

Episode #101

FANG

"Hello Cousin"

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FANG

"Hello Cousin"

TEASER

FADE IN:

Superimpose titles:

Anastasia State Park

Near St. Augustine, Florida

2010

EXT. COUNTY ROAD - NIGHT

DARK. DESERTED. RAINFALL.

A lone set of headlights appear down the road. A 2008 Toyota Highlander comes into view.

INT. TOYOTA HIGHLANDER - NIGHT - TRAVELING

Two young, close knit families occupy the vehicle. They act silly. Sing along to pop music on the radio.

JEFFERY COOPER, 28, Caucasian, clean-cut and handsome and wife, SUSAN, also 28, Caucasian, elegant and brainy, sit in the front seat.

DINO REYES, 30, Filipino, charming with a life-is-good-kind of-look in his eyes rides in the backseat. Beside him, is his wife, BROOKE, 29, African American, pretty and smart-faced.

THROUGH THE FRONT WINDSHIELD - Headlights pierce darkness, mist and thick rain.

DINO

I can't believe Sebastian caught that huge bass. He's quite the little fisherman.

SUSAN

(touches Jeffery's arm)
He does have the best fisherman dad role-model around.

JEFFREY

That boy learned most of what he knows about fishing from books.

(MORE)

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

He's got a real knack for book
learning isn't that right Sabie?

Focus in on three 9-year-old children in the hatchback of the Highlander. They've been close friends since the 1st grade.

ARIANA BENAVIDES, is Cuban, silly, and quick-witted. She's a tomboy and spends more time with the Coopers than her own family.

SEBASTIAN COOPER, is Caucasian, kind, and serious.

DANILO REYES, is mixed race, charismatic and lukewarm.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah Dad. I love books.

ARIANA

Mr. Jeffrey are we still gonna cook
the fish we caught?

JEFFREY

We sure are. I'll even show you how
to clean and debone them.

DANILO

DEBUNE. That sounds yucky.

JEFFREY

(laughing)

Not DUBUNE - debone. First you
scrape off all the scales, then

(in a spooky voice)

You pull out all the LITTLE BONES.

In unison, the kids utter the words *gross* and *yuck*. The adults laugh.

The rain grows heavier.

SUSAN

Maybe we should pull over and wait
it out.

Jeffrey turns the windshield wipers up to high.

JEFFREY

It's fine - I'll drive slow.

A LOUD THUMP hits the Highlander's roof.

Susan JUMPS out of her seat.

SUSAN
What was that?

JEFFREY
I don't know - maybe a tree branch.

A moment later, a second POWERFUL bang hits the hood. The vehicle spins out of control. Jeffrey SLAMS on the brakes. HYDROPLANES off the road. CRASHES head on into a large oak tree.

What the HELL just happened?

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
Is everyone okay? Is anyone hurt?

Jeffrey looks to his right. Susan's head is against the dashboard. Blood drips from her forehead. He reaches for her.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
You okay.

Stunned, Susan touches her bleeding forehead. *OUCH.*

SUSAN
I'm - I'm okay.

DINO
We're okay back here.
Kids, are you okay?

They answer in unison: *I'm okay. We're Fine.*

Jeffrey takes a deep breath. Turns off the car. Opens the door.

SUSAN
(worried)
Maybe you shouldn't.

JEFFREY
I need to check out the damage.

Jeffrey steps out and into the rain. Walks to the front of the Highlander. It's completely smashed. The axle's bent in half. He walks around to the passenger side of the vehicle. Signals for Susan to roll the window down. She complies.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
The axle bent in half - we're gonna need a tow.

Jeffrey glances at the roof of the Highlander. Notices a PAW-LIKE INDENTATION and SCRATCHES in the paint. *Weird.*

Susan sees the odd look on his face.

SUSAN
Is everything okay, honey?

JEFFREY
(thrown off)
Yeah, it's fine - just call for the
tow, okay.

POV shot of Ariana, as she peers out of the Highlanders rear window. She's watches as three BLACK PANTHERS emerge from the trees.

FRIGHTENED Ariana screams:

ARIANA
Ms. Cooper, there's three-

Before the word panthers can escape her mouth one of them leaps into the air and tackles Jeffrey to the ground.

Susan screams. Jeffrey is ripped apart. Left for dead.

The two other panthers storm the car. Doors TEAR open. Claws RIP through flesh. Fangs PLUNGE into bone.

SCREAMS turn to WHIMPERS and then to DEAD SILENCE.

Susan, Dino and Brooke are SLAUGHTERED.

The kids cower together. WHIMPER. CRY. HORRIFIED.

Suddenly, a WHITE LIGHT fills the sky. The rain immediately stops.

A petite, Caucasian woman, late 20's, stands in the center of the road. We do not see her face.

Focus in on her eyes. They leer at the hysterical children through the rear car window. She wears a Cimaruta around her neck. Holds a Nanta Bag in her hand. *Cimaruta - an old charm rooted in the lore of the Old Religion of Italy. Nanta bag - a magical pouch intended to keep one linked to the forces of nature.*

She speaks loudly:

WOMAN
(in Italian)
"O'Great Nanta, bless and empower
this pouch and all within it,
making it a bridge to Power.
(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

I am linked to Tee and thou art
linked to Nature. We are One from
Thee. We are the Triangle manifest.
In the names of Diana and Dianus,
so be it done."

The panthers recoil in fear and - one by one - disappear into
the woodlands.

The woman approaches the car's hatchback. Reaches for the
latch...

INT. 2008 HIGHLANDER - NIGHT.

...close up of three young, terrified faces.

The children look up at this mysterious woman. She smiles
warmly. Places the Nanta Bag on Ariana's lap. It's warm. Has
a powerful energy. Ariana looks at the strange artifact.

Camera moves in tight on Ariana's big brown eyes.

A TITLE CARD slams into frame.

'FANG'

End of Teaser

ACT 1

FADE IN:

Superimpose titles:

St. Augustine, Florida

2020

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - MORNING

Tight on ARI BENAVIDES (previously known as Ariana) big brown eyes.

Ari, is now 17 and gender neutral in identity and appearance. They go by they/them pronouns, wear skateboarder style clothing, short hair and gauged earlobes.

A school bell rings. Ari slams their locker closed. Dashes off through an almost empty hallway.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL/OUTSIDE CHEMISTRY CLASS - MORNING.

Two WHITE DOVES land on a window seal. Through the window they watch...

...SEBASTIAN COOPER, now 17, lanky and unconventionally attractive. He sits alone at a two person table. Shoulder length brown hair is tucked behind his ears. He sports a black t-shirt, dark blue jeans and black Doc Martens.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL/CHEMISTRY CLASS - MORNING.

A typical looking chemistry class. Beakers. Test tubes. A large Periodic Table on the wall.

On Sebastian. He glances at the classroom door. His best friend, Ari's late again.

MS. JACKSON, mid-40's, the-sexy-but-nerdy-type talks at the front of the room to tired teenagers - it's early on a Monday morning.

MS. JACKSON

This morning you need to finish up Friday's experiment and write about it in your science journal.

Sebastian senses something WATCHING him from the window. He turns and see's the white doves.

Push in on Sebastian's face. The doves are unexpectedly familiar. They return his stare like they know him.

CREEPY.

He quickly looks away as Ari enters the classroom. Ari attempts to glide unnoticed past Ms. Jackson.

