



FRESH BLOOD SELECTS

The Big A

by  
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INT. GAS STATION - DAY

The desert sun BLAZES through the windows.

The store is empty save for two sweaty clerks, MUSTACHE (50s) and MULLET (20s), who lounge at the counter flipping through NUDIE MAGS. "Family shields" block most of the covers, but we can still catch a glimpse of the titles: "Ass & Ammo" and "Daddy's Girl."

A sad little FAN fails to keep the heat at bay.

THROUGH THE WINDOW: a PICKUP TRUCK glides off the highway and pulls up to one of the PUMPS.

Neither clerk looks up.

THROUGH THE WINDOW: CASSIE PORTER (20s) steps out of the truck. Full of Midwestern politeness and the all-American can-do spirit, she's also perversely stubborn, and currently covered in blood.

An attempt has been made to wipe that blood off, but it's mostly just smeared it around. Her gaze sweeps the lot, glances briefly to the sky, then she strides out of sight around the corner of the building.

Mustache pushes himself up.

MUSTACHE  
Jesus fuck it's hot.

He ambles over to the SLUSHIE MACHINE.

MUSTACHE (CONT'D)  
Red or blue?

MULLET  
(not looking up)  
Surprise me.

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Cassie, still covered in blood, comes back around the corner. She peers through the glass, then opens the door. Her eyes dart nervously around as a CHIME sounds.

STORE COMPUTER SYSTEM (V.O.)  
Welcome to Smart Mart, the smart  
choice.

Luckily, Mustache is engrossed in the slushies and Mullet is still absorbed in his magazine. Neither looks up.

Cassie surveys the terrain then picks her way up the aisle toward the register. On the way, she sneaks a look at Mustache as he struggles with an overflowing slushie.

Cassie reaches the register and waits for Mullet to acknowledge her, but there must be a particularly enticing daddy's girl in his magazine because he does not look up.

She clears her throat.

CASSIE

Excuse me, may I have the bathroom key, please?

Without looking, Mullet tosses a KEY at her.

FREEZE FRAME as Cassie catches the key.

CASSIE (V.O.)

Yeah, they never noticed the blood. Which I suppose I should be grateful for, but in the grander scheme it's not a great commentary on humanity that we ignore someone potentially in trouble because we're too busy looking at...tits.

Cassie unfreezes, although everything else remains frozen. She looks around. Shrugs.

CASSIE

Whatever. It's only the end of the world.

TITLES SLAM IN: THE BIG A

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - DAY

A RED COMET BLAZES in the sky as Cassie exits an old farmhouse - home-y, but isolated, surrounded by a sea of grass, with a wrap-around porch and big bay windows.

SUPER: TWO WEEKS EARLIER

Cassie skips down the steps, pausing to hitch up her BACKPACK a little more securely.

The front door pops open and Cassie's mother, MRS. PORTER (late 40s), a kind woman who walks with an ARM CRUTCH, sticks her head out.

MRS. PORTER

Cassie!

She holds out a BIOLOGY TEXTBOOK.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)  
Forget something?

Cassie hustles back up the steps.

CASSIE  
Oh my god. I'm such an idiot.

She gives her mother a kiss on the cheek as she takes the book.

MRS. PORTER  
I think bringing all your books to class is generally encouraged.

Mrs. Porter swipes some imaginary lint off Cassie's shirt and straightens a few wrinkles.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)  
Are you sure we can't just take one more picture?

CASSIE  
It's my first day of veterinary school, not prom night.

MRS. PORTER  
I'm just so proud of you, sweetheart.

As Mrs. Porter hugs Cassie, she stealthily brings her PHONE up to take a selfie.

CLICK!

Cassie breaks away from the embrace, laughing.

CASSIE  
Mom!

MRS. PORTER  
Okay, okay, I'm done. You better get on your way.

As Cassie jogs down the steps, she ruffles the ears of one disgruntled black cat, GILLY.

CASSIE  
Bye, Gilly.

On the way to her TRUCK, a beat-up old CHEVY, Cassie turns and waves to her mom.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

She flips through the radio.

MALE RADIO ANNOUNCER  
...worried that pesticides appear  
to have no effect on this  
particular...

FLIP.

FEMALE RADIO ANNOUNCER  
...strain of the virus. Once almost  
completely eradicated, chlamydia  
has made a huge...

FLIP.

BRITISH RADIO ANNOUNCER  
...explosion of debris some 65  
million years ago formed the comet,  
now known as...

FLIP.

FEMALE RADIO ANNOUNCER  
...the Prairie Killer, who is  
suspected in the disappearance of  
at least five young women in the  
last year, the latest being Natalie  
Palmer two months ago...

Cassie grimaces and flips one last time. A CHEERY POP SONG  
fills the truck. Cassie bops along to the beat.

EXT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Cassie approaches the front of the SHARPE SCIENCE BUILDING  
where a crowd of students has gathered.

Cassie squeezes her way to the front of the crowd to find out  
what everyone's looking at.

A SIGN on the door declares all classes canceled for the day  
due to "amphibian infestation."

Cassie looks to one of the other students, DENIM JACKET GIRL  
(20s).

CASSIE  
What happened?

Denim Jacket Girl shrugs.

## DENIM JACKET GIRL

Apparently they got a shipment of dead frogs for dissection, but they weren't dead and they all escaped. Like a thousand of them.

## CASSIE

Whaaaaat? Why did they order so many in the first place?

Denim Jacket Girl shrugs again, and slouches away. Cassie looks around confused as to what to do next, and then walks away with purpose.

## INT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER - DAY

Bright, colorful, classic 50s decor.

At the counter, Cassie tucks into a large LUNCH. On the opposite side of the counter ELI BARNES (30s), army vet and cranky son-of-a-bitch, half listens to Cassie as he plates up a piece of PIE.

## CASSIE

A thousand frogs! And how did they not realize they weren't dead? Isn't that weird? Eli?

## ELI

Un huh.

## CASSIE

You know, if I didn't know any better I'd say you're not actually paying attention to this story at all.

## ELI

No, I got it. School cancelled. Zombie frogs. Meanwhile Mrs. Norris keeps adding pies to her order...

A little way down the counter an adorable old woman, MRS. NORRIS (70s), signals Eli.

## MRS. NORRIS

I don't mean to be a bother, dear...

Eli gives Cassie a "see what I mean" look.

## ELI

It's no problem, Mrs. Norris.

He heads over to her, but spots a pair of young men, KHAKI PANTS (20s) and BUTTON DOWN SHIRT (30s), handing out PAMPHLETS to the customers.

ELI (CONT'D)

And these guys, Jesus Christ.

As he hustles around the counter to head them off, the DING of the door signals a new customer.

Cassie calls after him.

CASSIE

I still think zombie frogs warrant a little more than an un huh.

LUKE (O.S.)

Zombie frogs? Now that sounds like quite a problem.

Cassie swivels her chair and we get our first look at LUKE (30s) as the strains to something like "Theme from a Summer Place" drift in.

AND WHAT A LOOK! This guy is dreamy. Piercing Paul Newman blue eyes, and a smile that promises cool lemonade and refreshing breezes on a hot summer day.

Cassie stares. It's rude, but she can't help it. Nor can most of the other PATRONS actually.

Luke gives her a sheepish grin, and she snaps out of it.

CASSIE

Sorry. What were you saying?

Luke slides into the chair next to her. A flustered Cassie tries to keep it together.

LUKE

Zombie frogs. Should we be worried the world's about to end?

CASSIE

I wouldn't rule it out.

LUKE

Then we don't have a second to waste.

CASSIE

No, we definitely do not.

She considers his words.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
 What are we talking about now?

Luke grins.

LUKE  
 Well, I'm thinking I better ask you  
 out on a date before the zombie  
 hordes overtake us.

Cassie blushes.

CASSIE  
 Well, um, I mean, yes, that's, um,  
 probably a thing...that you should  
 do.

LUKE  
 Friday night at eight? I think  
 that's the tradition.

CASSIE  
 That's tonight!

LUKE  
 Beauty and brains.

CASSIE  
 Yes!

Embarrassed at her enthusiasm.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
 I mean, yes, I think that would be  
 just fine.

A slight scuffle at the front of the diner distracts them.  
 They watch as Eli pushes the two would-be pamphleteers out  
 the door. Khaki Pants tries to get in one last word.

KHAKI PANTS  
 It's your civic duty to report any  
 woman seeking--

SLAM! The door shuts in his face.

Eli stalks away muttering to himself.

ELI  
 Stupid assholes.

Cassie and Luke exchange a look. What was THAT all about?  
 Then Cassie realizes she's gazing into his eyes. She blushes  
 and looks away.

To cover, she grabs a NAPKIN and searches her backpack for a PEN. Nothing.

Luke produces one seemingly out of thin air. Or possibly actually out of thin air.

Cassie scrawls her phone number on the napkin. Hands it to him with a shy smile.

LUKE  
Okay then, Miss...?

CASSIE  
Porter. Cassie Porter. Cassandra really, but no one calls me that.

Luke takes her hand and kisses it like a fucking gentleman.

LUKE  
Well, Cassie Porter, I'm Luke.

Cassie giggles. It's high-pitched and giddy. She's appalled at herself.

CASSIE  
Our celebrity couple name could be Cuke.

She grimaces. That's not great.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Or...Lassie...

Also terrible. She shakes her head. Snap out of it!

Luke watches her struggle with an amused smirk. She notices.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Not that we're a couple yet. It's just one date. Who knows, we might hate each other.

Luke laughs, genuinely delighted at the thought.

LUKE  
We just might. I guess we'll find out tonight.

He backs away.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
See you later, Cassie Porter.

He heads out the door as the strains to "Theme from a Summer Place" drift in again. The rest of the world fades away as Cassie watches him leave. Can't quite believe that just happened.

ELI (O.C.)  
...trouble?

Cassie blinks and the world comes crashing back in.

CASSIE  
Huh?

Eli leans over the counter.

ELI  
I said, do you want to settle up  
your tab, or is that too much  
trouble? Your majesty.

Cassie swivels back around toward him.

CASSIE  
Oh, sorry!

She eyeballs the CHECK and digs in her backpack for her wallet. Comes up with a handful of CASH, and places it on the counter under a GLASS.

Eli slides a piece of PIE in a PLASTIC CONTAINER toward her.

ELI  
You know I'm thinking your frog  
infestation is just some bored lab  
tech who thought it would be funny  
if someone cut into a live frog  
during dissection class or  
whatever. So he drugged them but  
didn't quite get the dosage right  
and they woke up too early.

CASSIE  
What? Who would do something so  
horrible?

ELI  
Most people are awful.

CASSIE  
That's not true. I mean, nobody's  
perfect, but I don't think most  
people are sitting at home planning  
elaborate ways to torture frogs.

Eli shrugs as he heads for the kitchen.

ELI  
(skeptical)  
Okay.

Cassie glances down at the pie.

CASSIE  
Wait, Eli, what do I owe you for  
the pie?

Eli pretends like he can't hear her.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Simple, but cozy. The furnishings and decor are all about 20 years old, but well-cared for.

Cassie awkwardly tugs at her modest skirt.

CASSIE  
Do I really look okay?

Mrs. Porter sits in a RECLINER in front of a small TV, the TABLE beside her covered with an unfinished PUZZLE. Misty-eyed, she puts down the half-eaten piece of PIE from Eli and clasps her hands together.

MRS. PORTER  
You look beautiful.

CASSIE  
What if he takes me somewhere super fancy and I'm totally under-dressed? Or worse, if he takes me somewhere casual and I'm over-dressed?!

Mrs. Porter steps in to head off this spiral into insanity.

MRS. PORTER  
You look so lovely...so grown-up. But you could wear a ball gown to a tractor pull or sweatpants to the opera and you'd still be perfectly capable of handling any situation you're in. And why is that?

Cassie rolls her eyes and shrugs.

CASSIE  
Because it's what's inside that  
counts and something something  
about inner strength and believing  
in yourself.

Mrs. Porter chuckles.

MRS. PORTER  
Well, I'm just glad to know you  
listen to me.

The THUNK of a car door outside.

CASSIE  
That must be him.

She rushes to the window and peeks out. Mrs. Porter joins her.

MRS. PORTER  
Oh wow, sweetheart, you didn't say  
how handsome he is.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, DRIVEWAY - DAY

Luke exits the cab of his TRUCK in slow-motion, dressed like he's goddamn James Bond on vacation.

The strains of something like "Theme from a Summer Place" drift in.

A flip of his perfect hair. An adjustment of his sleeves.

He smiles toward the window almost as if he knows they are there. It's an amazing smile that promises laughter in the sunshine and shade on a sultry afternoon.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cassie and Mrs. Porter stare.

Mrs. Porter tears her eyes away from the view.

MRS. PORTER  
Be careful, sweetheart.

CASSIE  
What do you mean?

MRS. PORTER

I just mean that you don't have  
much experience when it comes to  
men...

Cassie closes her eyes and bangs her forehead against the  
window.

CASSIE

Please don't say it.

MRS. PORTER

...and sex may be a topic that  
comes up even on the first date.

CASSIE

(groans)  
You said it.

Mrs. Porter takes Cassie's face in her hands.

MRS. PORTER

I just don't want you to let him  
talk you into anything you don't  
want to do. I know it's not fair,  
but these days a young woman's  
reputation is so fragile,  
and...they don't buy the cow when  
they can get the milk for free.

CASSIE

I'd prefer a metaphor where I'm not  
being sold for my bodily  
secretions.

Mrs. Porter chuckles and gives her a kiss on the forehead.

MRS. PORTER

Just don't be afraid to trust your  
instincts, sweetie.

CASSIE

Mo-om.

DING DONG!

Cassie shoos Mrs. Porter away.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm not letting you give him  
the third degree.

MRS. PORTER

All right, dear. Have a good time.

She shuffles to the kitchen as Gilly the cat trots down the hall toward Cassie.

Cassie takes a deep breath and throws open the door to reveal Luke, leaning against the door frame in a deceptively casual pose designed to highlight the long, lean lines of his body.

She grins up at him. He grins back at her.

Gilly takes one look and bolts as fast as she can in the opposite direction.

Cassie and Luke watch her exit with astonishment, then turn back to each other.

LUKE

Was it something I said?

CASSIE

Probably.

She takes his hand and hustles out the door.

EXT. RESTAURANT PATIO - NIGHT

Luke and Cassie study each other.

CASSIE

So.

LUKE

So.

Cassie searches for something to say.

CASSIE

What brought you to the diner the other day?

