

Tastes Like Human

Written by

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1 EXT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT 1

Open on a small restaurant. Its parking lot is mostly empty, save for a few cars. The neon signs nearby cast an eerie glow on the dark pavement.

2 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT 2

COLLIN SANDERS (mid-20s, innocent and nerdy-looking) sits at a booth with his date, WENDY THOMAS (mid-20s, very attractive).

COLLIN

It sure is cool we get to eat here for free tonight...

WENDY

(Chuckling)

Yeah. It helps that my dad is the manager, though.

COLLIN

True, that.

Collin flips through his menu in an attempt to hide his nerves.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

I see they have a lot of chicken on the menu. Is that all they have?

WENDY

Pretty much, why?

COLLIN

Oh, no reason.

While Collin continues to peruse his menu, Wendy takes out her cellphone and starts texting someone. Just then, RAY MCDONALD (mid-20s, handsome and muscular) approaches to take the young couple's order.

RAY

Hey, guys! My name is Ray, and I'll be your server tonight. You two ready to order?

COLLIN

I am. You ready, Wendy?

Wendy looks up from her phone and puts it back in her purse.

She notices Ray and is instantly smitten with him. She tries to hide this from Collin.

WENDY

Yup!

COLLIN

Okay, you go first.

WENDY

Okay.

Wendy picks up her menu and opens it to a particular page. She looks toward Ray and points at the item she wants.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I'll have the grilled chicken sandwich with bacon. No lettuce or tomato.

RAY

(Writing down Wendy's order)

Okay, sounds good.

(Looking at Collin)

How about you, sir?

COLLIN

Oh, um...um...I'm not sure, actually.

Collin keeps flipping through his menu, trying to settle on something. There is an awkward silence. Ray glances at Wendy, confused, then looks back at Collin.

RAY

Do you need some more time to decide, sir?

COLLIN

No, no. I'm okay. I guess I'll have the...the, uh...chicken tenders. Yeah! Chicken tenders with fries, please.

RAY

(Writing down Collin's order)

Excellent choice!

(Smiling at Collin and Wendy)

I'll put that in right away for you guys.

WENDY

Thank you!

COLLIN

Thanks!

Ray leaves. Collin notices Wendy is staring at him with a puzzled look on her face.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

What is it?

WENDY

You okay? It sure took you a long time to place your order...

COLLIN

Yeah, I'm fine. I just, uh, have never been here before. I wanted to make sure I looked at all my options before deciding on something.

WENDY

Okay...

COLLIN

I'm fine, I promise.

WENDY

If you say so.

There is another awkward pause. Wendy takes out her phone again and finds Ray on Facebook. She covertly flips through his profile pictures.

COLLIN

You really like meat, huh?

WENDY

(Afraid she's been caught)
What do you mean?

COLLIN

Your sandwich. Chicken and bacon. No veggies.

WENDY

(Laughing, embarrassed)
Yeah, I've always thought veggies were nasty. Dad used to call me his "little carnivore."

COLLIN

Gotcha. I've always been a veggie guy,

myself...

(Worrying he's upset Wendy)
Oh, but meat is good, too! Love meat.
Can't get enough of the stuff
sometimes.

WENDY
(Giggling)
You sure are weird.

COLLIN
I know, it's a gift.

Wendy smiles at Collin as Ray returns with their food. He places it on the table in front of them.

RAY
Enjoy, guys! Let me know if I can get
you anything else.

Ray leaves again. Wendy starts eating her sandwich. Collin looks down at the fried chicken on his plate with disgust.

CUT TO:

Wendy has finished her meal. Collin is picking at his untouched chicken tenders with a fork.

WENDY
You absolutely sure you're feeling
okay?

COLLIN
Yeah, of course. Why wouldn't I be?

WENDY
It's been 15 minutes, and you haven't
even touched your supper. It's
probably cold by now. If you don't
hurry and eat, we'll miss the movie!
It starts in a half-hour!

COLLIN
You're right! I'm sorry. I was just,
uh, thinking about something...

WENDY
Oh, all right. Well, go on and eat,
then!

COLLIN
I will, don't worry.

Collin picks up a chicken tender and tries to mask the sick look on his face.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(Whispering to himself)
For Wendy...

Collin closes his eyes and opens his mouth. He slowly lifts the chicken tender up to it.

WENDY
Wait, stop!

COLLIN
What is it?

WENDY
I want to get a picture of you eating that. You said this was your first time here, right?

COLLIN
Yeah...

WENDY
Well, I want to photograph you tasting your first Dave Thomas chicken tender. My dad would love to see it!

COLLIN
(Laughing nervously)
Okay, then...

Wendy turns on her phone's camera and prepares to take Collin's picture.

WENDY
Okay, go!

COLLIN
Okay...

Collin looks at the chicken tender as he gets ready to take a bite again.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(To himself, louder this time)
For Wendy!

WENDY
 (Peering out from behind her phone)
 What was that?

COLLIN
 (Embarrassed)
 Nothing!
 (Beat)
 Okay...Here goes nothing!

Collin closes his eyes and winces as he eats a bit of chicken tender. He shivers as he swallows it. Wendy snaps a picture and laughs at the result.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 (Processing the fact he just ate
 meat)
 What? What's so funny?

WENDY
 This is!

Wendy shows Collin the photo she took. Collin sees his disgusted face and smiles sheepishly.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

3

Collin's car pulls up in front of Wendy's house. Collin and Wendy exit the vehicle and make their way toward the front door.

COLLIN
 I had a really great time with you
 tonight, Wendy.

Wendy smiles uncomfortably at Collin.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 I know it got weird a couple times,
 but to be honest with you, it's
 because I was a nervous wreck.

WENDY
 Hey, it's okay. Don't worry about it.

COLLIN
 No, no, you don't understand. I was
 really, really scared. I didn't want
 to screw anything up. I wanted to make

sure tonight was perfect because,
well, to me, YOU are perfect.

Wendy beams, but her smile fades after a short while.

WENDY

That's really sweet of you Collin,
but...

COLLIN

(Interrupting)

I've never been on a date before, so
when you gave me the chance, I thought
I was the luckiest guy in the world.

(Beat)

But I was so afraid.

(Laughing at himself)

You should have seen me while I was
getting ready for tonight. I was
running around like a chicken with its
head cut off!

WENDY

(Giggling)

That doesn't surprise me.

(Beat)

Listen, Collin, you seem like a really
great guy, but I honestly don't know
if...

Wendy continues talking, but Collin is too enamored to hear her. His eyes lock on Wendy's lips. When she pauses, Collin rushes forward and kisses her. Wendy is initially caught off-guard, but she soon surrenders to bliss. A few seconds later, Collin pulls away, ashamed.

COLLIN

(Backing up slowly)

I...I'm sorry, I...I don't know what
came over me.

WENDY

(Slightly confused)

That's...That's okay. It was nice.

COLLIN

(Continuing to physically distance
himself)

Yeah. Well, uh, I gotta go. See you
soon, I guess.

Collin turns and runs to his car. He leaves Wendy standing alone on her front steps.

WENDY
(Conflicted)
See you...

Collin gets in his car and watches Wendy go inside. Reflecting silently, Collin drives away.

4 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 4

Collin lays on his bed, visibly sick. He moans in agony.

CUT TO:

5 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 5

Collin eats a chicken tender to impress Wendy.

End flashback.

CUT BACK TO:

6 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 6

Collin gets out of bed and exits his room.

7 INT. COLLIN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 7

Collin clutches his stomach and lifts his toilet's lid.

CUT TO:

8 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 8

Collin chews the chicken tender during his date with Wendy.

End flashback.

CUT BACK TO:

9 INT. COLLIN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 9

Collin bends over the toilet and opens his mouth to vomit, but nothing happens. He tries again. Nothing. Collin lowers the toilet lid and heads over to the sink. He looks in the mirror at his sweaty face, turns the faucet, and splashes himself with water. After a while, Collin turns off the sink and pauses to study his reflection again. He starts shaking and panting heavily. His heartbeat is audible.

COLLIN
(To his reflection)
Dammit!

Collin takes a deep breath and exits.

10 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 10

Collin returns to his bed, grabs his laptop, and powers it on. He looks on Google for "I am a vegetarian who ate meat, and now I'm feeling guilty." Collin scrolls through the results and then frustratedly tries another series of searches.

Eventually, Collin finds a website about chicken factory farming. Against his better judgment, he clicks the link. Collin is greatly troubled by what he sees: photographs of chickens crammed in cages, rows of dead chickens tied to ropes dangling from the ceiling, and so on. Mortified, Collin slams his laptop shut. He struggles to catch his breath, grabs his stomach again, and runs out of the room.

CUT TO:

Collin is fast asleep. He tosses and turns. His pillow is drenched with sweat.

CUT TO:

11 INT. COLLIN'S NIGHTMARE - NIGHT 11

Chickens are getting beheaded by an unseen person. After several birds are decapitated, Collin is put on the chopping block. Wendy is revealed to be the one causing the bloodshed.

CUT TO:

12 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 12

Collin wakes up with a scream. He struggles to calm down, reaches for his cellphone, and sees he has an unread text from Wendy: "I need to talk to you. Meet me tomorrow afternoon at the park."

13 EXT. PARK - DAY 13

Wendy sits alone on a bench, phone in-hand. She sends a text to Ray McDonald: "Can't wait to see you tonight!" Ray responds soon after with "I'll be there soon to pick you up!"

Just then, Wendy gets a text from Collin: "Be at the park in

an hour! Is everything okay?" Wendy doesn't respond. She lowers her phone and, conflicted, gets lost in thought.

ANNIE (O.S.)

Hey, Wendy! How's it going?

Startled, Wendy turns to see her best friend, ANNIE COPELAND (mid-20s, pretty and kind-looking).

WENDY

Hi, Annie! What're you doing here?

ANNIE

Oh, I was just out for a walk. I saw you sitting here and thought you could use some company! Mind if I sit down?

WENDY

Nope. Go right ahead!

Wendy makes room for Annie. Annie sits next to her.

ANNIE

So how was your date last night?

WENDY

Oh, it was okay. The guy I saw is really nice.

ANNIE

Is he the one you agreed to go on a pity-date with?

WENDY

Yeah.

ANNIE

What'd you guys do?

WENDY

Oh, not much. We ate at my dad's restaurant, then we went to see a movie.

ANNIE

Sounds nice!

WENDY

Yeah, it was, surprisingly. Then he brought me home, and before he left, he kissed me.

ANNIE

No way!

WENDY

Yes, way!

ANNIE

What was it like? Did you enjoy it?

WENDY

I mean...I guess so, yeah. But...

ANNIE

But what?

WENDY

There's this other guy at my dad's place. His name's Ray. Totally hot guy! I kinda wanna try things with him first.

(Beat)

Don't get me wrong, Collin is sweet, but...

ANNIE

Say no more, I understand what you mean. Are you gonna end things with Collin?

WENDY

Yeah. He's coming by later this afternoon. I'm meeting him here.

Wendy's phone buzzes. She looks down and sees a text from Collin: "You there?" Wendy starts to respond but erases it. The phone buzzes again; it is Ray: "You want me to get you at the park, right?" After a brief pause, Wendy responds: "Yup! See you soon!"

ANNIE

Was that him?

WENDY

(Not hearing her, pondering)

Hm?

(Realizing what Annie asked)

Oh, yeah, yeah. It was him. Sorry, I got a lot on my mind right now. Not sure how I'm gonna break the news to Collin...

ANNIE
Is there anything I can do to help
you?

WENDY
Afraid not.

ANNIE
Oh.
(Beat)
Well, in that case, I guess I better
be going. There's some stuff I gotta
do to be ready for work tomorrow.

WENDY
Good luck.

ANNIE
Thanks, you too! Don't let the guys
scare you. You got this!

Annie places a reassuring hand on Wendy's shoulder. Wendy smiles. Annie walks off, gets in her car, and drives away. As Annie exits the lot, Ray pulls in. He gets out of his car and walks over to Wendy.

CUT TO:

14 INT. COLLIN'S CAR - DAY

14

Collin looks for a place to park his car. His phone buzzes. Collin parks, reaches for his phone, and sees a text from Wendy: "Don't worry. Everything's okay." Collin puts down his phone and looks out the window. His jaw drops in utter disbelief: Wendy is off in the distance being romantic with Ray. Collin drives elsewhere without a word, tears welling up in his eyes.

