

THE WITCH DOCTOR

Written by

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EXT. CAMPSITE IN A SWAMPY FOREST. NIGHT.

Deep in a swampy forest a campfire is slowly dying out. Within the swamps vines a predator like creature is watching its pray.

SEAN PRICE(32) sleeps unaware of the predator's presence. The creature reaches a hand out towards the sleeping Sean. A vine begins creeping along the swamps floor. Snaking towards Sean as he sleeps.

The vine reaches him, and begins to constrict around Sean's leg. Slowly moving up Sean's entire body. As the vines reach his waist Sean awakes frightened.

In a struggle Sean rips the vines off of him freeing himself. Without looking around Sean runs into the night filled forest.

As Sean flees from his camp the eerie laughing of a women echos throughout the shadowy swamp from behind him. Sean turns his head behind to see who had laughed.

Just then Sean runs off of an unseen cliff face. He yells out in fear, not knowing what will happen to him. He stumbles down a steep hill.

EXT. SWAMPY POOL IN THE FOREST. NIGHT.

Sean falls face first into a swampy pool. Mud, muck, and other unknown gooey substances cling to his face as he sits up.

Upon sitting up Sean looks up and see's a ghostly figure floating above the swamp only a few feet away from him. At first it seems as if the figure is shinning.

As he looks closer Sean realizes the figure is hovering inside a beam of light penetrating the thick forest canopy. Sean notices the figure is that of a woman.

Shocked, Sean tries looking away from the ghostly woman figure. As he looks away the figure seemingly appears out of nowhere, again floating in front of Sean only a few paces away

Surprised, Sean stares at the figure. It's ghostly figure slowly dissolving into slight detail. Sean feels as if he knows the figure and steps towards it.

For a moment Sean see's the figure as his deceased mother LAURA. He reaches out to the figure for a brief moment before stopping himself.

SEAN

Mom?

As Sean is about to speak the figure stares into Sean's soul. An eerie smile spreads across the figure's face sending a shiver down Sean's entire body.

GHOSTLY FIGURE

Were where you?

As if it were never there, the ghostly figure and the beam of light vanish. Confused Sean looks around him trying to see where it had disappeared to.

As Sean looks behind him the Ghostly figure appears floating in the light. The figure no longer looks friendly, but gives off a ghastly prescience. Sean begins running away from it.

As Sean runs he peers behind him. As he does, it seems as if time slows to a crawl. The ghostly figure floating in the lunar beam begins to morph.

No longer does the figure look like his mother. At first it looks to be a ghoulish misshapen mass, until it settles into the form of what looks to be Sean's identical twin.

Surprised Sean stops. He fully turns around and faces his twin. Sean's twin smiles and waves. Sean's eyes widen remembering his old imaginary friend, MAL.

SEAN

MAL? But, I haven't seen you since
I was a kid. You were just an
imaginary friend.

At Sean's dismissive words MAL frowns and lowers his head. Looking back up MAL's face looks eerie, with a hungry smile. With a wave of MAL's hand vines shoot forward at Sean.

Taken by surprise, and the vines being too quick to dodge, Sean reflectively lifts his arms to shield himself like a boxer. From the swamp a wall of water protects Sean.

Both Sean, and MAL are surprised by Sean's ability to manipulate the water. Gripping it's hand in a fist, large rocks orbit MAL, and the creature charges Sean.

As MAL rushes towards Sean, the creature punches a fist forward, commanding the orbiting rocks to shoot for Sean. Instinctively Sean rises his guard again.

Unlike before, no water appears, but rather flames erupt from Sean's clinched fists, like shields, as he guards against the incoming attack.

The creature's attack overpowers Sean's defense sending Sean knocked to the ground. Quickly Sean stands and jumps towards a low hanging branch.

As Sean jumps MAL throws his other arm forward sending a steel chain out from MAL's shadow. Like a rocket the chain flies towards Sean.

Sean leaps and soars through tree branches dodging the chain for only a brief moment. Like a powerful fist wrapping his ankle, the chain entangles Sean.

With a predatory smile MAL shoots another chain from its shadow towards Sean. Trapped by the chain Sean holds onto a thick vine as the new chain wraps around his other leg.

As Sean holds on for his life, he watches as a gaseous substance begins to ooze from the creature's shadow, covering the ground around it in a poisonous layer.

The creature MAL slowly begins to sink into the ground, pulling Sean towards it. With desperation Sean holds onto the vine as if it were his only hope for safety.

With pure grit Sean holds onto the thick vine as MAL pulls the chains deeper into the quicksand like substance with it. Painfully one of Sean's hands releases the vine.

In agony Sean lets go of the vine as it breaks. Sending Sean falling towards the nearly consumed MAL and the poisonous substance.

As Sean's body falls into the pool of poisonous substance, he watches himself, from above, like a perched bird, thrashing about. Trying to save himself from the consuming poison.

Sean watches as he frees an arm, trying to reach forward towards stable ground. From the depths of the substance a vine like creature slithers out grabbing Sean, pulling him deeper in.

Just as Sean's entire body is consumed by the poisonous substance his vision returns to his body, and he watches as the substance covers his entire face. The last thing he sees is his right hand reaching out into the sky.

INT. SEAN'S APARTMENT BEDROOM. MORNING.

Sean suddenly awakens, his right hand thrust into the air. He stares at the green gemstone skull charmed bracelet on his wrist. It had not been on in his dream.

Sean sits up confused, and trenched in sweat. He looks around his room as if trying to regain his bearings to reality. He presses his hands into his face as if to help reset his mind.

When he removes his head from his hands, Sean steps from his bed, nearly stomping on his cat. The cat hisses and runs under the bed.

Sean stands, yawns and stretches the nights sleep out of his body. He then looks back at the bed, soaked in his sweat. He shakes his head. The dream had been so real, to real.

Rubbing the stubble on his face, Sean heads towards his bathroom. Walking past a developing painting of a man battling a shadowy figure.

INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM. MORNING.

Sean enters his bathroom and turns the hot water on in the sink, letting it fill the sink bowl. He looks in the mirror and a tired, defeated man stares back.

With a sigh Sean looks down into the filling bowl. As the sink bowl fills up Sean turns the water off, letting the steam cover his face.

Sean then splashes and rubs hot water on his face as if to wake himself up. As he looks up into the mirror he sees a shadowy figure appears behind him.

Turning around Sean see's nothing. When he looks back at the mirror the figure is in the form of him, but slightly younger. Almost like MAL from his dream.

The younger Sean reaches his arms out as if to grab or hug the older Sean. The older Sean flinches trying to get away from the figure in the mirror.

INT. SEAN'S APARTMENT BEDROOM. MORNING.

Sean shoots awake, covered in sweat. He looks around his room and all seems to be normal. From the corner of his eyes he notices movement.

Turning to face what it is, Sean sees, coming out of the unfinished painting, a shadowy figure emerging. It is himself, but slightly different and younger.

His other self reaches out an arm and beckons Sean towards them. They have a kind, and welcoming smile. As Sean looks at them, he notices the malevolent shine of it's eyes.

Sean screams in protest, and he again awakens shaken and dripping with sweat. Again, and again, Sean goes through a nightmarish sequence of confronting a younger, shadowy version of himself. He begins to feel lost in time, and his sanity is breaking.

INT. SEAN'S APARTMENT BEDROOM. MORNING.

Sean is shaken awake by his girlfriend ALIENA HARTFORD(33). She is worried, and frightened by Sean's screaming in his sleep. Sean is weary of if he's actually awake.

ALIENA

Sean, you're okay, it was only a dream. You're awake now. I am here, you're awake.

Drenched in sweat Sean reaches a hand gently grasping Aliena's face. Her skin is cool to his touch, and relaxes his anxiety. He looks around, his room is brighter than before.

SEAN

I'm finally awake? Really? Thank God. That was a horrible nightmare. It was so real.

Sean looks at Aliena as if she had just pulled him out of a burning building. He smiles and kisses her, and the two embrace.

ALIENA

I've never heard you scream like that before babe. The nightmares are getting worst.

Aliena pulls away from Sean, and looks away. She fidgets with her hands looking at them nervously. When she looks back up at Sean she looks worried yet determined.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

I trust you Sean, but I need to know, are you taking your medication?

Although shocked Sean shows little outward emotion. Aliena however notices Sean's eyes slightly narrow at her question. She knows he's hurt by the question.

SEAN

I know you do babe. I have, I swear. They just don't seem to do anything anymore.

Sean begins to get out of bed, but stops, checking for his cat. It is laying on the ground peacefully. Sean steps over it leaving it to sleep.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I need to see Dr. Heinemann. My hallucinations and dreams are only getting worst. I'm worried.

Aliena follows Sean with her eyes, watching him as he begins to get dressed. Sean catches her staring and smiles at her lovingly.

ALIENA

So am I. Can he even do anything? I know you don't fully believe, but this isn't your schizophrenia babe.

Aliena wiggles her finger at the thought of Sean's schizophrenia. She looks at Sean with a serious stare and points to her shrine of Witchcraft.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

There's something else, something spiritual. You need more help than Dr. Heinemann babe.

Sean looks over to the shrine and rolls his eyes. He then finishes getting ready for the day. Aliena steps from the bed and walks over to Sean, hugging him from behind.

SEAN

I've got an appointment with him in a little bit. I'll ask about alternative treatments.

Sean turns around and kisses Aliena. The two separate and Sean walks out of the bed room. Aliena walks over to the painting and begins to work on it.

INT. DR. HEINEMANN'S OFFICE. MORNING.

Sean sits in a chair across from DR. HEINEMANN (63). An older man who looks to be in his sixties. He holds a notepad in his crossed legged lap.

He has a kind, gentle and open gesture on his face. Listening intently to Sean. Every few moments he takes a note of what Sean says.

DR. HEINEMANN

It's good to see you today Sean.
So, what brings you in?

(MORE)

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

The last time we saw each other you said you're hallucinations had been getting worst. Is this still the case?

Sean nods his head in agreement as Dr. Heinemann summarizes their last session. Dr. Heinemann notes the continued hallucinations.

SEAN

Yeah, they have been. Same with my nightmares. They've become so real I can't tell when I'm actually asleep or awake.

Dr. Heinemann looks intently at Sean as he mentions his inability to tell the difference between the waken world, and dream.

DR. HEINEMANN

Hm, that is concerning. Are you able to tell if you are asleep or awake right now?

Sean looks down at his wrists and stares at the bracelet. He begins to mindlessly fidget with it as he thinks. He looks around the room and see's a quick movement in the corner of his eyes.

SEAN

Yeah. I'm awake. As much as I like you Doc, you're not really my kind of dream.

Sean smirks at his own joke. Dr. Heinemann mirrors Sean's reactions, smirking himself. Sean see's movement from the corner of his eyes, and follows it to see nothing.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I was wondering. Think I could get some stronger meds? The ones you have me on aren't working.

A shadowy figure steps out of from Dr. Heinemann's own shadow. As it does, it takes the form of Sean's double. The double waves at Sean with a smile.

As if noticing the double Dr. Heinemann looks to his side and smiles to himself. Sean see's it as if Dr. Heinemann smiling at his double.

The double leans over to Dr. Heinemann and whispers something Sean is unable to hear. Dr. Heinemann nods slightly and looks through his notes.

DR. HEINEMANN

I see. I do not know if that would be the right action to take here Sean. You're already on a high dose.

Sean glares at his double as it nods in agreement with the Doctor. Sean's double leans into the Doctor's ear and whispers something again.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

Hmm. You know, I think there is something more to your heightened breaks. We haven't talked about the accident in some time.

Sean's double smiles at him and nods in agreement with the Doctor, as if it had told the Doctor what to say. Sean stands in frustration.

SEAN

This is bullshit! What do you mean it's not my schizophrenia? What else could it be?

For the first time since Sean's double appeared, the Doctor clearly looks Sean in the eyes, surprised by his sudden outburst. Dr. Heinemann puts his notepad down on the small table to his side.

DR. HEINEMANN

You haven't fully accepted what happened that day. That's why you're dreams are always of a younger you.

Dr. Heinemann leans back as he begins to explain his theory behind Sean's recurrent nightmares and hallucinations. The double rolls it's eyes at the Doctor.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

You're mother died in front of you as a child Sean. That is not a trauma that goes away.

The double waves Dr. Heinemann's ideas away. Sean tries to keep his attention on Dr. Heinemann but his double is making it difficult.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

That could have been when the initial schizophrenic break occurred.

Sean's double begins laughing hysterically at Dr. Heinemann assumption. Sean ignores his double paying attention to Dr. Heinemann instead.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

It is possible that the reason,
you're dream double is always a
younger version of yourself is
because you need to confront what
happened and accept your past.

Sean huff's at what Dr. Heinemann suggests. Sean's double stops laughing and looks at Heinemann surprised by his insight.

SEAN

I don't know. That doesn't seem
like it would do anything. The past
is the past, why confront it?

Sean turns away from his double without noticing it's surprise at Dr. Heinemann. Sean begins to walk towards the door feeling defeated.

DR. HEINEMANN

Look Sean, I don't think a higher
dosage will help, but I'll
proscribe it.

Dr. Heinemann opens a drawer of his side table and pulls out a pad of proscriptions. He writes Sean a proscription for a stronger dosage of his medication.

Sean stops and looks back at Dr. Heinemann, hope in his eyes. Sean then walks back to the seat and sits, waiting for Dr. Heinemann to finish filling the proscription.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

You know Sean, a lot of people live
their lives very successfully with
their schizophrenia.

Dr. Heinemann finishes writing the proscription and tears it from the pad. He hesitates before handing it to Sean. He looks at Sean with care in his eyes.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

It isn't something you need to fear
or fight with higher, and higher
dosages. We can find a way to
manage.

Sean rolls his eyes at the Doctors suggestion of managing his symptoms without medication. Sean stands and snags the proscriptioin from Dr. Heinemann's hand.

Sean then walks to the door. Dr. Heinemann stands and walks over to one of his bookshelves. Before Sean is able to walk out of the door Dr. Heinemann turns back to Sean.

DR. HEINEMANN (CONT'D)

Ancient cultures use to listen to the wisdom of schizophrenics. They were the shamans, the healers, the witch doctors.

Sean hesitates at hearing Dr. Heinemann's words. Without turning around Sean grabs the door handle and opens it. Walking out of the office.

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Sean and Aliena sit together on their couch. The T.V. Is on in the background, however they are not paying attention to it.

SEAN

He gave me the stronger dosage, but the pharmacy won't have it for another two weeks!

Sean shifts his position in the couch anxiously. Frustration clearly building in him. Aliena looks shocked at the wait time for Sean's new dosage.

ALIENA

How is that even possible? They should already have the dosage, shouldn't they? They're a pharmacy!

Sean smirks at Aliena's frustration on his behalf, but then frowns and shakes his head. Aliena throws her head back in defeat.

SEAN

Apparently not. Heinemann told me it's rare for people to need this high of a dosage.

Sean looks off towards the T.V. absently watching the screen. Aliena puts her arms around him giving Sean a soothing hug. Sean hugs Aliena back.

SEAN (CONT'D)

That's why the pharmacy doesn't carry it. Though I didn't expect to wait so fucking long.

Aleina pulls away from Sean and her hug, kissing Sean on the forehead. Sean looks up at Aliena smiling with thankful eyes upon his face.

ALIENA

We'll figure it out babe. I've been doing research into alternative remedies.

Sean smiles, but shakes his head. He is tired of remedies, he wants to be fixed. At that moment Sean's phone rings. He looks at it, shocked to see his father, GENE PRICE(57) calling him.

Sean hesitates answering it, and looks up at Aliena stunned. Aliena looks down at the phone and see's who's calling and is shocked.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

You have to answer it Sean!
Quickly, before it goes to voice mail.

Aliena's quick reaction snaps Sean's out of his shock, and he quickly answers his phone without thinking. He puts it to his ear and waits for a moment before speaking.

SEAN

Hello?

GENE

Hello? Is that what I get after all this time, a simple hello?

Sean slightly pulls his phone away from his ear and quivers. Sean takes a deep breath in and slowly lets it out, relaxing his entire body before responding.

SEAN

Hey pops. How you been? Long time since you've called. How is everything?

Aliena puts a reassuring hand on Sean's back. Sean looks to Aliena as if to ask for help escaping a prison. She smiles and nods encouragement at him.

GENE

Oh you know, not bad. It's just,
I've been thinking of you, and want
you to come out, see your old man.

Sean nearly drops his phone in his surprise at his fathers casual invitation. He looks at Aliena with a blank stare, and blinks his shock away.

SEAN

What? Why, after all this time do
you want me to come out and see you
in Louisiana pops?

Having not heard Gene's invitation Aliena is shocked at Sean's responds to Gene. She begins to wave frantically, miming the motions of leaving and going to see Gene.

GENE

Does a father need a reason to see
his son? Just come out, spend a few
days here in New Orleans.

Sean shakes his head in responds to Aliena's encouragement. Lifting a hand as if to block the idea from penetrating his mind.

SEAN

Pops, we can't just up and leave.
We have obligations to keep here,
things we have to do.

Aliena steps away from the bed and heads towards the closet. She begins looking for suitcases. Sean looks over to Aliena and slashes at his throat as if to tell her to stop.

GENE

Sean, please, it's been years. I'll
pay for the tickets. It doesn't
have to be right away, just think
about it?

Aliena ignores Sean's wordless pleas, finally removing two suitcases from the closet. Aliena then walks over to the bed and takes the phone from Sean.

ALIENA

Hi Gene! It's lovely hearing from
you. Sean's been a little stressed,
we'd love to come out and visit.

Sean sighs and drops back into the bed defeated. He stares up into the ceiling. No longer paying attention to Aliena and Gene's conversation.

In the shadows Sean begins to see slight movement, as if a creature is crawling upon the ceiling. Not caring to deal with the hallucination Sean rolls over to his side and closes his eyes.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT. NIGHT.

Sean and Aliena exit the New Orleans Airport amongst a sea of people. As they exit they see Gene Price, a well dressed gentleman in his late fifties waiting with a warm smile.

ALIENA

It's great to see you Gene, it has been far too long. How have you been, you're looking good?

Upon seeing each other Aliena and Gene hug for a moment. They are joyed to see each other after such a long time. Sean looks reluctant at seeing his father.

GENE

Thank you. I've been well. The two of you look good. I am glad you made it out.

Gene moves to hug Sean, however Sean holds a hand out for a shake. Gene slightly frowns, yet takes his son's hand and shakes it.

SEAN

Nice seeing you pops. Thanks for having us out. How's everything going?

Gene takes Aliena's luggage and begins to place it in the back of his car. Sean follows and puts his luggage next to Aliena's.

GENE

So, I was thinking we could drop your stuff off at my place, then go get some dinner. How's that sound?

Almost as if on cue, Sean's stomach growls in hunger. Sean looks down at his stomach and grabs it as if to quiet it down. He looks up at Gene and shrugs his shoulders in agreement.

ALIENA

That sounds lovely Gene. I could eat something real after that so called burger on the flight.

Gene claps his hands together and walks over to the driver side and enters the car. Sean opens the passenger side door to let Aliena in, and then closes it before getting in the back seat.

GENE

Great! I know of this amazing
Creole place not too far from my
house. You'll love it!

Gene starts his car and pulls away from the airport. Sean looks out the window and into the distance landscape of swampy forest.

INT. GENE'S CAR. NIGHT

Sean looks out the window as Gene drives the three across town. Sean watches as they drive through neighborhoods obviously still ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

As the three continue driving the neighborhoods slowly become better in condition. It is obvious they are entering the less damaged area of New Orleans. The rich French Quarter.

GENE

Before we get there, I have to tell
the two of you about Sylvia, my
neighbor.

