

Pack: A feature-length script

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Pack

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EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Wind troubles the dark pine trees of a Northern Pacific coastal forest. Under bright moonlight a family of wolves tends their young. Cubs play fight.

The howling wind comes to a strange stop. A branch SNAPS in the distance. The family watch as bright yellow eyes approach through the brush, and a STRANGE WOLF with matted silver fur enters the clearing.

The parents growl at the intruder, which seems perfectly calm, then one of them chases it into distant brush. The whole pack begin to bark wildly at the sound of fighting.

From the darkness, the sound of whining, then the wet CRUNCH of bone breaking, a death yelp.

Emerging now from the darkness is a nude PALE MAN: perfect alabaster-white skin and those same yellow eyes as before. The wolves back away, except one cub transfixed by his yellow eyes.

A wound in the man's palm bleeds, and he lets the blood drip from his finger where the cub licks it tentatively. Suddenly its eyes begin to glow yellow too and its body seizes.

The wolf family, watching from the perimeter cry and yelp in fear.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Highschool athletes in varsity jackets stare at someone in the distance, giggling to one another. They are staring at SHANE (16), a mixed race Native American teenager whose old unwashed clothes mark him in stark contrast to the predominantly white cleanly dressed school body around him.

He puts his hood up and keeps his eyes down as he passes them. Shane looks up as he catches other groups' laughter and snippets of their conversations.

STUDENTS

-I can't believe you got your
parents to buy you that!

By the time Shane reaches his locker, he's the only one alone as everyone else stands in groups with their friends. Two athletes laugh and punch each other in the arm, Shane watches them longingly.

Just then, JAMES (16), a awkward and dorky boy with dirty blonde hair and dark blue eyes, approaches.

JAMES

H-hi man, I was wondering if-

A passing athlete, MAX (17), jumps at James and laughs as he flinches. James laughs to himself and Shane shrinks in embarrassment. Max's friend, JACKSON (17), an African American lacrosse player with pretty face, smiles back at them apologetically as he passes them.

JACKSON

Sorry about him...

JAMES

(To Shane)

Fucking Max. Do you wanna ditch last period? We can hang at your place?

Shane distractedly looks over at Max joining his friends, fellow athletes all holding lacrosse gear. They're continuing to jump at people to make them flinch.

SHANE

I don't feel like heading home.

James shrinks and looks down in shame.

JAMES

(Quietly)

...Neither do I, man...

This finally catches Shane's attention. Seeing his concern, James recomposes himself and tries to laugh off the awkwardness.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Ha...Sorry. We don't have to hang at yours- we could just chill in the woods or something-

SHANE

It's alright, man. My dad will be back late anyway. You wanna light up?

James cheers up at this.

JAMES

Hell yeah, man.

SHANE

Well we better get the fuck outta here quick.

They quickly walk off, checking behind them and around them. The bell rings and they quicken their pace out of the school. A TEACHER spots them while directing students into class.

TEACHER

Mr Rivers, you better not be leaving class again!

James and Shane start to nervously laugh and walk a little faster away. Max jumps out at a passing PALE TEEN (17), in simple white t-shirt and jeans, behind James and Shane.

MAX

(To Pale Teen)

Boo!

TEACHER

Mr. Rivers-

BANG. Shane turns to see the Pale Teen has pinned Max to the lockers and is holding him up by his neck. The athletes are trying to intervene and the teacher rushes into the fray.

SHANE

Go go go!

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Shane and James, both on bikes, cycle through a perfect WASP neighbourhood. They pass a lawn sign depicting an American flag with writing stating: 'THIS HOUSE BELIEVES IN LAW AND ORDER'. James laughs to himself and looking over at a grim Shane.

JAMES

Bro! He absolutely rocked that guy's shit.

Shane is looking about him. The afternoon sun casts long shadows and from the darkened interior of their homes and their shaded porches residents stare at Shane with suspicious eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I mean, what a bad ass man. Wish I'd done that to him.

Shane finally gives a half-hearted smile.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Fuck those guys man. We're fine as long as we got each other.

SHANE

Yeah...Sure...

Shane stares off into the distance distracted as they come to the edge of the suburbs bordering the dark pine forest.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

James and Shane cycle through a forest path that takes them to Shane's home, a weathered two-storey cabin bordering the dark woods. Hanging from its structure are dozens of wind chimes singing in the breeze and twinkling in the sunlight.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

The boys enter the house, the unkept interior cluttered with hunting gear, animal wall mounts, and stacked bookcases of old, dusty tomes. The interior is as weathered as the exterior as the wood is sodden. The open lounge by the entrance extends out into a kitchenette stacked with unwashed dishes.

Shane sighs seeing the filth and walks over to the mantelpiece of a unused fireplace where a picture frame has fallen and props it up. It's a picture of a young Native American Woman and her baby. Shane rushes upstairs while James tries to take off his dirty shoes.

SHANE

Forget that shit, come on.

The back door swings open. ELLIS RIVERS, a grizzled Caucasian man (40s), comes in with a small dead fox slung over his shoulder.

ELLIS

(Quietly)

Hey.

JAMES

Hi, Mr. Rivers.

ELLIS

Ellis.

He drops the fox over the kitchen counter. He doesn't meet Shane's glare. James spots empty bottles of whisky, beer and wine next to the sink.

ELLIS (CONT'D)
Gotta do this here. Already a buck
in the garage...

SHANE
Come on, James.

ELLIS
You help me hunt later?

Shane doesn't look at him as he heads up the stairs.

SHANE
Yes, sir.

The two run up the stairs to Shane's bedroom.

Ellis, alone now, sighs and continues working on the fox.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

A grungy room, posters bleached in the sun cover the walls, and the carpet is strewn with unwashed laundry. James sinks deep into a bean bag while Shane opens a window before collapsing onto his stained mattress.

JAMES
Your dad trying to quit drinking
again?

SHANE
I'm not getting my hopes up this
time. It's fine as long as he
doesn't bother me.

JAMES
You don't care?

SHANE
Nah. Little late if you ask me.

JAMES
Too damn hot.

James takes his shirt off. Shane glances up from his bed and admires his thin musculature. Watching him a little too long, and then, embarrassed, Shane looks away.

James catches this.

JAMES (CONT'D)
What?

Shane is clearly flustered.

SHANE
You need to work out more.

James laughs.

JAMES
Fuck you.

SHANE
(Deep voiced
impersonation)
Get that kid a sandwich!

JAMES
Fuck! Stop! You sound like my dad.

They laugh. James' laughter ends first.

SHANE
How's your mom?

JAMES
Fine. New medication should make
her more stable. I don't really
wanna talk about it.

SHANE
That's cool.

Water leaks through a ceiling crack above and falls next to
Shane. Shane sighs.

JAMES
Want to leave this place, man. Like
after graduation?

SHANE
Hell yeah. Anywhere away from these
fucking woods. Wanna light up?

QUICK CUTS:

-Shane pulls a bong out of the cupboard

-Shane and James light it up

-Both kick back and relax as they lean against the bed and
stare out of the window.

JAMES
Wait...

James reaches over and connects his phone to a speaker in the corner. Through the tinny speakers comes an R&B track. They laugh and murmur the melody.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Later. Shane watches the trees sway in the breeze outside. The light is getting lower. Abruptly, the wind stops and the sound of a car pulling up outside can be heard.

Shane staggers to the window.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD / INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A large black shiny SUV has pulled up in the driveway. Exiting it is ADAM CHAMBERS (40s): a perfect white, blond American hunk. Shane is in awe of the car and clothes of the man.

Adam approaches the house, stops in front of the reflective surface of a wind chime where, eerily, he smiles intermittently, practising. Shane suddenly catches sight of the Pale Teen from earlier, exiting the car and meeting Shane's gaze with a glare. Adam notices Shane in the second storey window.

ADAM

Afternoon. I'm Adam Chambers. I'm your new neighbor.

He indicates into the distance.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I guess your *closest* neighbour. You go to West High? I'm the new coach.

He smiles wide and friendly.

SHANE

I'm Shane.

ADAM

Nice to meet you. We just thought we'd come by and say hi. This is my son Roman.

He gestures to ROMAN, the Pale Teen.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Say hello, Roman.

Roman gives a reluctant wave.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 He's a lil shy. I'd shake your hand
 but...

Shane and Adam laugh.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 There anyone else in the house I
 can speak to? Other than your shy
 friend there.

Shane looks back at James, standing away from the window and just now approaching. *How did he know he was there?*

The front door slams open. Ellis walks from the doorway to right in front of Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Hi. I'm Adam. I was just speaking
 to your son's friend in the window.

Adam points to James with one hand and extends the other in a handshake.

ELLIS
 That's James. The other one's mine.

Adam then looks from the Caucasian James to the mixed race Shane and laughs awkwardly. Ellis doesn't take the handshake so Adam withdraws.

ADAM
 Right. Sorry for assuming.

Ellis steps closer and their conversation becomes indecipherable to Shane and James.

JAMES
 What are they saying?

SHANE
 I don't know.

James quickly looks around in paranoia and smells himself.

JAMES
 Do you think they could smell it?

SHANE
 No. Stop being paranoid.

JAMES
 Fucking hell that car is nice.

SHANE

Yeah...

Adam's expression has become serious.

ADAM

Well I'm sorry to hear that. Let me know if that changes. I'll see you boys around!

Adam gets back in his car and drives away. Shane watches in awe as they drive away. Ellis glares after them.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane and James descend the stairs to the front door to meet Ellis as he comes in.

JAMES

What did they want?

ELLIS

Nothing. They're our closest neighbors apparently.

Shane crosses his arms and furrows his brow.

SHANE

What did you say to them?

ELLIS

I told em that we prefer to keep to ourselves and not be bothered.

SHANE

Who's we?

James gives Shane a look. *Calm down.*

Shane huffs, walks straight past his father, gathering his own shoes by the front door and through to the kitchenette leading to the back door.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Come on, James. I feel like a walk.

James quickly jogs over to meet Shane by the back door.

ELLIS

Don't tire yourself out. We'll need more pelts by the end of the weekend-

The back door slams. Ellis sighs. He's done something wrong again but he isn't sure what.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The light is blazing orange as the sun gets low. A squirrel moves through the brush. A crossbow bolt thuds next to it and it skitters into the distance.

Shane groans at his miss, lowers a crossbow he's holding and reloads. James walks alongside him.

JAMES

You can't hit shit when you're mad.

SHANE

You see what I have to deal with?
Everyone thinks we're fucking
freaks and he doesn't even give a
shit.

Shane fires and another bolt goes off into the distance. From his expression it's evidently another miss.

SHANE (CONT'D)

If I end up a sad old man living in
the woods you'll shoot me, right?

James isn't listening, lost in his own thoughts.

JAMES

Those guys seemed nice. The
Chambers.

SHANE

Yeah. I need to pick up that bolt.

He gestures to James to follow him in the direction the bolt landed.

JAMES

That was the kid that pinned that
dude to the lockers right? Crazy
family.

Shane walks forward and leans to pull the bolt from the bark of a tree trunk.

Something in the distance catches his eye.

SHANE

There's someone there, James.

James stops.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Hello?

No response.

The boys approach cautiously. Behind the tree they see boots attached to a pair of legs. James holds back as Shane moves forward.

In front of Shane are four dead bodies. The partial remains are old, pale skin darkened with decay and dried blood. The chests and faces are torn into a mess of gore.

Of the four, two are smaller, probably children.

Shane retches.

JAMES

Shane?

James comes closer.

