

Holiday From Hell

First Draft

By

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EXT. BACK YARD - DAY

It's a perfect summer day in Cerelli's back yard. YOUNG MIKEY (8) places a toy box on its side, rests his old chunky camcorder on top, and looks through the viewfinder, framing his shot like a pro.

YOUNG MIKEY

Got it!

Young Mikey runs to YOUNG ANNA (9) tougher than you, and YOUNG JOHN (9) small for his age but with a big personality. Young John in monster costume.

YOUNG MIKEY

OK, John when I yell "go" you come in and roar really loud.

YOUNG JOHN

You got it buddy!

YOUNG MIKEY

Anna, then you act really scared of the monster. Then I'll come in and act really brave-

Young Anna punches Young Mikey on the arm.

YOUNG ANNA

Mikey! I thought I got to be the hero this time?

YOUNG MIKEY

You do! It's a trick. You pretend to be scared of the monster, then I'll come in and pretend to be the hero. Then when the monster attacks me, you attack it from behind because surprise you're the *real* hero.

YOUNG ANNA

Cool!

YOUNG MIKEY

OK! You guys ready?

YOUNG ANNA

Yeah!

YOUNG JOHN

Yep!

Young Mikey runs out of his shot.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MIKEY  
Aaaand GO!

INT. MOVIE THEATER LOBBY - DAY

Relentless holiday songs play over an ancient, crackling PA system. A mob of parents crowd past aging holiday decorations and wait in line for snacks, while their children run up and down congested hallways, unburdened by supervision. It's Christmas Eve at the local Movieplex in small-town New Jersey, and it's the absolute worst.

A BOY (5) dumps a large soda on the floor. MIKEY CERELLI (Mid 20s) in his unkempt uniform, haphazardly slops a mop into the mess. The Boy laughs and retreats to his MOTHER (35) who is applying lipstick in the reflection of a movie poster.

MIKEY  
(to himself)  
Come on man.

MOTHER  
What!

MIKEY  
Um... What?

MOTHER  
What did you just say to my kid?

MIKEY  
Nothing.

MOTHER  
You said something, I just heard you! What did you say to my kid?

MIKEY  
I didn't say anything to your kid!  
He made a mess, I started mopping.  
That's it.

MOTHER  
Oh yeah?  
(to the boy)  
Did you spill your soda over there?

BOY  
It was an accident.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER  
(to Mikey)  
He says it was an accident.

MIKEY  
It wasn't.

MOTHER  
If my kid says it was an accident,  
it was an accident.

MIKEY  
Whatever lady.

MOTHER  
Yeah, that's what I thought!

The woman spits her gum into the mess, grabs her child by the arm, and storms off. Her leopard print high heels clacking viciously on the lobby floor. The Boy flips Mikey the bird.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

In a storage room the size of a closet Mikey is emptying the mop bucket. His phone buzzes.

ANNA (TEXT)  
Hey! Not sure if you knew but my  
dad retired and moved back to  
Jersey this year. I'm in town  
visiting him for the holidays.  
Headed to the movies. Will I see  
you there?

MIKEY  
Fuck.

MR. SEVILIN (50s) the overweight, sloppily dressed theater owner bursts in.

MR. SEVILIN  
Mikey, get off your phone! What the  
hell is going on? It's a fucking  
shit show out there!

MIKEY  
We don't have enough people Mr.  
Sevilin.

(CONTINUED)

MR. SEVILIN

It's the busiest day of the year,  
didn't you schedule more staff?

MIKEY

I did but with call outs, and  
people not showing up-

MR. SEVILIN

You didn't think people would call  
out on Christmas Eve? You should  
have overstaffed.

MIKEY

I asked you if the cleaners could  
come in early.

MR. SEVILIN

The cleaners make twice what you  
guys do, I'm not paying them to  
come in early. Get out there and  
get that trash cleaned up.

MIKEY

The trash room is full.

MR. SEVILIN

Then take the trash out to the  
dumpster!

MIKEY

Then nobody's watching the floor.

MR. SEVILIN

Jesus kid! I'll watch the floor for  
you alright.

MIKEY

OK.

Mr. Sevilin turns for the door.

MIKEY

Um... Mr. Sevilin, did you see my  
application for the Manager  
position?

MR. SEVILIN

Listen kid, you're not right for  
the job. I'm interviewing people  
after the new year.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Oh. Uh... why? I've basically been doing the job for a few weeks now and I've been here longer than anyone else-

MR. SEVILIN

Mikey, you're on your phone all the time, you do the minimum work to get by, you argue with guests, you're always smoking out back. You still act like the high school kid you were when you started here! If I put you in charge this place would go to shit. You need to grow up and start taking some responsibility for yourself. Now get the fucking trash outside!

EXT. BACK OF MOVIE THEATER - DUSK

Mikey is struggling to lift heavy garbage bags into a dumpster. KYLE (17) is leaning against the wall, texting.

MIKEY

Kyle, can you give me a hand with this.

KYLE

(without looking up from his phone)

You got it bro.

Kyle does not move. A garbage bag tears open covering Mikey in a wet, sticky, mess.

MIKEY

Fuck!

Kyle laughs and takes pictures of Mikey.

KYLE

Holy shit!

MIKEY

Come on man! Stop it! Can you please just get me some paper towels?

Kyle ambles into back into the theater still laughing.

As Mikey tries in vain to clean himself off, he hears a familiar voice.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA (O.S.)  
Where are you?

ANNA (Mid 20s) strides around the corner in black motorcycle boots and matching jacket. She is cool, capable, and beautiful, like the babysitter you had a crush on.

Mikey immediately recognizes his childhood playmate/adolescent crush.

ANNA  
(into phone)  
No, I'm already here.

Anna suddenly turns in Mikey's direction and Mikey dives behind the dumpster.

ANNA  
(into phone)  
Hold on a second.

Anna moves toward the dumpster to investigate.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Is someone down there? Hello? Mikey  
is that you?

Kyle returns.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Oh shit! Hey, does Mikey Cerelli  
still work here?

Kyle looks at Mikey behind the dumpster. Mikey shakes his head.

KYLE  
Uh... yeah?

ANNA  
Well is he in tonight? I was hoping  
to catch him.

Kyle again looks to Mikey, still shaking his head.

KYLE  
Uh... no? I don't know. Listen,  
what's your name?

ANNA  
Anna...

KYLE

Anna. I like that name. Anna I'm Kyle. If I see Cerelli I'll let him know you're looking for him. If you need anything else while you're here, I'm the guy to talk to. You want to give me your number? You know, in case Mikey needs it or whatever...

ANNA

How old are you?

KYLE

I'm pretty much 18.

ANNA

Well Kyle, if you're "pretty much 18" then you've got about 2 years left until girls stop seeing your whole thing here as confidence and recognize it as the egotistical bullshit it is. So, you know, plan ahead.

KYLE

Thanks?

Anna turns and walks away.

ANNA

(into phone)

Still there?

KYLE

(to Mikey)

So why are you hiding?

MIKEY

What? Nothing. Shut up.

KYLE

OK weirdo. She's pretty hot for an older chick.

MIKEY

Old? She's my age.

KYLE

You're like 30.

(CONTINUED)



MIKEY

I'm 26!

KYLE

Yeah, like I said, old.

Kyle hands Mikey three paper towels and strolls back into the theater, face in phone.

INT. PROJECTION BOOTH - NIGHT

Mikey is eating popcorn and watching the last movie of the night. He's into it.

A big laugh then his smile fades as the movie ends.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Mikey emerges from the dark building, locking the doors behind him. He plods across the parking lot to the last remaining car: his rusty, old, Honda Civic.

INT./EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Mikey is driving. His home's small-town charm is at its peak, with holiday decorations shining and moonlight twinkling off of the snow. The town square shimmers in the light of the town's 20 foot Christmas tree.

EXT. MIKEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's the only one on the block not decorated for the holidays. Mikey pulls into the driveway that's been shoveled just enough for Mikey's tiny car to fit in.

INT. MIKEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The house's interior is right out of a 1970's Sears catalog (brown and white floral print living room set, orange wall paper etc...).

Mikey trudges directly to the freezer, retrieves a personal pizza, and pops it in the microwave, without turning on the lights.

The microwave bell DINGS and Mikey takes his pizza to his bedroom/the basement. The rest of the house might as well not be there.

## INT. MIKEY'S ROOM

There are clothes everywhere. Movie posters on the wall are from Back to the Future, Reservoir Dogs, The Royal Tenenbaums, and Point Break.

Mikey sits at the foot of his bed and eats his pizza, illuminated by the cold blue light of his TV.

Mikey's phone buzzes.

JOHN (TEXT)

Just got in town. You free tonight?

Mikey's eyes widen with excitement.

MIKEY (TEXT)

Yeah man! Hell Gate?

JOHN (TEXT)

Ha! Sounds good. I can be there in 10.

## EXT. HELL GATE - NIGHT

Hell Gate. The ten foot tall storm drain-cum-satanic gateway is just past the edge of town. It's covered in graffiti. Crushed beer cans and cigarette butts litter the ground.

Mikey's car sputters to a halt. As he enters Hell Gate Mikey's eyes are drawn to the large letters above the archway, "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here".

## INT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

The feeble light from Mikey's cell phone is ill-equipped to penetrate the darkness. Mikey moves cautiously.

JOHN (O.S)

(whispered)

Hey buddy.

Mikey leaps forward.

MIKEY

FUCK!

Boisterous laughter erupts from the darkness as JOHN (Mid 20s) turns on his electric lantern. John's combination of charisma and sincerity make it impossible to stay mad at him in this and all things.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
I'm sorry man, I couldn't resist.

MIKEY  
Fuck you man! Scared the shit out of me.

JOHN  
I'm sorry! It's good to see you buddy. I missed you.

MIKEY  
Good to see you.

The two hug.

INT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

The warm light of John's lantern fills the cave-like room. Makeshift seating is scattered on the ground. Everything is covered in a thick layer of dust.

Mikey and John pass a joint back and forth. It's not their first.

MIKEY  
It's a blend. Little Devil and Sugar Plum Fairy. I call it Holiday from Hell.

JOHN  
That's funny!

JOHN (CONT'D)  
I haven't been down here in years. It's exactly the same!. Is that the seat from your dad's old car?

MIKEY  
It is!

JOHN  
You remember dragging that down here?

MIKEY  
I remember the gash it put in my knee!