MS. JACKSON (CONT'D)
Stop right there - Ms. Benavides.

Ari freezes. Slowly turns to face Ms. Jackson.

ARI
It's Mx.

MS. JACKSON
What?

Students laugh at Ari's expense. One student even mumbles *freak* under their breath.

Ari is unfazed by the ridicule. They've been teased most of their life. Have heard it all.

MS. JACKSON (CONT'D)
(rolls eyes)
Okay, fine, Mx. Benavides. Now, if you don't mind explaining why you're late for the third time this month?

ARI
I can't Ms. Jackson.

MS. JACKSON
Can't what?

ARI
Explain why I'm late.

MS. JACKSON
(aggravated)
Fine, but consider this a final warning. If you're late one more time this month, I'll have no choice but to issue another detention.

ARI
(robotic voice)
I understand Ms. Jackson.

MS. JACKSON
(irked)
Now join your lab partner.

Ari turns. Walks to the table where Sebastian sits. Takes a seat. Locks eyes with DANILO REYES, who sits to their left.

Danilo, is now 17, preppy and athletic. He's taunted Ari and Sebastian for the past 8 years. Danilo mouths the word *weirdo* at Ari, who shoots him the middle finger. Ari turns away. Glances at Sebastian, who returns the gesture with curious eyes.

ARI
Don't ask.

MS. JACKSON (O.C.)
So now you should be ready to pour
the mixture from the beaker into
the test tube.

Sebastian performs the lab experiment, but spills part of the mixture onto the table. Ms. Jackson walks by, hands him a paper towel.

MS. JACKSON (CONT'D)
If you spill the mixture, please
wipe it up quickly.

Sebastian sops up the liquid.

SEBASTIAN
Are you coming by to study later?

ARI
If my dad doesn't force me to go to
another church activity.

SEBASTIAN
Thank god grandfather doesn't do
church activities.

Sebastian rubs his eyes. Squints to minimize the glare from the lights above.

ARI
Are your eyes still bothering you?

SEBASTIAN

Nothing seems to help. I even tried wearing sunglasses over the weekend.

ARI

That's weird. You need to get em checked out like *right away* - this has been going on for weeks.

SEBASTIAN

I'll talk to grandfather about seeing an eye doctor tonight.

Curious if the creepy white doves are still perched on the window, Sebastian glances over. The doves peer back with vigilant eyes.

WIGGED OUT, he quickly turns away.

A moment later - the doves fly off...

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE - SKYLINE

...over the city, just under the clouds.

We see: ICONIC shots of a small American beach town beginning with a "Welcome to St. Augustine" sign. Its motto: "*The Country's Oldest City*" is crossed out and spray painted over. It now READS "*The Country's Most Undead City.*"

WE CYCLE THROUGH IMAGES OF: Mill Top Tavern, Gator Bobs Trading Post, Sea Side Pharmacy - local stables that give St. Augustine that old city charm.

On the birds, as they fly over Castillo de San Marcos, The Lighthouse, the old Jail and Huguenot Cemetery - the towns most HAUNTED and SCARIEST places.

EXT. FORT MOSE HISTORIC STATE PARK - DAY.

Focus in on the white doves as they land on a branch.

They watch a trim, handsome, black man, Detective TYRONE WILLIAMS, 33, approach a police scene. Tyrone, was recently promoted to detective after working the beat for 12 years and he's eager to crack his first major case.

Detective FRANK SANTOS, Cuban, 62, and burly, stands next to a mutilated body. He is seasoned and close to retirement.

TYRONE
What do we have?

FRANK
Number three. Early 20's. Same
markings as the other two.

TYRONE
Has forensics been by yet?

FRANK
They're on the way now.

TYRONE
Any witnesses?

Frank shakes head no.

FRANK
Looks like the incident happened
around midnight. She was meeting
her boyfriend at Mill Top.

TYRONE
Did we pick him up?

FRANK
He's at the station now. Says he
was hanging out with friends until
just after 3 AM.

TYRONE
Who found her?

FRANK
Two joggers. They gave statements.

Tyrone squats down, takes a closer look at the body.

DRIED BLOOD. GASHES. BITES.

Her neck is ripped open. Abdomen disemboweled.

Tyrone WINCES in horror.

TYRONE
What kind of MONSTER would do this?

Focus in on white doves as they fly away.

ARI (PRE-LAP)
Danilo's such a jerk.

EXT: COOPER MANSION - EVENING - ESTABLISHING.

A turn of the Century Mansion in the center of a large memorable yard.

A light shines through a downstairs kitchen window.

INT: COOPER MANSION/KITCHEN - EVENING - CONTINUOUS.

Sebastian and Ari sit across from each-other at a large antique wooden table. The table is located in the center of an old, yet functional kitchen. They sip sodas. Complete homework assignments.

SEBASTIAN

He's messed up because of what happened to our parents.

MR. COOPER, 83, enters. He looks ten year younger than his actual age. Pours a cup of tea.

ARI

Mr. C, don't you think someone just needs to knock his block off.

Mr. Cooper sips tea. Looks at Ari.

MR. COOPER

Who's block?

ARI

Danilo, he's always picking on people.

MR. COOPER

Danilo's been through a lot. Maybe you should give him a break.

ARI

(shrugs shoulders)
Point taken.

MR. COOPER

It's getting late kiddos. You should probably finish up soon.

ARI

Yeah, I need to head home anyway.

Ari slams their chemistry book closed. Tosses it into an orange backpack covered in transgender affirming stickers: "Love is tender and knows no gender" and "Black Trans Women's Lives Matter."

ARI (CONT'D)
See ya in the AM.

Ari throws on the backpack. Grabs skateboard. Dashes out the kitchen's back door.

SEBASTIAN
(to Ari)
Text me when you get home.

ARI
Will do, dork (O.S)

SEBASTIAN
(grins awkwardly)
Okay, DORK.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT/DETECTIVES OFFICE - NIGHT.

The office is small. Two desks sit on opposite ends of the room. Detective Frank Santos' side of the room is cluttered and disorganized. Detective Tyrone Williams side is neat and tidy.

Tyrone sits at his desk. Studies gruesome crime scene photos of the DEAD GIRLS. Frank enters. Sits down on a swivel chair.

FRANK
His alibi checks out. He was at Mill Top til 3 AM.

Sorts through crime scene photos.

TYRONE
These scratches and bites are animal - not human.

Frank looks over at the gruesome photos.

FRANK
What makes you say that?

Tyrone leans back in his chair. Rolls up his sleeve. Reveals a medium sized forearm scar.

TYRONE
Got this on a camping trip one summer. Mountain lion.
(a beat)
These gashes, bites-
(points to picture)
-have similar qualities.

FRANK
(inspects Tyrone's arm)
They do look similar. But a
mountain lion in the city?

TYRONE
I'm not saying it's a mountain
lion, but a large animal is behind
this.

FRANK
If that's true we should notify the
wild life division.

TYRONE
I already put in a call to them.
Once the DNA tests come back we
can-

FRANK
-DNA tests?

TYRONE
I'm testing the saliva around the
wounds so we know what kind of
animal we're dealing with.

FRANK
Smart move.
(looks at clock on wall)
It's late. There's nothing more we
can do here tonight. Maybe you
should go home, spend time with
that girlfriend of yours.