15 EXT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

15

A thunderstorm rages.

CUT TO:

16 INT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

16

All is quiet. The house is completely dark, but flashes of lightning occasionally illuminate the halls. Upstairs, only Collin is awake.

- 17 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 17
- Collin lays on his bed, expressionless. His glasses are off, and his eyes are swollen; he has been crying.
- CUT TO:
- 18 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS) 18
- A) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT** - Collin and Wendy talk while they wait for their dinner to arrive.
- B) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT** - Collin laughs with Wendy at the picture she took of him eating a chicken tender.
- C) INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT** - Collin and Wendy sit side-by-side, their faces illuminated by the soft glow of a screen. Collin hesitantly puts an arm around Wendy, and she leans closer to him.
- End flashbacks.
- CUT BACK TO:
- 19 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 19
- Collin gets up and storms out of the room.
- 20 INT. COLLIN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 20
- Collin stares at his reflection.
- CUT TO:
- 21 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK) 21
- Collin texts Wendy: "Be at the park in an hour! Is everything okay?"
- End flashback.
- CUT BACK TO:
- 22 INT. COLLIN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 22
- Collin exits.
- 23 INT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 23
- Collin heads downstairs.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. PARK - DAY (FLASHBACK) 24

Collin watches Wendy being romantic with Ray.

End flashback.

CUT BACK TO:

25 INT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25

Collin reaches the bottom of the stairs and proceeds down the hall.

CUT TO:

26 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 26

Collin watches as Ray takes his and Wendy's order.

End flashback.

CUT BACK TO:

27 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 27

Collin punches the wall in anger.

COLLIN

(Getting emotional)

It was him...That guy...The
waiter...From the restaurant...That
guy...Ray.

(Beat)

Wendy...Why? Why him?

Collin whips out his phone and searches his contacts for Wendy. He clicks on her picture and studies it for a moment. His expression shifts from one of pain to one of rage. Collin cries again.

CUT TO:

28 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS) 28

A) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - Collin watches Wendy tell Ray her order.

B) INT. COLLIN'S CAR - NIGHT - Collin and Wendy have a happy conversation.

C) EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT - Collin kisses Wendy on the lips.

D) EXT. PARK - DAY - Collin watches Wendy kiss Ray.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

29 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 29

Collin tosses his phone hard onto the floor, and it slides under the closed kitchen closet doors. Collin opens the closet to retrieve the phone, and his gaze settles on something curious: a rubber chicken mask.

Collin's eyes grow wide. He gasps.

30 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS) 30

A) INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - Collin browses the disturbing contents of the website he found on chicken factory farming.

B) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - Ray gives Collin and Wendy their chicken-based meals.

C) INT. COLLIN'S NIGHTMARE - NIGHT - Chickens are violently beheaded.

D) EXT. PARK - DAY - Ray caresses Wendy's cheek as Collin watches from a distance.

E) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - As Collin and Wendy leave, Ray approaches to start cleaning their table.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

31 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 31

Collin falls to the ground and places a hand on his chest.

POV SHOTS: Time slows down for Collin. His heartbeat echoes in his ears, and the sound of his breathing is muffled. His vision blurs. He looks desperately around the room, and he again looks toward the rubber chicken mask. It is clearly visible, and he reaches for it.

Collin picks up his phone and puts it in his pocket. He

stands clumsily and notices a set of knives next to the kitchen sink. He approaches it, grabs a large meat cleaver, and studies his reflection in the shining blade.

CUT TO:

32 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS) 32

A) INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - Collin explores the chicken factory farming website.

B) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - Ray asks Collin and Wendy how they're enjoying their meals.

C) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - Collin winces as he takes a bite of chicken.

D) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - Ray smiles at Wendy as he takes her menu.

E) INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - Collin continues to look at the factory farming website's gruesome content.

F) INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT - Collin holds a chicken tender in his hand. Wendy eagerly anticipates the moment he will eat it.

G) EXT. PARK - DAY - Ray and Wendy walk off together, holding hands.

H) INT. COLLIN'S NIGHTMARE - NIGHT - Chickens are beheaded.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

33 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 33

COLLIN

Ray...Ray must pay...For Wendy...For everything. For...for the chickens!

Collin adorns the rubber chicken mask, grabs a second meat cleaver, and ventures out into the pouring rain.

34 EXT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT 34

The rain has stopped. The restaurant's neon signage glistens in the puddles dotting the parking lot. Wearing his chicken mask, Collin stands behind a bush and waits for Ray. He has a clear view of the restaurant exit.

COLLIN

Ray...Come...Ray...Come.

Collin watches groups of people leave the restaurant, including several happy couples. Eventually, Ray emerges. He gets in his car and drives away. Collin gives chase, his menacing walk devolving into a desperate, aggressive run.

35 EXT. RAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

35

Collin hides behind a car parked across the street. He watches Ray go inside. Thunder echoes in the distance. The sound startles Collin, temporarily stopping him from pursuing his prey. When Collin's focus returns to where Ray was standing, the young man is gone.

36 INT. RAY'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

36

Rain pelts the window. Ray spits a mouthful of toothpaste into the sink, wipes off his chin with a towel, and winks at his reflection. He smirks, turns off the light, and exits.

37 INT. RAY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

37

Ray lays down on his bed and takes out his phone. He opens his ongoing conversation with Wendy and starts typing: "Hey, Babe. Just got home from work. See you tomorrow."

Before he can hit "Send," Ray hears the sound of glass breaking downstairs. He gets up and goes to investigate.

38 INT. RAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

38

Ray finds his front door ajar. One of the decorative windows beside it has been smashed. Shards of the damaged pane dot the floor.

RAY

What the...

Careful not to step on the glass, Ray shuts the door tightly. He turns slowly and inspects his surroundings. Everything seems normal. Ray makes his way down the hallway.

RAY (CONT'D)

H-hello?

There is no answer.

39 INT. RAY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

39

Ray reaches for the light and tries to turn it on, but he cannot. The power is out. Ray feels around in the dark until he approaches the refrigerator. A flash of lightning reveals Collin soaking wet in his chicken mask, meat cleavers at the ready. Ray screams. Collin starts mumbling to himself about Wendy, chickens, and atonement.

RAY (CONT'D)
Th-The hell ARE you!?

Collin raises his meat cleavers and slowly moves toward Ray. He loudly continues his mantra and pins his victim against a wall.

COLLIN
Chickens...Avenge...Atone
for...Eating...Save...Wendy...Chicken
s...Ray...Atone for...Wendy...RAY!

Collin places a meat cleaver at Ray's throat. Ray closes his eyes in terror.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Ray...You are...cock-
a...doodle...DOOMED!

Collin lunges at Ray, who ducks just in time to dodge an incoming slash. He flees.

40 INT. RAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Collin chases Ray, knocking furniture aside in a crazed rampage. He narrowly misses several killing blows. Ray seeks shelter behind a couch.

41 INT. RAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

41

Ray struggles to catch his breath. He peeks out from behind both sides of the couch to see if the coast is clear. There is no sign of Collin. As Ray stands, Collin takes a swipe at him from above. Ray rolls to the side just in time. Collin leaps over the couch and lands behind him.

Collin slashes at Ray across the belly. Ray screams, puts a hand on the wound, and is mortified when a flash of lightning reveals it to be covered in blood. Ray tries to punch Collin but misses and stumbles forward. Collin strikes Ray again and tears flesh from Ray's chest. Ray falls to his hands and knees.

Ray staggers to his feet and uses an arm to block a meat cleaver aimed at his neck. The blade gets stuck. Ray winces, pulls the weapon out, and tosses it aside. Before he can do anything else, he gets beheaded by Collin's other meat cleaver.

Collin watches as Ray's headless corpse runs around the room, arms flailing. It hits a nearby wall with a sickening thud and collapses. Collin approaches the twitching corpse and kneels down. He removes his chicken mask just enough to expose his nose and mouth; he inhales deeply to take in the scent of blood.

COLLIN
(To himself)
Wendy...Ray...Avenge
chickens...Atone...For
eating...Chickens...Ray...Eat...Ray..
.Eat...EAT!

Collin feasts on Ray's remains. He wipes blood from his maw and uses some of it to write "K.F.C." on the wall in front of him.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(As he writes each letter)
Killed...For...Chickens...

Collin admires his work, takes some more bites out of Ray, retrieves his meat cleavers, and exits.

42 EXT. RAY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

42

Collin steps into the pouring rain. He looks to the sky, lowers his mask, and does the "Chicken Dance" as water washes Ray's blood off him and away down the street.

43 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

43

Wendy sits on her porch, tears streaming down her face. Her hair blows gently in the wind as she stares sadly at a picture of Ray she has saved on her phone. Almost robotically, Wendy calls Annie.

ANNIE (V.O.)
Hello?

WENDY
(Flatly)
Hi, Annie.

CUT TO:

44 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - DAY

44

Annie is sitting on her bed. She is simultaneously talking to Wendy on the phone and watching a rom-com on Netflix.

ANNIE

Wendy! What's up? I haven't heard from you in ages.

(Playfully teasing her)

Probably 'cause you're too busy with Ray, huh?

There is no answer.

CUT BACK TO:

45 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

45

Wendy bites her lip and cries silently.

ANNIE (V.O.)

(Concerned)

Wendy? Hello?

(Beat)

Wendy, what's wrong?

WENDY

(Still struggling to comprehend it)

Ray...Ray's dead, Annie.

(Beat)

I...I just found out this morning.

CUT TO:

46 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - DAY

46

Annie's jaw drops.

ANNIE

Oh my god.

Annie pauses the rom-com and slams her laptop shut.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Wendy, is there anything I can do for you?

CUT BACK TO:

47 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

47

WENDY

No thanks.
 (Obviously not meaning it)
 I'll be okay.

ANNIE (V.O.)

You sure? You know I'm always here for you. Just say the word, and I'm there.

WENDY

I'm sure.

ANNIE (V.O.)

If you say so...
 (Beat)
 I bet your dad's taking the news hard too, huh? Ray was one of his best employees, after all...

Wendy pulls back her sleeve and examines her arm, which is covered in bruises.

WENDY

Yeah, very hard.
 (Beat)
 Listen, I gotta get going, Annie.
 (Beat)
 I-I'm sorry I bothered you with this. I just needed to hear a friendly voice...

CUT TO:

48 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - DAY

48

Annie is visibly worried about Wendy. She takes a deep breath and puts on a brave face.

ANNIE

(Soothingly)
 It's totally fine, Wendy! Let me know if you need anything, okay?

CUT BACK TO:

49 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

49

WENDY

I will. I promise.

ANNIE (V.O.)
 (A bit sadly)
 Bye, girl...

WENDY
 ...Bye.

The call ends. Wendy goes back to staring at Ray's picture. Her eyes dart between the phone screen and the exposed wounds on her arm. She screams in agony.

CUT TO:

50 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

50

Collin wakes up on the couch, dressed in clean pajamas, and yawns loudly. He rubs his eyes, sits up, and puts on his glasses.

COLLIN
 (To himself, groggy)
 What...What happened last night?

Collin reaches for a nearby remote and turns on the TV. The channel is automatically set to the local news.

ANCHORMAN
 (On TV)
 We've just received confirmation that police are currently investigating the murder of a local waiter who was found horribly mangled in his home. Cathy Truett is live on the scene to bring you more information. Cathy?

The image of CATHY TRUETT (mid-40s, serious-looking and wearing heavy makeup) appears on Collin's TV screen.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. RAY'S HOUSE - DAY

51

Cathy stares directly at the camera, microphone raised.

CATHY
 I'm standing here outside the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald McDonald. The couple stumbled upon the decapitated corpse of their son Ray this morning; police currently do not know who committed this heinous crime. Their

only lead is "K.F.C.," which was written on a nearby wall in the McDonald boy's blood.

CUT BACK TO:

52 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 52

Mortified, Collin whips out his phone and texts Wendy: "I just head about Ray on the news! I'm so sorry! Are you and your dad okay?"