Mikey shows a scar.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

That's right! Holy shit man. So what's new with you? Catch me up!

MIKEY

Not much. I'm still at the theater. Still at my parents'.

JOHN

They moved right?

MIKEY

Retired down to Florida.

JOHN

Good for them man. I fucking love your folks. Did they give you the house?

MIKEY

They still own it but they don't live here anymore. It's pretty much mine.

JOHN

What about your movies man? Are you still making movies?

MIKEY

Nah. I kind of let that go.

JOHN

What are talking about "let that go"? Movies were your life man! You were going to be the next Tarantino.

MIKEY

Yeah, I don't know man. Making movies is hard. Got harder after I quit film school. I kept getting more hours at work...

JOHN

You only took that job so you could see more movies!

MIKEY

I know, I know, but it pays the bills now.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

That's a shame man. You had a fire in you for movies. You loved that shit.

MIKEY

I don't know what to tell you man... What about you? Same job?

JOHN

Yeah, just made junior partner. Youngest at the firm.

MIKEY

That's awesome!

JOHN

Thanks man. It's honestly a lot of work but you know... "With great power comes great responsibility."

MIKEY

You know what's crazy? Before Spider-Man used that it was used by like people in the French Revolution.

JOHN

Nerd.

Mikey and John are nice and high now.

JOHN (CONT'D)

So... Anna is back in town. You talk to her?

MIKEY

If by "talk to her" you mean "hid from her behind a dumpster" then yeah I talked to her.

JOHN

You hid behind a dumpster. Why would you hide behind a dumpster?

MIKEY

I haven't seen her since she moved away. I didn't want the first time to be me working at my high school job, covered in garbage juice.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Shut up man. I'm going to text her.  
See if she's around.

MIKEY

Nah. Don't man.

JOHN

Why?

MIKEY

It's the middle of the night for  
one thing. And she doesn't want to  
see me.

JOHN

What the fuck are you talking about  
Mikey of course she wants to see  
you! You two were attached at the  
hip.

MIKEY

It's just weird OK. It feels weird  
and I just- I don't want to see her  
OK.

JOHN

Is this about... you know, the  
thing we don't talk about.

MIKEY

I don't know what you mean...

JOHN

I think you do.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

It's raining. Movers struggle to load a couch into a moving  
truck. TEENAGE ANNA is standing under an umbrella. An unseen  
TEENAGE BOY is talking to her.

TEENAGE BOY (O.S.)

...anyway I just can't believe  
you're family is moving right  
before senior year. It sucks  
because... well... I really like  
you. I've wanted to tell you for a  
while but you know...

Teenage Anna kisses the boy opposite her. As she does a Honda Civic slowly passes by. TEENAGE MIKEY is staring out of the driver's window, bouquet of flowers in hand. He sees Teenage Anna is making out with a much better looking boy than him. The rain does little to hide Teenage Mikey's tears.

BACK TO SCENE:

MIKEY  
I never told you about that!

JOHN  
Dude, I was there!

BACK TO FLASHBACK:

INT. MIKEY'S CAR - DAY

Teenage Mikey is crying. TEENAGE JOHN leans forward from the back seat.

TEENAGE JOHN  
Oof! That's tough buddy.

END FLASHBACK.

MIKEY  
Right. I guess I blocked the whole thing out. Fucking Miles Brody of all people? He tormented me in 4th grade!

JOHN  
Why didn't you just ask her out?

MIKEY  
It's not that simple.

JOHN  
It's absolutely that simple! You've always been so afraid of failing that you don't even try.

MIKEY  
Bullshit!

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Oh is it? Remind me again, did you ever try the death door challenge?

MIKEY

...

JOHN

It's a simple question. Did you ever try to find and carve your initials into the three creepy, old-ass doors hidden deep in this storm drain?

MIKEY

You didn't do it.

JOHN

I tried! I didn't succeed but I tried. I don't remember you trying.

MIKEY

Whatever man, I never tried.

JOHN

Because you were afraid to fail.

MIKEY

NO! Because it was a stupid waist of time.

JOHN

I'm stupid. I've go time to waist. Let's go.

MIKEY

Oh we're just gonna walk around these old ass storm drains in the middle of the night?

JOHN

You're god damned right we are! Unless you're afraid?

MIKEY

Lead the way motherfucker!

John grabs his lantern as the two plunge into the darkness.



INT. HELL GATE - NIGHT

Hell Gate is less industrial and more cave-like. Mikey and John are still smoking.

JOHN  
It smells awful in here.

MIKEY  
This will help.

Mikey takes a drag of his joint and blows the smoke in John's face.

JOHN  
(coughing)  
Thanks.

MIKEY  
How long are we planning to fuck  
around down here?

JOHN  
You scared already?

MIKEY  
Tired. I worked a fucking double.

JOHN  
I remember sneaking back here with  
Katie B. to make out back in the  
day. I was a freshman, she was a  
senior. No big deal.

MIKEY  
You still bragging about Katie B?

JOHN  
Katie B. was major! A cheerleader  
and captain of the debate team! She  
was the total package.

MIKEY  
SHIT!

Mikey turns on his phone's flashlight to see what is attacking his leg. He finds a traffic cone. John stifles a laugh.

JOHN  
Take it easy buddy.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

It just surprised me.

John raises his lantern to reveal more traffic cones/barrels, and caution tape.

JOHN

The fuck?

MIKEY

The town was digging down here. Replacing old water pipes. I tried to come down this summer and ran into like 10 construction dudes.

JOHN

You still come down here a lot?

MIKEY

I was showing it to someone.

JOHN

Someone who?

MIKEY

Someone a girl.

JOHN

You still seeing her?

MIKEY

Nah she um...

JOHN

She "um" what?

MIKEY

She... went away to college.

JOHN

Buddy...

MIKEY

She's 21, I swear!

JOHN

Still though.

Mikey's phone flashlight goes out.

MIKEY

Fuck. Phones dead. Can we get out of here please?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Fine.

John shines his lantern behind them revealing two tunnels.

MIKEY

Um... which one of these did we just come from?

JOHN

I honestly don't know.

MIKEY

Shit! This is exactly why I didn't want to do this. What now?

JOHN

Relax. We just pick one. If we don't recognize it after a while we turn around and come back.

MIKEY

Great. After you.

INT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

Mikey is right on John's heels. They are still smoking. The walls and ceiling are jagged and rocky. Somehow it's darker.

JOHN

Hey bud, can you give me like an inch more space.

MIKEY

Sorry.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Do you recognize any of this.

JOHN

I don't think so.

MIKEY

I don't like this man.

JOHN

Just a little further. See if anything looks familiar.

A rock breaks free and hits the ground with a SMASH.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY  
FUCK!

JOHN  
OH SHIT!

Mikey and John leap forward. Mikey falls out of sight with a CRASH.

JOHN  
Mikey, you OK man?

Silence.

JOHN  
Mikey!

Mikey coughs.

MIKEY (O.S.)  
I'm fine. Over here.

John finds Mikey on the ground covered in the rubble of the barricade he has broken through.

MIKEY  
Help me up?

John's lantern reveals that Mikey is perched on the edge of a large, deep hole.

JOHN  
Stop! Don't move.

MIKEY  
What? Why?

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Holy shit! What the fuck is that?

JOHN  
I don't know.

MIKEY  
It's like a well or something.

JOHN  
I can't see much.

John raises his lantern and finds APOTROPAIC SYMBOLS carved all over the walls.

Mikey picks up an ancient looking brick and drops it down the hole.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
What are you doing?

MIKEY  
Shh!

Silence.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
I was trying to hear it hit the  
bottom. Did you hear anything?

JOHN  
No.

MIKEY  
Shut up this time.

Mikey drops a second brick. Silence. More Silence.

JOHN  
How long are we supposed to wait?

MIKEY  
It must be crazy deep.

JOHN  
Let's go man.

MIKEY  
Just one more!

Mikey picks up a rotten board.

JOHN  
Hold up. There's something on that.

Mikey turns the board into the light and reveals more  
APOTROPAIC SYMBOLS carved into it and the words "ENDANGER  
DAEMON" in archaic lettering.

MIKEY  
Endanger Damon? Who the hell is  
Damon?

JOHN  
And is he already in danger, or are  
we supposed to put him in danger?

MIKEY  
Oh well. Fuck you Damon!

Mikey drops the board. Silence.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
You done?

MIKEY  
Yeah, I'm good.

JOHN  
Let's head back.

Mikey and John exit but we remain.

We descend the hole, gaining speed as we go. We pass the board that was dropped. A long descent, then we stop. We see the two bricks. After a moment of stillness the board slams to the earth, text up. We hear a growing RUMBLE then a sudden BURST OF AIR. Something has awakened.

EXT. HELL GATE - NIGHT

John and Mikey emerge from Hell Gate.

JOHN  
See, you survived.

MIKEY  
You got scared too man.

JOHN  
I did. "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it."

MIKEY  
What's that from?

JOHN  
It's not from a movie buddy. I'm out.

MIKEY  
Yo, take these.

Mikey holds out two joints.

JOHN  
Yeah?

MIKEY  
I bought 'em for us.

JOHN  
I'll take one, on one condition.  
Tomorrow, you have to do something else you've been afraid to do.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Come on man!

JOHN

One thing! The easiest thing.

MIKEY

Fuck I don't know.

JOHN

This is not the hard part! What are you putting off because you're afraid you might fail? Don't think just answer. Ready? Three, two, one, GO!

MIKEY

Running. I could go for a run.

JOHN

Running?

MIKEY

I want to start but I'm like worried it'll be too hard and I'll like struggle and just give up or whatever.

JOHN

Alright man, first thing tomorrow. Don't think about it, just go.

MIKEY

Yeah, OK.

JOHN

Alright, I'll swing by tomorrow night?

MIKEY

Yeah come through.

JOHN

Merry Christmas buddy.

MIKEY

Merry Christmas.

John drives away.

A RUMBLE.

In Hell Gate something bolts up the hole and into the caves.

(CONTINUED)

Mikey opens his car door. He hears something  
Something speeds through the caves. The RUMBLE grows.  
Mikey approaches Hell Gate. The RUMBLE grows.  
Something flashes past the caution tape. The RUMBLE grows.  
Mikey peers into Hell Gate. The RUMBLE peaks!  
Silence.

A BLACK HAZE emerges from Hell Gate and rushes Mikey. It enters Mikey's mouth just as he smokes his joint. Mikey's eyes roll back in his head and cloud over with darkness.

