



FRESH BLOOD SELECTS

BAD WITCHES

"Summer Solstice"

Written By

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. WICKS HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY [PEORIA, ILLINOIS]

A quaint, modest bungalow decorated to resemble a hunter's cabin. Bearskin rug, pair of antlers mounted on the wall, log walls framed with family photos. Love lives here.

ALAWA WICKS (30s, African-American), a quintessential Midwest momma; scoops buttery mashed potatoes onto plates.

RON WICKS (30s, African-American), would fix your leaky faucet without saying a word; sets the table.

Ron climbs onto a footstool with a POWER DRILL in hand, ready to take down a DEER HEAD that's mounted to the wall.

ALAWA

Babe, relax. Leave the heads.

RON

The Senator always called hunting barbaric. I don't want him thinkin' we're ya know...

ALAWA

No, I don't know. And stop calling him the Senator. He's still the same Frank who caught frogs with you at the Sangamon River.

ISABELLA "Isa" WICKS (11, African-American), precocious, eyes wiser than her years; bounces into the kitchen.

ISABELLA

Momma, it smells so good!

RON

Your momma put cream cheese in the mashed.

Isabella sticks her finger in the bowl of mashed potatoes. Alawa smacks Isa's hand away.

ALAWA

I don't think so! You have to wait.

ISABELLA

But cream cheese potatoes!

ALAWA
And you'll wait.

DING DONG. The door bell chimes.

ISABELLA
I'll get it!

Isabella bolts to the door and whips it open. The blustery, snowy air offers a cold welcome to an intimidating figure. SENATOR "Frank" THOMPSON (50s), firm, Wall-Street type.

Isabella nervously steps back as Senator Thompson walks inside.

ISABELLA
Are you Frank?

RON
Isa, don't call the Senator by his first name.

SENATOR THOMPSON
It's fine, Ron. You know how I hate formalities.

Senator Thompson bends down and smiles at Isabella. She's uneasy. He hands Isabella a pack of gum.

SENATOR THOMPSON
Here ya go, little lady.
(to Alawa)
I can't believe she's forgotten me.

Alawa hugs Senator Thompson.

ALAWA
Don't mind Isa. She can't remember what town she's in most days.

Ron stretches out his hand to Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON
It's been too long.

Ron shakes his hand. Senator Thompson brings him into a hug.

RON
Way too long. Good to see ya.

ALAWA
I hope you came hungry.

SENATOR THOMPSON
I came starving.

MATCH CUT:

DINNER TABLE

Senator Thompson's teeth rip into a chicken leg.

Isabella studies Senator Thompson as she pushes food around her plate.

ALAWA
Isa, eat your peas.

Isabella groans in protest.

SENATOR THOMPSON
You better do what your momma says.

Senator Thompson's tone unnerves Isabella. Senator Thompson picks up on the tension.

SENATOR THOMPSON
(to Ron)
You know what I was remembering?
How you and I would catch those
frogs down at the Sangamon River.

RON
We were talkin' about that not more
than a minute before you walked in!

A bout of nausea waves over Isabella. Her fingers tremble. She drops her fork, sending it clamoring to the floor.

RON
It's still hard to believe you're
up there in DC.

Ron, Alawa and Senator Thompson make chit-chat. Isabella tunes them out.

Isabella stretches her hand under the table to retrieve her fork.

UNDER THE TABLE

The life line on Isabella's palm GLOWS RED. Her hand pulses. Isabella buckles over in pain.

ALAWA
Isa!

Alawa and Ron race to Isabella's side.

WIND HOWLS. The electricity shuts off. BLACKNESS.

Light from Isabella's hand bathes the room in a haunted red glow.

ISABELLA
(to her parents)
Stay away from me!

ALAWA
No, baby girl, stay with me.

ISABELLA
I told you... I told you... I told
you.

Senator Thompson watches the scene unaffected.

RON
Frank, get downstairs and turn on
the generator.

ISABELLA
(screaming)
He's not Frank.

SENATOR THOMPSON
She's always been a wise one.

Senator Thompson points his hand towards Ron.

He lifts his hand. BOOM! Ron, as if in an invisible choke hold, flies up in the air dangling above the dining table.

Alawa cries out as she watches Ron gasp, choke, desperate for air.

Senator Thompson FLICKS HIS FINGERS, sending Alawa flying across the room and SLAMMING against the wall. Her hand breaks a FAMILY PHOTO. Glass shatters. Her hand bleeds. She's frozen, pinned to the wall.

Isabella scrambles to hide under the table.

ISABELLA
(in Gaelic; stutters)
I bind you and ban you. I bind you
and ban you.

Senator Thompson peeks under the table.

SENATOR THOMPSON
Happy Winter Solstice, Isabella.

Isabella trembles.

ISABELLA
I bind you and ban you. I bind you
and ban you. I bind you (Repeats).

SENATOR THOMPSON
I don't like it when you use those
words against me.

Rage fuelling, Senator Thompson lifts both his hands towards Ron.

Ron flies across the room and SMASHES into the deer head. The antlers pierce Ron's back.

ISABELLA
(screams)
No!

FLASH OF LIGHT... Ron's life drains from his body... Veins bulge, blood drips from his eyes... Ron's life, his energy, SURGES into Senator Thompson.

Senator Thompson absorbs Ron's life force. He grows stronger as Ron's life slips away.

Ron falls DEAD to the ground. Isabella scrambles to his side.

ISABELLA
No!

Senator Thompson is sated, strong, fed.

SENATOR THOMPSON
I warned you I was starving.

Isabella's eyes dart everywhere -- they're wild, consumed with rage.

Using TELEKINESIS, she rips out the CEILING LIGHT and sends it flying to Senator Thompson.

Senator Thompson shatters the lamp. Isabella hurls object after object at Senator Thompson. He destroys each one.

SENATOR THOMPSON
Well, this is a new development.

Isabella SCREAMS. Wallpaper curls. Family photos shatter.

Isabella hurls a VASE. Senator Thompson moves, but not in time.

The vase shatters against his face. Senator Thompson CRIES OUT. Shards of glass lodge into his cheek.

Thick, BLACK BLOOD, drips down his face.

Senator Thompson, distracted, "lets go" of Alawa. Alawa crashes to the floor.

ALAWA
Run, Isabella!

Alawa grabs Isabella. They scramble out of the dining room.

INT. BEDROOM CLOSET - LATER

The faint sound of a ticking clock. Eyes adjust. Alawa holds Isabella. She covers Isabella's palm, shielding any light.

Footsteps in the distance.

ALAWA
(whispers)
I love you for all the evers.
Tell me you know.

ISABELLA
You love me for all the evers.

(O.S.) A CRASH. GLASS SHATTERS.

SENATOR THOMPSON (O.S.)
I do love hide-and-peek.

ALAWA
Again. Say it again.

ISABELLA
You love me for all the evers
(Repeats).

(O.S.) DOORS OPEN and CLOSE. Senator Thompson hunts for the duo.

SENATOR THOMPSON (O.S.)
I'm growing bored.

Isabella whimpers.

ISABELLA
I'm so sorry, Momma.

ALAWA

Baby girl, this isn't your fault.
This has never been your fault.

ISABELLA

It is my fault.

ALAWA

No. Remember what I've told you.

ISABELLA

Momma, it won't ever end.

Isabella begins to cry. Alawa holds her.