Collin puts down his phone and returns his focus to the TV. Cathy Truett is now conducting interviews.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. RAY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 53

Cathy stands in front of Ray's memorial: a large, framed photograph of the waiter surrounded by boxes of chicken nuggets, soda cups, and condiment bottles. MOURNERS silently pay their respects.

CATHY

(To a mourner)

How did you know Ray, exactly?

MOURNER 1

He was my best friend growing up. I just...

(Breaking down)

I can't believe he's really gone...

CATHY

I truly am very sorry for your loss.

(Moving on to another mourner)

Can you please tell me how you knew Ray?

MOURNER 2

I've been a friend of the McDonald family for years. I-I practically raised their kid.

(Beat)

Ray grew into a very nice young man. It's criminal he was taken from us so soon...

CATHY

Truly criminal, indeed...

CUT BACK TO:

54 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

54

Collin checks his phone and sighs with disappointment when he sees Wendy has not responded to him. He is about to type another message, but what he hears next over the TV stops him mid-sentence.

CATHY (V.O.)

(On TV)

With me now is Dave Thomas, Ray
McDonald's longtime employer.

Collin's eyes immediately jump to the TV screen. He sees Cathy Truett standing with Wendy's father, DAVE THOMAS (mid-50s, stern-looking with gray hair).

CUT TO:

55 EXT. RAY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

55

DAVE

I loved Ray. He was the son I never
had but always wanted. I've been in
the restaurant business a long time...

(Getting a bit heated)

And let me tell you: I'll never find
another waiter as devoted and
dedicated as he was. Never!

(Even angrier)

If I could, I'd give the dirty piece
of chicken poop who did this a taste
of his own medicine!

(Regaining composure)

Sorry.

Mr. Thomas stares resentfully into the camera.

CUT BACK TO:

56 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

56

Collin meets the gaze of Mr. Thomas's image. Time seems to stop, and everything goes quiet. Just then, Collin's phone buzzes. There is a text from Wendy: "We're fine." Collin responds: "I'm coming over. We need to talk."

CUT TO:

57 INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

57

There is a knock on the door. Wendy approaches and opens it, her eyes swollen from crying. There are fresh bruises on her left cheek.

WENDY

Collin?

Collin is out on the front step.

COLLIN

Hey, Wendy. Can I come in?

WENDY

(Wiping tears from her eyes and
cleaning herself up a bit)

Yeah, sure. Come on in.

Collin enters. Wendy shuts the door behind him.

WENDY (CONT'D)

So...You, uh, you said you wanted to
talk?

COLLIN

Yeah, I did. I, uh-

(He notices Wendy's bruises)

What happened?

WENDY

(Lying)

Oh, nothing. I took a bad fall the
other day, that's all. I'm okay,
though.

COLLIN

Are you sure?

WENDY

(Snapping)

I'm fine!

(Calming down)

Sorry. Yes. I'm fit as a fiddle.

(Beat)

Do you wanna have a seat in the living
room and we can chat?

COLLIN

Sure thing.

WENDY

Okay. Wait right here. Gotta tidy up a bit, first.

Wendy walks off. Collin sighs.

58 INT. WENDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

58

Wendy grabs a plastic trash bag and hurriedly uses it to conceal the empty beer bottles scattered around. She hides the bag behind a loveseat.

WENDY

(Shouting)

Okay, Collin. C'mon in!

Collin enters. He studies the room carefully, silently admiring all the portraits of Wendy on the walls.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Is something the matter?

COLLIN

(Woken from his trance)

Huh? Oh! No, no. Everything's fine.

(Beat)

Nice place you got here.

WENDY

Thanks.

Wendy motions toward the couch.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Want to have a seat so we can talk?

COLLIN

(Nervously)

Thanks, but, um...I don't think I should stay too long.

WENDY

It's okay. My dad's at the restaurant. Make yourself at home and tell me what's on your mind.

COLLIN

Um...Okay. I-If, uh, if you insist.

Collin sits on the couch. Wendy sits next to him.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Wendy, I'll get right to the point.

(Beat)

I...I saw you in the park the other day with Ray.

WENDY

(Embarrassed)

You...You did?

COLLIN

Yes. I did.

WENDY

(Inhaling deeply)

Collin, I'm sorry. I never wanted to hurt you. I-I just...I wanted to give things a shot with Ray first.

COLLIN

(Sadly)

I get it.

WENDY

You're a really sweet guy, Collin. Believe me. It's just that-

COLLIN

(Interrupting)

I'm not Ray.

WENDY

(Beat)

No...

COLLIN

(Beside himself)

"No."

WENDY

(Holding back tears)

I'm sorry. I can't do this right now.

(Beat)

What does it matter, anyway? Ray's gone...

There is a long, awkward pause. Wendy cries silently.

COLLIN

(Sighing)

Wendy, I'm sorry. I know you're going

through a lot right now. I shouldn't be so selfish.

WENDY
 (Regaining control of her emotions)
 It-It's okay. I was cruel to you, and you were hurt. It's only natural.

Again, there is a lengthy pause.

COLLIN
 (Desperate to end the silence)
 So...Uh...What'd you do last night?

WENDY
 (Cracking a smile)
 Really? That's what you're going with?

COLLIN
 (Laughing nervously)
 I mean...Why not, right?

WENDY
 I helped out at my dad's restaurant.
 (Beat)
 You?

COLLIN
 I...I...
 (Beat)
 I don't remember...

WENDY
 Seriously?

COLLIN
 Yeah, seriously.
 (Starting to panic a bit)
 I mean, I got home from the park a little after 3:00, but after that...It's a blur.

WENDY
 (Teasing him)
 Maybe you have amnesia or something?

COLLIN
 Or something...
 (Beat)
 Wendy, I gotta go.

Wendy sits up, confused.

WENDY

Wait, what?

COLLIN

I gotta get home. Something isn't right. I can't remember where I was last night!

Wendy watches Collin as he scrambles to exit.

WENDY

Hang on, Collin. Take it easy. We're both very emotional, right now. Take a deep breath. Maybe then, you can think more clearly.

COLLIN

No, it's not that, Wendy. I feel something wrong with me...inside. I gotta go.

Collin rushes out of the living room, leaving Wendy alone on the couch. A few seconds later, he returns.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

(Speaking quickly)

I'm heading home, but if you need anything, anything at all, just let me know! Okay?

WENDY

Okay...

Collin departs.

CUT TO:

59 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

59

Collin paces back-and-forth, upset.

COLLIN

(Flustered)

Can't remember...Why can't I remember? Where WAS I last night?

(Continuing to pace)

C'mon! Where was I? Where was I?

(Giving up)

I have no idea. My mind's flown the

coop...

Collin walks past one of the kitchen cabinets, but something stops him. He backtracks and looks toward it as if in a trance.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 (Quietly, to himself)
 "Open...me."

Collin's jaw drops as he opens the kitchen cabinet and finds his chicken mask, meat cleavers, and bloody clothes. He falls back, mortified, and screams. Collin's ears audibly ring. He puts his hands on his head and cries out in pain.

CUT TO:

60 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS) 60

A) INT. RAY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - Dressed in his chicken mask, Collin corners Ray McDonald and raises a meat cleaver to his throat.

B) INT. RAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - Collin decapitates Ray and watches his headless corpse run around the room.

C) INT. RAY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - Collin feasts on Ray's remains. He writes "K.F.C." on the wall.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

61 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 61

Collin has a panic attack. He puts a hand over his rapidly beating heart. Tears fall from his eyes.

COLLIN
 (Mortified, putting it all
 together)
 Oh, God...Oh my God...

CUT TO:

62 INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY 62

Wendy rushes downstairs and answers the front door. Someone is pounding on it outside.

WENDY
 I'm coming, I'm coming.
 (Opening the door)
 Collin?

COLLIN
 (With a sense of urgency)
 I need to talk to you!

Wendy lets Collin in.

63 INT. WENDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

63

Collin and Wendy are sitting on the couch again.

WENDY
 So what's got your feathers ruffled?

Collin stares at Wendy for a moment then breaks down.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 Oh my God. Collin, what's wrong?

COLLIN
 (Sobbing)
 I...I've done something horrible,
 Wendy...

Wendy gently rubs Collin's back.

WENDY
 Shh...What do you mean?

COLLIN
 (Trying to calm down but failing)
 I remember...I remember what happened
 the other night...What I did...

WENDY
 (Soothingly)
 It's okay, Collin. Whatever it is you
 need to tell me, just say it.
 (Beat)
 I promise I won't get upset. Okay?

COLLIN
 (Hesitantly)
 Okay...

Collin takes some deep breaths and wipes his eyes. He takes a pack of tissues out of his pocket and uses one to blow his

nose.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 (His voice shaking)
 Wendy...On the night Ray was murdered,
 I...

Collin notices Wendy is staring at him.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 What?

WENDY
 Ray...Is he what's got you so upset?

COLLIN
 (Swallowing a lump in his throat)
 Yes...
 (Beat)
 Wendy, I...He...

Wendy kisses Collin mid-sentence, square on the lips. She pulls away after a few seconds and smiles at him.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 (Confused)
 What are you doing?

WENDY
 Showing you everything's gonna be
 okay.

Collin and Wendy kiss again. This time, Collin lets himself enjoy it. He smiles as his lips lock with hers.

CUT TO:

Later, Wendy has her head on Collin's shoulder. Collin tenderly caresses her arm.

WENDY
 Feeling better?

COLLIN
 Yeah.

WENDY
 I'm glad.

COLLIN
 Me too.

WENDY

Do you want to try telling me what's
been bothering you again?

COLLIN

I-

Collin stops himself. He deliberates silently for a moment
then looks into Wendy's eyes. The two smile at each other.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

No. It can wait.

Collin kisses Wendy a third time. When he pulls away, she
checks her phone and sees how late it is getting.

WENDY

My dad's gonna be home from the
restaurant soon.

COLLIN

Then I guess I'd better be going.

WENDY

I'll see you out.

COLLIN

(Smiling at her)
Sounds good.

64 INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

64

Wendy opens the front door for Collin and watches as he steps
out onto the porch.

WENDY

Collin?

COLLIN

Yeah?

WENDY

Forget about Ray, okay?

(Beat)

Obviously, he's dead, but I-

(Laughing at herself)

What I mean is he...he's in the past.

COLLIN

(Confused)

Wait a minute. A few days ago, you

were convinced he was "the one." Now that he's gone, you're telling me he's in the past? Just like that?

WENDY

Y-Yeah, I...I've found someone better. Much better.

Wendy winks at Collin. He beams and turns to leave.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Collin!

COLLIN

(Facing her again)

Yes?

WENDY

Thank you.

COLLIN

For what?

WENDY

For not abandoning me. You know, like...like Ray did.

A twinge of guilt shows on Collin's face, but he tries his best not to let it show.

COLLIN

Of course. I'll always be there when you need me.

With that, Wendy shuts the door and Collin heads down the front steps.

65 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

65

Collin opens the door to his car and takes one last look at Wendy's house.

CUT TO:

66 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS)

66

A) INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY - Collin and Wendy passionately kiss one another.

B) EXT. PARK - DAY - Ray and Wendy passionately kiss one another.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

67 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY 67

Collin winces.

COLLIN
(To himself)
I gotta tell her...

He takes a few steps back toward Wendy's house then stops.

CUT TO:

68 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS) 68

A) EXT. PARK - DAY - Ray and Wendy passionately kiss one another.

B) INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY - Collin and Wendy passionately kiss one another.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

69 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY 69

COLLIN
(Reconsidering)
Nah...

Collin sits down in his car and turns it on.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
What she doesn't know won't hurt
her...

With that, Collin drives away.

70 MONTAGE - VARIOUS 70

A) EXT. PARK - DAY - Collin walks hand-in-hand with Wendy and sees a hallucination of Ray.

B) EXT. FARM - DAY - Collin feeds a flock of chickens with Wendy and sees another hallucination of Ray.

C) INT. RESTAURANT - DAY - Collin has lunch with Wendy and

sees a third hallucination of Ray.

D) INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - Collin pecks Wendy on the cheek and sees a fourth hallucination of Ray.

E) INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - Collin has sex with Wendy and sees a fifth hallucination of Ray.

End montage.