SHANE

Don't look!-

James screams.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

The forest is bathed in blue and red lights as Officers cordon off the crime scene. Police cruisers park along a forest road near the bodies. Shane and James stand near a DEPUTY MILLER (30s), lean and pale, who is questioning them.

His speech is muffled as Shane cannot concentrate on anything except the other deputies working in the distance. SHERIFF WAYNES (60s), a rotund older man, oversees the whole operation. As a tarp is placed over the bodies, Shane brings his attention back to the conversation.

DEPUTY MILLER

-many hours ago was that?

SHANE

Sorry?

DEPUTY MILLER

When did you find them?

JAMES

We're not sure. It took us a while to find a spot with service to call you.

James tries to stifle a sob. The deputy doesn't even look at them as he asks questions coldly.

DEPUTY MILLER

You touch anything?

SHANE

I puked nearby...

The sheriff walks over to another cruiser nearby where Shane's crossbow has been placed on the car trunk.

SHERIFF WAYNES

You shouldn't have this.

SHANE

It's my dad's. It's just for hunting.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Ellis Rivers?...Alright. I'll get this back to your dad but don't ever let me catch you with it again. Understand?

SHANE

...Yes, sir.

A DETECTIVE walks up to Sheriff Waynes. Shane listens in.

DETECTIVE

Waynes. I don't think we're gonna get anywhere identifying them.

The Chambers' SUV cruises down the forest road and stops at the crime scene. James knocks Shane's shoulder to get his attention but he's distracted listening in to the sheriff's conversation.

SHERIFF WAYNES

It's probably not a local anyway. It clear how they died?

DETECTIVE

Too much post-mortem damage across the throat and stomach to tell. Think wildlife got to them.

Adam and Roman get out of the car. While Adam approaches Sheriff Waynes, Roman walks over to a tree and relieves himself.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Wolves?

DETECTIVE

Wolves don't pull people's teeth out. No dental recognition. Pity the guy that has to identify them.

Adam stands by the boys and places one solid hand over James' shoulder. Adam notices Shane's crossbow and raises an eyebrow.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Chambers.

ADAM

Sheriff Waynes.

Adam and the Sheriff make a solid handshake. Shane watches inquisitively.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Noticed your boys heading over on the way home. Something bad?

SHERIFF WAYNES

Yeah...Something bad. I can't get either of these boys' parents on the phone. You mind taking them?

ADAM

Sure. You boys want to follow me?

James and Shane look relieved.

INT. CHAMBERS' CAR - DAY

The car drives through the forest. Adam and Roman are in the front seats while James and Shane are in the back.

JAMES

Mr. Chambers?

ADAM

Adam...or Coach.

JAMES

Can you not tell my mom about this?

ADAM

Sure. It's not like you did anything wrong. Just shitty luck.

SHANE

How'd you know the Sheriff?

Roman locks eyes with Shane through the rear view mirror, glaring.

ADAM

I actually used to live here. Always wanted to come back and raise a family here. Not a lot of natural empty wilderness left. You and your dad live out here all alone?

Shane looks down in shame.

SHANE

Yeah. My mom died when I was young.

ROMAN

Was it an accident-

ADAM

Roman.

SHANE

She died in a mugging.

ADAM

Sorry to hear that...Living out in the woods, you and your dad must be tough as hell.

Shane laughs.

SHANE

Never thought about it like that.

ADAM

Christ...After a day like this I could do with a joint...

Shane and James are both fascinated with Adam's relaxed attitude.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You thought about joining the team? Most of these kids, at school I mean, have never done hard labor in their lives. And Lacrosse requires good aim. I saw your crossbow.

Shane is bright-eyed and hopeful.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You too, James. Plenty of room honestly.

JAMES

Really?

SHANE

I don't know, man...

James deflates. Adam notices this.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I'd have to check with my dad-

Adam locks eyes with Shane in the rear-view mirror.

ADAM

Forget what he wants. You afraid of being popular? What do you want?

JAMES

C'mon Shane...

SHANE

I want it. I want to be on the team.

JAMES

I'm not really in shape.

ADAM

That's alright, Roman was once the runt of the litter too.

Roman hits his dad in the arm playfully and Adam hits him back. They start laughing and Shane and James quickly join in.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

The sun is only a slither of light on the horizon creating dark skies above.

Adam pulls the SUV in front of the house and Ellis, waiting on the porch, rushes to meet the car. Shane gets out and Ellis immediately pulls him close with an arm on his shoulder.

For the first time he locks eyes with his son.

ELLIS
You alright?

Shane is shocked by the sudden intimacy of the moment.

SHANE
Yeah...I'm fine.

Ellis' face returns to a frown as he faces Adam.

ELLIS
Well, thanks for bringing him back.

Adam has only one foot out the car door.

ADAM
You're welcome, neighbor. See you around, Shane.

He gets back in the car. Inside, James is saying something to Roman that the two are smiling about. Adam drives away. Ellis watches them leave.

ELLIS
Shane. I know you can't avoid them at school but try to keep your distance.

SHANE
What...Why?

ELLIS
Just do as I say, okay?

Ellis leads Shane back inside.

FADE IN:

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

A school morning. It's a dim winter morning. Shane is in full lacrosse gear running down the field. Early morning training.

SHANE
Someone pass to me!

No response. Shane waits for someone to pass as he looks at the chaos of the field. Someone drops the ball to the ground and Shane makes a break for it himself.

He catches the ball and pushes himself down the field as fast as he can. He looks to his left and right. The other team is gaining on him. WHACK.

Someone smashes into him and Shane falls to the ground as a crumpled mess. They run on and leave him there. He moans in pain.

JACKSON
Anything broken?

Jackson, also in lacrosse gear, offers him a hand. Shane gets up without it.

SHANE
I'm fine. I suck ass.

JACKSON
You're pretty good.

Shane watches the other team break through and score. There's a cheer of victory.

SHANE
Not good enough.

Among the winning crowd beyond Shane, Shane spots James, no longer the dorky kid he was a couple months ago but now a handsome man at the peak of his physique with golden blonde hair and bright blue eyes.

Shane tries to wave to him. James gives him a small weak wave before being distracted by his joking team members. Shane seems to shrink away from the crowd. Adam spots this.

ADAM
Come on! Everyone in, including you
Shane.

Shane reluctantly approaches and sees Roman, amongst the crowd, watching him. He rolls his eyes at Shane's appearance. Adam leans over to Shane.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I could tell you were really
pushing yourself. We'll get you
into some REAL games soon enough...
(To Crowd)
Alright boys!
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

I don't know about you but I'm
happy to see that our new team
captain scored today.

Roman smiles proudly to himself to the teasing cheers of his team. Before Adam can open his mouth again, there's a piercing scream.

EXT. WOODS' EDGE - DAY

At the edge of the field, where it borders the dark pine forest, a small group of students are crowding around something. Some of the crowd break away, retching while others are taking pictures on their phones.

As the lacrosse team joins with the larger crowd, James meets up with Shane. Adam breaks through the crowd to get inside.

JAMES

Hey?

SHANE

You got any idea what's going on?

Adam reappears.

ADAM

Everyone back away now!

Someone breaks through the crowd sobbing and screaming and through this brief thinning of the crowd, Shane spots what looks like the legs of someone lying on the ground. He pushes through the crowd.

Shane sees a corpse laying on the ground. His face goes pale.

The recent dead is probably a student, obvious from the bloodstained varsity jacket, his body ripped and torn, clearly the victim of some sort of animal attack. Half of the face is torn off, and Shane steps closer to get a better look.

It's Max.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Everyone back to class, now!

The group breaks away slowly. James pulls Shane back into the crowd.

INSERT: Bell ringing. End of the school day.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Shane and James are taking their bikes through the woods.

JAMES

It was Max?

SHANE

I'm pretty sure, yeah.

JAMES

Holy Shit. God I wondered why he didn't make it to class today. I thought he was just embarrassed that he didn't make team captain.

Shane is barely listening, lost in thought.

SHANE

Five fucking bodies man. Jesus Christ...

JAMES

He wasn't even in the woods. It's like 'they' got him as he was leaving school.

SHANE

...they?

JAMES

Wolves, man.

SHANE

Right.

JAMES

Poor guy. I didn't even like him.

SHANE

...the fuck man?

JAMES

What? I'm not saying I'm glad he's dead! He was an asshole to us!

SHANE

He wasn't the only one. Y'know not a single person passed to me today. I was wide open!...How come Roman doesn't like me?

James is silent and looks away from Shane's face uncomfortably.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Answer me. I get along with coach, but Roman's always giving me stink eye. He's freezing me out from the rest of the team. I know he's talking shit about me!

JAMES

...He just doesn't think you've proven yourself-

SHANE

Bullshit! He's been death staring me from the moment we first met! I've been working my ass off to get onto the team but it doesn't feel like it!

A twig snaps in the distance.

ROMAN (O.S.)

Well, for starters...

Roman appears from behind a tree, cigarette in mouth, nonchalant.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

We're all wondering what the hell is going on between you two.

Two other Lacrosse Platers, both Caucasian, appear around them, REX, a bulky senior (17) and TYLER (16), a teen with a menacing smile and greasy black locks. James and Shane are surrounded.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

You two fags?

The others snigger. Shane looks panic-stricken with shame and nervousness.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

I'm not judging either way, I've just got no idea which one of you is supposed to be the top.

JAMES

Come on, man leave it-

ROMAN

Stop speaking on his behalf all the time.

(To Shane)

(MORE)

ROMAN (CONT'D)

You've been doing too much sitting
on the sidelines. I'm not even
convinced you can tackle somebody.

Rex and Tyler exchange a knowing look. Roman blows smoke
directly into Shane's face.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

I want to see why my old man even
let you on the team.

Roman points to Rex.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

(To Shane)

Get him on the floor.

Shane stands still. He looks to James for help but James
looks away.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Team exercise. Come on!

REX

Don't hurt yourself, boy.

Rex gets into a position, bracing for a tackle.

ROMAN

Alright, when you're ready-

Shane flies into Rex's face with his skull, sending him
backwards and down with a bloody nose. Roman erupts into
raucous laughter.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Hell yeah!

Rex stays down holding his damaged face and looks at the
blood on his hands. James is astonished and unnerved.

REX

My fucking nose, man!

SHANE

Should've worn a helmet, cunt.

(Points to Roman)

And fuck you too. I'm on the team
whether you like it or not.

ROMAN

Heyyy, don't be like that! You
passed with flying colours!

REX

But-

ROMAN

Shut the fuck up! You pissed yourself when you did this.

Roman approaches Shane and puts a diplomatic 'friendly' hand on his shoulder.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Look. My dad thinks you're hot shit, but I haven't seen you being much of a team player yet. So tell you what, we've got a party on Saturday. Bring us some of the weed you always share with James here.

Shane throws James a glare. Roman forces Rex to his feet and starts walking away.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

My dad thinks you're some sort of badass forest native. Bring me some scalps?

SHANE

...Sure.

ROMAN

Attaboy.

Roman disappears from view.

Shane glares at James.

SHANE

Did you know that was going to happen?

JAMES

...They hazed me too... but I didn't think it would be that bad.

Shane tries to say something but can't get the words out.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It's just a joke. I know it's crazy but that's just how they do it. This is your way in!

Shane glares at him, waiting for further explanation.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Coach listens to Roman. If he vouches for you, if he *LIKES* you, he'll get you off the benches and more play time.

SHANE

Can we just go?

JAMES

You'll be on the team with me!

James looks pleadingly at Shane.

SHANE

Whatever. Let's just go.

They start to walk off.

JAMES

You're not mad at me?