ISABELLA

Don't go.

ALAWA

I have to. It's time.

ISABELLA

Please, don't go.

ALAWA

I need you to hide for me. Can you
do that?

Senator Thompson's footsteps are close.

ISABELLA

Momma--

ALAWA

--I love you, baby girl.

ISABELLA

I love you, momma.

ALAWA

Tell me you'll hide. Tell me!

ISABELLA

I will.

SENATOR THOMPSON (O.S.)

(sing-song)

Oh, Alawa...

ALAWA

Cover your ears and keep hidden.

Isabella covers her ears. Alawa kisses Isabella's forehead.

Alawa leaves. Blood curdling SCREAMS.

CLOSET - LATER

Isabella uncovers her ears. Her palm has returned to normal. She hesitantly pushes the door open.

HALLWAY

Isabella trails her finger across HALLWAY WALLS. She notices blood in the plush carpet.

Isabella follows the blood trail to the back porch. She steps OUTSIDE.

EXT. BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Isabella freezes as her eyes set upon Alawa hanging crucified on a tree. Alawa's blood spills upon the blanket of white snow below.

A bloody bat and hunting knife lies on the porch.

ISABELLA

Nooooooooo!

Isabella runs through the snow to Alawa. She collapses in the snow, sobbing.

Senator Thompson steps onto the porch. He takes a drag on a BLACK CIGARETTE.

SENATOR THOMPSON

After all these centuries, these were the idiots you finally chose to reveal yourself to?

ISABELLA

Momma, no. No, momma please!

SENATOR THOMPSON

You weren't a daughter to them. You were a commodity.

ISABELLA

That's not true.

SENATOR THOMPSON

I did you a favor.

ISABELLA

No. No, they loved me. I loved them...

SENATOR THOMPSON

You can't love them. You know that.
You killed them.

A haunting calm settles over Isabella. She stops crying.

She stands. Her eyes cold as stone. She slowly walks through the deep, heavy snow towards Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON

I missed you, Isa.

Isabella steps onto the porch. Isa's confident walk, her resilient expression, her wise eyes -- she presents herself far older than 11 years.

ISABELLA

I missed you too.

Senator Thompson's hard exterior warms.

SENATOR THOMPSON

I am sorry about this mess. I wanted to get your attention.

ISABELLA

Well, you have it.

SENATOR THOMPSON

That's all I have ever wanted, Isa. You know that. I don't wish to ever hurt you.

ISABELLA

I know.

Isabella eyes the hunting knife and bat on the porch.

ISABELLA

(re: cigarette)
Can I have one?

SENATOR THOMPSON

Of course.

Senator Thompson searches his pockets for a cigarette.

Isabella grabs the hunting knife and with a lightning fast throw - IMPALES Senator Thompson in the heart.

He stumbles, shocked, hurt, surprised. He falls to his knees. He gargles and spits out BLACK BLOOD, thick as tar.

Isabella nervously walks over. She's strangely fascinated with him. She lifts his head to meet hers.

Senator Thompson's eyes are black as night. His skin turns sickly grey, wrinkly and loose. His hair falls out. He shrinks to half his size. There's nothing human about this creature.

He is a BLACK BLOOD.

Isabella knows this man. She struggles to remain strong.

ISABELLA
(whispers)
Let me go, Vathis.

Senator Thompson's fingers find the handle of the knife in his chest.

SENATOR THOMPSON
I can't.

Senator Thompson yanks out the knife and STABS Isabella's hand, slicing a deep wound from her wrist to ring finger.

Isabella wails in pain and crumbles to the ground.

Senator Thompson's wound closes over. Senator Thompson touches his healed wound.

SENATOR THOMPSON
I have your William to thank for this gift.

ISABELLA
You don't get to say his name.

The color returns to his skin. He transforms back into human form, no semblance of being a Black Blood.

He stands over Isabella. He bends down and drags his finger across her wound. Her blood glistens on his finger.

SENATOR THOMPSON
I can heal you. You only have to ask.

Isabella applies pressure to her hand wound. She stares at Senator Thompson with stoic hatred.

ISABELLA
What do you want?

Isabella slumps over.

SENATOR THOMPSON
I want what I've always wanted.

Isabella drifts in and out of consciousness.

BLACK

She drifts in and out of conscience.

Isabella fights to focus in on her surroundings. Snow softly falls... the porch light casts shadows... Silence...

Senator Thompson has disappeared.

END TEASER

ACT ONE**EXT. FOREST - EUGENE, OREGON - NIGHT****SUPERIMPOSE: "Eugene, Oregon" Six Years Later**

ISA (V.O.)

This is the Voice of the
Resistance. This audio file will be
available for exactly sixty
minutes.

Complete darkness. Footsteps run through a forest. Someone's
being chased, hunted.

FEMALE VOICE

Please! You don't have to do this.
I'm a mother!

The sound of an arrow flying. A gasp. A breathless whimper.

ISA (V.O.)

You've all asked me who I am.
Today, I tell you.

A flashlight clicks on.

The light illuminates the body of a DEAD WOMAN (40s),
Stepford-wife vibe.

An arrow is lodged in her chest.

A GLOVED HAND rips the arrow from her body. BLACK BLOOD drips
from the arrowhead.

A waiting silence.

The Dead Woman TRANSFORMS into a BLACK BLOOD. That same
sickly grey creature which is more demon than animal.

A high-top sneaker with neon laces kicks the Black Blood's
leg, checking to ensure she's actually dead.

The Black Blood remains motionless.

The gloved hands drag the Black Blood through the forest.

A CLEARING

Rows upon rows of filled fresh graves. The Black Blood is
thrown with ease into an open grave.

IN THE GRAVE

Dirt covers hollow, dead, Black Blood eyes.

The SUN begins to rise.

EXT. GROUP HOME - DAY

An isolated, Victorian-style three story house surrounded by thick forest brush.

The sign "MOUNTAINSIDE GROUP HOME" hangs over the front door.

RADIO NEWS (O.S.)

President Thompson will address the rising concerns surrounding "Thompson's Law." The bill, if passed by Senate, will render anyone from the Dissenter lineage, ineligible for government support, intervention or care of any kind.

INT. GROUP HOME - ISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

A room no bigger than an office. A single bed with a threadbare quilt. White walls. Sterile. Cold.

A hand, with a deep scar from wrist to ring finger, reaches to turn off the radio.

The hand belongs to ISA, now 17. She's smarter, wiser than her peers and bitter as all hell.

She sits at her desk with a recording device in her hands.

ISA (V.O.)

I don't know how long I'll be allowed to carry on with these transmissions. I'll be here until they force me out.

INT. GROUP HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Isa makes her way through the crowded, cramped space searching for something.

A dozen teens watch TV, play board games and argue over celebrity crushes.

TEEN

Isa, catch!

Isa doesn't have to look. She catches a FOOTBALL coming for the back of her head.

TEEN

How?! Every damn time!

Isa searches until she finds a sweatshirt wedged in the couch. She picks it up.

ISA

A reminder to everyone that my closet is my closet.

She slides on the sweatshirt.

ISA

Nothing I own is for sharing. Ever. Understood?

No one listens. There's zero acknowledgement.

Isa heads back to her room, slamming the door.

ISA (V.O.)

I look like you. I talk like you.
You'd never pick me out of a crowd.
I hate the same things you hate.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A THUNDEROUS KNOCK at her door.