Mikey coughs hard. A SCREECHING as the haze is coughed out. Mikey's eyes clear and he watches the haze retreat into Hell Gate.

Mikey stares into Hell Gate, then at his joint. He shakes his head, throws his joint away, and leaves.

The RUMBLE resumes.

INT. HELL GATE - DAWN

It's hard to see but we are headed toward a light. We sway uneasily. Our vision clears and we are in Hell Gate, creeping toward the entrance.

A JOGGER passes and we surge toward him. The Jogger's eyes roll back in his head and cloud over with darkness. His body stiffens. His hair turns gray and his skin sags.

A visible LIFE FORCE leaves his body and is sucked into Hell Gate. The Jogger's corpse falls to the ground.

Stillness.

The Jogger's eyes reopen, glow with black light, then turn black. His mouth opens unnaturally wide and emits an unearthly SHRIEK.

INT. MIKEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mikey snaps up in bed, panting and sweaty.

MIKEY  
What the fuck?

Mikey grabs a joint from the nightstand.

(CONTINUED)



MIKEY  
Lighter?

Mikey searches the floor and finds his running shoes.

MIKEY  
Fuck you John.

INT. MIKEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mikey puts his oversized headphones on, his hood up, and turns up a SONG.

MIKEY  
Just once around the block.

EXT. MIKEY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Mikey runs and we hear the song.

A car is parked in his neighbor's front yard Christmas display.

Behind Mikey a building billows smoke.

A fire truck is on its side.

Someone in an ugly Christmas sweater sprints across the street.

A YOUNG GIRL WITH BLACK EYES walks down the middle of the street.

Two people run screaming from a house.

A family of four fight a BLACK EYED MAN.

Someone leaps from their second story window.

A car slams into a house.

Mikey has not noticed any of this, or the fact that the BLACK EYED JOGGER from his nightmare is now chasing him. The Jogger closes in as Mikey passes through his front door and slams it in the Jogger's face.

INT. MIKEY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mikey is sweaty and out of breath.

MIKEY  
Fuck! That! Why is running so hard?

INT. MIKEY'S BATHROOM - DAY

Mikey ties a towel around his waist and retrieves a joint and lighter from the medicine cabinet. He takes a drag. His eyes roll back in his head and cloud over with darkness.

INT. MIKEY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We smash through Mikey's living room window and tumble into the house. We search the room and see steam coming from under the bathroom door. We lurch for the door and SLAM into it.

INT. MIKEY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The slam on the door snaps Mikey back and his eyes return to normal.

MIKEY  
Uh, Hello?

SLAM.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Who's there?

SLAM.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Occupied.

SLAM. The BLACK EYED JOGGER bursts through the door and attacks Mikey.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

They grapple.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Get off me you fucking pervert!

Mikey pushes the Jogger and he falls, hitting his head on toilet.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Oh shit, oh shit, oh shit! That  
looks bad. You OK man?

Mikey lifts the Jogger's body and its head falls of.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Holy shit!

Mikey leaps out of the bathroom.

INT. MIKEY'S LIVING ROOM

MIKEY  
What the fuck?

John bursts through the front door.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

JOHN  
Holy shit you're OK!

MIKEY  
What?

JOHN  
You need to lock this door! Are the  
windows locked? Pull the blinds,  
I'll check in back.

MIKEY  
John, what's-

JOHN  
Jesus what happened here?

MIKEY  
John! What's going on?

JOHN  
What the fuck do you mean "what's  
going on?" This is going on.

John turns on the TV. We see clips of BLACK EYED PEOPLE  
attacking and abducting others, intercut with the REPORTER.

REPORTER (ON TV)  
...reports of violent attacks and  
abductions all over the tri-county  
area. These attacks have been  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER (ON TV) (cont'd)  
perpetrated by what witnesses have described as "dead-eyed people" who seem to be in a "trance like state". The sheriff's department has been unable determine the cause of these wide spread acts of violence but they are urging people to stay in there homes, lock their doors and windows, and call 911 to report any emergencies.

MIKEY

Holy shit!

JOHN

I know right. What the fuck did you think this was?

MIKEY

I don't know! I was taking a shower after my run and this... thing just attacked me.

JOHN

You went for a run and didn't see anything strange? YOU WENT FOR A RUN?

MIKEY

Fuck off. What are they?

JOHN

I don't know. They're people... or they were people. Put some pants on, we're out of here.

MIKEY

Where we going?

JOHN

My grandparents' place in P.A. Whatever is happening here, it's not happening there. I sent my folks and told him we'd be right behind.

The TV loses signal.

MIKEY

Fuck. OK, let's go.

(CONTINUED)

Mikey retrieves his pants from the bathroom. He uses a plunger to roll the disembodied head and get his lighter from under it.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Dude, this is fucking crazy.

Mikey hits the joint and his eyes roll back in his head and cloud over with darkness.

JOHN

Mikey?

EXT. MIKEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

We move around Mikey's house looking for a way in. We see the broken window and rush toward it.

INT. MIKEY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

John slaps Mikey's face and Mikey's eyes return to normal.

MIKEY

What the shit! Why'd you slap me?

JOHN

You were shaking and your eyes were crazy-

MIKEY

(whispering)

Shut up shut up! Get down, one of them is coming.

A BLACK EYED OLD MAN leans in the broken window and scans the room. He leaves.

JOHN

How did you know he was coming?

MIKEY

I saw it.

JOHN

You were facing the wrong way and like having a seizure.

MIKEY

No I like saw... as him.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

I'm sorry?

MIKEY

I think it happened with the other one too. I like saw him break through the window right before he attacked me.

JOHN

What do you mean "saw as" them? Like you could see what they see?

MIKEY

Yeah.

JOHN

How?

MIKEY

I don't know.

JOHN

But it was happening when you were bugging out?

MIKEY

I guess.

John looks out the window and sees four BLACK EYED people out front.

JOHN

We've got to go.

MIKEY

Are you kidding? I'm not going out there with those...things.

There is a SLAM on the door.

JOHN

Mikey it's not safe here.

MIKEY

It's not safe out there!

SLAM

JOHN (CONT'D)

Come on! We'll go out the back.

EXT. MIKEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mikey and John peek around the corner of the house. There are half a dozen BLACK EYED people between them and John's car.

MIKEY

Fuck, fuck, fuck! What do we do?

JOHN

My phone's got no service. You?

MIKEY

No. Oh God we're screwed.

JOHN

OK, we just need to like distract them or something.

John throws a rock, smashing Mikey's car window.

MIKEY

Fuck! My car.

JOHN

I'm SO sorry. I was just trying to hit the garbage cans to make noise.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It worked though, they're moving.  
Let's go!

Mikey and John sneak toward John's car. Five more BLACK EYED people emerge from behind it.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Shit! This way.

John pulls Mikey the in other direction.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Mikey and John are hiding behind a fence.

JOHN (CONT'D)

There are way more of them than there were this morning.

MIKEY

What do we do now?

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
Just give me a second.

MIKEY  
We're fucking dead!

Mikey lights his joint and takes a drag. His eyes roll back and cloud over.

EXT. MIKEY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

With the help of another BLACK EYED person we are dragging a man down the street.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

John slaps Mikey's face, bringing him back.

MIKEY  
Fuck! There's got to be another way to do that.

JOHN  
It's the weed! Your eyes went crazy right when you smoked. Same thing happened at your place. Pass it here, let me try.

John takes a hit of Mikey's joint.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
(inhaling)  
Is it happening? Are my eyes getting weird?

MIKEY  
No. Do you see anything?

JOHN  
Just you.

MIKEY  
Try again. Take a bigger hit.

John takes a long drag of the joint.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Anything?

(CONTINUED)



JOHN  
No. What the fuck?

MIKEY  
Maybe it's not the weed.

Mikey hits the joint and his eyes cloud over.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

We are in a large group of BLACK EYED people walking toward Mikey and John.

EXT. MIKEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

John slaps Mikey.

MIKEY  
God damn it! Can't you just shake me or something?

JOHN  
The slaps seem to work fine.

MIKEY  
There's a bunch of them coming up the street! We've got to do something!

JOHN  
This way.

Mikey and John cut through the back yard and over to the next block. They are met by more BLACK EYED people.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Run!

Mikey and John run up the street. They get to an intersection and there are groups of BLACK EYED people in every direction.

MIKEY  
Oh fuck!

A tricked out jeep (lift kit, oversized tires, bullbar) barrels up the street nearly hitting Mikey and John. It skids to a stop.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA  
You clowns need a ride?

INT. ANNA'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Anna is driving.

ANNA  
What the fuck were you two doing in  
the middle of the street?

JOHN  
We were trying to get to my car but  
there were so many of them.

ANNA  
Mikey, you alright?

MIKEY  
Uh... yeah I'm OK. Thanks.

Anna's jeep speeds down the road.

INT. ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is decorated like a hunting lodge. Taxidermied  
animals line the walls.

ANNA  
So you're telling me when Mikey  
smokes weed he can see what those  
things see?

MIKEY  
Yeah.

ANNA  
But it doesn't work for you?

JOHN  
Nope.

ANNA  
Would it work for me?

Mikey gives Anna the joint and she smokes.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
(exhaling)  
Nope. Good weed though.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Thanks. Your dad's place still creeps me out. Shit, he's not here is he?

ANNA

He went to check on my aunt. So what exactly do you see when this happens?

MIKEY

It's like... you know when you're watching SVU and they're looking at a bunch of grainy security monitors, but then they find what they're looking for so you only see the feed from that one monitor?

ANNA

Absolutely.

MIKEY

It's like that. Then I just see what that one person sees.

ANNA

Mikey, how is this happening?

MIKEY

I don't know.

ANNA

The shit hit the fan overnight, so what happened to you yesterday?

MIKEY

Nothing. I worked all day. We met up at Hell Gate after.

ANNA

Thanks for the invite.

John smokes.

JOHN

Not my fault.

MIKEY

Sorry. That's it though. Just work and Hell Gate.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

What did you do at Hell Gate?

JOHN

Smoked. Wandered around. Mikey  
threw some shit down a hole.

ANNA

What hole?

MIKEY

We got lost and I fell through a  
wall and found like a well or  
something.

JOHN

Someone carved a bunch of weird  
shit all around it.

ANNA

That's it? You found a hole and  
some graffiti?

Anna smokes.

