? Mmm, I'm thinkin' The Butcher Shop. Great, see you in half an hour? I have some things to tell you.

He hangs up and heads to the basement.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, BASEMENT. - NIGHT

Marcus turns the lights on. The basement is relatively empty, but he is cautious. He moves around the outer wall with the lighter. Then he goes to the furnace and shuts it off.

He flicks the lighter near the grate in the door. The flame is nearly sucked out. He kneels down to listen.

Sara comes out of nowhere and hits Marcus. He crashes against the furnace, throwing his head back to keep from being burned.

MARCUS
Sara, you bitch!

Sara makes another attack. Marcus throws up his hands and stops her.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
No, I don't think so!

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, ENTRY WAY. - NIGHT

Prince Mongo opens the door.

PRINCE MONGO
Marcus?

MARCUS (O.C.)
Coming!

Marcus clambers up the stairs.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Oh, shit, that was close!

PRINCE MONGO
What happened?

Marcus grabs his coat.

MARCUS
I'll explain later.

CUT TO:

INT. BUTCHER SHOP RESTAURANT. - NIGHT

Marcus and Mongo are at a table, eating dinner.

MARCUS
I found two portals: one in the library, the other, the basement furnace.

PRINCE MONGO
Furnace! Good one. Yes, furnace, close to the fires of hell.

He takes several small filled paper bags out of his pocket.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
I almost forgot, these are for you.

MARCUS
What is it?

PRINCE MONGO
Sea salt, very pure. You sprinkle
it in every room before you do
battle; it's supposed to keep the
spirits from coming back into it.

He pulls a small piece of paper from another pocket.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
And you gotta memorize this.

MARCUS
What is it?

PRINCE MONGO
The Order of Expulsion. The words
to send Sara and the demon away for
good.

Marcus takes the paper and looks at it.

MARCUS
Damn, that's a lotta words to be
sayin' when the shit's hittin' the
fan.

PRINCE MONGO
And you have to do it for each, and
you must call them by name.
Otherwise, it won't work.

MARCUS
If I say it right, they can never
come back?

PRINCE MONGO
From everything I've read, no, they
can't.

Marcus tucks the paper in his pocket.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)
When are you doing battle?

MARCUS
Tomorrow morning.

PRINCE MONGO
Do you want me there?

MARCUS

I'll either live or die. Having someone there won't change anything. Prince, you've been a wonderful friend. But this is my fight. It's my house, and I want it, and my life back.

CUT TO:

INT. YELLOW CAB. - MORNING

Marcus is in the back. He takes out his phone and dials. Jeni's voicemail picks up.

MARCUS

Jeni, it's Marcus. I know you don't wanna talk to me, and if things don't go right, this'll be the last time you'll hear my voice...I'm going back to the hall today; I'm gonna do battle with Sara and the demon...I don't know if I'll live to tell the story, but please know that I've always loved you...Amelia has a copy of my will, it gives you sole ownership of Bishop Publishing. That's the least I could do for the woman who's brought me so much happiness. I remain always yours, in life, or death...Good-bye, sweetheart.

Marcus hangs up and wipes the tears from his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. JENI'S BROTHER'S HOUSE. - MORNING

Jeni picks up her phone and gets the voicemail.

JENI

Mike? Mike?

MIKE

What Jeni?

JENI

You need to take me back home--now!

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, ENTRY WAY. - MORNING

Marcus has a bag of salt. He sprinkles a trail to the stairway to the basement.

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, BASEMENT. - MORNING

Marcus comes down the stairs, sprinkling salt. When he reaches the basement floor, Sara swoops down and hits him, knocking him to the floor, and spilling the last of the salt. He scrambles to his feet.

MARCUS

All right, Sara, it's time to play.
Show yourself.

Sara attacks him again. She smashes Marcus in the head. He staggers slightly.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

My house is my home, is my castle.
I am the lord and master of this
dwelling.

Sara shrieks.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You have trespassed into my home,
taken residence, and caused
nuisance...Your presence is no
longer wanted.