Before she can answer, the door flies open. ROBERTA (50s), the social worker from hell, glares at Isa.

ROBERTA

You're keeping everyone waiting.

ISA

I'm almost ready.

Roberta gives Isa a disapproving once over.

ROBERTA

Almost isn't good enough.
You look homeless. Change and get to the car. Now.

ISA

I always appreciate these inspirational chats, Roberta.

Roberta slams the door behind her as she leaves. Isa continues getting ready while silently mimicking Roberta.

A KNOCK.

ISA
Take a shit and breathe! I'm almost
ready!

The door slowly opens.

MARIA SANCHEZ (30s, Latina), a social worker not old enough
to be jaded by the system, steps inside.

MARIA
I only want to do one of those
things.

ISA
I thought you were Roberta.

A FLY buzzes around the room. Isa's frustration levels rise.

MARIA
Is the dragon hounding you?

ROBERTA (O.S.)
I'm not waiting any longer, Isa.
Find another ride.

ISA
Does that answer your question?

Isa's focused on the fly.

MARIA
You need a ride to the library?

ISA
Yeah. You mind?

MARIA
I'm ready when you are.

Isa grabs her book bag. Maria leaves.

Isa zeros in on the fly. The fly lands on the wall.

ISA (V.O.)
But I'm not like you.

Isa WHACKS the fly. Her hand goes through the drywall.

ISA
Dammit.

ISA (V.O.)
 I'm eight hundred and fifty-nine
 years old. And I'm cursed as all
 hell.

EXT. / INT. CAR / STREETS - DAY

Isa and Maria ride in silence. 80's pop music plays.

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

A FARMER'S MARKET. People pick through fresh produce.

ISA (V.O.)
 I need to eat, breathe, sleep. And
 I can die.

Isa and Maria come to a SUDDEN STOP avoiding a collision.

ISA (V.O.)
 But death isn't my end. I always
 come back. Different parents.
 Different city, but holy hell do I
 come back.

A LUSH PARK. A COUPLE on a bench share ice cream.

ISA (V.O.)
 I want what you want. Home. Peace.
 Sex. I want love. I had love, and
 that's why everything was cursed to
 shit.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY [BUTTE, MONTANA]

SUPERIMPOSE: Butte, Montana

A neighborhood where it's acceptable to fix your car on your lawn and patch windows with duct tape.

INT. WILLIAM'S APARTMENT - DAY

If depression manifested as decor, it would be this place.

ISA (V.O.)
 You'll ask me if you think love was
 worth my life. Yeah. He was worth
 it.

The sound of SNORING.

BEDROOM

WILLIAM "Will" SANDERSON (19), strong, confident and hides his rage with whiskey and silence; sleeps away his afternoon.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Will stirs. The knocking continues.

WILLIAM

Go away!

The KNOCKING grows insistent.

WILLIAM

Jesus Christ.

He forces himself awake. Will grabs a pair of pants and pulls them up.

LIVING ROOM

Will OPENS THE FRONT DOOR.

VENUS (20s), a goddess of a woman, waltzes in like she owns the place.

WILLIAM

Venus? Why the hell are you here so goddamn early?

VENUS

It's 3:00 PM, and it's good to see you too.

WILLIAM

That can't be for real the time.

VENUS

It's not. Now, it's 3:03... 3:04.

WILLIAM

Dammit.

VENUS

I figured you had forgotten what today was.

WILLIAM

What's today?

VENUS

Your birthday. Happy 19th, old man.

The door swings open again and DERRICK (30s), life-time bartender, 30 going on 16; bursts in.

DERRICK

I got us some small batch bourbon
and DIE HARD. We're gonna party--

Derrick stops when he spots Venus. He stares at Venus with
lust or love. Maybe both.

DERRICK

(to Venus)
Shit, girl.

VENUS

(disappointed)
Hey, Derrick.

DERRICK

(to Venus)
Your shirt is amazing. It's like a
colorful vase.

VENUS

It's a dress.

DERRICK

It's very stylish. You're a very
stylish person. You remind me of a
Sears model.

Venus pushes a gift into Will's hand.

VENUS

This is for you.

WILLIAM

You didn't have to get me anything.

VENUS

Of course I had to.

Will slowly unwraps. Venus has no patience for slow.

VENUS

Oh my god, come on.

She rips at the paper.

A stunning oak wooden box is revealed. Inside sits a
stainless steel hand-held edger used for brick laying.

VENUS

The handle's made of sheep's horn.

Will loves the gift.

WILLIAM
This is too much.

DERRICK
That's definitely too much.

Venus brushes her fingers against Will's hand.

VENUS
I think it's just enough.

A RAP on the doorway.

EMMA (20s), Derrick's sister and probably sells Mary-Kay, bounces into the room with a case of beer and homemade birthday cake.

EMMA
Oh my good Lord, well if this isn't the place to be.

Will's happy to see Emma. Venus sure isn't.

VENUS
Is there anyone else coming who we weren't be expecting?

Derrick grabs a beer from Emma.

EMMA
(to Will)
Derrick said you were gonna be alone today, Will.

WILLIAM
Apparently everyone thought I would be brooding in my own depressive filth and have arranged the worst intervention.

EMMA
Or maybe you have friends who love you and want to be with you on your special day.

VENUS
And now I have vomit in my mouth.

DERRICK
Same.

Emma's not phased by Venus. She hands Will a beer.

EMMA
Happy Birthday, handsome.

WILLIAM
Get those drinks in my belly, Em.

Emma throws Will a beer. Venus looks away.

WILLIAM
(to the group)
Let's drink up.

INT. OREGON LIBRARY - ROOM - DAY

A vintage classroom-type room. Artifacts hang from the ceiling.

A FEW DOZEN high school students stand sandwiched together as they listen to a presentation from a LIBRARIAN. Isabella stands at the back.

CHAD (17), your typical douche-jock; accidentally elbows Isa as he steps back.

ISA
(whisper)
Watch yourself.

CHAD
(whisper)
You're in my personal space.

ISA
That's how you apologize?

CHAD
I don't owe you an apology.

Isa's eyes darken.

ISA (V.O.)
I want to scream to the world who I am and what I'm capable of doing.

ISA
I think you do.

CHAD
Yeah, you go on thinking that.

ISA
Tell me you're sorry.

CHAD

I'm sorry you're such a bitch and forgot to take your meds this morning.

Isa's eyes land on a METAL DRAGON SCULPTURE cascading from the ceiling directly overhead.

She focuses on the dragon. She fakes a cough as she flicks her fingers.

The DRAGON DISLODGES AND SPIRALS towards Chad's head. STUDENTS SCREAM.

BULL'S-EYE!

The DRAGON KNOCKS into Chad's face. Bright, red blood gushes down his face. Chad collapses to the ground.

The LIBRARIAN screams and rushes over.

ISA

(to Librarian)

You really need proper anchors if you're going to mount a giant ass dragon from the roof.

INT. WILLIAM'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Venus and Derrick fight over how to make an old fashioned.

Venus cuts up an orange.

VENUS

It has to have an orange peel or you're basically drinking bitters and brown booze.

DERRICK

That's amateur bullshit. Taste this.

Derrick presents Venus with a drink. She takes a sip and spits it out.