TYRONE
Soon - I want to tag these photos
first.

Frank stands up. Pulls on jacket. Walks towards office door.

FRANK
Suit yourself Detective.

TYRONE
Good night, Frank.

PRE-LAP: The sound of a panther growling...

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO/CARETAKERS DEN - NIGHT.

MARIANA PEREZ, 28, Cuban enters the caretakers den. Mariana's been passionate about working with endangered animals since she was a kid.

Old Girl, an elderly black panther, sits in a secured cage. Licks an injured paw. Old Girl, is the oldest PANTHER at the zoo.

MARIANA
(in Spanish)
Hey old girl. How are ya tonight?

Mariana picks up the clipboard.

MARIANA (CONT'D)
Looks like that paw is finally
healing.

Mariana's iPhone rings. She answers:

MARIANA (CONT'D)
(in English)
Evening stranger.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT/DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - NIGHT.

TYRONE
There's been another victim. A 22-
year-old girl this time.

INTERCUT WITH
MARIANA AND
TYRONE:

MARIANA
That's horrible babe. Where are you
now?

TYRONE
The station.

MARIANA
I'm headed home shortly. Will I see
you there?

TYRONE
Of course. I just need to finish up
a few things first.

MARIANA
Sounds good.

TYRONE
Mariana.

MARIANA
Yeah, babe.

TYRONE
Be careful out there.

MARIANA
I will love.

Tyrone hangs up his iPhone. Tags one of the horrifying crime scene photos.

PRE-LAP: We hear the sound of Pussy Riots song *Make America Great Again...*

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

A calm, middle class suburban street. Manicured lawns. Empty trash and recycling bins rest on the edges of sidewalks. Sedans and SUV's line driveways.

Two white doves fly overhead. They land on the roof of a nearby house and watch Ari skate contently down the street.

Ari wears a pair of blue tooth earbuds. Mouths the lyrics:

Let other people in. Listen to your women. Stop killing black children. Make America Great Again.

As they approach an intersection their right earbud falls out. They lean down, pick it up and place it in their front pocket.

They check for oncoming cars. The coast is clear. They push forward on their skateboard, but is distracted by an odd sounding GROWL. They stumble forward. Look around. See nothing. Grabs skateboard. Tries again.

Another powerful GROWL beckons from behind.

What the hell was that?

Ari turns slowly around. A large black panther stands in the center of the street - 10 feet away. The panthers eyes are bright green. They glare directly at Ari.

ARI
(mumbling)
What the...

The Panther creeps forward.

ARI (CONT'D)
Oh shit!

Terrified, Ari's jumps on the skateboard and pushes off the sidewalk with all their might. They ride FRANTICALLY down the center of the street. Careens down to gain speed.

The panther trails a few feet behind.

GROWL. HISS.

Out of no where a car appears. A horn blares. Headlights flash.

Ari swerves to avoid a head-on collision. Tumbles forward onto someone's front yard. Skateboard flings into the air. Lands on the street. Rolls away. The car honks. Speeds off.

ARI (CONT'D)
(to driver)
ASSHOLE.

Frightened and winded, Ari takes a deep breath. Blood drips from their knee. They look around. The panther is gone.

ARI (CONT'D)
Mother EFFER.

On two WHITE DOVES as they fly off into the night sky.

EXT. DRUSUS FAMILY HOME/BACKYARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS.

ALICE DRUSUS, 38, an alluring, strong Italian witch, with long dark hair.

Alice comes from a long lineage of witches who practice Stregoneria - a form of witchcraft with southern European roots.

Alice looks up at the night sky. Two white doves fly into view. She smiles as they land on top of a large, brass bird cage.

Alice approaches the doves. Gently pets them with the back of her left hand.

ALICE

How are my familiars tonight?

The doves nudge into her hand.

On Alice as flashes of light appear before her. Through the doves eyes, she sees Sebastian in chemistry class, Detective Williams inspecting a girls mutilated body, Ari being chased by a black panther.

She blinks her eyes back into focus. Withdraws her hand from the doves. The doves climb into the cage. Burrow into their nighttime resting place.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Sleep well my LOVES.

INT. COOPERS MANSION/HALLWAY - NIGHT.

Sebastian walks down a narrow hallway towards a dimly lit bedroom. Old family photos, antique paintings and unusual artifacts line the walls. He approaches a half opened door. Knocks.

MR. COOPER

Come in Dear Boy.

Sebastian enters. Mr. Cooper sits in a chair. Reads: "The St. Augustine Gazette."

Focus in on today's headline: "Another Victim Found Mutilated in Park."

SEBASTIAN

I wanted to say goodnight
grandfather.

MR. COOPER

(looks up)
Good of you, Dear Boy.

Sebastian begins to exit the room.

MR. COOPER (CONT'D)

Is Ari going through with it?

Sebastian stops. Looks back.

SEBASTIAN

They started going by gender
neutral pronouns, but their parents
aren't on board with the whole
transition thing.

MR. COOPER

That's a shame. Ari is a good kid.
Such a change shouldn't matter.

SEBASTIAN

No it shouldn't. You know
Grandfather, for an 83-year-old guy
- you're pretty open minded.

MR. COOPER

I learned a long time ago not to
judge a book by its cover.

SEBASTIAN

Ari appreciates that about you. Did
you mean what you said about
Danilo. He can be a real jerk
sometimes.

MR. COOPER

Dear Boy, sometimes we have to rise
above other people's shortcomings.

Sebastian's iPhone rings. It's Ari.

SEBASTIAN

Sleep-well grandfather.

MR. COOPER

You too Dear Boy. Love you.

SEBASTIAN

Love you too.

Sebastian hurries out of grandfathers room...

INT. COOPERS MANSION/HALLWAY - NIGHT.

...into the hallway. Answers.

SEBASTIAN

I thought you were going to text
when you got home.

INT. BENAVIDES FAMILY HOME/ARI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

The bedroom is cluttered. Walls are laced with posters of
Riot Grrrl punk bands: "Bikini Kill," "Sleater-Kinney,"
"Heavens to Betsy." A small bookshelf is stuffed with ZINES
promoting queer core, girl power, trans rights.

Ari sits on the edge of their bed visibly shaken.

INTERCUT WITH
SEBASTIAN AND
ARI:

ARI
(frantic)
You won't believe what just happened. I was riding down the street and this - this black, I don't know, panther, chased after me. I road as fast as I could and then a car jolted out - I went flying onto someone's yard.

INT. COOPER MANSION/SEBASTIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Sebastian enters his bedroom.

It's clean, but lived in.

Posters of old school monster movies hang on the walls: "Night of the Living Dead," "Dracula," and "The Blob."

There's a large shelf filled with classic books, vintage toys and family photos of Sebastian and his parents.

Electronics, a flat screen TV, computer equipment.

SEBASTIAN
Ari slow down. A panther?

ARI
Yes, a panther. It was black and really big. It growled loudly.

SEBASTIAN
Are you sure it wasn't a dog or maybe a dear?

ARI
NO, it was a panther. It had bright green eyes. Huge fangs. It chased me down the street. I was seconds away from becoming it's late night meal.

SEBASTIAN
Wow, do you want me to come over. I can-

ARI

-no, it's okay. We can talk in the morning.

SEBASTIAN

Okay, we'll talk in the morning.

On Ari's distressed and worried face.