LUKE

I was hungry.

CASSIE

I'm pretty sure you didn't eat anything.

LUKE

I was nourished by your beauty.

Cassie snorts.

CASSIE

I knew there was something wrong  
with you.

LUKE

Dashingly romantic is a flaw now?

Cassie raises an eyebrow.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, I was going to eat  
there, but once I asked you out I  
thought I should leave before you  
had a chance to change your mind. I  
had to eat at the Chuck's Chicken  
down the road.

Cassie crinkles her nose.

CASSIE

Ugh, I hope you didn't have any of  
the potato salad.

LUKE

I did, in fact. I was hunched over  
a toilet until about 20 minutes  
before I picked you up.

CASSIE

That sounds very unpleasant.

LUKE

Oh, it was disgusting. Just coming  
out of both ends.

They both grin, until a sudden commotion on the other side of  
the restaurant draws their attention.

A WOMAN (40s) spits out her wine.

WOMAN

It tastes like blood!

WAITERS rush over to defuse the situation.

Cassie lifts her GLASS of water.

CASSIE

Maybe we should skip the wine.

Luke clinks his glass with hers, and they both drink.

INT. RESTAURANT PATIO - LATER

The meal is done. Luke and Cassie lounge at the table.

LUKE

Tell me, Cassandra Porter, do you believe in fate?

CASSIE

Are you about to get all dashingly romantic on me again?

She grins.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Because it's a big turn off.

Luke laughs.

LUKE

I'm just saying, you were supposed to be in class this afternoon, so if not for zombie frog infestation, we might not have met.

CASSIE

It's a small town.

LUKE

So you don't believe in fate?

CASSIE

You mean the idea that nothing we do matters because everything's already been planned out, and we're just mindless little automatons acting out a pre-ordained path?

LUKE

That's the one.

CASSIE

Not a fan.

Luke smiles.

LUKE

Me either.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke walks Cassie to the door.

CASSIE

So.

LUKE

So.

CASSIE

This is as far as you go I'm  
afraid.

LUKE

That's a shame.

Cassie can't help but ogle his chest.

CASSIE

Yeah, it really is.

Luke smirks. Leans in for a chaste kiss.

LUKE

I'll call you.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cassie enters, a huge smile on her face. She heads for the stairs on cloud nine.

Mrs. Porter cranes her head from her spot on the recliner.

MRS. PORTER

How was it, dear?

Cassie nods fervently.

CASSIE

Yeah.

She floats up the stairs.

MRS. PORTER

Well, all right.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luke leans against his truck. Looks up at Cassie's bedroom window. He smirks to himself as the light in the window goes out.

Gilly hisses at him from the darkness. He hisses back. Gilly flees under the porch.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Full of BOOKS. A small TV in one corner. A COMPUTER in the other. A small CROSS hangs by the window.

Cassie falls back on her bed, huge smile still in place. Her eyes drift shut.

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Cassie and Luke stargaze, sprawled in the bed of Luke's truck.

Something like "The End of the World" by Skeeter Davis plays over the radio.

Cassie points out a falling star. It's beautiful.

They make out.

She pulls back for a moment to catch her breath and locks eyes with Luke. His eyes GLINT an ominous red.

Cassie shakes her head in confusion and looks up past him to the sky. Now all the stars are falling. A million ribbons of light streaking across the sky.

She gasps and suddenly they are...

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

...On a bed in the middle of a garden lit with fairy lights.

Cassie pushes Luke away.

CASSIE  
What the heck?

Luke laughs and hops to his feet. Starts jumping on the bed. After a moment, Cassie grins and joins him.

Time slows mid-bounce. Her gaze drifts upward.

CASSIE'S POV: A sky full of stars, but slightly distorted as if looking up through water. Suddenly, swirling, serpentine forms slide over the top of the water, obscuring the stars.

Sound is muted, again as if underwater, but are those...screams?

Cassie gasps and time returns to normal. She checks the sky again. The stars are clear. No distortion.

Cassie turns her attention to Luke, who now inexplicably has no shirt, and Cassie realizes she is sitting on top of him.

A puzzled furrow of the brow, then Cassie PINCHES her arm.

No pain! A smile tugs at the corners of her mouth as understanding dawns.

She runs her hands over Luke's chest. They make out. Luke flips them over so he is on top, and then it's happening and for one second it's magical. Cassie closes her eyes and arches upward as time slows again.

Her hair floats upward and her eyes snap open.

CASSIE'S POV: up through water she sees the stars, but then the serpentine shapes come back. They spiral together, blacking out the sky--

And RUSH toward her.

She SCREAMS.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - MORNING

The scream hangs in the air as Cassie startles awake. She looks around in alarm, but everything appears normal. She takes a deep breath of relief and smiles.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER - DAY

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER

A glum Cassie picks at her PLATE OF PIE. Checks her phone.

Nothing from Luke.

She types. Erases. Types again. Her finger hovers over a text to Luke: "Hope you're doing ok. Up for a 2nd date?" To send or not to send? She chooses not.

Eli sticks his head out of the kitchen.

ELI

What's wrong with my pie?

Cassie thrusts the phone into her pocket.

CASSIE

What?

ELI

You've barely eaten any.

Cassie shrugs. Dutifully eats a little, but there's no enthusiasm there.

CASSIE

Sorry.

Eli gives her a look then stomps out of the kitchen. He grabs her plate and stuffs a forkful of pie in his mouth.

ELI

Nothing wrong with that.

CASSIE

(exasperated)

I didn't say there was. I guess I'm just not in the mood for pie.

ELI

Then what the hell are you in the mood for?

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Cassie stares in awe at...

The MEAT COUNTER. SLABS and SLABS of raw meat glisten behind that pesky glass. The faint strains of "Theme from a Summer Place."

Her mouth waters. Her stomach growls. She presses her hands to the glass and moves in close.

MEAT CLERK (O.S.)

Miss?

Startled, Cassie bumps her nose into the glass. Tries to play it off.

CASSIE

I'll just take the one pound of ground beef, please... Actually, better make it two. And a couple of the ribeyes. Make it three. Four is probably--

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

The FLAME of the gas burner.

The GROUND BEEF SIZZLES as it hits the PAN.

A SPOON savagely CHOPS the ground beef into bits.

At the stove, Cassie stirs with practiced ease, but her mind is a million miles away.

She takes a chunk of RAW ground beef and eats it.

Then another.

Then a handful.

More and more until...

She comes back to herself with a start and gazes in puzzled horror at the empty pan.

MRS. PORTER (O.S.)  
Do you need any help with dinner,  
sweetie?

Cassie grimaces and looks up to lock eyes with Gilly, who gazes with suspicion from the other side of the room.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie wakes with a jolt. Claps one hand over her mouth and makes a run for...

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - NIGHT

Cassie PUKES into the toilet.

She comes up for air and wipes her mouth. Lets out a deep breath. Oh, but wait. It's not over. More puking.

INT. SHARPE SCIENCE BUILDING, BATHROOM - DAY

INSIDE A STALL: One last retch and Cassie raises her head from the toilet. Wipes her mouth.

OUTSIDE THE STALLS: Denim Jacket Girl stands at the mirror applying LIP GLOSS.

FLUSH. Cassie exits and heads for the sink.

Cassie rinses her mouth out with water.

DENIM JACKET GIRL

What are you, pregnant or something?

CASSIE

What? No.

DENIM JACKET GIRL

You know, abstinence is the only real form of birth control.

She saunters out.

Cassie studies herself in the mirror, disturbed. Her brow furrows as she counts back to the day of her last period on her fingers. Her gaze flicks back to the mirror. Uh oh.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Cassie, HOODIE pulled up to cover her face, moves through the aisles. She glances nervously at the CASHIER (20s), a stoner dude with stringy hair. He pays no attention as a he flips through a copy of GIRLS AND CORPSES (he actually does read it for the articles).

Cassie grabs a BAG OF CHIPS. Stares at it. Pretends to consider buying it. She puts it back and makes her way over to the...

PREGNANCY TESTS.

Grabs one. Quickly reads the instructions.

CASSIE

This is so stupid.

She darts a glance around the store.

The cashier still reads his magazine.

Cassie starts to shove the test under her jacket then hesitates.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY, MINUTES LATER

Cassie, hood pulled up even further, spills the pregnancy test, along with an assortment of SNACKS, onto the cashier's counter.

The cashier spots the test. Cassie spots him spotting. He puts up his hands.

CASHIER  
Hey, I don't judge.

Cassie shoves the snacks away.

CASHIER (CONT'D)  
(taken aback)  
Right.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BATHROOM - DAY

Dirty and cramped. The kind of dirty where you could get hepatitis just by looking.

Cassie bursts through the door and surveys the squalor in dismay.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BATHROOM - DAY, SECONDS LATER

Cassie balances over the toilet trying not to actually touch anything as she pees on the pregnancy test.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BATHROOM - DAY, 3 MINUTES LATER

Cassie stares at the pregnancy test in horror, her mind going a million miles a minute.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cassie and Mrs. Porter sit around the kitchen TABLE for dinner. Cassie does not eat, but stares at her plate, clearly distracted. Mrs. Porter picks at her food, but throws worried glances at Cassie until she can't take it anymore.

MRS. PORTER  
Is everything all right, sweetie?

Cassie startles, like she forgot anyone else was there. Avoids her mother's eyes.

CASSIE  
Of course. I'm fine.

Mrs. Porter reaches across the table to take Cassie's hand. Cassie finally looks at her.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Mom...I think I need...

DING DONG!

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, PORCH - NIGHT

Cassie opens the door to find Luke lounging in the doorway, not a care in the world.

LUKE  
Hey there, gorgeous.

CASSIE  
Luke?

She stares at him in shock until he makes a move to enter the house. She blocks him with her body and steps outside.

LUKE  
Can't I come in?

She closes the door.

CASSIE  
No.

He cocks his head and smirks as she grabs the BROOM leaning next to the door. Will it make a great weapon? Probably not, but it's better than nothing.

LUKE  
You seem upset.

CASSIE  
Where have you been?

He reaches out and curls a strand of her hair around his finger.

LUKE  
Oh, here and there.

Cassie bats his hand away.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Don't be that way.

CASSIE  
Look, I don't know what kind of game you're playing here, but I think you owe me some explanations.

LUKE

Why whatever do you mean?

Cassie glares at him until he grins and grabs her around the waist. He presses a hand to her stomach.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Have you felt it kick yet? My boys are usually big kickers.

CASSIE

How is this possible?

LUKE

Well Cassie, when a man and woman love each other very much, or, more accurately, when a man is very, very horny...

Cassie does her best not to scream.

CASSIE

We did not have sex.

He sighs. Forlorn.

LUKE

And I did my best to make it so memorable, what with the romantic lighting and the garden.

Cassie steps back. Grips her BROOM a little more firmly.

CASSIE

That was a dream.

Luke smirks.

LUKE

Yes, it was wonderful for me as well.

CASSIE

I really think you should leave.

Luke moves too swiftly to comprehend. Grabs Cassie around the back of the neck. Touches her stomach with the other hand.

LUKE

This? Belongs to me.

He loosens his hold on her neck to a more gentle caress.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Don't look so worried. It's a great honor. You're like the Virgin Mary. Although I do prefer to be a little bit more hands-on than my father, so maybe "virgin" doesn't apply.

Cassie glares.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You know, when God violates a virgin, you create a major world religion around it, but when I do it, it's somehow "wrong."

He shakes his head in annoyance.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'm judging by this face you're making that you're not quite getting it, so let me spell things out for you.

He takes Cassie's hand.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Cassandra Porter, you have the very great honor of carrying the child of Lucifer Morningstar, the Lord of Hell.

Cassie is not impressed.

He clears his throat.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You may know me as Satan.

Still not impressed.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You know...  
(slowly)  
Sa-tan.

Cassie snatches her hand back in exasperation.

CASSIE

No, I don't need you to speak more slowly, I need you to make more sense.

LUKE

I'm not sure how I could be more clear. I'm Satan. You're carrying my child.

CASSIE

I don't know why you're pretending to be the Devil...if you think you're going to scare me into not reporting this or something...but now it really is time for you to go.

LUKE

Look, it's very simple. The stars have finally aligned again and the Apocalypse is nigh. The birth of our child will usher in a new age--

CASSIE

What did you drug me with? Roofies? Some kind of hallucinogen...thing?

He grins.

LUKE

Okay, I know what you need.

He cracks his knuckles and wiggles his fingers.

LUKE (CONT'D)

A little Old Testament magic. I'm almost embarrassed to do it in front of you, but here goes.

He SNAPS his fingers and Cassie's broom turns into a SNAKE. She throws it to the ground and it slithers toward her.

Cassie watches in horror as Luke makes extravagant "magical" gestures to switch between broom and snake.

BROOM.

SNAKE.

BROOM.

SNAKE.

CASSIE

Okay, okay, stop! I believe you.

BROOM.

LUKE

Now, was that so hard?

Cassie shakes her head.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Look, I know this is a lot to take in, and people are going to be throwing around scary words like "Antichrist" and "Hell on Earth," but it's really not as bad as all that. And anyway, I take care of my girls, all right?

Cassie nods. He leans to kiss her on the cheek when Mrs. Porter peeks her head out the door.

MRS. PORTER

Cassie, is everything all right...oh, hello, Luke.

She takes in the weird vibe.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)

I don't believe we've been formally introduced.

She holds out her hand as she limps onto the porch and inserts herself between Cassie and Luke.

Luke puts on his best mother-charming smile and takes her hand.

LUKE

It's a pleasure.

Mrs. Porter briefly shakes his hand and offers an even briefer smile.

MRS. PORTER

Charmed. Well, I suppose you need to be going now.

Luke smiles, genuinely delighted at her hostility.

LUKE

Indeed I do.

With a wink at Cassie, he swaggers off the porch and disappears into the darkness.

MRS. PORTER

Cassie?

Cassie reaches out to help her mother back inside.

CASSIE  
Everything's fine, mom.

INT. CASSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

A half-packed BACKPACK on the floor.

A BIBLE full of POST-IT NOTES marking various passages is open on the desk.

A webpage on EXORCISM open on the computer.

Cassie sits on her bed and stares off into space until she shakes it off and her eyes snap back into focus.

CASSIE  
How long to get there?

Her COMPUTER SCREEN flashes a series of MAPS.

COMPUTER  
Your local Designated Women's Health Clinic is 527 and one quarter miles away. Estimated travel time is eight hours 47 minutes.