NINETEEN CANDLES FLICKER atop the birthday cake. Emma ignores the bickering and presents the cake to Will.

EMMA

Make a wish.

Will stares at the candle on his homemade birthday cake. He drifts off to a memory from another time --

EXT. SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - 12TH CENTURY [FLASHBACK]

William heals a Woman's head wound. He watches her wound close up. He steps back.

The Woman is Isabella.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - 12TH CENTURY [FLASHBACK]**

Isabella runs her fingers over her healed wounds.

ISABELLA
(Scottish accent)
Thank you.

WILLIAM
(Scottish accent)
Good as new.

ISABELLA
Again.

There's a gentle openness and childlike wonder about the two. They are who we all are before life hits us with hell.

Isabella and William sit on a bed of overgrown grass. Isabella notices her dress is torn.

ISABELLA
I should be more careful.

WILLIAM
You should, but you won't.

William wants to kiss her. She wants the same. He moves closer to her.

Isabella breaks the moment.

Isabella picks up a birch tree branch... She flicks her fingers... The top of the branch begins to smolder...

Isabella ushers for William to clasp the base of the branch.

ISABELLA
If the branch catches flame, but
doesn't burn up, you can make a
wish and it will come true.

A flame appears at the top of the branch.

WILLIAM
Is that there the truth?

The flame grows stronger, but the branch doesn't burn up.

ISABELLA
Indeed it is, William.

END FLASHBACK

EMMA

Will? Will, are you okay?

WILLIAM

Yeah. Yeah, I'm fine.

Will blows the candle. The flame flickers, but remains strong. He blows again.

EMMA

That candle's acting like one of those trick candles.

(to Derrick)

Derrick?

Emma shoots an accusing glance at Derrick.

DERRICK

Don't you look at me. I didn't buy no trick candles.

Will deeply inhales and blows again. Nothing.

DERRICK

I think you gotta make a wish.

Will's mesmerized by the flame.

He closes his eyes and makes a wish.

WILLIAM'S POV - IMAGINATION**EXT. FOREST - EVENING [PRESENT DAY]**

William and Isabella slow dance under an evening sky. They're illuminated by lanterns.

William spins Isabella. He brings her into him. They kiss.

END IMAGINATION POV

He opens his eyes.

As Venus walks over the FLAME GOES OUT. Derrick's CELL PHONE RINGS.

DERRICK (ON PHONE)

Randy if you're calling me into work my answer is no... Randy... Randy! No, I'm not!... Yeah, I'll see you in ten.

Derrick ends the call.

DERRICK

Samson the idiot accidently lit his
arm on fire so we're short staffed
at the bar. I'll be back by
midnight.

INT. OREGON LIBRARY - DAY

Sirens in the distance. Teachers comfort students. A
PARAMEDIC tends to Chad's head.

LIBRARIAN

I truly don't understand how this
happened.

A STUDENT (16), kind, pudgy, awkward, spots Isa.

Isa's knee bleeds. A piece of METAL is lodged in her knee.

The Student is mortified. With a flick of her fingers, the
METAL flies out of Isa's knee.

Isa glances around to ensure no one witnessed the magic.

ISA

You shouldn't do that.
People are watching.

STUDENT

Let them watch. I don't hide who I
am. You were hurt.

ISA

Thanks. But I was fine.

ISA (V.O.)

There are Seers everywhere. If we
are to take back what is ours, we
must be careful. Protect yourself.

EXT. WILLIAM'S APARTMENT BALCONY - NIGHT

Will and Venus sit on the floor of the balcony. A TELESCOPE
sits off to the side.

ISA (V.O.)

As smart as you believe you may be,
no one knows who is a Black Blood.
You've been told they're extinct.
They're not.

Venus slides her hand over Will's thigh. He pushes it away.

VENUS

Don't you want your second birthday gift?

Venus goes in for a kiss. William turns away. Venus stops.

VENUS

You were the one who kissed me a week ago.

WILLIAM

I like us as friends.

A coldness falls over Venus.

VENUS

We can be friends and do other things. They're not mutually exclusive.

Will wants Venus, but something stops him from kissing her. A regret? A memory...

EXT. FOREST WEDDING - NIGHT - 1200'S SCOTLAND [FLASHBACK]

William slides a ring he fashioned from metal onto Isabella's ring finger.

WILLIAM

Forever and always.

ISABELLA

And longer.

END FLASHBACK

Venus slides her hand up his thigh.

WILLIAM

I can't, Venus.

She quickly recoils her hand.

WILLIAM

Are you okay?

Venus turns away. Her face is pale, her eyes empty, hungry, desperate. Her nose begins to bleed. He's concerned by what he saw -- he tries to get a better view.

WILLIAM

Hey...

Venus covers her face, ensuring Will doesn't see a drop of blood.

VENUS
I just need some water.

Venus bolts into the apartment, shoving Emma as she passes.
Emma stumbles onto the porch unaware of the tension.

EMMA
She is so pleasant.

INT. BATHROOM

Venus grips the bathroom counter and tries to catch her breath. She reflects death.

She examines her face.

Thick, tar-like BLACK BLOOD drips from her nose.

Venus is a closet Black Blood.

ISA (V.O.)
A Black Blood will come as
everything you've ever wanted and
craved.

Black blood drips onto the counter.

ISA (V.O.)
They don't give a shit about you.
Your life is their oxygen. Without
it, they die.

Venus grips the counter. She stares at her reflection in the mirror. A coldness falls over her as she watches the black blood drip from her nose onto the counter.

Tears well in her eyes.

Rage, shame and repulsion overcomes her. She SLAPS herself.

VENUS
(to herself)
Stop it.

Satisfied with her self-inflicted punishment, she cracks her neck and begins to clean herself up.

EXT. BALCONY

William adjusts the telescope. He gestures for Emma to take a look. She looks through the telescope.

WILLIAM

You see that lopsided square constellation with the tail?

EMMA

No... wait, yes.

WILLIAM

That's Lyra. It's been told she's the harp of Orpheus.

EMMA

She's beautiful.

Venus walks up behind them. She's cleaned up and composed.

VENUS

It's a pathetic constellation named after an idiot who spent his life wandering the earth trying to resurrect his dead wife.

Will holds back a response.

EMMA

I think it's romantic.

Venus is repulsed by Emma's sincerity.

VENUS

Of course you do. I gotta go. Happy Birthday, Will.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

William places the brick edger on a shelf... His fingers glide across the blade... He sharply pulls back his fingers... bright, red blood glistens.

Will opens a dresser drawer and digs through T-shirts until he finds a VINTAGE GLASS BOTTLE filled with oil.

He opens the bottle and spits into it... He shakes the bottle... He applies a few drops to a clean white shirt.

The shirt turns INDIGO BLUE.

He presses the shirt against his finger wound.

The wound closes up. He's HEALED.

Will climbs into bed.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Isa sleeps.

BEGIN DREAM

Circus music plays on a loop.

Empty shells of people - ghosts of their former selves - each from a different time period (1300's, 1500's, 1800's, 1960's etc.), lounge around Isa's bedroom as if it's the most natural of acts.

Their hollow, empty eyes lock on Isa as she sleeps.

Isa's eyes pop open.

She takes in the faces around her. She recognizes each one. Fear blankets Isa. She clamors to the corner of her bed, finding safety against the wall.

A candle appears... It floats towards Isa... A SMILING TODDLER comes into view. Isa shifts from fear to joy.

