

WARNING - KEEP CATS & DOGS INSIDE

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BLACK SCREEN:

EXT. KAREN MARSHALL'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Darkness is broken by a bright, blinding light. A floodlight shines and fills the darkness at the back of the house.

The door opens and KAREN in her nightgown and slippers ties her cat's collar to a light cable. She steps back in and closes the door.

The cat wanders to his favorite poop spot at the cedar-edge corner of the yard and sniffs around for a spot. Cedar boughs move a bit. The cat doesn't notice. The branches separate, the cat turns and screeches in fright.

EXT. KAREN MARSHALL'S BACKYARD CEDAR EDGE - NIGHT (O.C.)

The cat screeches a choking cry.

EXT. NEW LISKEARD BOARDWALK - DAY

LAKE TEMISKAMING comes into view on this beautiful summer day. Seagulls fly, squawk and squeal in flight. People in beach clothes smile, laugh, and walk welcoming everyone with a hello. Some stop to talk to friends.

JOANNE LAFLEUR in her late forties sits on a bench that faces the lake. A seagull lands beside her on the boardwalk. She stands and shoos it away with her flailing arms. She's dressed in a simple cut linen jersey dress, shorts, sandals, wide beach hat and sun glasses.

JOANNE

I don't want you here when I eat my
apple fritter.

In front of her on the water's edge, two small boys with their beach toys run along in play.

ROGER LAFLEUR, her husband arrives next to her in his Conservation Officer's uniform attire. He presents her with a big Tim Horton's coffee and a donut bag. He sits and drink's his coffee.

ROGER

What a lovely Canada Day!

JOANNE

(looks in the bag)
That's not what I wanted!

ROGER

No apple fritters. Hardly anything left. Busy day for Timmy's.

JOANNE

Look at the speed boat.

ROGER

Crazy idiot is too close.

The boat passes close to the string of floats and swerves to create a large wave to drown the boys hanging on. The boys pop back up laughing.

Joanne takes a big bite of a chocolate covered donut.

JOANNE

(mumbles)

Want a bite?

ROGER

Nah! I'm still bothered about the disappearance of those pets? I don't know what could be doing it?

JOANNE

Like you say, it could be a coyote, fox or bush wolf. That's the only thing I can think you said it could be. What about an eagle?

ROGER

I don't know. Eagles usually carry their pray to the nest during the day not at night. Some of those pets were tied.

JOANNE

How did they die?

ROGER

Whatever it is it eats only their insides, their organs and tripe. Weird isn't it?

JOANNE

Thanks for the vivid description.

ROGER

Oops! Sorry.

A soft, beach ball comes flying from a wild toss and hits Roger in the head. Roger stands and kicks the beach ball towards the teenage girls. They wave their thanks.

JOANNE

I think I've had enough sun. Let's go home. I need to take the clothes in before it rains.

Dark, cumulus clouds fill the horizon. An odd lightning bolt zigzags within them. The couple leave toward the ministry's department truck. They jump in and drive away.

EXT. LAFLEUR'S HOUSE - DAY

The truck enters their driveway and stops before the garage doors. KAREN MARSHALL, the neighbor distressed, weeping stampedes across her yard over toward the couple.

KAREN

I'm glad to see you guys.

JOANNE

What's wrong?

KAREN

Just before I went to bed last night, I put the cat out and when I went out, not even five minutes later, the cat was gone.

JOANNE

How did he get untied?

KAREN

The collar is still on the cable.

ROGER

Did you notice anything else?

KAREN

(weeps)

There was a little bit of blood on the collar.

Joanne hugs her.

JOANNE

That's terrible. This is happening all over.

KAREN

I'm not the only one.

ROGER

No. I've been busy all morning checking reports of something in the water and pets missing. I've notified the police, radio station, ministry, and the Speaker about it. I'm telling everyone to keep their cats and dogs inside until we find out what's happening.

Karen wipes her eyes.

KAREN

What could it be?

ROGER

We haven't got a clue what it could be. Weird to say the least!

JOANNE

I'm sorry Karen, I plainly forgot about your cat.

KAREN

That's okay.

ROGER

I'm sorry too. If you know of anyone that has a cat or a dog, can you notify them?

KAREN

My sister lives up across from the bridge and she has a dog.

JOANNE

That reminds me, my sister-in-law has a cat.

Joanne reaches for her cell phone.

KAREN

I better be going.

Roger's phone chimes.

ROGER

Here it comes. I'll keep you posted Karen.