Camera pushes past Ari to a Nanta Bag - the one from the teaser. It sits on the dusty bookshelf next to some zines.

PRE-LAP: The sound of teenagers in the school yard laughing, acting silly...

END ACT I

ACT II

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING.

A typical spring morning in central Florida. It's humid. The sun shines brightly.

Sebastian's eyes are sensitive. He squints. Uses his forearm as a shield. Glances at the time on his iPhone. Ari's late again.

Sebastian considers heading to class, but is momentarily distracted by a starkly attractive, new girl, who enters his view.

STAR DRUSUS, is 17, Caucasian, petite, has long wavy black hair, and wears all black. She walks in his direction towards the school's main entrance. As she passes, their eyes meet with a Romeo and Juliet kind of intensity.

Who is she?

Sebastian's eyes are no longer bothered by the light. He drops his forearm. A warm sensation runs through his body. She's familiar, but they've never met before.

Ari swoops up on their skateboard. Notices Sebastian looking at Star. Doesn't think much of it.

ARI

WUT UP.

Sebastian watches as Star enters the building. Turns to face Ari. His eyes are once again troubled by the glare.

SEBASTIAN

Class starts in 3 minutes.

ARI

Give me a break - I was almost gobbled to death by a lion last night.

SEBASTIAN

(confused)

I thought it was a panther?

ARI

Lion, panther, either way it was a huge cat and I was it's prey.

(a beat)

You should've seen this thing.

(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

It must've weighed 500 pounds, with emerald green eyes. Sharp teeth.

SEBASTIAN

That sounds horrifying.

ARI

I've never been more scared in all my life.

Sebastian again glances at the time on his iPhone.

SEBASTIAN

We are officially late.

ARI

Dammit. Well, at least this time I have a good excuse. I came this close-

(holds up forefinger and thumb to indicate an inch)
-to becoming MEOW MIX.

Sebastian laughs. They enter the building. Head to chemistry class.

EXT. FORT MOSE HISTORIC STATE PARK - DAY.

Tyrone approaches the area where the body was found. The yellow crime scene tape is gone. He puts on a pair of elastic gloves. Explores the ground for clues.

He inspected this area yesterday, but wants to make sure no clues were missed. He combs through scattered bushes and fallen tree branches. Finds nothing.

He scouts the perimeter. Notices several unusual looking paw-prints embedded in semi-dry mud. They were not there the day before.

TYRONE

(to self)

What do we have here?

He takes a closer look. The paw-prints have four teardrop-shaped toes. One of the toes is physically smaller than the others. He uses his iPhone to snap pictures of the prints.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO/WILD CAT SANCTUARY - DAY - CONTINUOUS.

Focus in on Peter, 38, slender and handsome, but in a strange kind of way. He stands outside Old Girl's glass cage. Inside, she growls and paces back and forth.

PETER

It's been a long time Adele.

Old Girl is agitated. Peter moves closer to the glass. Old Girl retreats into the corner. She fears him.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO/CURRATOR'S DEN - DAY

Mariana stands outside a small supply closet. Holds a clipboard. Takes inventory. She hears Old Girls growl. Doesn't think much of it at first.

She continues to count supplies.

The GROWLS and HISSES intensify.

Now I'm concerned?

She puts down the clipboard, exits the den...

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO/WILD CAT SANCTUARY - DAY.

...and enters the sanctuary. It's empty, except for Peter.

Old Girl, is clearly disturbed. Crouches in the corner of the cage. Snarls at Peter in a panic like state.

Troubled, Mariana approaches Peter.

MARIANA

Sir?

Peter's focus is on Old Girl. He does not respond.

MARIANA (CONT'D)

(loud, but polite)

Sir, I have to ask you to leave.
You're disturbing the animal.

Peter does not respond.

MARIANA (CONT'D)

(louder, less polite)

Mister, do you hear me?

Peter turns. Looks at Mariana. Snarls in a cat-like manner.

PETER
Yes, I hear you.

Startled, Mariana steps back.

Who is this bizarre man?

MARIANA
(firmly)
I don't know who you are, or what
you're doing here, but you need to
leave now.

Peter looks at Old Girl.

PETER
(mumbles under breath)
Soon Adele.

Unaffected, Peter walks out of the observation area.

Focus in on Old Girl huddled and frightened in the corner of
her cage.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT/DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Tyrone stares at crime scene photos of the dead girls. TORN
FLESH. SMEARED BLOOD. GUTS EXPOSED.

He turns to his computer. Types "Animal attacks in St.
Augustine, Florida" into google search. A list of articles
about animal attacks pop up.

He scrolls down to a May 12, 1990 St. Augustine Gazette
story: "St. Augustine Park Killings could be Cat Related."

He reads the article:

"The investigation into the killings"..."victims"..."mauled
to death" ..."mountain lion."..."St. Augustine Zoo curator,
Albert Yates, agrees wounds resemble the kind of markings
made by a large cat."

Tyrone jots "Albert Yates" down on a notepad. He plugs the
name into google. Taps on a December 7, 2005 St. Augustine
Gazette article: "St. Augustine Curator Leaves Job after 15
Years."

He reads the article:

"Albert Yates"..."curator left job"..."mental breakdown"..."wife, Adele Gallier, disappeared in 2003."..."research study on the habits of black panthers in captivity."

Frank enters office.

FRANK
Any updates?

Tyrone looks at Frank.

TYRONE
Yes. I discovered something interesting at the park today.

Frank sits down on his swivel chair.

FRANK
Hit me.

TYRONE
(grabs picture)
I ran across these paw-prints a few feet from where the body was found. I searched the same area yesterday, but it was clean. The animal must have returned to the scene last night.

FRANK
So you really think an animal killed these girls?

TYRONE
I do.

FRANK
If a mountain lion's responsible, what's the plan?

Tight on Tyrone's face.

TYRONE
We're going to track and catch the damn thing.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL/GSA MEETING - DAY

A dozen students sit in circle formation. Ari and Sebastian are among them.

On the whiteboard, in black marker are the words: "Gay Straight Student Alliance."

Christopher, 18, thin, blonde and effeminate, leads the meeting.

CHRISTOPHER

The prom committee finally agreed to let us add songs to the playlist.

ARI

And the flags?

On Sasha Green, 17, an African American, trans girl. Smart and attractive. She grabs her notebook. Flips through some pages.

SASHA

They arrived over the weekend. We now have the more inclusive Rainbow Flag, with the brown and black colors, and the trans flag.

ARI

AWESOME-SAUCE. And they agreed to let us hang them?

CHRISTOPHER

Not yet, but we're working on that. Sasha and I are meeting with the committee again this Friday to discuss things.

SEBASTIAN

While hanging the flags are important, making sure people feel safe is our primary goal. We don't want a repeat of last year.

In unison, group members verbally agree. *You got that right. For sure.*

ARI

What happened last year to Charlie was not okay. We will never tolerate that kind of shit again.

Group members snap fingers in agreement.

SASHA

That's where the bathroom monitors come in, which was already approved by Principle Beacon.

ARI

That's great, and the Prom King,
Queen, or Everything else In-
between categories?

CHRISTOPHER

They won't budge on that, the
categories will remain Prom King
and Queen.

(glances at Sasha)

But we all know who the real *Prom
Queen* is around here don't we
GSA'ERS?

Group members respond with *Yeah Girl* or *You've got that
right, sista*.