For some unknown reason Sean feels urged to listen to his father talk about this woman. For the first time through the drive, Sean looks away from the window and intently listens to Gene.

GENE (CONT'D)

I don't know why, but she has
something against me. I'm pretty
sure she is killing my plants.

Aliena looks shocked at Gene's accusation. Sean rolls his eyes at his father's paranoia, and looks back out the window, still listening but not as intently.

ALIENA

What makes you think she hates you
enough to kill your plants Gene?
That's going pretty far.

Gene nods his head in agreement to Aliena's assessment. He then looks off ahead and sees his house in the distance. Gene then points his house out, then to the house next to it.

GENE

There it is, my house, and next to it is Sylvia's. It's one of the oldest in the area.

Sean looks away from his window and looks towards where Gene points. At first he see's his father's house, a remodeled colonial area townhouse. Next to it, some two hundred yards away stood an ancient colonial mansion.

GENE (CONT'D)

A year or so back I started noticing my plants just starting to wilt, then die.

Gene starts telling Aliena his reasoning behind why he suspects Syliva of hating him. Sean is uninterested by his fathers theories. He stares off at the ancient mansion watching it as they drive closer.

GENE (CONT'D)

No matter what I did, they would just die. After a little bit, I decided to put up security cameras.

As Sean watches the old mansion get closer he see's shadowy figures roaming around it. Staying within the boundaries of the mansion and his fathers house's gate.

GENE (CONT'D)

That was when I finally caught her in the act. Every once in a while she sneaks into my garden and does, something.

Gene shakes his head as if remembering watching the recordings, and not understanding what he saw. Aliena intently listens to Gene's story. Sean watches the shadows vanish as the car turns into Gene's driveway.

GENE (CONT'D)

I can't tell what she's doing, but my plants always get worst after she sneaks in.

Gene turns his car off, and sits silently for a brief moment. Sean quickly exits the car and closes the door leaving Gene and Aliena alone in the car.

GENE (CONT'D)

I know he's still upset with me, but I am really happy the two of you are here.

Gene looks Aliena in the eyes and smiles a loving and joyful smile. Aliena smiles back and leans into give Gene another hug.

ALIENA

He's not showing it, but I know
Sean is excited to be here too.
It's just hard for him.

Sean opens the back door and sticks his head in, breaking the moment between Aliena and Gene. Aliena and Gene look at Sean surprised by the door suddenly opening.

SEAN

We getting our stuff into the house
or what? I'm starving. If you open
the trunk I'll just do it myself.

Gene reaches down and pulls the leaver to open the trunk. He then pulls the car keys out of the ignition and tosses them to Sean. Sean deftly catches them in a smooth grab.

Sean closes the door leaving Gene and Aliena alone again. He then walks around to the back of the car and opens the trunk, removing the luggage.

GENE

He's never been very good at
waiting for food. If he's hungry he
needs to eat now.

Gene smirks to himself remembering Sean as a child. Aliena chuckles at the truth in Gene's statement. The two of them watch as Sean opens the house door and quickly, almost throwing, the suitcases into the entryway.

Sean closes the house door and hurriedly walks back to the car. Sean gets back into the car, and buckles his seat belt. Leaning forward.

SEAN

Alrighty, lets go to that creole
place pops. I've been craving
jambalaya for days.

Gene reaches a hand behind him asking for the keys back. Sean hands the keys to Gene, and sits relaxed in the seat. He then reaches a hand out and places it lovingly on Aliena's shoulder.

Gene turns his car on and pulls out of the drive way. As Gene turns his car out of the drive way Sean watches Sylvia's house, and sees a women staring at him from a room on the top floor.

A shiver runs down Sean's body as he watches a shadowy figure, he for some reason recognizes, forms behind the women. The women, and figure then walks out of Sean's view.

INT. UPSCALE CREOLE RESTURANT. NIGHT.

The restaurant is filled with joyful conversation and laughter. Aliena, Gene, and Sean are sitting around a table enjoying their meals.

GENE

How long have you been working at this, rehabilitation center for now Sean?

Sean sets his fork down, thinking for a moment, calculating how long he has worked at Cedars-Sinai North Hollywood Rehabilitation Center for.

SEAN

Oh, I think it's been two, going on three years now? Give or take a few months.

Sean looks to Aliena for reassurance in his time frame. Aleina nods in agreement with Sean. Gene looks shocked by the length of time Sean has held the job for.

GENE

I'm impressed. I think that's the longest you've ever held a job. I'm happy for you son.

Although he knows his father meant it as a complement, Sean looks at his food angered by the underhanded criticism of his father.

SEAN

Yeah, thanks. It's an okay gig. I like it enough. Helps pays the bills and all that.

Noticing Sean's reaction, Aleina grabs Sean's leg under the table, reassuring him she's there for him. Sean looks over to Aliena and smiles lovingly.

GENE

How about you Aliena, how is your jewelry making business coming along?

Gene smiles at Aliena interested in her jewellery making. Aliena grabs and pulls Sean's wrist into the air showing his bracelet off.

ALIENA

I made Sean this a while back. The business is going pretty good. I'm a hit at renaissance fairs.

Sean smiles as Aliena shows her jewelry off to his father. Letting her take the reins of his arms movement. Gene looks impressed at the quality of Sean's bracelet.

GENE

I can see why. That is a beautiful piece. Sean's mother would have loved something like that.

At his father's mention of his mother, Sean pulls his arm back to himself. He then continues eating the last of his food, as incomprehensible voices begin to whisper in Sean's ears.

As the voices begin to creep into Sean's ears, he blocks out Aliena and Gene's conversation, focusing on ignoring the incorporeal whispering.

As Aliena and Gene continue their conversation Sean becomes increasingly anxious. Fidgeting with his hands under the table, trying to focus on their movement rather than the whispering.

Aliena notices Sean's dissociated stare and places a reassuring hand on his knee. Feeling Aliena's touch snaps Sean out of his focus, and seemingly banishing the whispers.

ALIENA

Are you okay babe?

SEAN

Oh, yeah, just forgot how hot real jambalaya is.

Sean jokingly sticks his tongue out and fans it with a hand. He then takes a quick drink of water to cool his mouth down. Aliena and Gene smile in amusement.

GENE

Told you it was good. If your both finished, lets get out of here. I'm ready to relax for the night.

The three stand and ready themselves to leave. A waiter arrives with the check and Gene pays in cash. Leaving a generous tip. The three then leave the restaurant.

EXT. SIDE WALK OF NEW ORLEANS OUTSIDE OF RESTAURANT. NIGHT.

Aliena, Gene, and Sean walk out of the restaurant to a crowd of tourist being lead on a famous New Orleans Haunted Ghost Tour.

Aliena, and Gene listen to the story being told by the tourist leader, unaware of the figures Sean is seeing. Zombies, ghosts, and other ghoulish figures follow the tourist group as it continues past the restaurant.

Sean watches the horrible creatures slither around and through the crowd. He begins to sweat from holding in his fear, and making sure he doesn't make a sound.

With the tourist group moved on, Gene begins walking back to his car. Aliena follows him. Sean stays behind for a moment watching the ghoulish creatures haunting the crowd.

INT. GENE'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

Aliena and Sean are sitting in Gene's living room. A nicely designed room, filled with book cases, movie memorabilia, and comfortable furniture.

Gene is preparing drinks for the three of them at the minibar. Aliena and Sean are snuggling on the couch waiting for Gene to return with their drinks.

GENE

I know I said I didn't have an agenda asking the two of you out here, but the truth is, I do.

Gene finishes preparing the three drinks and walks over to Aliena and Sean. Handing them their drinks and sitting in a chair across from them.

GENE (CONT'D)

I have been doing a lot of thinking, and coming to terms with my past. It has not been easy but worth it.

Gene looks around his living room anxiously avoiding Sean's eyes. Sean sips from his glass waiting for his father to reveal his real reasoning for asking them out.

GENE (CONT'D)

I didn't handle things after your mothers passing very well. But I did the best I could, Sean.

Gene finally looks his son sternly in the eyes, holding them firmly. Sean see's not a loving remorseful father, but the judgmental, hyper critical man who raised him. With seething sarcasm Sean responds.

SEAN

Sure pops. You did the best you could. That's why you where never home, and always on set.

Sean stands in his frustration. Aliena holds onto Sean's hand trying to pull him back onto the couch. Gene holds his gaze on Sean, his stern face staring back at his son.

GENE

I know I could have been there for you more, that's why I wanted you to come out. That's what I want to do now.

Gene looks to his son with pleading eyes. All Sean see's is a harsh, distant father who never took time out of his day to spend time with his son.

SEAN

It's a little to late for that now pops. I'm all grown. No need to look after me.

Sean turns away from Gene's stare, and looks down at Aliena. He looks to her for guidance, and all he see's is worry from her.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You lost any chance of helping a long time ago. I needed you, and you just sent me away.

Sean looks up from Aliena, and is met with the same shadowy figure from his dream, MAL. The slightly younger, shadow Sean stares back at him smiling.

GENE

That's not fair Sean. I tried everything I could back then. You were out of control.

At Gene casting blame at Sean, Sean sours with anger on his face. MAL stares at Gene from behind Sean, a menacing gleam in his eyes.

SEAN

I was out of control? I was a kid,
who had just lost their mother! If
you had taken better care of her, I
never would snapped.

Gene's face hardens at Sean's accusation. He slowly stands out of his chair, and looks Sean directly in the eyes. Sean is reminded of his youth, and the many times Gene punished him.

GENE

Don't you dare use your mother like
that. You'll never understand what
it was like for me.

Gene begins to tremble in the effort of holding his anger back. He takes a step forwards and stops, holding Sean's gaze the entire time.

GENE (CONT'D)

Her death broke me. Shattered me to
a million pieces. All I could do to
survive was work.

Gene walks around the coffee table and gets an inch away from Sean. Sean hold his ground, as MAL walks over the table and leans into Sean's ears and whispers something.

GENE (CONT'D)

Then you go and pull a stunt like
that? Do you know how hard that was
on me Sean? Of course you don't
your not a father.

Gene goes to place a hand on Sean's shoulder, but Sean flinches and takes a step back. Sean trips over the couch and falls into it.

As Sean collapses into the couch he watches as MAL seems to walk into Gene's body, almost as if to posses him. In that moment Sean see's Gene become his over bearing and harsh self.

GENE (CONT'D)

You made me look like a failure of
a father! You embarrassed me in
front of the entire set crew!

Gene leans over Sean aggressively, jabbing a finger at him. Spit flying from his mouth and onto Sean. At last Sean can longer handle it, and shoves Gene out of his face.

With a strong push Sean shoves Gene away from him, and quickly stands up off of the couch. Aliena, in shock stares at the two men.

SEAN

Fuck you pops! I knew I never should have came. Come on Aliena, we're going to go stay at a hotel.

With Sean yelling her name Aliena is snapped out of her shock and stands from the couch. To avoid getting between the two men Aliena walks around the coffee table and towards the front door.

GENE

Don't you walk away from me, we are not done talking about this Sean. You can't just run away.

Sean stops and turns around to face his father once more. In the shadow behind Gene, Sean can make out the distinct smile of MAL.

SEAN

Yes, we are. There's nothing to talk about here. I had a psychotic break, and you sent me away.

Sean gestures wildly between his father and himself as he simply explains himself. The shadow of MAL begins to wrap itself around Gene, covering his ears.

GENE

You thought aliens, and swamp monsters where after you Sean, what else could I do?

Sean simply shakes his head in realization that his father will never truly listen to him. Turning around once again Sean walks out of Gene's home.

SEAN

Whatever, I'm out of here, and don't try to contact me. I don't want to speak to you ever again.

Without waiting for Aliena, Sean walks out of the door, slamming it shut. Aliena hesitates before following Sean looking back at Gene with sorrowful eyes.

ALIENA

I'm sorry Gene, I know you meant well. It was nice seeing you. I'll talk to him.

Gene stoically nods his understanding towards Aliena. Aliena smiles a feint smirk back to Gene and leaves his home, gently closing the door behind her.

EXT. SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OF GENE PRICE'S HOME. LATE NIGHT.

Sean sits on the sidewalk curb waiting for Aliena to leave Gene's home. As Aliena comes out of the house Sean see's Gene turn away from the door and walk deeper into his home.

Sean stands and waits for Aliena to reach him before the two start walking away from Gene's home. Aliena walks up to Sean and the two embrace before they walk down the street.

SEAN

I've already ordered a taxi. It'll be a little bit before they get here though.

Aliena stops and holds Sean's arm before the two continue down the sidewalk. Off in the distance they hear the sound of footsteps but see nothing when they look around.

ALIENA

I'm sorry things didn't work out with your dad babe. I was really hoping it would've been different.

Sean looks at Aliena and smiles, knowing she meant the best at pushing him to come and visit his father. He takes her in a hug kissing the top of her head.

SEAN

I know babe. He never understood, and I don't think he ever will. Thanks for trying.

From the distance a mans yell cracks the sky, as a gang steps from out of the shadow and approach Aliena and Sean. Sean instinctively puts himself between the gang and Aliena.

Now standing behind Sean, Aliena looks behind them, and see's more gang members surrounding them. She pulls on Sean's sleeve and he looks behind him seeing the other members.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Who the hell are you guys, and what do you want with us? We don't have any money so just leave us alone.

From the shadows Sean starts to see shimmering eyes appear, darting all around them. Along with countless whispers invading his thoughts.

GANG MEMBER

We're the Poison Monsters. We're here to relieve you of your burdens.

One gang member steps forward from the rest with a sly smile across his face. Aliena reaches into her pocket and pulls her phone out, calling 911.

GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)

Not a lot of good that'll do you. Cops here are stretched a little thin.

The smiling gang member pulls out a switch blade and points it at Aliena and her phone, then at Sean. He looks Sean up and down taking him in.

GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)

You look like you can handle yourself. Think we might just name you our leader. If you prove yourself of course.

Aliena watches as the smiling gang member steps forward and takes a slash at Sean. Sean quickly dodges the knives blade, while pushing Aliena out of the way.

Sean on the other hand watches as the smiling gang member chassé en tournant towards him, slashing wide. Surprised, Sean pirouette's out of the way. Aliena gracefully glides away.

The Poison Monsters watch on as the smiling gang member fights Sean. To Sean, they are slowly transforming from human into monstrous creatures made of poison.

Sean's hallucination makes it difficult for Sean to understand the chaos of the situation Aliena and he are in. Before Sean is able to react the smiling gang member slams his knife into Sean's side.

Sean is unable to stand from the pain and falls to the ground. As Sean fades into unconsciousness he watches the smiling gang member snatch for Aliena.

INT. A BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Sean wakes up in an unknown bedroom, laying on a bed. As he looks up he notices two women standing on either side of his bed.

The bedroom is lightly decorated with images of occult symbols, and Hoodoo iconography. The room is dimly lit by candle light.

SYLVIA

Ah, you have awoken, I am glad. Do not move to much, your injury is still fresh.

The women, SYLVIA BLACKWOOD(120) speaking to Sean looked to him as if she was somehow ancient, yet only in her thirties. Something within her eyes gave off the essence of someone much, much older.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Before you say anything, I am Sylvia Blackwood, and this is my assistant, Nora Barnes.

NORA BARNES(53) waves and smiles at Sean as he looks over to her. She looks warm and caring to Sean, someone easy to talk with. Sean smiles kindly back to her.

SEAN

Sylvia? I've heard your name before? You're my fathers neighbor. What happened?

Sylvia walks up to Sean and places a hand over his forehead feeling his temperature. She then eases him back down to a laying position.

NORA

We heard the commotion outside. We called the police, but they're otherwise occupied it seems.

With Sean laying down Sylvia gets close to him and looks him deeply in the eyes. Sean stares into her eyes and see's a swirling mass of colors. Then Sylvia quickly pulls back.

SEAN

I know the two of you aren't on the best of terms, but would you please contact my father? Let him know whats happened?

Sylvia smiles back at Sean with a wordless responds. Walking off to the back of the room. Nora dabs a cool wet cloth on Sean's forehead.

NORA

You're lucky we found you when we did. That wound is nasty, and your girlfriend. She.

At the mention of Aliena, Sean tries to sit up, but Nora restrains him. Sean winces in pain at his sudden movement. Nora shakes her head at Sean's struggle.

SEAN

Where's Aliena, what happened to her? Tell me, now! Is she okay, did they hurt her?

Nora assuredly eases Sean down to rest on his back. Although Sean see's reassurance on Nora's face, he can still read the hesitance behind her eyes.

NORA

She's doing okay. We stopped them before they could do anything truly horrible. Miss Sylvia will help her. She'll help both of you.

Sylvia returns with a small and simple looking cloth bag in her hands. She carries it with great care and reverence. She holds it out for Sean to take.

SYLVIA

I can help you find the peace you've been looking for. All you need do is accept. This will help you on the journey.

Sean glares at the simple cloth bag Sylvia dangles in-front of him. He slowly and carefully sits up making sure not to reopen his injury.

SEAN

What is it? How can that help me find peace? How can you? Not even my therapist has been able to do anything.

Sylvia smiles and lets a soft yet deceptively harsh laugh escape her. She then places the cloth bag in Sean's hands and closes both of hers hands around Sean's and the bag.

SYLVIA

What can white man's medicine do
for you when what ails you is not
accepted as truth by it?

Sylvia catches Sean's gaze and looks deeply into his eyes. Sean feels a deep sense of pressure as Sylvia looks at him. Her eyes give Sean the sense that Sylvia is much older than she appears.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You are not what they say you are.
You Sean, are a dream walker, a
shaman, a priest of the Old Ways.

After a short moment of Sean struggling to break free of Sylvia's gaze, he successfully does. He looks away from her and rolls his eyes in skeptic disbelief.

SEAN

What you're talking about sounds
like a bunch of hoodoo hocus-pocus.
It's not real.

With a patient smile Sylvia lets go of Sean's hand leaving the cloth bag in his hand. She then sits on the edge of Sean's bed. Sean stares at the bag, feeling energy coming from it.

SYLVIA

You are hesitant, I understand.
Free your mind, and the rest will
follow.

Sylvia stands and pulls a cell phone from her pocket. She looks at Sean with kind eyes. Sean gently places the cloth bag in his lap and lets his head relax back onto pillows.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You wanted me to call your father,
but it is you who needs to talk
with him. Here.

Sylvia tosses her phone onto Sean's lap next to the cloth bag. Sean looks down at the phone and sees that it is already calling Gene Price. He quickly picks the phone up just as Gene answers.

GENE

What do you want Sylvia? It's late
and I'm not in the mood to talk
right now.

From his father's voice Sean can tell he had been drinking since Aliena and he had left Gene's house. Sean clears his throat.

SEAN

It's me pops. Aliena and I were attacked. We're doing okay, Sylvia helped us.

Gene is silent for what seems to Sean to be a long moment. When Gene finally does speak his voice is sobered and filled with worry.

GENE

You where what? How did this, are you okay? Why are you at Sylvia's? Do you need me to come over?

Sean shakes his head at his fathers sudden sobriety and worry. Mindlessly Sean grabs the cloth bag and squeezes it in frustration.

SEAN

Pops, it's okay, like I said, we're fine. Sylvia helped us. No need for you to come over.

Sean can hear Gene beginning to rummage around getting himself ready to leave. Sean shakes his head hearing Gene continue to get ready.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Pops! You don't need to come over. I'll call when we're leaving, and have made it back to the hotel.

Sean hears Gene stop rustling around, and a deep sigh escape from him. Sylvia walks out of the room with Nora following behind.

GENE

Fine. I hear you, you don't want to talk to me, even after you've been attacked. Just let me know when you're home.