Cassie frowns. Her attention zeroes in on the CROSS by her window. She reaches out to take it off the wall, but JERKS BACK with a HISS. The skin of her finger is red where the cross has burned her. She pops the finger in her mouth.

Cassie grabs a towel and uses it to pick up the cross. She shoves it into the pocket of her jacket.

CASSIE  
Earliest available appointment?

COMPUTER  
Earliest available appointment is tomorrow, September 12th, at 3:30pm.

She grabs her BACKPACK and stuffs a few more clothes inside.

COMPUTER (CONT'D)  
Confirm appointment for one abortion?

Cassie hesitates for just a second.

CASSIE

Confirm.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cassie tiptoes down the stairs, backpack slung over one shoulder. She pauses when she spots Mrs. Porter, asleep in her recliner. She creeps over and pulls the BLANKET up more securely around Mrs. Porter's neck.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cassie opens a BOTTLE OF WATER and leaves it on the table beside Mrs. Porter's PILL ORGANIZER and a NOTE:

"Mom, something came up for school. Will be back tomorrow (maybe day after). Leftovers in the fridge. Don't forget to take your pills. Love, Cassie."

The kitchen door quietly shuts and Cassie is gone.

EXT. CHRIST CHURCH OF NEW HOPE PARKING LOT - SUNRISE

An old mission-style building. Stained glass windows depict scenes from the STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Cassie's truck pulls into the lot.

INT. CHRIST CHURCH OF NEW HOPE, VESTIBULE - SUNRISE

Cassie peeks in. The area is deserted. She sneaks over to the FONT OF HOLY WATER held by a STATUE of the VIRGIN MARY. She folds her hands in prayer.

CASSIE

Hi. So, I imagine you already know what's up here since it's pretty Biblical-type stuff, but I just wanted to ask if you could help me out or give me a sign or something that I'm doing the right thing, that would be really great. Okay, amen I guess.

She takes a BOTTLE out of her bag and fills it with water from the font.

She HISSES as the water BURNS HER SKIN and adjusts her grip so she's not touching it. When the bottle is full, she caps it and puts it back in her bag.

DROPS of RED in the water.

Cassie looks up to the statue of Mary. It vomits and weeps blood.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Sorry!

Cassie backs away from the font. Looks up God-ward.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Sorry.

FATHER SAMUELS (O.S.)

Miss Porter?

Cassie jumps, then turns to face FATHER SAMUELS (40s), a man frighteningly earnest in his beliefs.

He takes in the tableau of the guilty-looking Cassie, and the bleeding statue of Mary.

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)

What is the meaning of this?

INT. FATHER SAMUELS' OFFICE - DAY

Father Samuels sits behind his desk and examines Cassie over steepled fingers.

Cassie squirms in the seat opposite.

CASSIE

I know it sounds insane.

FATHER SAMUELS

No, Miss Porter, I would be a fool to ignore the signs: your burns, the reaction of the Blessed Virgin to your presence...plus there have been a myriad of other indications from the swarms of locusts that have been devastating crops all across the country to the re-appearance of the Red Comet.

CASSIE

He did mention something about stars aligning.

FATHER SAMUELS

The Red Comet has always coincided with times of great strife.

(MORE)

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)

The last time it was seen was during the Papal Schism of the late 14th century. There were rumors Pope Urban VI had impregnated his mistress during a Satanic ritual. I thought that was just an attempt to assassinate his character, but perhaps...

He trails off as he contemplates the possibilities. Cassie waits for him to finish the thought, but when he doesn't...

CASSIE

So...do you think you can help me?

She grimaces.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I don't want to give birth to the Antichrist.

Father Samuels jolts back to the present.

FATHER SAMUELS

Yes, yes, despite your weakness of the flesh...

Cassie frowns at that.

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)

...I believe I can.

Cassie's face brightens.

CASSIE

Really?

She wipes faux sweat from her brow.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Whew, that is a relief! Because I was really starting to freak out, but obviously I should have come to you first. I mean, of course.

She folds her hands and looks Heaven-ward. Mouths "thank you." Her attention is brought back to Father Samuels as he stands abruptly.

FATHER SAMUELS

I want you to know that I will make every effort to ensure that this is as painless as possible for you.

CASSIE

I would appreciate that. Um, what is "this" by the way?

FATHER SAMUELS

Well, of course we cannot allow a creature of such evil to make its way into the world. And I'm afraid the only way to prevent that is to end your life.

Cassie can't stop nodding.

CASSIE

Un huh. Un huh. Unhuh unhuh unhuh.

FATHER SAMUELS

Miss Porter, are you okay? I realize this might be very upsetting.

CASSIE

Well, you know, I was thinking you might be able to do something more along the lines of some kind of...super exorcism. So this is...um...

Father Samuels comes out from behind his desk and approaches Cassie. She stands up in alarm.

FATHER SAMUELS

(earnest)

It's the only way, you see. To protect your immortal soul. Abortion and suicide are mortal sins, but if I kill you, you're entirely blameless.

Cassie backs away. Glances toward the door.

CASSIE

Sure. Yes. But, you know, I really couldn't put that all on you. So...

Father Samuels grabs her hand.

FATHER SAMUELS

No, no, I want to! I would be honored to make this righteous sacrifice in the fight against the ultimate Evil.

Cassie pulls her hand away.

CASSIE

Oh. Great. So that's a really good option.

She drums her fingers awkwardly on the back of her chair.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I will just have a quick little think about it, and get back to you.

She slips out the door.

EXT. CHRIST CHURCH OF NEW HOPE PARKING LOT - DAY

A bemused and horrified Cassie run-walks to her truck, constantly checking behind her to make sure Father Samuels isn't in pursuit.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

The hot sun BEATS down.

Cassie's truck rolls down an endless line of highway.

It passes a BILLBOARD sponsored by the Abstinence Foundation of America that proclaims "Wait for the Bling!" as a delighted young woman accepts a marriage proposal from a blandly handsome young man.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Alone in the truck, Cassie drives. Her fingers beat a staccato rhythm on the wheel. This is a long fuckin' drive.

She checks the rearview mirror. Any priests intent on killing her back there? The road is empty.

She flicks the radio on.

Cheerful POP MUSIC. She listens for a a few seconds then flicks it off.

LUKE (O.C.)

Aw, I love that song.

A startled Cassie turns and yanks the wheel as she sees a grinning Luke in the passenger seat.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

The truck swerves all over the road.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Luke grabs the wheel. Rights the truck.

LUKE

That was fun. You okay to drive?

CASSIE

Are you here to stop me?

Luke spreads his hands in surrender.

LUKE

Obviously, I'm hoping that in the end you'll choose me and our baby over the hordes of disgusting meat sacks you call humanity, but for right now I'm just here for company.

Cassie gives him a look. No way she believes that.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Sure, I could set your mother on fire unless you do what I want...

Cassie grows more horrified as his litany of atrocities continues.

LUKE (CONT'D)

...or chop off your arms and legs so you can't escape and keep you in a little cage until you give birth, or even just use my demonic will to crush your mind. But see, I've done all that. Frankly, it's getting a little boring. I thought this time around I'd just see what you wanted to do. Let you exercise that free will humanity's so famous for.

CASSIE

Well, my free will wants to kill your demon spawn. Prevent the Apocalypse. That's pretty much the gist of it.

Luke gazes out the window. Smiles at a private thought.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

What?

LUKE

No, it's cute. You've got a whole  
save humanity thing going on.

He grins at her.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Humanity will let you down.

He looks out the window in confusion. Cassie has pulled off  
to the side of the road.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What're we doing?

He looks back toward Cassie and gets a face full of holy  
water.

Luke screams as his face burns. Smoke steams from his ruined  
eye sockets.

Terrified, but determined, Cassie plunges her cross into one  
eye and deep into the brain.

The screaming stops. Luke slumps over...dead?

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - DAY

Cassie sits in the truck. Breathes. She blows on the burn  
left on her hand from the cross.

Finally, she exits the vehicle and heads around to Luke's  
side. She swings the door open and studies Luke's body.

Pokes it. No response.

She grabs the body under the arms and pulls it out of the  
truck. It kicks up dust as it THUMPS to the ground.

Cassie drags the body through the dirt away from the road.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Cassie, SHOVEL in hand, gazes down at Luke's body. She raises  
the shovel and thrusts it down onto his neck.

Blood SPATTERS on her face. A few more thrusts and Luke's  
head rolls away from the body, cross still jammed in the eye  
socket.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Luke's body lays at the bottom of a hastily dug grave. Cassie tosses the head in and shovels dirt back on top.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - DAY

Cassie rests, slumped against a truck tire. She scrubs her hands in the dirt in an attempt to get the dried blood off. It works...sort of. Of course that doesn't help the blood all over her face or clothes. But hey, what're you gonna do?

A deep breath and she's up. She rounds the back of the truck, deposits the shovel in the truck bed, and opens the driver's side door. Stops dead.

Luke sits in the passenger seat, right as rain. He smirks.

She slams the door and ducks beneath the window.

LUKE (O.S.)

Cassie?

She clasps her hands together to stop the shaking.

Luke peers down at her out the driver's side window.

LUKE (CONT'D)

What's up, girl?

Cassie scrabbles away from the truck. Looks up at him in horror.

CASSIE

You can't...I killed you.

LUKE

I admit the holy water was unexpected, but did you really think you could kill me? Again, I'm Satan.

CASSIE

I thought I could kill your host body and then you'd be banished back to Hell.

LUKE

Where did you get a ridiculous idea like that?

CASSIE

The internet?

She climbs to her feet and approaches the truck.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Luke slides back over to the passenger seat as Cassie enters.

She buckles her seatbelt and arranges her shaking hands on the wheel. Stares straight ahead.

CASSIE

What are you going to do now?

LUKE

I told you, I'm just along for the ride. Free will! Woo!

Cassie sends some serious side-eye his way as she pulls the truck back onto the road.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY

The truck speeds down the road.

A large BILLBOARD proclaims "It's a Child not a Choice," as a couple tenderly clasp the woman's pregnant belly.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

We're back at the beginning. Cassie's truck pulls off the highway into the lot. She exits and marches around the corner of the store toward the bathrooms.

A second later, she marches back around the corner and enters the gas station.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Cassie catches the KEY Mullet tosses to her.

INT. GAS STATION BATHROOM - DAY

Cassie scrubs the blood from her face.

INT. GAS STATION BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER

Cassie straightens her JACKET over a clean outfit.

EXT. GAS STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Cassie puts pedal to the metal as the truck fishtails back onto the road.

EXT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER PARKING LOT - DAY

Cassie pulls off the road into a parking space in front of the GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER, a clean, modern building of glass and steel.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Cassie glances over at Luke. No movement. Eyes closed. Asleep?

She delicately CLICKS open the door.

LUKE

You're just gonna leave me here all asleep and vulnerable? There could be roving biker gangs.

CASSIE

That's a chance I'm willing to take.

Luke places his hand over his heart.

LUKE

That hurts me. Right here.

CASSIE

Ah, the place where your heart would be if you weren't the embodiment of all evil.

LUKE

I'm simply misunderstood.

Cassie raises a skeptical eyebrow.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Honestly, Cassie, it's not as bad as you think. Just come with me. See what it's like.

He smiles that cool breeze and lemonade smile.

Cassie studies his face. He seems sincere, and yet...

Her eyes dart to the door handle.

Luke catches the glance and smirks.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I already told you, I won't interfere. I gave you my word.

CASSIE

And how much is your word worth?

LUKE

My word is my bond.

CASSIE

Swear to God.

Luke's smirk turns bitter.

LUKE

I swear to God not to interfere.  
May he strike me down if I'm lying.

Cassie reflexively tries to move out the way of the potential lightning bolt, but smacks into the car window. Luke's laughter follows her as she slams out of the truck.

EXT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER PARKING LOT - DAY

A PRIM MOTHER (20s) and her young SON (6) pass nearby.

Luke leans his head out of the truck.

LUKE

Good luck with the abortion!

Cassie pauses, resists the urge to glare at Luke.

The Prim Mother covers her son's ears and hurries him away.

Cassie marches up to the door of the wellness center. A brief pause as she takes a deep breath and centers herself. She pastes a pleasant expression on her face. She is polite, cheerful, normal. Everything's fine.

She opens the door.

INT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER - DAY

A top-of-the-line facility with the most up-to-date medical equipment. Soothing music plays.

A mix of young and old WOMEN populate the waiting area.

Cassie enters. Takes it all in.

WELLNESS CENTER COMPUTER (V.O.)  
 Welcome to Gifford Wellness Center,  
 your lower southwestern zone clinic  
 for women's health and well-being.

Cassie adjusts her backpack and marches up to the front desk.

The nurse ABIGAIL (40s), motherly, slides back the glass partition.

ABIGAIL  
 How can we can help you, dear?

CASSIE  
 (quietly)  
 I have an appointment to get a  
 trenzyl-8 pill for one abortion,  
 please. Cassie Porter?

Abigail looks her up and down.

ABIGAIL  
 Yes, of course, Miss Porter. If you  
 could just have a seat and fill out  
 these forms we'll be with you in a  
 minute.

She hands Cassie a CLIPBOARD with an encouraging smile.

Cassie takes a seat and starts writing.

A WASP-Y OLDER WOMAN (60s) shoots Cassie a disapproving look.

Cassie shifts uncomfortably and tries to cover her clipboard with one arm like she's hiding answers to a test. The Older Woman keeps staring, and finally Cassie meets her eyes. What's your problem, lady? The Older Woman looks away.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
 Miss Porter? We're ready for you  
 now.

Cassie wipes the glare away and fixes that pleasant expression on her face again.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Cassie's FEET dangle from the edge of the EXAM BED.

DR. PERRY, (40s), a genial people-pleaser full of dad jokes, propels himself over to her on a rolling CHAIR, FILE in hand.

DR. PERRY

Well, Cassie, the first thing we've got to do is double check and make sure you really are pregnant. You say you've just taken the one at-home pregnancy test? Those can be inaccurate. Might be you're all worked up over nothing.

CASSIE

Yes. Maybe.

DR. PERRY

Wonderful.

He pulls out a CUP.

DR. PERRY (CONT'D)

Now, I hope you've been drinking plenty of water today.

Cassie stares at the cup.

INT. BATHROOM, WELLNESS CENTER - DAY

The SOUND of a heavy stream of URINE as Cassie squats uncomfortably over the toilet. She grimaces. All that pee didn't quite make it in the cup.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Cassie waits on the exam bed.