On Sasha, who smiles shyly.

SASHA

The songs, flags and bathroom
monitors are already ruffling their
straight, cis-gender tail feathers.
Let's focus on what we can change.

Christopher looks at a clock on the wall.

CHRISTOPHER

So we're just about done with
today's meeting. We'll pick up this
discussion next week. Until then,
be strong, safe and true to
yourself.

Group members snap fingers in agreement. They stand. Exit the
room. Scatter in different directions down the hallway.

INT ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DAY

Sebastian and Ari stroll down an empty hall.

SEBASTIAN

So, have you given any thought as
too who you're going to ask to
prom?

ARI

Not a clue. You?

SEBASTIAN

Stag seems like a safe bet.

They near the school's main entrance just as a group of sweaty jocks enter. They are hyped up from soccer practice. Danilo, their ring-leader, is among them.

ARI

Crap. Not these ass-wipes again.

The jocks approach. Make a dead stop. Road block them in from passing.

DANILO

(laughs)

So where are you girls coming from today, another GSA meeting?

ARI

That's exactly where we're coming from.

RANDY

I hear they want to turn prom into a gay bar, with pride flags and queer music.

SEBASTIAN

Listen guys, we don't want trouble, okay.

Sebastian looks at Danilo, who smirks back in disdain. He steps aside, singles for them to pass.

DANILO

No problem Sabie. After you.

SEBASTIAN

(hesitantly)

Thanks.

Sebastian and Ari walk through the jocks wall of testosterone when...

...Randy grabs Sebastian's hoodie. Pushes him against a group of lockers.

ARI

(to Randy)

Leave him alone asshole.

RANDY

Cooper's a big boy, he can fend for himself.

Sebastian pushes Randy off.

SEBASTIAN

I'm not in the mood for this today,
Randy.

Randy leans in. Places his forearm firmly across Sebastian's chest.

RANDY

(mimicking)

Did you hear that boys, Coopers not
in the mood for this today.

Sebastian looks into Randy's eyes. Frustration boils up.

SEBASTIAN

Get off me.

Sebastian throws Randy across the hallway with inhuman strength.

Randy lands *hard* on the ground.

Sebastian leaps into the air. Lands on top of him. Grabs his throat.

Randy tries to break free, but is overpowered.

Ari grabs Sebastian's arm. Tries to pull him off. Randy turns blue.

ARI

SEBASTIAN, STOP, YOU'RE KILLIN'
HIM.

A second passes...

...before Sebastian releases his grasp. Randy crawls away. Clutches his throat.

RANDY

You're nuts Cooper, totally nuts.

The jocks help Randy to his feet.

ARI

(to Randy)

You started it.

Sebastian looks at Randy.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry. I don't-

RANDY
-whatever Cooper. You're crazy,
just like your weird grandfather.

Danilo grabs Randy's arm.

DANILO
He's not worth it.

RANDY
(clears throat)
Yeah, yeah, okay.

The jocks scamper away.

Sebastian looks up at Ari, but the overhead lights blind him.
He uses his forearm as a shield to protect his eyes.

ARI
What was that?

SEBASTIAN
I don't know, I lost control.

ARI
I've never seen anything like it.
You tossed him across the floor
like it was nothin.

SEBASTIAN
I don't-

ARI
-forget it.

Ari helps Sebastian to his feet.

ARI (CONT'D)
Let's get out of here before those
idiots come back.

Sebastian and Ari exit the building.

INT. COOPER MANSION/SEBASTIAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING.

Sebastian and Ari hover in front of a laptop.

In the background, an old Werewolf movie streams on the flat
screen.

ARI

Photophobia - can be caused by a corneal abrasion, infected cornea, Acanthamoeba, which is a parasite - YUCK - Pre clamp Sia, oh forget that, you have to be pregnant.

Sebastian stands. Walks to the bedroom window. Looks out into the darkness.

SEBASTIAN

The glare is one thing, but what about the rage, or...

He stops mid-sentence.

ARI

Or what?

SEBASTIAN

Nothing.

ARI

Doesn't sound like nothing.

SEBASTIAN

(unsettled)

On Monday morning, the day you were late to Jackson's class...

ARI

I'd prefer not to remember but yeah.

SEBASTIAN

Two white doves were perched on the window ledge outside class. When I looked at them, they talked to me.

ARI

(confused)

Talked to you, like a hearing voices kind of thing.

SEBASTIAN

No not like that. They spoke to me with their eyes. They were trying to warn me about something.

ARI

That's almost as weird as being chased down the street by a panther.

Ari senses Sebastian's distress. Changes subject.

ARI (CONT'D)
We're going this year, right?

SEBASTIAN
To the Beach Concert?

ARI
Yeah. It'll be great. Lots of
weirdo's.

Sebastian rolls eyes.

SEBASTIAN
I hate weirdos.

ARI
It'll be fun. Plus - you love
weirdos - we're weirdos. You know
how much I want to see Immortal
Beasts, I-

SEBASTIAN
-just love the lead singer, I know.
(reluctantly)
I guess we can go. Maybe it'll help
me get my mind off things.

Ari leaps up in excitement.

ARI
AWESOME-SAUCE. We should dress up.

SEBASTIAN
No way, I am not dressing up.

Ari ignores Sebastian's comment. Walks over to the closet.

ARI
Do you still have that vampire
costume?

Ari rummages through the closet.

SEBASTIAN
The one with the green teeth?

ARI
That's the one.

Ari opens a dresser drawer. Combs through some t-shirts.
Sebastian walks to the dresser. Ari barely withdraws his hand
before he pushes the drawer closed.

SEBASTIAN

I put those things in the attic
years ago.

Determined to find the costume, Ari exits the bedroom.

ARI

The attic (O.S)

Sebastian rolls his eyes. Follows after Ari.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE POLICE DEPARTMENT/DETECTIVE'S OFFICE -
NIGHT.

Tyrone sits at his desk. Sorts through case files. A
uniformed officer enters.

POLICE OFFICER

Detective, Mariana's here.

TYRONE

Thanks, send her back.

The Officer exits. Returns with Mariana. She enters. Walks
over to Tyrone's desk.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

(relieved)

Man, am I glad to see you.

He stands up. Kisses her quickly on the lips.

MARIANA

Looks like you've really settled in
around here, Detective Williams.

TYRONE

I suppose so.

MARIANA

So, what do you want to show me?

Tyrone motions for Mariana to sit down on Frank's swivel
chair. Hands her a paw print picture.

TYRONE

What do you see when you look at
that picture?

Is this a trick question?

MARIANA

Paw prints.

TYRONE

Yeah, but what kind of paw prints?

MARIANA

A mountain lion. No wait, a panther.

TYRONE

I took that picture at the park yesterday, 10 feet from where the body was found. A person didn't kill those girls, an animal did - maybe a panther.

Tyrone picks up a crime scene photo. Shows it to Mariana.

TYRONE (CONT'D)

No human could have made those bites and gashes.

MARIANA

(cringes at photo)

Those wounds do look cat-like. So you really think a wild cat killed those women?

TYRONE

I do.

MARIANA

If that's the case, what can I do to help?

TYRONE

You're the best cat lady I know. You have experience with these kind of animals. I was thinking-

MARIANA

-we could track it.

TYRONE

Is that possible?