Before Sean is able to respond Gene hangs up on him. In frustration Sean squeezes the cellphone and tosses it onto the bed. Sylvia enters the room alone.

SYLVIA

How is old Gene? Will he be coming to check in on you?

Sean looks up at Sylvia, her shadow cast across the rooms floor by the hallway light. For a brief moment Sean see's her shadow and a disfigured monster.

SEAN

No, he's staying home. No need for him to worry, it's not like he ever did before.

Sean looks into his lap and buries his face in his hands. He then rubs his eyes before noticing his bracelet missing. Becoming upset Sean yells at Sylvia.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Where's my bracelet?

Sylvia looks shocked at Sean's sudden yelling. Upon realizing Sean's question Sylvia regrettably shakes her head.

SYLVIA

You did not have a bracelet when Nora and I found you. It must have been taken by the gang when they scattered.

Realizing he had lashed out on the wrong person Sean blushes and looks away from Sylvia. He looks at his bracelet-less wrist and then rubs it for comfort.

SEAN

I'm sorry I yelled at you. But Aliena made it for me. It helps with my dreams.

Sylvia nods knowingly, as if she understands what Sean is talking about. Sylvia waits in the doorway staring at Sean, with an eerily similar smile.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Actually, could you take me to see Aliena? I need to see her, check in on her, and let her know I'm fine.

Sylvia holds her gaze on Sean for a moment before looking down the hallway. She then looks back at Sean and nods her head in silent acknowledgment.

SYLVIA

Alright then, follow me. But do not fall behind, strange things wait in the shadows of this home.

Sylvia then turns around and waits a moment for Sean to stand out of bed before walking away. Sean hurriedly follows behind Sylvia, clutching his side.

INT. ANOTHER BEDROOM. NIGHT

Aliena wakes up in a bed she vaguely remembers laying down in. She sits up, and swings her feet over the bed's edge. From her quick movement Aliena becomes woozy and places a hand on her head to balance her.

ALIENA

Hello? Is there anyone here? Sean,
are you there? Gene? Anyone at all?
What even happened?

As if answering Aliena's calls the bedroom door opens, Sylvia stands in the doorway. At seeing Sylvia, Aliena remembers being helped by her.

SYLVIA

You and Sean were attacked my
dear. You're safe now, but both of
you are in need of rest.

Aliena rubs her eyes, and remembers the lead up to Sean and her attack. As she goes to stand Aliena loses balance and braces herself on the bed's headboard.

ALIENA

Where's Sean? I saw him get
stabbed. Please you have to take me
to him.

Sylvia seemingly glides across the room, giving her arm to help Aliena brace herself. Aliena is unaware of the Sylvia's agile grace.

SYLVIA

Sean is resting. We separated the
two of you for your own good. You
will be together when the time is
right.

Sylvia brushes Aliena's hair gently, helping to lay her back down in the bed. Aliena, in an almost trance like state lays back in her bed, closing her eyes.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

I see power in you girl. You
believe, but your spirit, it needs
healing.

Snapping out of the near trance like state, Aliena's eyes open. She see's Sylvia siting one the beds edge watching Aliena intently. Aliena feels calm and ease from Sylvia.

ALIENA

You're a Witch Doctor aren't you? I
can see it now. You have a calm
aura around you.

Aliena looks away from Sylvia's intense stare. Nervously looking down into her hands. She begins to fidget around with her fingers.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

If you can help me, will you help
Sean too? He needs it more. He
won't admit it, but his soul is
hurt.

Sylvia places a gentle hand on Aliena's shoulder. Aliena looks up into Sylvia's eyes at her touch. Meeting the women's eyes Aliena begins to cry. Syliva brings her in for an embrace.

SYLVIA

Of course my child. To heal one,
you both must be helped. So you
both will be healed.

Sylvia kisses Aliena on the forehead, and then stands from the bed. Aliena relaxes as only a child can at her mothers touch, as Sylvia kisses her forehead. Sylvia then walks out of the room, and Aliena rolls onto her side, covering herself in the blankets.

INT. HALLWAY WITH MANY TURNS. NIGHT

Sean exits the bedroom. He looks down both ways of the hallway and see's a figure he assumes to be Sylvia turn down one of the many different hallways.

As Sean passes one of the turns, a HOMELESS WOMEN(74) steps out, and grabs him by his shoulders. Frightened, Sean breaks free of the women's grip.

HOMELESS WOMEN

The more you have of it, the less
you see. What is it?

The homeless women peers into Sean's eyes reciting a riddle. Sean shakes his head and looks back to see what looks to him, to be an ever expanding hallway.

SEAN

Dammit, I don't have time for
you're guessing games lady. Do you
know where I can find Sylvia?

The Homeless Women nods her head and grabs Sean's wrist, pulling him along with her as she walks down the hallway. After a few turns down different hallways the woman leads Sean to a door.

The Homeless Women stands in front of the door, blocking Sean's path forward. She hesitates before moving aside to let Sean pass.

HOMELESS WOMEN

I plead of you, do not enter this
portal, for beyond it lies your
doom.

Although weary of the Homeless Women, Sean feels a weight to the Women's words and walks away. As he does, he notices his shadow reach out and open the door, entering it.

Seeing his shadow enter the room Sean stops and stares at the now closed door. He looks down at where his shadow is supposed to be, and see's it stretching beyond the door and into the room.

Almost as if on a conveyor belt, Sean begins to walk towards the room. Before he realizes what he is doing, his hand is gripping the door handle and opening it.

INT. BEDROOM SET UP AS A SURGERY. NIGHT.

Sean opens the door to a bedroom nearly identical to the one he woke up in, but there is no bed, or dressers. Rather it is set up like a surgery.

He see's a shadowy figure dressed in scrubs operating on a patient. Shocked by the scene it takes Sean a moment to notice the shadowy figure operating is MAL, his shadow self, and the patient is to Sean's surprise, himself.

The moment Sean realizes he is on the operating table he is looking up at MAL, who has a sinister smile spread across their face.

Sean struggles to escape, but finds himself strapped to the table with harnesses. Frightened Sean begins to thrash around trying to break his bonds.

As if Sylvia were standing next to him, Sean hears her voice, like a calming whisper.

Turning towards the voice, Sean see's himself standing in the doorway, Sylvia standing next to him.

SYLVIA

Calm your mind, you can do this
Sean. Concentrate and banish this
vision from your mind.

At Sylvia's gentle words, Sean takes a deep breath and closes his eyes. Trying to forget the confusion around him. While breathing out Sean opens his eyes, and is looking back into the room from the doorway.

Looking through the doorway Sean notices the room's image become hazy, as if behind a sort of barrier. Mindlessly he reaches a hand out but Sylvia stops him.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

There is no need for that. By
opening the door you have already
invited power, and energy into your
life.

Sean slowly looks over to Sylvia, confusion and bewilderment across his face. As if his mind has snapped Sean grabs his head, shaking it as if to wake up from a dream.

SEAN

This must be a dream. I'm still
sleeping. That's it. I'm still
dreaming, back in L.A.

Hopeful, Sean looks to Sylvia pleadingly. A gentle, yet regretful smile spreads across Sylvia's face, as she softly shakes her head.

SYLVIA

You are not asleep. This is all
real. Hoodoo, magic, it is all real
Sean. Let me help you.

Sean takes a step back in disbelief. A nervous laugh escapes him, as his back runs into a wall. Sylvia stays standing, waiting for Sean's acceptance.

SEAN

No it can't be. I can't believe.
Then, I'm cursed. I've brought a
curse to everyone I've ever loved.

Sylvia shakes her head and slowly approaches Sean. Lost in his thoughts, Sean drops to the floor and dose not notice as Sylvia seemingly glides over the floor.

SYLVIA

This is no curse Sean. It is fate.
It is your heritage. Accept it, and
you will be healed.

Sylvia reaches her hand out to help Sean up. Sean looks up at her and for a moment see's Sylvia as a divine spirit offering a helping hand. Sean takes her hand and stands.

SEAN

You're serious about this. You
really believe in all this magic
stuff.

For the first time Sean feels relief. He relaxes, and slouches against the wall, letting it hold him up. Sean looks Sylvia in the eyes and see's an ancient power in them.

SEAN (CONT'D)

If you can really help me I want
it. I can't go on living with these
hallucinations any longer.

Sean stands on his own and has a confidence he has never felt before. With Sean seeming ready Sylvia begins to walk back through the maze like hallway. Sean follows.

SYLVIA

Tell me Sean, what have you seen
since you've been here in this
house?

Hesitantly Sean clears his throat. Although he has accepted Sylvia's help, Sean is hesitant to tell her the complete truth around his hallucinations.

SEAN

I... It's difficult to say. I've
seen me. Well, my childhood
imaginary friend, MAL. He just
looks like me.

Sylvia abruptly stops, and Sean nearly runs into her as he's looking down the many different hallways. As if predicting his miss step, Sylvia deftly steps out of Sean's way letting him stop where she had once stood.

SYLVIA

This MAL, what makes you think it
is your imaginary friend? Did MAL
always look like you?

Sean looks confused at Sylvia's question and takes a moment to think on it. Sylvia waits penitently as Sean thinks over her question.

SEAN

I don't know, I guess it feels like
MAL. I can't really explain it.
Just a feeling.

Sean shrugs as if his answer held little weight to it. For a brief moment missed by Sean, Sylvia's kind helpful guise falls, and a knowingly hungry smile crosses her face.

SYLVIA

That was no imaginary friend from
your childhood Sean. I have seen
what you speak of. It is only using
your childhood friend as a guise.

Sylvia places a gentle and reassuring hand on Sean's shoulder before beginning to walk down the hallway again. Sean hesitates, shocked by Sylvia's announcement, but quickly follows her.

SEAN

What do you mean you've seen it?
How's that possible? He's in my
mind, my hallucinations.

Without looking back Sylvia waves off Sean's protest as if a parent brushing away a child's foolish musing with a hand gesture.

SYLVIA

Hoodoo, and magic child. It is
real. I am sure you've noticed,
this house is not usual. It is an
in between place.

Sylvia stops, and turns around looking Sean squarely in the eyes. For the first time to Sean she looks to be a wise, and powerful priestess.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

This house is a place of
convergence. Our physical world
meeting and interacting with the
spiritual and dream realm.

Sylvia waves her hand in a small circle as if to incorporate the entire building in her simple gesture. Sean blinks in confusion, trying to understand Sylvia.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

The moment you opened that door,
you opened one of the many portals
in this place.

Sylvia begins to walk down the hall way again, passing many different doors as she does. Sean follows and looks at the doors with suspicion.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

The thing you saw as MAL, is a
being of malevolent intent in the
spiritual world. A demon of sorts.

At Sylvia's explanation Sean stops, unable to accept Sylvia's metaphysical explanation for what he experienced. Before she can move on without him Sean grabs Sylvia's wrist.

SEAN

No, I can't take this any more.
You're telling me the
hallucinations I've been having of
myself, is actually a demon? From
hell?

Sylvia holds back a soft chuckle at Sean's understanding of her explanation. She gently shakes her head, and removes her wrist from Sean's grip.

SYLVIA

No, not exactly. It is a malevolent
spirit who will use your body for
it's own purpose, if you leave this
house before we heal you.

For a moment the two stand in silence as Sean processes what Sylvia just told him. In just a short moment Sean goes from utter disbelief and denial to questioning his entire belief system.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

It is not only about you now either
Sean. Aliena, she has been touched
by the spirit. If you do not heal
yourself Aliena will suffer.

At the mentioning of Aliena, Sean stiffens and is snapped out of the near trance like state he had gone into processing Sylvia's truth.

SEAN

Wait a minute Aliena's involved?
How, she wasn't there when I opened
the door?

Sylvia nods her head in agreement but has a sorrowful expression upon her face. She puts a remorseful hand on Sean's shoulder.

SYLVIA

She is connected to you. You're paths are intertwined and your healing must be as well.

Tiring of stalling Sylvia turns and begins walking down the hallway. Sean quickly follows her, not wanting to be lost again.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Her healing has already began, if you do not start yours, hers will be disrupted.

Rather than walking behind her, Sean walks along side Sylvia, not wanting to let her get ahead of him and lose her in the maze of hallways.

SEAN

If it'll help save Aliena, I'll do whatever it is. I don't care how hard or painful.

Unseen by Sean a pleased grin spreads across Sylvia's face for a brief moment. Sylvia stays quite for a time, letting Sean's anticipation build.

Only after a brief moment, Sean anxiously breaks the silence, not being able to handle the eerily thick silence of the house.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Oh, um, I met some homeless women earlier, she's the one who led me to the door actually.

A quite chuckle escapes Sylvia as she continues down hallway after hallway. She glances a sly, knowing look at Sean as they stop in front of a door.

SYLVIA

Oh her? Nora and I took her on. She thinks herself a seer. She only see's falsehoods. Don't mind her.

Sylvia stops in front of a door that looks identical to the one Sean opened to the surgery. Sylvia hesitates and looks into Sean's eyes.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You will need to sleep. We will perform critical rituals Halloween night that will mark the completion of your healing.

Sylvia turns the door nob and opens the door to the exact same room Sean had woken up in. To Sean's surprise he had been holding his breath, and lets it out in relief.

SEAN

Wait a minute, that's it? I just need to rest? I'm surprised, I was expecting something else.

Sylvia smiles a mischievous grin at Sean then waves him to enter the room. Sean sees Sylvia's smile as a kind, helpful gesture and enters.

INT. A BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Sylvia closes the door behind her, leaving Sean and Sylvia in the room. It is nearly the same room he woke up in. Unaware to Sean, the decoration is slightly different.

Rather than symbols of healing and good health. This room has Hoodoo and witchcraft symbols for dreams, sleeping, and confronting the past.

SYLVIA

I never said it was going to be restful. We will teach you in the ways of a Dreamwalker.

As Sylvia announces her plan, Nora steps from out of the shadows, revealing herself to Sean with a kind smile. Surprised, Sean waves a greetings to her.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

It will be with these skills, that you'll go into a deep sleep and battle the spirit known to you as MAL.

Surprised, yet slightly excited by Sylvia's explanation of what Sean will be doing, Sean listens intently to her. Sean begins to feel his adrenaline run through him, remembering his dream battle from the night before.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

It will not be easy, and will take great effort on your part Sean. But Nora and I will teach you.

Sylvia crosses the room to the bed. She pats the mattress as if calling Sean to sit on it. Sean walks over and sits in the same place Sylvia patted.

SEAN

So, what will I need to do to dreamwalk? Is it like lucid dreaming or something, cause I've done that before.

Although pleased by Sean's revelation about having dreamwalked before, Sylvia shakes her head at his comparison to lucid dreaming.

SYLVIA

You are a dreamwalker Sean, a shaman. You have true power in your dreams. Lucid dreaming is for the weak and powerless.

Sylvia walks to one of the many cupboards and opens a drawer. She shuffles around a few things. Nora arrives at Sylvia's side with a mortar and pestle, and a kettle.

Sylvia takes the mortar and places a few unseen items into it then takes the pestle and begins to smash and stir the objects into a paste. Occasionally Nora pours a small amount of steaming water into the mortar.

Sean watches silently as Sylvia then pours the substance in the mortar into a cup, and then Nora fills it with the steaming water.

Walking over to Sean, Sylvia thoroughly stirs the potion. Arriving at Sean's side, Sylvia offers him the potion with a mysterious smile.

SEAN

What is this Sylvia, some double, double, toil and trouble witches brew?

Sylvia smiles at Sean's childish, yet unknowingly accurate joke as he takes the potion. Sean looks in the cup and see's a greenish liquid. Sean looks at Sylvia questioningly.

SYLVIA

Humans have been using plants, herbs, and food to heal, and give the body it's lacking energies for centuries. Now drink.

Sylvia gestures for Sean to drink the potion. Hesitating, Sean downs it in a single gulp. Having swallowed the entire potion, Sean's face contorts into sickness, nearly gagging.

SEAN

That, was disgusting. What was in it? You know what, don't answer that, I don't think I want to know.

Sylvia smiles and lets a short chuckle out. Nora appears behind Sylvia and hands her a cup of her own. Sylvia smiles and nods a silent thank you to Nora, and then drinks the potion.

SYLVIA

We will now enter a trance state much like a dream. It will be easier to teach you. Lay.

Having come this far, Sean follows Sylvia's instructions without hesitation. Laying on his back, Sean begins to feel a strange vibration like sensation through his body.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Whatever you do, no matter what is happening, do not lose you calm. Stay focused at all times.

Sean looks up at Sylvia and see's a being of ancient horror standing in her place. Sean's breathing begins to quicken and he tries to push himself up but finds the bed covers to be made of slick ice like material.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Breath calmly Sean. What you are seeing is a dream. It is not reality. Slowly, take a deep breath.

Although frightened by the creature that stands in front of him Sylvia's calming voice breaks Sean's fear. At her instructions Sean begins to breath slowly, and deeply.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Good, that's the way. Now that you've calmed yourself focus on what you are seeing, and banish it.

Sean looks at the creature standing in Sylvia's place and with courage stares it down. With all of his might Sean pushes the creature from his vision, yelling in his struggle.

SEAN (YELLING)

Leave me alone, you're not real!

As Sean yells his voice booms out as an echoing blast of power. As the shock wave meets the monster it's images blows away, reveling Sylvia's welcoming presences.

SYLVIA

That certainly is one way to go about it, but try it with your mind next time. It will work better in a true dream.

Exhausted Sean collapses into the bed breathing heavily, drenched in sweat. Catching his breath Sean sits back up and see's malformed creatures crawling out of the shadows of the room.

Fear settles in Sean's eyes as he watches warped figures crawl out of the shadows and towards him. Sylvia places a calming hand on Sean's shoulder.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Calm yourself, and focus on banishing the visions. Envision your mind like a calm lake.

Sean begins to focus his breathing, allowing it to settle into a calm rhythm as he closes his eyes. With his breath under control, Sean imagines a cleansing ripple blast out from his core as he opens his eyes.

A bright light builds up from inside Sean and shoots outward, covering the entire room in a cleansing light. The shadows are blown away as if dust in a storm. The disfigured creatures banished from the room.

Astonished at the sight Sean looks at Sylvia with amazement. Sylvia smiles proudly at Sean's accomplishment. With a nod Sylvia hands Sean another cup filled with an unknown substances.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You are ready. Drink this, and let the dreams come to you as they like. You walk among them. Use your power.

Sean takes the drink from Sylvia's hands and drinks it without question. Accepting her power, and teachings with out doubt.

Although sour, the drink's affects work quickly on Sean. His eyes begin to become heavy as he lays back in his pillows. Quickly falling into a deep sleep.

Sylvia gently caresses Sean's head before leaving him to sleep. Sylvia stops in the door way, looking back at Sean. A hungry smile spreads across her face as she closes the door.

INT. ALIENA'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

Aliena tosses and turns in her bed unable to find a comfortable position. Finally exhausted of being unable to fall asleep Aliena leaves her bed.

Just then a quite knock comes from the door way. Aliena looks over to the door as Nora's head peaks in through a small crack.

NORA

Oh, you're awake. I came to check in on you. Are you having trouble falling asleep?

Seeing Aliena awake and pacing in her room, Nora opens the door and enters Aliena's bedroom. Nora has a kind and helping smile across her face.

ALIENA

Where is Sean, and why haven't the police come yet? You did call them right? You told me you would.

Nora nods her head in agreement to Aliena's questioning. Letting Aliena vent her frustration before answering any of her questions.

NORA

He is resting, as you should be. The police are a little over stretched tonight. Might be some time.

Nora turns the rooms light on and closes the door before walking to Aliena. Aliena blinks the lights brightness out of her eyes as she walks over to her bed and sits.