Karen leaves for her stoop wiping her eyes with her hand.
Roger answers his phone.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Hello. I'll be right over. They
have a dog at the mouth of the Wabi
river.

Roger jumps in his truck and Joanne walks toward the house
door her phone to her ear.

INT. ROGER'S MINISTRY TRUCK - DAY

Roger drives on Murray Street toward the dock at the mouth of
the WABI river where it enters lake Temiskaming. A group of
people mill around. One FELLA is on his hands and kneels over
the side of the dock. He reaches down and comes up with
something in his hand.

EXT. TEMISKAMING/WABI RIVER MOUTH DOCK - DAY

Roger pulls up a distance away and walks down trying to grasp
what is happening. The FELLA carries a collar in his hand.
The crowd moves in closer.

FELLA
A black dog is all chewed up
snagged along the dock. This is his
collar and town tag.

Roger takes it with a hanky a women hands him. He takes it
and reads it.

ROGER
BLACKY!

A woman at the back of the crowd begins to BAWL HER HEAD OFF.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Who's crying back there?

The woman drifts through the crowd wiping her eyes and
reaches Roger.

ROGER (CONT'D)
It says here MARGIE, Rebecca
Street?

MARGIE
That's me and cries some more. I'll
get my wheelbarrow.

ROGER
That's okay. I can dispose of it if
you don't mind.

I'll send him down to forensic and have him checked for any clues to who did it. Here's his tag.

MARGIE

Thanks. That'll be good.

People begin to wander away.

MARGIE (CONT'D)

Do you know what. Who did this?

ROGER

Not yet! Maybe with the forensics we'll have a better understanding.

(yells)

EVERYONE KEEP YOUR CATS AND DOGS INSIDE.

A young girl and an old man begin to run towards their home.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Margie, what happened?

Margie places her hand on her brow.

MARGIE

I put him out this morning. It was still pretty dark outside. When he whines at the door, you have only so much time to put him out or else.

ROGER

And when did you notice him gone?

MARGIE

About ten minutes after. He didn't like the outdoors and always whined to be let in.

ROGER

I'm sorry for your dog.

MARGIE

We are getting old and it was getting to be a chore anyway. You know feeding times, the vet!

ROGER

Tell your husband I'm sorry?

MARGIE

Will do.

Both at the water's edge now look down at the black mass of fur.

MARGIE (CONT'D)

Bye, Blacky.

She leaves with watery eyes. Roger walks back to his truck, grabs a garbage bag, rubber gloves and returns to the waters edge. He looks around and shakes his head.

EXT. WABI RIVER SHORE'S DENSE BUSH - DAY

Roger walks next to the Wabi River checking close to shore for any signs of strange animal tracks.

Close to the waters edge, mud has been trampled but he can't make out any tracks within it. He checks to see if any hair that could be hanging on the branches or rubbed off on a tree trunk.

Further up along the bank close to a small opening, a strange glob of a shiny substance sticks to the bottom of a birch tree trunk. He reaches in his backpack for a sample container, takes a swab, scrapes the goo and places it in.

Two lovely Kayakers wave to him as they paddle by. He waves back as he takes a long look at the river towards the Armstrong Street bridge. He pushes his boat out.

INT. ROGERS OFFICE - DAY

Roger sits at his desk with CHARLIE FRENCH filling employment papers. Charlie a new recruit to help him search for the would be killer of cats and dogs.

Charlie is a First Nation indigenous individual dressed in shaggy, leather, bush garments, long braided curls on either side of his head, and tattoos on both arms and neck.

ROGER

You say you're good in the bush
because we will be working away
from each other to do some
tracking.

CHARLIE

I live in the bush. My father
showed me everything there is to
know about the bush.

ROGER

Good. Do you swim?

CHARLIE

That's like asking me if I can walk.

ROGER

Good. You know what's happening here. It seems whatever is taking and killing those pets are using the water as their means of travel.

CHARLIE

What do you think it can be?

Roger stands and walks to the window.

ROGER

Your guess is as good as mine. We have a mutilated dog and a sample of ooze I scraped off a tree to be analyzed. It might not even be related.

Charlie signs the application form and hands it to Roger. He looks at it.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You're forty-two.

CHARLIE

Yes, married with two boys in grade school.

ROGER

Can you start tomorrow? We'll be boating around the lake's, creeks, and rivers for the next few days.

CHARLIE

When and where do you want me to show up?