71 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

71

Collin and Wendy lay side-by-side, staring at the ceiling. Wendy is smiling, but Collin looks troubled.

WENDY
(Catching her breath)
That...was amazing!

COLLIN
(Distracted)
...Yeah.

WENDY
(Teasing him)
"Yeah?" That's all I get?

Collin is about to respond, but he sees a sixth hallucination of Ray.

COLLIN
(Yelling at the hallucination)
Leave me ALONE, already!

Wendy is shocked and pulls away, offended. Collin quickly realizes his mistake.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
No, no...Wendy, I-I wasn't talking to you. I swear!

WENDY
(Confused)
There's nobody here but us...

COLLIN
I know. It's just...Ray.

WENDY
Ray?

COLLIN

(Struggling to find the words)
Yeah. I keep seeing
him...Everywhere...Whenever we're
together.

WENDY

Oh.

(Beat)

I didn't realize his death affected
you so much.

COLLIN

You have no idea...

WENDY

What's that supposed to mean?

Collin sits up in bed and takes a deep breath.

COLLIN

Wendy...There's something I have to
tell you.

WENDY

Okay...

Collin takes a moment to muster all his courage.

COLLIN

Wendy, the truth is...I killed Ray.
He...He's dead because of me.

There is a very long pause. Only Collin's breathing and
heartbeat are audible. Eventually, Wendy starts laughing.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

WENDY

(Continuing to laugh)

C'mon, Collin. We both know you were
too chicken to even TALK to Ray, let
alone murder him.

COLLIN

Wendy-

(Her giggling cuts him off)

Wendy, could-Could you stop laughing,
please?

Wendy calms down.

WENDY
 (Collecting herself)
 I'm sorry. That was just really funny,
 coming from you...

Collin stares directly into Wendy's eyes.

COLLIN
 Wendy, I'm not joking.

WENDY
 (Playing along)
 Right...

COLLIN
 (Pleading)
 No, Wendy, I'm being honest! I've
 still got the clothes I wore the night
 I did it. They're here in this room!

WENDY
 (Smirking)
 Sure...

Collin sighs, frustrated. He gets out of bed, opens his closet, and takes out the bloody clothes he wore on the night he killed Ray. He tosses them on the bed in front of Wendy. She stares at them.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 What are these supposed to be?

COLLIN
 I told you. Those are the clothes I
 wore the night I killed Ray.
 (Beat)
 That's his blood staining the fabric.

There is another long pause as Wendy waits for Collin to end the charade. He looks back at her, completely serious.

WENDY
 (Fed up with Collin)
 Fine.

Wendy stands up from Collin's bed and, moving hurriedly, gathers her things as she prepares to leave.

COLLIN
 (Watching her)
 Where are you going?

WENDY
 (Getting upset)
 Home.
 (Beat)
 I know exactly what's going on, here.
 Frankly, I can't handle it.

COLLIN
 (Not getting it)
 Can't handle what?

Wendy stops scrambling to leave and turns to face Collin.

WENDY
 You're making fun of me.

COLLIN
 No, I'm not...

WENDY
 Yes, you are. You're scared by how
 fast our relationship has progressed,
 so you're using the pain I felt over
 losing Ray as a tool to shut me out.

COLLIN
 I'm not afraid of our relationship,
 Wendy. It's just...I'm scared of what
 I did.
 (Beat)
 What if it happens again? What
 if...What if I hurt you?

There is a brief moment of silence.

WENDY
 You've already hurt me.

Wendy storms out of the room.

COLLIN
 (Calling after her)
 Wendy! Wendy, wait!

WENDY (O.S.)
 (From down the hall)
 Don't talk to me ever again, Collin.

Collin stands in reflective silence. He listens as Wendy exits his house and slams the front door. From the bedroom window, Collin watches her get in her car and drive away, tears streaming down her face.

CUT TO:

72 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

72

With tears welling in his eyes, Collin opens his refrigerator. It is full of vegetables. Collin pushes them aside to reveal a rotisserie chicken, which he takes out and angrily starts eating.

CUT TO:

73 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

73

Collin paces back-and-forth, overwhelmed with emotion.

COLLIN

(Arguing with himself)

I hide the truth from her, I
hallucinate like a crazy person. I try
to come clean, she treats me like
garbage and runs...

(Beat)

What am I supposed to DO!?

Collin kicks the foot of his bed, and the blood-stained clothing he tried to show Wendy falls to the floor. Collin picks it up and tosses it back in his closet, but something stops him from shutting the door.

Collin peers inside the closet to see where his ruined clothes landed. Next to them is his rubber chicken mask and meat cleavers. Collin takes the mask and studies it.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

(To the mask)

This is all your fault...

(Beat)

I won't harm anyone else!

(To himself)

Guess there's only one way to make
sure of that...

Collin sets down the chicken mask, grabs one of his meat cleavers, and prepares to slice his own throat. He shuts his eyes and braces for the end, but just as the blade is about to penetrate his skin, he stops.

Trembling, Collin lowers his meat cleaver. He turns to face the chicken mask and slowly approaches it as if hypnotized.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 (To the mask)
 What do you mean, "Don't do it?"
 (Beat)
 I'm not gonna take orders from a
 rubber chicken mask!

Collin turns to walk away, but again, something stops him. He looks back down at the mask.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 No...Stop it!

Collin puts his hands on the sides of his head.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 Get out of my mind!

Collin collapses and writhes in silent agony.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 I...told you. I...don't want...to
 harm...anymore...people!

The writhing stops. Collin sits up, panting.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 The...The chickens?
 (Beat)
 Good point. I must...avenge the
 chickens.

Collin gets back up and picks up the chicken mask.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 And Wendy...I gotta see her again...
 (Beat)
 For the chickens...

CUT TO:

74 EXT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

74

Collin takes a deep breath then knocks on Wendy's front door. Wendy answers after a moment; her face is covered in fresh bruises.

WENDY

(Disappointed)

What are you doing here, Collin? I told you never to talk to me again...

COLLIN

I-I know, it's just-Are those new bruises?

Wendy is silent.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

What happened to you?

Before Wendy can answer, Mr. Thomas yells from inside the house.

DAVE (O.S.)

Wendy! Who's at the door?

Wendy just stares at Collin, disgusted. Mr. Thomas shows up at her side; he is hungover.

DAVE

(Regarding Collin)

Who the hell is this?

WENDY

Nobody, Dad. Just my friend, Collin.

DAVE

Oh. I was hoping it was Ray, back from the grave.

(Beat)

Wait a minute. THIS is the idiot who hurt you the other night?

WENDY

(A bit fearful)

Y-Yeah.

DAVE

(To Collin, angry)

YOU'RE the jerk who was seducing my little girl!?

Collin backs away as Mr. Thomas takes a menacing step toward him.

COLLIN
 (Stammering, nervous)
 Uh, yes! I mean no! I mean...

DAVE
 (Still coming at him)
 YOU'RE the one who was gonna try to
 take her away from me!?

WENDY
 (Desperately interjecting)
 It's okay, Dad! Collin was just
 leaving!

COLLIN
 (To Mr. Thomas)
 It's true, sir. I was!

Mr. Thomas stops mere inches in front of Collin and bursts out laughing. Collin glances at Wendy, confused. She does not acknowledge him.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 Uh...What's going on?

DAVE
 (Laughing)
 Buddy, you should've heard the
 ridiculous story my Wendy was telling
 me about you!
 (Beat)
 She-She thinks YOU'RE the one who took
 my prized waiter away from me.
 According to her, you killed him in
 cold blood!

Mr. Thomas continues to laugh. He pats Collin on the shoulder, and Collin nervously laughs along with him. Obviously having had enough, Wendy retreats inside.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 You're just a pathetic NERD! There's
 no WAY Ray McDonald died by YOUR hand.

Mr. Thomas starts to calm down.

COLLIN
 Well, it was really nice meeting you,
 Mr. Thomas. I think I better be going
 now...

DAVE

What's the rush? Why don't you come inside? Got plenty of chicken leftover from last night's dinner rush.

Collin shivers as Mr. Thomas says the word "chicken." He tries his best to hide it.

COLLIN

No, thanks. I...I don't eat meat.

DAVE

Whatever. Then how about you come with me for a little joyride? If you got the hots for Wendy, we need to have ourselves a man-to-man talk!

COLLIN

Maybe some other time, Mr. Thomas. Like Wendy said earlier, I was just about to head home...

DAVE

Oh, come on. I insist!

Mr. Thomas wraps an arm around Collin and walks off with him.

CUT TO:

75 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

75

A car drives down a winding road. Mr. Thomas is behind the wheel, and Collin is in the passenger seat.

76 INT. MR. THOMAS'S CAR - DAY

76

Collin is visibly nervous. He fiddles with the car window.

DAVE

Window open or closed, son? You gotta pick one.

Collin stops, straightens up, and clears his throat.

COLLIN

Sorry, sir. Just a little bit nervous.

DAVE

Nervous? Why?

Collin doesn't answer.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Y'know, Wendy really likes you.

Collin pretends not to be interested in what he just heard.

COLLIN
Really?

DAVE
Oh, yeah! Ever since you two have been going out, it's been Collin this, Collin that...

COLLIN
Really...

There is an awkwardly long silence.

DAVE
Has, uh...Has Wendy ever told you about me?

COLLIN
No, sir. I just know you own a chicken restaurant.

Mr. Thomas grins, amused.

DAVE
Don't flatter me, Collin. I'm just the manager.
(Beat)
I'm afraid that's the most interesting thing about me, really.

Collin does not say anything in response.

DAVE (CONT'D)
And how much do you know about Wendy?

COLLIN
Oh, you know. Just what she's comfortable telling me.

DAVE
I see.
(Beat)
Well, if you're gonna be part of the family someday, you might as well hear this stuff now...

COLLIN

(Embarrassed)

Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Mr. Thomas ignores him. As he gets lost in his memories, his smile fades and his brow furrows. He locks his icy gaze on the road ahead.

DAVE

10 years ago, I lost my wife in a house fire. Poor Wendy...She was so traumatized by it.

(Beat)

I considered rebuilding when it was safe to do so, but there were too many painful memories, so I took my daughter and came here. We started a new life together and both tried to forget, in our own ways, of course...

(Beat)

Unfortunately, my best means of coping turned out to be drinking. Day after day, night after night...I'd drink myself almost to the point of death. But Wendy...in a way, she saved me.

(Beat)

Now, I had no idea how to raise a teenage girl all by myself, but I knew being stinking drunk all the time wasn't the right way to do it. So I got the help I needed. Got a job at the restaurant and slowly climbed up the ranks. I sobered up pretty good if I do say so, myself.

COLLIN

Then what happened?

DAVE

For a long time, I was fine. Wendy and I got along real well. Spent all the time I could with her, at least when I wasn't working.

(Beat)

Then Ray went and got himself killed. My star waiter, my protégé...My BOY! He...he died.

Collin tenses up at the mentioning of Ray McDonald. He tries not to make it too obvious.

DAVE (CONT'D)

As soon as I lost that kid, my whole world fell apart again. I...I relapsed. Every night, I'd wait at the restaurant past the end of my shift, until the last customers went home, and just sit at the bar, drink, and feel sorry for myself.

(Beat)

Beer became my best friend. With each sip I took, I could only think of what a failure I've been. Not just as Ray's boss, but as a husband to my late wife, and most importantly, as a father to my precious Wendy...

Collin interrupts without thinking.

COLLIN

Is that how you justify beating her, sir?

DAVE

(Offended)

Excuse me?

Collin stays quiet, and Mr. Thomas retreats back into his mind.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Everyone leaves, eventually. They all just decide to go whenever they want, and they don't even bother to consult you first.

(Beat)

My wife left...Ray left...Wendy is gonna leave soon, too. One day, I'm gonna have nothing, and nobody. I'll just be an old man running a chicken restaurant.

(Beat)

That restaurant...At least I'll always have that to comfort me.

Collin clenches his fists and stares out the window to mask his rage. In the moments that follow, Mr. Thomas comes back to reality.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Anyway...Speaking of my restaurant, it's almost time I head back there.

Thanks for hearing me out, Collin.
You're all right. I can see why Wendy
cares about you so...

Collin takes a deep breath and exhales.

COLLIN
No...No problem, Mr. Thomas.