MARIANA

It's very possible. I'll talk with EMMANUEL tomorrow about setting up a search party.

TYRONE

The sooner we catch this animal the better.

(a beat)

(MORE)

TYRONE (CONT'D)

By the way, do you know Albert Yates?

MARIANA

The zoologist?

TYRONE

Yes.

MARIANA

Not personally, no.

TYRONE

Do you know where he lives now?

MARIANA

Not a clue, but I might be able to find out. Why?

TYRONE

He was questioned about two similar killings in 1995. His girlfriend Adele disappeared shortly after. That's when he had a breakdown and left the zoo. I think he knew something more about the killings.

Adele really!

MARIANA

Did you say Adele?

TYRONE

Yeah, Adele Gallier, why?

MARIANA

This is going to sound weird, but the other day this odd guy was in the observation area observing Old Girl. His presence freaked her out so I asked him to leave. Before he did, he called her Adele.

TYRONE

Did you recognize him?

MARIANA

I've never seen him before.

Tyrone sits back in his chair. Contemplative.

TYRONE

Was Old Girl around when Yates worked at the zoo?

MARIANA

I can't imagine she was. Panthers in captivity typically live between 12 to 20 years. She's old, but not that old.

TYRONE

Didn't Yates conduct a study about panthers living in zoo's or something?

MARIANA

Yeah. The Captive Panther Study.

TYRONE

Do you think something in the study could explain what's happening now.

MARIANA

It might, but the results are sealed.

TYRONE

Why would the zoo seal a study about panthers?

MARIANA

I have no ideal. I tried to get a copy of it a few years back, but Emmanuel told me the results were sealed. If we track down Yates, maybe he can explain why.

TYRONE

Let's just hope we get to the bottom of this soon before this CAT claims another victim.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT 111

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL/LUNCH ROOM - DAY.

Sebastian and Ari sit at a lunch table. Ari picks at their food with a plastic fork. Sebastian eats a sandwich prepared at home.

ARI

They call this meat. Have you thought of a costume yet? I think we should go as Vampire Hunters.

Sebastian looks at Ash with amused eyes.

SEBASTIAN

Vampire hunters. You can't be serious.

ARI

I'm very serious actually.

From across the room, Sebastian notices Danilo talking to several jocks.

His loud and pompous self is ever present. He waves tauntingly at Sebastian, who averts his eyes away.

SEBASTIAN

I think you're right. He's a jerk.

ARI

Who?

SEBASTIAN

Danilo.

ARI

Ignore him. He loves getting under your skin.

SEBASTIAN

I try, but sometimes I can't help myself. We were all such good friends once.

ARI

That was a long time ago. Like grandfather said, he's got issues.

Sebastian notices Star enter the lunch room.

Whoa, she looks great today!

SEBASTIAN
Who's that?

ARI
Star. She moved here from
Jacksonville last week.

Star and Sebastian glance at each other. She smiles.
Sebastian returns the gesture.

SEBASTIAN
Do you know her?

ARI
Not really. She's in my math class.

Several people from Danilo's gang approach Star. She's
receptive.

ARI (CONT'D)
Figures Danilo's crew is trying to
snatch her up.
(a beat)
Am I sensing a crush happening
here?

SEBASTIAN
Nah, just curious is all.

Sure he is...

ARI
(rolls eyes)
Oh, okay. How ya feelin' these
days?

SEBASTIAN
A little better, but the light's
still an issue.

ARI
And the white doves?

SEBASTIAN
(grins awkwardly)
No white doves.

A bell sounds.

Ari jumps up. Takes a final bite out of their hamburger.
Slings backpack on.

ARI
I gotta run. I'm meeting Sasha
about the flags.

SEBASTIAN
Oh - okay - see you later.

Ari darts out of the lunchroom.

Sebastian stands, gathers up his lunch bag and Ari's tray. He walks towards the garbage station. Places the items on a conveyor belt. Turns to face Star, who walks towards him. They exchange fond looks.

This is it! Don't be nervous Sabie.

Sebastian steps forward, but is cock blocked by Danilo, who runs up from behind.

Of course he did. Damn you D.

DANILO
Star, wait up!

Disappointed, Star amuses Danilo.

STAR
Hey Danilo.

Camera on Star and Danilo as they walks towards the exit. They make small talk.

Is he still back there? I really wanted to talk with him.

Star glances back, but Sebastians's gone.

PRE-LAP: The sound of a school bell ringing.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL/BOYS LOCKER ROOM - LATER THAT DAY.

The locker room is empty. Sebastian pulls on his t-shirt. Grabs his backpack.

Danilo sneaks up behind him.

DANILO
Where do you think you're goin?

SEBASTIAN
(startled, he turns to
face Danilo)
Nothing like sneaking up on a guy.

DANILO

That stunt you pulled with Randy
the other day was pretty
impressive.

SEBASTIAN

I didn't-

DANILO

(shakes head)

-why do you always make excuses for
yourself?

SEBASTIAN

What do you mean?

DANILO

You beat the hell out of the guy,
own it.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah, but I didn't...
I know you're still hurt about what
happened to our parents, but you
can't hold onto that forever.

DANILO

Really. Your father's drunk driving
killed our parents. I have every
right to hold onto that.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry about that, I really am.

DANILO

Are you? Your grandfather didn't
seem to care when they let my DRUG
ADDICT of an aunt adopt me. I
wanted to live with the two of you
- not her.

SEBASTIAN

Grandfather didn't have a choice.
The decision wasn't his to make.

DANILO

Keep telling yourself that and
there will never be peace between
us.

Danilo turns to leave. Looks back at Sebastian.

DANILO (CONT'D)

You better watch your back. Randy's still pissed over what happened.

SEBASTIAN

If you hate me so much why warn me about Randy.

DANILO

(smirks)

Despite what you think about me, I believe in fighting fair. Randy doesn't.

Danilo exits the locker-room. Sebastian shakes head in frustration.

INT. COOPERS MANSION/KITCHEN - MORNING.

Sebastian sits at the kitchen table. Eats a bowl of cereal. There's a tap at the back door. Ari enters.

ARI

Morning.

SEBASTIAN

Hey.

Ari helps himself to a bowl of cereal.

ARI

He wants to go to the zoo, again?

SEBASTIAN

That's what he said and what the old man wants, the old man gets.

ARI

(apprehensively)

After my panther encounter - I'm not sure I can stomach it.

SEBASTIAN

You don't have to go. But remember, the panthers at the zoo are in cages.

ARI

(rationalizing)

I do like hanging out with the old geezer.

Mr. Cooper enters the kitchen.

MR. COOPER
(teases Ari)
OLD GEEZER?

Embarrassed, Ari quickly changes the subject.

ARI
Mr. C, you won't believe what
happened to me the other night. A
huge panther chased me down the
street.

Mr. Cooper puts on his jacket.

MR. COOPER
(worried)
Are you sure it was a panther?

ARI
It was definitely a panther. It had
huge fangs, bright green eyes. I
thought about calling animal
control, but-

MR. COOPER
-animal control won't do anything
about a wild panther. I have a
curator friend at the zoo who works
with the cats. We can talk to him
if you like?

ARI
That would be great.

MR. COOPER
I'll call him once we get to the
zoo.

Mr. Cooper throws on a Fedora hat.

MR. COOPER (CONT'D)
We need to get a move on kiddos if
we want to avoid the lines.