ROGER

I'll pick you up at six in the morning.

CHARLIE

I live at Notre Dame du Nord reserve.

ROGER

Oh! How about you drive to our marina? My boat is tied there. Don't pack a lunch I'll throw in more for you.

CHARLIE
Great. Jenny will be thrilled. She
hates making lunches.

They shake hands and Charlie leaves.

INT. LAFLEUR'S KITCHEN - DAY

Joanne washes dishes. She sees Karen her neighbor dashing across the driveway toward her back door. She grabs the towel and rushes to greet Karen at the door. Joanne opens the door before Karen has a chance to knock.

JOANNE
What's wrong Karen?

Karen wide eyed struggles to say what she has to say.

KAREN
Jo... Jo... Joanne I found my cat.
He's under the cedar edge. Come and
see what he looks like.

Karen has tears flowing.

JOANNE
Okay. Just a minute.

Joanne slips her shoes on and dashes out the door.

EXT. KAREN'S BACKYARD - DAY

Karen is halfway into her backyard. Joanne hurries.

Joanne reaches Karen on her knees in front of her cedar edge. She lowers herself down and kneels close.

KAREN
Where?

Karen points and lets go her a big bawl. Karen lowers her head even with Karen and sees her dead cat. The cats entrails are gone and the body seems intact. Joanne places her arm around her.

JOANNE
I'm sorry Karen. Come for coffee.
I'll phone Roger to come.

Joanne stands helping Karen up. They turn as Roger enters the driveway.

ROGER
What's going on?

Joanne points to the spot under the cedar edge.

JOANNE
Karen found her cat under the cedar
hedge.

Roger arrives at the spot, kneels and sees the cat. He shakes his head and takes a photo. The girls leave for coffee.

Too far away and hard to get him, he leaves and fetches a rake out of the shed and carefully drags him out.

Roger checks the cat for anything that could indicate any clues on what devoured the cats innards. He tries to fluff the fur but it is matted with a sticky substance. He slips the cat inside the clear sample bag and seals it with a slip nylon tie.

Roger leaves and deposits the bag in the back of the truck and leaves for the house.

INT. LAFLEUR'S KITCHEN - DAY

Joanne and Karen sit at the kitchen table with their tea.

ROGER
Hi Karen. I'm sorry about your cat.

KAREN
What did that do to him?

ROGER
Your guess is as good as mine. I've hired a woodsman to help me find what is going on. I'll be sending your cat to our lab for analysis.

Roger washes his hands in the sink.

KAREN
I miss my cat.

JOANNE
I'm sure there are little cats to give away at the pound.

ROGER
Maybe that would be a good way to forget. Joanne could bring you there and adopt a cute one.

KAREN

Maybe, maybe after we find out what's happening out there. I love cats too much.

ROGER

Good. I need to ship the cat our lab. We have a great bunch of lab technicians out there. Joanne you keep her posted on what we find.

KAREN

Thank you.

ROGER

I have a funny feeling this will take some time.

Roger leaves.

EXT. WABI RIVER - DAY

Roger and Charlie boat along the Wabi looking for any signs of disturbance along its edge. A muskrat is on his bank house eating cattail roots. A flock of mergansers lift from the water as the boat gets closer.

CHARLIE

When did this all start?

ROGER

Two days ago. Jerry from Cobalt said cats and dogs were disappearing. No bodies like yesterday.

CHARLIE

What's that over there?

Roger steers closer to the group of cattails with a noticeable trail through them that leads up to the bank.

ROGER

Let's check it out.

He guides the boat to the edge of the cluster of cattails. Charlie jumps out, Roger lifts the motor and Charlie slides the boat up on the bank. Roger steps out.

CHARLIE

Whatever did that is going toward that little farm house over there.

Both begin to walk on either side of the night's trail. At one spot Charlie notices a bit of goo.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Look at that.

ROGER
Good, I took a same sample
yesterday.

Roger takes a zip-lock bag, scrapes a bit of ooze with his knife and rubs it inside the bag.

CHARLIE
Whatever it is, its dragging
something a tail. Something like a
crocodile would do.

As they get closer the trail heads for the small barn with the door partially open.

ROGER
Let's check the house before going
in there.

Roger heads for the door whilst Charlie stands back and looks around. Roger KNOCKS hard. The curtain moves on the door's window. A head peeks out. The curtains close. The door squeaks partly open.

An OLDER WOMAN in her seventies answers the door.

OLDER WOMAN
Yes.