The Toddler holds the candle as she walks towards Isa.

Isa stretches to pick up the Toddler. She can't reach her.

The circus music skips.

The people in the room transform into who they were in the final moments before death -- bloodied victims of stabbings, car crashes, fires, suicides etc...

They are the walking dead.

Isa's thrown by an UNSEEN FORCE against a wall.

The Toddler cries.

ISA
(to Toddler)
Stay away from me!

The sound of CAR TIRES SQUEALING.

The CANDLE LIGHT turns into CAR LIGHTS.

Isa watches in horror as the TODDLER's smile is replaced with frozen fear.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will wakes from a nightmare.

WILLIAM
(screaming)
Isa!

He stumbles to his feet. He paces, gathering himself. He opens his window.

He can't catch his breath. He tries to steady himself. His body shakes -- a panic attack.

He pops a few pills and washes them down with booze.

He takes his vintage jar and whispers a spell.

WILLIAM
(in Gaelic)
Find me, Isa.

Will dips his finger into the glass jar and mixes.

The glass turns INDIGO BLUE.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Isa, drenched in sweat, wakes with a start. She swings her legs out of bed.

She stands center of the room, confused, disorientated.

She needs water. Her hands tremble as she reaches for the glass on her night-stand.

She accidentally DROPS the glass. Water showers the floor and her legs.

ISA
Shit.

Isa hastily cleans up the mess.

Her knee bandage is soaked with water... She removes the bandage... Her face pales... Her fingers trace where the wound once was.

She's healed.

Isa picks up the glass. An INDIGO BLUE residue coats the water glass.

ISA
William...

She looks again at the glass. The blue residue vanishes.
Waves of disappointment wash over her face.

Isa SLAMS the glass onto her night stand. It shatters.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - MONTANA - DAY**

William hammers a beam onto the frame of a new house. His movements are strong, careful and precise.

RED
That's lunch.

RED (40s), a beast of a man, throws down his hammer and sits on a make-shift bench. William continues working.

A BMW stops in front of the construction site. Venus steps out from the driver's side.

Red gawks as Venus makes her way through the mud in stiletto heels. She carefully balances a tray of two milkshakes. A bag of take out food dangles around her arm.

She hands William the bag of food.

VENUS
Extra mustard, four strips of bacon
and a milkshake.

RED
Where's mine, darling?

Venus ignores him.

WILLIAM
What's this for?

VENUS
To prove things aren't weird.

WILLIAM
So you thought the best way to
ensure it's not weird between us is
to do something a bit weird?

VENUS
Absolutely. Is it working?

William bites into the hamburger.

WILLIAM
One hundred percent.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - OREGON - DAY

Students with glazed eyes stare at a TV screen in an overcrowded English lit classroom. Seated in the back, Isa glances out the window at a raven perched on a branch.

JACKSON LI (40s, Asian), the teacher you wish you had; pauses the documentary on Edgar Allen Poe.

JACKSON

In every line of Poe's work he pursued truth. If there is one thing I can leave you with before you all go your separate ways this summer, it's to question everything that's spoon fed as truth.

The BELL RINGS. Everyone flies out of the classroom.

JACKSON

And goodbye and have a safe summer to you all, too.

Isa offers a sympathetic smile to Jackson as she exits.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LOCKERHALL - DAY

Isa pushes through the sea of students to get to her locker.

ISA (V.O.)

There are two rules you need to live by. Rule One. Be invisible. Draw no attention to yourself. Rule Two. Don't bond. Everyone will leave you eventually.

As Isa jams her locker open, a guy leans next to her. BRADLEY (17), thinks he's god. He definitely isn't. He wears hipster clothes and a neon "Only Human Lives Matter" shirt.

ISA

That's my locker.

BRADLEY

I know.

ISA

Can you move?

BRADLEY

I can. Do you want me to?

ISA

Most definitely.

BRADLEY

What would you say to getting a coffee sometime?

ISA

I would say I'm not interested.

BRADLEY

We could do smoothies or whatever it is girls drink these days.

ISA

We tend to drink the same things dudes drink, but no thanks.

BRADLEY

Come on. You haven't given me a chance.

ISA

It's a gut thing. My gut gets vomity-ill when you speak. I'm going to listen to that.

Isa physically moves Bradley out of the way so she can get to her locker.

BRADLEY

Feisty.

Isa shoves her locker books into her bag.

She drops a PRO-RESISTANCE FLIER. Bradley grabs it.

BRADLEY

You're a Resister?

Isa ignores him and grabs the flier. She continues getting her belongings together.

BRADLEY

Only idiots protect creatures.

Isa walks through the crowded locker room to the exit. Bradley follows her.

BRADLEY

If a Witch screws you you're infected for life.

ISA (V.O.)
War never starts suddenly. It
begins when leaders have
brainwashed enough patriots to
stand behind them when they attack.

Isa pushes through the doors. Bradley's a step behind.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Isa quickens her pace as she cuts through the lot. Bradley matches her steps.

BRADLEY
Anyone who supports those things
are against America. You're one of
them, aren't you? You're a goddamn
Witch.

Isa breaks into a run. Bradley runs as well.

BRADLEY
Stop!

Isa runs to the FOREST bordering the school.

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

Isa runs through the thick forest brush. She's fast.

Isa trips and falls. Bradley catches up to her.

He YANKS her up. He PUNCHES her in the face. She takes the punch.

BRADLEY
You're a Witch! Say it!

Bright, red blood spills from Isa's nose. She remains cold, emotionless and stands strong.

Bradley PUNCHES her again and again. She falls to the ground.

BRADLEY
Tell me!

Her head meets the forest earth with a thud... The world spins... Ears ring... Bradley kicks her repeatedly.

EXT. FOREST - SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS - 1692 [FLASHBACK]

A GROUP OF MEN in pious, church attire circle Isabella. They storm her, sending her to the ground.

GROUP OF MEN
Kill her / Kill the Witch

END FLASHBACK

Bradley's foot winds up for another kick.

In a flash, Isa rolls towards him and grabs his THIGH.

CRACK! -- She DISLOCATES his leg.

Her grip tightens. His femur BREAKS.

Bradley screams in agony. He collapses to the ground.

Isabella crawls to standing. She staggers towards him. She stands over his broken body. She spits on him.

ISA
I'm not a goddamn Witch.

Isa takes a HUNTING KNIFE from her bag. Bradley SHRIEKS. Isa makes a small incision on his wrist, drawing blood.

The blood is bright red. She's disappointed.

ISA
You're not a Blood...

BRADLEY
What the hell are you talking about?!

Isa digs into Bradley's bag and pulls out his CELL PHONE. She tosses it to him.

ISA
Call 9-11. You'll tell them you have a broken leg and a dislocated hip. You fell from a tree. You say anything else and you'll end up six feet under with no phone. Got it?

Bradley eagerly nods his yes. Isa tosses him his phone.

Isa dusts herself off as she limps away.

INT. VENUS' APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Modern, expensive decor. Venus' complexion is pale, sickly. She sips a martini as she lounges on the leather couch.

CELL PHONE SCREEN

WILL'S INSTAGRAM

A PHOTO of Will standing in front of a shed he built.

She clicks on a comment left by EMMA.

EMMA'S COMMENT

*Stop being so talented and handsome
and nice*

Venus, annoyed, takes a drink of vodka.