ALIENA

Thank you for telling me. I think my anxiety has gotten into my body. I can't sleep.

Although unable to fall asleep, Aliena falls back into the bed tired. Nora walks over to the bed and sits next to Aliena.

NORA

I can help with that. I'm a masseuse. You're muscles are too tight from all of the stress.

Aliena sits up interested in hearing more from Nora. The anxiety in her legs cause her to begin bouncing it up and down.

ALIENA

If you think it'll help, I'd love for your help. If we have to wait for the police, I'd like to sleep it away.

Nora smiles as she stands and gestures for Aliena to lie on her stomach. Aliena straightens herself out on the bed and lies on her stomach as Nora instructed.

NORA

Lay on your stomach and I will be able to relieve you of all of your stress. You'll sleep like never before.

Nora rubs her hands together for a moment warming them. As she stops, she holds her palms together, and breaths a deep breath into her clasped palms.

Nora begins to give Aliena a message that quickly relaxes and puts Aliena into a deep and restful sleep.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Sean awakes from the first restful sleep he has experienced for a long time, to the sound of disembodied voices. Looking around Sean see's nothing but the deep shadows of his dark room.

VOICES

You're worthless, you couldn't even become a doctor. Aliena never loved you.

Panicked, Sean cups his ears in hope to drown out the voices. Just as he does, he begins to see monstrous figures swirl in the shadows, and begin to crawl towards him.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Life's nothing but a walking shadow. Accept you're fate, and die already.

From the corner of his eyes Sean see's a small boy crawl up to him. Sean quickly looks over to the boy and is shocked to recognize him, but does not know why.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Aliena is going to break up with you. You're going to die, and no one will notice.

The little boy puts a finger to his mouth as to shush Sean. As he shushes, Sean feels a weight grip his wrists, and ankles.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Gene has always blamed you for your mothers death. He's right, it was your fault.

Frightened Sean tries to move, but finds himself paralyzed, and unable to move. He looks over to the little boy, and see's disturbing shadowy figures crawl their way out of the shadows.

VOICES (CONT'D)

You're just a crazy man, no one will ever love you. No one ever can. Just die already.

Frightened by the appearances of the figures, Sean struggles to escape and help the boy. As Sean struggles, a monster with piercing fire red eyes looms over the little boy and Sean.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Gene's always been disappointed in you. You're a failure, a loser, kill yourself.

Unable to move Sean is scared as he remembers seeing this very same monster after his mothers death. Leading to his schizophrenia diagnosis.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Everyone laughs at you, no one believes in you. You've got no friends, never did.

Behind the red eyed monster rises another monstrosity with blinding white eyes. The other figure from the night Sean's mother died. In a panic Sean reaches out to help the little boy.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Worthless, that's what you are.
Worthless, worthless, worthless,
worthless.

As Sean reaches his hand out the little boy jumps from the bed and runs into the shadows. The monstrous creatures continue to reach towards Sean forgetting the boy.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Just give up Sean, you're never
going to amount to anything.
Nothing. Ever.

Realizing he is dreaming Sean remembers Sylvia's training, and begins to calm himself. Closing his eyes, Sean begins to ease his breathing, bringing it to a calm and focused rhythm.

VOICES (CONT'D)

As if that'll do anything. You've
never been good at anything before,
why start now?

As he focuses his breathing the voices begin to dull as if blocked behind a wall. Imagining the same cleanings light emitting from him, Sean opens his eyes.

A powerful blast of cleansing light bursts out of Sean like a tidal wave, washing the room of it's monstrous shadows, leaving it empty.

With the room cleared, Sean again tries to move off the bed. As if chained in place, Sean is unable to move even a finger, paralyzed in place.

As if summoned by the radiating light, the Homeless Women enters Sean's room, closes the door and walks deeper into the room, stopping at the foot of the bed.

HOMELESS WOMEN

Stuck, chained to the unseen. Your
path is clouded by shadows. Webs
like a cage keep you. Help, I can.

The Homeless Women walks to Sean's side. She holds her hand out as if asking Sean to place his in hers. Sean tries but is unable to move from the sleep paralysis.

Seeing Sean struggle the Homeless Women reaches down and takes his hand in hers. She then leans down to examine the intricate lines of Sean's hand.

HOMELESS WOMEN (CONT'D)

A box surrounds you. Stuck inside
it I see: your past, present, and
future.

Abruptly the Homeless Women slaps her other hand on top of Sean's and then walks away. The Homeless Women walks to the door and leaves without looking back.

SEAN

What the hell was that about? What
does she mean I'm stuck in a box?
Like this room?

Sean looks down at his hand the Homeless Women held and notices on the bed, near where the women stood is a greenish slime substance. Seeing it Sean is reminded of his dreams in the swamp.

Looking closer at the slime Sean notices his bracelet deep inside of it. With all of his might Sean struggles to reach inside the slime, but finds his body still paralyzed.

Taking a deep breath Sean closes his eyes and see's in his minds eye a bright, yellow orange layer of energy covering him like a blanket, keeping him in place.

With his breathing under his control, Sean envisions a powerful gust of wind blowing out of his body, blowing the energy around him away.

Opening his eyes, Sean feels a slight weight lift off his body as he struggles but is able to grab his bracelet out of the slime. Putting it on Sean feels the weight of the energy completely vanish.

Exhausted by the ordeal Sean falls into a deep, and true sleep. Undisturbed by nightmares, and visions of horror. Sean looks peaceful for the first time.

FLASH:

INT. TRIBAL AMPHITHEATER - NIGHT

Sean suddenly opens his eyes to find he is in a cage.

SCREAMING FANS are all in the stands surrounding the cage screaming and shouting.

Many have money in their hands, placing bets and foaming at the mouth as they shout.

Sean looks around the large cage, stunned by his sudden appearance in a different place.

He looks at his hands and sees that his knuckles are severely damaged and bloody. As though he's been fighting.

The screams continue.

Sean looks across the cage and sees HIMSELF, his ALTERNATIVE SELF staring back at him with his face bruised and bloody, waiting to fight him.

Sean touches his face and feels the bruises and blood on his face.

MAL growls and charges at John, ready for continued violence.

Sean barely has time to stand.

MAL
LET'S GO! LET'S GO!!

Mal knocks him down and start to pummel his face viciously.

SEAN
STOP!!

Sean attempts to block the blows coming at him, but Mal is too fast and too strong.

SEAN (CONT'D)
PLEASE STOP!!

Sean makes a move to block his face with both hands but Alternative MAL (seeming to know every thought in Sean's head) simply pulls Sean's hands away and continues punching away.

Sean thinks to throw a blow.

Mal sees the idea.

MAL
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!!

He quickly punches John harder than ever. Right in the center of the face.

Sean is knocked out cold.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sean wakes up as if from a dream.

He touches his face though and it hurts.

SEAN

Ow.

He steps back with shock and realization.

SEAN (CONT'D)

That was real. That vision was
real.

Sean then hears the sound of a little boy shivering to the left side of his bed. Sean see the little boy pointing his finger at the closet.

Sean opens the closet and sees nothing but a few clothes and a toy chest. As Sean turns the little boy is gone.

After closing the closet doors Sean crawls back into bed to sleep the rest of the night.

INT. A DISHEVELED, YET CLEAN KITCHEN. MORNING

Beams of sunlight shine through the kitchen windows giving the kitchen a natural lighting. Sylvia is humming a rhythmic tune to herself as she prepares breakfast for the house.

Sylvia walks over to a cupboard, opens it and shuffles through it, removing a jar of preserved fruit. She then throws a handful of the fruit into a large cauldron.

Putting the jar down Sylvia returns to the cupboard and removes a jar of nuts, and seeds. She then pours the entire content of the jar into the cauldron.

From down the hall Sylvia hears heavier foots steps than she is use to, giving Sean's presence away. Without looking his way she waves to him as Sean walks into the kitchen.

SYLVIA

Good morning Sean, how did you
sleep? Restful I hope. If you're
hungry food is almost prepared.

Sean stops just inside the doorway surprised at Sylvia's knowing it was him. He then scans the kitchen as if looking for someone and frowns seeing only Sylvia stirring into the cauldron.

SEAN

How? You know what, I don't want to know. Has Aliena been down? I looked for her on my way here, but couldn't find her room.

Sylvia continues to stir the food inside the cauldron. Hearing Sean complain about not finding Aliena she nods, and turns to face him.

SYLVIA

Of course you didn't. You are not ready. You still have healing to under go. Sit and eat.

Sean looks at the cauldron suspiciously, but still walks over to the table and sits. Sylvia walks over to a shelve and removes a wooden bowl, and then fills it with porridge.

Sylvia walks over to Sean and hands him the bowl of porridge. Sean takes the bowl and looks in it and see a rainbow of fruit. The smell of it makes his mouth salivate.

SEAN

Was this what I smelt from my room?
It's what brought me here, it smells divine.

Sean sucks in the drool coming out of the side of his mouth. He then quickly begins eating the bowl of porridge. With the first bite Sean's entire body relaxes in pleasure.

SEAN (MOUTH FULL) (CONT'D)

Oh my god, this is the beast thing
I've eaten in a long time.

Devouring the bowl in an instant Sean feels perkier than he has in a long time. Setting the bowl down, Sean licks the remaining remnants of the porridge from the corners of his mouth.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Thank you for the food it was
amazing. Did the police ever come
by, or call back?

Sylvia smiles at Sean's compliment as she continues to stir, and serve porridge into other bowls. Finishing filling one bowl, Sylvia turns to face Sean.

SYLVIA

The city seemed to have broken into
chaos last night.
(MORE)

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

The police are still tide up. I don't think they'll be coming.

Sylvia lets her head drop in disappointment at the police's ability to answer their emergency. She then walks over to Sean and puts a hand on his shoulder before sitting down.

SEAN

Well, there's not much to do about that. I guess I should call my father, update him.

Sylvia smiles hesitantly before standing and walking to the wall mounted phone. Removing it Sylvia walks over to Sean, offering it to him.

SYLVIA

I do not know if he'll be respective to another call from my number. But you can use my phone.

Sean takes the phone and dials Gene. As he listens to ringing, the silence between the rings seem to echo with whispering voices. When Gene answers the whispers stop.

GENE

Hello, Gene speaking? Who is this? Sean? You worthless brat, why did you call me so early?

Although he can tell it is Gene's voice, Sean hears it as a familiar demonic voice. Harsh and accusatory, distorted as if Gene was speaking through gravel.

GENE (CONT'D)

Well? Answer your father when he speaks to you boy. What do you want?

Surprised by his fathers reaction, and the demonic voice, Sean drops the phone and looks at it terrified. The voice he is hearing is that of his schizophrenic hallucinations.

SEAN

No! I thought I was healed, why are they still hear. Why do they keep coming! I thought you healed me!

Sean looks from the phone to Sylvia, tears beginning to swell in his eyes. Sylvia places an understanding hand on Sean's shoulder.

SYLVIA

The voices mean the medicine is working. It can not be done over night. It takes time.

Knelling down Sylvia picks up the phone noticing it was never on, she places it on the table. Sylvia then takes Sean into a hug. Letting him cry into her shoulder.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

The demons feel their demise, and cling to what little power they have. Just a little more and you'll have conquered them.

Sean pushes himself away from Sylvia and looks up into her eyes. He see's reassurance in them. He dries the tears from his checks and straightens his clothes.

SEAN

If it's working, and I'm close. What else do I need to do to complete the work?

A satisfying smile spreads it's way across Sylvia's face as Sean asks how to continue. Sylvia then turns around and walks to another cupboard, and removes a few items.

Sylvia returns and sets on the table in front of Sean a basket filled with various herbs and flowers, a large reflective piece of obsidian, and golden chalice.

Sean looks at Sylvia and then to the objects in front of him on the table, and then back to Sylvia confused. Sylvia smirks to herself with a slight laugh.

SYLVIA

Tools, to help you grow and learn. To help you reach into your darkest depths, and return healed.

Sylvia waves her hands over the objects as if to clear the air of any mysterious energies. Sean looks at the objects with both interest and hesitation. He resists the urge to reach out and grab the chalice.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Plants, herbs, flowers, they all have great use to us Sean. There is a reason we have used them from time immemorial.

Sylvia removes each of the plants from the basket, naming them as she lays them out in front of Sean.

Although still hesitant, Sean studies each of them as Sylvia places them on the table.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Each of them have their own complex properties and magic that you will learn to use in time.

Sean lifts a small jar full of anise seeds and examines it before place it back on the table. He then picks up a large root and smells it, surprised at it's earthy aroma.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

This is an obsidian mirror. Polished to reflect not only yourself, but your shadow.

Sylvia places a reverent hand onto the polished obsidian. She then lifts it to her face and peers into it. Reflecting her image back to her.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

It revels your darkest secrets and fears. Bringing them to the surface, allowing you to face them.

Sylvia turns the pieces of obsidian towards Sean, letting him take in his hands. Holding it to his face, Sean peers into the dark mirror.

Sean is relieved when he see's only himself reflected in the obsidian's polished surface. But as he goes to put it down, he see's a hideous smile appear behind him in the reflection.

Surprised Sean turns around to face nothing but empty space. Turning back he sets the mirror down and looks at the chalice. Sylvia smiles and continues her explanation.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

And finally, the treasure. The reward for facing your shadow. This is only a symbolic representation of it however.

Sylvia lifts the chalice and walks over to the refrigerator. She opens it and removes a pitcher full of orange juice, and fills the chalice. She then returns and hands it to Sean.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

For now, your reward is a fresh class of home made O.J. It's good for the spirit.

Sean gladly takes the chalice and drinks from it. Sean's body relaxes at the flavor of the orange juice. It's acidic citrus perking Sean awake.

SEAN

Oh wow, that was the best orange juice, I've ever had. How did you make it?

Sylvia smiles and walks back to the cauldron without answering. Sean puts the chalice down and asks for more porridge.

INT. ALIENA'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Aliena wakes to the smell of Sylvia's porridge. Sitting up she notices a breakfast tray on the dresser next to the bed. The tray has a bowl of porridge, and cup of tea.

Aliena stands to grab the tray. As she does she notices an in progress painting off in the corner of the room. Enticed by the painting Aliena forgets about the tray and walks over to the painting.

Upon analyzing the painting Aliena instantly recognizes it as an impressionist piece of her own making. Confused Aliena holds her head in her hands.

ALIENA

What? When did I do this? I don't remember doing any painting last night, what is going on?

Unsure of what is going on, Aliena ignores the painting and goes back to her bed. Mindlessly grabbing the bowl of porridge from the tray as she sits, and begins to eat.

Finishing the porridge Aliena puts the bowl back on the tray, and notices a note left by Sylvia. Aliena picks it up and reads it.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Aliena, dear, the painting, I urge you to finish it awake. It will bring more healing, and power to the surface.

Aliena puts Sylvia's note back on the tray, next to the bowl, and returns to the painting. Upon looking at it more thoroughly Aliena see's the beginning of a symbolic scene of her, and Sean's relationship.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

Sean. Where are you, are you still hurt? I can't finish this painting, I need to find you.

As if in responds to Aliena's denial to working, a disembodied voice echos behind Aliena. As if she was expecting it, Aliena does not make any outward responds.

VOICES

You always take care of Sean over your own needs, your own dreams. Stay, paint. Care for yourself.

As if under a trance Aliena picks up the pallet, and begins to fill it with various paints. Forgetting about Sean, Aliena begins to finish her painting.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ALIENA'S BEDROOM DOOR. MORNING.

Sean is about to turn the doorknob as he hesitates, and looks back at Sylvia questioningly. He looks nervous yet eager to see Aliena.

SEAN

You're sure the timing is good for us to see each other finally? You said I wasn't ready earlier.

Sylvia smiles and nods, indicating Sean to proceed. Sean smiles and turns the nob, and pauses before entering. He takes a deep breath and then peaks his head in.

INT. ALIENA'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

To Sean's surprise Aliena is awake, and painting. However, to him, she does not look to be enjoying herself. She looks traumatized, dissociative, and unaware of her surroundings.

Worried for her, Sean rushes to give Aliena a hug. In her trance like state, Aliena fights against Sean's attempt to give her a hug.

ALIENA

Get out! I do not need you here!
Leave me alone. Just leave me alone
for once!

Surprised and frightened by Aliena's reaction to him, Sean freezes in place dumbfounded. Aliena shoves Sean away from her, and stumbles back a few steps before Sylvia stops him.

SYLVIA

Come, it looks I was wrong. She still needs time. Let her finish her art. It's power is needed.

Sylvia helps Sean catch his balance, and urges him out of the room. As Sean turns to leave, he catches a glimpse of Aliena's painting, and is frightened by what he sees.

SEAN

It can't be, why is HE in Aliena's painting? I never told her about him.

Sylvia continues to urge Sean out of the room. Allowing Aliena to finish her art in peace and privacy. Feeling defeated Sean follows Sylvia out of the room.

Aliena continues to paint intensely. Lost in her trance Aliena is unaware of the sleeping beauty figure of her self she is painting at the feet of Sean, with the figure of MAL behind him with a controlling hand on Sean's shoulder.

Sylvia then returns to Aliena's room, and walks up behind Aliena. Sylvia smiles at the progress Aliena has made on the painting. Noticing monstrous limbs coming out of Sean's shadow, grabbing at the sleeping beauty figure.

SYLVIA

Looks as if your treatment is coming along. Can you tell me about it?

At Sylvia's questioning Aliena is snapped out of her trance, and looks surprised at the progress she has made on her painting.

ALIENA

It's hard to say. I've never felt this inspired before, all I want to do is paint.

Although clearly tired, Aliena looks relieved, and energized like never before. As if the painting is bringing energy to her.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

I've been stuck for years, unable to finish anything. But now, I just want to. No, I need to paint.

Sylvia smiles and points to the canvas with her right hand, as she gently grabs Aliena's arm with her left hand. Sylvia leans into Aliena's ear and whispers.

SYLVIA

Paint, and tell me what you feel.
What you see. Tell me your dreams
and you desires.

Almost as if under Sylvia's spell Aliena begins to paint again. After a little while a figure of a magnificent, and beautiful bird woman surrounded by butterflies, caged in a prison.

ALIENA

Inside me I have a nature goddess,
ready to escape. Needing to escape
but she has been imprisoned by
another.

As Aliena explains her painting to Sylvia she begins to paint the bird woman and her butterflies breaking out of the prison, and escaping into freedom.

SYLVIA

And this prison, who or what is it?
Do you know, can you see what has
kept you imprisoned?

Aliena hesitates but nods her acknowledgment in knowing. Tears begin to fill her eyes as she holds back saying it out loud, speaking it into existence.

ALIENA

Sean. It's Sean. He has kept me
from accomplishing my dreams. He's
not who I need any more.

Having said her truth, Aliena breaks out into sobbing. Sylvia places reassuring and kind hands around Aliena's arms. Aliena turns around, and falls into Sylvia's hug, sobbing.

SYLVIA

It is okay. You can change it. You
have the power. Take this brush and
paint the Sean you need him to be.

Aliena quickly calms and steps away from Sylvia, whipping her tears away. Sylvia reaches into her robes and removes a wand like paintbrush, and hands it to Aliena.

ALIENA

The Sean I want him to be? I don't
know. I need him to worship me as
the goddess I am.

Sylvia smiles and with her free hand takes Aliena's hand and places the wand like paint brush into it, and closes Aliena's hand around it.

SYLVIA

Then paint it. Make it so.

Without another word Sylvia walks out of Aliena's room. Leaving the door open. The Homeless Women is seen standing in the hallway. Aliena turns and returns to painting.

Aliena looks down at the brush, and see's it is no longer a wand like brush, but rather a dagger. Scared by the dagger's appearance Aliena throws it towards the door.