SHANE

I'm *not* happy about it. But I ain't mad at you. Especially if you can get me on that fucking team.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In his bed, Shane sleeps fitfully. Suddenly, he's startled by the sound of a SCREAM far in the distance and is wide awake.

He looks around, unsure of what he heard. There's another distant scream, sounding more like indecipherable speech.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Shane runs down the stairs. He sees his dad in the kitchen in his pyjamas putting on a coat. Ellis attaches a flashlight to the end of a shotgun.

SHANE

Dad? Did you hear it too?

ELLIS

Go back to bed. It's probably just some kids. I'll be back in a bit.

He rushes out the door and turns off the lights, leaving Shane alone in the darkness.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Shane, slowly crawls back into bed. He lies there, eyes wide.

CUT TO:

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shane wakes up the next morning in the same position. He's clearly slept like shit. He groans as he gets out of bed.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Shane, in full running gear, pushes himself faster and faster as he sprints through the neighborhood in the early morning. He looks at his watch. He's unhappy with his time.

SHANE

Come on! COME ON!

He strains his body to go faster.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shane, wrapped in a towel, still wet from his shower, falls into his bed. Peering off the bed he sees a bag of weed left out on his messy bedside table.

He opens his phone. Multiple texts to James:

You still coming to the party?

Where are we meeting up?

You up?

No response. He tosses the bag into his backpack and quickly gets dressed.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Later in the day. Shane comes down the stairs and hesitates as he hears the sounds of voices. A footstep creaks. Sheriff Waynes, Deputy Miller and Ellis, standing by the kitchenette, turn to see him coming down the stairs.

SHANE

...Did you find anything last night?

ELLIS

No.

Ellis slings a large rusty spring trap onto the table. He pries its steel jaw open.

DEPUTY MILLER

Are you sure it was a scream? Not a bird call or something?

Sheriff Waynes and Ellis throw him a look. He shuts up.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Glad you called anyway. Especially after what happened to Max Springer.

(Pointing to Spring Trap)

Are you sure those are up to code?

Ellis places a piece of timber over the weight of the trap and it snaps shut.

ELLIS

Yep.

SHERIFF WAYNES

I can't imagine the EPA will like you using that...Use it sparingly...

ELLIS

They been much help?

The sheriff sighs deeply.

SHERIFF WAYNES

They can't even find ONE of the wolves they tagged in the catch and release programme last year. Not one. We're still telling everyone to stay out of the woods for now.

Shane goes for the front door.

ELLIS

Hey.

Shane turns nervously.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

Where are you headed?

SHANE

Out...Just meeting with James.

ELLIS

You heard the Sheriff. Don't go through the woods. And promise me not to get in any trouble.

SHANE

I promise.

He looks uneasy about his lie and leaves.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane starts cycling away from his home. He checks his phone and, finally, displayed on screen is a message from James:

I don't know if I'm going to be able to make.

Shane groans. Another message:

My mom's having another episode. I need to get out of here.

Shane, looking more serious, cycles as fast as he can.

EXT. JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

The surrounding neighborhood is upper middle-class, grotesque McMansions in a gated community. Shane cycles to a house at the end of the street, quickly hops off his bike and peers through the metal fencing around the property.

He spots James running from around the back with his bike and stealthily dodging the windows.

SHANE

Pst!

James spots Shane and comes to the fence. James looks like he's been crying. Shane notices this.

SHANE (CONT'D)

...You alright?

JAMES

Let's just get the fuck out of here.

James flinches at the sound of distant shouting back in the house. James hurries over to the gateway leading into the driveway and calls Shane over. James stands before a keypad by the electronic gate and hammers into it.

A harsh buzzing lets him know he's put in the wrong code.

James is fumbling with his fingers to get the door open. The shouting gets louder. Shane spots movement in the darkened interior of the house.

SHANE

C'mon, man.

JAMES

They changed the fucking code.

The front door flies open. James' mother, ELLEN (50s), half-dressed with wild, manic eyes, comes out screaming.

ELLEN

WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

SHANE

Shit.

James steps back and throws his bike over the metal fence.

ELLEN

Where is he!? Where's my son!?

James tries to climb the fence but Ellen pulls him back down.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

(To James)

You little monster! What did you do with my son!

She starts hitting him.

SHANE

Hey! Leave him alone- leave him the fuck alone!

James falls to the floor, curling into a ball as she hits him harder.

James' father, DAVID (50s), a grey-haired tired-eyed man, comes rushing out the front door.

SHANE (CONT'D)

(To David)

Hey! Stop her!

Ellen's speech collapses into an indiscernible sobbing babble. David pulls her off of James and she collapses into his arms.

ELLEN

Where's my baby...he was right in my arms...

DAVID

James!

James jumps the fence, hops on his bike and cycles away as fast as he can.

SHANE

James!

ELLEN

They took my baby...

Shane, disturbed, distractedly watches the couple a moment longer before grabbing his bike off the floor and going after James.

EXT. HIGHWAY UNDERPASS - DAY

James is cycling furiously along the road next to a quiet highway. Shane is desperately trying to catch up to him.

James comes to a stop in the shade of an underpass and jumps off his bike. He keeps his back turned to Shane as he hyperventilates, bent over with his hands on his knees. Shane gets off his bike and tries to approach.

Shane isn't sure what to do and keeps a distance from his friend. He takes a couple small steps and puts a hand on the small of James' back. James' hyperventilating starts to calm until it falls to a quiet sob.

James turns around and they embrace. They hold each other, something more than platonic in their intimacy. Shane is the first to break away, awkwardly avoiding eye contact. James spots this and looks hurt.

James moves away from Shane, and slumps down.

EXT. HIGHWAY UNDERPASS - MOMENTS LATER

James and Shane are sitting with their backs against the concrete structure, more relaxed now.

SHANE

Has she ever been this bad before?

JAMES

...Once. She apparently had a similar episode when I was born. She was convinced I wasn't really hers.

SHANE

I'm sorry, man.

JAMES

Maybe she always felt that way. She was just trying to pretend. I dunno...My dad hopes it's just because she changed medications recently.

SHANE

It's probably that...I'm sure it's that man.

James doesn't look convinced, still stewing on his previous thought. Shane picks up his bike.

SHANE (CONT'D)

We better go if we want to get to the party.

JAMES

...The party?

SHANE

Shit man, sorry- if you're not up for it.

James gets to his feet and picks up his bike with quick determination. He seems irritable now.

JAMES

Sure. Fine. Let's go.

Shane is ashamed and seems apprehensive about the idea now.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We'll take the short way round through the forest.

Before Shane can say anything, James cycles ahead.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Despite the midday sun, the interior of the forest is dark. James and Shane are on foot now, wheeling their bikes. It's eerily quiet. Shane flinches hearing a bird cry and stops for a moment.

SHANE

The sheriff said not to go through the woods.

JAMES
We'll be quick.

Shane looks around him and notices four distinct imprints in the grass where it has been flattened. Wrapped around a tree and swaying in the breeze is a spare bit of police tape.

SHANE
James...isn't this where the bodies were?

Shane is on edge but sees James hasn't even noticed and is moving forward quickly out of view. Shane hurries to catch up.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Another part of the forest, with a thicker canopy and forest floor. Shane struggles to push his bike through the flora in his way.

James is no longer in sight.

SHANE
James?

Trying to move forward, Shane feels resistance against his bike wheel.

He leans down on the forest floor and notices a wallet on the ground. He picks it up and studies the inside, finding an ID and photograph. The photograph depicts a family of four at a photoshoot, a mother, father and two young boys.

The ID is labelled as 'Adam Chambers', but Shane can see the photo depicts a different man with thinning brown hair and a fuller face. James returns through the bushes.

JAMES
What's the hold up?

SHANE
Found something...found something kind of weird. It's an ID for some guy with the same name as coach.

JAMES
...Should we hand it in?

SHANE
No. It doesn't matter.

JAMES

We should give it to the police. It might be from one of the bodies-

SHANE

I just want to get to this party. Let's not worry about it.

James goes on ahead. Shane pockets the wallet and follows James.

EXT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

James and Shane break through the forest into a massive clearing. In its centre is a large wooden lodge surrounded by a wide lawn. They walk up a path to the front of the lodge.

Parked in front of the Chambers' household is their SUV and a Ford Ranger. Shane whistles.

JAMES

I know right? Hey, but be cool in there. Doesn't take much to get in Roman's good books. Don't try too impress him too much I guess.

SHANE

You'll help me out in there, right?

The front door opens and LILA (30s), a perfectly blonde beautiful woman with alabaster skin, comes out. She sees James and smiles.

LILA

Hey there!

James is flustered. Shane inspects the two of them. They both have blonde hair and bright blue eyes. They could be mother and son.

JAMES

Hi.

LILA

You must be James and Shane. They're waiting for you in the back.

Lila, smiling uncomfortably wide, leads James in with a hand on the small of his back, staring intently at him.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD, HALLWAY - DAY

As Shane follows James into the hallway, he is struck by the lavish, rather stately decor: sturdy antique furniture and oil portraits and landscapes across the walls.

He pauses before one, struck by its imagery. It's a romantic era painting of a wolf hunt showing a pair of wolves surrounded by a pack of hunting dogs. Wolves and pack are savagely clawing and biting at each other, eyes wild with savage energy.

Shane is drawn in, fascinated by the violent detail.

Somewhere above him there's the sound of a large dog's claws scabbling on floorboards, and a suppressed yelp, which brings him back to reality. At a second yelp, he glances up to the source, a landing directly overhead, but there is nothing there. He shakes his head dismissively. *Just my imagination.*

ADAM

Shane!

He claps a hand over Shane's shoulders.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You like the decoration?

Shane gestures to the interior of the house.

SHANE

This is amazing. Don't even think you can call my house a cabin compared to ours.

ADAM

I liked your cabin!...You're always welcome here, you know.

Adam puts an arm around Shane, who leans into it. Adam leads Shane further into the house.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Has Roman been giving you a tough time? He only likes to joke around but let me know if I need to have a word with him. Both my kids have a habit of getting a little crazy.

Shane takes one last look at the painting and notices pale fingers curling around the top spindles on the stairway. Adam and Shane walk into the kitchen as someone, unseen above, watches them leave.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD, KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is all modern compared to the rest of the lodge with marble countertops and new kitchen appliances. Lila comes up from a stairwell leading to the basement and starts laying out some snacks on the kitchen table. Beyond her, into the back garden, can be heard the sounds of people talking.

She smiles as she sees her husband and gives him a long ravenous kiss that lasts for an inappropriate amount of time. Shane squirms and then walks through the patio doors into the back garden.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - DAY

A wide lawn is surrounded by tall hedges, except at the back where the garden meets the treeline of the ominous forest.

In the garden, Shane immediately spots James playing with the majority of the rest of the team. They are throwing a ball between them and trying to tackle each other. James catches the ball and Rex crashes into him. The confrontation looks violent but the two stand back up laughing.

Immediately in front of Shane, Roman and a several friends sit around a fire pit, lazily talking amongst themselves and each with a can of beer in hand. Next to him is a speaker blasting party anthems. He approaches them and sits down.

SHANE

(To all)

Hey.

They ignore him.

JACKSON

Hey.

Among Roman's friends around the fire pit Shane suddenly notices Jackson, sitting away from the rest of his entirely Caucasian team. He gives a confident charming smile and extends a fist which Shane bumps.

SHANE

Hey Jackson.

JACKSON

First time here?

SHANE

Yeah...

JACKSON
It's fucking crazy right.

They laugh at their shared astonishment. Adam comes out.