She glances around the room. A POSTER of mother and child declares motherhood "God's Greatest Gift."

Cassie frowns.

Dr. Perry enters.

DR. PERRY

Sorry for the delay.

He sits. Wheels himself next to Cassie. Looks up at her with big, sincere, eyes.

DR. PERRY (CONT'D)

I'm pleased to tell you, you are, in fact, pregnant.

Holds up his fist for a bump.

DR. PERRY (CONT'D)

Congrats!

Cassie stares at the fist. It's just too awkward to leave him hanging, but the resulting fist bump is horribly embarrassing.

Abigail enters. Sets up the ULTRASOUND.

DR. PERRY (CONT'D)

Now, we just want to do an ultrasound and see how far along you are.

CASSIE

And then we can, you know...

She makes a vague motion with her hand.

DR. PERRY

Well, let's take it one step at a time. Abigail, the goo please!

ABIGAIL

Right here!

Cassie leans back and Abigail pulls up her shirt.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

This may be a little cold.

She slops the GEL on and runs the PROBE over Cassie's stomach.

An image of the baby appears on the ultrasound display.

DR. PERRY

Ooh, now look there. That's a nice strong heart beat. I'd say about twelve weeks.

Cassie raises up on her elbows in alarm.

CASSIE

What?

DR. PERRY

That'll put your due date around the middle of March. A spring baby!

ABIGAIL

Oh isn't that sweet?

CASSIE

Yes. Um, did you say twelve weeks?  
That's absolutely not possible.

Abigail wipes the gel off Cassie's stomach.

DR. PERRY

What a miracle! Now, Cassie, we  
need to get you started on prenatal  
vitamins immediately. And let's  
talk about diet--

CASSIE

Excuse me, sorry, but I'm here for  
an abortion.

DR. PERRY

Oh...you still wanted that?

CASSIE

Ye-es, please. One abortion. Like I  
said.

Dr. Perry slides away from her. He seems embarrassed.

DR. PERRY

Well, ahem, I see. It's just  
usually young women such as  
yourself say they want an abortion  
because they're scared, but once  
they see the child they realize  
what a mistake they're making. Now,  
I assure you, we'll be with you  
every step of the pregnancy...

Cassie sits up.

CASSIE

Doctor, I'm sorry, but for my  
situation an abortion is best.

Abigail pulls her LATEX GLOVES off with a SNAP.

DR. PERRY

I see. Well, Miss Porter, that's  
very disappointing to hear, but  
before you make your final  
decision, there are just a few more  
requirements.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Abigail plops an armful of enormous BINDERS on the table in front of Cassie.

The title of the top binder asks "So You Want to Terminate Your Baby?"

INT. SCREENING ROOM - DAY

Small, but with a projection booth in the back.

Abigail ushers a bemused Cassie inside. She glances around the empty room and hesitantly chooses a seat.

In the booth, the PROJECTIONIST (40s), an odd little man who looks as though he should be showing Nazi propoganda in the 1930s, cues up the film.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Dr. Perry takes notes as he interrogates Cassie.

DR. PERRY

And how many sexual partners have  
you had in addition to the father?

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Cassie is on her last binder ("The Joys of Motherhood"), when Abigail brings in another huge armful.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

More interrogation.

DR. PERRY

Did you know that having an  
abortion increases your chances of  
breast cancer to near certainty?

Cassie raises an eyebrow in suspicion at that claim.

INT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER, MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Abigail brings one of the NEWBORNS up to the glass so Cassie can get a closer look.

Cassie smiles politely as she wonders when this nightmare will end.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Binders fill the room. Cassie closes the final one with relief.

Abigail appears with an arm full of paperwork.

ABIGAIL

I'll just need you to fill out a few forms.

Cassie wants to die.

INT. SCREENING ROOM - DAY

Cassie sits in the darkened room. Is this movie going to start any time soon? She looks back to the projection booth and opens her mouth to ask when...

MUSIC BLARES from the speakers, Verdi's Requiem (Dies Irae), as the movie begins.

We don't see the images on the screen - only Cassie's face as she watches - but from the light we can tell that whatever is being shown involves a lot of red.

It's dead fetuses. A lot of dead fetuses.

It takes a moment for Cassie to fully realize what is being shown, but once she does, she turns back to the projectionist. The projectionist grins and taps the side of his nose with a finger.

Cassie turns back to the screen, weirded out.

More Verdi. More graphic imagery.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

The sudden silence is jarring as Cassie sits on the exam table. She watches Dr. Perry check off a few items on her chart before he looks up.

DR. PERRY

Now, let's talk baby plan!

Cassie frowns.

DR. PERRY (CONT'D)  
Oh, you still...wanted the  
abortion?

CASSIE  
Yes! I'm not sure how to be more  
clear.

DR. PERRY  
(flustered)  
Yes, ahem, well, this is awkward.  
You see, according to recent law,  
the doctor, that would be me, must  
evaluate the situation and decide  
whether an abortion is appropriate.  
And I'm afraid I see no reason for  
it.

CASSIE  
And what I think doesn't matter?

DR. PERRY  
Not in this case, Miss Porter.

Cassie attempts to remain polite, but her anger is building.

CASSIE  
I see. And the pamphlets, the  
paperwork, the video, that was  
all...what?

DR. PERRY  
We do like to give the patient the  
opportunity to come to the right  
conclusion on their own.

Abigail puts a hand on Cassie's shoulder.

ABIGAIL  
You should be grateful, dear. The  
decision to kill your unborn child  
would have had consequences on your  
mental and physical health for the  
rest of your life.

Cassie struggles to suppress her frustration. Decides to lay  
it all out there.

CASSIE  
Doctor, may I speak with you alone?

Abigail and Dr. Perry exchange a look.

DR. PERRY  
Of course, Miss Porter.

Abigail exits. Cassie waits until the door closes behind her.

CASSIE  
Are you a religious man, sir?

DR. PERRY  
Of course.

CASSIE  
You believe in heaven and hell, God  
and Satan?

DR. PERRY  
(defensive)  
I am a good Christian, Miss Porter.

CASSIE  
Well...you know how the Holy Spirit  
came upon Mary and got her pregnant  
with Jesus? The same thing happened  
to me, only kind of the opposite.

DR. PERRY  
I'm not sure I follow you.

Cassie takes a deep breath.

CASSIE  
I'm carrying Satan's child and it's  
going to bring about the  
Apocalypse.

Dr. Perry stares for a moment then bursts out laughing.

Cassie is taken aback.

DR. PERRY  
Miss Porter, if I had a dime for  
every time a young lady came in  
here claiming some sort of magical  
pregnancy, I would be a rich man.

CASSIE  
That can't possibly be true.

He jots a few notes on a prescription PAD.

DR. PERRY  
You did the crime, young lady, now  
you'll have to do the time.

Cassie grimaces at that grossness, then an idea hits.

CASSIE  
Wait, I can prove it.

INT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER, CHAPEL - DAY

Cassie rushes toward the FONT OF HOLY WATER. Dr. Perry and Abigail trail behind her. They exchange concerned looks. Is this girl mentally unstable?

Cassie triumphantly plunges her hand into the font.

Nothing. No burning. No steam. No pain.

Cassie raises her hand out of the water and inspects the unblemished skin. Dips it again. Still nothing.

Confusion covers Cassie's face. She opens her mouth, but doesn't quite know what to say.

INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY

Dr. Perry's HAND SCRAWLS a PRESCRIPTION for Cassie.

RIPS it from the pad.

Gives Cassie the slip of paper.

DR. PERRY  
Start taking these vitamins and  
I'll see you next week. We'll come  
up with a pregnancy plan.

He pumps his fist in excitement. It's the dorkiest thing you've ever seen.

EXT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER - DAY

Abigail ushers Cassie out the door.

ABIGAIL  
We'll see you back here next  
Tuesday, Miss Porter.

She pats Cassie on the stomach.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)  
Take care of that little nugget!

She disappears back inside.

Dazed, Cassie glances down at the PRESCRIPTION in one hand, and stack of pro-life PAMPHLETS in the other.

INT. GIFFORD WELLNESS CENTER - DAY

Abigail watches Cassie through the window as she heads for her truck. Abigail's gaze is cold, calculating.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Cassie's mind goes a million miles a minute as she cruises the town streets. She is alone.

She spots a sign for the HOSPITAL and heads that direction.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

Cassie pulls into a spot far from the entrance. Chews on a nail as she considers her next step.

INT. HOSPITAL, FRONT DESK - DAY

Cassie approaches the front desk hesitantly.

The HEAD NURSE (30s), motions her to step up.

HEAD NURSE

Can I help you, sweetie?

CASSIE

Um, hi, yes. I need a dose of trenzyl-8 for one abortion, please?

HEAD NURSE

You'll need to make an appointment over at the Gifford Wellness Clinic.

CASSIE

Can't I just get it here?

HEAD NURSE

You can only receive the abortion drug at a designated clinic for women's health and well-being after a thorough evaluation by the doctor.

Cassie leans in, conscious of other people starting to stare. She plays with a piece of non-existent lint on the desktop.

CASSIE

Is it possible to get a second opinion? I just came from there and I'm not sure I was properly evaluated.

HEAD NURSE

I'm sorry to hear that. If you would like to file a complaint, you can fill out the form online.

The Head Nurse scrawls a web address on a slip of paper and hands it to Cassie, who frowns. She looks around to see if anyone is listening, then leans closer.

CASSIE

It's just, it's kind of an emergency...Isn't there any way you could just make an exception?

HEAD NURSE

(loudly)

Young lady, this hospital takes the law very seriously.

Cassie looks around. Everyone stares at her. She forces a laugh.

CASSIE

Of course. Yes. Absolutely, me too. Maybe I could just get a few pamphlets on pregnancy stuff for when I definitely have this baby?

NURSE'S HANDS fan the pamphlets out on the counter.

CASSIE'S HANDS sweep them up into her arms.

Cassie hustles out the door.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Cassie tosses the hospital pamphlets onto the pile of pamphlets from the wellness center and pulls out her phone.

CASSIE

Find southwestern area DWHCs.

PHONE (V.O.)

Nearest Designated Women's Health Clinic is Gifford Well--

CASSIE

Next.

PHONE (V.O.)

Baffin Medical Center. One thousand forty-six and one-third miles from current location.

Cassie lets out a growl of frustration. She throws down her phone and glares down at the pamphlets. A blissfully smiling pregnant woman gazes up at her from one, while another begs her to consider "Abortion: Are You Ruining Your Life?"

With a scream of frustration, Cassie rips the pamphlets to shreds.

EXT. FAST FOOD JOINT - NIGHT

Now calm, Cassie removes the bread and other nonsense from her multiple HAMBURGERS and chows down on the meat.

Luke watches, amused.

LUKE

You know, you could make this easy on yourself and just come with me. You would be a queen. You do realize that, right?

She ignores him, so he reaches over and steals a FRENCH FRY. Pops it in his mouth.

Cassie moves the fries across the table out of his reach.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Hey, you're not gonna eat them.

Cassie looks him dead in the eye.

CASSIE

No, I'm not.

Luke chuckles.

LUKE

Spite. I like it.

She glares at him.

CASSIE

Why didn't the holy water work?

He reaches way across the table and stuffs another French fry in his mouth.

LUKE

What?

CASSIE

At the clinic, I tried to burn myself with holy water to prove I was telling the truth. But it didn't work.

LUKE

The trick with holy water is that someone actually holy has to bless it. I'd say whoever's doing their blessings must be a real piece of shit.

CASSIE

So Father Samuels is holy? Because he wanted to kill me. Although I suppose his intentions were good. Then why do they say that's what the road to hell is paved with?

Luke's eyes crinkle with amusement.

LUKE

A priest wanted to kill you?

He bursts into laughter.

CASSIE

Didn't you know?

LUKE

I'm not omniscient, Cassie. Just tremendously more powerful than your puny mind can comprehend.

CASSIE

Great.

LUKE

As for the holy water...which church is it?

CASSIE

Christ Church of New Hope.

Luke closes his eyes. It's as if he's listening to something no one else can hear. Cassie watches, puzzled. Finally his eyes open again.

LUKE

There's a little old lady who waters the plants. Sarah or Susan or something. She does a little...

He vaguely mimes crossing himself.

LUKE (CONT'D)

...every morning over the font, and boom. Holy water.

CASSIE

It's Susan. Mrs. Susan Norris. She's a nice lady.

LUKE

Apparently. Meanwhile, Father Samuels is engaged in a letter-writing campaign to the Vatican arguing that the church shouldn't be sending aid to victims of natural disaster because that's interfering with God's judgment. Not exactly the type of behavior that gets you the ability to create holy water.

Cassie stares at Luke, processing this revelation. Then she scarfs the last of the hamburgers and gathers her backpack.

Luke studies her face, trying to discern what she's thinking.

CASSIE

How long do I have?

LUKE

What?

CASSIE

Your demon spawn is obviously growing faster than a normal baby. The doctor said I was already at 12 weeks. So how long?

Luke shrugs.

LUKE

I'd imagine you'll give birth within the next 3 to 4 days.

CASSIE

Right.

She marches away with Luke following.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Cassie grips the wheel with determination as Luke sings his heart out to bad pop music in the passenger seat.

EXT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER, PARKING LOT - DAY

It's super early so the diner's not open yet.

Cassie's truck pulls into the lot. She exits and heads for the diner. Luke sticks his head out the window.

LUKE

Don't expect me to rescue you when  
this goes wrong.

Her only response is a MIDDLE FINGER.

EXT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER, BACK ALLEY - DAY

Eli hoists several TRASH BAGS into the DUMPSTER as Cassie rounds the corner.

CASSIE

Eli?

ELI

What are you doing here?

CASSIE

I need to talk to you.

She marches inside. Eli frowns.

ELI

Yeah, sure. Come right in.

INT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER, KITCHEN - DAY

Cassie nervously fiddles with the hem of her shirt as Eli kneads DOUGH.

ELI

Either spill or get out. I've got  
pies to make.

Cassie is not sure where to start, so she just goes for it.

CASSIE

I need drugs.

Not what Eli was expecting.

ELI  
Is...is your mom okay?

CASSIE  
Yeah, it's for me. Look, I know  
you've got a guy who gets you  
vicodin.

ELI  
(defensive)  
I've got shrapnel in my shoulder.

Cassie holds up placating hands.

CASSIE  
I'm not saying you don't need it,  
but I also currently have some  
medical needs not being met by the  
establishment, so if you could find  
it in your heart to assist me, I  
would be very grateful.