The dagger slides across the door way, and stops at the foot of the Homeless Women. The Homeless Women leans over and picks it up, and brings it back to Aliena.

HOMELESS WOMEN

Aren't you going to need this?
You'll need it to finish your great
work.

Aliena shakes her head, and denies the Homeless Women's offering of the paint brush that looks like a dagger. Faster than she could react to, the Homeless Women grabs one of Aliena's hands and begins to study her balm.

HOMELESS WOMEN (CONT'D)

Hmm. You fear that your creations
can destroy. They hold to much
truth inside them. You want to face
and kill death.

Aliena angered by the Homeless Women's intrusion rips her hand away from the Homeless Women, and steps away from her. Aliena then furiously points towards the door.

ALIENA

You're wrong! Get out now! Why
won't people just leave me alone
with my painting!

The Homeless Women drops the dagger onto the floor and walks out of Aliena's room, closing the door behind her. Finally alone Aliena looks down at the dagger and see's it as the wand like brush once again. She leans down and picks it up.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ALIENA'S BEDROOM DOOR. MORNING.

Sylvia urges Sean to calm himself down as they leave Aliena's room. Sean leans against the hallway wall, and gets his breathing under control, calming himself.

SEAN

What was that, why has Aliena
painted MAL? Is it because we're
here?

Sylvia smiles and is about to answer when the Homeless Women interrupts them. Grabbing Sean's hand as he's unaware, and examines it. Sylvia quietly slips into Aliena's room.

HOMELESS WOMEN

You are cursed to forever be met
with unrequited love. Always to be
alone.

Upset at the Homeless Women's interruption and announcement Sean walks away, mindlessly down the hallway with many turns. The Homeless Women watches as he takes a random turn.

Sylvia exits Aliena's room, leaving the door open as if to allow the Homeless Women to enter. A wand like paint brush slides out of the room and stops at the Homeless Women's feet.

INT. HALLWAY WITH MANY TURNS. DAY.

Sean mindlessly wanderers the many different corridors of the house, every hallway a seemingly different version of the rest.

As if pulled, Sean finds himself outside of the same portal doorway as the night before. His hand trembles as he fights the urge to open the door.

Unable to resist Sean lets his hand take hold of the doorknob. Without a second thought, Sean opens the door and is suddenly strapped to a table starring up at MAL.

INT. BEDROOM SET UP AS A SURGERY. DAY.

Sean stares up at MAL's vicious smiling face. Slowly MAL lifts a surgical knife up to the side of his face and twists it around in his fingers.

MAL then moves in to begin cutting Sean open. Sean struggles to free himself but the restraints are too tight, and he is unable to.

From the corner of his eyes Sean see's the familiar figure of his father standing off to the side. Looking over to him Sean see's that Gene looks hard and stern, like a drill sergeant.

Although he is unable to hear what Gene is yelling at him, Sean watches as Gene exudes the very essence of a drill sergeant. As Gene continues to yell MAL moves ever closer with the surgical knife.

As MAL moves in to begin it's surgery on Sean, Sean watches as it begins to change shape. MAL goes from looking like Sean's double to changing into a Baphomet like figure. The surgical knife turned into a razor sharp claw.

Fear fills Sean as he watches the demon inch closer and closer with it's claw to cut him open. Just as the claw's tip reaches Sean's stomach, pain shears through him.

Gasping for air, Sean feels a burning sensation trying to escape from his chest. Seeing that Sean is no longer worried about him, MAL pauses, and watches as Sean squirms in agony.

With a burst of flames and searing skin, the symbol of an upright pentagram appears on Sean's chest above his heart. From the pain, Sean awakens.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. DAY.

Sean wakes up in the bed room set up for him. He looks around and sees the room is empty. Shocked, Sean looks down at his chest, and see's the pentagram has vanished.

Sylvia walks into Sean's room as if she knew he had woken up just then. As she enters Sean see's a radiating smile of content and satisfaction. As a teacher watching a student grasp a complex concept for the first time.

SYLVIA

I am please with you Sean. You have progressed nicely. You're body is ready. It is time.

Sylvia crosses the entire room as if hovering inches above the floor. Gracefully, without a sign of disruption to her movements.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You have to begin taking on the five elemental aspects of Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and lastly Spirit.

Although Sean feels refreshed, worry still lingers from his nightmare. He unconsciously rubs his chest where the pentagram had burst out of his skin in the dream.

SEAN

I don't know, I don't feel any different. I wasn't able to overcome my nightmare.

Sylvia shakes her head in disappointment at Sean's hesitation. She crosses her arms in a sign of unwilling to listen to Sean's pleas.

SYLVIA

To start, I need you to go out to the well, and bring back a bucket of water.

Sylvia's voice deepens and a shiver runs down Sean's spine. There is power behind her words, almost as if she were casting a spell over him.

SEAN

Very well. I've come this far, I might as well continue. I haven't actually been hurt yet.

Although Sean feels something sinister to Sylvia's request he stands from the bed and leaves his room. As he walks past Sylvia he feels as if a predator is watching him.

EXT. SYLVIA'S GARDEN. DAY.

Sean exits Sylvia's house and walks through her well maintained garden. Looking at the various plants and herbs, he is certain Sylvia uses for her spells.

In the distances hidden among bushes, and trees, Sean sees a moss covered well. As Sean nears the well he is suddenly lifted into the air and thrown into the well.

Although he struggles Sean is unable to escape the grip of the unseen force. Dropped into the deep well Sean begins to thrash around trying to find any hand holds to begin climbing.

EXT/INT. SYLVIA'S WELL. DAY.

As Sean is able to find a shallow hand hold, a dark mass of swampy water lifts out of the well and wraps around Sean's waist.

Shocked by the sudden appearance of the monstrous tentacle like limb, Sean lets go of the wall. The tentacle begins to pull Sean deeper into the well.

Struggling to free himself Sean notices eerie yellow orange eyes peering at him from the deep waters of the well. The same monstrous eyes from his dream in the swamp.

With the sudden remembrance of his dream in the swamp, Sean begins focusing his mind. Calmed by his focus Sean closes his eyes, and imagines a powerful blast emitting from him, taking out the monstrous being.

Opening his eyes Sean see's the eerie eyes have vanished, and in there place a ripple in the water begins to reveal another being.

From the ripple a man steps out, dressed in traditional Yoruba garb. Although unable to speak the mans words enter Sean's mind.

YORUBA MAN

Do not be afraid. I am a maternal ancestor, trust in our ways, and you will be set free.

The man reaches a hand out as if to give assistance to Sean. As Sean is about to reach out, he notices an eager smile upon the man's face. A smile radiating hunger.

Not trusting the unknown being in front of him Sean decides his best option is forward. Closing his eyes, Sean imagines a powerful jet stream bursting out from his feet.

Opening his eyes, and sending his intentions out into the dream world, a powerful jet stream rockets Sean forward. With all his might, Sean yells out with his mind as he propels towards the being.

SEAN

I am done with all of this! All of you damn intruders and voices. Get out of my mind!

As Sean rockets through the Yoruba Man, he dissipates into the water, and Sean is shot out of the water. With the force behind him Sean flies out of the well, and lands outside.

EXT. SYLVIA'S GARDEN. DAY.

Sean erupts out of the well and lands heavily on the earth. Soaked and exhausted Sean lies on the ground catching his breath as he notices his bracelet has gone missing again.

As Sean lies on the ground Sylvia and Nora come out of the house. Seeing Sean laying on the ground the two rush over to him, and help him to his feet.

Seeing Sean soaking, and covered in muck Sylvia smiles a knowing smirk, and her eyes sparkles with sinister intent. As they help Sean stand he off handily remarks.

SEAN

I think we can check water, earth,
and air off the list. Whats next
being burnt alive?

Sylvia and Nora smirk at Sean's joke as the three begin walking towards the house. However Sean stops, turns around and fills a bucket with water from the well.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. DAY.

Inside Sean's room Nora sets a fire inside the fireplace as Sean, having changed into dry clothes, and Sylvia sit in front of it.

SYLVIA

You've come far Sean. You're
healing is almost complete. All you
are missing is spirit.

Sylvia looks deep into Sean's eyes, assisting his progress in a moment. Sean shivers from the power behind Sylvia's gaze. He feels as if he's looking into the eyes of a lioness.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Halloween will mark the day your
healing will be complete. The ritual
we preform will ensure that.

Sylvia looks off into the fire, and Sean see's not for the first time predatory like eyes gleaming yellow orange. Thinking it the glare of the fire he looks away.

SEAN

When I was in the well I saw
someone who said they were an
ancestor. What was it really?

Surprised by Sean's visitor Sylvia snaps her head towards Sean, gluing him in place with her stare. For a moment she is silent. Nora continues to stock the fire.

SYLVIA

There are at times, spiritual
hitchhikers if you will.

(MORE)

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Beings who walk-in on powerful
Shaman's dreams.

At hearing this Sean begins to feel excited at the possibilities of what she is saying. He sit straight in his chair, fully engaged with what Sylvia is explaining.

SEAN

Are they actually ancestors? Or are
they just random spirits who happen
to find me?

Sylvia smiles, knowing the direction Sean's question is going. She gently shakes her head, and places a comforting hand on Sean's knee.

SYLVIA

Some, yes. But others are searching
for away out. A way to exchange
their soul for yours.

Sylvia leans back into her chair and closes her eyes as if remembering a time in her past. After a moment of contemplation Sean remembers MAL.

SEAN

Is that what MAL is? Is he, it,
whatever, trying to exchange my
soul with it's own?

Sylvia slowly opens her eyes and looks Sean over. She smiles to herself at the growth Sean has shown. She then folds her arms into her lap and relaxes.

SYLVIA

MAL is a being born of your shadow.
It came into being the same time as
you did Sean. It is in many ways
you.

Horrified by the revelation Sean begins to shake his head in denial. Seeing that Sean is in need of rest Sylvia stands and moves over to him, she calmly waits for Sean to settle down and places the pointer, and middle finger onto his forehead, and thumb on Sean's temple.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You have been through a lot today.
I think it's time for you to rest.
Halloween will bring much clarity.

With her words, Sean quickly calms down and falls into a deep sleep. Nora and Sylvia move Sean into his bed and leave to let him rest.

NORA

Is he really ready for all of
this??

SYLVIA

Trust in my methods Nora.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. MID-AFTERNOON.

Sean wakes up to the sound of someone knocking on his door. He blinks the sleep out of his eyes, and notices how refreshed he feels, quickly getting out of bed.

With a slight spring in his step Sean answers the door and is surprised to see Aliena waiting for him. Although dressed casually she is radiant in Sean's eyes.

Sean finds himself speechless at Aliena's sudden arrival. Aliena smiles a heartfelt, and loving smile before embrace Sean.

ALIENA

Um, about earlier. I'm sorry, I
shouldn't have lashed out at you. I
just needed to finish my piece.

Sean smiles at Aliena, seeing now how important it was for her to finish her piece. For the first time he see's how happy it has made her.

Sean then kisses Aliena with all the passion a zealot priest has praying to their God. Aliena melts into Sean's passion and the two lose themselves in each others embrace.

As Aliena and Sean make love, Sean watches as Aliena morphs into a demon trying to devour him. Terrified Sean leaps away from her.

SEAN

No, you aren't real. I banished
you. You have no more control over
me! Leave!

Frightened by Sean's sudden outburst Aliena quickly gathers herself up in the covers, and puts distances between herself and Sean.

ALIENA

It's me Sean, whatever your seeing
is a hallucination. It's not real.
Please, you're scarring me.

As Aliena moves away from Sean, he watches as her demonic form moves closer to him and tries to attack him. He dodges out of its way.

Aliena watches as Sean jumps away from nothing. Seeing how deep Sean is into his psychosis Aliena begins to cry, and gather her belongings.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

You're never going to be cured of this Sean. You're to stuck. To lost. I see that now.

As Aliena begins to get dress, Sean see's her demonic doppelganger fade away and is replaced with the real Aliena. Although radiating, Sean feels a distance from her.

SEAN

Wait, Aliena, I see clearly now. It's this place. It's Sylvia, what ever she's doing to me is making it worst.

Aliena shakes her head in disbelief at what Sean is saying. Having finished getting dress Aliena moves towards the door. Sean begins getting dressed himself.

ALIENA

No it isn't Sean. It's you, you're never going to face whatever you need to face.

Aliena turns and faces Sean, tears welling in her eyes. She clinches her fists to will her tears to stop flowing. Sean stunned at Aliena's words.

ALIENA (CONT'D)

I love you Sean, I truly do, but I need to finally love and take care of myself. Goodbye.

With that Aliena turns around and exits Sean's room, closing the door behind her, leaving Sean in the dim light of the glowing embers.

Shocked at what just happened Sean suddenly feels exhausted, and falls to his knees. With a powerful surge of weariness Sean sluggishly stands and makes his way to his bed.

In a heap, Sean falls face first into the bed and quickly finds deep and dreamless slumber.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Sean awakens feeling better than he has in days. As he stretches in bed Sean notices his bracelet is back on his wrists.

With the morning sun shining through the window Sean slowly steps out of bed, and gets ready for the day. Opening his door Sean hears Sylvia humming down the maze like hallway.

A sense of deja vu washes over Sean as he remembers the morning before. interested by the familiarity Sean heads towards the kitchen.

INT. A DISHEVELED, YET CLEAN KITCHEN. MORNING

Just as the morning before Sean enters the kitchen while Sylvia is humming to herself, and preparing a meal. However, as Sean sits at the table, the rancid smell of the stew nearly makes him puke.

SEAN

Ugh, what is that smell? What are you making Sylvia? It's definitely not whatever you made yesterday.

As Sean sits at the table, he notices Sylvia's humming change from the upbeat tune, to an eerie distorted one. Sean looks at Sylvia as she begins turning around and is revealed to be MAL.

SEAN (CONT'D)

What? No, it can't be. This isn't a dream. My bracelet. It's impossible.

MAL responds with a vicious and savage smile. As Sean tries to back away from the table, MAL quickly steps forward and forces a spoon full of the stew down Sean's throat.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. MORNING.

Sean's eyes shoot open as he chocks and gags as if being force feed food. Although he tries to sit up, Sean notices shadowy figures are holding him in place.

Angered, and tired of being scared Sean sends a powerful blast of cleansing light out from his core. The light envelops the shadowy figures but do nothing to them.

The figures quickly fall on Sean, bathing his body in scorching flames of shadow. The flames of shadow begin burning away at Sean's flesh, and into his core.

Just as Sean is about to melt away, the figures stop, and slink back into the shadows as if commanded by an unseen master.

With a burnt body, and heavy breathing Sean closes his eyes, and begins focusing on his breath. Calming it, pushing the pain out of his thoughts.

With great effort Sean imagines a cool healing flame cover his body, burning away the searing injuries. As he opens his eyes Sean watches as every burn turns to ash and blows away.

Although his injuries completely heal, Sean is exhausted and in bad shape. Sweat drenches every inch of his freshly healed body.

Running his hand through his hair he notices his bracelet and laughs to himself as he no longer knows if he's asleep or not.

SEAN

Any good that does me. I can't tell
if I'm asleep or not anymore. We
never should have come here.

Sean shakily stands out of the bed and walks to the door. Surprised to find that with each step he feels more invigorated and prepared to find Aleina and leave.

INT. HALLWAY WITH MANY TURNS. MORNING.

As Sean turns a corner he is met by Sylvia, like a wall, standing in his way from getting to Aleina. As Sean looks at her, he see's the eerie yellow orange glow in her eyes.

SEAN

Move out of my way Sylvia. I'm
getting Aleina and we're leaving
this place.

Sean goes to step past Sylvia but she simply holds up a hand and Sean runs face first into an invisible wall created by Sylvia.

SYLVIA

I can not let you do that Sean. In
your state you are far to dangerous
to her.

Although Sylvia's words are kind, with a helping guise, Sean see's through them as the manipulative spell they are. With a deep breath in, Sean punches out at the invisible wall.

A beam of thick fire erupts from Sean's fist slamming into the wall. Cracks begin to form in the air between Sean's attack and Sylvia.

As Sean's blast of fire ends, a shattering sound echos through the hallway, and Sylvia is left standing with a deep smile of satisfaction.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

See Sean, you are to dangerous,
even for yourself. Go back to your
room and let me help you.

As Sylvia continues to speak Sean finally smells the putrid stench of the stew MAL forced him to eat. Determined to escape, Sean sends an attack out to send Sylvia away.

Sean brings his hands together as if to pray, and then thrusts them out towards Sylvia. A cleansing flame erupts out from Sean's body and envelops the entire hallway and Sylvia.

When the fire fades Sylvia is still standing in Sean's way. A predatory smile spread across her face, as multiple shadow figures crawl out of Sylvia's own shadow.

As the shadowy figures slither out of Sylvia's own shadow, desperation fall over Sean to escape. As if returned to the state of being a child Sean calls out for his parents.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You want you're parents? Ha, what a
laugh. You're father never loved
you.

The shadow figures writhe across the entire hallway, creeping up the walls, slithering along the ceiling, completely surrounding Sean.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

And you're mother? You where the
reason you she died. Your parents
will never come to help you.

Sylvia's words hit Sean harder than any attack he had endured until now. Dropping to his knee's in the realization Sylvia is correct, Sean screams out once more.

An echoing blast of energy erupts out of Sean's mouth as his scream pierces the air.

The power from the blast causes the shadow figures, and Sylvia to fall back, giving Sean an opening to escape.

Seizing the moment as quickly as he can, Sean bolts from his position running past Sylvia and her monsters. Running as fast as he can Sean quickly loses Sylvia in the maze like hallways.

As Sean continues to run down hallway after hallway he finds himself running towards the Homeless Women. Knowing she will try something Sean barrels past her, giving her no time to read his palm.

HOMELESS WOMEN

You've been cursed by the Poison
Monster. You are now fated to die
here.

Trying to pay the Homeless Women no attention, Sean nearly stumbles at her prediction. Stabilizing himself, Sean continues down the corridors.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ALIENA'S BEDROOM DOOR. DAY.

Sweating and breathing heavily, Sean makes it to Aliena's door at last. Excited he tries to open the door finds it locked.

As Sean tries to open the door he smells the same putrid smell of the stew. Realizing then that Sylvia has cast a spell over the door to keep him out, Sean places a hand on the door.

With his hand on the door Sean closes his eyes and reaches his mind out to the energies of the plant life remaining inside the door's essence.

Touching the energies of life, Sean is able to step through the wood as if it were air. Now inside, Sean see's Aliena in a trance like state painting a second panting.

To Aliena's left sits her first painting. In it MAL as Sean's puppeteer and Aliena are in the apartment in L.A. Sean is standing in front of Aliena's alter, as Aliena embraces him like a God.

Sean is surprised at seeing Aliena's representation of their relationship back in L.A. It is darker, more sinister than even her other occult inspired paintings.

Shocked by the first painting Sean looks to the one Aliena is currently working on. He see's it is of Aliena and Sean in a field of wild flowers. No sign of MAL is seen.

Aliena is glowing with a halo over her head. At her feet the flowers and other flora are blooming with life. Sean is standing nobly beside her as a divine partner, his head a glow with a halo.

Sean understands in an instant the new painting is of Aliena's ideal relationship with Sean. The two of them together as partners, equals in their power.

Sean somberly walks up to Aliena and lovingly caresses her face. Aliena is lost in her trance continuing her painting. Adding new details.

SEAN

God Aliena, have I really been so dominate in our relationship? I am sorry. I love you.

Sean watches as Aliena paints a new piece of jewelry onto him. It is a matching necklace to his bracelet. As Aliena paints the necklace Sean notices his painting self become more regal, confident and powerful.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I get it now. It's you, it's always been you. You lift me up, make me stronger.