ADAM
Lila and I are just going to head
out for a bit.
(Turns to Roman)
Keep the music down for your
sister. At least for the afternoon.

ROMAN
It's fine. I'm sure I could get
Leana to dance to it.

Adam glares at Roman.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Yes, sir.

Adam's manner abruptly returns to that of the friendly host.

ADAM
Alright. Later boys.

He leaves. Jackson and Shane are amused about Roman backing down to his dad's authority and try not to make each other laugh.

Roman notices this.

ROMAN
What?

JACKSON
Nothing man...nothing.

Roman turns to Shane, adopting an artificially good-natured smile.

ROMAN
You want a beer?

SHANE
I don't know man-

ROMAN
C'mooooonnnnn, relax. Don't
disappoint me.

JACKSON
I don't think he feels like
drinking Roman. It's a bit early.

Roman doesn't even look at Jackson and continues staring down Shane. Shane takes the beer. Roman pushes the edge of the can, forcing Shane to chug it. Roman and his friends laugh as Shane splutters and coughs through it.

Roman grabs himself another beer. Shane hangs his head in shame. Roman slumps back down in his chair.

ROMAN

Baby's first chug. Relax! It's just a bit of fun.

Shane collects himself, no longer hanging his head as Jackson puts an arm on his shoulder.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

You got any ancestry in these parts?

Shane shifts uncomfortably.

SHANE

What do you mean?

ROMAN

I mean are you like Comanche or Crow or some shit y'know?

JACKSON

(Quietly)
Jesus Christ....

ROMAN

When did you get so woke, Jackson?

SHANE

I don't know. My mum wasn't around long enough to teach me anything about that-

ROMAN

Can I call you Chief?

Jackson is annoyed now.

JACKSON

Dude, come on. You can't say that shit-

SHANE

Nah man it's fine. Chief it is.

Shane gives a reluctant smile. Roman toasts and goes back to talking to some of the other members of the team.

JACKSON
You're in Biology with Mr. Kelper
right?

SHANE
I am?

They both laugh.

JACKSON
I dunno how you get away with
skipping so many classes.

SHANE
Kelpers' okay but sometimes I think
he gets us confused with his
classes from twenty years ago.

JACKSON
Yeah! Y'know he said he used to
know Coach back then. There was
another assistant coach that Kelper
got him confused with from back
then.

SHANE
That's so bad...Oh my God. I feel
bad for laughing-

Jackson laughs. Shane giggles with him and sips his beer. He
grimaces as he drinks.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Warm...

ROMAN
You struggling with your beer
Chief?

Shane and Jackson turn to see a smirk on Roman and the other
team members' faces.

JACKSON
Stop calling him that.

SHANE
I said it's-

ROMAN
If you don't like his nickname
you'll **hate** yours...

The crowd lets out a cruel laughter.

JACKSON
What's my fucking nickname Roman...

Jackson squares up. Everyone around Roman stands up too.

ROMAN
Hey! Don't be like that! I'm just
messing around.

JACKSON
Fuck you.

Jackson walks off.

ROMAN
We're all homies here!

The wider group groans with mock horror. General raucous
laughter. James and other team members approach.

JAMES
(To Shane)
Hey. What's up?

ROMAN
Jackson's pissed. Just needs to
blow off some steam.

Roman walks over to an ice box. Empty.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Anyone want to do a beer run?

Shane steps forward enthusiastically.

SHANE
I can grab some.

ROMAN
Attaboy.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - DAY

The fridge door opens. Shane peers inside but finds nothing
but red meat.

SHANE
(Under his breath)
Ugh. The fuck...
(Shouting into the
distance)
There's nothing left!

ROMAN (O.S.)
Try the basement.

Shane looks down the stairwell into the darkened interior of the basement. He walks into the black.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Darkness.

Shane fumbles around for a light switch. CLICK.

Shane scans the illuminated space and sees the basement is filled with many half-built cages. Flattened and lying against the stairs are empty cardboard boxes labelled 'Dog Cages'.

Shane looks around. He notices along the back wall is a chain nailed into the brickwork with a collar at the end. Around the chains are the furious scratch marks of some animal across the floor and walls.

Shane, scared, takes a step back to leave and hears the sound of boxes moving.

Turning around, Shane sees LEANA CHAMBERS (17), pale, blond, and beautiful, like her mother and father, and only half-dressed in a night gown.

SHANE
Shit! Sorry! I was just looking for
some beers.

He's clearly flustered but Leana doesn't respond. She walks slowly towards him. He tries to say something but the words are caught in his throat. For a brief moment her eyes seem to flash yellow.

The expression on her face looks like hunger.

She approaches until she is inches from his face and sniffs it. She takes his hand, takes his other, and places his finger on her lips. Shane is confused, disturbed and excited, stuttering on his words.

Then, she steps forward onto his foot, catches hold of his finger in her teeth and slowly bites it. Shane gasps. She bites harder. Shane's expression twists in pain. He groans and quickly pulls his hand away.

SHANE (CONT'D)
The fuck!?

Leana giggles. Shane inspects his hand and sees she has broken the skin and made him bleed. He backs away as she licks the blood off her fingertip.

She laughs manically and mock-snaps at him as Shane retreats. He is visibly shaken as he hurries upstairs without looking back.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - DAY

The sun hangs low in the sky. Shane staggers into the kitchen. Roman is waiting for him with a panicked look on his face.

ROMAN
What did you do?

SHANE
Nothing, I-

Roman grabs Shane's hand and inspects the nail wound. Shane wrenches his hand away.

ROMAN
Fuck...Leana...She wasn't supposed to be down there.

SHANE
What the fuck is wrong with her?

ROMAN
Watch it. If you say fucking anything-

Jackson walks in on them.

JACKSON
...Everything good?

Roman is without words, trying to find an excuse.

SHANE
It's fine. We'll all good.

Roman is surprised. Jackson leaves and Roman's shoulders relax in immediate relief. He nods at Shane, a wordless thank you, and the two go out into the garden.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - DAY

Everyone: Tyler, Rex, James, Jackson and the rest of the team watch as Roman and Shane come back in.

All eyes are on Shane, looking at him expectantly for beer. He walks over to his bag and takes out a beer can.

Shane stabs down into a beer can with his knife and shotguns it. A cheer goes up in the crowd. Shane pulls a baggie out.

SHANE

Who wants to light up?

People cheer again.

TYLER

He's fucking crazy!

Roman smiles. Jackson looks uneasy.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - NIGHT

MONTAGE:

-Shane passes a bong across the party

-Shane plays beer pong

-A group of girls are invited into the party and the team all cheer at their entrance

-Everything becomes hazy and blurry as Shane dances to distorted music

EXT. BACK GARDEN - LATER

The party is winding down. The music is quieter as Roman stands at the edge of the forest line watching the trees sway under the moonlight. Jackson lies somewhere strung out on the ground. Shane approaches him.

SHANE

Hey.

ROMAN

Hey. You came through tonight.

SHANE

Shame I don't get to play with you guys that often...

ROMAN

Ha! Alright...I can talk to my dad about getting you more playtime if you like?

SHANE

Tight...

Roman steps close to Shane, serious now.

ROMAN

Thanks for not making a big deal about Leana. She has a lot of issues.

Roman returns to a friendly exterior and walks away smiling. He turns away to say one last thing.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Oh! Make sure you're free next weekend. My dad's got an idea.

Roman returns to the party. Jackson laughs to himself.

JACKSON

So that's what it was about.

Shane tries to ignore him and goes to return to the party.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

You know what the weird thing is? I overheard Roman say once that they only invited you to the team to get James on.

He giggles.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

You'd think it would be the other way around. He was such a scrawny kid.

Shane looks up at the house. In the top window is Leana, looking down at her parents, Adam and Lila, on the porch having returned to the party. Adam and Lila are in a conversation with James about something. James looks upset and Lila puts a reassuring arm around him.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - LATER

Shane has made his way back to the party, now finishing. The music is off. Lila and Adam are cleaning up plastic cups and beer cans. Shane spots James but before he can approach Adam interrupts.

ADAM

Shane!

SHANE

Hey Coach.

ADAM

You wouldn't happen to be free next weekend would you? Thinking about a little pre-game meeting.

SHANE

Yeah. I'll be there.

ADAM

Attaboy.

Adam heads back into the house. Shane approaches James. He looks like he's been crying.

SHANE

Hey. Shall we head out? You can sleep around at mine.

JAMES

I'm staying here. They offered to let me stay the night. I told a little about what's...

SHANE

...Right.

JAMES

You'll be alright getting home alone?

SHANE

I'll work it out.

JAMES

Night.

James walks inside the house.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Jackson and Shane walk back through the woods together, with Shane dragging his bike.

Jackson giggles to himself, still a little stoned.

JACKSON

My dad's gonna kill me. Your weed...your weed is too strong man.

SHANE

I thought you'd be good with this sort of thing.

JACKSON

What like, we've got the strong stuff in the hood?

Shane looks embarrassed.

SHANE

No! Fuck no!

JACKSON

I'm kidding I'm kidding, I know you're not like those guys.

SHANE

Yeah...I don't get why Roman is the way he is when Coach is so nice.

JACKSON

...I don't know about that.

SHANE

What do you mean?

JACKSON

...I'm gonna quit the team.

SHANE

Really? But you're...y'know.

JACKSON

It's just high school lacrosse man. It's not like I was looking for a scholarship. I only did it to hang out with my friends. They weren't always like this.

SHANE

Acting crazy?

Shane tries to laugh about it but Jackson is deadly serious.

JACKSON

They're different. They're not right. It's like I don't recognise them anymore.

SHANE

We're growing up-

JACKSON

Nah, you know it's more than that. I tried searching up Roman online. It's like he didn't exist until a couple months ago. There's something wrong with the Chambers. I've seen you and James. You used to be tight.

SHANE

It's fine! Can we just drop this?

JACKSON

...Fine.

They walk further into the forest in silence, when they hear something move in the foliage.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Hello?

There's a mournful whining sound.

Shane takes out his phone and shines a torchlight into the darkness.

It's a wolf. Panting and slobbering, staring back at them with glazed over eyes. A yellow wildlife tracking tag is pinned to its ear.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Holy shit...

SHANE

It's tagged. Something's wrong with it...

It turns to leave. One of its back legs is made of malformed smooth skin, a mutated human leg. It hobbles away into the darkness.

Jackson covers his mouth to stop himself from making any noise.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Let's go!

They sprint into the distance as the sun starts to rise.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shane wakes up groggy and bleary eyed in bed. He slept in his clothes. He suddenly notices his dad at the foot of his bed sitting down.

SHANE
...I think I'm sick...

Ellis' stern expression softens.

ELLIS
Sure you are.

He moves around to Shane's side.

ELLIS (CONT'D)
...I'm not gonna give you a hard time. I was wilder than you when I was a boy.

He gets up.

ELLIS (CONT'D)
Come down when you're ready. I'll make you breakfast. It'll help with the hangover.

Ellis leaves. Shane is left taken aback by his kindness. He grabs his phone from his bedside table and types a message to James.

Hey, you up?

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane slams his fork hungrily into some bacon and eggs. Ellis is moving around him with boxes which he is piling on the Sofa.

Shane, feeling and looking better, notices the room around him is cleaner.

SHANE
You've been moving stuff?

ELLIS
Yeah. Just old stuff. Thought you'd like it if the place was a bit cleaner. It's going in the landfill.

Shane gets off his chair and inspects the inside of a box.

SHANE

...you were going to throw this away? This is mom's stuff!

ELLIS

...I just thought that it was-

SHANE

Jesus, Dad!