77 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

77

Mr. Thomas's car drives off as the sun begins to set.

CUT TO:

78 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

78

Collin sits on the floor beside his bed. He is staring into space and looking ragged. All the lights are out. Just then, an evil cackle echoes through the darkness. Startled, Collin turns his head to face the noise.

COLLIN
Who's there?

There is no response. A few seconds later, the cackling is heard again. Collin gets onto his hands and knees to investigate the mysterious laughter.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Show yourself!

Again, nothing. Collin stands and takes a hesitant step forward.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
I'm warning you...

The cackling devolves into a crazed clucking.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Where are you?
(Beat)
Answer me!

The clucking stops.

VOICE (O.S.)
I'm right here, Collin.

COLLIN
Who...Who are you?

VOICE (O.S.)
*You know EXACTLY who I am. You've
ALWAYS known...*

Collin turns on a light and screams as he finds himself staring face-to-face at his rubber chicken mask.

COLLIN
What...What do you want?

Although the chicken mask is a harmless inanimate object, Collin can still hear its voice in his head.

CONTINUOUS SHOT/REVERSE SHOT:

CHICKEN MASK
*It's not what I want, Collin, but what
WE want!*

COLLIN
We?

CHICKEN MASK
Yes. We're a team, you and I...

COLLIN
Like hell, we are. It's thanks to YOU Ray McDonald is dead and I'm in this mess!

CHICKEN MASK
No, Collin...Thanks to US!

COLLIN
Us...

CHICKEN MASK
*Ray McDonald was keeping us from
something we wanted, so we got rid of
him.*

COLLIN
I...I don't know what you're talking about.

CHICKEN MASK
*Stop playing dumb! Think about it.
Once Ray was out of the picture, that*

girl finally gave us her heart...

COLLIN

Wendy...

CHICKEN MASK

We're going to do GREAT things together, Collin...

(Beat)

People won't just respect us, they'll FEAR us. We'll be able to avenge those poor, helpless chickens. Wendy Thomas will be ours FOREVER...

COLLIN

I don't want any part of this!

CHICKEN MASK

You don't have a choice! You can't turn back now. Grow some backbone and do as I say, or you can kiss your dreams goodbye...

Collin wrestles with the mask's words for a moment then finally gives in.

COLLIN

What am I supposed to do?

CHICKEN MASK

(Beat)

Someone else is preventing us from achieving our goals. As long as he lives, the chickens will suffer, and Wendy cannot truly be ours...I trust you know who I mean?

Collin is horrified as the gravity of what he has to do next hits him.

COLLIN

Yes...

Collin reaches for the rubber chicken mask.

CUT TO:

79 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

79

Mr. Thomas sits alone at the bar, drinking. He cries silently as he studies pictures of young Wendy with her mother on his

cellphone. The restaurant doors suddenly fly open, and a shadowy figure approaches, breathing heavily.

DAVE
 (Not turning to face the figure)
 Sorry, pal, but we're closed. If you
 want some chicken, you'll have to come
 back tomorrow.

There is no response. Mr. Thomas takes a long sip of beer then lets out a deep sigh.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (Slightly agitated)
 I said I'm locking up soon. Go home!

Still no reply. Frustrated, Mr. Thomas turns to face his uninvited guest. Drunk and confused, it takes him a moment to process his visitor's identity, but he smiles once he does.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (Drunk and jovial)
 Collin! Hey, son!

Collin is wearing a baggy sweatshirt and keeping his hands in the pockets. His skin is pale, his hair is messy, and there is a hunger in his sunken eyes. Mr. Thomas is too under-the-influence to question this.

COLLIN
 (Feigning innocence)
 Good evening, Mr. Thomas.

DAVE
 What're you doing here this time of
 night?

COLLIN
 (Beat)
 I just...Really enjoyed our talk this
 afternoon...Yeah.
 (Improvising)
 I, uh...have some more I want to
 discuss with you.

DAVE
 (Smiling, amused)
 Huh. How about that.

COLLIN
 If it's not too much trouble, that

is...I, uh...know you said you were about to head home for the night...

DAVE

No, no. It's no trouble at all! Let's just take a seat at that booth over there...

Mr. Thomas takes Collin over to a nearby booth and sits down; Collin instantly recognizes it as the one at which he sat on his first date with Wendy.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(Seeing Collin just standing there)
Something the matter, Collin?

COLLIN

(Snapping out of it)
Oh...No, sir. Everything's fine.

Collin sits down across from Mr. Thomas.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

(Pretending to admire the restaurant)
This is some place you got here...

DAVE

(Thinking he's serious)
Why thank you!
(Admiring it for real)
I owe a lot to this place, that's for sure...

Collin watches as Mr. Thomas's mind starts to wander.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Y'know, nothing makes me happier than seeing the smiles on people's faces when they try the chicken we serve here.

COLLIN

(Acting like he cares)
Really?

DAVE

Yeah. Each time someone says, "Hey Dave, this is the best meat I've ever tasted," it just warms my heart.

COLLIN
 (Flatly)
 I see...

DAVE
 (Blabbering drunkenly)
 I tell ya, Collin...A man isn't truly
 happy until he figures out what his
 legacy is gonna be.
 (Beat)
 Do you know what YOUR legacy will be?

COLLIN
 (A bit annoyed)
 I haven't a clue...

DAVE
 Eh, don't worry about it. You've got
 years to figure it out.
 (Beat)
 My legacy is where you and I are
 sitting right now!

Collin is visibly disturbed.

COLLIN
 What about Wendy? Isn't SHE your
 legacy?

Mr. Thomas rubs his eyes and ponders this for a moment.

DAVE
 I suppose, in a way. But she's a free
 spirit too anxious to leave the nest.
 (Beat)
 A guy needs something he can own that
 will always be his. Something that no
 one and nothing can take away...
 (Beat)
 THAT'S his true mark on the world.
 THAT'S what he should always be
 remembered for...

Collin and Mr. Thomas stare at each other awkwardly.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 This place was in the papers once...

COLLIN
 (Sarcastically)
 You don't say...

DAVE

(Proudly)

Yeah! They called us "the best chicken restaurant in town."

COLLIN

(Feigning empathy)

That must've made you feel good...

Careful not to let Mr. Thomas see, Collin removes his twin meat cleavers from the pockets of his sweatshirt and sets them beside him.

DAVE

You bet it did!

COLLIN

(Dead serious)

Did you ever pause to wonder how the chickens you serve your customers feel, sir?

DAVE

(Amused by this weird question)

Excuse me?

COLLIN

Before they even make it to the table, all those poor chickens go through hell!

DAVE

What're you talking about?

COLLIN

(Passionately)

I've read all about it! Every year, 9 billion chickens are slaughtered for their flesh, to be served at restaurants like yours!

DAVE

(Disinterested)

You don't say...

COLLIN

(Pounding the table)

Chickens are INTELLIGENT, Mr. Thomas! All they want is to spend their days searching for food, roosting happily, and soaking up the sun's rays...

(Beat)

The ones bred for mass-consumption? They never know such a life. Once they hatch, they're ripped away from their parents! They're crammed in tiny sheds and pumped full of hormones! They don't get to breathe the fresh air or feel the sun on their backs like they deserve! It's HEARTBREAKING!

(Beat)

There aren't any laws to protect chickens from the God-awful food industry.

(Rising)

They need JUSTICE!

Collin collects himself and sits back down. Mr. Thomas just stares at him, his mouth agape.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

...Sorry.

DAVE

(Laughing)

What in God's name have you been smoking, Collin?

Mr. Thomas continues laughing. Collin just sits there in silence, his blood obviously boiling. He takes a deep breath before calmly addressing Mr. Thomas again.

COLLIN

I'm starting to feel a bit hungry...Got anything to eat?

DAVE

(Calming down)

Yeah. Got some leftover chicken in the back...

(Reconsidering)

Does, uh...Does that work for you?

COLLIN

Definitely.

DAVE

You're sure? You seem a bit flustered, son...

COLLIN

I'm fine, Mr. Thomas.

DAVE

(Smiling)

Great! I'll go get the chicken, then.

(Getting up)

I was gonna bring it home to Wendy,
but I guess you and I can eat it now.

(Beat)

I'm sure she won't mind.

Mr. Thomas heads into the kitchen. He does not notice as Collin reaches back into his sweatshirt and starts pulling something out...

CUT TO:

Mr. Thomas makes his way back to Collin's booth with a large tray of chicken wings in his hand. As he approaches, his jaw drops in horror, and the tray falls to the floor. Collin is waiting for him in his rubber chicken mask. His meat cleavers are at the ready.

DAVE

This some sort of sick joke, Collin?

Collin doesn't answer. He just stares at Mr. Thomas and shakes his head with disgust. Eventually, he speaks.

COLLIN

Mr. Thomas...

(Exiting the booth)

You are cock-a...

(Taking a few steps forward)

Doodle...

(Raising his meat cleavers)

Doomed!

Collin charges at Mr. Thomas, but the man dodges just in time. Collin collides with a table across the room and cries out in pain from the force of the impact.

DAVE

Who the hell do you think you are,
attacking me like that?

Collin is dazed but snaps out of it. He turns sharply to face Mr. Thomas again.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I was gonna welcome you into my
FAMILY, boy!

(Beat)

This is how you repay me, by trying to
MURDER me!?

Collin points his meat cleavers at Mr. Thomas threateningly.

COLLIN
Must...avenge...chickens.
Must...save...chickens.
(Beat)
Help...chickens.
Protect...chickens...from Mr. Thomas!
Kill...Mr. Thomas...KILL!

Collin prepares to rush at Mr. Thomas again.

DAVE
Not so fast, Collin! I've got a
daughter waiting for me at home.
(Beat)
The LAST thing I'm gonna do...is die
on her!

Collin goes in for the kill, but Mr. Thomas picks up the chicken wing tray he dropped and tosses it at his masked attacker like Captain America's shield. The tray hits Collin in the chest, and as he recovers from the blow, Mr. Thomas flees back into the kitchen.

80 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

80

Collin bursts through the door, breathing heavily and his blades drawn. There is no sign of Mr. Thomas. Collin slowly makes his way around the kitchen, his heart pounding in his ears. He mutters to himself about avenging chickens and killing Mr. Thomas.

Suddenly, Collin sees something out of the corner of his eye. He turns to face it, only to see it is his reflection in the stainless steel surfaces of the cooking area. Exhaling and relaxing a bit, Collin continues his mantra and resumes his search for his victim. He checks inside the oven...the pantry...the freezer. Nothing. All is eerily quiet.

DAVE (O.S.)
(Ambushing Collin)
Surprise!

Mr. Thomas leaps at Collin with a butcher's knife in his hand. Collin rolls out of the way just in time. Mr. Thomas holds out his knife threateningly as Collin gets back on his feet.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (Taunting)
 You want a piece of me? Huh?
 (Beat)
 C'mon, Collin. Let's dance!

Collin takes the bait and engages Mr. Thomas. It's an intense but somehow comedic clash of knives and meat cleavers. Both combatants are evenly matched; they both use the kitchen architecture and supplies to their advantage in their mutual attempts to outwit the other.

Eventually, Collin backs Mr. Thomas into a corner. The two grapple with one another, and eventually, Collin manages to cut off Mr. Thomas's hand. It falls to the floor, still clutching the knife, and Mr. Thomas drops to one knee. He grasps the stump where his hand used to be and uses his shirt in a futile attempt to stop the gushing blood. Collin paces back-and-forth as Mr. Thomas stares at him, bewildered.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 You really DID kill Ray, didn't you!?

Collin does not reply.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (Grimacing)
 Heh. Wendy was telling the truth after all...
 (Beat)
 I can't believe my precious little girl fell in love...with a MURDERER!

Collin's fists tighten around the handles of his meat cleavers.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (Wincing)
 What a waste...Wendy should've chosen Ray...
 (Beat)
 She's too good for you, Collin...
 (Beat)
 You don't deserve her!