ELI  
What the fuck does that mean?

Cassie suddenly becomes very interested in the floor.

CASSIE  
I...need some trenzyl-8.

Eli raises an eyebrow. A smart remark is on the tip of his  
tongue, but then he really takes a look at Cassie. And she  
looks rough. Going on 24 hours without sleep. Fatigue and  
stress cause a faint tremor in her hand.

ELI  
Come back tonight after closing.

Cassie allows herself a small smile of relief as she slips  
out the door.

CASSIE  
Thanks, Eli.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - DAY

A dead-tired Cassie shuffles inside.

CASSIE  
Mom?

Cassie gazes around the house. It seems smaller.

Gilly slinks from the kitchen headed for the stairs, plastered to the wall as far from Cassie as she can get. She hisses when Cassie reaches to pet her.

Cassie's face falls.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cassie, a little out of it, helps Mrs. Porter into her chair. She glances around the room. Everything seems a little off. The light a little too bright. The dark a little too dark. Sound muted.

MRS. PORTER  
(as if under water)  
So tell me all about it.

Cassie stares at a picture on the wall of her as a baby held by a young Mrs. Porter. Her hands go to her stomach. They clench into fists.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)  
(as if under water)  
Cassie?

Sound rushes back in.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)  
Cassie?

CASSIE  
Hm? Oh, sorry. What were you saying?

MRS. PORTER  
Tell me about this mysterious school project.

CASSIE  
Oh...right...

She blinks. Tries to gather her thoughts.

Her stomach RUMBLES.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
How about I make us some breakfast and I'll tell you all about it?

MRS. PORTER  
Are you okay, sweetie?

CASSIE  
Of course. Just a little tired.

Mrs. Porter tries to push herself out of the chair.

MRS. PORTER  
Let me help you with--

CASSIE  
No!

That was too emphatic.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
I mean, no, that's okay.

She hustles to the kitchen.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
I'll have it ready in two shakes of  
a cat's tail.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

HANDS CRACK EGGS.

EGGS CRACKLE in a FRYING PAN.

Cassie stands by the sink in front of the kitchen window. A PLATE of RAW MEAT sits on the counter next to her. She crams it in her mouth.

BLOOD runs down her chin.

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW: the top of someone's head drifts past.

Cassie pauses, mid-bite, and peers out the window. Her mouth snaps into a grim line. She peeks back into the living room to see Mrs. Porter asleep in her chair, then grabs a FRYING PAN and moves carefully to the back door.

The doorknob twists ever so slowly and quietly.

Cassie SNATCHES the door open, frying pan raised! Only to come face-to-face with Father Samuels. He crouches at doorknob level, LOCK PICKING TOOLS raised, guilty expression on his face.

CASSIE  
Father Samuels?

FATHER SAMUELS  
Oh, er, yes, good day, Miss Porter.

He pulls himself up. Dusts himself off.

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)  
I was just coming to speak--

Cassie shushes him as she pushes him out onto the back porch.

EXT. BACK PORCH - DAY

Cassie crosses her arms as she glares at Father Samuels. The move highlights the growing baby bump. Father Samuels stares.

FATHER SAMUELS  
It really is true. The  
abomination....I had hoped...

He shakes himself.

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)  
My path is clear.

He rolls up his sleeves.

Cassie creates some distance between them with a shove of the frying pan.

CASSIE  
Hey now, this clear path wouldn't  
include murdering me, would it?

Father Samuels reaches into his pocket to pull out a length of CORD. Probably from a choir robe.

FATHER SAMUELS  
I'm so very sorry, Miss Porter.

Cassie tightens her grip on the frying pan and settles into a defensive stance.

CASSIE  
Not as sorry as you're gonna be.

The kitchen door swings open. Mrs. Porter peeks out.

MRS. PORTER  
Cassie, are you out here? The eggs  
are burning...

Cassie and Father Samuels snap to attention. Hide their weapons behind their backs.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)  
Oh, hello, Father Samuels.

FATHER SAMUELS

Very nice to see you, Mrs. Porter.  
We miss you on Sundays.

MRS. PORTER

Well...won't you come in?

She shuffles back inside.

Cassie glares at Father Samuels. They move to the door at the same time. Cassie gestures - after you. Father Samuels goes through the door, one eye trained on Cassie.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

A WHISK furiously BEATS EGGS.

Cassie, mid-whisk, glares at Father Samuels as he helps Mrs. Porter sit at the table.

MRS. PORTER

How is Mrs. Norris doing?

Father Samuels steps behind Mrs. Porter to help adjust her chair at the table.

FATHER SAMUELS

Oh, very well. She'll outlive us  
all.

MRS. PORTER

I remember she gave me a little  
jewelry box made out of shells when  
I got baptized.

Behind Mrs. Porter's back, Father Samuels mouths "come with me or..." Makes the throat-slitting motion and points to Mrs. Porter.

Whisking intensifies.

MRS. PORTER (CONT'D)

And I think it's still here  
somewhere. Maybe in the dining  
room.

BANG! Cassie puts down the bowl of eggs.

CASSIE

Maybe you'd like to see it, Father  
Samuels.

She stalks out of the kitchen. He follows.

FATHER SAMUELS  
Yes, that would be wonderful.

Suddenly alone in the kitchen, Mrs. Porter is flummoxed.

MRS. PORTER  
O...kay.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY

Father Samuels creeps down the hallway. Finds himself  
SNATCHED into....

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, BATHROOM - DAY

Father Samuels stumbles through the door. Cassie holds him at  
a distance with a KITCHEN KNIFE.

The conversation takes place in hushed tones.

CASSIE  
Pardon my language, Father, but  
what the actual fuck?

FATHER SAMUELS  
I'm very sorry, Miss Porter, and  
sorry about that...with your  
mother, but you know what I have to  
do.

CASSIE  
What? Slowly strangle me to death  
while you get off on the thought  
that you've made some kind of noble  
sacrifice?

FATHER SAMUELS  
Certainly not! Or rather, yes to  
the first part, but no to the  
second.

Cassie lets out a growl of exasperation.

CASSIE  
Let's think about this logically.  
You agree that my little Antichrist  
demon spawn has to die, right?

FATHER SAMUELS  
Of course.

CASSIE

Great. And the key word there is demon. Which is something we should kill immediately, whether it's in my uterus, or herding its human slaves into the firepits.

FATHER SAMUELS

Well...

CASSIE

So...butt out.

FATHER SAMUELS

Excuse me?

CASSIE

Look, Jesus may have been willing to die for mankind, but I'm not. Especially when there's a much simpler solution. Maybe that makes him better than me. Probably. He is the son of God. So, here's what's going to happen: you're going to say a very nice goodbye to my mom, and hustle back to church where I'd advise you to do some pretty heavy praying.

Father Samuels draws himself up straighter.

FATHER SAMUELS

And if I don't?

Cassie grips her knife a little more tightly.

CASSIE

You do know one of the side effects of being pregnant with a demon is super strength, right? And if we get into a tussle, I don't want to crush your skull in, you know, by accident, okay?

Father Samuels takes a nervous step back.

FATHER SAMUELS

I would willingly sacrifice my life in service to the greater good. Although, now that I really think about it, perhaps my efforts could best be directed in prayer. It is the ultimate weapon against the forces of darkness.

Cassie barely suppresses an eye-roll.

CASSIE  
Yeah, that sounds great.

FATHER SAMUELS  
God be with you, Miss Porter.

He sweeps out.

Cassie sags against the sink in relief.

CASSIE  
I should take up poker.

She glances to the mirror. Examines her stomach. She's really starting to show.

Suddenly...uh oh, did the demon spawn just kick?

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Shit.

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Mrs. Porter sits in her recliner, Cassie in a chair next to her, as they work on the puzzle.

Mrs. Porter gives a little cry of triumph as she fits a piece. She glances up to Cassie, who stares at the piece in her hand, her mind clearly miles away.

MRS. PORTER  
No matter how long you stare at it,  
it's not going to change shape.

Cassie blinks as she comes back to the present.

CASSIE  
Sorry, guess I'm still a little out  
of it.

Mrs. Porter gives her a penetrating look.

MRS. PORTER  
That young man hasn't been  
bothering you, has he?

CASSIE  
Luke? No. No, he hasn't been the  
problem.

MRS. PORTER  
You know you can talk to me about  
anything?

Cassie rolls her eyes.

CASSIE  
Yes, mom.

She picks up another puzzle piece and hunts for its spot.  
Mrs. Porter grabs her hand.

MRS. PORTER  
Cassie, whatever's going on, I want  
you to know that I trust your  
judgment, and that I'm here for  
you.

Cassie manages a half-smile as she slips her hand away from  
Mrs. Porter.

CASSIE  
I'm fine, mom. I'm going to be  
fine.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - SUNSET

The sun sinks below the horizon. The Red Comet shines bright.

EXT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER - NIGHT

Cassie pulls into the lot and exits the truck.

Eli smokes outside the back door. He flicks the CIGARETTE  
away as he motions her inside.

INT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cassie enters to find TRAJAN (30s), Eli's old army buddy and  
current drug dealer. He chows down on a piece of PIE.

Eli closes the door behind him.

ELI  
Let's get this over with.

Trajan holds up a hand.

TRAJAN

Whoa there, Barnes. I know you vouched for her, but I got a couple questions first.

CASSIE

Go for it.

TRAJAN

You a cop? You gotta tell me if you are.

ELI

That's not actually true.

TRAJAN

What?

ELI

Undercover cops don't have to tell you they're a cop just because you ask. That would defeat the whole point.

TRAJAN

Well, either way, I want to hear it from her. Maybe do a quick pat-down to see if she's wearing a wire.

He leers at her.

CASSIE

Ew.

ELI

Don't be a dick, Trajan.

Trajan considers for a moment.

TRAJAN

All right, I guess we can dispense with the formalities. Now, I understand you're in a little trouble.

CASSIE

You could say that. Can you get it or not?

Trajan takes out a cigarette.

TRAJAN

The trenzyl-8 you mean?

Cassie levels an even stare at him.

CASSIE

Yes.

Trajan fiddles with the cigarette. Goes to light it.

Eli snatches it away.

ELI

No smoking in here, man.

CASSIE

So?

Trajan makes a decision.

TRAJAN

I need to make a few calls. It's not exactly something I have just laying around.

He grabs the cigarette back from Eli and heads outside.

Awkward silence as Cassie and Eli wait for him to come back. She hops up to sit on the counter. Swings her feet. Eli shoves a BOWL of STRAWBERRIES toward her.

ELI

Here, make yourself useful. I need these washed and sliced.

Cassie allows herself a small smile. Of course Eli would put her to work. She picks up a strawberry, but it immediately starts to decay at her touch. Her smile vanishes.

CASSIE

(under her breath)

Well, that's new.

She leans back, careful not to touch any more of the fruit.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Sorry. Can't.

He pauses his dough kneading and gives her a look. Weirdo.

ELI

No, great. I help you out with this super important thing, and you don't want to wash a few strawberries. It's cool.

Cassie hesitates, then leans forward. Wants to explain.

CASSIE

Do you believe in God? And...Satan?

Eli dusts his hands off. Leans back against the stove across from her. Where is she going with this?

ELI

I don't not believe in them.

Cassie furrows her brow to parse that..

CASSIE

Okay....well, see, the thing is...Luke's the devil and he impregnated me with the Antichrist. Now I crave raw meat, animals avoid me, and apparently my touch makes fruit go rotten.

She picks up another strawberry and it decays immediately.

Eli lifts an eyebrow.

ELI

Anything else?

CASSIE

Holy water burns me.

Eli stares at her for a long moment.

ELI

So, I guess you really need that trenzyl-8.

Cassie lets out strangled laugh.

CASSIE

Yeah, I guess I really do.

She gives him a wry smile. He allows a very small smile in return, but for him that's practically grinning. The moment is interrupted as Trajan returns.

TRAJAN

Good news, boys and girls. I got a med student willing to trade trenzyl-8 for a little of the ole herbal refreshment.

He turns to leave.

TRAJAN (CONT'D)

Let's roll out.

CASSIE

What?

TRAJAN

He's meeting us at my place. It's  
less exposed.

Cassie hesitates.

ELI

I know he seems like a real  
asshole, but...that's accurate.

Cassie laughs.

TRAJAN

Hey!

Eli leans close to Cassie.

ELI

He had my back in Afghanistan.

Cassie smiles her thanks to Eli and heads out with Trajan.

EXT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER, PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Trajan gestures toward his CAR.

TRAJAN

Your chariot awaits.

Cassie gives him a look.

CASSIE

I'll follow in my truck.

Trajan shrugs as he heads to his car.

TRAJAN

Suit yourself.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Cassie focuses on the twin tail lights of Trajan's car ahead  
of her on the road.

EXT. BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Trajan unlocks the door as Cassie surveys the terrain  
nervously. It's pretty deserted.

INT. BUNGALOW - DAY

Open floor plan. Clearly a bachelor pad. LEATHER furniture.

A man in WHITE SCRUBS, SIMON, sits on the COUCH. He rises as they enter. We may recognize him as Button Down Shirt - he was thrown out of the diner earlier.

SIMON

Thanks for the call, man.

Trajan, slightly sheepish, nods.

A little puzzled by the weird vibe in the room, Cassie nonetheless forges ahead.

CASSIE

Hi, I'm Cassie--

Another man in white scrubs, NICHOLAS, enters the bungalow behind her. We may recognize him as Khaki Pants. Also from being thrown out of the diner.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Who--

Nicholas jabs a SYRINGE into the side of her neck. She slumps into his arms.

CASSIE'S POV: Blurry. Simon hands Trajan a large WAD of CASH.

SIMON

A pleasure doing business with you.

Trajan watches them cart Cassie away. The faint trace of guilt on his face vanishes as he counts his money.

INT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, CASSIE'S ROOM - DAY

Cold. White. Clinical. Four walls and a BED.

Cassie is strapped to that bed. She shifts groggily into consciousness.

CASSIE'S POV: Abigail, flanked by an orderly, ED (30s), slowly comes into focus.

CASSIE

Wha...?

ABIGAIL

Miss Porter, per your insistence upon pursuing an abortion, we are detaining you here for the length of your pregnancy.

CASSIE

You can't do that. This is America.

Abigail sniffs.

ABIGAIL

We can do whatever is necessary, Miss Porter.

CASSIE

What does that even mean?! Who are you people?

A sudden terrible thought hits her.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Are you helping Satan start the Apocalypse?