Mr. Cooper exits the back door.

SEBASTIAN
Looks like going to the zoo may end
up being for the best after all.

ARI
I can't imagine what could happen
if that panther tries to attack
someone else.

Sebastian and Ari slurp up their cereal. Place the bowls in the sink. Scamper out the door after Mr. Cooper.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO - DAY.

Mr. Cooper walks down a crowded path.

Sebastian and Ari follow close behind. They pass a sign that reads: "Exotic Cats" and then another that reads: "Panthers."

Ari notices the sign. Halts in fear. Sebastian gently tugs them forward.

SEBASTIAN

It'll be fine. After we visit Old Girl, we'll talk to grandfather's friend.

Reluctantly, Ari follows Sebastian into the sanctuary.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO/CAT SANCTUARY - DAY.

Old Girl, sits in the corner of a glass enclosure. She notices Mr. Cooper. Stands and walks over to meet him by the glass.

ARI

(whispering)

At least that cat's old. The one that chased me was much younger.

(a beat)

Grandfather really does have a thing for this one?

SEBASTIAN

She's the reason we come here.

The panther lays down in front of Mr. Cooper. Rolls over like a house cat who wants their tummy petted.

ARI

It's like they know each-other or something.

SEBASTIAN

He's been coming here for years just to see her so in a way, they do.

AYO, 43, African, tall and distinguished, enters the area. He wears a wide-sleeved Boubou. Stands a few feet away from Mr. Cooper.

MR. COOPER

You shouldn't have come. It's too dangerous.

AYO

(chuckles)

I had no choice. The Treaty was broken.

MR. COOPER

Not by one of ours. This cat's rogue.

AYO

Is he?

MR. COOPER

Yes.

AYO

He may be taunting us with thrill kills right now, but we both know why he's really here.

MR. COOPER

I can protect my grandson. I've been doing so for close to a decade. Where were you, where was Deka, 8 years ago?

AYO

The loss of your son and daughter-in-law was tragic, but the Treaty's stronger now. If the Council gets wind of this we'll have much larger problems than a transference to worry about.

MR. COOPER

I know what's at stake.

Ayo and Mr. Cooper's eyes meet with intensity.

A second passes...

...when Ayo lunges at Mr. Cooper. Pushes him to the ground.

SEBASTIAN

GRANDFATHER!

ARI

MR. C!

Without hesitation, Sebastian charges Ayo. Misses. Stumbles forward.

Ayo chuckles. For him - a skilled fighter - this is merely a fun little game.

Sebastian grows angry. Fists clench. Steadies himself. Reaches for Ayo. Is thrown back.

AYO

Is that all you've got, *DEAR BOY*.

Sebastian steps back. Grandfather's the only person who calls him that.

Who is this guy?

SEBASTIAN

Do I know you?

AYO

No, but you will soon...

Ayo turns. Flees the area. Sebastian races after him.

ARI (O.S)

(frightened)

Sebastian wait!

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE ZOO - MORNING - CONTINUOUS.

Ayo tears through the zoo. Zigzags around crowds at lightening speed. Sebastian, trails closely behind.

They near an eight foot high fence. Ayo LEAPS over it with the agility of a dog. Dashes off into the woodlands.

Sebastian follows, but scales the fence like a cat. He lands on all four's.

He's Winded. Takes a deep breath. Looks around. Ayo's gone.

Baffled, Sebastian looks up at the 8 foot high fence. Inspects his hands and feet.

They look normal.

SEBASTIAN

How in the hell?

His mind harks back to Ari and Grandfather.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)
Grandfather.

He runs off to find them.

ACT IV

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HOSPITAL/EXAM ROOM #4 - DAY.

Mr. Cooper sits on a hospital bed. A doctor examines him. Ari and Sebastian stand a few feet away.

MR. COOPER
Doc, I'm fine.

DOCTOR
Mr. Cooper, we need to make sure.
I'm going to order an X-ray of that
shoulder. It looks bruised.

SEBASTIAN
(steps forward)
Doctor, do what you think's best.

MR. COOPER
Doc my grandson worries far too
much.

Sebastian moves closer to the hospital bed.

SEBASTIAN
Grandfather, please let the doctor
do his job. He wants to make sure
everything's okay.

Mr. Cooper senses Sebastian's concern. Concedes.

MR. COOPER
Okay, Doc, do what's best.

DOCTOR
I'll have tech take an X-ray right
away.

Doctor exits the room.

On Ari and Sebastian at grandfather's bedside.

SEBASTIAN
Grandfather, why did that man push
you?

MR. COOPER
I'll explain everything once we get
back to the Mansion.

SEBASTIAN

He jumped over an 8 foot high fence
like it was nothing, and I-

MR. COOPER

-Dear Boy, we'll talk about this at
home.

The X-ray technician enters.

X-RAY TECHNICIAN

Ready for that X-ray Mr. Cooper?

MR. COOPER

As ready as I'll ever be.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HOSPITAL/EMERGENCY ROOM HALLWAY - DAY

Tyrone walks down a busy emergency room. He reaches exam room
#4. Enters.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE HOSPITAL/EMERGENCY ROOM #4 - DAY.

Mr. Cooper is perched up on the hospital bed. His arm in a
sling. Sebastian and Ari sit in chairs across from him.

TYRONE

(flashes badge)

Mr. Cooper, I'm Detective Williams.
I understand there was an incident
at the zoo earlier today?

Ari and Sebastian leap up. Rush to Mr. Coopers bedside.

ARI

Detective, Mr. Cooper was attacked
by a man wearing African clothing.

MR. COOPER

It was nothing Detective.

SEBASTIAN

Nothing, the guy could have really
hurt you.

TYRONE

Do you know this person, Mr.
Cooper?

MR. COOPER

No Detective.

SEBASTIAN
But Grandfather, he-

MR. COOPER
-Detective, I never met the man
before.

Mr. Cooper, what aren't you telling me?

TYRONE
I see. Do you want to file an
incident report?

MR. COOPER
I don't think that's necessary.

SEBASTIAN
But grand-

MR. COOPER
-things are fine Detective.

TYRONE
(befuddled)
Okay, Mr. Cooper, but if you change
your mind don't hesitate to call.

Tyrone hands Mr. Cooper a business card.

MR. COOPER
I certainly will Detective. By the
way, are you the officer
investigating the killings in the
park?

TYRONE
I am, yes. Why do you ask?

MR. COOPER
Have you figured out what's behind
them?

TYRONE
The investigation's ongoing. Do you
know something?

MR. COOPER
No, no Detective. I'm just a
curious old man that's all.

TYRONE
Oh, well, if you change your mind
about filing that report you can
reach me at the station.

Tyrone turns to exit.

ARI
 Detective, you might be interested
 in something that happened to me
 the other night.

Tyrone looks at Ari.

TYRONE
 Shoot kid.

ARI
 I was almost-

MR. COOPER
 -attacked by a large dog. It chased
 Ari down the street. Scared the
 living daylights out of them.

ARI
 But Mr. Cooper it wasn't-

Mr. Cooper squeezes Ari's arm to stop him from talking.

TYRONE
 (suspicious)
 Well, if anything more comes up,
 don't hesitate to reach out, okay.

MR. COOPER
 We sure will Detective.

Tyrone exits the room. His curiosity PEAKED.

INT. BENAVIDES FAMILY HOME/STAIRWELL - NIGHT.