Collin tosses his meat cleavers aside and hoists Mr. Thomas up by the collar of his shirt, screaming. He tosses the man against the wall and beats him within an inch of his life. Only when Mr. Thomas starts coughing up blood does the violence end. Trembling with rage, Collin drops him. He watches, repulsed, as Mr. Thomas stumbles back onto his feet.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (Wiping blood from his mouth)
 Who...am I kidding? I'M the waste...
 (Beat)
 Neglecting and beating my own
 daughter...Drinking away my pain and
 my guilt...
 (Coughing)
 You...You say you wanna avenge the
 chickens I serve here? You wanna...put
 an old man out of his misery?
 (Beat)
 Do it.

Collin picks up his meat cleavers again and raises them high above his head. Mr. Thomas braces for death while mouthing "I'm sorry, Wendy," and his life is over in one swift stroke. Collin rends the man's head from his shoulders, and it falls off into an active frier behind him. The head hisses as it crisps up.

Taking a second to catch his breath, Collin props Mr. Thomas's headless corpse against a nearby counter. He then sets to work leaving his mark.

81 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

81

Removing his mask, Collin emerges from the kitchen and goes up to a jukebox across the room. He inserts a coin. The "Chicken Dance" starts playing. The chaos that ensues next can only be described as a zanier version of the "Joker" staircase scene...

CUT TO:

82 MONTAGE - CHICKEN RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

82

A) Collin trashes Mr. Thomas's kitchen, laughing crazily. He smashes the steel cabinets, dumps out the silverware drawers, and pours chicken batter all over the floor.

B) Collin cheers himself on as he uses Mr. Thomas's blood to write "Justice," "Victory," and "K.F.C." in as many places around the kitchen as he can find.

C) Collin tosses cooked and uncooked chicken in the air and does an exaggerated "Chicken Dance" as it rains back down around him like confetti.

End montage.

83 INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

83

As the craziness dies down and the music fades, Collin pauses to admire all he's done. He picks up his discarded mask and meat cleavers, but before he can leave the crime scene, the frier containing Mr. Thomas's severed head makes a loud bubbling sound and reminds him there is still something he wants to do.

Like a man on a mission, Collin approaches the frier and turns it off. He carefully dumps out Mr. Thomas's head, picks it up, and stares at it for a moment like Hamlet with Yorick's skull. Collin seems oblivious to the fact he is salivating. He licks his lips.

CLOSE-UP SHOT: Collin opens his mouth wide and goes to take a bite out of Mr. Thomas's golden-brown cranium.

CUT TO:

84 INT. WENDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

84

CLOSE-UP SHOT: Wendy's eyes open. She sits up in her bed, stretches, and gets up. She rubs her eyes then exits.

85 INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - DAY

85

Wendy takes a few steps down the hall. She is visibly concerned by how quiet it is.

WENDY
(Shouting)
Dad?
(Beat)
Dad!

Wendy heads downstairs. She calls for her father again as she nears the bottom step.

WENDY (CONT'D)
Dad? You home?

There is still no answer. Wendy makes her way toward the kitchen.

WENDY (CONT'D)
(Sighing, frustrated)
He probably got drunk and passed out
at the bar, again...Typical.

86 INT. WENDY'S KITCHEN - DAY 86

Wendy takes a drumstick out of her refrigerator and starts munching on it. She goes to the living room.

87 INT. WENDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 87

Wendy knocks a bunch of her father's empty beer cans off the couch and lays down. She turns on the TV and scrolls through her phone as she finishes her drumstick. The show that comes on is suddenly cut short.

ANCHORMAN (O.S.)

(On TV)

We interrupt this program with some breaking news. Police have discovered another murder has been committed in town, this time at a local chicken restaurant.

Wendy's eyes immediately lock onto the screen when she hears those last two words.

ANCHORMAN

(On TV)

Cathy Truett is live on the scene with the latest details. Cathy?

The screen changes to show Cathy Truett standing outside Mr. Thomas's chicken restaurant. The building has been walled-off and is covered in yellow police tape. Wendy is shocked by the sight; she drops her cellphone and places a hand over her mouth.

CUT TO:

88 EXT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT - DAY 88

CATHY

(To the camera)

Mere weeks after the young waiter Ray McDonald was found brutally murdered in his home, police have discovered the life of his longtime employer, Mr. David Thomas, has also been taken.

The screen changes again; the exterior of Mr. Thomas's chicken restaurant is shown from several different angles as Cathy continues to narrate.

CATHY (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Restaurant staff came into work this morning to find the front door ajar and obvious signs of a struggle in the seating area. It was not until they entered the kitchen that Mr. Thomas's decapitated corpse was found. Much like at the scene of Ray's death, "K.F.C." was written all over the walls in the man's blood, along with other cryptic words and phrases.

The screen switches back to a shot of Cathy. Now, she is standing next to a POLICE OFFICER.

CATHY (CONT'D)

With me now is Officer James Lowery, who will lead the investigation into these strange killings that have afflicted our town.

(To Lowery)

Officer, is there anything you are able to tell us about this case?

JAMES

(Into Cathy's microphone)

Unfortunately not. The killer's identity, location, motive, and list of targets remain a complete mystery.

(Beat)

However, given the similar nature of the victims' wounds and the writing on the walls found near their bodies, I believe both crimes were committed by the same person.

CATHY

I see. Do you think it's a coincidence the victims had ties to the same chicken restaurant?

JAMES

Most likely. As far as I know, the perpetrator is working alone. These are spontaneous acts of violence, not the actions of someone trying to make a twisted statement for some organization or cult.

CATHY

Understood. Is there anything else you

would like our viewers to know?

JAMES

I just want to remind everyone to be extremely careful, seeing as we still have a dangerous killer on the loose. Until he or she is caught, stay inside whenever possible, and keep all your doors and windows locked.

CATHY

Great advice, Officer Lowery. Thank you very much for your time, and good luck getting to the bottom of this.

JAMES

Thank YOU, Cathy. Stay safe.

(To the camera)

Those of you watching at home, I promise I'll do my best to protect you and your loved ones. This maniac WILL be brought to justice. You won't have to live in fear much longer.

Officer Lowery exits the frame and walks off. As Cathy turns to face the camera again, a photograph of Mr. Thomas is inserted next to her on the screen.

CATHY

Dave Thomas may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Out of respect to his legacy, his restaurant will remain closed until further notice. It truly is the end of an era...

(Beat)

This is Cathy Truett, signing off.

CUT TO:

89 INT. WENDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

89

Wendy turns off the TV. She sits mere inches from the screen, shaking.

WENDY

I...I don't...believe it.

Wendy's eyes fill with tears. She rocks back-and-forth on the floor, crying profusely. Collecting herself, she studies the bruises dotting her body; they all have varying degrees of newness.

CUT TO:

90 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS)

90

A) INT. WENDY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - A drunken Mr. Thomas slaps Wendy across the cheek and draws blood.

B) INT. WENDY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - Still drunk, Mr. Thomas shakes Wendy violently.

C) INT. WENDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - Drunk yet again, Mr. Thomas pushes Wendy onto her bed, climbs on top of her, and starts beating her.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

91 INT. WENDY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

91

WENDY

I don't believe it...Oh, God...

Wendy looks as if she is about to cry again, but she laughs, instead. It is pained laughter; tears still.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(Under her breath)

Oh, God...God, oh, God...

(Louder)

Oh, God...Oh, GOD!

Wendy looks up to the heavens and smiles.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I'm free...I'm actually FREE!

(Beat)

Thank you. THANK YOU!

CUT TO:

92 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

92

COLLIN

Damn you. DAMN YOU!

Collin angrily throws his rubber chicken mask across the room. He breaks down, climbs onto his bed, and curls into a fetal position.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 (Through his tears)
 Please...I just want to be free...Free
 of this pain...

CUT TO:

93 MONTAGE - VARIOUS (FLASHBACKS)

93

INT. CHICKEN RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

A) Collin duels Mr. Thomas.

B) Collin beheads Mr. Thomas.

C) Collin takes a bite out of Mr. Thomas's deep-fried head.

End flashbacks.

CUT BACK TO:

94 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

94

COLLIN
 (In agony)
 I remember all of it. I killed Mr.
 Thomas. I'm a MONSTER!
 (Making a horrible realization)
 Wendy! Oh, my God...WENDY! Your
 father...How COULD I!? I'm sorry,
 Wendy! I'm SO sorry...

Collin hyperventilates then screams in a mix of sorrow, rage, and self-hatred. Exhausted, he rolls onto his back and stares at the ceiling. There is a look of utter loss and defeat on his face.

Just then, Collin's phone lights up as a text from Wendy appears on the screen: "Hey! I miss you. When can I see you again?" Collin dries his eyes and manages a smile when he reads the message. "How about tomorrow?", he responds. Wendy gets back to him right away with an eager "Perfect!"

CUT TO:

95 INT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - DAY

95

There is a knock at the front door. Careful to remain in the shadows, Collin opens it and finds Wendy standing on his porch.

COLLIN
 (Awkwardly)
 Hi, Wendy.

WENDY
 (Excitedly)
 Hey, Collin!

Collin's worries consume him, and he zones out.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 Are you going to let me in?

COLLIN
 (Snapping out of it)
 Huh?
 (Catching up)
 Oh, yeah. Come on in.

Collin lets Wendy inside. As she comes through the doorway, she notices his haggard appearance.

WENDY
 You look terrible. Are you feeling okay?

COLLIN
 (Oblivious)
 Yeah, fine. Never better. Why?

WENDY
 No reason.

96 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

96

Collin and Wendy sit next to each other on the couch in awkward silence. It is so quiet, one could hear a pin drop. After a deep breath, Collin is the first to speak.

COLLIN
 (Hurting and confused)
 Why are you here, Wendy? You told me never to speak to you again...

WENDY
 I know...But my dad is gone. You're all I've got left.

Collin freezes when Wendy mentions Mr. Thomas. He starts to panic.

COLLIN
(Trying but failing to be strong)
Wendy...About your father...I-

WENDY
(Interrupting)
I know you killed him.

Collin cannot believe what he's heard.

COLLIN
What did you say?

WENDY
My dad...He's dead because of you,
right?
(Beat)
It's obvious when I think about it.
You told me before you're the one who
murdered Ray, and now, you've done the
same to him...

Collin starts crying.

COLLIN
I'm sorry, Wendy. I'm SO sorry. I
don't know what's wrong with me. I'm a
MONSTER!

WENDY
No, I'M the one who's sorry, Collin.
You tried to tell me before that
you're the one who killed Ray, and I
wouldn't listen. I was an idiot. I
believe you now, and I wanted you to
know that...

Collin struggles to find the words to say what he wants to
next.

COLLIN
(Beside himself)
I...I don't know what to say.

WENDY
Why did you kill my dad, Collin?

COLLIN
(Taking a deep breath)
Y'know, I've been asking myself that
same question ever since I did it. I

keep coming to the same horrible conclusion...

WENDY

And what is that?

COLLIN

(Winching as he accepts the truth)
Because I felt like it, I guess. It seemed like the right thing to do, at the time.

Collin keeps talking, oblivious to the look on Wendy's face as she tries to process what she is being told.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

I may have lost control, but that night, I found the strength to do what I needed to...

(Beat)

He was serving factory-farmed chicken to his customers, Wendy. Those poor birds...Before they die to fill our bellies, they live in their own excrement, urine, and vomit. Their beaks and toes are cut off, too, just so they won't harm one another in their overcrowded cages...

(Beat)

The chickens can't defend themselves. Their cries of pain fall continuously on deaf ears. They have to be avenged, Wendy.

(Beat)

Your father needed a taste of his own medicine...

(Beat)

And you know what? The truly terrifying part is, deep down, I know he's not the only one who does. I'm going to kill again. It's just a matter of time.

WENDY

(Emotionally conflicted)

I see...

COLLIN

Can I be honest with you about something?

WENDY

Yeah...

COLLIN

There's another reason I killed your dad.

WENDY

Go on...

COLLIN

He abused you, didn't he?

Wendy does not answer. She is too busy comprehending the fact Collin knows her secret.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Someone as wonderful as you doesn't deserve that kind of life...

As Collin continues to speak, Wendy finally decides what she wants to say to him.

WENDY

Collin?

COLLIN

(Ignoring her)

You know, I've done so many crazy things because of you, Wendy.

WENDY

(Still trying to get his attention)

Collin?

COLLIN

(Still not hearing her)

This all started the night of our first date, I think...The night I, a vegetarian, ate my first chicken tender just to impress you...