With a sudden urge, Sean looks around the room and spots the very necklace Aliena painted, on the nightstand next to the bed.

Sean quickly rushes to the necklace and puts it on. As he places the necklace around his neck a soothing sensation runs through his body and for a brief moment he glows radiantly.

With the necklace now on, combined with the bracelet, Sean stands taller, more confident and gallant. With courage in each step Sean walks to Aliena, and kisses the back of her head not to disturb her painting.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to find out what exactly is going on here. Sylvia be damned, she will tell me.

With his new found bravery Sean turns and walks out of Aliena's room. Closing the door to leave Aliena to her own magics.

INT. HALLWAY WITH MANY TURNS. DAY.

Now trusting his instincts Sean hunts down Sylvia. Turning down hallway after hallway with out hesitation. He finds Sylvia entering the room Sean knows to be a portal to the dream realm.

Reaching the rooms threshold in a moment, Sean readies himself for the confrontation he is sure awaits him beyond the door. When, as if from nowhere, the Homeless Women appears.

HOMELESS WOMEN (LAURA'S VOICE)

Sean, my sweet baby boy, I love you. I always have. Go now, and be a good boy.

Surprised to hear his mothers voice Sean steps away from the door, and looks at the Homeless Women hoping to see his mother.

SEAN

Damn it, you crazy old women, get away from me with your mind tricks. I need to face Sylvia once and for all.

Once again dismissing the Homeless Women, Sean steps towards the door and reaches out for the handle. As Sean grabs hold of the door handle he feels a dizzying energy rip through his body, nauseating him.

SEAN (CONT'D)

If this really is a portal, I can't just step through like last time. I've got to steady myself.

Sean closes his eyes and reaches his mental sensation out to the door. As he does Sean see's a ripping black hole in place of the door.

Pushing beyond the black hole Sean senses a whirling vortex of multiple layers of existence trying to converge into one. Shocked by what he see's Sean opens his eyes.

SEAN (CONT'D)

If you really are my mother, what will happen if Sylvia succeeds at doing whatever she's doing beyond this door?

The Homeless Women smiles as if someone is truly believing in her for the first time. Sean see's a gleam in her eyes that reminds him of his mother.

HOMELESS WOMEN

A vortex of dimensions, waiting,
wanting to be set free. Needing the
Poison One's sacrifice.

Surprised at the Homeless Women's revelation, Sean looks back towards the door. He can now see the multiple flowing streams of different dimensions and realms chaotically colliding.

SEAN

The Poison One? Do you mean the
monster? What does that have to do
with all of this?

At that very moment MAL bursts through the whirling vortex, causing a shattering of colors in Sean's mind's eye, disorientating him.

HOMELESS WOMEN

The two must become one. The
conjoining of the two, the
harbinger of the end.

In the confusion of MAL's appearance and the crazed babbling of the Homeless Women, Sean becomes dissociated and lost in the chaos.

Sean watches as the Homeless Women rushes, in a berserk rage, towards him. In her hand she holds a plastic mask of a smiling, kind, normal doctor - trying to force it on Sean.

HOMELESS WOMEN (CONT'D)

This is who you are. Who you want
to be, who you have always tried to
be. Take it, accept it.

As the Homeless Women tries to force the mask on Sean, he watches from a distance as MAL seems to step into Sean's body, and begins to strangle the Homeless Women.

Sean continues to watch as he strangles the Homeless Women, unable to stop himself, to stop MAL. As the Homeless Women's body falls limp, MAL vanishes, and Sean is left holding the Homeless Women's lifeless body.

With tears streaming down his face Sean stands. He looks towards the doorway and sees it has been opened since MAL's sudden appearance. Beyond he sees Nora, her back to him.

NORA

Happy Halloween. It is finally
here. Tonight, is the night we have
all been waiting for.

Without looking his direction, Nora greets Sean. With grief on his face Sean strides towards the room. He hesitates for only a moment before crossing the threshold.

INT. RITUAL ROOM. DAY.

For the first time Sean passes through the threshold without loosing himself. For a brief moment he feels resistant crossing the doorway, before the force snaps, letting Sean through.

SEAN

Why has all of this have to happen
Nora? Why? I killed her, I killed
that women.

In his grief Sean yells at Nora, pointing towards the dead women. Nora continues to preform her ritual, preparing for the nights larger ritual.

NORA

Do not fret yourself over such
matters. It is natural for one like
her to pass.

Angered by Nora's lack of passion for the Homeless Women, Sean approaches her, and forces her to face him. With a shallow smile Nora stares at Sean.

NORA (CONT'D)

She was the last of her line. A
messenger, a speaker of truths,
lost to her own madness.

Forced to stop her work, Nora now looks down at the Homeless Women's lifeless body. She shakes her head at the lost potential.

NORA (CONT'D)

People listened, and believed her
once. But, madness took her long
ago. You finally freed her.

For a brief moment Sean see's remorse in Nora's eyes before she escapes his grip and returns to working, preparing the ritual.

NORA (CONT'D)

And now you'll free others. If you
are willing. If you believe, and
have faith.

Drained by hearing the Homeless Women's story Sean turns to look back at her. Blocking his sight of her, stands a swirling spirit with shinning blue green eyes. Eyes Sean recognizes.

LAURA

Sean, my sweat boy, you've come.
Please, help me, free me of this
prison.

As the figure reaches out towards Sean, it dissolves into the image of of his mother Laura. For a moment Sean is about to accept the beings hand, but holds himself back.

SEAN

Enough of this, please. I know
you're not her. Stop playing all of
these damn games.

At Sean's request, the being drops it's guise and charges him. Passing through Sean as if made of gas. Before Sean is able to react he falls to the ground asleep.

INT. SEAN'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Sean wakes up, his body sore and aching from his battles. At the foot of the bed is a magnificent looking robe for the coming ritual. Sean's jewelry is still on.

SEAN

Not much use fighting it now. What
ever is going to happen is going to
happen.

As Sean is about to get out of the bed, Syliva bursts into the room, dressed in a ritual robe similar to the one on Sean's bed.

SYLVIA

Get dressed in the robe. Aliena is
waiting, it is time for you to
enter our community.

Accepting his role in the ritual Sean stands and dresses in the robe. When Sean is robed Sylvia walks out of the room, and Sean follows.

INT. HALLWAY WITH MANY TURNS. NIGHT

As Sean and Sylvia walk the maze like hallway, Sean notices the house has somehow been decorated with macabre, occult, and dark magic iconography.

Before Sean realizes it, Sylvia brings him to the portal door. Sylvia stops in front of it and gestures for Sean to enter before her.

INT. RITUAL ROOM. NIGHT.

Sean steps through the door and sees the door is lit only by candle light. In a circle Nora and others, people Sean has never seen, stand around a marble table.

Aliena, in a trance like state, stands next to the table, dressed in a pure white robe. Sylvia enters the center of the circle, next to Aliena and gestures for her to lay down.

SYLVIA

Thank you all for coming. After so long the time has come. Please child, lay upon the alter.

Sean rushes into the center of the circle and stops Aliena from laying down. He shoots Sylvia a piercing stare as a malevolent smiles spreads across her face.

SEAN

What are you doing, a blood sacrifice? As if I'd let that happen.

From behind him two robed figures grab Sean's arm and force him back to the circle. Restraining him from escaping. Sylvia approaches Sean holding the same chalice he drank O.J. From.

SYLVIA

Please Sean, contain yourself. I promise not to harm Aliena. Drink, and let us proceed.

The robed figures release Sean as Sylvia hands him the chalice. Resentfully Sean takes the chalice. Looking in it Sean see's it is the same putrid stew.

SEAN

Fine Sylvia, I'll play you damn game one last time. But if you hurt Aliena, I'm ending you myself.

Sean fakes drinking from the chalice and hands it to the man to his right. The man takes the chalice drinks from it and passes it to the women on his right who continues the ritual.

Sylvia returns to the center of the circle and gestures for Aliena to lay on the table. Again, as Aliena goes to lay down, Sean runs to stop her.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Wait, wait, wait. Take me instead.
I volunteer to be the one. Please
Sylvia, take me instead.

Touched by Sean's attempt Sylvia smiles to herself, but shakes her head in responds to his plea. She moves to separate Sean from Aliena, placing a hand between the two.

SYLVIA

I am sorry Sean, it does not work
that way. You must wait, and watch.
Have faith.

As Sylvia is pushing Sean away from Aliena, she stops as if listening to a faint whisper. Sean tries to hear but only the silent chant of the ritual fills the room.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Yes, Great God. As you wish. It is
your lucky day Sean. You may take
Aliena's place. Strip.

Sylvia gestures for Sean to lay on the table. Hesitantly Sean steps past Aliena and lets his robe drop to the floor before sitting on the cold marble table.

As Sean sits on the table edge Sylvia hands him the chalice once again. A knowing smile across her face. Annoyed, Sean takes the chalice and actually drinks from it.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Lay back and embrace the darkness
within. Accept all of who you are,
your past, present, and future.

Sean closes his eyes as he shivers from his bare skin laying across the stone table. As he opens his eyes, Sean see's MAL hovering above him, smiling joyfully happy.

Pain screams across Sean's body as Aliena begins painting figures and symbols of monsters across him. Cuts as if from a dagger appear rather than paint.

Shocked by the pain Sean looks up and see's the other members begin to increase the vigor behind their chanting. As the chanting crescendo's Sean see's a door appear behind them.

Sean tries to point out the door, and ask about it but finds himself held in place by an unseen force and unable to speak. Sean begins to struggle against the unseen force.

As if in a dream, Sean closes his eyes and focuses his mind on the image of a cleansing wave erupting from him. Opening his eyes Sean is surprised as a bright light erupts from him.

The light envelops the entire room, blowing the door wide open, and freeing Sean from the unseen forces grip. Inside the door Sean see's the swampy landscape of his dreams.

Sean rushes towards the door, trying to escape to his nightmare. However, as the door is opened, reality begins to replace the room for the swamp.

EXT. SWAMPY FOREST. NIGHT.

Sean stands alone in the swamps of his nightmares. Looking around Sean see's for the first time, the car his mother crashed and died in, slowly being consumed by the swamp.

Sean rushes to the car trying to reach it before it is completely consumed by the swamp. Only to reach it just as the tailgate is fully submerged.

Standing in the middle of the swamp Sean watches as the scene of his mothers death changes into one of his father. Sean watches as Gene returns to the scene of his wives accident.

Wrecked with grief Gene breaks down and begins sobbing. For the first time in his life Sean watches as his father relentlessly cry over Laura's death.

In time Gene stands and throws himself into the swampy depths. As the swamp slowly begins to consume him Gene does not struggle.

Surprised at the revelation that his father tried killing himself Sean reaches out to save him, but is unable to reach him.

Just then Sean see's MAL between himself and Gene, slowly being consumed by the swamp as well. If they work together they can save Gene.

SEAN

Please, save him, you have to! We
can't let him die, not here, not
like this!

MAL looks sympathetically towards Gene, and then Sean. He tries to reach out towards Gene but is unable to reach him with out assistance from Sean.

MAL

Then you must help me. Accept me,
free use both, and we can save our
father.

With his fathers life at stake, Sean understands what he must do, and reaches a helping hand out to MAL. Even with Sean's help MAL is unable to make it to Gene.

Just as the two watch Gene get swallowed by the swamp, Gene yells for Sean, and then vanishes. Sean yells out in anger, and pulls MAL to shore.

SEAN

Why, you said if we worked together
we'd save him? Why did he still get
swallowed?

For a moment MAL just stares into Sean's eyes, and Sean stares back, into his own eyes. Then suddenly MAL looks towards the swamp, pointing into it's depths.

MAL

You have still not accepted it.
Surrender yourself to it, and all
will be clear.

Sean looks out into the dark depths of the swampy forest, and for the first time feels at ease. With his necklace in hand, Sean steps into the swamp.

EXT. SWAMPY POOL IN THE FOREST. NIGHT.

Sean lets himself sink into the bowels of the swamp. Letting its power wash over him, and for the first time Sean understands it is his power.

SEAN

I understand. I finally get it now.
I have no need to fear you. You are
me, and I you.

As Sean continues to sink deeper and deeper he see's in the distant, the shape of a doorway. It is darker, the space, consuming the light around it, as if an event horizon.

MAL

Not yet. You are not ready. Soon.
You only need accept me. Look upon
my true form.

From the swirling darkness of the swamp MAL steps forward. He is no longer in the shape of Sean, but rather the same disfigured, monstrous form of Aliena's painting.

MAL (CONT'D)

Look at, and accept your past.
Accept the horror it was, and
surrender yourself to the future.

Sean looks at MAL and see's the true nature of his being. All of Sean's trauma, anger, hatred, sadness, fear, and yearning for love and acceptance where contained in MAL.

SEAN

I'm sorry I never recognized you
for what you are. I've always
needed you, but never accepted it.

Sean steps forward and wholeheartedly hugs MAL. As the two embrace, the swamp dissolves into the ritual room. Everyone standing around with puzzled looks.

INT. RITUAL ROOM. NIGHT.

Sean finds himself standing on the opposite side of the ritual room with his hand on the new door. Surprised he looks around and instantly see's Aliena standing among the crowd.

Unsurprising to Sean Aliean looks every amount of divinity as her painting. Upon seeing Aliena's divine beauty tears begin to fall from Sean's eyes.

MAL

All of the answers we've been
looking for, waiting for, are
beyond this door.

Hearing MAL's voice Sean looks back to the door and notices, extending from his arm, like a shinning over lay, MAL's arm, glowing with an ethereal light.

VOICES

Be cautious, but move ever forward.
The path ahead may be difficult,
but we are here, as guides, always.

From out of himself, or rather MAL, Sean is unable to tell which, ancestral beings begin to appear. Forming a protective barrier around Sean.

VOICES (CONT'D)

The Monster still hunts it's pray.
Be ever watchful. Lose yourself and
oblivion awaits.

Sean recognizes many of the voices as ones he has grown up with, and tears begin to swell in his eyes. He begins to understand the meaning of it all.

SEAN

All of you, you've been with me
ever since I was a kid. Trying to
help me. Thank you.

Sean opens the door releasing blinding light that envelops Sean and the rest of the room. As the light fades Sean stands alone in a nursery

INT. BABY NURSERY. NIGHT.

Sean looks around a nursery he vaguely remembers. In the rocking-chair a women holding a baby appears. To his surprise it is his mother Laura, holding him as a baby.

As Sean watches his mother rock him as a baby back and forth, tears begin to fall like waterfalls. He drops to his knees in joy, sobbing.

The form of Laura begins to shift, and change along with the nursery, into a slight different nursery, and his mother into Aleina. In her hands, a baby girl.

In that moment screams rip through the air from behind Sean. Looking back Sean see's an ever expanding hallway leading to the Ritual Room and the familiar origin of the scream.

ALIENA

Please, don't go, not after all
we've done to get here. Stay with
me and our baby.

The Aliena in the room pleads with Sean to stay. Against every fiber in his body Sean turns away from her and begins to walk towards the portal.

SEAN

I'm sorry, I truly am. But I'm done
running. It's time I finally face
my demons.

With a final look at the unimaginably beautiful image of Aliena holding their child, Sean steps towards the doorway and portal.

MAL

It's not over yet, there's still
one last step you need to take. Do
you trust me?

With the face of death, hair a flame, electric energy crackling all around and a flowing cape, MAL in the form of the Poison Monster, steps from the portal.

SEAN

Even in that form, I can honestly
say I do. We are one and the same
after all.

MAL holds his demonic hand out in the gesture of giving Sean assistance. Without hesitation Sean takes MAL's hand, and the two snap together as if magnets.

For a moment the two images of Sean and MAL overlap, battling for control, until the image settles on Sean. For a moment all seems calm, until Sean spits up blood and falls over.

Sean begins to convulse in electrifying pulses, blood shoot out from him as he begins to die from the trauma he's over come.

From beyond the portal the echoing screams of Aliena and Gene pierce the dimensional barrier, and awaken Sean's near dead body.

SEAN (CONT'D)

No wait, I can't die here. Not yet.
I'm sorry MAL, we're not free of
this just yet.

With great effort and pain Sean manages to stand, all be it unstable. With his vision doubled, Sean stumbles towards the portal and steps through.

INT/EXT. AN EVER EXPANDING TUNNEL OF MEMORIES. ALL TIME.

Sean steps through the portal into a tunnel of ever expanding infinity. All around him are past memories, experiences of fears, hallucinations, and nightmares.

With a heavy head Sean wades forwards into his past. Unconsciously Sean rubs his bracelet, calming his mind, and restoring vigor in his step.

As Sean moves ever forward through his past experiences, the chains holding them to him begin falling away, leaving nothing but tranquility behind him.

In time Sean approaches the portal back to the Ritual Room, and Aliena. With a calming breath Sean takes the final step out of the tunnel.

INT. RITUAL ROOM. DAY.

As Sean steps out of the portal, the Poison Monster appears besides him. Upon seeing the monster Sean quickly steps back taking a defensive stance, knowing his battle continues.

SYLVIA

Welcome my Lord to the mortal realm. At long last, as promised I have brought you to our realm.

Seeing the powerful monster Sylvia kneels and begins to pray to it. Showing it great respect. The Poison Monster pays little heed to her, and faces Sean.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Please, oh Lord, grant me the strength you promised. Give me ever lasting power!

Sylvia stands and gestures to the entire room, as if to incorporate everyone in the room into her demands. The Monster looks around the room, seemingly dismissing Sylvia.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

With them we can stay here forever, like gods we will rule this meekly realm!

The Monster ends it's search of the room with it's gaze on Sean. With a flick of it's wrist layers upon layers of illusions begin to wrap around the room.

SEAN

MAL? What is this? I thought I took you in as apart of me. We are finally one.

The Poison Monster looks away from Sean and stares like a predator towards Sylvia. As if it was a hunter having found at long last it's pray.

NORA

That isn't MAL. It's Sylvia's darkness, her own hunger for power sealed her fate long ago.

With each horrific new layer of illusion a member of the attendance vanish as if eaten by the Monster's power. At seeing this Sean runs past the Monster towards Aliena.

SYLVIA

Stay with me in my paradise Sean,
Aliena, with me the two of you can
live as Gods!

As the illusions of the Monster continues to devour the members of the ritual, all but a handful are left, and for the first time Sean notices Gene quivering in the corner.

SEAN

Pops? What the hell are you doing
here? Get out of here, run and save
yourself!

As Sean notices Gene, the Poison Monster turns it's focus onto Gene, and wraps him in layers of illusions. Distorted demonic versions of Gene appear screaming at Sean.

SYLVIA

Even he can stay if you accept my
offer Sean. Stay with me, embrace
the darkness.

As the illusions of the multiple different versions of Gene begin to warp and show visions of Gene laying on the floor dead, Sean grabs Aliena's wrist and rushes for his father.

SEAN

Sylvia, stop this! You don't need
it's power. Give it up and save
yourself before it devours you!

As Sean and Aliena run towards Gene, Sean throws his free hand out as if projecting a shield from his palm. Breaking down the illusions as they run past them.

SYLVIA

Stop, why would I do such a thing?
They never stopped. Even still they
steal, and rape our people Sean.

Seeing Sean's power breaking down the illusions of the Monster, Sylvia reaches her hands out sending streams of shadow to attack Sean.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

With this power I will change the
world. I will stop them, make them
see the errors of history.

As the spear like shadows race towards Sean, Nora steps in front of them, throwing her arms out letting a cloudy dome of light envelope around Sean, Alian, and herself, stopping the shadows.

NORA

She's to far gone Sean. Just grab
Gene, and take Aliena out of here.
Sylvia won't stop.