Ellis hangs his head. He walks away to sift through another box.

Shane sifts through the box and sees books titled: 'NATIVE AMERICAN FOLKLORE' and 'GERMANIC FOLKLORE'. He takes the latter book and flips through it.

The pages depict images of Fey creatures: red caps, sprites and satyrs. He lands on one page depicting a wolf cub in a crib while a monstrous wolf, with bright green horns, carries a human baby off in its teeth. The scene is witnessed by two peasant parents screaming at the sight of their stolen child in anguish.

INSERT: Split second FLASHBACK of Ellen screaming after James in David's arms.

SHANE (CONT'D)

...What is this?

Ellis looks to Shane and, seeing the book, gives a sad smile.

ELLIS

Folklore from my mother's country.
It's how me and your mother met.
She was researching-

SHANE

No. I mean this.

Shane turns the book and points to the image.

ELLIS

It's a changeling. A monster's child. Their parents trick humans into raising them after stealing their cub.

Shane looks to the picture again with disturbed fascination.

SHANE

What happens to the parents?

ELLIS

The monster child grows and then
eats them.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Students work silently at their desks. Shane, sitting at the back, peers over at a desk near the front. James' chair is empty.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Shane walking down the corridor with the rest of the team. He checks his phone. There are several of his previous messages, all unanswered.

You good?

Are you at school today?

Where are you?

No response from James. He hasn't even seen them.

Roman, Tyler and Rex pass in the hallway. Shane spots them.

SHANE

Hey! Roman!

Roman turns around with a cocky grin.

ROMAN

Yo.

SHANE

Have you seen James?

ROMAN

Not since the party.

Shane continues walking down the corridor with them, laughing to one another.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Shane sits at a table with the team, Jackson next to him. He takes his phone out, looks disappointed and puts it back.

JACKSON

You good?

SHANE
It's fine. Whatever.

Adam walks by the table, smiling and waving to the boys.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Coach! Have you seen James?

Adam steps closer to whisper privately to Shane.

ADAM
Yeah...he's okay. He said he just needs some time off school to deal with some things. I'm sorry can't say more. Student-Teacher confidentiality and all.

Shane nods and goes back to talking with the team, trying to enjoy himself.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

Shane runs down the field, in full lacrosse gear. He's got the ball.

The other team is gaining on him as he approaches the goal.

He shoots. He scores! A team member slaps his back with pride. Beneath his helmet, he's smiling widely.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Another day. Students working in silence at their desks. Shane looks over to James' empty seat at the front.

INSERT: A clock face in time-lapse. The sunlight rises and falls across it. An entire school week passes.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

Another day. Afterschool, Shane and Jackson sit on the bleachers in late afternoon sun. Shane peers down at his phone. A response from James a couple hours ago:

Sorry man. Just been really busy.

JACKSON
He ever get like this? Like when he's depressed or something?

SHANE

No.

JACKSON

Do you think he'll show up tonight
to coach's thing?

SHANE

What the hell's up with him?

Shane is lost in thought. Jackson looks concerned as he watches Roman and some lackeys walk across the field into the woods.

JACKSON

Dude, something's wrong. Coach was
the last one that saw him-

SHANE

What is it with you and Coach? He's
fine!

Shane storms off.

JACKSON

You can't just ignore this!

INSERT: The wheels of a bike turning with furious speed.

EXT. JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

Shane cycles furiously up the street. The skies are cloudy and the wind picks up howling. He stomps up to the front gate and inspects the key pad. There's what looks like a button with a bell. He rings.

The wind howls. Shane looks around him. Something rustles in a bush behind him. The speaker in the keypad buzzes to life.

ELLEN (O.S.)

Hello?

Shane jumps in shock. He cautiously glances around him. Behind a window of the house he can see a figure standing in dark silhouette.

SHANE

(Into keypad speaker)
...It's me, Shane. James' friend-

Loud BUZZING. The gate opens. The figure steps away from the window.

INT. JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

Ellen opens the front door a crack. Shane, standing on the porch can only see the darkened interior and half of her face. She doesn't look him in the eye.

ELLEN
Yes?

SHANE
Is James in?

ELLEN
No...no...would you like to wait
for him?

Shane isn't sure what to say. She doesn't wait for a response and unlocks the front door. She leaves it swinging open and Shane closes it as he comes in.

The entryway leads into a lounge filled with rubbish. Old wine bottles and food containers are strewn across the coffee table and floor.

SHANE
Is David here?

ELLEN
Hm?

SHANE
Your husband, David?

ELLEN
No...no...he left. I think to find
James.

SHANE
When was that?

ELLEN
...I can't remember...

Shane looks around the room and sees a photograph of an old high school class. In the centre of the photo is a man who looks exactly like Adam. The photo is labelled 'Class of 86'.

Shane's eyes go wide in disbelief. Visibly agitated, he takes the photo off the wall and brings it to Ellen.

SHANE
Excuse me, who is this?

He points to Adam in the photograph.

ELLEN

...The assistant Coach. Can't remember his name...I was only twelve at the time.

Shane shakes his head dismissively and goes to leave. He stops himself just before he reaches the front door.

SHANE

What *can* you remember?

She points to a young girl in the frame.

ELLEN

I remember...my sister...was so afraid of him. The boys on the team were so cruel. They were nice once, played with them as kids. But she warned me to stay away. Grew up to be nasty men. She was right of course.

She stares straight into his eyes.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

They found her in the woods.

EXT. JAMES' HOUSE - DAY

Shane stumbles out of the front door, shaking his head in disbelief.

SHANE

Fucking crazy...

He gets on his bike, but stops as the wind stops and he hears RUSTLING in the bushes.

Passing behind the shrubbery, completely quiet, is something with four legs, a massive dark shape, and two glowing yellow eyes. Shane is terrified.

Shane cautiously moves away from the bush dragging his bike and then cycles as fast as he can.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Ellis, making something in the kitchen, is shocked to see Shane run in, dump his jacket on the sofa and scramble up the stairs without a word.

ELLIS

Shane!

He's already out of earshot. Ellis sighs. He picks up Shane's jacket and as he does, the wallet falls to the ground.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

The sun is going down under the horizon. The surrounding forest darkens as the sunlight disappears.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Shane, with bumbling fingers, tries to roll himself a joint. RING RING. His phone goes off and he jumps.

SHANE

Fuck!

He takes his phone and sees James is calling him. He's apprehensive and then answers the phone.

JAMES (V.O.)

Hey man-

SHANE

Where the fuck are you? I was trying to find you before coach's thing!

JAMES (V.O.)

Look, I'm there now. OK? Sorry about being MIA...

James sounds wrong, as if he's scared. Shane's anger subsides slightly.

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

...I need to talk to you about something-

SHANE

What? Are you in trouble?

JAMES (V.O.)

I can't talk here-

There's a scramble as if someone is taking the phone.

ROMAN (V.O.)

Shaaaanne. Where are youuuuu...

SHANE

Someone started early...

ROMAN (V.O.)

Get your ass over here! The whole team's here!

SHANE

...I'm on my way.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane comes down the stairs, but finds his father waiting for him, scowling.

Ellis shows Shane the driver's license.

ELLIS

What's this?

Shane stays quiet, keeping his head down he tries to walk out the front door. Ellis blocks his path.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

Answer me! What is going on with you? You're behind in your duties, you're out of the house all the time...Are you getting yourself into trouble?

Shane scoffs.

SHANE

Like you give a shit.

ELLIS

What's that supposed to mean?

SHANE

Why now? Why now after I finally start making friends do you care? I drink your beer and smoke your weed and **now** you care?

ELLIS

You are way out of line!...Is that what you want, for me to act like a stricter parent!

SHANE

No! I've had angry, grumpy and drunk ass parent- I don't need strict!

(MORE)

SHANE (CONT'D)

You had your fucking chance to be a parent. What I want?...I want to live in a town with real people not live like outcasts. I've been to the Chambers with their real house and their real family. I want that!

Ellis looks hurt. He tries to remain stoic.

ELLIS

You're grounded.

SHANE

I'm not spending another moment with you. I'm SO tired of being ALONE with you.

Shane starts to cry angry tears.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I've been ALONE ever since Mom died. Go back to drinking for all I care. I don't need you. I want more.

Shane pushes past his father. Ellis tries to stop him but Shane pushes him to the ground. He rushes out the door.

ELLIS

Shane!

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Shane cycles away into the darkening forest. The wind howls.

EXT. CHAMBER'S HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Shane cycles up to the front door. He can hear the sounds of partying and lights blazing out of the windows. He rubs his red eyes and for a moment peers into the lively party inside, people jeering and laughing at each other, through a window.

He gathers himself and lets himself in.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shane walks into the house. The door behind him immediately closes as Roman, appearing from nowhere, locks it shut.

ROMAN

Shane!

(gesturing to the lock)
Dad's worried about gate crashers.

He throws an arm around Shane and leads him down the hallway.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

You will never guess who's been
asking about you?

Shane is only half paying attention, suddenly noticing a member of the team slumped to one side of a doorway. As they push past him, he can be seen mumbling to himself with wild eyes.

SHANE

He alright?-

ROMAN

Yeah Yeah he's fine, anyway guess.

Further along the hallway another member of the team stumbles forward and vomits.

SHANE

Whoa! This is going pretty hard for
a pregame with the coach.

ROMAN

Dad's chill like that.

Roman looks at Shane, still expecting an answer.

SHANE

I don't know. Who?

ROMAN

Leana.

SHANE

Wait...your sister?

Someone passes by Roman, without looking at either of them, and passes them two shot glasses.

Roman gestures to the second shot glass, both with a small fish swimming in each of them. Shane is disgusted and shakes his head. Roman downs both of them.

ROMAN

She's looking for you. I think
you're going to get lucky tonight.

Shane laughs nervously.

SHANE
(Laughing nervously)
Dude, gross that's your sister.

ROMAN
What? I don't give a shit about
bitches. Man the fuck up.

Roman continues further into the house.

Shane sees in a another room down the hallway through an open door, Tyler and Rex both wrestling on the ground. It doesn't look like play fighting. Tyler bites Rex hard on his arm, drawing blood. They continue like it was nothing.

INSERT: The Romantic era painting of a wolf hunt.

Disturbed, Shane quickly heads upstairs away from them.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD, SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

Shane paces through the hallway, listening in to conversations in each of the rooms. In the distance, the sounds of the party are a mix of screams and laughter.

SHANE
James?

A hand comes out from a doorway and pulls Shane into another room.

INT. CHAMBER'S HOUSEHOLD, BATHROOM - NIGHT

Before Shane can react, he's in a tiled white bathroom with Jackson's hand over his mouth. Shane pulls it away.

SHANE
(Whispering)
What?

JACKSON
James needs you. He doesn't look
right.

Jackson gestures to the far side of the room where there's a deep-sided bathtub. Shane moves towards it as Jackson keeps guard at the door.

Lying in the bath is James with a heavily sedated look on his face. Shane puts a hand on James' shoulder, causing him to flinch.

SHANE

Just me. What's wrong?

James breathes deeply, trying to calm himself.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Are you on anything? Where have you been man?

JAMES

..Been here all week...Roman let me stay...Too scared to go home...Can't remember a lot.

SHANE

What are you doing in the tub? Did Roman give you something?

JAMES

Don't know...Don't think so...Hurt myself somehow but I can't remember how...

Shane nods. *Show me.* Shane helps James lift his shirt carefully.

There's a long jagged wound across James' torso. Shane inspects it. Where there should be blood is a thick tuft of black hair growing from the inside. Shane flinches backwards in terror. James is wide-eyed.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Is it bad?