WENDY

(Getting a bit annoyed)

Collin...?

COLLIN

(Still rambling)

I'm losing myself, Wendy. I can't stop. How do I end my suffering?

WENDY
 (Shouting over him)
 COLLIN!

COLLIN
 (Finally hearing her)
 What?

WENDY
 (With great joy)
 Thank you!

COLLIN
 (Confused by what he just heard
 her say)
 Excuse me?

WENDY
 THANK YOU! You freed me,
 Collin...freed me from my dad. HE was
 the real monster, not you.

COLLIN
 (Still trying to understand)
 What do you mean?

WENDY
 Every night, I'd cry myself to sleep,
 cuts and bruises fresh on my body. I
 always prayed for a miracle, for
 someone to offer me an escape...
 (Beat)
 My prayers were never answered. Life
 became all about hoping for change
 while I tried my absolute hardest to
 keep the awful things my dad did to me
 a secret...
 (Beat)
 And just when I was starting to give
 up, Collin, you came along. You got
 rid of my father and SAVED me!

Again, Collin and Wendy sit in silence. Both are expressing signs of relief that they have gotten big secrets off their chests, but they are also both clearly afraid of how the other person will react.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 I guess what I'm trying to say is...I
 love you, Collin.

Collin's heart skips a beat. He swallows a lump in his throat.

COLLIN
(Tears welling in his eyes)
You...you LOVE me?

WENDY
(With conviction)
More than anyone or anything.

Collin cannot help but smile at this miracle. Then, he remembers the elephant in the room.

COLLIN
But...But Wendy, I KILLED your father!
I should be in prison, rotting in a
cell for the rest of my life. How
could you love ME!? I'm a murderer!

WENDY
I don't care! You're the answer to my
prayers, Collin. You're like a god, to
me...
(Beat)
There all along, always on my side...I
couldn't see it before, but I do now.
I don't want to be without you ever
again.

The room goes dead silent.

WENDY (CONT'D)
Well? Aren't you going to say
anything?

Collin keeps quiet. A moment passes, then he pulls Wendy closer and kisses her passionately. Right as Collin is about to submit to the ecstasy of all his dreams coming true, he backs away.

COLLIN
No. This is wrong.

WENDY
What is?

COLLIN
THIS! Us. You and me, together!

WENDY

Why?

COLLIN

I'm a KILLER, Wendy! I'm always walking on eggshells just to stay sane! I feel like I could snap at any moment.

(Beat)

If I do, I don't want you to be the one who dies next...

WENDY

(Reassuringly)

Collin...

COLLIN

(Cutting in)

I can't see you anymore, Wendy.

(Beat)

Please. You need to go before you get hurt.

WENDY

I'll take my chances.

Wendy tries to snuggle with Collin, but he pretends to go crazy.

COLLIN

(With animalistic rage)

I said, GET OUT!

Terrified, Wendy runs away. Collin stares sadly into space and listens as Wendy runs out the front door and slams it behind her. He then buries his face in his hands, dismayed.

97 MONTAGE - VARIOUS

97

A) INT. WENDY'S HOUSE - NIGHT - Wendy sends Collin a text asking when she can see him again. There is no response. Close inspection of Wendy's phone reveals she has been sending the same message over and over again, but it is being ignored each time.

B) INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - Collin sits alone in total darkness. He rocks back-and-forth, mumbling to himself like a crazy person.

COLLIN

Can't control it...Can't control

it...Gotta give in...Can't control it
anymore...

C) EXT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - DAY - It is raining heavily. Wendy pounds on Collin's front door.

WENDY
(Desperately)
Let me in, Collin! Please! I NEED you!
(Beat)
I know you're in there!

D) INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - Collin feasts on chicken nuggets like a ravenous animal, oblivious to the fact that Wendy is trying to call him on the phone.

COLLIN
(To each chicken nugget he eats)
I'm so sorry...Your suffering is
over...May you find peace...

E) INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - A thunderstorm rages outside. Collin sobs and sweats profusely as he throws clothing and personal items into a blood-red suitcase.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Gotta get outta here...Gotta leave
town...I'm not gonna let anyone else
get killed!

Collin uncovers his rubber chicken mask and twin meat cleavers. He stares at them with complete loathing, trembles with rage, then shuts them inside his suitcase. Letting out a sigh of relief, Collin exits the room, leaving it in a state of disarray. It looks like a tornado blew through.

End montage.

98 INT. COLLIN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

98

Collin turns on the light and sees he looks like death in the mirror. He stares at his reflection like it is someone else's.

POV SHOT: The Collin in the mirror slowly transforms into a grotesque, chicken-like monster. It roars loudly, and the real Collin screams.

Collin averts his gaze, repulsed. He feels his body to make sure he is still human, then he whimpers softly as he realizes it was just a hallucination.

COLLIN
 (To himself, through tears)
 What's...what's HAPPENING to me!?

Overwhelmed, Collin shuts his eyes tightly and lowers his head in defeat. His tears fall to the linoleum floor like rain.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
 When...?
 (Beat)
 When will this END!?

An answer comes far sooner than expected.

VOICE (O.S.)
We've almost done it, Collin...

Collin hesitantly looks back in the mirror. His masked, murderous alter-ego's reflection is staring back at him.

CONTINUOUS SHOT/REVERSE SHOT:

MASKED COLLIN
*The mission is almost complete.
 There's just one thing left to do...*

Collin's jaw drops in absolute horror.

MASKED COLLIN (CONT'D)
*We do this, and the chickens can
 finally be avenged. Our dream will
 come true.*

COLLIN
 (Delighted by the idea)
 Our...Our dream?

MASKED COLLIN
 (Hypnotically drawing him in)
*Yes...But to realize our potential, we
 must get rid of the one person who
 still stands in our way. She's the
 common denominator that has distracted
 us from the beginning...You know who I
 mean, don't you? Say it with me,
 now...*

Wendy!

MASKED COLLIN

COLLIN
 Wendy...

Collin struggles to process what he just said.

COLLIN

No...Please...There HAS to be another way!

MASKED COLLIN

There isn't, Collin. Wendy lit our way before, but now, she's misguiding our every step. She's a distraction we can't afford if we are to bring justice to those who would dare cause chickens harm...

COLLIN

(Fighting himself)

But I...LOVE her!

Masked Collin cackles maniacally.

MASKED COLLIN

There are plenty more chicks where she came from, Collin. They're a dime a dozen. Besides...can you even be sure she feels the same? How do you know she isn't just USING you?

(Beat)

C'mon, Collin. Be reasonable. None of this would be happening if it weren't for that GIRL!

Collin clenches his fist in defiance.

COLLIN

You're wrong.

MASKED COLLIN

Did I touch a nerve? Could it be your damaged ego, not the chickens, you've been struggling to avenge all this time?

COLLIN

Shut up.

MASKED COLLIN

C'mon, it makes total sense! You had a cute little crush on Wendy, but you knew you stood no chance with her. You cast aside your values as a vegetarian, ate chicken to impress

her, and she couldn't have cared less about your sacrifice. What did you do to get back at her? You murdered her perfect boyfriend in cold blood!

Collin trembles with rage.

COLLIN

I said, shut up!

MASKED COLLIN

Then, Wendy became your girlfriend because it was more convenient for her than grieving alone. You couldn't satisfy her, though, so you executed her father in the name of those poor, defenseless chickens...

Collin is visibly getting angrier and angrier. His face is turning red, and tears are streaming down his cheeks.

MASKED COLLIN (CONT'D)

Admit it, Collin...To you, getting revenge on Wendy and avenging the chickens are one and the same!

COLLIN

SHUT UP!

Collin punches the mirror and shatters the glass. It is revealed he has been talking to himself this entire time.

COLLIN (AS MASKED COLLIN)

We must finish the job, Collin. Killing Wendy is the ultimate revenge. Eliminate her, and avenge chickens everywhere!

COLLIN (AS HIMSELF)

The ultimate revenge...Wendy...

COLLIN (AS MASKED COLLIN)

So long as Wendy is around, the chickens will continue to suffer. Remember...All the agony we've caused? All that we've endured together? It isn't our fault. It's HERS!

COLLIN (AS HIMSELF)

Her...fault...

COLLIN (AS MASKED COLLIN)
*I see you hesitating...Don't. Forget
 right and wrong. Do this because you
 want to, because it will feel good.
 Remember the chickens...Do it for
 them, and you'll be FREE!*

COLLIN (AS HIMSELF)
 Free...For the...chickens...

Collin straightens, and a somber look crosses his face.

COLLIN
 (With conviction)
 For the chickens.

Lightning flashes outside. Collin does a slow and eerie version of the "Chicken Dance" reminiscent of the bathroom scene from "Joker."

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

99 EXT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - DAY

99

Wendy pounds desperately on Collin's front door. There is no answer. She turns to leave, but just then, the door opens. Wendy stops and sees Collin staring sadly at her.

COLLIN
 (Robotically)
 Hey, Wendy...

Wendy rushes toward Collin, hugs him tightly, and sobs.

WENDY
 (Through her tears)
 You were cooped up in that house for
 days! I thought...I thought you didn't
 want to see me anymore...

Collin hesitantly wraps an arm around Wendy, as if he might break her.

COLLIN
 (Forcing it)
 Don't...Don't be silly. Of course I
 want to see you.

Collin fights back tears of his own as Wendy plants a big

kiss on his cheek.

WENDY
(Trying to calm down)
I...I missed you so much!

Collin exhales deeply.

COLLIN
I missed you, too...
(Beat)
Come on in.

Collin ushers Wendy into his lair.

100 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

100

Collin and Wendy sit down on the couch. Wendy yawns. Collin stares at her sadly; his body tenses as he contemplates what he must do to her.

WENDY
(Noticing)
What?

COLLIN
(Hiding the truth)
You look tired.

WENDY
Well, I haven't been sleeping well lately...

COLLIN
Why not?

WENDY
(Getting a bit emotional)
Because of you, Collin! You disappeared! I couldn't stop worrying about you! I thought something terrible had happened!

Collin cannot help but smile. It fades, though, as guilt consumes him.

COLLIN
(As reassuringly as he can muster)
I swear to you, Wendy...I'm fine. I'm here, now. You don't have to worry anymore.

Wendy looks like she might cry. Instead, she kisses Collin on the lips. Reunited with her lover, she appears to be in paradise, but Collin is in visible pain. He winces and keeps his eyes open throughout the kiss, then he suddenly pulls away. Wendy looks at him, confused.

WENDY
(Slightly offended)
What'd you do THAT for?

COLLIN
(Maintaining the charade)
N-no reason. Sorry. It's just...I left something important upstairs. It's a surprise...for you! I have to go and get it.

Collin braces for Wendy to question this lie as she looks quizzically at him.

WENDY
(Playfully)
Y'know, it's cute when you're forgetful!
(Beat)
Fine, but hurry back, okay?

COLLIN
(Forcing a smile)
I will, I promise.

Collin gets up and exits. Wendy listens to the sound of his footsteps as he heads upstairs, then she whips out her cellphone and texts Annie: "At Collin's. Everything's okay, so far..."

A few seconds later, Annie responds: "Yay! Keep me posted!"

Wendy half-smiles and sets her phone down beside her as she makes herself more comfortable. She slowly closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

101 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

101

Wendy awakens and sits up in a panic when she realizes she fell asleep. She sees the time on her phone's glowing Home Screen.

WENDY
 (To herself)
 Dammit!

At that moment, Wendy becomes aware of just how quiet it is in Collin's house. She is completely alone in the darkness.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 Collin?

There is no answer. Wendy texts Annie again: "Collin's gone, Annie. I'm scared!"

Annie's reply comes soon after: "Relax, everything's fine. Why don't you go look for him? I'm here if you need me!"

Wendy puts her phone in her pocket and decides to do what Annie suggested. She rises from the couch and leaves the living room.

102 INT. COLLIN'S STAIRWELL - NIGHT

102

Wendy approaches the bottom of the stairs.

WENDY
 (Calling)
 Collin?
 (Beat)
 Collin!?

There is still no answer.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 (Trying again)
 Collin, are you okay?

The house remains dead silent.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 (Starting to worry)
 Answer me, Collin!
 (Beat)
 C'mon, this isn't funny!