JOHN

That's it. Then we left.

MIKEY

Not exactly...

JOHN

What's going on buddy?

MIKEY

Last night, after you left I  
thought I heard something coming  
from Hell Gate. This... black haze  
came out and it like forced me to  
inhale it. But between it and the  
weed I started coughing and I  
hacked it up. It screeched and flew  
back into Hell Gate.

ANNA

What the fuck?

JOHN

Why didn't you say anything?

MIKEY

I thought I imagined it! I was  
super high and kind of scared.

(CONTINUED)

John smokes.

ANNA

OK, OK, OK! Let's back up. What else did you see in this hole?

MIKEY

Nothing. It was too deep.

JOHN

There were a fuckload of these symbols though.

John draws an APOTROPAIC SYMBOL.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And the dude's name....

MIKEY

Fucking... Damon! In this old ass font and spelled weird.

ANNA

D A E M O N?

MIKEY

Yeah.

ANNA

You guys are either fucking with me or you're morons.

MIKEY

Well we're not fucking with you...

ANNA

D A E M O N isn't a weird way to spell Damon, it's a weird way to spell demon.

JOHN

So... what? You're saying there's an actual demon in Hell Gate? I'm high and that still sounds crazy.

ANNA

Does it? Is it any crazier than anything else you've seen today? I don't know how but that shit last night has to be connected to what's going on. We've got to figure out what that haze was or what the symbols are...

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

No phones, internet is down. How do we look anything up?

ANNA

We can go to the library.

JOHN

Library? Do they still have those?

ANNA

Yes "they still have those."

JOHN

Nerd. Alright, fuck it, let's go.

MIKEY

Or maybe we don't. Maybe instead of running around town with those things everywhere, we get out of here and let the cops handle it?

JOHN

Mikey, if we figure out what's happening to you maybe we can stop it, and stop the rest of this shit.

ANNA

Plus you can keep us away from those things with your weed super power right? Come on, we got this.

EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

Mikey, John, and Anna are standing in the front door.

JOHN

Can you see any of them?

ANNA

No.

JOHN

Mikey do the thing.

Mikey smokes.

EXT. ANNA'S STREET - CONTINUOUS

We are walking away from the house carrying a person.

EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

John slaps Mikey.

MIKEY

Fuck! I thought you were going to shake me or something.

JOHN

I never agreed to that.

ANNA

That was crazy! What did you see?

MIKEY

I think we're good.

INT./EXT. ANNA'S JEEP - DAY

Anna drives. The town is in chaos. BLACK EYED people roam the streets, Christmas decorations have been destroyed, cars are up-turned, the police station is engulfed in flames.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

The library looks more like a church, complete with stained glass windows and pointed arches. Anna's jeep pulls up.

INT. ANNA'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

JOHN

Alright Mikey.

MIKEY

I'll do it, but I swear to God John if you slap me, this is the last time.

JOHN

I will not slap you.

Mikey smokes.

EXT. LIBRARY - HEDGE MAZE - CONTINUOUS

We are roaming the garden behind the library. We see two other BLACK EYED people.

INT. ANNA'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Mikey is slapped.

MIKEY

Fuck you man!

ANNA

That was me.

MIKEY

You guys are the worst.

JOHN

So?

MIKEY

There's some out back but I think it's clear inside.

EXT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Mikey, John, and, Anna cautiously approach the library door.

JOHN

It's locked. I thought they didn't lock these.

ANNA

Of course it's locked, it's not a fucking church.

JOHN

Then how do we get in?

Anna retrieves a key from a nook above the door.

ANNA

I used to volunteer here.

MIKEY

That would be pretty cool if we'd been breaking into any place other than a library.

Anna punches Mikey on the arm and they enter.



INT. LIBRARY - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The library is dark and cavernous.

MIKEY

This place creeped me out even  
before all this shit.

JOHN

Yeah, it's like too quiet in here.

ANNA

It's a library, it's always quiet.  
John and I will search. Mikey,  
you're on lookout.

MIKEY

Lame.

INT. LIBRARY - GRAND HALL - DAY

Mikey is sitting on the floor. Anna and John have stacks of  
books in front of them and are flipping through pages.

MIKEY

I take it back, lookout duty is not  
lame!

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over, but after a moment they  
return to normal.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Guys, I figured it out. If I just  
take small hits it doesn't last  
very long. No more slaps fuckers!

ANNA

You see anything.

MIKEY

Nah, they're still in the hedge  
maze. They seem pretty fucking  
stupid. One is tangled in Christmas  
lights.

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over but quickly change back.

MIKEY

GUYS! I can totally switch who I'm  
watching! It's like player swap in  
2K. I can jump from one to the  
next.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Can you hear them? Like what they hear? Are they communicating? I have so many questions.

MIKEY

I don't really hear much but they're all like thinking the same thing. Like they share a brain or something.

ANNA

Like a collective consciousness? Like the Borg!

MIKEY

YES! Exactly like the Borg!

JOHN

The Borg?

MIKEY

The Borg are this like cybernetic alien group in Star Trek. They go around capturing people and turning them into more Borg.

ANNA

They all share a consciousness, a hive mind called The Collective.

JOHN

Nerds! The both of you!

ANNA

What are they thinking?

MIKEY

It's hard to feel it now. It's like trying to remember a dream.

ANNA

Do it again.

JOHN

Yeah but just stay... *in* one of them?

MIKEY

Gross. Alright, I'm going in.

Mikey smokes.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

We've been at this a while.

ANNA

Yeah, he's pretty baked.

Mikey's eyes clear. He's back.

MIKEY

OK! Uh... What was I doing?

ANNA

You were going to tell us what they're thinking.

MIKEY

Right! Um... gather.

JOHN

Gather? Gather what?

MIKEY

I don't know. Just gather. Want me to try again?

ANNA

Why don't you take a break from lookout duty for a while.

MIKEY

Probably a good idea. I'm lit. And like starving. You think there's a vending machine here?

ANNA

I do not.

JOHN

I think I found something.

John shows a page with the same symbols from the cave.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It says they're app-uh-tro-pay-ic (apotropaic) markings. "Symbols or patterns designed to ward off evil. Dating back to the early 1600's these symbols are often found around doorways, windows, and fire places, presumably to prevent evil from passing through."

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Holy shit!

EXT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

A large pack of BLACK EYED people approach the front of the library.

INT. LIBRARY - GRAND HALL - CONTINUOUS

JOHN

So those symbols were keeping something trapped down that hole?

MIKEY

Like what?

ANNA

This.

Anna opens her book on the table. There is a horrifying drawing of a demon.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I was reading about Hell Gate and apparently the storm drains were built into caves that were already there. They were mines dug by settlers in like the 1600s. There's this legend that the mines were walled off because the settlers found an actual gateway to hell down there, a Hellmouth, and were attacked by a "...hellbeast that murders men, feasts on their souls, and possesses their corpses to hunt for more prey". It's the whole reason Hell Gate got it's name.

JOHN

...I had not heard that.

ANNA

"...the creature grows in strength with each soul it consumes, in its quest to reach its full form and conquer the world of men"

A WINDOW SMASH comes from somewhere inside the Library.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY  
Oh fuck!

ANNA  
Mikey!

Mikey smokes.

INT. LIBRARY - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

We are in a herd of BLACK EYED people storming into the library.

INT. LIBRARY - GRAND HALL - CONTINUOUS

Mikey is back.

MIKEY  
They're inside! A lot of them!

JOHN  
Where?

MIKEY  
The front.

ANNA  
This way! Mikey grab those.

Mikey collects the books and the three run for the back door.

EXT. LIBRARY - HEDGE MAZE - DAY

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over then return to normal.

MIKEY  
There's three of them out here but  
I can't tell where they are. This  
fucking maze all looks the same!

Anna puts a finger to her lips to shush Mikey and she cautiously leads Mikey and John into the hedge maze.

MIKEY  
Shit!

A HUGE BLACK EYED MAN runs toward the group. Anna punches him in the throat.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Holy fuck!

The HUGE BLACK EYED MAN staggers backward for a moment then lunges at Anna, grabbing her.

John tries to pull the HUGE BLACK EYED MAN away from Anna. A BLACK EYED WOMAN sprints up the path behind them.

ANNA

Behind you!

The BLACK EYED WOMAN tackles John.

A BLACK EYED OLD WOMAN tangled in Christmas lights pushes her way through the hedge.

MIKEY

Oh shit, oh shit, oh shit!

The strand of Christmas lights around the BLACK EYED OLD WOMAN catches a hedge and she is stuck. Mikey punches her in the face.

MIKEY

Fuck! My hand!

Mikey drops the books and they fall open. Anna frees herself from the HUGE BLACK EYED MAN and pushes him. He trips over John and falls to the ground.

Anna tries to pull the BLACK EYED WOMAN off of John.

The HUGE BLACK EYED MAN regains his feet and rushes Anna. Mikey grabs a book, and hits the HUGE BLACK EYED MAN in the face with it. He goes down hard and does not get back up.

MIKEY

Holy shit!

Mikey looks at the book. It's open to the page with the APOTROPAIC SYMBOL.

JOHN

Mikey!

Mikey uses the book to knock the BLACK EYED WOMAN off of John. She stays down.

ANNA

How'd you do that?

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

I think it's the symbol. It like,  
hurts them.

The BLACK EYED OLD WOMAN lurches forward. Still leashed to the hedge by the Christmas lights.

ANNA

Let's test this out.

Anna closes the book and hits the BLACK EYED OLD WOMAN in the face with it. Hard. She jolts back but quickly lashes out again at Anna. Anna opens the book to the page with the APOTROPAIC SYMBOL and strikes the BLACK EYED OLD WOMAN again. She goes down.

JOHN

Holy shit!

ANNA

That's pretty fucking awesome.

JOHN

So wait, is that all of them?

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over.

EXT. LIBRARY - HEDGE MAZE - CONTINUOUS

We are in a herd of BLACK EYED people pouring out of the back of the library and into hedge maze.

EXT. LIBRARY - HEDGE MAZE - CONTINUOUS

Mikey's eyes clear as a pack of BLACK EYED people tear through the hedge behind him.

MIKEY

Go, go, go!

Mikey, John, and Anna run.

They turn at the next intersection. It's a dead end. They double back and run into the pack of BLACK EYED people. Anna hits one of them in the face with the book and it falls into the others, knocking the entire pack down.