SHANE

We need to get you to a hospital.

Shane looks to Jackson.

JACKSON

I think we need to get the fuck out of here.

SHANE

...Roman locked the front door.

Jackson and Shane sit in silence with terrible implications of that.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - NIGHT

Roman stands over the fire pit. He closes his eyes and prepares himself for something. When they open again there is a look of resolution and determination. He claps his hands.

ROMAN
GATHER ROUND, BOYS!

The team gathers towards the fire pit. Jackson pushes through the crowd, Shane and a hobbling James in tow.

SHANE
We need to find Coach...

JACKSON
(Quietly)
We can try and get out through the back-

ROMAN
Come on, come on, you too Shane.

Shane stops in his tracks. The crowd falls silent and everybody stands still. Roman smiles broadly at his audience.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
I think it's fair to say we've got ourselves a real family here. And I got to say, Dad's put together a lot of families across the states, but this!- these are my brothers!

The crowd is enraptured, cheering loudly. Shane watches one of them, with his jaw hanging open, almost drooling with excitement. Shane starts pushing his way towards Roman.

ROMAN (CONT'D)
YOU'RE WARRIORS. HUNTERS! It's time for a proper hunt. Shane?

SHANE
What did you give James?

ROMAN
Did our boy go too hard!

He laughs maniacally and the team joins in. Jackson stares up at the house and sees Adam looking down on them from a top window. The crowd closes in on the group.

SHANE
Shut the fuck up! What have you been doing to him!

JACKSON

Shane-

SHANE

He needs help-

JACKSON

SHANE!

Shane turns to Jackson who tips his chin signalling the team. All are staring at Shane voraciously. James is gone. Roman steps closer to Shane, who now senses the threat from all sides.

SHANE

James?

Shane tries to scan the crowd.

ROMAN

As a native of these lands I
imagine you'd know this forest
better than anyone. So, let's think
of this as a game of hide and seek.

Some of the team - junior team members and Jackson - are pushed to the front with only the forest behind them.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Take these boys out with you. A
proper challenge. Hide.

Shane, in shocked silence, backs away from the crowd, watchful and wary.

ROMAN (CONT'D)

Coach's orders. Be a good sport and
run along.

Shane hesitates, but obediently runs off into the distance and takes off. The rest of the juniors and Jackson follow.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Shane furiously charges through the brush. Boys to the left and right veer off into different directions into the darkness.

The brush becomes thicker and Shane, at full speed, cuts his face on small branches until he collapses into a clearing. He quickly clambers onto his feet, panting fast. The forest air is still.

A twig SNAPS.

Shane takes his phone out and shines the light in the direction.

Jackson bolts into view, almost knocking Shane.

SHANE

Fuck! Scared the shit out of me
man.

Jackson pushes Shane into a tree. Shane, confused, tries to struggle but sees Jackson's eyes wide with terror. Jackson holds a trembling finger to his lips and slowly brings Shane to a crouch with him. STOMP STOMP. Shane turns off the light on his phone. Something's coming. Jackson and Shane hold their breath.

Shane and Jackson back away from the sound slowly. It gets closer. Jackson breaks into a sprint and Shane follows.

Another part of the forest, thicker and wilder. Shane and Jackson run with the latter in the lead. Shane looks over his shoulder. Some dark shape is running on all fours towards them.

Shane tries to keep up with Jackson as he disappears into the distance. Shane falls. Something has his foot. Falling on his front, Shane turns to see a giant wolf with matted black fur, and a silver underbelly wrapping its jaw around his shoe.

Shane kicks at it to try and dislodge his foot.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Help! Jackson!

The wolf retreats a step, but then re-establishes its grip, sinking its teeth into Shane's calf. He SCREAMS as the creature drags him backwards towards the brush.

Heavy footfalls. Something bounds towards Shane from behind. THRWACK. Jackson slams a heavy wooden branch onto the wolf's head causing it to yelp in pain. It releases Shane's foot, but Jackson continues to hit it until it retreats.

It lets out a distorted whine that sounds like cackling and disappears into the darkness.

JACKSON

Fuck you too!

Jackson tries to help Shane to his feet, but pauses when Shane yelps in pain from his injured foot and calf.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
You're alright man. It's okay.
Let's try to move here.

Jackson gently steers Shane to a nearby tree stump.

SHANE
Fuck me.

Jackson gently settles him down and tries to inspect the wound. Red oozes from jagged teeth marks where the flesh has been torn.

JACKSON
Oh god. I don't think you can walk
on this.

Shane tears off a piece of his shirt and wraps it around his wounded leg as a tourniquet.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
...you're kind of a badass.

SHANE
My dad taught me.

Jackson looks at the forest around him.

JACKSON
Did he teach how to make a spear or
a bow?

Jackson takes his phone out.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
No signal.

SHANE
Fuck. You need to get me help.

JACKSON
I don't want to leave you alone-

SHANE
I can't walk. You're going to have
to go back there and get help. Find
a Landline or something.

JACKSON
I'm not going fucking back there.

SHANE
Coach will help! Just go find him!

JACKSON

I saw him. He was letting it happen!

SHANE

Please just go get someone.

JACKSON

Fuck me. I'll be back.

Jackson takes off, holding the stick at his side. Shane, pale and sweating, rests his head against the tree trunk and closes his eyes for a few moments.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Shane's eyes shoot open. He has no idea how much time has passed. He takes phone out. No service and a low battery. Several missed calls from his father from earlier in the night. He has service!

The signal icon goes from one bar to 'searching'.

SHANE

Come on. Come on please!

A single weak bar appears. Shane smiles with relief.

The whole forest echoes with the sound of a loud howl, reverberating through the woods. Shane's relief disappears.

THUD THUD. THUD THUD. Heavy footfalls are bounding towards him.

Panicked, he shimmies backwards on his hands until he suddenly drops into a ditch filled with muddy water. Inside the ditch is the body of a deer, half-rotting in the muck. He quickly takes his foot out of the water to keep his wound dry. He becomes as still as he can. He can't hear any movement.

RINGING. The phone rings, and he quickly tries to turn it off and then covers his mouth with his hand.

THUD THUD. Whatever is there is close now, maybe ten to fifteen feet away. He holds his breath as loud, thudding footsteps approach him. He lowers himself into the muddy puddle until it submerges most of him.

THUD THUD. The snout of a massive creature bends its neck down into another part of the trench and sniffs the air.

Above Shane, a massive wolf, larger than any seen before, with a thick silver coat and solid amber glowing eyes, steps above him. On the top of its head are two moss green horns.

Somewhere in the distance, there's a chorus of wolf howls, and the wolf jumps over the ditch and disappears.

Shane jumps up and breathes heavily, almost hyperventilating. With horror, he searches for his dropped phone in the muddy puddle.

SHANE (CONT'D)
(Quietly)
No. No no no.

He finds it sodden with muck. It won't turn on. Shane sobs for a long time.

He can hear someone's footfalls.

JACKSON (O.S.)
Shane!

SHANE
(Weakly)
Here! I'm here.

Jackson peers down into the ditch, out of breath from running.

JACKSON
How did you get down there?

SHANE
Did you get help? Did you find Coach?

JACKSON
No one there...All gone. They left all their clothes. Just left them in piles. What the fuck is happening?

Shane notices something moving among the trees. The pale figure of Leana steps into view. She's completely nude and glowing in the moonlight.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
(To Leana)
Oh my god. Are you alright?

Leana is looking up at the sky in a daze when her focus changes to them, sizing them up.

Jackson cautiously steps towards her.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
Are you hurt? Can you speak?

Leana giggles slightly. Shane steps back, afraid of her.

JACKSON (CONT'D)
I think she's on something...

Leana falls forward into Jackson's arms. Her body starts to convulse violently. She locks eyes with Shane and they flash yellow.

SHANE
Jackson-

JACKSON
You have to help me Shane!

She rolls in his grasp, turning onto her front and arching her back violently.

There's a sudden, horrid TEARING as her flesh rips open across her back. Jackson steps away, horrified. The wound gapes open, and instead of viscera, there is a coat of black fur.

Leana becomes a black-furred wolf, tears the flesh off her wolf body like old clothes, ripping them to shreds. Jackson and Shane, standing there in horror are sprayed with blood. Leana turns to face them.

Shane limps away a few steps while Jackson swats with the stick to try and keep Leana back. She lunges at Jackson and is on top of him in seconds. Jackson screams out in pain as she mauls him, clawing at his chest and biting into his flailing arms.

Shane turns as he hears the scream.

SHANE
No!

Shane picks up the stick and tries to hit Leana but she snarls viciously and pulls Jackson quickly away by his throat. The flesh tears and blood sprays across Jackson's chest.

Shane stops trying to follow as he locks eyes with Jackson's clearly lifeless body. He falls to his knees.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Oh god. Oh god.

Leana devours the body in front of him. Shane picks himself up and limps away into the woods.

SHANE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry...I'm sorry...

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Shane limps as quick as he can through the woods. He shudders as he hears a boy's scream in the distance. Then another. And another. All around boys are letting out their dying screams.

The hopelessness catches up with him and he starts to slow down. Looking at the ground he spots a wolf trap. Some hope returns and he looks out into the distance ahead of him.

SHANE
(Weakly)
Dad...

EXT. WOODS/ EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - LATER

Shane, with renewed effort, is limping onward towards his home which he can see in the distance through the trees. The lights are still on.

Wolf howls resound all around him.

SHANE
Dad! DAD HELP ME!

Behind him, some one hundred feet away, the black furred wolf with a silver belly that bit his calf is bounding towards him.

Shane limps as fast as he can, the pain clearly tormenting him but not enough to slow him down. A light on the top floor turns on.

SHANE (CONT'D)
DAD!

There's a wolf trap at the edge of the treeline and Shane heads straight for it. The footfalls are sounding closer and closer. Shane throws himself over the trap as the wolf goes to lunge.

Shane dodges the attack successfully and the wolf lands straight into the trap. SNAP. The steel jaws crush its front paw and it yelps wildly in pain.

It barks madly at Shane.

SHANE (CONT'D)

DAD!

The wolf pulls its limb in the trap. The rusty springs start to give way. Ellis comes out the back door with a double-barrelled shot gun. The wolf chews more furiously.

SHANE (CONT'D)

HURRY!

Ellis reaches Shane. He aims. The wolf, tearing flesh and bone, rips itself free, but with a bleeding hobbled limb. BLAM. Ellis fires but the wolf dodges in time and limps off into the woods. Ellis fires and hits a tree.

SHANE (CONT'D)

(Weakly)

Dad...

Ellis turns to Shane, his face filling with dread seeing his son's tourniquet soaked with blood. Shane, pale faced, collapses into his arms.

Ellis carries his son into the house.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT/DAY

Ellis carries his son to his bed and lays him down carefully.

In TIMELAPSE, the sunlight rises and falls across the room as days pass. Shane moves fitfully, sweating feverishly and going in and out of consciousness.

Ellis walks into the room over multiple days changing bandages on Shane's wounds, placing cold water over his brow and sitting next to him as he sleeps.

INTERCUT: Images plague the feverish Shane, Jackson screaming, the faces of the hungry Lacrosse players, Roman laughing intercut with the cackling sound of the black furred wolf.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Early morning. Shane is wide awake but catatonic, staring at the window. Ellis comes in and sits next to him.

ELLIS

Feel like talking yet?

Shane doesn't respond. Ellis' head hangs in shame.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I couldn't take you to a hospital...We can't afford...I did the best I could with what we have...

Ellis looks like he's about to cry.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry son...