ABIGAIL

Where do you get these insane ideas, my dear? No, we are simply a group of concerned citizens who are dedicated to protecting all God's children. Even those who haven't been born yet.

CASSIE

So you're not actively trying to end the world, you're just sort of stumbling into it. Great.

Abigail ignores this jab as Dr. Perry enters.

ABIGAIL

You remember Dr. Perry. He will be your physician during your stay.

Dr. Perry steps up to the bed and clasps Cassie's hand. She tries to pull it away, but the restraints are too tight.

DR. PERRY

Cassie, we're going to make sure you have the very best care anyone could ask for.

He gestures to the door and Ed wheels a TRANSVAGINAL ULTRASOUND into place.

DR. PERRY (CONT'D)

Now, we're just gonna do a little check-up and make sure everything's okay. Okay?

A horrified Cassie struggles against her restraints as Ed holds up the lubricated ultrasound WAND.

INT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, CASSIE'S ROOM - DAY

The transvaginal ultrasound is done. Cassie is fucking traumatized.

Dr. Perry pats her on the leg as he exits.

DR. PERRY

You're even further along than we thought. Probably 18 weeks. It's all looking very good though!

Ed wheels the equipment out. Winks at Cassie.

ED

I hope it was as good for you as it was for me.

Cassie manages to keep it together until he exits and cuts the lights off, but then tears leak from her eyes as the reality of her situation fully sets in.

INT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, CASSIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Cassie stares at the ceiling, calm now. The kind of calm that comes after a big cry.

LUKE (O.S.)

Well, this is quite a predicament.

Cassie whips her head around to spot Luke, suddenly there, leaning against the doorframe. Good. A focus for her rage.

CASSIE

Get out.

LUKE

Now that hurts.

CASSIE

Boo hoo.

LUKE

Snark. I like it.

He pushes off from the wall and approaches.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
So, you still wanna save these  
people from the apocalypse?

Cassie glares at him.

CASSIE  
You knew this would happen.

LUKE  
Well...I didn't not know it would  
happen.

Cassie continues to glare.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
Hey, it's not my fault your fellow  
humans are terrible.

CASSIE  
Yes, it is. It's exactly your  
fault.

LUKE  
I'm sure it's easier to think that,  
but I'm not responsible for the  
terrible choices people make. Free  
will, remember?

CASSIE  
I hate you.

Luke smirks.

LUKE  
Aw, I know you're upset, but let's  
not say things we obviously don't  
mean.

Cassie struggles to suppress them, but a few angry tears leak  
out.

Luke's smirk vanishes. He might even feel a little...bad?

LUKE (CONT'D)  
I'll come back later.

He vanishes.

INT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER, KITCHEN - DAY

Eli peers out into the restaurant as he talks on the PHONE.

ELI

This is my fourth time calling. I just wanted to make sure you're okay, and you not answering is starting to worry me. And that's starting to piss me off. So call me back, Cassie.

He thinks for a second.

ELI (CONT'D)

And if you need any help recovering from, uh, your thing, just let me know. This is Eli, by the way.

He hangs up quickly.

DING!

Eli narrows his eyes when he spots who has just walked through the door. It's Luke.

INT. TRIPLE SCOOP DINER - DAY

Eli drops a plate of pie in front of him as Luke slips onto a stool at the counter.

LUKE

Thank you very much, Eli, isn't it?

ELI

What do you want?

LUKE

I'm just a fan of the pie.

ELI

No, you're not.

LUKE

No, I'm not. Although it is really good. What's your secret?

No answer. Luke is not phased.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You know, I'm a big fan of your work in Asadabad. I know, I know, you were never there.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

But whatever else one can say, it certainly demonstrated your vast, if misguided sense of loyalty. So I'm just wondering how a man like that could betray a friend so completely?

ELI

What are you talking about?

LUKE

Judas thought he was doing the right thing. Or did he do it for the money?

ELI

Look, buddy, I don't know what the hell you're talking about, but I don't think Cassie would like you being here, so there's the door.

Luke searches Eli's face.

LUKE

You really don't have any idea what I'm talking about, do you?

Eli glares.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Huh.

He tosses some CASH on the counter.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Where did Cassie go after she saw you? And more importantly, with whom?

Eli's glare falters a bit.

ELI

I don't know.

LUKE

Now, that is a lie.

ELI

What happened? Where's Cassie?

LUKE

I wouldn't worry about her. She'll be right where she needs to be soon enough.

INT. ABIGAIL'S OFFICE - DAY

Cassie sits in front of Abigail's desk. Ed stands guard at the door as Abigail flutters into the room.

ABIGAIL

Ah, there you are, Miss Porter.

She shuffles the papers around on her desk before plucking one out to set in front of Cassie.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

We'll just need you to sign this form.

CASSIE

I really can't sign anything until I've had my lawyer read it over.

ABIGAIL

You're spunky, Miss Porter. I'll certainly give you that. But you will sign.

CASSIE

I'm being detained illegally, at a secret facility, and you're worried about getting the paperwork in order?

ABIGAIL

When you sign the paperwork, it won't be illegal. Count yourself lucky. Unlike some of the young women at this facility, you have people who care about you, so we need to be able to demonstrate to them that you are here of your own free will.

CASSIE

But I'm not.

Abigail waves a dismissive hand.

ABIGAIL

Semantics.

She gives Cassie a careful once-over.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Tell you what, I'll take you on a little tour around the place, and I'm sure once you see how lovely it is, you'll have no trouble signing.

Off Cassie's skeptical look...

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Abigail herds Cassie through the rows of tables as Ed trails behind.

ABIGAIL

All your meals will be prepared and served with the highest attention to the nutritional needs of your growing baby.

EXT. MEDITATION GARDEN - DAY

Dozens of YOUNG PREGNANT WOMEN wander the garden paths or sit in silence with a book. The BIBLE. No other books allowed here. All the women wear identical, modest, outfits.

Abigail links her arm through Cassie's as they stroll through the grounds.

ABIGAIL

(whisper)

You can spend hours of contemplation here in our lovely garden area.

A SNORT of derision from one of the women. Abigail whirls around to find the culprit, but everyone's head is bent in prayer. A menacing Ed glares at the women around him.

INT. YOGA STUDIO - DAY

More PREGNANT WOMEN do a yoga flow. They are dressed in loose workout clothes. No form-fitting exercise leggings here!

Abigail and Cassie observe from the door.

ABIGAIL

Healthy body, healthy baby. Nothing too strenuous of course, but many girls thank us because they leave here in the best shape of their lives.

INT. HIGH RISK WARD ENTRANCE - DAY

Abigail swipes the KEYCARD next to the door, as Cassie watches.

ABIGAIL

Now, I don't usually show this area to people, but...

(sigh)

...I can tell you're going to be difficult, and I think we need to nip that in the bud.

She opens the door and Ed ushers Cassie inside.

INT. HIGH RISK WARD - DAY

The room is full of beds. Each bed holds a comatose PREGNANT WOMAN.

CASSIE

What the hell is this?

ABIGAIL

Language, Miss Porter. A dirty mouth means a dirty mind.

Cassie fakes a smile.

CASSIE

Fine. What on earth is this?

ABIGAIL

These young ladies were not cooperative, or generally made poor choices. I would hate to see you end up here.

Cassie reads the CHART of a woman who looks like she's on the edge of decomposition.

CASSIE

Carly Rodriguez. 27. Pronounced brain dead and the husband got a court order to take her off life support.

She checks another chart.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Sarah Jamison. 32. Attempted to terminate fetus when tests revealed extensive brain damage and spina bifida.

Another chart.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Natalie Palmer. Discipline issues. Three escape attempts. Threw herself down the stairs to induce a miscarriage.

Cassie looks around the room.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

This is sick.

She glares at Abigail, then glances back down to the name on the chart.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Natalie Palmer...why do I know that name?

It hits her.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Natalie Palmer is the latest suspected victim of the Prairie Killer. Is there even a Prairie Killer?

ABIGAIL

Of course there is, Miss Porter. But childbirth is not without its casualties, even in this day and age, so this sadly disturbed individual, the Prairie Killer as you call him...well, let's just say, God provides what is necessary.

Cassie gapes. No idea how to respond to that insanity. Abigail gives her a motherly pat on the shoulder.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

Follow the rules and you'll be out of here once the child is born, no worse for wear. Act out, and...

She glances around the room.

Cassie scowls. Shakes her head in disbelief and frustration.

CASSIE

No.

ABIGAIL

Excuse me?

CASSIE

Surely you can see...

She gestures to her prominent baby bump.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

You saw me two days ago and I was 12 weeks. Now I'm 18 weeks and showing. That's not natural! I crave raw meat! If you take me out to that damn meditation garden again I'll kill all the plants with just the touch of my hand. When I say that I'm carrying the AntiChrist, I'm not talking in metaphors. This is real. The end of the world is happening!

Abigail studies her for a long moment. Then steps closer.

ABIGAIL

And what makes you think we would want to prevent the Apocalypse?

Cassie is taken aback. Tries to form a reply, but she's got nothin'.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

When the Apocalypse comes, all those who are righteous will be Raptured up to Heaven. We will sit in the presence of God the Father as our enemies are punished for eternity.

CASSIE

You seem pretty sure you'll be part of the righteous.

ABIGAIL

Of course I will, Miss Porter.

Cassie struggles to process this delusion.

INT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, CASSIE'S QUARTERS - NIGHT  
Ed ushers Cassie back inside. Smirks as he shuts her in.  
Cassie kicks the bed and lets out a guttural SCREAM.

INT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, CASSIE'S QUARTERS - NIGHT  
A serene Cassie sits cross-legged on the bed. Waiting.  
Luke appears, holding Cassie's bookbag.

LUKE

Okay, I can understand why you  
might be hesitant to trust someone  
known as the Prince of Lies, but--

Cassie hops up and heads for the door.

CASSIE

No, I'm ready. Let's go.

LUKE

Just hear me out...wait, what?

CASSIE

I'm ready to see what you have to  
offer. You're right. Humanity  
sucks.

Luke grins in surprise.

LUKE

This is going much better than I  
expected.

He holds out a hand to Cassie.

CASSIE

Just one question: in this  
Apocalypse, there's a whole Rapture  
deal?

LUKE

Yes.

CASSIE

Any of the people who work at this  
place get in on that?

LUKE

Absolutely not.

She takes his hand.

CASSIE  
Let's blow this popsicle stand.

Luke grins. Puts a hand to the doorknob. Cassie hesitates.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
You're not gonna just...

She waves her hands in a vaguely magical gesture.

LUKE  
What is...?

Luke copies her gesture.

CASSIE  
Like, zap us outta here.

LUKE  
Alas, I can only "zap" myself. The human body couldn't handle it. We'll have to do this the old-fashioned way.

CASSIE  
What about...everyone?

LUKE  
Oh, when I say "old-fashioned" I mean make us invisible so we can just walk out without interference.

Off a surprised, but delighted Cassie...

INT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, HALLWAY - NIGHT

SLOW MOTION as Cassie and Luke stride down the center of the hallway holding hands.

ORDERLIES and PREGNANT WOMEN attend to their duties, but no one notices Cassie or Luke.

Cassie spots Ed and sticks out a foot to trip him. She smiles as he crashes to the floor.

Luke gives her an approving grin.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Cassie stares out the window at the unassuming facade of the medical compound.

Luke swings up into the driver's seat.

LUKE  
Imagining this whole place  
crumbling down in a rain of fire  
and blood?

CASSIE  
What?  
(defensive)  
No.

Luke chuckles and grins over at her.

LUKE  
Try and get some sleep. It's a bit  
of a drive.

EXT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND, PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The truck pulls out of the lot.

Cassie rests her head against the window and watches the medical compound recede into the distance through the side mirror. Her head nods as she starts to fall asleep.

INT. ELI'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Eli drums nervous fingers on the wheel. He spots Trajan exit a seedy bar across the street.

EXT. SEEDY BAR - NIGHT

Eli marches toward Trajan, and shoves him up against the wall.

TRAJAN  
Whoa, whoa, whoa, man!

ELI  
What the hell, Trajan?

TRAJAN  
What?

ELI  
Don't pretend you don't know what  
I'm talking about.

TRAJAN  
Okay, okay, look, I didn't mean to  
hold out on you.

He reaches into his pocket and brings out a WAD of CASH.  
Counts off a few bills and hands them to Eli.

ELI  
What the fuck is this?

TRAJAN  
Your cut.

Frightened by the look on Eli's face, he peels off another  
bill.

TRAJAN (CONT'D)  
Here, call it a finder's fee.

ELI  
(dismayed)  
Trajan, what did you do?

Trajan pulls out a CIGARETTE. Nervously tries to light it.

TRAJAN  
There's a standing bounty on any  
women asking around for an  
abortion, man.

No sympathy from Eli.

TRAJAN (CONT'D)  
The cash was too good to pass up.

ELI  
I vouched for you, fucker.

He pulls back a fist. Trajan puts his hands up in defense.

TRAJAN  
They just want to help them.

ELI  
Who's "they"?

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Cassie startles awake. Looks over to see Luke smiling at her warmly. Not his usual smirk.

She pushes herself up in the seat.

CASSIE  
Are we there yet?

LUKE  
Shouldn't be long now.

It's still early morning and the light is beautiful. Cassie watches the scenery roll by for a long, companionably quiet moment.

EXT. GATED COMMUNITY - DAY

A perfectly manicured gated community. McMansions line the streets.

The truck pulls into one of the driveways.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Luke puts the truck in park as Cassie stares at the house.

CASSIE  
Whoa.

Luke takes her hand.

LUKE  
Cassie, I'm so glad you agreed to  
come with me.

Cassie side-eyes him.

CASSIE  
Whatever, weirdo.

Her stomach rumbles.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
There better be food here.

EXT. MCMANSION DRIVEWAY - DAY

Cassie, looking around 26 weeks pregnant now, lumbers out of the truck and takes in her surroundings. Everything's quiet. Too quiet? Cassie can't decide.

Luke heads for the front door.

LUKE

This way.

With one last suspicious look around Cassie follows.

EXT. MCMANSION - DAY

Luke rings the doorbell. Cassie jumps at the sound.

Luke laughs.

LUKE

You really don't have to worry.  
We're all friends here.

Footsteps on the other side of the door.

Cassie tenses.

The door swings open to reveal...

A young, blonde woman with a friendly face and kind eyes. This is JUNE (26), an earthy soul with an Australian accent who can hardly contain her glee.