Anna, Mikey, and John run in the other direction. They find the end of the maze and continue running into the woods beyond it.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Mikey leads Anna and John through the woods.

MIKEY  
Come on! Almost there.

ANNA  
Where are we going?

MIKEY  
STOP!

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over then return to normal.

MIKEY  
OK, it's clear.

Mikey runs ahead.

JOHN  
Mikey!

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

Anna and John emerge from the woods into the parking lot of an old school gas station. Part gas station, part general store, part repair shop, all dirty. Mikey has almost reached the door.

ANNA  
Mikey, what are we doing here?

MIKEY  
I need snacks! I'm starving!

Mikey enters the gas station.

JOHN  
What the fuck man!

ANNA  
My Jeep is still back there. What the fuck do we do now?

Mikey emerges carrying an armful of snacks. He has a doughnut in his mouth.

MIKEY  
John I got you peanut butter cups.  
Anna, you like Mike and Ikes yeah?

(CONTINUED)



ANNA

Yeah... Mikey I'm worried that you're not understanding how serious shit is right now.

MIKEY

No I get it. We're fucked. I'm just blazed. AAAaaannnd I just remembered something from last night that probably would have been helpful to know earlier, so I wanted you guys in the best possible mood when I tell you. Soda?

ANNA

Mikey, I swear to Christ if you tell me you lost a fiddle contest with the devil I'm gong to kick you in the nuts!

Mikey takes a step away from Anna.

MIKEY

I had a nightmare. I thought it was a nightmare. I was like floating through Hell Gate and a guy ran by and I like attacked him. He inhaled that black haze, like I did, but he didn't cough it up and it killed him. Then his like spirit or something came out of his body and was sucked into Hell Gate. But then his eyes opened back up and they were black. Then I woke up.

Anna kicks Mikey in the testicles and he falls to the ground.

ANNA

Are you a fucking demon?

MIKEY

No! I don't think so... I think I was just seeing what the demon saw. I'm like connected to it because it tried to posses me. The way that it's connected to all of them. That's why I can see what those things see.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

That makes more sense... Sorry.

Anna helps Mikey up.

JOHN

OK, so recapping here, last night Mikey and I got high and accidentally opened a pathway to hell which released a demon. Both of which are apparently real things.

ANNA

Yes.

JOHN

That demon tried to possess Mikey but failed and now Mikey is... connected to its brain.

MIKEY

Yo!

JOHN

That demon is killing people, eating their souls, and possessing their corpses to capture more people, which it will subsequently kill, eat, and possess.

ANNA

Yes.

JOHN

And... it's just gong to keep doing this until it kills everyone on earth?

MIKEY

Yes?

JOHN

Cool, I just wanted to make sure I understood the situation.

MIKEY

Alright, so what do we do now? Who do we tell about all this.

JOHN

The cops? A priest?

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Priest Cop! Is that a thing?

JOHN

I'd binge 5 season of that.

ANNA

The police station is on fire, and I have no idea how to find a priest.

JOHN

How did they stop it the first time? Like in the 1600s.

Anna flips through the book.

ANNA

It looks like they trapped it. They forced it back into the Hellmouth and locked it down there with those symbols.

JOHN

So we just do that, right?

MIKEY

"We" like us? You, me, and her? Are you fucking crazy?

JOHN

Maybe man. Maybe I've lost my mind and I'm imagining this whole shit-storm, but if I'm not, then this is our fault. We let that thing loose Mikey. Accident or not that's on us. We fucked up buddy. We fucked up bad. But through a series of fucking fortuitous events we're still here, we figured out what's happening, and we know how to stop it. And you're the only person on earth with the... see-through-their-eyes weed power. We have a chance to make this shit right. We have to try.

ANNA

Wow!

MIKEY

Yeah! That was really good man.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Inspiring.

MIKEY

Did you just come up with that on the spot or?

JOHN

Honestly, I can't tell if you're fucking with me right now or not.

ANNA

Fuck it, I'm in.

MIKEY

Yeah, OK, me too. What's the plan?

JOHN

I hadn't really gotten past the speech yet. Uh... I guess we carve symbols into a bunch of shit and Mikey super-weed-powers us a clear path to Hell Gate?

They share a look. Nobody has a better idea.

INT. GAS STATION GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Anna opens the garage door and the three enter.

MONTAGE

-John picks up a shovel.

-Mikey finds a wooden baseball bat.

-Anna brakes the head off of a broom.

-John grabs a garbage can lid and mimes using it as a shield.

-Anna tucks two hammers into the back of her belt.

-Mikey carves symbols into his bat with a screw driver.

-John painting a symbol on his shovel and garbage can lid.

-Mikey carves symbols into Anna's broomstick.

-Anna puts elbow pads and a welding helmet next to Mikey.

(CONTINUED)

-John still painting, has a thought, and paints a symbol on his chest.

-Anna, Mikey, and John emerge from the garage armed with their make shift weapons and dressed like ratchet Mad Max extras.

END OF MONTAGE

ANNA

Fuck! My dad. We have to go see if he and my aunt are OK.

JOHN

Mikey can we get back to Anna's Jeep?

Mikey smokes. His eyes briefly cloud.

MIKEY

I don't think so. There's still a lot of them at the church. Hold up!

Mikey grabs a key hanging by the door and runs behind the garage. The RUMBLE of an old diesel engine. Mikey pulls around the corner in an ancient tow truck that is 80% rust.

ANNA

Holy shit.

MIKEY

Let's go! Someone else should drive though, I'm pretty baked.

EXT. HELL GATE - DAY

A CAPTURED MAN struggles. He is being held by two BLACK EYED people.

CAPTURED MAN

Please let me go! What do you want? Please! Please!

The BLACK HAZE emerges from Hell Gate and slowly moves toward the man.

CAPTURED MAN

No! No! Please no!

The BLACK HAZE enters the man's mouth. He undergoes the same death as the jogger in Mikey's dream.

(CONTINUED)

The visible LIFE FORCE exits his body and is sucked into Hell Gate.

A MOAN comes from the darkness of Hell Gate.

The Captured Man's eyes reopen, glow with black light, then turn black. He SHRIEKS.

His eyes cease to glow but remain black. He calmly stands and joins the two BLACK EYED people who were his captors. As they leave together we see a line of captives awaiting the same fate.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Two cars that collided are blocking the road. The tow truck pulls up.

INT. TOW TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

ANNA

I don't think there's room to get around. Let's try to move them.

Mikey smokes.

MIKEY

They're close. Let's make this fast.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

John approaches one of the cars. As he touches the door handle the CAR ALARM goes off.

JOHN

Fuck!

John jumps in the car and starts it. He tries to pull it away from the other car but the crash has entangled them.

JOHN

Somebody try the other one!

MIKEY

On it.

Mikey gets in the other car. It won't start.

A BLACK EYED person approaches. Anna quickly dispatches it with her broomstick/bo staff.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Nice!

JOHN

Just hold the break down on yours.

John floors it. His car's wheels spin in place on the pavement.

Three BLACK EYED people approach. Mikey pulls the emergency break in his car and jumps out.

Anna makes quick work of two of the BLACK EYED people. Mikey hits one of them in the head with his bat.

ANNA

They aren't hard to take down now.

MIKEY

How are you so good at this?

ANNA

I want to say CrossFit but I can already feel you judging me for it.

John's car breaks free and flies across the road and into the ditch. A small group of BLACK EYED people emerge from behind the car and surround it.

Anna and Mikey rush over. Mikey knocks the head off of the BLACK EYED person at the driver's door and John gets out.

JOHN

Why do you keep decapitating them?  
They're not zombies!

MIKEY

It just feels right. Like I KNOW  
this will stop them, you know?

ANNA

Guys!

As Anna fights, more and more BLACK EYED people are arriving.

ANNA (CONT'D)

We should go!

Anna, Mikey, and John run back to the tow truck and speed down the road.

EXT. ANNA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - DAY

Anna slowly pulls the tow truck onto the curb. Anna and John survey the area as Mikey smokes. Mikey's eyes briefly cloud over.

MIKEY

It's clear.

Anna, Mikey, and John move cautiously toward the house. Mikey is still carrying the books.

Anna KNOCKS on the door.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hello?

She KNOCKS again.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hello?

Anna turns the doorknob. It's unlocked. She shares a look of concern with Mikey.

INT. ANNA'S AUNT'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Christmas tree is on its side, a lamp is broken, a chair is upturned, and pictures have been knocked off of the mantle.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hello? Aunt Cheryl? Dad? Is anyone here?

Anna looks into the kitchen.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Dad? Hello?

Anna yells upstairs.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Dad?

Anna opens the basement door and yells down.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Dad?

Anna is now just yelling.

(CONTINUED)



ANNA (CONT'D)

Dad? Dad? DAD?

MIKEY

Anna I... I don't think he's here.

ANNA

Mikey, I... my dad-

MIKEY

-is fine. I'm sure he's OK. Your dad is the toughest dude I've ever met. He might be the toughest dude ever. Period.

ANNA

You're just afraid of him because he threatened to kick your ass the first time you came over to watch movies.

MIKEY

I was 12! I was fucking terrified of him! I still am! He's the only senior citizen I'm certain could kick my ass. That's how I know he's fine. I'm more scared of him than I am of these fucking things.

JOHN

There are no cars out back. They probably just left in a hurry.

ANNA

Yeah. Yeah, you're probably right. Thanks.

MIKEY

Let's take a lap around the neighborhood. Maybe we'll find them.

ANNA

Nah. If he left here he would have gone to his hunting cabin in the mountains. He told me to do the same if it got bad.

MIKEY

Do you want to?

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Are you kidding? You clowns would be lost without me.

MIKEY

Fair.

JOHN

Alright, let's get out of here. Mikey, do the thing.

Mikey checks all his pockets.

MIKEY

Uh... I'm out of weed.

ANNA

What?

MIKEY

I've been smoking non-stop. It's got to be the most weed I've smoked in one day in my life.

JOHN

More than Bonnaroo?

MIKEY

Oh... probably not.

ANNA

Guys!

MIKEY

It's fine. We can swing by my dealer's place.

ANNA

You think he'll be there? With all this shit happening?

MIKEY

Trust me, he'll be there.

EXT. TREE'S TRAILER - DAY

A sun bleached, brown and white 1980 Skyline mobile home. There is a wooden fence the same height as the trailer attached to both ends. It extends out and back on both sides. There is a door in the fence to the left.