As if grabbing the spear like of shadows, Nora closes her hand while twisting it in towards her core, drawing the shadows together.

Then in a fluid motion Nora thrusts her hands out towards Sylvia. The shadows slowly move in towards Nora, and then twist, turning around and shoot back at Sylvia.

SEAN

Will you be okay holding her off by
yourself? Can you keep her here
long enough for us to escape?

Nora simply nods a single time. With her confirmation Sean races to Gene. With Aliena and Gene in his grip, Sean runs towards the exit as illusions begin trying to stop them.

SYLVIA

You will not leave this place
alive! I won't let you, not after
what you've learned.

Ignoring Nora's attack, Sylvia sends tendrils of shadow towards Sean, Aliena, and Gene in hopes to trap even one of them. Nora is to slow to block the tendrils as they reach the group.

To focused on escaping with their lives, and dissolving the illusions, Sean does not notice the attack from Sylvia. The shadow tendrils quickly wrap around the groups legs.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Now you're mine for good. And you
Nora, after all I've done for you,
you betray me?

Sylvia turns to Nora, sinister intent radiating from her. With a simple and merciless flick of a finger, a shooting star of shadow skewers through Nora.

ALIENA

Nora! Why Sylvia, she was your
friend, why did you kill her? Why
are you even doing any of this?

With a twisting gesture of Sylvia's hand, the shadows wrap up around the mouths of the group. Trapping them in place for good. Sean begins to struggle to no avail.

SYLVIA

Quite child. There's no point in struggling any longer. Not with the Lord here.

Behind Sylvia the Poison Monster appears as if stepping out of space. It places a demonic hand on Sylvia's shoulder, and a skeletal smile creaks unnaturally across its bone face.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

I will be all powerful when we join forces. All that needs to be done now, is your sacrifices.

The Poison Monster clinches it's free hand into a demonic fist, wrapping a horrific illusion around the room. Bringing Sean back to the swamp.

EXT. OTHERWORLDLY SWAMPY FOREST. NIGHT.

Sean is alone, bound in shadows, deep in an otherworldly swamp. Slithering figures crawl through the shadows. Whispers of despair fill the air.

Although panicked by the sudden turn of events, and nightmarish illusions, Sean calms his mind. With focus returned, Sean sends a blinding light from his core.

The powerful light evaporates the shadows wrapped around Sean, but is quickly devoured in the otherworldly darkness of the swamp.

SEAN

Aliena, Pops, are you here? Can you here me? Damn it! I'm stronger than this, I've over come this bull shit before.

Sean closes his eyes, and begins to focus his breathing and thoughts on the powers within. An images of MAL's vicious wolf like smile flashes in his minds eye, and Sean too smiles like MAL.

SEAN (CONT'D)

It was a big mistake bringing me here. This place no longer scares me. In fact.

With a sweeping brush of Sean's hand, the swamp shifts and changes from a dreary dead forest, into a beautiful living one, filled with flora and fauna.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I find swamps quite beautiful now.
Sure, their eerie, dark, and
mysterious, but they're full of
life.

As Sean takes a confident step forward the swamp darkens again, and is filled with countless shadowy figures feasting on the many different animals.

The death cries of countless life forms fill Sean's head, and he drops to his knees in agony, covering his ears. As he tries to calm his mind, and banish the screams of the animals, he loses himself to fear.

The already eerie, shadow filled swamp becomes even more distorted and ghostly as images of torture, death, and other horrors begin to appear.

From the shadow figures of eldritch horrors step, and begin attacking Sean. Razor sharp claws, fangs of poison, death, and destruction rake at him.

In defense Sean tries summoning a dome of brilliant light. The demons however are too powerful, and overcome Sean's defense, sinking their teeth, and claws into his body.

With every strike Sean comes closer to death, falling in a pool of his own blood. Laying in his own blood Sean begins to feel his consciousness fade.

His eyes close, and then Sean is watching himself bleed out from above. Around him appears ghostly figures of his ancestors.

VOICES

It is time Sean. Complete your
training, embrace your death. You
will be reborn anew.

With a sooth sensation rushing through his body, Sean looks tranquil and ready for what is to come. He floats into his body, accepting his fate.

SEAN

I accept my death, my rebirth, and
all that comes with it. Take me,
and let me be reborn whole.

As Sean's spirit merges back with his physical body the jewelry made by Aleina begins to shine with radiant light. Sean's body lifts into the air, his body looks lifeless.

As if in awe, the shadow monsters stop and look upon Sean as if surprised by his appearance. The spirits of Sean's ancestors bow their heads in admiration.

As Sean's body stops floating, a powerful explosion of pure energy erupts from his body. The blast consumes, everything in sight.

EXT. SWAMP OUTSIDE A SMALL LOUISIANAN TOWN. DAY. 1908

A young 8 year old Sylvia is playing alone outside of her home when she hears the whining call of a small animal. Pulled to the animal in distress Sylvia follows the sound.

YOUNG SYLVIA

Don't worry I won't hurt you. I only want to help if I can. Let me see where it hurts.

The young Sylvia comes upon an injured bear cub caught in a snare. As she approaches it the cub swipes out in fear and nearly scratches Sylvia, who shows no fear.

YOUNG SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Hey, that is not very nice. I know you're scarred but I'm only here to help. See?

As if attuned to the animals need, Sylvia sits within swiping range, and puts her hands out showing she means no harm to it.

Sensing it's safety the bear cub calms, and lets Sylvia move closer. With the cubs permission Sylvia moves in and begins loosening the snare when a deep growl thunders behind her.

Deftly young Sylvia loosens the tie around the cubs foot, freeing it to bound towards it's parent. With it's cub safely returned the mother bear turns it's back towards Sylvia, leaving.

EXT. ANCIENT ROCK FORMATION DEEP IN THE SWAMP. MIDNIGHT. 1910

Deep in the swamp a 10 year old Sylvia is lead by her mother to an ancient rock formation. They are dressed in ritual Hoodoo robes.

A small group of women ranging from Sylvia's mothers age, to elders circle the ancient rock formation. A quite, murmuring chant dances upon the air.

SYLVIA

I'm scared mother, are you sure I'm ready for this? Aren't I a little young?

The young Sylvia looks pleadingly into her mothers eyes, scared of the coming ceremony. Her mother smiles a reassuring and kind smile.

SYLVIA'S MOTHER

You will be fine my little one. You are already one of the most powerful sòsyè we have.

With her mother's encouragement Sylvia stands taller, and sure in her power. Striding forward towards her destiny as a powerful sòsyè.

As Sylvia and her mother reach the circle of women, a path into the center is opened for the two. In the circle Sylvia's mother begins the ritual to initiate her daughter into the mysteries of their people.

INT. KITCHEN OF SYLVIA'S FAMILY HOME. DAY. 1915

A 15 year old Sylvia sits among her family in their kitchen, preparing food for the days dinner. Sylvia prepares the vegetables for the meal.

As the family is peacefully preparing their meal a thunderous bounding rips the silence from the air. Followed by deep yelling of authority and hate

All of the family rush out of the kitchen into the living room, to see what the commotion is about. Their father opens the door to a Father greeting him with a furious face.

SYLVIA'S FATHER

Hello Father, what brings a holy member of the clergy to our humble abode?

The Father's face reddens at Sylvia's Father's words, and jabs a spear life finger at him. Behind the Father mean looking United State's Soldier's stand at ready.

FATHER

You have been accused of
practicing, teaching, and leading a
cult of the Devil.

As if over taken by the Holy Spirit, the Father spreads his arms out like a cross, lifting his head towards the heavens and then, as if to smite Sylvia's Father, stares into the home.

FATHER (CONT'D)

By the Holy Power of the Divine
Church of our Holy Father, I am
here to bring you in.

With his threat incomplete, the Father then gestures behind him to the soldiers. Who stand ready to storm into the families home.

FATHER (CONT'D)

At any coast. It would be to your
best interest to give up peaceful
and let us take you all away.

At the mention of taking his entire family away, Sylvia's Father slams the door in the Father's face, and quickly locks it. With pleading eyes he turns to his family.

SYLVIA'S FATHER

Run you've all got to get out of
here. Now! They will not let any of
you leave here alive. You must get
out.

In a panic the family begins to prepare to leave their home. The male children ready hidden weapons of bats, shovels, and other tools.

SYLVIA'S MOTHER

Come children we must get out of
here. Through the back, run leave
at hide in the swamp.

At her mother's demands Sylvia finds her self running out her families back door. Leaving all of her siblings, and parents behind. The last thing she see's is the front door being kicked open, and the soldiers storming in.

EXT. SWAMP. NIGHT.

Sylvia wanders aimlessly through the grass of the swamp not carrying for her safety. Tripping she falls hard to the ground.

In huff of effort Sylvia flips to her back and stares, through canopy into the night sky. As she peers into the twinkling stars, a whispering of violence and darkness float on the air.

VOICES

You left them, leaving them to be taken by the White Devil's to their castles of torture and doom.

Startled by the icy cold whispers, Sylvia shoots up, looking around for any sign of hidden figures. After a moment of silence Sylvia lays back down, staring at the stars.

VOICES (CONT'D)

Beaten, bruised, and killed as all ways. That is what will be their fate, just as it always is for us here. In their country, their land.

As the whispers return Sylvia watches the stars move, shift, and morph into prophetic images of the past and future. Scenes of death, despair, torture, and the destruction of the human soul.

SYLVIA

No, this can't be. Anything but this. Who are you, why are you showing me this?

Millions of men, women, children, and elders are taken from their land, and enslaved in distant lands taken by the White Devil from another ancient people.

Centuries move by and men, women, children, and elders stand up and fight. Together under a united flag, a great victory and freedom is won.

As hooded white-cloaked figures of terror roam, spreading violence and hatred, men stand and resist fighting for their rights, always to be beaten by the cloaked figures.

VOICES

We are anger, hatred, revenge, we are power, justice. We are everything, and nothing. We are you.

Although the nights chilly wind blows through the thick grass, Sylvia's body is instantly drenched in sweat. She slowly sits up, and kneels into the dirt, showing respect.

VOICES (CONT'D)

You need not kneel before us. Only
accept our power, our knowledge. It
is yours if only you accept.

Sylvia sits up, kneeling onto her knees at the words of the
whispering wind. Not knowing where to look Sylvia lowers her
head and closes her eyes.

SYLVIA

I accept. What ever you ask of me,
I accept and will fulfill it, no
matter how long it takes.

In Sylvia's minds eye a figure begins to form, appearing as a
ghostly figure at first. Slowly solidifying into the form of
the Poison Monster.

VOICES

Just as our people have been
enslaved, taken from their home, we
to are imprisoned. Free us and
together we will free all.

The Poison Monster waves one of its arm in a theatrical
manner, and behind him a scene of Sylvia and the Poison
Monster joined together, ruling over the world appears.

Sylvia watches as the White Devils lay slain for their crimes
against humanity, and their empires crumbled into ash. With
that the Poison Monster and Sylvia's own empire begins.

INT. RITUAL ROOM. NIGHT. PRESENT.

Sean's body drops to the floor in the middle of the Ritual
Room. Sylvia is kneeling holding her chest as if heavily
injured.

Seeing Sean's body fall to the ground Aliena and Gene rush
over to him and check to see if he is alright. As they reach
him Sean begins to slowly stand.

SYLVIA

How? How did you beat me? It should
be impossible! I'm all powerful, I
am a GOD!

As Sylvia screams into the air the Poison Monster grabs her
and begins dragging Sylvia towards the portal to the other
dimensions. Sylvia struggles to no avail.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You're not cured Sean, you'll never
be rid of the voices! Or me! I'll
be back for you one way or another.

As Sylvia protests the Poison Monster slowly makes its way to the portal. Seeing the fear in her eyes Sean removes his bracelet and throws it to her.

SEAN

Thanks for killing me Sylvia. I
know the truth behind it all now.
The voices, I know what they are.

With Sylvia in toe, the Monster enters the portal. With it's power no longer anchored in the world, the house begins to be consumed by the black hole like portal.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Damn you Sylvia. This never had to
happen. Come on, we need to get out
of here now and fast!

With the assistance of Aliena and Gene, Sean is able to get to his feet and begin limping towards the door out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE PORTAL ROOM. NIGHT.

Aliena, Sean, and Gene exit the room and Sean looks back in as it slowly crumbles into the portal, and watches as Nora's body is consumed.

GENE

Hurry close the door, and lets get
the fuck out of here. I don't want
to see whats behind what ever that
was.

Sean places his a hand on the door and will's it sealed. The wood around the door frame fuses with the door sealing it closed.

ALIENA

If you're going do go that far,
wrap your necklace around the
handle. It should keep it sealed.

Sean nods at Aliena's suggestion and quickly removes the necklace. He looks at Aliena one last time before he wraps it around the handle. She nods.

Wrapping the necklace around the door handle causes a shimmering layer of light to appear around the door. With that the three run.

INT. HALLWAY WITH MANY TURNS. NIGHT

As Aliena, Gene, and Sean run through the maze like hallway, the roof, walls, and floor around them begin to fall apart, and be pulled into the event horizon of the portal.

Sean stumbles over his injured legs, and fall to the ground, taking Aliena to the floor with him. Gene stops fleeing to help the two stand, as the house around them falls away.

Just as the house around them is consumed into the black hole, the ancestors of Sean's, Gene, and Aliena appear from out of them.

With the combined powers of all of the ancestors, the hallway stabilizes under them, allowing Gene to pull Aliena, and Sean to their feet.

As the three again begin running for their lives through the maze like hallway, the ancestors lift the illusion revealing the proper path to the exit.

EXT. SYLVIA'S GARDEN. NIGHT.

Sean, Aliena, and Gene escape the crumbling house as it falls into whatever dimension lays beyond the portal. They watch as the dust settles revealing ancient ruins.

The three look at each other stunned at what lays in front of them. Surprised to see any remains of the house standing at all.

GENE

I may not have liked her, but no
one deserves what ever happened
just now.

Still shocked by the events Gene rubs his head, turns away from the ruins and walks towards his own home, thankful when he see's it still standing.

GENE (CONT'D)

Oh thank God. It's still here. My
place is open when ever you kids
want to rest.

Sean and Aliena look at each other exhausted over the ordeal of the past few days. Upon looking at Aliena, Sean see's the radiant goddess she has always been to him.

SEAN

I love you. I'm sorry for all the craziness I've put us through. From now on, it's equal.

With a loving smile Aliena embraces Sean, and the two laugh wholeheartedly at the absurd events they have just experienced, and then they passionately kiss.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT. DAY

Gene places the last piece of luggage on the sidewalk next to Sean and closes his car door. The two smile at each other and lovingly embrace.

GENE

I know it's not always been easy being my son, but I am proud of you Sean.

Sean blushes at Gene's honest acknowledgement to being proud of him and fakes a cough and covers his face to hide it. Aliena notices Sean blush and smiles to herself.

SEAN

It was good seeing you dad. Thanks for being their for us, you didn't have to.

Gene nearly scoffs at Sean suggesting he not be at the final show down between his son and a witch, and shakes his head in responds.

GENE

Of course I did. I never was when you were younger, after you mom. That's going to change from now on.

Gene is now the one who blushes, and begins to fumble over his words. He looks away to hides his embarrassment. Noticing, Aliena laughs and brings both into a hug.

ALIENA

Come on you two, just say it already. We faced a demon, and you still can't say it. Men.

Aleina releases the two men, and gathers Sean and hers luggage before walking into the airport leaving father and son alone.

GENE

Well, you need to get going, don't want to be late for your flight. I... I love you son.

Sean smiles, and nods at his father, bringing him in for another hug, hiding the tears that are beginning to swell in his eyes.

SEAN

Love you to pops. I'll call when we land, don't want you to worry to much. See you around.

The two step away from each other and nod a final, wordless goodbye before going their separate ways. Sean catches up to Aliena, and Gene enters his car to drive away.

INT. BABY NURSERY. DAY. ONE YEAR LATER

Sean enters the same nursery as from the portal's vision, and see's Aliena rocking their daughter in the chair. He smiles at the sight, and hands Aliena a bottle.

SEAN

Here's the bottle babe. How's the little witch doing? Not giving mom to much hassle I hope?

Aliena smiles, takes the bottle and begins feeding their daughter. Sean watches as the two loves of his life rock gently back and forth.

ALIENA

Thanks love. She's doing great, just a little hungry. Oh, Gene called, his flight is a little late.

Sean bends over, and kisses his daughter on the forehead before doing the same to Aliena, and then lovingly rubs Aliena's back.

SEAN

Oh, that's to bad. Alright, I'll still show up at the same time. Thanks for letting me know.

Sean looks down at his daughter and see's her face begin to shift and change into that of Sylvia's. Spooked he steps back and looks away.

ALIENA

Sean, are you okay? What was that about? They're not back are the, the visions?

Sean shakes his head in denial of the vision he saw, and kisses Aliena on the forehead before sitting in the chair across the room.

SEAN

No, it was nothing. I thought a fly flew into my face, but it was just some dust.

Aliena smirks at Sean's answer, not fully sure if she believes him. Sean sit and watches as Aliena continues to feed their daughter.

As Aliena rocks back into the shadow Sean see's her face turn demonic and goes to bite at their daughter. Sean leaps out of his chair and charges to stop Aliena.

As he reaches Aliena and daughter, Aliena has rocked back into the light and is normal. However, Sean's sudden and seemingly aggressive lunge scares her, and the child begins crying.

ALIENA

What the hell is wrong with you Sean? What was that about? They are back, you lied to me.

Aliena becomes furious at Sean for lying to her about his hallucinations and visions returning, and storms out of the nursery with their daughter.

SEAN

Aliena, wait, I swear this was the first time since Sylvia. I haven't even heard a voice!

Just then a demonic crackling laughter shatters Sean's reality and his world begins to warp and twist into a swirling mess of chaos.

VOICES

She's going to leave and take your daughter with her. She never truly loved you. She only used you.

The demonic voices of Sean's old hallucinations reverberate through the chaos of Sean's warped reality. Like a swirling mess of paint Sean's vision blends all together.

SEAN

No, that's not true. It can't be, I know my ancestors only guide me to the truth. Get out of my mind.

Sean reaches out with his mind to the ancestors he knows are guiding him, protecting him from harm. As he reaches out, a sense of complete loneliness fills his heart, and he falls to the ground.

VOICES

They all lied, used you for their own gain. Left you to go mad, and die alone.

Just as Sean begins to lose all hope, a light begins to radiate, from deep in the swirling chaos, and slowly begins to grow.

GENE

Snap out of it Sean. Aliena, and I need you. Don't let them beat you son. I believe in you.

From within the glowing light Gene's voice penetrates the chaotic illusion. Hearing his father's voice expressing his faith in his son, Sean is filled with hope.

As the light continues to expand, it washes over the swirling chaos, leaving Sean in a world of pure light. With great effort Sean reaches out towards the light and touches it.

With Sean's touch a single, small crack appears in the light, and quickly spread across it like a fragile piece of glass. In a matter of a second, the light shatters revealing the Ritual Room.

INT. RITUAL ROOM. NIGHT. PRESENT.

The reality of shinning light falls away revealing Sean crumpled up in a ball on the floor of the Ritual Room. Gene holds Sean as if he where a child.

GENE

Come on son, you can beat whatever spell they put on you. We need your power now, more than ever.

Sean smiles at Gene, and stands up. All around him are the dead bodies of the other attendance, Nora's body included. Aliena stands in front of Gene and Sean, protecting them from Sylvia and the Monster.

At least that was what Sean believed she was guarding them from, but when he looks, all he see's is a terrifying sight. The Poison Monster, and Sylvia are fused into a single monstrosity.