ROGER
I'm sorry to disturb you this fine
morning. I'm here with my partner
over there.

She looks around Roger to see what he looks like.

OLDER WOMAN
Yes.

ROGER
We're tracking a trail that leads
to your barn. Can we examine what
you have in there? Something has
been eating cats and dogs in town.

OLDER WOMAN

Yes, I heard. Isn't that awful? Do you think whatever is eating them is in my barn?

ROGER

Quite possible, ma'am.

OLDER WOMAN

By all means go check it out. We have this big pig in there we butcher in the fall. My husband fed it this morning and left to do some shopping in town.

ROGER

Thanks we'll let you know what we find out.

Charlie is ahead walking slowly. He stops for Roger to catch up.

CHARLIE

You've got the gun.

Roger takes the hint and takes the gun in his hand. He check for bullets.

ROGER

I'll go first.

Roger pushes the door to open wider. His face wrinkles to the nauseating smell. It's poorly lit inside. He steps in with Charlie. They wait for their eyes to adjust. A pig pen is on the far wall. They slowly walk towards it. The pen door is open. They look inside.

The pig is dead on its side with its innards eaten away. Chickens cluck in a chicken wired enclosure next to the pen. They head outside both satisfied on their find.

CHARLIE

Where did he go from here?

They look around the barn, and up the old bush road leading to a grown-in pasture.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I think he went the same way he came.

ROGER

Let's go tell the lady she'll be losing her pig for tests.

Charlie grins.

ROGER (CONT'D)
What a ferocious eater.

CHARLIE
Would you class that semi-aquatic
animal a carnivore?

Roger stops and thinks.

ROGER
I guess. Weird isn't it.

EXT. UNDER GIANT WHITE PINE - DAY

Roger and Charlie enjoy their lunch break next to the Wabi River. Roger pours hot tea into two cups from a pot on a small portable propane burner. He hands one over to Charlie.

CHARLIE
Thanks. What do you think it is?

Roger burns his lips on the hot tea. He looks up in the air at an eagle flying over the river searching for a fish.

ROGER
HOT! You got me. I never seen
anything like it. What slithers
around with no visible tracks?

CHARLIE
This sounds stupid but it seems
like a crocodile dragged itself up
to the barn and back to the water.

ROGER
(laughs)
Crocodiles up in Northern Ontario.
Why do you say that?

CHARLIE
What do you see on either side of
the drag marks?

ROGER
I didn't notice those sharp
puncture marks. You must do a lot
of tracking.

CHARLIE

All my life. My mother had the blackest hair I ever saw. It shone like black shoe polish in the sun.

ROGER

I never heard of an animal eating only the innards of an animal, nocturnal... and lives and uses the water as a means of transportation.

CHARLIE

You got me. I keep pondering it back and forth in my head, but I only draw a blank.

ROGER

To what I can tell it has no teeth and sucks. It must suffocate its victim and the only thing it can do is suck the guts out of its prey.

CHARLIE

That pig is a fair size to smother, you know. What large animal sucks to eat?

Roger's iPhone chimes a small tune. He reaches for it and listens, nods a couple of times, and clicks it off.

ROGER

I have results for the lab tests on the cat, the dog and that ooze sample. It says samples from the cat are related to salamanders. The dog had nothing because it was taken out of the river.

CHARLIE

(chuckles)

Salamanders! How good is your laboratory?

ROGER

Top notch. Hold it, it says here. They had another couple do the work on the specimens and found the same thing, salamanders.

Roger's iPhone chimes again. He answers it.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Hello.

Roger's face contorts to a sudden surprise.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Devil's Rock. We'll be right over.

Roger pockets his iPhone.

ROGER (CONT'D)
They spotted something below the
rocks in the water. Let's go.

Roger begins to quickly pick the lunch articles into two backpacks with Charlie pushing the boat out. In no time they leave with Charlie handling the boat like a pro. Roger smiles.

EXT. DEVIL'S ROCK FROM LAKE - DAY

The boat is seen in the distance as it charges to the scene of something black swimming at the base of Devil's Rock.

Roger at the front waves Charlie to slow down as he inspects the water. The boat slows to a crawl. Charlie kneels on the seat to look. They see nothing. Circle one more time, nothing.

CHARLIE
I don't see anyone there.

ROGER
We've been pranked.

Roger takes his phone out and quick dials a number.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Hello Dick! We've been pranked to
check something in the waters at
Devil's Rock. Nothing in the water
and no ones there we can see from
here down below.