(CONTINUED)

Mikey walks up the cinder block front steps of the trailer and presses a door bell that's been clumsily wired to the outside of the unit.

MIKEY

Look up or he won't answer.

Mikey points up at security camera.

There is an INTERCOM CLICK.

TREE (O.S)

Yeah what? Mikey? You're still alive?

MIKEY

Uh... yeah. Doing OK.

INTERCOM CLICK.

TREE (O.S)

Who is that with you? Look up!

INTERCOM CLICK.

TREE (O.S)

I don't know them.

MIKEY

It's cool. This is John and Anna.

JOHN

Hi.

ANNA

Hey.

MIKEY

They're my friends from way back.  
I've known them my whole life man.  
They're cool, I promise.

INTERCOM CLICK.

TREE (O.S)

Alright man, any friends of yours.  
I'm out back. I'll buzz you  
through.

Mikey leads Anna and John to the door in the fence.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Tree is a good guy. Super nice.  
Just like, don't make any sudden  
movements.

ANNA

What?

BUZZ. They go through.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

TREE (40) is equal parts his father- a career army ranger,  
and his mother- a barefoot organic farmer. It's a volatile  
combination.

TREE

FREEZE! Stop right there!

MIKEY

It's just us man.

TREE

I know who it is. I put out a  
claymore. You need to hop over the  
tripwire.

Mikey looks down to see a laser tripwire in front of him.

TREE (CONT'D)

Just step on the trailer hitch to  
get over.

Mikey goes first and helps Anna and John.

Tree's yard is a full-out backyard farm. Raised garden  
boxes, a chicken coop, a greenhouse, and a rabbit shelter.  
The exterior fence completely encloses the property. There  
are small storage sheds lining the back wall.

The entire space has been tastefully decorated for  
Christmas, including an ornate manger scene.

MIKEY

The yard looks great.

TREE

Thanks man! Thanks so much. I just  
finished reinforcing the fence. You  
have to that thing with a truck to  
bring it down now. Just in time  
huh? I like your new look man! How

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TREE (cont'd)  
 you doing guys? Nice to meet you.  
 Sorry for the safety precautions  
 but it's finally here right? S. H.  
 T. F! This way guys.

Mikey, John, and Anna follow Tree.

TREE (CONT'D)  
 STOP! Don't move!

JOHN  
 What, another mine?

TREE  
 You're about to step on the  
 radishes! From here to there is  
 winter veggies. Just come around  
 this way, right behind me.

Tree, Mikey, Anna, and John walk single file toward steps  
 that descend to a heavy iron door below ground level.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - DAY

An entire wall of Tree's bunker is an intricately organized  
 pegboard with dozens of perfectly placed items hanging from  
 it. The cot in the corner had been made up with militaristic  
 precision. The storage cages are stocked with all 78  
 Doomsday Prepper essentials including blood clotting  
 sponges, a hand crank radio, and a full out ghillie suit.

TREE  
 Please check your weapons at the  
 door if you don't mind.

Mikey, Anna, and John put their makeshift weapons into a box  
 marked "WEAPONS".

TREE (CONT'D)  
 I called it Mikey! Didn't I call  
 it? I said TEOTWANKI was coming!

MIKEY  
 You did man.

ANNA  
 Tea-oh-what?

TREE  
 The end of the world as we know it?  
 S.H.T.F.? This! What's happening  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TREE (cont'd)  
right now! I've been prepping for years. I can't wait to shove it in my mom's boyfriend's stupid face! Who's "living in a dangerous delusion" now Greg? Dummy.

JOHN  
OK...

TREE  
Can I get you guys anything? I've got dehydrated hummus and freeze dried carrots, a selection of canned meats, there's brownies baking in the barrel oven. OH! I just got the rain water collector up and running last week, thank God, so I can make some rainwater tea?

MIKEY  
I'll take a brownie!

JOHN  
Mikey, focus.

MIKEY  
Right. I think just some bud for now man.

TREE  
Cool. Right down to business. I like new guy here.

Tree grabs two hooks on the pegboard and slides the wall to the side revealing compartments with dozens of types weed.

ANNA  
Whoa!

TREE  
Right? I love this thing. Everything in here has a place and a purpose.

JOHN  
What's the box of toys for?

TREE  
Should I have to lock myself in here for any extended period of time it's important to keep myself  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TREE (cont'd)  
active and entertained. Otherwise  
I'd go crazy from the solitude. HA  
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA! You want  
more of that Sugar Plum Fairy?

MIKEY  
You have anything else fun?

TREE  
You get me bro! I'm doing a 12  
strains of Christmas thing. I've  
got the Sugar Plum Fairy, 3 Kings,  
Permafrost, Jesus, Santa Maria,  
Northern Light, Pine OG, Tree of  
Life, Christmas Cookie, Kosher Kush  
Jack Frost, Hawaiian Snow, and of  
course Christmas Tree.

JOHN  
Shit!

TREE  
This Pine OG is crazy. It's like  
pure sativa. High THC low CBD. It's  
a pretty clear headed high. Plus it  
smells like a Christmas tree farm!

MIKEY  
Sold! You have papers? Shit, I  
don't have any cash. John you got  
this?

John pulls out some cash.

TREE  
Whoa friend, I'm not taking that  
stuff.

JOHN  
What? Money?

TREE  
That paper money is about a 36  
hours away from being absolutely  
worthless. It's a remnant of a  
toppling society bro. No, I'm not  
getting stuck with that nonsense.  
Do you have anything to trade?

MIKEY  
No?

(CONTINUED)

TREE

What about that bat you came in with? That a real Louisville Slugger?

MIKEY

Uh...

Anna checks the bat.

ANNA

Yeah, it is.

TREE

I could be into that. Functionality plus nostalgia... I'll take it!

MIKEY

OK great. Thanks man!

Tree passes Mikey the weed. Anna hands Tree the bat.

ANNA

You have a bathroom down here?

TREE

There's a composting toilet in there.

ANNA

What does that mean?

TREE

You don't flush.

ANNA

...thanks.

Anna goes into the bathroom. Mikey rolls joints with an intensity of focus we have not yet seen from him.

TREE

Of all the doomsday scenarios I've imagined zombies was a fun one, but super low on my list of probables. There's got to be a lesson in that.

JOHN

Zombies? Those aren't zombies.

TREE

Yeah right new guy! Those dead eyed zombies out there zombie-ing around aren't zombies?

(CONTINUED)



MIKEY

(focused on the joints)

No he's right. They're actually like possessed by this demon that we set loose last night. It tried to possess me too but I only got like a little possessed and now I can see into its hive mind.

TREE

Demon...

Tree slowly moves to a corner of the bunker and retrieves something.

MIKEY

(focused on the joints)

Crazy right? Apparently there's like an actual gateway to hell in Hell Gate. Which I guess makes sense. That the path to hell is here in New Jersey, because where else would it be?

TREE

Crux sacra sit mihi lux! Nunquam draco sit mihi dux!

Tree runs across the bunker and tackles Mikey to the ground.

MIKEY

Holy shit!

John tries to pull Tree off of Mikey.

JOHN

What the fuck are you doing man?

Tree pushes John aside. John falls, knocking a heavy shelving unit onto the bathroom door.

ANNA (O.S)

What the fuck?

For the first time we see the crucifix around Tree's neck.

MIKEY

Get off me man!

TREE

Vade retro Satana! Nunquam suade mihi vana!

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Tree you're crazy dude! We're friends!

Tree holds a cross to Mikey's chest and dumps water on him from a small vile.

TREE

I know we are man! That's why I'm doing this. We have to exorcise that demon out of you!

Mikey's flailing fist catches Tree in the face and knocks him off.

TREE (CONT)

Let me do this for you!

Tree jumps back onto Mikey. John tackles Tree.

INT. BATHROOM

Anna is trying to get out but the door is blocked.

ANNA

Yo! What's happening?

She BANGS on the door.

ANNA (CONTD)

Let me out!

INT. TREE'S BUNKER

Mikey scrambles to his feet. Tree pushes John off of him and quickly gets up.

Tree lunges toward Mikey but John trips him from the ground. Tree crashes through a table.

TREE

New guy, I'm trying to help!

Mikey is trying unsuccessfully to move the shelving unit off of the bathroom door.

MIKEY

Shit!

Tree jumps back to his feet and drags John across the bunker by the legs.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
Let me go you psycho!

TREE  
Let me save him!

Tree drags John into a storage cage and locks it.

INT. BATHROOM

Anna is slamming her shoulder into the door.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER

Mikey shifts the shelving unit but it's still blocking the bathroom door.

Tree gathers his cross and holy water and advances on Mikey.

JOHN  
Mikey!

MIKEY  
Fuck fuck fuck!

Mikey runs out of the bunker and Tree follows.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Mikey searches for a way out of the yard but Tree is between him and the only exit.

TREE  
This would go much easier if you  
just let me exorcise you! I've done  
it like two and a half times  
before.

Mikey opens a storage shed, finds a gardening hoe, and wields it like a weapon.

MIKEY  
Tree you need to chill the fuck out  
man!

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

Anna bursts through the bathroom door.

EXT. TREES YARD - CONTINUOUS

Tree cautiously moves toward Mikey.

TREE  
Sunt mala quae libas. Ipse venena  
bibas!

Mikey swing the hoe wildly.

TREE (CONT'D)  
Mikey! Are you still in there! It's  
your best friend Tree! I know you  
can beat this!

MIKEY  
Tree it's me man!

TREE  
The devil is a liar!

Tree lunges at Mikey and Mikey hits him with the hoe.

MIKEY  
Oh fuck! I'm sorry man! Are you OK?

TREE  
Mikey if you can hear me in there I  
swear I will save you!

MIKEY  
TREE IT'S ME!

TREE  
I'm coming Mikey!

Tree charges again. Mikey leaps out of his path and Tree  
crashed into a the storage shed.

MIKEY  
Tree stop! Or... Or...

Mikey moves the hoe to the ground.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Or I'll fuck up the winter veggies!

Tree stops dead.

(CONTINUED)

TREE  
You wouldn't.

MIKEY  
Try me.

TREE  
That's the demon talking.

MIKEY  
Is it?

Tree takes a step toward Mikey and Mikey hacks the ground with the hoe. Earth, seed, and veggie viscera fly through the air.

TREE  
Nooooooooo!

Anna hits Tree in the back of the head with a number 10 can of meat, pushes him into the storage shed, and locks it.