Suddenly, Shane is sitting up and throws his arms around his father.

They hold each other intimately for a long while.

Ellis pulls away first.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

...it was your mother. She asked to move out here. It felt like a betrayal to move after she died. I didn't want to do anything after...

He struggles to find the words.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I let you down...How'd you end up alone in those woods?

SHANE

There was a party and I...the whole team was...

Shane stops, the recollection filling him with horror. Ellis, filling in the blanks, fills with anger.

ELLIS

We'll leave. I swear to god as soon as we get the money. Fuck them and fuck this town. If those boys hurt you, the school is going to hear about this...I've always hated this town.

SHANE

Why?

ELLIS

Cause it took your mother from me.

SHANE

She died in a mugging.

ELLIS

They thought it was a mugging. They didn't take any of her money.

Shane sits with that information, and with a new understanding of the town.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

Listen Shane. The sheriff will want to talk to you when you're ready. It seems like you aren't the only one the wolves went for. They haven't found all the other boys yet...

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane sits at the kitchenette eating cereal for breakfast. Ellis washes up, looking back at Shane with worry, trying to muster up the courage to say something.

ELLIS

The Sheriff wants to talk to you this afternoon, probably afterschool...Usually about this time I tell the school that you're not coming in. Do you think you're up for it today?

Shane drops his spoon into his bowl.

SHANE

No...

ELLIS

When you're ready...please tell me what happened.

Shane is lost for words. There's no way he can describe what he saw.

SHANE

You wouldn't believe me...

ELLIS

Was it the other members of the team? Should I talk to Coach Chambers?-

SHANE

NO! It's fine. I just don't want to go back to school yet...

PING. Shane gets a message from James.

MEET ME AT SCHOOL

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE ALIVE

SHANE (CONT'D)

Actually...I guess I can go in today.

ELLIS

Alright...I'll get the car ready.

Ellis walks out the front door. Shane rushes to a drawer and sneaks a kitchen knife into his coat pocket.

EXT. RIVERS' CAR - DAY

Shane and Ellis drive past a forest road on the way to school. Peering down a long driveway is the lodge of the Chambers. On the front lawn is Shane's bike, exactly where he left it, sitting in the grass.

Up the driveway, a police cruiser is parked. Deputy Miller is walking back to it. He waves to someone behind him inside the house, only a dark outline to Shane, and laughs.

SHANE

Why are we here?

ELLIS

We're getting your bike back.

The deputy smile disappears as he spots Shane. His eyes flash yellow.

SHANE

Dad it's fine let's go.

ELLIS

What about your bike-

SHANE

Let's just go please!

Ellis relents. He sighs and drives away. Shane watches the deputy glare at him until he's out of view.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Ellis parks the car as students pass them, heading into morning classes. Shane exits the car and quickly paces but Ellis gets out and tries to follow.

ELLIS

Wait!

Shane stops.

ELLIS (CONT'D)

I should probably pick you up too...Should I grab your bike on the way home?

SHANE

No- I'll get it. See ya.

Shane looks uneasy as he leaves and Ellis catches this.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

A teacher at the front drones on and on but it sounds like MUMBLING to an unfocused Shane. He looks at his phone under his desk. He texts James:

Stay away from the Chambers.

Come find me.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Shane walks through the hallways, constantly looking over his shoulder and with his hood up to hide himself.

He passes some lockers. Each are adorned with flowers and electric candles. It's a makeshift memorial.

STUDENTS (O.S.)

They found them in the woods partying. Why the hell was Jackson partying with Juniors?

He catches the eyes of Roman, who's surrounded by Lacrosse players with his arm in a sling. He looks sullen with the others largely ignoring him.

Seeing Shane, his eyes flash yellow. He starts to move towards Shane.

Shane goes to turn away when someone grabs his arm and pulls him through a doorway.

INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

James pulls Shane into the classroom and quickly locks the door behind them.

SHANE

Oh my god.

Shane puts an arm around him but James just stands limply.

JAMES

I thought you were dead, man.

SHANE

Same here.

EXT. WOODS/ EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Ellis is walking to the treeline from his house by himself. He crouches down and inspects the sprung wolf trap. Around it are fresh tracks. He walks further into the woods, unslinging his rifle.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Ellis paces silently through the tress, following tracks. They come to a stop in the middle of a clearing.

Somewhere in the distance, there is a howl. Then another. Ellis realises he's surrounded.

ELLIS

Damn!

Ellis starts jogging back to his house but breaks into a full sprint as the howling gets closer and closer. Something is chasing him.

He turns and points his rifle.

Before he can aim, a wolf lunges onto him. He screams.

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

James is frantically moving around the room, shutting all the windows and closing the blinds. Shane follows him pleadingly.

SHANE

You have to tell me what happened
after we left, man.

James looks through the blinds, wild paranoid eyes darting
across the landscape outside.

JAMES

I don't....I don't remember.

SHANE

Yeah...then why are you so scared?

JAMES

He kept calling me his son.

SHANE

Who?

James darts to the other windows.

JAMES

Coach. He said I was his real son.

James stops, concentrating to articulate properly.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I can't remember any of that night
but waking up later on their couch.
I said I wanted to go home and he
said 'this is your home'. I got
scared so I ran home...

He starts to cry a little.

JAMES (CONT'D)

My parents weren't there...I don't
know where they are and no one
cares. The deputy wouldn't even
talk to me. No one can find Jackson
either.

Shane goes pale. He looks nauseous.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What. What is it?

SHANE

Jackson's dead.

The words devastate James. Despair becomes angry disbelief.

JAMES

What. How. HOW?!

SHANE

It...it was-

James yelps out in pain.

SHANE (CONT'D)

James? What's wrong.

JAMES

My head! Oh god.

He stumbles backwards and falls, before looking up in terror at the classroom door. Peering through the small glass window is Adam, his eyes blazing yellow, staring intensely at James.

His gaze hardens more and James spasms in pain.

SHANE

Oh god. Oh god, no.

Shane backs into a corner. Adam disappears from the window and leaves.

There's a terrible SNAPPING sound as the bones inside James' body transform. Shane takes his knife out. James tears at the flesh across his face. From the gory mess a furred snout juts out from where his nose and mouth used to be.

Shane unlocks the door and runs out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Shane slams the door behind and puts his weight against it. The door shakes with the weight of James slamming into it. Shane steps away slowly, hearing scratching sounds inside, James is unable to turn the handle as a wolf.

Shane pulls out his knife.

TEACHER

MR RIVERS!

Shane turns, a teacher walking down the hallway towards him.

TEACHER (CONT'D)

Just what are you doing-

SHANE

Don't go in there!

The teacher notices the knife in Shane's hand and freezes. Shane runs to a nearby fire alarm at the other end of the hall and pulls it.

TEACHER

What...what are you two doing? Mr Rivers and Mr Chambers?

Shane turns and sees Roman by the classroom door.

SHANE

No!

Roman opens the classroom door with a gleeful smile. James, a wolf in dark grey fur, charges out. Shane dodges to the side as James lunges and lands on the teacher.

The teacher screams until his throat is ripped out. Shane runs as best he can on his still hobbled foot. Roman goes to follow him when the classroom doors start to open.

The hallway floods with students evacuating the building. A student on their phone steps out into the hall and looks up to see James still devouring the teacher's corpse. The student screams.

Further down another hallway Shane is pushing past people to get to a fire exit door at the end of the hall. Panic is rising among the student body. Someone screams in the distance.

STUDENTS

Is it a shooter?

Multiple screams. The crowd panics. Multiple students push past a flagging Shane.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

The fire doors burst open and dozens of crying teenagers scramble out onto the field. Shane is pushed and falls onto his front. He tries to get up amongst the running crowd. Many are running for the parking lot.

Shane spots another fire door open on the other side of the school complex and several students rush out screaming. Among them is a dark shape.

It's James. He turns in a wide arc and starts to beeline towards Shane who runs towards the treeline of the neighboring forest.

James chases him across the field. The gap closes as Shane reaches the treeline.

Shane tries to run faster until he trips and quickly scampers his back against a tree, and his phone tumbles to the forest floor.

The wolf, approaches slowly, having him cornered, growling and slobbering as Shane takes out the hunting knife and holds it in front of him.

SHANE

Stay back. James....Please.

Shane's phone comes to life. It starts playing an R&B song. The same they listening to many months ago, before Adam arrived.

SHANE (CONT'D)

(Sobbing)

I'm sorry man. I'm so sorry. I miss when it was just us. You were all I needed...

The wolf's expression softens, something more recognisable as James.

INSERT: Memories of intimate moments as brief images, James and Shane under the bypass holding each other, riding on bikes together in the sun and hanging out in Shane's room.

James slowly approaches. Shane, apprehensively, holds out his hand. James pushes into it. He whines sadly. Shane relaxes, filling with relief.

GUNSHOT. A bullet ricochets off a nearby tree trunk. Thirty feet away, the sheriff is aiming his pistol with Adam standing behind him. James scampers off into the woods.

The sheriff quickly jogs to Shane's side.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Are you alright, kid?

Shane nods.

SHERIFF WAYNES (CONT'D)

Thank god you didn't get hurt.

Adam, joining them, walks a couple steps further into the woods, scowling in the direction of the wolf. Shane instinctively stands up and steps away from Adam.

ADAM

Yeah. Lucky kid.

Adam speaks with obvious disappointment.

EXT. SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Shane is led by the Sheriff into the parking lot. The parking lot, now filled with cars, is packed with crying students rushing into their parents' arms.

Shane looks around. Lacrosse players in their varsity jackets stand to the side. None of their parents are here...

Shane can't spot his father.

SHANE

Where's my dad?

Sheriff Waynes puts a hand on Shane's shoulder and looks down at him sadly.

SHERIFF WAYNES

I'll take you to him...

Shane starts to visibly worry. The sheriff tries to explain something but all noise drains away as Shane's panic rises.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Lying in a hospital bed, Ellis is unconscious and wrapped in bloody bandages. Tubes are in his mouth, nose and arm. Shane slowly approaches the hospital bed.

SHERIFF WAYNES (V.O.)

...They found on the forest path.
Miracle he's alive with that amount
of blood loss.

Shane looks sadly on his father's ruined body.

SHERIFF WAYNES (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We can see about getting you
emergency custody. Maybe talk to
the coach.

Shane sees a wound on his father bleeding through the bandages shaped like a bite mark. He steps back in horror and crashes into a bedside table. He runs out of the room.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

Shane runs as fast as he can, tears streaming down his face.

Paranoid, he looks around and sees people on their lawns watching him as he passes with suspicious eyes.

EXT. CHAMBERS HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane, walking slowly, approaches the porch where he left his bike the night of the party, laying in the grass.

He crouches down moves stealthily towards it, avoiding the large window above it.

He picks it up, but notices something. The Chambers' Ford Ranger has a tarp over the back. Something is bleeding through the gate from the truck's bed.

Shane approaches and lifts the tarp.

Strapped to the bed is the carcass of a wolf. It has dark grey fur. It's James.

Shane puts the tarp back down, too shellshocked to react at the moment.

He cycles away on his bike.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane stumbles into the house and runs up the stairs.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He crashes into his door and scrambles in a desk drawer for something. He pulls out the bong and with his trembling hand tries to pack it with some weed.

With his bumbling fingers, the weed falls to the floor. He throws the bong at the wall. It shatters into pieces.

Whatever seething rage Shane felt disappears and he falls to the floor defeated.

KNOCK. KNOCK.