Ari creeps up a carpeted staircase. Tries not to be heard.
 Their parents bedroom door opens.

OH SHIT!

LUIS BENAVIDES, 38, Cuban, stern-faced, appears at the top of
 the stairs.

LUIS
 (in Spanish)
 Ariana.

ARI
 (in English)
 It's Ari dad.

LUIS
(in Spanish)
It's after 10:00 pm. You've been gone all day. No call. No text.

ARI
I went to the zoo with Mr. Cooper and Sebastian.

LUIS
(rolls eyes)
I don't think it's healthy for you to spend so much time with them.

ARI
You didn't seem to mind when I was a kid. You more or less pawned me off on them.

LUIS
I would hardly say pawn.

ARI
Sebastian's my best friend. Mr. Cooper's super cool. I'm not gonna stop spending time with them.

LUIS
Ariana, I spoke to Father Alvarez. He thinks it would help if the two of you talked.

ARI
I'm not meeting with Father Alvarez.

LUIS
What's gotten into you. You used to love going to church.

ARI
When I was like 6. I refuse to be part of an institution that condemns people for being who they are.

LUIS
Ariana, you're only 17. I remember when you wanted to be a clown. Dressed up and walked around like that for weeks. Now you want to be what - a boy.

ARI

I was 8 during the clown phase and
it's not about being a boy. It's
about being ME.

Frustrated, Ari thuds past Luis and into their bedroom. Slams
door...

INT. BENAVIDES FAMILY HOME/ARI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

...plops down on their bed.

LUIS (O.S)

Ariana, this discussion isn't over.
You're meeting with Father Alvarez
whether you like it or not.

ARI

(mumbles to self)
Over my trans body.

INT. COOPERS MANSION/MR. COOPERS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Cooper sits on his bed. Sebastian enters.

SEBASTIAN

The dishes are put away. The house
closed down.

MR. COOPER

Good of you Dear Boy.

SEBASTIAN

I'm just glad they released you
with a clean bill of health - other
than the shoulder, I mean.

MR. COOPER

I've endured far worse.
There's much we need to discuss -
sit.

Sebastian pulls up a chair.

MR. COOPER (CONT'D)

The man at the zoo is Ayo. We've
know each other for many years.
He's here to manage a problem.

SEBASTIAN

A problem?

MR. COOPER
33 years ago a Treaty was created.
It was recently broken.

SEBASTIAN
A Treaty?

MR. COOPER
A set of laws.

SEBASTIAN
I don't understand, Grandfather.

MR. COOPER
Over the next few weeks things are
going to change.

SEBASTIAN
Change - how?

MR. COOPER
Therianthropy.

SEBASTIAN
(confused)
You mean, like a werewolf?

MR. COOPER
Sort of, but in your case it's more
complicated than that.

This sounds CRAZY...

SEBASTIAN
More complicated than a werewolf?

MR. COOPER
We come from a long lineage of
were-panthers.

SEBASTIAN
Were-what?

MR. COOPER
Panthers. You're the rarest of the
bunch. Royalty in Were-Cat world. A
decendent of the Egyptian feline
Goddess Bastet. Guardian of the
underworld.

SEBASTIAN
The underworld?

MR. COOPER

Yes, and you're cousin, Peter, the one who killed those girls, wants to take that from you.

SEBASTIAN

(uneasy)

You mean the girls in the park?

MR. COOPER

Yes.

SEBASTIAN

If you know who killed those girls, we need to call Detective-

MR. COOPER

-NO. The police can never know about any of this.

SEBASTIAN

This is all - kind of - blowing my mind right now.

MR. COOPER

It's a lot to take in but soon it will make a lot more sense.

SEBASTIAN

If I'm a were-panther why am only experiencing these changes now?

MR. COOPER

It's a late-onset disorder. The gene is dormant in the body until three months before a Were's 18th birthday.

SEBASTIAN

Is that why I was able to-

Sebastian stops speaking in mid-sentence.

MR. COOPER

To what?

SEBASTIAN

(hesitantly)

A few days ago, Danilo and his friends cornered Ari and I at school. Randy pushed me against the lockers. This rage came over me - I literally picked him up and threw him across the floor.

MR. COOPER

Increased strength is part of the change. You'll also start to notice enhancements in other areas.

(sternly)

But Dear Boy you MUST learn to control your reactions.

SEBASTIAN

How can I control what I don't understand?

MR. COOPER

In time you will. It's getting late, we'll talk more about this tomorrow.

SEBASTIAN

(unsettled)

Okay...grandfather.

Sebastian begins to exit.

MR. COOPER

Sebastian?

He turns.

SEBASTIAN

Yes.

MR. COOPER

You cannot tell anyone about this.

SEBASTIAN

Not even Ari?

MR. COOPER

Not even Ari.

INT. DRUSUS FAMILY HOME/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS.

Star enters the house. Her twin brother, AERO, 17, fun-loving, on the spectrum, sits at the dining room table. He completes schoolwork.

AERO

Hey Star!

STAR

Hello brother. How's school going?

AERO
Great. You should try homeschooling
too.

Star stands behind him. Places a hand on his shoulder.

STAR
(smiles)
I'm going to stick to attending
high school in person for now.
Where's mother?

AERO
In the backyard.

Star walks through the kitchen and...

EXT. STAR'S FAMILY HOME/BACKYARD - NIGHT.

...into the backyard.

Alice stands next to a round tree stump, which serves as an
alter.

STAR
Evening mother.

ALICE
Hello honey. How was your day?

STAR
Uneventful.

Star approaches the alter.

STAR (CONT'D)
Did the birds see anything more
today?

ALICE
No new images. Did you see him?

STAR
Yes, during lunch. He's different
than what I expected.

ALICE
Different how?

STAR
I can't explain it. It's a feeling
I get.

ALICE

It's good to tap into feelings, but
the commission must always come
first.

STAR

I know mother.

Alice lights a candle.

ALICE

And the other two?

STAR

I have a class with both of them.

ALICE

Good, time is of the essence.

STAR

What do you mean?

ALICE

The Mythos of the Summerland is
almost upon us. Once that happens
all will be revealed.

STAR

What will be revealed?

ALICE

The memories of that night will
return.

STAR

And then what happens?

A moment...

ALICE

That depends on Ari.

Focus in on the Cimaruta around Alice's neck.

INT. COOPERS MANSION/SEBASTIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Sebastian's fast asleep. He tenses up. Shakes in bed. Beads
of sweat collect on his forehead. He enters a dream.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH - DAY (DREAM).

Sebastian runs down an empty beach. Something sinister pursues him. He reaches the pier. Stops. Turns to face whatever chases him.

Close up of Sebastian's face. The sun is bright. He squints. Can hardly see. He drops to the ground. Covers eyes with forearm.

ARI (V.O.)
SABIE, RUN. YOU NEED TO RUN.

SEBASTIAN
Ari, Ari. Is that you?

There's a loud growl. He looks up. Emerald green eyes stare down at him. Fang-like teeth. Sharp claws. Peter leans down.

PETER
Hello cousin. I've waited a long
time to meet you.

INT. COOPERS MANSION/SEBASTIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Close up of Sebastian's face. Eyes JOLT open and slowly turn from dark brown to BRIGHT EMERALD GREEN.

FADE OUT:

THE END OF PILOT