ANNA  
What the actual fuck?

TREE (O.S)  
Let me out! We've got to get that demon out of Mikey before it's too late!

MIKEY  
Tree, you've wildly misjudged the situation.

TREE (O.S)  
What? Oh. Wait. So you're not being controlled by the devil?

MIKEY  
No dude!

TREE (O.S)  
Sorry. My bad. That's on me bro. You can let me out now. I'm cool.

MIKEY  
Tree man, I just don't believe that. I think you want out so you can keep trying to exorcise me.

TREE (O.S)  
...no.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

Tree?

TREE (O.S)

Yeah, that's right. You really do get me bro!

MIKEY

Alright man, so we're just going to leave you in there until you calm down OK?

TREE (O.S.)

Smart. It's actually kind of nice in here. The wood smell is soothing.

Mikey takes the keys from John and pockets them.

MIKEY

Great! I'm going to hold on to your keys man. You'll be good in there for a while?

TREE (O.S.)

Totally! This is not the first time I've been locked in a closet to cool off.

MIKEY

Cool. Later man.

TREE

Later!

INT./EXT - TOW TRUCK - DAY

The tow tuck speeds down the road. Black smoke billows from the vertical exhaust and weed smoke billows from Mikey, who is standing in the truck bed signaling what direction to go. Anna drives, John rides shotgun.

Everyone yells to be heard.

MIKEY

Hey guys!

JOHN

Yeah buddy?

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY

This feels pretty badass, like  
absolutely! But I'm freezing!  
Should I just ride in the cab?

ANNA

I told you this was a stupid idea!

JOHN

It does look badass though!

MIKEY

Well that's good!

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over.

INT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

We are in the darkness of Hell Gate looking out. A group of  
BLACK EYED people stand over a lifeless body.

A visible LIFE FORCE moves toward us.

It passes into us.

We look down at our arms and see exposed bone and a tangle  
of veins. Muscle forms as we watch.

We MOAN.

INT./EXT - TOW TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Mikey MOANS.

JOHN

Mikey! Mikey! MIKEY!

Mikey's eyes return to normal. He is out of breath.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You OK?

MIKEY

Yeah, yeah I'm good. Pull off up  
here.

EXT. ROADSIDE - DUSK

Mikey is using a stick to diagram the plan in the dirt.

MIKEY

So this is the entrance to Hell Gate right? And this is the woods and the tree line is like here.

JOHN

Drawing up a plan in the dirt is an actual bucket list item for me.

MIKEY

I know right.

ANNA

Mikey? Can you...

MIKEY

Right. So there's a ton of these uh... What are we calling these things?

JOHN

We've just been calling them "things" so far.

MIKEY

That's a little vague though right.

ANNA

Black eyed people?

MIKEY

Kind of a mouth full.

JOHN

Does it really matter what we call them?

MIKEY

I think so. Just for clarity's sake.

ANNA

Possessed?

JOHN

Goosebumps!

(CONTINUED)



MIKEY

Yeah, alright cool! OK, so there's a lot of "possessed" in the field between the woods and the entrance. But the group thins out once you get into the trees.

ANNA

OK, so we come from this side. Where the woods are close to the entrance.

MIKEY

There's still no way we'll get from the woods to the entrance without being scene.

JOHN

I have an idea.

EXT. WOODS - DUSK

Anna and Mikey discretely move through the woods. There are BLACK EYED people 20 feet away.

Mikey steps on a stick. SNAP. Anna and Mikey freeze. A BLACK EYED person turns and moves in their direction. Anna and Mikey hide behind trees.

As the BLACK EYED person passes her, Anna strikes it in the head with her broomstick/bo staff and it goes down.

Anna and Mikey pause to see if the noise draws more attention. It does not.

They continue to the edge of the woods and peak out to see hundreds of BLACK EYED people between them and Hell Gate.

MIKEY

This is fucking crazy!

ANNA

Sh! Just stay calm.

A pack of BLACK EYED people shuffle toward them.

MIKEY

Holy shit, holy shit, holy shit!

ANNA

Sh!

The pack of BLACK EYED people are 15 feet away.

(CONTINUED)

10 feet away.

5 feet away.

Anna readies herself to attack when...

A TRUCK HORN sounds loud from the opposite direction.

EXT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

The tow truck tears out of the woods, HORN blaring. It plows through groups of BLACK EYED people. Nobody is behind the wheel. There is a rock on the gas pedal.

John, sprints out of the woods not far from Mikey and Anna.

The hoard of BLACK EYED people chase the truck as it slams into a large tree and explodes into flames.

JOHN

Jesus Christ fucking god damn.

ANNA

Let's go!

MIKEY

Let me just make sure it's clear!

Mikey smokes. His eyes cloud over.

MIKEY'S POV

We see Anna in front of us. We look down to see Mikey's baseball bat in our hands.

MIKEY (V.O.)

Anna! Something's wrong.

ANNA

Mikey!

MIKEY (V.O.)

It's me! I see as me! It's in my head!

BACK TO SCENE

Mikey's eyes glow with black light. All the BLACK EYED people turn toward Mikey in unison.

JOHN  
What's happening buddy?

MIKEY  
It's in my head! It sees what I see! It sees us!

A SHRIEK comes from Hell Gate.

Anna grabs Mikey's arm and runs into the woods. John follows with the BLACK EYED people close behind.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Anna, Mikey, and John run at full speed. Mikey's eyes return to normal. The BLACK EYED people are gaining on them.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Anna, Mikey, and John explode out of the woods and sprint for a barn in the distance.

BLACK EYED people pour out of the woods behind them.

EXT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Anna, Mikey, and John reach the barn and slam the door shut.

The barn is instantly encircled by BLACK EYED people. More are arriving every second.

INT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

Anna and John stack bags of grain in front of the door. The sound of BANGING on the flimsy wooden walls is constant.

ANNA  
What the fuck happened?

MIKEY  
I don't know! I could feel it looking through my eyes. I didn't know how to stop it.

A fist punches a hole in the door.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck.

JOHN  
They're going to tear this place  
apart.

ANNA  
Fuck that!

Anna positions herself in front of the door.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
We do that thing from Avengers  
where we let them come through this  
one spot so we can keep them in  
front off us.

MIKEY  
There are SO MANY of them!

JOHN  
He's right.

ANNA  
So what then? We just wait for them  
to get in?

John surveys the barn. There is a ladder leading up to a hay  
loft, and a 1954 Farmall Super M tractor.

John jumps on the tractor and starts it.

JOHN  
You two, up the ladder. I'll put  
this in gear and be right behind  
you. They follow it, we run the  
other way.

MIKEY  
Are you sure you can-

Another fist breaks through the wall.

JOHN  
GO!

Anna and Mikey hurry up the ladder. John puts the tractor in  
gear and jumps off, rolling when he hits the ground.

The tractor smashes through the barn wall and immediately  
runs over dozens of BLACK EYED people.



JOHN (cont'd)

"I can't do this" not "What can I do?" It's what happened with your movies, it's what happened with Anna-

MIKEY

Dude!

JOHN

Brother, I love you, I do. I'm just saying, that fear plays a huge role in your life. You have to identify that shit so you can deal with it. Shit is not always going to be easy but if you give up every time life gets hard then you're just beating yourself. You're so afraid to fail but giving up is like the only way to *guarantee* failure.

John grabs the rope hanging from the front of the barn.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Don't come down until it's clear.

MIKEY

What the fuck are you doing?

JOHN

Same plan. They chase me, you guys go the other way.

MIKEY

That's fucking crazy!

JOHN

If this works we all get away. If it doesn't, I lose but you guys get away. But if we just sit here and do nothing we all loose. I don't believe in no-win scenarios.

ANNA

Kobayashi Maru!

JOHN

I don't know what that is.

MIKEY

You're like eerily close to a Star Trek thing right now.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
You guys are seriously fucking  
nerds.

John leaps out of the window.

EXT. BARN - CONTINUOUS

John swings over the BLACK EYED people, hits the ground behind them, rolls, and pops up into a dead sprint.

JOHN  
AH! AH! This way you fuckers! AH!

Anna and Mikey watch from the window as the entire hoard of BLACK EYED people rushes after John.

As John approaches the woods another group of BLACK EYED people emerges, blocking his path.

John changes direction but it's no use. He is enveloped by BLACK EYED people.

INT. BARN - LOFT - CONTINUOUS

MIKEY  
Fuck!

The BLACK EYED people hear Mikey's scream and turn back toward the barn.

ANNA  
We've got to go!

MIKEY  
I...

ANNA  
He gave us a chance! We can't wait  
it.

Anna grabs Mikey by the arm and pulls him to the ladder. Anna goes down it. Mikey looks back out the window then follows Anna.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

The house is dark but the sky is clear and the moon is bright. There is a truck in the driveway and a bicycle laying in the yard. Mikey and Anna are out of breath.

ANNA

I think we lost them.

MIKEY

This is fucking insane!

ANNA

Let's catch our breath.

MIKEY

And then what?

ANNA

Then we make a new plan.

MIKEY

There's hundreds of those fucking possessed things now, we can't even get to Hell Gate, John's gone...

ANNA

We'll figure it out.

MIKEY

There's nothing to figure out! It's over! We're fucked!

ANNA

Fuck you.

MIKEY

What?

ANNA

He just did that for us and the next thing you do is give up? That's shitty.

MIKEY

Look how it turned out for him.

ANNA

He saved us you fucking moron! That's the win here. My dad is still out there. Other people are still out there. If you give up now you're giving up on them too.

(CONTINUED)



MIKEY

I don't know what to do!

ANNA

I don't either!

Anna looks around, gets in the truck, flips the visor down and keys fall into her hand.

ANNA (CONT'D)

I'm going to take this truck, get some space between me and them, and figure something else out. Are you coming?

Mikey looks at Anna for a moment.

MIKEY

You should go. Go find your dad and get out of here. This is not your responsibility. None of this is your fault, you were just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

ANNA

Mikey I wasn't in the wrong place. I found you guys because I was looking for you. Shit was crazy and I wanted to make sure you were OK. You show up for the people you care about. Especially when it's hard.

MIKEY

It's too much. I can't... I'm not strong like you. I'm done. Please just go. I'm sorry.... for everything.

Anna starts the truck and drives away. Mikey picks up the bicycle and starts in the other direction.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Mikey bikes through town. It's deserted and in shambles. Mikey passes the town square to find the Christmas tree engulfed in flames.