Charlie leaves the spot back toward the marina.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Thanks, Dick. Okay, then.

Roger places the phone in his pocket.

ROGER (CONT'D)
No use going back down the Wabi.
I'll buy you coffee and we'll plan
our day tomorrow.

CHARLIE
Sounds good to me. Cops will nab him.

ROGER
He better. If not I have his number here.

Charlie smiles and increases the speed. Other people cruising the lake wave hello as they pass by.

EXT. TIM HORTON'S - DAY

Roger and Charlie park in the parking. They get out and slowly walk toward the doors. A BAG LADY stops them from entering.

BAG LADY
Officer, officer. I want to tell you something I saw this morning.

Roger stops from opening the door.

ROGER
Can you tell me inside? We'll get a coffee, then you can tell me.

INT. TIM HORTON'S - DAY

They enter and line up. The customer leaves and they order. The bag lady waits at an empty table. They grab their coffee and walk to the waiting bag lady now sitting.

Before they sit she waves Roger closer. Roger leans over.

BAG LADY
Yep. That's what I saw.

ROGER
Where about?

BAG LADY
Right over there.

She points toward the little inlet next to the boardwalk.

BAG LADY (CONT'D)
(eyes roll)
Lets see now. It was about as long as me, no, maybe you... it was black like coal and shone like a seal's skin.

CHARLIE

Did it have teeth? A head.

BAG LADY

It swam with its head down I guess.
I only saw its back until it took
off toward the lake like a walrus
pulling itself from side to side.

ROGER

It's shallow in there.

BAG LADY

All I could see is weeds and mud
flying around it.

INSIDE TIM HORTON'S EXIT DOORS

DICK, the OPP Officer enters through the doors. Everyone turn
in puzzlement. He finds Roger and marches straight for him.

DICK

I figured you'd be here. I need to
talk to you outside.

Puzzled, Roger takes his coffee and heads out with Dick. He
stops and looks at Charlie.

ROGER

I'll be back.

The bag lady continues her rattling.

BAG LADY

I'm not going to repeat this again.

EXT. TIM HORTON'S - DAY

Dick leads Roger to a quiet spot on the parking lot sidewalk.
He looks very concerned and looks around not to be overheard.
An couple steps out of their car. He waits until they walk a
distance away. He speaks with a low voice.

DICK

We got those pranksters. A young
couple in their twenties. A court
date is being set up, but this is
what I'm really concerned about.

Roger is worried and his face changes.

DICK (CONT'D)

One runner at dawn this morning
found an old woman dead on the side
of the boardwalk.

Roger's face changes in shock.

DICK (CONT'D)

He wouldn't have noticed her until
he saw the bottom of her leg over
the bottom branches of a bunch of
cedars boughs. We have it all
cordoned off.

ROGER

GEEZ, that's terrible news. Are you
going to say next, it's related to
the cats and dogs missing?

DICK

I don't know how your cats and dogs
died, but I'll tell you one thing,
I never saw a person...

ROGER

... Don't tell me, nothing left
inside?

Dick nods with a big, up and down of his head almost in
tears.

ROGER (CONT'D)

If it wasn't for the pranksters
interrupting our research, you
would have known by now what we saw
down the Wabi?

DICK

What did you see?

ROGER

A gored pig like the old woman!
What do we do now?

DICK

Get rid of that thing.

ROGER

Do we notify the public, the mayor,
the government...! Who all knows?

DICK

George Edwards. He's there now keeping watch and walkers from using that section of the boardwalk. The coroner has been notified but not the mayor. I thought we can both go and meet him and iron this out?

ROGER

Okay then. I'll dismiss my new hire that he can go home until we get this straightened out. I think I should go down and take a look and compare with the pig I picked up on the Wabi.

DICK

Let's keep it under wraps until we know what's going on.

They both jump into the cruiser and head out the Tim Horton's parking.

EXT. SECTIONED OFF BOARDWALK - DAY

GEORGE EDWARDS stands beside his flashing cruiser waving pedestrians away from the OPP do not enter tape. Dick parks his cruiser beside the ambulance. They step out and walk to the body.

The old woman is still in her death position. The coroner arrives looks at the scene and nods his approval that the paramedics can remove the body. Roger notices a wad of saliva on the old woman's shoulder.

ROGER

Just a minute, I'll take a small sample.

Roger reaches in his pocket, inverts the bag, and snatches a small glob. He takes his iPhone and takes a few photos.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm good.