JUNE

Luke!

They hug.

JUNE (CONT'D)

And this must be Cassie! Welcome!

She goes in for the hug with a confused Cassie.

CASSIE

Um, yeah. That's me?

Her stomach growls.

JUNE

Oh my gosh, let's get you something  
to eat!

INT. MCMANSION, KITCHEN - DAY

At the kitchen table surrounded by heaping plates of barely cooked meat, Cassie stuffs her face.

June bustles around preparing more food, a child, GABRIEL (6) on her hip.

Luke lounges at the table across from Cassie.

CASSIE

This is really good. Thank you.

JUNE

I know those pregnancy cravings better than anyone, girl.

CASSIE

Right. Because Luke also impregnated you.

JUNE

He gave me my little Gabriel.

CASSIE

(at Luke)

What kind of weird, cult-y, child-bride thing do you have going on here?

LUKE

Hey, you're both over 18.

Cassie's not interested in banter.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, if I'm being completely honest, there are six of you.

June sits at the table with Gabriel on her lap. Takes Cassie's hand.

JUNE

"He shall take six brides to beget six children, to rule over the six kingdoms..."

CASSIE

666. That's...

She catches Gabriel's unnerving stare.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

...reassuring.

June laughs.

LUKE

Hey, I'm not the one who made Earth with six habitable continents.

CASSIE

Okay, so our kids are...what? Some kind of dungeon masters who oversee the flaying and...forced cannibalism?

LUKE

Forced cannibalism?

CASSIE

I don't know. I've seen that Dutch guy's paintings.

LUKE

Bosch? That guy's a maniac. No, see, first there's The Rapture, where all the good people get ushered into Heaven. Honestly, that's like 50 people at most.

CASSIE

I mean, that number seems ridiculously low.

LUKE

Well, most people are garbage. But that's where I come in. These garbage people will have the opportunity to earn their way into Heaven by atoning for their sins under my rule. That's all the Apocalypse is. A time of atonement.

CASSIE

Punishment.

LUKE

The path of atonement is rougher for some.

Cassie looks skeptical.

Luke rises and offers her a hand.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Come on. I want to show you something.

EXT. DESERT - DUSK

Luke helps Cassie clamber up on to a large ROCK in the middle of nowhere. They sit and watch the sunset for a moment - the Red Comet still blazes - before Cassie gets restless.

CASSIE

Look, it's a great sunset, but...

LUKE

You know why I come out here?

Cassie shrugs and shakes her head.

LUKE (CONT'D)

It's one of the few places left where you can see the stars, and I mean really see them. And they remind me of who I am...

He eyes the horizon with some bitterness as the FIRST STARS begin to appear.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Lucifer Morningstar, Bearer of Light. That's what He named me, which, by the way, I still haven't figured out if that's his idea of a joke or not, because then he put me in charge of punishing evildoers. And the job's a nightmare, frankly. When you're elbow-deep in the viscera of a child-murderer it's easy to lose sight of any grand plans or purpose in the universe.

Cassie looks over at him in horror.

CASSIE

Is there a grand plan?

LUKE

Through suffering you atone for your sins and earn entry into Heaven. Someone has to inflict that suffering, so I guess I got the short straw.

CASSIE

Isn't that what Jesus was for? The whole suffering on the cross thing?

LUKE  
 (snorts)  
 Talk about a scam.

He takes in her puzzled look.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
 Bottom line: the Apocalypse is just the final step before everyone gets into Heaven. It's not just the super-Christian rapture freaks. Once everyone suffers proportionately for their sins, the doors to Heaven will be opened to them. Even the most wicked probably won't suffer for more than a millenia or two. Three tops. Probably.

Cassie considers this.

CASSIE  
 And you have to administer all this suffering?

LUKE  
 Yeah.

CASSIE  
 I'm sorry you have a shitty job.

Luke furrows his brow. This may be the first time anyone's expressed that sentiment.

LUKE  
 Thanks.

An awkward moment, then he clears his throat. Looks away.

Cassie watches Luke for a moment then turns her gaze to the stars.

The Milky Way shimmers across the wide expanse of sky.

EXT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION - NIGHT

Luke walks Cassie to the door.

CASSIE  
 This isn't--

He hands her a key.

LUKE

It's yours. June did some  
decorating, but you can do whatever  
you want to it.

Cassie takes the key.

CASSIE

Thanks.

He kisses her on the forehead.

LUKE

Have a good night, Cassie Porter.

He walks away but turns back to flash one of those cool  
breeze and lemonade smiles. He really is dreamy.

INT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION - NIGHT

Tasteful, modern furniture.

Cassie wanders around through the rooms. Takes in the giant  
TV and stainless steel APPLIANCES.

INT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION, BEDROOM - NIGHT

High ceilings, a TV and a large, fluffy BED.

Cassie sits on the bed. Bounces up and down a bit to test the  
mattress. It's pretty nice. She flips on the TV.

INT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION, BATHROOM - NIGHT

Cassie examines herself in the mirror. Full on baby bump. Her  
frown lifts slightly. Maybe birthing a little demon spawn  
won't be so bad.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

INT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cassie opens the door to find June, arms loaded with food.

CASSIE

Hello?

JUNE

Hi, hi! I know you must be tired,  
but I brought over a little dinner  
if you want.

Cassie steps aside and June enters.

CASSIE

Oh, thanks. I am actually hungry  
again, but I can do that...

June putters around the kitchen, whipping up a feast.

JUNE

Oh, it's no trouble.

INT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION, KITCHEN - LATER

MEAT SIZZLES in a PAN.

BISCUITS RISE in the OVEN.

LEMONADE CRACKLES ICE CUBES as it pours into a GLASS.

Cassie sits at the table, a huge meal set before her. June  
sits caddy-corner.

JUNE

Can I get you anything else?

CASSIE

No, this is great.

She picks up a FORK and stabs a chunk of meat. Slowly raises  
it to her mouth, conscious that June is watching her every  
move. She bites into the meat and chews. Flashes a smile at  
June, who nods in encouragement.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Um, you don't have to stay you  
know, if you need to get back to  
Gabriel.

June flutters a nervous hand.

JUNE

Oh, he's fine on his own. Very self-  
sufficient.

CASSIE

Okay.

She takes another slow bite.

June jiggles her foot with nervous energy.

JUNE

One day I came into his room and there was this huge spider in the crib with him. I was so afraid that it would bite him, until I realized he was in the process of pulling all its legs off. It was still alive and sort of trying to drag itself away. But he just took his cute, chubby little baby fist and slowly smashed it til it burst. So, you know, he's fine on his own. Very precocious.

CASSIE

Jesus Christ.

JUNE

Oh, don't let Luke hear you say that name.

She laughs like it's a joke. An uneasy Cassie smiles along.

Cassie takes a few more bites as June gnaws on her nail.

CASSIE

June, I don't mean this in the wrong way or anything, but are you okay? I mean, is Luke making you do anything you don't want to do?

June lets out a staccato burst of laughter.

JUNE

Oh, don't be silly. No, no, he's very clear that we must make our own choices. Free will is very important to him.

CASSIE

Right.

She watches as June goes back to gnawing on that nail.

INT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION, KITCHEN - LATER

Cassie escorts June to the door.

JUNE

I guess we'll see each other around the neighborhood.

CASSIE

Yeah.

Cassie engulfs June in an impulsive hug. Struggles to find something comforting to say

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Thank you for the food.

JUNE

Oh, you're so welcome. It was no trouble at all.

She smiles back at Cassie and with a little wave retreats into the night.

Cassie closes the door leans back against the door. Looks around at the dream house that could be hers.

CASSIE

Shit.

She spots her backpack and strides over to rummage through it. She pulls out her cell phone and selects one of her contacts. Listens as the phone RINGS and someone picks up.

MRS. PORTER (O.S.)

Cassie? Is that you?

Cassie manages a shaky smile

CASSIE

Hi, mom.

EXT. CASSIE'S MCMANSION - DAY

Luke lifts a hand to knock on the door, but notices a folded PAPER tucked into the doorjamb. He grabs it and reads. His expression grows increasingly dark.

He crunches the paper in his fist, closes his eyes and tilts his head. Stretching out with his mind.

His eyes pop open. Got it. He vanishes.

INT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

A few sleepy TRUCKERS down their morning coffee.

In a corner booth, Cassie cuts into an extremely rare STEAK.

Luke appears in the seat opposite. She doesn't even flinch.

CASSIE

I see you got my note.

Luke pulls out the crumpled paper, smooths it out and reads.

LUKE

"Dear Luke, please thank June for her hospitality. Unfortunately, I have decided that I cannot have your child. Good luck in the future. Warmest regards, Cassie."

CASSIE

Do you have a question? I thought that was pretty clear.

LUKE

I guess I'm just wondering how you came to this decision.

CASSIE

Well, I thought it through, and my gut says there's a better than 50% chance you're lying to me about the Apocalypse being an atonement thing and not just a you get to take over and torture everyone thing.

Luke opens his mouth to protest, but Cassie holds up a hand for silence.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Looking at it logically, if I don't have this baby, then the world continues as it is. Not great, admittedly, but if I do have this baby and you're lying, then the world becomes a terrifying hellscape.

Luke considers this chain of reasoning then shakes his head.

LUKE

You're looking at this from the wrong perspective.

CASSIE

Please, enlighten me.

LUKE

How's your mom?

Cassie tenses.

CASSIE

Excuse me?

LUKE

It really is a terrible disease she has. Degenerative.

Cassie bares her teeth in a bitter smile.

CASSIE

There it is.

LUKE

Oh, no, no, no. You misunderstand me. I'm not threatening your mother. I'm offering to heal her.

Cassie looks down. Braces her hands on the table and takes a deep breath. When she looks back up, her mouth is set in a grim line of determination.

CASSIE

I think, if you came to my mother with that offer, she would tell you to go to hell. Although she would probably use a politer phrase.

LUKE

And is that your answer as well? What do you think your mom will say when she finds out you chose a world full of grasping, greedy, venal sacks of shit over your own mother?

CASSIE

Fuck you.

Luke reaches across the table and grabs her hand.

LUKE

Come on, don't you want to help your mom?

CASSIE

Of course.

LUKE

And don't you want those evil cowards who abused you, and are currently abusing countless other women to pay?

CASSIE  
Of course.

LUKE  
So?

Cassie yanks her hand back.

CASSIE  
My mom taught me to trust my  
instincts. So that's what I'm gonna  
do.

She slides out of the booth and starts to leave, but Luke  
grabs her arm as he slides out of his side of the booth.

He looms over her.

LUKE  
I could make you come with me, you  
know.

Cassie tenses up but refuses to back away.

CASSIE  
I don't think you can though. I  
believe you when you say you're not  
responsible for the evil that  
humans do. We have free will from  
God and I don't think you're  
allowed to interfere with that.

Luke leans over to speak into her ear.

LUKE  
How sure are you about that?

Cassie trembles slightly. Not a hundred percent.

Luke backs off a little.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
You know, I've grown quite fond of  
you during our time together.

He tilts his head and smiles.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
That's why it pains me to say that  
your choice is unlikely to have  
much of an effect on the final  
outcome.

CASSIE  
I thought you said you weren't  
omniscient.

LUKE  
I'm not.

He glances behind her and grins.

She follows his gaze and spots Simon and Nicholas enter the  
truck stop.

CASSIE  
Oh, COME ON!

Luke waggles his eyebrows.

LUKE  
Good luck!

He vanishes.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Cassie emerges out the back door. Surveys the terrain. Looks  
like a clear shot to her truck.

She makes a run for it.

Almost there when Ed spots her as he rounds the back of the  
building.

INT. ELI'S TRUCK - DAY

As Eli speeds past the truck stop, he spots Cassie being  
chased by Ed.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Ed shouts into a WALKIE as he runs after Cassie.

ED  
She's out here!

INT. ELI'S TRUCK - DAY

A SCREECH as Eli stomps on the brakes.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Cassie struggles toward her truck, Ed hot on her heels, SYRINGE in hand. She puts the vehicle between the two of them and they circle.

All of a sudden...oh no. Is that? Shit, it is. She doubles over in pain. It's her first contraction and it's a doozy.

CASSIE  
Goddammit, no!

A HAND grabs her shoulder. She spins around and pulls back a fist but...

ELI  
It's me! Eli.

He holds his hands up.

CASSIE  
What the hell are you doing here?

Another HAND on her shoulder. It's Ed. He's about to inject her, but Eli catches his hand and, with quick, efficient moves, wrenches the arm around so that Ed injects himself. Something definitely snaps. Ed goes down with a look of surprise.

Cassie stares at Eli in astonishment.

ELI  
I was looking for you.

CASSIE  
I'm gonna need you to drive.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

Eli drives Cassie's truck onto the highway as Cassie slumps in the passenger seat.

Simon and Nicholas spot them and race for their VAN.

INT. CASSIE'S TRUCK - DAY

Eli struggles to keep his eyes on the road, when what he really wants to do is gape at Cassie's baby bump.

ELI  
How are you in labor already?

CASSIE  
Demon spawn grow fast.

ELI  
So those guys back there? Were they Satanists?

CASSIE  
No, they just kidnap pregnant women looking for abortions and force them to have the children. I don't think they're affiliated with Satan. Officially.

ELI  
Oh. Great.

CASSIE  
You okay?

He looks her in the eye.

ELI  
What do you need me to do?

Cassie leans back. Concentrates on breathing.

CASSIE  
I think we need a church.

EXT. TRUCK STOP - DAY

From the driver's seat, Abigail motions Simon and Nicholas into the van.

Nicholas spots Ed, still passed out on the ground.

NICHOLAS  
What about him?

ABIGAIL  
No time. We'll call it in from the road. Hurry!

Everyone piles into the van and it peels out.

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

Eli bursts into the sanctuary supporting Cassie, mid-contraction.

Father Samuels looks up from praying at the ALTAR. He rushes toward Cassie.

FATHER SAMUELS  
No further, Miss Porter.

He holds up his hands, one clenching a CROSS, to stop them.

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)  
I've been praying all day, and you must forgive me, but I've concluded the only way to prevent this Apocalypse is with your death.

He pulls out a GUN - it's clear he's never really held one before. Manages to point it at Eli and himself.

FATHER SAMUELS (CONT'D)  
One shot to the head. You'll be dead before you can even register the pain.

Eli flinches back then disarms Father Samuels with practised ease.

ELI  
We'll take it from here.