EXT. TREE'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Mikey fumbles with Tree's keys until he finds the one that opens the trailer.

EXT. HELL GATE - NIGHT

The field at Hell Gate is full of BLACK EYED people. Not haphazardly clustered as before, but arranged in perfectly strait, militaristic lines.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - NIGHT

Mikey collapses into a chair. He takes out a joint.

MIKEY  
This is a bad idea.

Mikey smokes and his eyes glow with black light.

EXT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

A SHRIEK comes from inside Hell Gate. One by one the newly formed battalions of BLACK EYED people turn run toward town.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - NIGHT

An upbeat SONG plays. Mikey is smoking and his eyes are glowing.

Mikey throws a neon green and pink tennis ball against the wall and catches it with a matching velcro paddle. He dances to the music.

Mikey takes a bite out of a brownie. A CLAMORING from outside. Mikey turns the music down and grabs his baseball bat.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Mikey cautiously exits the bunker. The CLAMORING grows.

Mikey climbs on top of a garden box and out to see dozens of BLACK EYED people banging on the fence and growling.

MIKEY  
Holy shit.

EXT. HELL GATE - CONTINUOUS

A visible LIFE FORCE floats into Hell Gate.

A ROAR.

An explosion of bright black light.

A large ball of black light blasts from Hell Gate streaks across the sky.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - NIGHT

Mikey puts a wiffle ball on a tee, joint still hanging from his lips, eyes still glowing. The sound of growling and pounding on the fence is now deafening.

MIKEY

(announcer voice)

The crowd has reached a fever pitch here in the bottom of the 9th. Two outs, down by one with one man on and Cerelli steps up to the plate.

Mikey works through a complicated at bat ritual.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

(announcer voice)

Cerelli has had an historic post-season. Hitting .457 with 8 home runs and 22 RBIs, but it all comes down to this. He represents the winning run with one out left in this World Series game seven.

Mikey takes a couple warm up swings.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

(announcer voice)

Here's the wind up. And the pitch!

Mikey takes a big swing and connects.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

(announcer voice)

It's hit to strait away center field. Does it have enough? Does it have enough?

The ball flies over the fence.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
(announcer voice)  
It does! Home run! He's done it!  
Cerelli has done it! A World Series  
walk off home run!

Mikey trots the non-existent bases.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
(announcer voice)  
Oh my! This crowd is going to tear  
this place down!

Mikey trots over to the fence.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Little help guys?

The CLAMORING stops.

The ball of black light slowly descends. The light dims revealing the silhouette of a woman. The most beautiful woman Mikey has ever seen levitates just above the ground.

MIKEY  
Uh... hi? Are you the demon...  
thing?

The Demon's gentle voice reverberates in an unnatural way.

DEMON  
I go by many names.

MIKEY  
Uh... OK. You look nothing like the  
drawings.

DEMON  
I have regained my full strength  
and may now take any form I please.

MIKEY  
Good choice.

Mikey's eyes stop glowing. He slowly backs into the bunker. The Demon floats to the doorway but does not enter.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

DEMON

What are you?

MIKEY

Me? Um... I'm Mikey. Man. Human?

DEMON

What power do you possess?

MIKEY

Like average power I think. I recently started running.

DEMON

How have you resisted me?

MIKEY

Oh uh... luck I think. I was smoking when you tried to possess me or whatever and I just sort of coughed you out?

DEMON

You are mortal?

MIKEY

Oh yeah. Totally. Big time.

DEMON

This ends now.

Mikey wields his bat.

MIKEY

Come get me.

With a flick of her wrist the Demon knocks over shelves revealing the APOTROPAIC SYMBOLS Mikey has painted on every surface of the bunker.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Fuck.

DEMON

I saw your mind as you saw mine. I cannot be deceived by one as simple as you.

MIKEY

You don't have to be a dick about it.

(CONTINUED)

Mikey charges. The Demon raises her hand and Mikey's bat is pulled from him and flung into the yard.

The Demon opens her mouth and BLACK HAZE escapes from her and enters Mikey. Mikey's body stiffens. Both Mikey and the Demon's eyes glow.

The sound of CLAMORING outside the fence and the growing sound of an ENGINE.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Anna's jeep bursts through the fence. There is a piece of plywood strapped to the front with an APOTROPAIC SYMBOL painted on it. The jeep slams into the Demon, breaking her hold on Mikey, and sending her flying across the yard.

The jeep skids to a stop and Anna jumps out.

ANNA  
Mikey? Mikey!

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

MIKEY  
(coughing)  
In here.

Anna runs into the bunker and helps Mikey up.

ANNA  
Are you OK?

MIKEY  
Yeah, I think so. You came back.

ANNA  
I did. I figured you'd fuck things  
up by yourself.

MIKEY  
Fair. Fuck!

Mikey winces in pain. Anna holds him up. They move closer to each other.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Anna I um... I need to tell you-

Suddenly Anna is pulled from behind and thrown out of the bunker.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Anna is on the ground, The Demon hovering over her. The Demon opens her mouth releasing BLACK HAZE which enters Anna. Anna's body stiffens and her eyes glow.

A LAWN DART sails through the air and sticks in the Demon's back. There is an APOTROPAIC SYMBOL hastily scrawled on it in marker.

Mikey is standing across the yard with the box of toys and a Sharpie.

MIKEY

Over here you shocking attractive demon!

Mikey throws another lawn dart striking the Demon in the shoulder.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

How's that feel?

The Demon stops her attack on Anna, turns to face Mikey, and pulls the lawn darts out.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Oh fuck.

Anna groans and her eyes return to normal. Mikey throws everything he has (lawn darts, Frisbee, croquet balls, croquet mallets) at the Demon with varying degrees of accuracy.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I'm the one you want! I'm the one who fucked your plans up!

DEMON

You foolish mortal. You cannot stop me. I will suck the life from all of mankind.

MIKEY

...I'm sorry, what are you going to do?

DEMON

I will suck the life from all of mankind.

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY  
(laughing)  
Anna! She wants to "suck the life"  
out of all of us!

ANNA  
Not the time Mikey!

MIKEY  
Right.

Mikey and Anna share a look. They both see the claymore mine  
at Anna's feet.

ANNA  
Mikey help! I can't do this! Help!

MIKEY  
Hey demon lady! Bring that "suck  
the life out of you" shit over  
here! I'm the fucking hero here!  
I'm not afraid of you, that black  
haze, or your surprisingly  
attractive appearance!

The Demon rushes Mikey. Mikey dives into the bunker.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The Demon suspends Mikey in mid-air.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

The Demon opens her mouth and releases the BLACK HAZE.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

The BLACK HAZE enters Mikey.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Anna points the claymore mine at the Demon, takes cover, and  
hits the trip wire.

EXPLOSION

As the smoke clears the Demon, steel ball barrings from the  
mine embedded in one side of her, releases Mikey and turns  
toward Anna. As she does Anna glides through the smoke,  
mid-air, wielding Mikey's baseball bat.

(CONTINUED)



ANNA

Surprise! I'm the *real* hero.

Anna hits the Demon square in the face with the APOTROPAIC SYMBOL carved in Mikey's bat, knocking her into the bunker.

INT. TREE'S BUNKER - CONTINUOUS

Mikey scrambles out of the bunker. The Demon turns revealing she has transformed into the horrific demon from the drawing. She leaps for the exit.

EXT. TREE'S YARD - CONTINUOUS

Mikey slams the bunker door shut and quickly scrawls an APOTROPAIC SYMBOL on it.

ANNA

Holy shit!

MIKEY

Is it over?

ANNA

I think so.

MIKEY

Oh thank god! Before anything else insane happens I have to tell you that I like you. Like romantically. I always have. And I'm sorry I let that fuck up our friendship. I saw you kiss someone else and instead of telling you how I felt I let it fester and turn into something jealous, and weird, and bad and I stopped talking to you and that's not OK. I'm so, so sorry! Huh! I've been trying to say that *forever!*

ANNA

Huh? I thought you were mad at me for moving, which pissed me off because I didn't want to go. Who'd you see me kiss?

MIKEY

Miles Brody. In front of your house on the day you moved.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA  
Ha! I remember that.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY

Teenage Anna is kissing Teenage Boy. Mikey's car passes in the background. The kiss ends.

TEENAGE ANNA  
I always heard you were a good  
kisser and I really wanted to find  
out. That was disappointing.

Teenage Anna kicks Teenage Boy in the testicles.

TEENAGE ANNA (CONT'D)  
That's for being a dick to Mikey  
all of 4th grade! Asshole.

END FLASHBACK.

MIKEY  
You kicked him in the nuts for me!

ANNA  
Fuck yeah!

MIKEY  
That's so fucking nice... you want  
to go see a movie or something?

ANNA  
Maybe after we go to the hospital.

MIKEY  
Fair.

INT. MOVIE THEATER LOBBY - DAY

Holiday muzak plays. A mob of attractive parents crowd past holiday decorations while their attractive children run up and down congested hallways. This feels familiar.

A BETTER LOOKING BOY (5) dumps a large soda on the floor. He and retreats to his BETTER LOOKING MOTHER (35).

BETTER LOOKING MIKEY (Mid 20s) slops a mop into the mess.

(CONTINUED)

BETTER LOOKING MIKEY  
(yelling at the Boy)  
Come on man!

MIKEY (O.S.)  
CUT!

Mikey steps out from behind a camera. He is surrounded by a modest but professional looking film set and crew.

Mikey approaches Better Looking Mikey.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Vince, I think that line is more to yourself yeah? As opposed to an attack on the kid?

BETTER LOOKING MIKEY  
Totally! Thanks Mike.

MIKEY  
(to Better Looking Boy and Mom)  
You guys are doing great.

Anna approaches Mikey, clipboard in hand.

ANNA  
We've got an hour left in here, you think you can get your shots?

MIKEY  
Yeah, we got this.

ANNA  
Awesome. I'm going to get everyone else packed up.

MIKEY  
Best producer ever!

ANNA  
Remember we've got dinner at my Dad's tonight.

MIKEY  
How could I forget.

Anna and Mikey share a quick kiss. Anna leaves.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Alright, everyone back to one! Last scene of the day! We get this done  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MIKEY (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
and we're off for Christmas. OK!  
You guys ready?

The cast and crew reset.

MIKEY (CONT'D)  
Aaaand GO!

FADE TO BLACK

**THE END**