EMMA'S INSTAGRAM PROFILE.

She scans Emma's photos. Envy fuels her every click. She pauses on a PHOTO of Emma holding a kitten.

She clicks on a FLIRTY COMMENT left by Will.

WILL'S COMMENT

Beauties.

If Venus could, she would kill the girl right now.

Venus brings up the next PHOTO. Christmas time. Emma with her family. She zooms in on Derrick and Emma.

There's a comfortable intimacy between Derrick and Emma that only siblings who genuinely adore the other share.

BATHROOM

Venus slides a coat of ruby red gloss over her lips. She's hidden her deathly complexion with a mask of make up. She's pleased with the results.

INT. BAR - DAY

Venus wades through the packed crowd of lumberjacks and rednecks. Every eye follows her.

She hops onto a stool at the bar. Derrick, the bartender, wipes the counter in front of her.

DERRICK

You come to critique how I pour a beer?

VENUS

I'm thirsty and I missed you.

Derrick hates he likes the affection.

DERRICK
What can I get ya?

Venus smiles seductively at Derrick.

VENUS
Whatever you recommend.

DERRICK
We have our house lager on special,
but I think you're more of a cosmo
type of woman.

VENUS
I'll take a pint of your lager. Can
you manage to pour without foam?

DERRICK
I hate you.

VENUS
I hate you too.

INT. GROUP HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

The fridge, freezer and cupboards are under lock.

Isa rattles the lock to the fridge. She glances around to
ensure she's alone. She grabs the lock.

CRACK! She shatters the lock. Pieces of cast iron scatter.

She quickly pockets the pieces of the broken lock.

She opens the FREEZER and grabs a tub of ice cream.

MARIA (O.S.)
Hungry?

Startled, Isa drops the pint of ice cream.

ISA
God, you scared me!

MARIA
I don't remember anyone giving you
a fridge key.

ISA
It's a bullshit rule to have food
locked away.

MARIA
I know.

Isa quickly cleans the spilled ice cream.

MARIA
Who gave you a key?

ISA
It was unlocked.

Maria doesn't believe her.

MARIA
Odd. I locked it earlier today.

Isa doesn't flinch.

ISA
That is odd.

MARIA
It is odd.

Maria doesn't trust Isa. Isa takes a bite of ice cream and places it back in the freezer.

ISA
Goodnight, Maria.

MARIA
'Night, Isa.

ISA (V.O.)
You need to cut off from this world. Your goal is to isolate from the ones you love in order to protect them. Anyone who care about will become a target to them.

Isa leaves.

Maria scans the room. She spots a piece of the broken lock. She picks it up.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The bar is empty except for a very drunk Venus who sits on the counter doing shots with Derrick.

VENUS
--Drink up, choir boy!

DERRICK
I regret so hard telling you that story.

VENUS
I think it's adorable.

Venus breaks out in operatic song.

DERRICK
Our choir was less opera and more
trying desperately to be hip, but
always like a decade behind.

Venus sings an N-SYNC song.

DERRICK
There ya go.

Venus slides her fingers across Derrick's hand.

Derrick's eyes drift over her body.

VENUS
Show me how I make you feel.

Derrick leans in. Venus pulls him closer.

He goes to kiss her. She moves away from his lips. He kisses
her neck, shoulders.

Venus jumps off the counter. She grabs a bottle of whiskey.

VENUS
Do you want me?

Derrick's lips don't leave her neck.

DERRICK
You shouldn't have to ask that.

Venus leads Derrick out of the bar.

EXT. BUTTE FOREST - NIGHT

The sound of FOOTSTEPS running through the forest. Breathless
laughter. A FULL MOON casts rays of moonlight upon the brush.

Venus and Derrick stagger into view.

DERRICK
You have no idea where we're going.

Venus stops running.

VENUS
We're here.

Venus pushes through branches and stops at the edge of a cliff. A lake beckons below.

DERRICK
It's beautiful.

Venus takes Derrick's hand.

DERRICK
What now?

Venus takes off her blouse.

VENUS
We finish what we started.

Venus pins Derrick's arms against the ground.

ISA (V.O.)
You'll never know who a Black Blood
is until they've taken everything
from you.

VENUS
I'm sorry, Derrick.

A hint of confusion crosses Derrick's face as Venus locks eyes with him.

Venus' eyes are black.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. BUTTE FOREST - EVENING**

Venus kisses Derrick on his lips.

His body tenses. He gasps, struggling for air. His face pales. The veins in his face bulge, screaming for help.

His teeth cut into Venus' lips in attempt to free himself.

BLACK BLOOD drips from her cut lip onto him.

Venus holds him firmly. She keeps her lips on him and inhales his life into hers. She gets off on the high.

He stops struggling.

Venus climbs off. She collapses on the ground, blissed out. Derrick's stiff, dead corpse lays beside her.

She glances at his corpse. Her face wavers for a moment.
Guilt? Shame?

Venus jumps to her feet. She whistles. Calling for someone, something.

A HOWL greets her back.

She continues whistling.

A rustle in the trees. Twigs snap.

A WHITE DOG appears.

Venus extends her hand towards the dog. The dog approaches with a reverential respect. She pets the dog.

VENUS

You gorgeous boy.

Venus walks away. She claps three times.

The Dog rips apart Derrick's body.

EXT. OREGON CASCADES RAPTOR CENTER - DAY

Isa walks up to an outdoor wildlife preservation center housing birds of prey.

An ELDERLY GREETER stands at the gate.

ISA (V.O.)
 The biggest life tip I can give you
 is to spend as much time as
 possible doing normal life-shit.

GREETER
 Isa! Good to see you, sweetheart.
 You're looking well.

ISA
 Thanks, Terry. How's Shelby doing?

GREETER
 She's eating again. Those ravens
 are resilient creatures.

ISA
 Glad to hear she's recovered.

Isa turns towards the eagle sanctuary.

GREETER
 You're starting in the owl pen
 today. Karen has you training a new
 volunteer.

EXT. OWL CAGE - CASCADES RAPTOR CENTER - DAY

Isa fiddles with her keys. She's about to unlock the cage
 when she notices movement at the back of the pen.

HENRY (18), stands in a mud puddle. He's over six feet tall.
 Thick brown wavy hair meets his shoulders. His back is to
 Isa.

Henry utters a SOFT CHANT in another language.

He walks backwards.

FROM THE MUD births dozens of mice, rodents, insects. Magic.

Lester the Owl dive bombs the smorgasbord of delights.

Henry turns. His eyes meet Isa's. Deep, brown. Honest, clear,
 fierce. A slow knowing smile crawls along his lips.

HENRY
 You must be Isabella.

He's the kind of handsome that makes you forget your name.

ISA
 (flustered)
 Isa. Isabella. Call me whatever.
 Either work.

Henry likes the effect he has on her.

ISA
 Sorry. Actually, rewind that. Call
 me Isa.

HENRY
 I'm Henry. I'm your new volunteer.

ISA
 How did you get in the cage?

HENRY
 It was unlocked.

Isa glances at the lock. The lock dangles.

HENRY
 I assumed because it was open I was
 supposed to go in.

ISA
 It's always locked.

HENRY
 It was definitely open.

Henry flicks his fingers. The CAGE DOOR SHUTS.

HENRY
 It's locked now.