FATHER SAMUELS  
Excuse me, young man, I really don't think--

Eli grabs Father Samuels' arm and drags the protesting priest over to the CONFESSIONAL. He shoves him inside and jams the door shut.

INT. CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Father Samuels bangs on the door.

FATHER SAMUELS  
Excuse me! Excuse me!

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, SANCTUARY - DAY

Cassie struggles to open up the chunk of floor covering the BAPTISMAL POOL. Eli gives her a hand.

ELI  
What's the plan?

Cassie kneels down.

CASSIE

Let's hope Mrs. Norris got a chance  
to do her thing over here.

She plunges her hand into the pool. Nothing.

Eli looks on, confused.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

You know, sometimes it seems like  
I'm the only one working to stop  
this Apocalypse.

She clasps her hands together and looks skyward.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Dear Lord, obviously I don't know  
what your whole grand plan for the  
universe is, but if it includes not  
having Hell on Earth, now might be  
the time to offer a little help.  
Amen, I guess.

Eli and Cassie turn at the SOUND of a CAR pulling up beside  
the church. They rush to look out the window.

CASSIE'S POV: Mrs. Norris clambers out of her huge, old lady  
TOWNCAR, parked next to Cassie's truck.

Cassie smiles in relief.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Mrs. Norris, thank God.

CASSIE'S POV: A van comes barreling into the parking lot and  
SMASHES into Mrs. Norris.

Eli and Cassie flinch back from the carnage.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Oh, what the hell?!

ELI

Jesus Christ!

CASSIE'S POV: Nicholas exits the van.

NICHOLAS

Yep, that's her truck.

He gestures to Mrs. Norris.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Shit, what should we do with this?

Eli and Cassie don't wait to find out and rush to lock the  
doors.

Cassie helps Eli push the ORGAN in front of the door at the front of the sanctuary. As for the door at the back, they look around the room, then it hits them at the same time.

Cassie wraps her jacket around her hands as they grab the large CROSS from behind the pulpit and shove it through the door handles.

ELI

Well, at least now we're trapped in here.

Cassie stares at the undisturbed water of the baptismal pool. She nudges Eli.

CASSIE

You try.

ELI

Okay. What is it I'm trying?

CASSIE

Do the whole...

She makes a vague crossing herself gesture.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

...see if it turns into holy water.

ELI

There's no way I'm making holy water.

CASSIE

Could you at least try?

Eli makes the sign of the cross over the water.

ELI

Um, bless you, my child.

Cassie tests the water with a finger. Nothing.

BANG! Nicholas and Simon are at the back door.

ELI (CONT'D)

Your turn.

CASSIE

If you can be burned by holy water, I don't think you can make holy water.

BANG! That door may not hold for long.

ELI  
Could you at least try?

Cassie glares. Then another contraction hits. She sinks to her knees. Eli kneels with her.

ELI (CONT'D)  
You should probably do the breathing thing.

CASSIE  
You should probably do the breathing thing.

ELI  
Yeah, good one.

BANG!

Cassie huffs out a breath as the contraction ends.

CASSIE  
I'm really sorry you know.

ELI  
For what?

CASSIE  
Getting you into all this.

ELI  
We make our own choices. Besides, I've been in much tougher spots.

CASSIE  
Really?

BANG!

ELI  
Well, no. Obviously. There's never been an apocalypse on the line, but I was in a pretty tight last stand type situation one time.

CASSIE  
What did you do?

ELI  
Held down the fort until they finally sent some fuckin' air support.

CASSIE

I think they ran over our fuckin'  
air support with a van.

Cassie slumps back against the pulpit. Eli settles in beside her.

BANG!

ELI

Look, I don't know shit about God  
or Hell or the fucking apocalypse.  
What I do know is when you're in a  
fight, you work with what you got.  
And we've got you, and we've got  
me. And me couldn't make holy  
water, so you're up. And if that  
doesn't work, we move on to the  
next plan.

CASSIE

Which would be?

ELI

That's classified as of now, but I  
sure hope you come up with  
something.

Cassie chokes out a laugh and pushes herself over to the edge  
of the baptismal font. She closes her eyes.

CASSIE

Please. Please, help us.

She opens her eyes. Raises a shaky hand and makes the sign of  
the cross over the baptismal pool.

BOOM! Cassie opens one eye. Eli looks around in surprise.

ELI

Was that...thunder?

With a hopeful look, Cassie thrusts her hand into the pool.  
The water BOILS and STEAMS. Cassie's hand turns red.

CASSIE

Yes! Ow.

She withdraws her hand. It heals rapidly.

ELI

Holy shit.

Cassie grins at him.

BANG! CRACK! The door is giving way.

Cassie hustles to perch on the edge of the baptismal pool and spreads her legs as Eli wades in to stand beneath her.

ELI (CONT'D)  
You know, I've never delivered a demon before. Or a baby.

CASSIE  
Well, I'll push, you pull...?

She shrugs. That's about the extent of her knowledge.

A contraction hits.

ELI  
Okay, do the breathing thing...

He demonstrates. Hee-hee hoooo. Hee-hee hoooo. Cassie imitates him.

CASSIE  
You're going to have to check and see what's going on down there.

Eli scrubs a hand through his hair. She grabs his shirt.

CASSIE (CONT'D)  
Do not get squeamish on me now, man.

Eli takes a deep breath.

ELI  
I apologize in advance.

He pushes up her skirt and goes in for the examination.

CASSIE  
Well?

ELI  
I think I see the head. So, push?

Cassie does.

AT THE BACK DOOR:

CRACK! The door splinters, and Simon pushes his head through, Nicholas behind him.

NICHOLAS  
Where are they?

SIMON  
I can't see anything.

Abigail leans in behind them.

ABIGAIL  
Well, get in there and find her.

AT THE BAPTISMAL POOL: Cassie covers her mouth to stifle her groans of pain.

ELI  
(whispering)  
I think it's coming!

CASSIE  
(whispering)  
Get it out!

ELI  
(whispering)  
I don't want to hurt you.

Cassie grits her teeth. Looks him directly in the eye.

CASSIE  
(whispering)  
Grab the head and pull it out.

Eli holds her gaze, then nods.

ELI  
Yes, ma'am.

He reaches between her legs, then YELPS in pain. Pulls his hand back.

ELI (CONT'D)  
I think it bit me.

Cassie stares at him in horror.

CASSIE  
Ugh, get it out, get it out, get it out!

NICHOLAS (O.S.)  
Up there!

INT. MCMANSION, KITCHEN - DAY

June hums to herself as she places candles on an enormous BIRTHDAY CAKE.

Luke comes up behind her. Gives her a kiss on the temple.

LUKE  
Looks delicious.

JUNE  
Devil's Food.

LUKE  
Cute. I'm about to go pick up  
Cassie.

JUNE  
Oh, wonderful. When do you think  
you'll be back? I can only hold the  
little monster off so long when  
there's cake involved.

Luke chuckles.

LUKE  
Well, see if you can buy me about  
an hour. She should be pushing  
right about now...in fact...

He closes his eyes. Reaching out his senses until...

EYES SNAP OPEN.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
(angry but impressed)  
That bitch.

He vanishes.

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, SANCTUARY - DAY

Eli trains the gun on Abigail, Simon and Nicholas.

Luke appears in the doorway.

LUKE  
Cassie!

Cassie snaps her head around to lock eyes with Luke.

Eli whips the gun to Luke and unloads the entire clip.  
Despite his impeccable aim, they, of course, have no effect.

Cassie holds Luke's gaze for a long moment, then...

...pushes herself into the water.

ELI

No!

The water HISSES and STEAMS around HER. She screams as blood begins to fill the pool.

LUKE

No!

He tries to enter the sanctuary, but out of nowhere a WIND picks up and pushes him back.

IN THE POOL: Cassie grabs Eli's face in both hands.

CASSIE

Get it out of me.

Eli grabs the demon spawn as it emerges into the water.

The wind tosses pews toward Luke as he struggles to get to Cassie. The stained glass windows weep BLOOD.

Abigail and her minions take cover, but an errant spike of broken cross spears Nicholas through the throat.

Diagetic sound cuts out as Cassie screams and we hear the strains of something like "The End of the World" by Skeeter Davis. The song continues over the next few scenes.

INT. MCMANSION, KITCHEN - DAY

June gazes out the window into the backyard.

JUNE'S POV: Gabriel sits on a swing, perfectly still. Lifts his head to stare up at her.

She heads for the STOVE and turns up the GAS.

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, SANCTUARY - DAY

Cassie screams as her skin blisters.

Eli screams as he struggles to pull the demon spawn out of her into the boiling, blood-filled water.

Luke screams as he struggles against the wind.

Simon grabs for Abigail as the wind picks him up, but she pushes him away.

CRASH! Simon flies through one of the stained glass windows.

DAYLIGHT streams in.

INT. CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Father Samuels shrieks in fear as the booth shakes from the wind and he hears the shouts from outside.

INT. MCMANSION, KITCHEN - DAY

June carries Gabriel inside and sits him at the table in front of the cake. She gives him a big kiss on the cheek.

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, SANCTUARY - DAY

Success! Eli wrenches the DEMON SPAWN out of Cassie. He holds it underwater as it fights against him. Cassie adds what little strength she has left. The struggle slows.

LUKE'S FACE as he realizes it's too late...and then realizes it's even worse than he thought as...

INT. MCMANSION, KITCHEN - DAY

Gabriel senses something is off, and glares at June.

GABRIEL

Mother.

June manages a scared but triumphant smile as she strikes the MATCH to light the candles.

The GAS immediately ignites.

EXT. MCMANSION - DAY

The house explodes.

INT. NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, SANCTUARY - DAY

SILENCE.

The wind is gone.

Eli helps Cassie out of the pool. Her skin heals rapidly.

The water in the baptismal pool no longer hisses or steams. In fact, the blood and bits of demon baby dissolve until the water is clear and pure again.

Luke seethes.

Movement catches the corner of his eye. It's Abigail attempting to sneak away.

He's on her in an instant. She cowers before him.

ABIGAIL

Get behind me, Satan! I am a child  
of God!

LUKE

Find comfort in that as you burn  
for all eternity.

Abigail opens her mouth to protest, but with a snap of his fingers Luke causes her to burst into FLAMES.

Abigail SHRIEKS as the fire consumes. She throw herself through one of the stained glass windows and runs screaming from the church.

Luke turns his attention back to Cassie and Eli. Stalks toward them.

Cassie places herself protectively in front of Eli as they back away.

LUKE (CONT'D)

There's no need for such  
melodramatics.

CASSIE

Says the guy who just set a lady on  
fire.

LUKE

I have to get my kicks where I can  
now that you've defeated me.

CASSIE

(hopeful)  
Really?

LUKE

Well, no. But you have caused a  
minor inconvenience. I'll have to  
wait another 666 years for the  
stars to align again and all that  
bullshit.

CASSIE

Okay, well, Apocalypse averted for another 666 years. That's not nuthin.

Luke smirks.

LUKE

Do you know what happened on the last apocalyptic go-round?

CASSIE

Well...obviously there wasn't an apocalypse.

LUKE

No. The mothers were all slaughtered before any of my children could be born. Actually, now that I think about it, I'm going to count that as a little bit of a win because those women were all innocent of any wrongdoing. See what happened was this cult of Satanists kidnapped them and then I used the grand high wizard as an avatar of my power while he--

He catches Cassie and Eli's horrified faces.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Well, nevermind. My point is this time four of my children survive. Now, imagine where the human race will be in 666 years with them guiding and influencing you. I mean, you got to this point all on your own. My biggest concern is you'll manage to destroy yourselves before the next Apocalypse, and then it's like, what am I even here for?

CASSIE

You know I'm not just gonna stop, right? Just because I'll be dead by the time the next one comes around doesn't mean I can't fight it now.

LUKE

And how will you fight it, my dearest Cassandra?

CASSIE

(lost)

Well, I don't really have a plan  
just yet, but...

Eli steps up beside her.

ELI

But she's gonna give herself a  
break on that on account of the  
fact she just pushed a watermelon-  
sized bundle of evil out her lady-  
parts there, and drowned it in the  
same pool of holy water that was  
burning her alive, thus averting  
the imminent Apocalypse. So I think  
she can take a bit of a break  
before we start figuring out how to  
prevent the next one.

LUKE

We? Well, look at you. Trying to do  
the right thing for once.

A shadow of guilt passes over Eli's face as Luke's attention  
shifts back to Cassie.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I sincerely wish you the very best  
of luck.

He takes her hand and kisses it. She snatches it back.

CASSIE

Goodbye Luke. Our time together was  
terrible and I hope to never see  
you again.

She brushes past him, picking her way through the rubble. Eli  
follows, giving Luke wide berth.

LUKE

Cassie.

She pauses, but does not look back.

He struggles with what to say.

LUKE (CONT'D)

I hope you never see me again too.

She doesn't turn.

LUKE (CONT'D)  
I would be surprised if you do.

He vanishes.

She turns. Stares for a long moment at the spot where Luke was.

ELI (O.S.)  
What do you wanna do now?

Cassie considers her options...

EXT. SECRET MEDICAL COMPOUND - NIGHT

THE FLASHING RED LIGHTS of several AMBULANCES.

From a hilltop overlooking the compound, Cassie watches FBI AGENTS round up the staff. She leans slightly on Eli.

CASSIE (V.O.)  
I have no idea whether anything we do now will have an effect on people 600 in the future, much less help prevent an Apocalypse.

EMTs comfort the pregnant women as they check them for injuries.

CASSIE (V.O.)  
Maybe the human race destroying itself before then is the best we can hope for.

A FEMALE AGENT escorts a loudly protesting Dr. Perry.

DR. PERRY  
Do you have any idea the irreparable harm you could cause by moving these women? As their doctor I--

The FEMALE Agent slams Dr. Perry down on the hood of an SUV to cuff him.

Cassie smiles.

CASSIE (V.O.)  
But I guess if nothing we do matters, then all that matters is what we do. So I'm gonna at least try.

A BURLY AGENT leads Ed toward one of the SUVs, but Ed breaks away and makes a run for it.

CASSIE (V.O.)  
And in the meantime...

ZAP! A TASER takes him down almost immediately. He convulses on the ground.

CASSIE (V.O.)  
...maybe just enjoy when life gives  
you a gift.

Eli grins at Ed's takedown and gives Cassie a comforting squeeze.

ELI  
It really is the small things,  
isn't it.

Cassie's smile widens.

CREDITS SLAM IN as something like "If the World Should End in Fire" by The Handsome Family plays.