The paramedics move in and Roger and Dick walk away.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You live in Cobalt?

DICK
Yeah. I'll drop you off at Timmy's
and we'll meet in Haileybury.

ROGER
Yep. Sounds good to me.

EXT. HAILEYBURY TOWN HALL - DAY

Roger pulls into the town hall parking lot. Dick waits next to his car. The meet and walk toward the doors.

DICK
SIMON LAFLECHE is waiting for us. I
imagine he has everything figured
out by now.

ROGER
I think we should notify the
public. I wonder what he'll say.

DICK
We can't panic the people. It'll
hurt the economy. Yes, we need to
warn them. This might get out of
hand.

They nod their heads and enter the building.

INT. MAYOR LAFLECHE OFFICE - DAY

Dick and Roger enter the doorway to his office. The secretary on the phone points to his office door. Dick knocks and Jerry calls out.

SIMON (V.O.)
Come on in guys.

They walk in. Jerry sits at his desk shuffling papers. He's dressed in street clothes and drinks a coffee.

SIMON
Have a seat.

They both sit down.

SIMON (CONT'D)
I haven't got time and need to be
heading down to Toronto, mayor's
meeting.

DICK

Did you think about what I said happened?

SIMON

I thought about it. It'll hurt the economy and you know how touchy it is now. We can't panic the people.

Roger heaves a heavy sigh.

ROGER

Look mayor, I don't know what it is. This death was done by a creature I don't recognize. I'm going to get some volunteers to keep watch along the river at night.

SIMON

Good but don't tell the people. It's probably those bush wolves or coyotes.

ROGER

NO, I don't know what it is and until I do I'm going to have to keep people away. It might be a she to have such a hungry appetite.

SIMON

Don't tell the people just yet until I come back in three days. I'll discuss it with the other northern mayors that will be there.

DICK

I don't think so. Do you honestly thinks they won't know something is going on when they see men walking around with guns. I'm notifying them now. Goodbye, Mister Lafleche.

Dick stands and walks out with Roger close behind. Simon picks up his case and closes his computer.

EXT. HAILEYBURY TOWN HALL - DAY

Roger exits the building. He holds the door for Dick.

ROGER

We might lose our jobs over this.

DICK

I don't think so. We shouldn't have went to see him. I'm here to protect the public.

ROGER

Yeah! We weren't thinking there. I'm going to need some shut eye soon before I fall down.

Dick heads to his cruiser and roger heads for his truck.

DICK

I'll notify the radio station, Toronto to find some more men for this search, and you get on with capturing that thing before it gets out of hand.

Roger opens his door.

ROGER

I'll notify Charlie to meet me at the office in the morning. We need to set up a plan the capture or whatever we can think of in eliminating the thing.

DICK

Right. I'll check with you say around seven-thirty on what your plans are.

ROGER

Good. Let me know of anything new.

Dick waves goodbye and enters his cruiser. They leave the parking lot.

INT. LAFLEUR'S KITCHEN - DAY

Joanne sits at the kitchen table with her laptop. She types away until she hears the outside open. She stands and runs to meet Roger at the entrance door.

JOANNE

Roger... my poor soul. You must be tired and hungry.

Joanne runs and engulfs him in a big hug. He looks at her with a sad look.

JOANNE (CONT'D)
What's wrong? You don't look
yourself.

Roger hugs her some more.

ROGER
I have a big problem.

Joanne looks at him with a worried look.

JOANNE
What did you find?

ROGER
A runner this morning found an old
woman dead on the side of the
boardwalk.

Joanne is shaken and distressed.

JOANNE
Do you think it's the thing in the
Wabi?

ROGER
Yes, definitely. She was under the
cedar boughs at the start of the
boardwalk.

JOANNE
Did she die the same way as the
pets?

ROGER
Yes, disemboweled.

JOANNE
Oh! My gosh, Roger. What are you
going to do?

ROGER
The only thing, I can do is try and
trap it. Dick is going to place men
out at night checking the edge of
the Wabi and lake shore with guns.
Another thing I'm gonna do is eat
something before I fall down.

JOANNE
Geez. You must be hungry. I'll warm
supper up. It's all there for us to
eat.

Joanne runs into the kitchen with Roger following.

ROGER

You didn't eat?

JOANNE

No. I was worried about you.

ROGER

Honey. Don't wait up for me. I've been kind-of-busy. I need to tell you about what happened at the mayor's office.