ISA
 You're not worried about doing that
 magic-shit in public?

HENRY
 I won't tell if you won't. Nice
 hoodie.

Isa glances down. They're wearing the exact same hoodie.

EXT. OWL CAGE - CASCADES RAPTOR CENTER - DAY

Henry scrubs down the feeding station.

ISA

Rattails and innards are placed in this bucket and disposed of at The Station which is the second building by the front entrance.

HENRY

Got it.

Isa busies herself cleaning the perch. Henry has the attention of LESTER THE OWL.

HENRY

(re: Lester)

I dig this dude.

Isa puts her arm out. Lester flies to Isa and perches on her arm.

ISA

Cascades is about the only place on earth right now where I feel at home.

Isa's instantly uncomfortable with her reveal.

ISA

I don't know why I said that.

HENRY

You said it because it's the truth.

Isa wants to change the subject.

ISA

Why did you sign up to volunteer?

HENRY

For you of course.

Isa smirks.

HENRY

I want to study veterinary medicine, so this looks kinda great on the resume.

ISA

A future vet. How altruistic of you.

HENRY

Someone has to protect and help those who can't help themselves.

ISA
I like that.

He looks familiar. Isa tries to place him.

ISA
What high school did you go to?

HENRY
I went to an out of state
pretentious private school where
they still believed in segregation
of the sexes. So, talking to you
right now is a definite highlight
of my year.

Isa blushes.

INT. VENUS' BEDROOM - DAY

Sun streams through the blinds. Venus sleeps the day away.

Black blood coats her white pillow case and bedspread.

OUTSIDE HER WINDOW

A horn BLARES. Tires SCREECH.

Venus forces her eyes open... Her lip bleeds, but her
complexion is healthy, full of life... She glances at her
phone -- 2:11 PM.

She notices black blood on the pillow.

The sight of the blood repulses Venus... She jumps out of
bed... She rips off the bedding in a blind rage.

She stuffs the material in garbage bags.

EXT. VENUS' APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Venus throws the bags of bedding into the garbage.

Venus watches a HAPPY COUPLE walk hand in hand, lost in the
other. She observes them as one would observe a science
experience - cold, detached, seeking information.

INT. WILLIAM'S KITCHEN - DAY

Will shovels breakfast cereal into his mouth. He sips his
beer.

A KNOCK on his door.

He takes his cereal to the door.

He unlocks the door and greets a worried Emma.

EMMA
Is Derrick here?

WILLIAM
Hello to you too.
(yells)
Derrick?

No answer.

WILLIAM
He was working late last night.

EMMA
Sheriff Hapford found his car up at
the lake.

WILLIAM
What?

EMMA
And he's not answering his phone.

WILLIAM
Have you tried the bar?

EMMA
Of course.

Emma starts to cry.

EMMA
I think something happened.

Will sets his cereal down and gathers Emma into a hug.

WILLIAM
We'll find him.

Will doesn't believe his own words.

INT. GROUP HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Lunch time at the Home.

Dozens of Youth line up cafeteria-style for food. Isa hangs
at the back, waiting for everyone to be served.

Maria slides up beside Isa.

MARIA

(to Isa)

You wait too long and you'll miss
out on Glen's ambrosia salad.

ISA

That is exactly my plan.

They've reached the front of the food line. Roberta scoops a
pile of ambrosia salad on Isa's plate.

ISA

No... I'm --

ROBERTA

You're eating this.

ISA

Great.

EXT. BUTTE LAKE - DAY

Will hikes through the trails. His senses sharp. He examines
footsteps, taking note of anything that looks odd.

Will comes to the edge of the cliff. He stops. He knows
something is amiss, but can't place it.

He looks around, everything he focuses on is crystal clear.
His eyes are superhuman magnifiers.

He zooms in on ONE DROP OF BLACK BLOOD on a pebble.

He picks up the pebble.

WILLIAM

Oh, hell no.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. BAR - NIGHT**

Will drinks at the bar. He fiddles with the pebble stained with black blood

A BURLY REDNECK sits beside him, his eyes glued to the TV.

ON SCREEN

An anti-Dissenter, right wing news show, features a panel who "speak for the Everyman", but represent no one.

NEWS TALK SHOW HOST

Creatures aren't human. The President is holding up the constitution to protect the American people. We need to do whatever we can to ensure our families, our children and our homes are safe.

BURLY MAN

Amen.

WILLIAM

I don't know how you can support that shit.

BURLY MAN

What you say?

WILLIAM

They're people, not creatures.

BURLY MAN

They ain't people. They could rape my daughter and set fire to my house. It ain't safe.

WILLIAM

Pretty sure any human can also do those things.

BURLY MAN

You're sick.

Will downs his drink.

WILLIAM

(to Bartender)

What do I owe ya?

EXT. BUTTE DOWNTOWN STREETS - NIGHT

Will, drunk out of his mind, wanders through downtown streets.

A FIGHT has broken out with a GROUP OF DRUNK MEN.

A BURLY MAN champions a beat down on a YOUNG GUY wearing a "Vote No to Thompson's Law" T-shirt.

WILLIAM

Stop!

The Men don't acknowledge him.

WILLIAM

I said, stop!

They stop. The BURLY MAN walks towards Will.

BURLY MAN

You wanna say somethin'?

WILLIAM

It would serve you well to stop and go home.

The Men laugh.

BURLY MAN

Is this dude threatening me?

WILLIAM

Take it however you want.

The Burly Man sizes William up.

BURLY MAN

You ain't worth shit.

He nods for the guys to continue beating the Young Man.

Will lets out a haunting, guttural scream.

As he yells, PLUMES OF FIRE escape from his mouth setting the Burly Man on fire.

Will's movements are superhuman fast, a speed that resembles flying. He targets each Man and breathes a WAVE OF FIRE upon their bodies. Bloodcurdling screams fill the air.

The Men become Human Torches. They manically roll on the ground, desperate to put out their flames.

Limbs scorched, flesh burned away -- they succumb to their injuries.

Will kneels beside the hurt Activist. The Man is near death.

Will examines his injuries. The Young Man slumps over.

Will spits directly onto the Man's injuries.

An INDIGO BLUE residue coats his wounds.

His wounds close up. The Young Man remains motionless.

WILLIAM

You're not dying today.

Will spits into the Young Man's mouth.

The Young Man's eyes flicker open. He begins to cough, gasping for air.

WILLIAM

There ya go.

YOUNG MAN

Am I... Am I dead?

WILLIAM

No. You're very much alive.

YOUNG MAN

How...

WILLIAM

Call it fate. Drink a lotta water tonight. Get a good sleep.

Will gets up.

YOUNG MAN

You're one of them. One of the six.

WILLIAM

No, I'm not. I'm a Witch.

YOUNG MAN

No Witch has that much power.

WILLIAM

It was a fluke from a drunken rage.

YOUNG MAN

You're one they talk about. The one who's going to save us.

William glances around. He's incredibly uncomfortable.

WILLIAM
Dude, I think they hit all sense
outta ya.

YOUNG MAN
I won't tell anyone.

WILLIAM
There's nothing to tell.

William walks away.

BULLIED MAN
Are you Peter, Eli or William?

William pauses for only a minute.

WILLIAM
I'm none of those men.

William hurriedly leaves.

EXT. VENUS' CONDO - DAY

Will rings the doorbell over and over again.

Venus opens the door.