Sara attacks, bringing Khyripzhus with her. The demon bites Marcus on the leg. Marcus screams and tries to shake it off. He is in severe pain.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I command you, Sara, to be banished
to the underworld of hell. Your
time on earth is over; your
privilege to live among the living
is gone.

Marcus holds up his hands and forces Sara toward the furnace. Khyripzhus hangs on, biting Marcus on the other leg, and then the abdomen. Blood runs from his wounds.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Your time here is done, I command
you to hell!

Sara tries to fight, Khyripzhus leaps into the air, trying to get Marcus's face. Marcus blocks him with one arm.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Get off!

He pushes Sara to the furnace.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I command you to hell!

The portal opens up and catches Sara, pulling her in. Marcus turns around just in time to see the demon make an attack. It hits Marcus, knocking him down, and slashing his back with its claws.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Dear God, help me!

Marcus gets up. The demon slashes Marcus across the face.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
My house is my home, is my castle.

He tries to get away from the demon.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
I am lord and master of this
dwelling.

Khyripzhus sinks its teeth into Marcus's leg and growls as it shakes him violently. Marcus cries out in agony.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
You have trespassed into my house,
taken residence, and caused
nuisance.

He reaches down and hits the demon with all his might. Khyripzhus disengages for a moment.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Your presence here is no longer
wanted. I command you, Khyripzhus,
to be banished to the underworld of
hell.

He takes a step toward the demon, it shrieks.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Your time on earth is over; your
privilege to live among the living
is gone.

Khyripzhus shrieks again and launches into the air. It grabs Marcus by the hand.

MARCUS (CONT'D)
Your time here is done, I command
you to hell!

He holds onto the demon and limps over to the furnace.

KHYRIPZHUS
No!

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - MORNING

Richard gets out of the car. He hears screaming coming from the house. He runs toward the house, bursting through the door.

RICHARD
Boss? Boss? Where are you?

MARCUS (O.C.)
Help!

CUT TO:

INT. ASHLAR HALL, BASEMENT. - MORNING

Richard hurries into the basement and finds Marcus and Khyripzhus locked in battle. The demon is halfway in the furnace. Marcus's face is mere inches from the hot surface.

RICHARD
Boss!

He joins the battle, using his fists to strike the demon.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Let go!

He hits it again and Khyripzhus shrieks as the portal envelopes him. Marcus slumps to the floor. Blood is everywhere.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Come on, we need to get you
upstairs.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASHLAR HALL. - DAY

Richard brings Marcus out and sits him down on the grass.

RICHARD

Stay here, I'm gonna call an ambulance and get some stuff to try and stop the bleeding.

He hurries off. Marcus lays back in the grass and closes his eyes. A car pulls by and stops. Jeni gets out and rushes to Marcus, falling to her knees.

JENI

Marcus! Marcus! Oh, God!

Marcus reaches a bloodied hand to her.

MARCUS

Sweetheart.

JENI

I was so afraid when I got your message.

MARCUS

I love you.

JENI

Shhhh, rest.

Richard returns with some towels. They do their best to hold them against Marcus's wounds.

RICHARD

Boss, the ambulance is comin'.

Another car pulls up, and Prince Mongo gets out. He stops at Marcus's feet.

PRINCE MONGO

Oh, God, the poor Spirit.

He kneels down.

PRINCE MONGO (CONT'D)

Spirit Marcus? Spirit Marcus? Come back to us, please.

JENI

Marcus, Marcus, please. Don't leave me, I don't want it to end like this...I want us to start over, really, I mean it.

Marcus forces his eyelids open.

PRINCE MONGO
Spirit Marcus!

MARCUS
Hi, Prince.

PRINCE MONGO
Help's on the way. Stay with us,
you hear?

MARCUS
I couldn't let her win.

PRINCE MONGO
No, you beat her fair and square.

MARCUS
It's my castle again.

PRINCE MONGO
Yes, it is, my dear spirit friend.

MARCUS
I won.

Mongo puts his hand on Marcus's shoulder. An ambulance siren can be heard in the distance.

PRINCE MONGO
Hopefully there'll never be a next time. If there is, would you please heed my warning not to trifle with the spirits?

FADE TO BLACK.