The flaming hair of the Monster, falls past it's shoulder in the style of Sylvia's long hair. Deep within the hallowed out skeletal eye sockets glow Sylvia's deep forest green.

It's monstrous body a mix of an eldritch being, a horror of ancient power, and Sylvia's mortal flesh. Crackling with menacing power.

SEAN

What did you do to yourself Sylvia?
Why go this far, what for? Power?
Revenge?

Sean steps past Aliena, putting himself between her and the Monster Sylvia. Sadness rests in his eyes as he stares his old teacher down, prepared for a new battle.

SYLVIA

To heal the world. Humans have
become a sickness, and I am it's
only cure.

Sylvia stretches her arms out and the entire room begins to shift from scene of human atrocities occurring in present day.

An aerial view of the the Brazilian Rain forest being deforested, native tribes forced out of their ancestral homes or killed. Vanishing glaciers. Slums with starving families.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Mans need to have more, more power,
more land, more, more, always more.
That is the true monster.

Scenes of brutal violence race across, men beating their wives, and children. Police officers killing civilians. Terrorist groups killing their own people. Civil unrest.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

And I am the only one who can heal
the world. End the power of man.
Usher in a new order.

Sylvia brings her arms to rest together in front of her, as if completely relaxed, and unworried of Sean's ability. The scene returns to the Ritual Room.

SEAN

Ha, as if your rule will be any better. You manipulate, use, and kill for your own gain.

Sean gestures to the entire room as evidence of his claim. Pointedly staring at the lifeless body of Nora, drowned in her own blood.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You've killed your friends Sylvia, all for power. Whatever new order you bring will be just as evil.

Sylvia looks to Nora's lifeless body and for a moment it seems as if she is regretful for killing the women who had followed her faithfully for so long.

SYLVIA

To think centuries of trust shattered in only a few nights. Her faith was lacking.

Hearing Sylvia's dismissal of Nora's death, Sean shakes his head, anger building inside. His breathing beginning to quicken as his furry raises.

SEAN

How dare you say such a thing? She was your friend, she believed in you, and you don't even care.

Sean's furry erupts as he yells at Sylvia. The frustration that he's held back his entire life erupts. The grief of his mothers death, the sorrow of killing the Homeless Women. All of it swells as Sean retorts.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You're just as corrupt as the current order. The power you've craved, just as evil.

Sean reaches his hand with the bracelet on, out towards Sylvia and sends a blast of pure energy directly at her. As if it were a fly, Sylvia gives the attack no mind.

SYLVIA

If you're so determined to defy me, I will have to take your power for myself.

Like a water balloon, the ball of energy splashes into nothingness upon contact with Sylvia. As furious as a tiger, Sylvia slash her demonic claw upward.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

I've taught you every thing you know child. Just give up, it is useless.

A shadowy mass of razor sharp blades scream out of Sylvia's shadow towards Sean. With a quick guard, a brilliant dome of light surrounds Sean.

For a moment the blades of solid shadow dissipate into nothingness as they slam into Sean's guard. In a blinding explosion Sean's dome shatters, and a flurry of blades rip into him.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

You where no match for me before. Now? You may as well be a child in front of a storm.

Just as before, Sylvia lazily flicks a single finger towards Sean, sending a shooting star of shadow flying towards him. In desperation Sean tries jumping out of the attacks way.

Out of instinct Sean channels a surge of energy through his legs, and finds himself shooting across the room, nearly dodging Sylvia attack.

Sean lands ten feet away in an instant. Using the opportunity Sean sends another attack at Sylvia. With all of his might Sean punches out at Sylvia sending a massive orb of energy.

Surprised by Sean's sudden speed, Sylvia is unprepared to guard his sudden, and massive attack. The orb of pure energy slams into Sylvia consuming her monstrous form.

As the orb consumes Sylvia, it begins to quickly condense in on itself. After a second a silhouette of pure energy in shape of Sylvia can be seen.

With a thundering crash, the orb explodes, leaving Sylvia's bloodied body laying on the ground. With great effort Sylvia stands, blood spilling from her entire body.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Stronger than I thought. You could have been so much more. You could have been a king.

With a wave of her hand, Sylvia's injuries wash away as if they were never there. All traces of her blood vanish along with her many wounds.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

I'm tired of this little game now.
I'm ending it. Accept me as your
ruler, and I'll let you live.

Sean looks to Aliena, and then Gene. Through his minds vision Sean sense their determination to see Sylvia ended. No matter the consequence of their own life.

SEAN

Never. Your world will never
change. At least now we have a
chance.

Sean runs at Sylvia, his limbs empowered by his determination to save the people he loves. In an instant Sean reaches Sylvia, swinging a powerful hook into her side.

As Sean's attack punches into Sylvia's side he sends a searing bar of fire through his clinched fist. The thick bar of fire burns into Sylvia's side, dropping her to her knees.

In a furious counter Sylvia grabs Sean's ankle with blinding speed and crushes it under her demonic strength. In agony Sean, drops to the ground.

Like a predator Sylvia descends on Sean, her demonic skeletal maw ready to devour him. As the demons maw closes in, Sean looks into utter darkness capable of swallowing everything.

In utter panic Sean begins struggling throwing attack, after attack at the devouring beast, but nothing works. Sylvia relishes in Sean's fear, panic and measly attempts to free himself.

As Sylvia holds off in devouring Sean, rejoicing in his dread, Sean's consciousness leaves his body, and he looks down upon the conflict.

VOICES

We are here. Just call on us and we
will come. Trust in the power of
your ancestors.

Sean looks around and watches a sea of spirits begins to appear out of thin air. Each of them an ancestor, come to provide their support.

SEAN

You've all come at last. I thank you, and call upon your power. Help me defeat this monster of hate and evil.

From out of the sea of spirits steps a female figure Sean instantly recognizes as his mother Laura. She is shed in brilliant shining light as she smiles and hugs Sean.

A power of pure energy, love and strength fills Sean's body, mind and spirit. Restoring him to peak condition spiritually and physically.

Sean returns to his physical body. As he opens his eyes, a tidal wave of ancestral spirit rush out of Sean. In a instant Sylvia is overcome by the torrent of spirits grabbing and pulling her off Sean.

The tidal wave of spirits take Sylvia to the opposite side of the room, holding her against the wall. Trapped Sylvia watches as Sean begins performing a ritual unknown to her.

SEAN (CONT'D)

As a shaman of our people, I call upon our ancestor's to rid you of, Daughter of the Land, of your evil spirit.

From the center of the sea of ancestral spirits a mysterious spirit emerges. Glad in brilliant light, Sylvia is unable to make out who it is, but feels a familiar presences.

MYSTERIOUS SPIRIT

Daughter, what has come of you? Hatred, rage, and revenge holds your heart prison.

As the mysterious spirit speaks, it's figure solidifies into that of Sylvia's Father. He stands proud, and joyed to see his lost daughter, no matter her form.

SYLVIA'S FATHER

It saddens me to see you in such a state after so long, but my heart is overjoyed, as am I.

At seeing the spirit of her father Sylvia begins to cry. The tears sizzle away as they fall to her skeletal face. Because of Sean's continues ritual in that moment Sylvia's body begins to spasm.

As if in battle with her own power, Sylvia's body begins to shift between that of the Poison Monster, her original body, and the fusion of the two.

SEAN

You have over stayed your welcome
for to long demon, it is time to
leave. Be gone, I banish thee!

Sylvia screams out in a demonically distorted wail of agony. The shock wave that is emitted from her soul wrenching screams blast the mass of spirits away from her.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Do not fight it Sylvia, accept out
help, and we will banish this
creature back to it's realm!

Throughout Sylvia's pain filled screams Sean continues his new found ritual. Ensuring the Poison Monster's exorcism is complete.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Embrace the powers of the ancestors
Sylvia, let them in and we will
cast the hatred, and evil out.

In the after shock of Sylvia's blaring screams of pain, she falls to the ground breathing heavily. Her body lost in a horrible fusion of the three controlling forms.

SYLVIA

Baba? Why are you here? Did they
get you too? I'm sorry I ran, I
should have stayed and fought.

In her pain riddled confusion Sylvia is lost in her memories. Mixing the present with that of the day she ran from the Church.

SYLVIA'S FATHER

Silly girl, I told you to run.
Although I was captured, unlike you
daughter, I am now free.

Sylvia, in great pain, reaches out to her father as if to have him save her. The spirit reaches out and takes his daughters demonic hand.

SYLVIA

I am free. I'm an all powerful
being now. I do what I will, and no
one else's.

As Sylvia begins to speak her voice shifts into that of the distorted demonic version of the Poison Monster fusion. She then stands.

SYLVIA (CONT'D)

Now be gone you pathetic spirit, or
you will force me to end you a
second time.

As Sylvia tries to stand her father gently places a hand onto her forehead, and as if an unmovable mountain were placed on her, Sylvia slams into the ground unable to move.

SYLVIA'S FATHER

Silly child, that monster's power
is only poison. It feeds off you
like a parasite. Free yourself of
it.

Sylvia begins to struggle under the weight of the invisible force holding her down. In her struggle her body once again begins to go through a battle of control.

SYLVIA

Help me baba, save me please! Shut
your mouth you bitch, you're ours
now! You swore an oath.

As Sylvia struggles to take control over her body and mind, her father quickly thrusts a hand into her heart. For an intense moment there is complete stillness in the room.

Then as Sylvia's Father begins to remove his hand, pulling with it, the Poison Monsters form, an earth shattering scream rips through the air.

POISON MONSTER

NO! You can not do this! She's mine
damn you, all mine! You can not do
this!

As the Monster yells in protest, the room, and house begins to crumble under the pressure. Sylvia's Father completely removes the Monster from Sylvia.

In unison, as if mirroring each other, Sean, and Sylvia's Father begin performing the same ritual to cleanse Sylvia of the Poison Monster's power.

SYLVIA'S FATHER

In the name of Father Sky, Mother
Earth, Ancestors of Protection, I
banish you foul demon.

As if the demon where a spear, Sylvia's Father and Sean hurls the Monster into the portal back where it came from. As the Monster enters the portal, the house begins to slowly be sucked into the portal, as if tied to the demon.

SYLVIA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Hurry now the three of you. The house will soon be pulled into the demons realm.

Sean looks over to Sylvia's motionless body, and see's as her spirit rises up out of it and joins her father's side. Her face is tranquil and truly at piece before dissipating.

SEAN

Wait, Sylvia, she's. She didn't make it out of the ordeal with her demons did she?

Sylvia's father regretfully shakes his head. The room falls silent for a brief moment before the sound of the house falling apart breaks the somber moment.

GENE

No time to grieve now son. We've got a falling house to out run. Let's get on the good foot.

Sean looks over to his father, and Aliena, nodding his understanding but hesitates before leaving the Ritual Room, and Sylvia's lifeless, and rapidly aging body behind.

SEAN

We can't just leave like this. She was just as hurt, if not more than we where.

Sean removes his bracelet and wraps it around Sylvia's lifeless wrist. He then respectfully bows his head in silents before moving towards the door.

ALIENA

Your right Sean. She may have been using us, but she's brought us all closer.

Aliena walks over to Syliva's body, and puts the wand like paintbrush on her chest, and kisses Syliva's forehead. Tearing up as she walks away.

GENE

I forgive you for all the shit you gave me Syl. I now see it wasn't really you. Rest in peace.

Gene quickly covers his face, hiding the tears swelling in his eyes as the three leave the room behind. Sean looks back one last time, and see's Sylvia's body being consumed by the portal, and then he closes the door.

EXT. SYLVIA'S GARDEN. DAWN.

Aliena, Sean, and Gene stand outside Sylvia's crumbling house, watching as it is consumed into another dimension. As the dust clears all that is left standing are old ruins.

GENE

Well I'll be damn if that doesn't
look like it hasn't always been
that way.

Aliena and Sean quietly nod as they look at the ancient ruins that show no sign of recent activity or Sylvia's home. Gene shakes his head as if to clear it from disbelief.

GENE (CONT'D)

Well I'm famished. Let's head home.
I'll make some breakfast as you two
shower up.

Gene turns and walks away from the ruins of what once was Sylvia's home. Sean and Aliean hold each other and watch the settling dust for a moment before kissing, and heading to Gene's.

INT. GENE'S LIVING ROOM. MORNING.

Sean and Gene sit in Gene's living room as upstairs, Aliena showers. The two men are drinking cups of coffee joyfully for the first time.

SEAN

I'm sorry for what I said the other
night pops. I know losing mom was
hard for you.

Sean looks Gene in the eyes with a knowing glint, as if to tell Gene he learned of his attempt of suicide. Gen smiles knowingly.

GENE

It's alright, her lost was hard for
both us. But I was the adult, and I
didn't handle myself.

Gene's grip on his mug tightens as he becomes emotional and vulnerable around his son for the first time. Sean nervously shifts his feet around.

GENE (CONT'D)

I never should have taken your
mothers lost out on you. It wasn't
your fault. I'm sorry.

Gene stands and walks over to Sean. Seeing his father stand, Sean stands, and the two hug a heartfelt hug. As father and son embrace, the two begin to cry.

SEAN

I love you pops. I always have.
Thanks for being there today, you
didn't have to come.

The two separate and Gene holds his son at arms length, as if using Sean to stabilize himself after hearing Sean's comment. Gene looks dumbfounded.

GENE

Of course I did. What kind of
father would I be if I didn't come
rescue his son?

The two laugh knowing the truth behind Gene's statement. Gene and Sean return to their seat. Sean takes a deep drink of coffee grateful it isn't the putrid stew.

SEAN

Speaking of, why did you come in
the first place? Was it how I acted
on the phone yesterday?

Gene looks shocked and confused at Sean referring to a phone call, and shakes his head as if not knowing what Sean is referring to.

GENE

You never called me yesterday. I
had a strange feeling all day that
something bad was happening.

Gene's voice begins to shake as he remembers the days events, all still to fresh. He clears his throat steadying himself to tell his story clearly.

GENE (CONT'D)

I wanted to go, but honestly I was
afraid you'd turn me away. Then, I
had some kind vision.

Gene looks off into the far distance, remembering the vision that enviably brought him closer to his son. He then looks Sean in the eyes with tears threatening to fall.

GENE (CONT'D)

It was of your mother at first. It was that horrible day. Then it shifted to you in trouble.

As Gene begins speaking about his deceased wife, his voice becomes gentle and humble, filled with fond love, and painful grief.

GENE (CONT'D)

I watched as she crashed into the swamp, and drowned, with flashes of you in battle with that monster.

Gene's eyes begin to fade into distant dissociation as he recalls the terrifying vision. He then shakes his head as if to clear it of the thoughts.

GENE (CONT'D)

That's when you appeared in front of me. Well, it looked like you, but different.

Sean is intently listening to his fathers story from the day before. Slowly piecing together what had happened that brought Gene to Sylvia's.

GENE (CONT'D)

You, or what ever it was, urged me to set aside out past, to let go of my fear and help you.

Gene shrugs as if it was the most obvious and simple decision of his life, to go into a mysterious house and help save his son.

GENE (CONT'D)

So that's exactly what I did, and I don't regret a damn moment of it. No matter how terrifying it was.

Sean smiles and relaxes as a realization washes over him, and he shakes his head laughing to himself. Gene cocks his head in confusion.

SEAN

That was all a trick. The whole damn thing was a trick of Sylvia's. Ha, jokes on her, it worked.

Sean smiles at the realization that Sylvia's ploy to control him backfired on her, and healed him in turn. He looks out the window and watches a bird fly by the window.

GENE

How do you mean? She sent me that vision of you to draw me into that mad house?

Slight fear finds its way in Gene's question as he realizes the implications of what Sean is saying. Had his son not won, he may have died. Sean shakes his head in agreement.

SEAN

I think so. She tried using you to throw me off. That monster showed me visions of your death, but I knew better.

Sean smiles at his father, letting him in on the secret of Gene's appearance in the night's conflict, and his assistance in helping Sean win.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You showing up gave me the encouragement I needed to push past their shit Pops.

The two men smile at the first pleasant moment between them in a long time. Sitting in the silence of it for a moment, soaking up the present joy.

SEAN (CONT'D)

You know, I think Sylvia was trying to heal her own demons too. That's how she helped heal mine.

Gene looks surprised at his son's observations, and sits silently thinking it over. The two men remain quiet for a brief moment.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Hey, did the cops ever come by at all? In all that chaos I never heard them stop by.

Unsurprisingly to Sean, Gene shakes his head at Sean's question. Sean nods understanding that they likely never were called.

GENE

I doubt they ever called them, but
if they did, there's been rumors
Sylvia owns a few cops along with
the gangs around here.

Gene shrugs uninterested in the truth and waves the question away, ready to move away from the subject of Sylvia and the chaos of her home.

SEAN

Hey pops. I just want you to know,
they're still here. The voices.
But, I now know it's a good thing.

Gene nods his understanding behind Sean's words. Gene stands and begins heading towards the kitchen as Aliena walks down stairs in a fresh set of clothing.

ALIENA

Thanks for the show Gene. I feel
nice and refreshed. What are you
two chatting about?

The father and son meet eyes and quietly smile at each other. With ease Sean lifts himself out of the chair, walks over to Aliena and takes her in his arms.

SEAN

Just how wonderful it is we all
made it out alive. Do you know how
radiant you look?

Aliena blushes at Sean's compliment, and kisses him. Gene smiles at the sight of his sons love, and walks into the kitchen leaving the two love birds alone.

ALIENA

Yes, but tell me any way, I like
how you say it. It sounds nice
coming from you.

Sean and Aliena chuckle then kiss again. After kissing, they separate and sit at on the couch holding each other in their arms, quickly and peacefully falling asleep.

EXT. BALCONY OUTSIDE GENE'S HOME. MORNING.

The next morning Sean, and Aliena are outside on Gene's balcony looking out over the ruins of Sylvia's home, holding each other in their arms.

ALIENA

Who would have ever thought we'd
have our own Halloween Horror
story.

Sean smiles at Aliena's little joke and kisses him on his check. Letting him go Aliena moves over to the easel she set up and begins painting the swampy landscape.

SEAN

I know, it's wild to think all that
actually happened, and it wasn't
just a dream.

Sean watches Aliena gleefully paint the scenery of the beautiful sunny day in the swamp. A ghostly ruin of an ancient mansion lost to time.

SEAN (CONT'D)

It feels like it sometimes doesn't
it. Like one big dream. Maybe it
was?

Sean looks out to the ruins and shrugs the thought away. With his new powers, dream or not, it was all very much real to him.

GENE

Breakfast will be ready in just a
little bit. Want to eat out here?
It's surprisingly nice out.

Both Sean and Aliena look back at Gene, who's sticking his head out the kitchen door, and nods in agreement. Gene smiles and retreats back inside.

SEAN

Hey, everything going to be better
from now on. I know what the voices
are now, they wont control me.

Sean walks up beside Aliena and stands confidently besides her like in her painting of the two of them. As partners, equal in their divine powers.

ALIENA

I know babe. We're not the same
people from before. Sylvia changed
us, for the better.

Sean nods in agreement. Out of the corner of his eye Sean see's a shadowy figure step from out of the ruins. Looking he see's what he thinks is MAL.

Surprised, Sean walks to the balcony railing and watches as the figure he thinks is MAL waves. Sensing an honest farewell Sean waves goodbye and the figure disappears.

GENE

Alright, who's ready to eat? We've
got it all, eggs, bacon, hash
browns, grits what ever you want.

Gene throws the door open holding a large plates of food. Carefully he walks to the outside table and sets the delicious array of food down.

Aliena, Gene, and Sean begin serving themselves up plates, and eat breakfast together, laughing into the morning sun, as a family.

THE END.