VENUS
Oh my god, you look terrible.

WILLIAM
Can I come in?

VENUS
Of course.

Venus helps him into her home.

INT. VENUS' CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Venus watches Will shovel food into his mouth. A movie plays in the background.

VENUS
You want more?

Will nods yes.

WILLIAM
Have you ever met a Black Blood?

Venus tenses. She quickly refills Will's plate.

VENUS

No. Or at least I don't think I have.

WILLIAM

You think they're still out there?

VENUS

Everyone said that race died out a century ago.

WILLIAM

You think that's true?

VENUS

I have no reason to think it's not.

Venus gives him a plate of food.

WILLIAM

They also said all the Dissenters died out.

VENUS

Not all. There's still apparently one left.

WILLIAM

What if it's a lie? All of it.

VENUS

You're not making sense, Will.

WILLIAM

Maybe this world is covered with Black Bloods, but they're smarter now.

VENUS

I am pretty sure we would know if they existed on earth.

WILLIAM

We hear rumors about them living all the time.

VENUS

Yeah, and they always turn out to be as legit as finding the Loch Ness Monster.

Venus passes Will a beer.

VENUS

You need to relax. You're worried about Derrick and he's going to turn up one day and everything will be fine.

INT. VENUS' CONDO - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will and Venus sleep in her bed. Venus is cuddled into him.

Will suddenly wakes. Venus sleepily opens her eyes.

Will leaps out of bed.

VENUS

Where are you going?

WILLIAM

Home.

VENUS

You can't go now. It's so late.

WILLIAM

What happened last night?

VENUS

Nothing.

WILLIAM

I don't remember... We didn't?

VENUS

No!

WILLIAM

When did I fall asleep?

VENUS

Like three minutes into the movie.

Will slides on his sneakers.

VENUS

Stay. I'll make us eggs in the morning.

WILLIAM

I need to go. I'll call ya tomorrow.

VENUS

You can be such a goddamn ass.

Will dashes out.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Isa climbs into bed.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will pulls out an AGED WOODEN BOX from under his bed.

Will opens the box and picks up a VINTAGE SWORD SHEATH.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

She stares at her ceiling. Lost in thought.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He glances at his phone. The time reads -- 12:11 AM.

Will shakes the sheath... TWO MEDIEVAL BRASS WEDDING BANDS tumble out... He holds them in his palm and traces the rough edges of the rings.

He slips one of the rings onto his finger.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Isa slowly drifts off to sleep.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Will falls asleep with the ring on his finger.

EXT. EUGENE, OREGON - DAWN

The sun rises bathes the forest in a warm light.

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Isa wakes. She lifts the blankets over her head shielding the sunlight.

INT. WILLIAM'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Will brushes his teeth. He's drained, exhausted, done with life.

ISA (V.O.)

I see him when I dream. Will. We weren't some relationship utopia. We fought. He made me stronger, wiser. I made him fearless. We sharpened each other.

INT. WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

William pops a few pills.

INT. GROUP HOME - ISA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Isa readies herself for the day.

THROUGH THE WINDOW

A storm howls. Rain, thunder and lightning.

Isa makes her bed.

ISA (V.O.)

He was the reason I'm not able to love. Will's why he comes and takes every soul I care about. I've lost one thousand, one hundred and eleven people. If you care about anyone in your life, you'll hide.

INT. VENUS' CONDO - BEDROOM - MORNING

Venus examines where Will was sleeping. She uses tweezers to pick up three hairs. She places the hairs in a vial.

She opens a drawer.

DOZENS OF VIALS are lined up and labeled with skin, blood, nails etc...

She safely stores the vial in the drawer.

EXT. DOWNTOWN CITY HALL / EUGENE - DAY

A major protest fills the steps of City Hall. Thousands of pro-Dissenter activists clash with anti-Dissenter activists.

Isa stoically watches the scene.

HENRY (O.S.)

Fancy meeting you here.

Isa turns and finds Henry.

ISA

Are you following me?

HENRY

More like following this political shit storm.

ISA
This is such a mess.

Henry reaches into his bag and takes out a stack of fliers advertising a TOWN HALL.

HENRY
I hope you'll come. We're bringing Mayor Garland to speak about his plans to protect every citizen if the Law passes.

Isa reads the flier.

Isa notices Henry's finger is bleeding.

Isa reaches for his hand. She stops.

He bleeds black blood. Her eyes widen. She backs away.

HENRY
It's not what you're thinking.

ISA
You're a Black Blood.

HENRY
Please hear me out.

Isa slowly moves towards him.

HENRY
He sent me here for you.

ISA
Who sent you?

INT. ISA'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Isa slides on a pair of gloves. The same black gloves that belonged to the hands digging the Black Blood graves.

ISA (V.O.)
There are things I do that I can't tell anyone about.

She glances at Henry. He's bound and passed out.

She tosses a rope out her bedroom window.

ISA (V.O.)
I do what I do for all of us.

She easily throws Henry over her shoulder.

EXT. GROUP HOME - CONTINUOUS

Isa scales the wall of the house with one hand. She holds Henry in the other hand.

INT. / EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD - SAME TIME

People of all ages listen to Isa's podcast.

ISA (V.O.)
Freedom will only find us if we
take action.

EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Isa drags Henry past ROWS OF FRESH GRAVES.

She stubs her foot on a boulder. She wears the same high-top sneakers with neon laces.

She approaches a hunting cabin.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - MORNING

A small, two-room, hunting cabin decorated exactly like Isa's CHILDHOOD HOME in Illinois, except with barren walls.

ISA (V.O.)
If we don't destroy them, they'll
do to you what Vashis did to me.
Today is one of two days a year
which serve as my death-fuelled
reminder of what he's taken from me
and what he will continue to take.

In place of a kitchen table sits a CAST IRON METAL CAGE.
Henry lays unconscious inside the cage.

ISA (V.O.)
The Solstice. I can't stomach that
word.

INT. / EXT. AROUND THE WORLD - SAME TIME**LIVING ROOM**

A mother and her daughter listen to the podcast.

BEDROOM

A couple lays in bed listening to the podcast.

ISA (V.O.)

I don't get the chance to fall in love... To hold someone... because the moment I do, he'll come for them. On the Solstice, he always comes. He'll do the same to you if he suspects you're aligned with me.

Isa unlocks a closet. Weapons line the shelves. She opens a lock box. She takes out a CELL PHONE.

She sits on the cot and turns on the phone.

Isa streams LIVE NEWS.

ON SCREEN

A gaggle of reporters on the steps of the U.S. SENATE wait in anxious, pregnant anticipation.

A wide angle showcases thousands of activists, anti-dissenters, families, spread along the grounds.

A NEWS REPORTER comes on screen.

REPORTER ON NEWS

We've received confirmation
Thompson's Law has been passed by
the Senate.

CHEERS erupt from the crowd, followed by cries of horror from activists. The crowd immediately turns on each other.

Police use batons to keep people in line.

PRESIDENT THOMPSON (O.S.)

Today we unite to protect the
rights of true Americans.

The President Thompson fills the screen.

The President Thompson is Senator Thompson.

Isa speaks into a VOICE RECORDING DEVICE connected to a laptop.

ISA

It has begun. This is the Voice of
the Resistance signing off.

Isa's PALM LIFELINE glows red. Henry wakes up.

FADE OUT