Wendy waits a bit longer. Nothing. She sighs in frustration.

WENDY (CONT'D)
 Fine, suit yourself...
 (Beat; calling once more)
 I'm coming up, now!

Wendy takes a deep breath as she gathers her courage, turns on the stairwell light, and heads upstairs.

103 INT. COLLIN'S UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

103

Wendy stares with her mouth agape at chaos incarnate. Blood-stained clothing covers the carpeting. Half-eaten rotisserie chickens are everywhere. Appalled, she steps forward into a sea of wings, drumsticks, and wishbones. A strange clucking sound can be heard in the distance.

WENDY
(Unsettled)
Collin?

The clucking gets louder and faster as Wendy makes her way toward it. She is breathing rapidly, and her heart is pounding.

WENDY (CONT'D)
(With growing fear)
Collin? Is that you?

Wendy finds herself standing outside Collin's bedroom; the clucking has stopped. She carefully peers inside.

POV SHOT: The room is completely empty. Nothing seems immediately out-of-the-ordinary, but closer inspection reveals strange shapes looming in the shadows.

Wendy's curiosity gets the better of her, and she enters.

104 INT. COLLIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

104

Wendy turns on Collin's bedroom light. She is simultaneously disgusted and fascinated when she sees he has turned his bed into a giant nest of sorts; it is covered in straw and loose feathers. Pillows are arranged in the center of it like a clutch of eggs.

Elsewhere in the room, Wendy notices a sort of altar fashioned from discarded fast-food boxes that were once the property of her late father's restaurant. Stuffed chickens surround the odd structure, and on it rests three framed pictures: one of Ray McDonald, one of Mr. Thomas, and one of Wendy herself. Ray and Mr. Thomas's pictures have bloody, red Xs on them; "K.F.C." is written in the corner on both. Wendy's portrait is circled. It just says "Kill."

Terrified, Wendy starts backing out into the hallway, but before she can reach it, she bumps into something...or

someone. Trembling, Wendy turns around and sees Collin standing behind her. He has his twin meat cleavers in-hand, and he is wearing his rubber chicken mask. Wendy shrieks. She trips over a rotisserie chicken box and lands in a pile of bloody clothes and bird meat. Too frightened to care about her abhorrent surroundings, Wendy inches back toward Collin's bed, trying to put as much distance between herself and the masked figure as possible.

Collin takes a few zombie-like steps toward Wendy. The girl tries to scream, but she cannot.

COLLIN

Wendy...Kill...Wendy...Kill...

WENDY

Wh-Who are you? What have you done with Collin!? Where IS he!?

Collin cocks his head to one side, perplexed.

COLLIN

Collin...Coll...in?

WENDY

Collin Sanders! My boyfriend! What have you done with him!?

COLLIN

Collin...gone. Collin...no more.

WENDY

(Believing Collin's dead)
No...

COLLIN

Only...me, now...

(Beat)

Me...must kill...Wendy. Kill Wendy...for chickens.

WENDY

No...Please, don't!

COLLIN

Chickens good...Wendy bad.

(Beat)

Kill Wendy, save chickens...Must kill...Wendy...KILL!

WENDY
I'm begging you! No!

COLLIN
Wendy Thomas...You are...
(Beat)
Cock-a...doodle...DOOMED!

Collin leaps at Wendy like a rabid animal, meat cleavers raised high above his head, but she rolls out of the way before he can strike. She stands up and makes for the hallway again, but Collin resumes his attack. He slashes at her, but again, she dodges. Fighting for her life, Wendy tosses anything she can get her hands on at Collin in an attempt to stop or at least slow him down, but he manages to avoid all the incoming projectiles.

Acting purely on instinct, Wendy rushes at Collin and knocks him into his makeshift altar. While her attacker collects himself, she flees.

105 INT. COLLIN'S SPARE ROOM - NIGHT 105

Wendy rushes in and finds a walk-in closet. She runs over to it, yanks it open, and hides inside. She slams the door shut behind her.

CUT TO:

106 INT. COLLIN'S UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT 106

Collin is hunting for Wendy. He hears the sound of the walk-in closet's door slamming and heads for the source of the noise.

CUT BACK TO:

107 INT. COLLIN'S WALK-IN CLOSET - NIGHT 107

Wendy whips out her cellphone. Although her hands are shaking, she manages to text Annie: "Being attacked! Need help NOW!!!"

108 INT. COLLIN'S SPARE ROOM - NIGHT 108

Collin bursts in and continues his search for Wendy.

COLLIN
(With ravenous hunger)
Me...smell Wendy. Wendy...yummy! Want
to eat...Eat Wendy!

109 INT. COLLIN'S WALK-IN CLOSET - NIGHT 109

POV SHOT: Through slits in the closet door, Wendy can see Collin looking for her. All she can hear is his menacing clucking and the pounding of her heart.

COLLIN
Me...know...Wendy here. Will
find...Must find...Find Wendy!

Wendy covers her mouth in an attempt to reduce the sound of her frightened breathing, but it is too late.

POV SHOT: Wendy gazes into the soulless eyes of Collin's rubber chicken mask. He has found her and is staring directly at her from the other side of the closet door.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(With crazed glee)
Time to...eat you!

110 INT. COLLIN'S SPARE ROOM - NIGHT 110

Collin strikes the door with his meat cleavers. Wendy screams and manages to escape again. Collin cannot give chase because his blades are embedded too deeply in the wood. He struggles to pull them out.

111 INT. COLLIN'S UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT 111

Desperate to survive, Wendy rushes downstairs.

112 INT. COLLIN'S SPARE ROOM - NIGHT 112

Collin manages to free his meat cleavers from the walk-in closet door. He shouts in frustration and rage.

COLLIN
WEEEEEEENDYYYY!!!

Collin runs after his victim.

113 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 113

Wendy frantically searches several cabinets for something she can use to fend off Collin. Plates and cups fall to the floor and shatter as she looks.

POV SHOT: Wendy finds exactly what she is looking for: a large frying pan.

Wendy takes out the frying pan. She hears Collin coming from upstairs and heads toward the living room with resolve.

114 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

114

Wendy lies in wait for Collin. When he enters, she springs her trap. There is a brief struggle, but Wendy manages to incapacitate Collin by hitting him on the head with her frying pan.

The adrenaline fades from Wendy's body, and she tosses the frying pan aside like it's something foul and dangerous. As she catches her breath, she slowly reaches toward her unconscious adversary's mask and gently removes it.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP: Wendy's eyes grow wide in shock and fill with tears.

Wendy sobs. She cannot believe the person who has been trying to kill her all this time is Collin.

WENDY

(Shocked)

No...

(Beat; struggling to grasp reality)

No, no...Why? Why ME, Collin...!?

Wendy throws herself on top of Collin and embraces him as she continues to cry.

CUT TO:

115 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

115

The sun rises outside. Wendy sits next to Collin, who is still not conscious. There is blank expression on her face, but her eyes portray feelings of hurt and betrayal. All is quiet. Suddenly, Collin stirs. He moans, rubs his sore head, then notices Wendy beside him.

COLLIN

(Confused)

Wendy...? Wha-...?

(Recalling she's still in danger)

No! You shouldn't be here. You have to run. NOW!

Wendy slowly turns her head and stares directly into Collin's eyes. She does not say a word.

COLLIN
 (Stressing the urgency)
 C'mon, you gotta get outta here!
 Quickly, before it's too late!

Wendy shakes her head, refusing to budge. The two sit there in silence. They share a series of painful emotions as their relationship and all they once meant to each other all but ceases to be.

WENDY
 (Flatly)
 I didn't want to believe it was you...
 (Beat)
 Then I took off that stupid mask, saw you, and had no choice but to accept it...

Collin struggles a great deal to hold something back.

COLLIN
 (Pleading desperately)
 Wendy...Please! I'm gonna kill you,
 and I don't want to...Please, I can't
 hold him back much longer!

WENDY
 (Robotically)
 No. I love you, Collin, and I want to
 stay with you forever.
 (Beat)
 I won't leave you.

COLLIN
 (Snapping)
 Then...you'll...DIE!

Collin sits up quickly and grabs his meat cleavers, which were knocked out of his hands during his earlier skirmish with Wendy. He looks at the girl with ravenous hunger. Her fight-or-flight response kicks in again, she gets up and runs, and he pursues her.

116 INT. COLLIN'S KITCHEN - DAY

116

Collin chases Wendy and slashes at her several times, but he cannot manage to land a single hit. The former lovers find themselves standing on opposite ends of the kitchen table; Wendy watches, heartbroken, as Collin paces back-and-forth and meets her gaze with a penetrative look of bloodlust.

Wendy opens her mouth to speak, but before she can say anything, Collin throws a meat cleaver at her. It flies across the table and lands deep in Wendy's chest. Her eyes grow wide, and as she reels back in pain, Collin rushes at her with unnatural speed. He frees the blade from Wendy's body and tosses it onto the floor; a gaping hole is left in its place. Collin shoves his hand deep inside and rips out Wendy's heart before she has a chance to process what is happening to her.

COLLIN

(Referring to the beating heart in his hand)

This belongs to me, right?

Bleeding profusely and dying where she stands, Wendy nods weakly. Collin smirks evilly.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Good riddance!

Using the meat cleaver in his free hand, Collin decapitates Wendy without a second thought. The girl's remains fall to the ground, blood gushing from them, and her head rolls off to the side.

CLOSE-UP SHOT: A single, bloody tear falls from Wendy's eye and rolls down her cheek, staining it red.

The dark deed is finally done. Collin stands over Wendy's corpse and admires his handiwork. He breathes in the scent of Wendy's blood as it pools around his feet, licks his lips, and kneels down to take a bite out of his girlfriend. He stops at the last minute, though, and kisses her sadly, instead.

Looking somber, Collin stands back up. He retrieves his meat cleavers, lifts one high above his head, and studies his reflection in the blood-stained blade. He lowers the meat cleaver, sighs, and walks off.

117 INT. COLLIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

117

Collin picks up his rubber chicken mask and studies it. He gets emotional as memories of his experiences with the disguise flood his brain, and he starts laughing at the ridiculousness of his situation. He looks up for a moment and sees hallucinations of Ray, Mr. Thomas, and Wendy standing in front of him. They fade, and a final tear falls from Collin's eye. It lands on the chicken mask's and drips down, making it appear to cry, as well.

COLLIN
 (To himself)
 The chickens are avenged, now...
 (Beat)
 I can finally rest.

A killer without a purpose, Collin exits and takes his mask with him.

118 INT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - DAY 118

Collin approaches the front door. He stops himself from grabbing the knob and exhales deeply. He turns around to take one last look at the house in which he grew up, then he heads outside to leave it forever.

119 EXT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - DAY 119

Collin lowers his chicken mask over his head and proceeds toward the end of the driveway.

120 EXT. COLLIN'S STREET - DAY 120

Collin slowly makes his way down the street. When he is nothing but a speck on the horizon, the sun rising high in the sky above, he crows loudly and triumphantly.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.

MID-CREDITS SCENE

121 INT. COLLIN'S HOUSE - DAY 121

ANNIE (O.S.)
 (Calling, panicked)
 Wendy?
 (Beat)
 Wendy!?

Annie runs into Collin's abandoned kitchen. She spots Wendy's decapitated corpse off-camera and falls to her knees, sobbing.

Hesitantly, Annie crawls toward her best friend's body and sits beside it. She picks up Wendy's remains and cradles them like a doll as she continues to cry. Police sirens can be heard outside, gradually getting louder. Flashes of red and blue distort the camera's view of Annie. The screen blurs and the sound muffles.

FADE TO BLACK.

POST-CREDITS SCENE

122 INT. ANNIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

122

A thunderstorm rages outside. Annie rummages through her dresser drawer, frustrated. She looks just as ghastly as Collin did once he went insane.

ANNIE
(To herself)
Where is it? Where IS IT!?
(Beat)
Aha! Found it!

Annie pulls out a rubber cow mask. She puts it on and studies her reflection in the mirror. Lightning flashes.

CUT TO BLACK.

A series of title cards appear on the screen; the font is red and dripping with blood:

SOON...

COLLIN SANDERS...

WILL BE IN UDDER PERIL...

...TO BE CONTINUED?