Shane flinches at the sound of someone knocking on the front door.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Deputy Miller and Sheriff Waynes stand on the porch of the cabin, their police cruiser parked in the driveway. They wait a moment.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Shane! Open up! We can't just leave you on your own.

DEPUTY MILLER

Are you sure you saw him go up this way?

SHERIFF WAYNES

I swear I saw him on his bike. Is it here?

They head in different directions as Miller searches around the property and the Sheriff takes a spare key under the welcome mat and lets himself inside.

SHERIFF WAYNES (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Shane? Are you there?

Above them, Shane is crawling out of his window quietly and onto the roof. Miller, just below him, sniffs the air. Shane holds his breath.

Miller finds a scent which leads him around Ellis' truck which Shane has propped his bike up against. The sheriff comes back out.

SHERIFF WAYNES (CONT'D)

Find it?

Miller takes the bike and tucks it under the car, out of view of the sheriff.

DEPUTY MILLER

Nothing. Maybe I should stay here- see if he comes home soon?

The Sheriff spits and walks back to a police cruiser up the road.

SHERIFF WAYNES

Sure...I don't want to waste anymore time on this. Got bigger shit to deal with today...

The Sheriff tosses the spare key to Miller, gets in the cruiser and drives away, the Deputy watching him leave with barely contained excitement.

Once the Sheriff is around the corner, the Deputy turns and stares straight at Shane on the roof.

His eyes flash yellow. Shane scrambles inside. Miller slowly walks to the front door. He unlocks it.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Miller wipes his feet on the welcome mat, eerily calm. He locks the door behind him before sprinting up the stairs.

He comes to a locked door. He sniffs the air coming through the cracks in the door.

He leans back and breaks the door down, the wood splintering.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miller charges into the room. Empty. His eyes dart across the room trying to find Shane. He runs to the window and peeks out.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - CONTINUOUS

Miller looks around and sees nothing on the roof.

INT. SHANE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miller scans the room again. There's a closet in the back. He approaches it and leans his ear against the closet door. Silence. But then, the panicked quiet exhale from someone struggling to hold their breath.

Miller throws the closet door open.

BLAM.

Shane, holding a smoking rifle and crouched in the back of the closet, watches Miller stumble back. Shane is shocked by his own actions, the rifle trembling in his hands.

Miller looks at his gunshot wound, a bloody crater in his shoulder, with rage. He darts forward, rushing Shane and snarling like a wolf.

This time with narrowed eyes and careful aim, Shane fires.

BLAM.

Miller drops dead, with a hole straight through his eye.

Shane stands up and exits the closet. He looks down at the deputy with a grim determination.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - BATHROOM - DAY

Another morning. Early sunlight in a dingy bathroom. Shane stares into a mirror. He brings his fingers to his face and smears camo paint across his cheek.

INSERT: END OF SCHOOL BELL RINGING LOUDLY.

EXT. SCHOOL FIELD - DAY

Two teenage girls run across the school field towards the woods. One, RAYA (15), wearing darker clothing with bleached blonde hair, drags the other towards the forest.

Her dragged friend ALEX, another teenager in dark clothing and a shaved head pulls against her.

ALEX

Come on. You know we're not supposed to go in there!

RAYA

We won't go far! They said they killed the wolf so it's safe! I just want a little privacy, Alex.

Raya pulls Alex closer and smiles. They're clearly in love.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The wind shakes the dark tree canopy above Alex and Raya as they laugh and giggle to one another. The darkening clouds make the forest interior gloomy.

ALEX

Raya!

RAYA

Just a little further.

Alex pushes Raya up against a tree. They kiss. They laugh again, a little embarrassed at themselves.

ALEX

This is crazy!

There's a wolf whistle in the distance. Alex and Raya turn and see Rex has suddenly appeared. They back away in fear.

REX

What are you doing out in the woods this far?

ALEX

Why don't you fuck off and leave us
alone, Rex.

Two of Rex's Lacrosse colleagues appear. Tyler and ARNOLD
(17), a tall lanky lacrosse player.

TYLER

Still have a crush on her Arnold?

Tyler points to Raya.

ARNOLD

Nope.

RAYA

Let's just go.

Raya and Alex go to leave but Tyler circles around and blocks
their path. Alex grabs Raya's hand, realising they're in
danger. Each of the boys looks at them with inhuman hungry
stares.

Rex takes a step towards them. Suddenly, there's the high
pitched noise of something flying through the air.

SHUNK. Arnold holds his neck. There's a crossbow bolt through
it.

Everyone is too shocked to react or move.

He falls forward.

Raya screams. Jace and Rex immediately search the trees
looking for where the shot came from.

POV Shot: A crosshair aimed over the body of Tyler from a
distance.

SHUNK. Another bolt catches Tyler in the chest. He stumbles
backwards and falls dead.

Rex falls to the ground to take some form of cover. Seeing
the bolt in Tyler's chest he fills with rage.

REX

IS THAT YOU FREAK?

Shane, in full camo gear, is crouched low among the trees and
inside some foliage. He looks over his crossbow with absolute
calm.

Rex peers around the corner of a tree trying to find Shane.

Shane gently squeezes the trigger and the bolt flies. SHUNK. It lands in the side of Rex's head. He steps back confused as the bolt has destroyed his motor functions.

Raya screams loudly and collapses into sobbing.

ALEX
JESUS CHRIST!

RAYA
Oh god. Oh god.

ALEX
Look at me, Raya. We're going to
have to run, okay?

There's a horrid cracking sound from Rex's corpse. Alex and Raya stare with shocked horror as his body bulges and warps. The flesh along his chest tears as a wolf emerges from his body. Alex and Raya scream.

Rex, now a snarling wolf, turns to them and snarls.

Shane fidgets with his crossbow, Rex standing directly in front of the girls and ruining any chance of a clean shot.

Rex approaches them. Shane grits his teeth, he hesitates, and then...

SHANE
Ah fuck.

He stands straight up.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Over here you goddamn mutt!

Rex turns and dashes into the trees, disappearing from view.

SHANE (CONT'D)
Hey! You two! Run!

Raya and Alex scramble to their feet and run back in the direction of the school field. Shane's eyes dart around him.

He hears the scampering of something in one direction and then swivels around as he hears it coming from another.

Shane raises his crossbow ahead of him. He doesn't notice Rex silently move around from the tree behind him and then start bounding towards him.

Rex lunges.

SNAP. Rex's back leg is caught in the steel jaws of a wolf trap hidden under some foliage. Shane turns coolly.

Rex snarls and barks madly. Shane simply raises the crossbow bolt and Rex sinks with a dying yelp, as a bolt lands in his skull.

He walks over to the bodies on the forest floor of Arnold and Tyler. Arnold's body twitches. Shane approaches. The chest starts to bulge.

Shane sinks a knife inside of it, killing the wolf within. Shane doesn't even react to the blood spilling on his face, wearing a cold expression.

Shane walks back over to Rex's wolf form and slings the body over his shoulder.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

The end of the day. The orange sun hangs low and the breeze howls wildly. The surrounding forest is alive with movement.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

On the kitchenette Shane carves into the body of the wolf with a skinning knife, removing the pelt from the corpse. His face is twisted in anger as he is sprayed with blood.

MONTAGE:

- Shane dumps rifle ammo boxes onto a table spilling a the contents across its surface.

- Shane loads the ammo into his rifle and along a belt across his trousers.

- Shane brandishes an old hunting knife and tests its sharpness on his thumb. It draws blood.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

Shane is crouched by his dad's truck with a garden hose in its gasoline tank. He sucks the end of it and spits the petrol that got into his mouth onto the ground. He retches.

He guides the hose into a cannister which fills with gas.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - NIGHT

Across the porch of the Chamber's back garden are the clothes of dozens of people. Among the everyday clothes are the Lacrosse team'S varsity jackets and police uniforms.

Further into the garden, illuminated by the towering flame of a massive bonfire, are dozens of wolves. They feast on a scattering of victims' corpses: teachers, high school students and many middle aged men and women. Among them are the decaying bodies of Ellen and David.

Wolves fight and snarl at one another as they fight over the scraps. Lila, completely nude, steps out onto the porch. She admires the sight of her children. Her body drops suddenly like a rag doll. Her flesh tears and emerges a gore-soaked silver-grey furred wolf.

A human hand runs its fingers along Lila's pelt. Adam, also nude, stands by her, watching the feast in his garden. He nods in the direction of the pack to Lila and she scampers off into the distance. Adam's eyes glow bright yellow.

A LACROSSE PLAYER sits with his head in his hands.

LACROSSE PLAYER

Oh god. Oh god.

Adam approaches him and puts a hand over his shoulder.

LACROSSE PLAYER (CONT'D)

I think...I think I killed my own
parents...I don't know where I
am...

ADAM

Your family is here. I'm your
father now. I was always your
father.

Adam's eyes grow brightly, and the lacrosse player starts to convulse.

Away from the firepit and in the darkness is the head of a wolf awkwardly bobbing over the garden hedges that border the property.

It is Rex's pelt hanging limply over Shane's head who is covered in blood and moving stealthily low to the ground.

Adam sniffs the air. Something amiss that confuses him. Shane ducks lower. Once he reaches where the hedges end, Shane notices a stairway leading under the porch and into the basement.

Adam steps forward, off the porch, trying to catch the foreign scent again. Shane take his chance and darts down the stairs and into the basement.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Shane locks the door behind him but, once it is closed, is surrounded by darkness.

He fumbles for a flashlight. The interior of the basement is filled with dog cages. Something moans.

Shane shines his light lower. Inside the cage is an emaciated wolf. It whimpers at the bright light.

Shane approaches the cage with fascination. On the wolf's ear is a bright yellow tag. It's a wildlife tracker. In another cage a wolf moans unnaturally, something closer to human.

Shane moves his torch and shines a light over the back of the wolf in front of him. Its legs are misshapen, smooth skinned and human-like. He gasps.

Shane shines his light to another cage, where he heard the human cry, and sees a wolf with a grotesque human face.

SHANE
(Whispering)
Jesus Christ.

Something moves in the shadows behind the cages. All the wolves go silent. Shane shines his light in that direction.

Leana lunges over the cages and topples over Shane.

His torch flies across the room.

He holds his hands over his face to protect himself as she scratches him badly. Shane cries out as she screams manically.

He scrambles for the hunting knife in his pocket. SHINK.

Leana stops, and lets out a gasp as she looks down and sees a knife plunged into her sternum.

She snarls like a wounded animal and scampers back on her hands and feet into the darkness.

Shane crawls quickly towards the torch and shines it across the room. Leading from him to the back wall is a trail of blood. He follows it with his rifle raised.

He finds his knife tossed across the ground and covered in blood and picks it up, following the trail to the other end of the room.

Crouched against the back wall is Leana, bleeding heavily and already going pale. She looks at Shane like a scared child, eyes wide and sobbing. Shane, caught off guard, is frozen to the spot just watching her.

She looks at Shane, confused and scared, until her last labored breaths and she dies. The wolves in the cages whimper and cry. Shane lowers his rifle and approaches the body. He closes her eyes.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Shane quickly moves up the basement stairs to the kitchen. Strewn across the kitchen table is a feast of raw meat, soaking the woodwork red.

Shane trips over the cast off clothes of the wolves as he approaches the gas cooker. He flips all the dials on the cooker and gas hisses out into the room.

Taking the gas cannister off his back, he dumps the gasoline across the floor and walls, soaking the Romantic paintings and fine furniture. He slowly moves to the back door and closes it.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Shane peers outside.

Wolves ferociously wrestle over a body, dragging the corpse between them and ripping it to shreds.

Shane closes the blinds inside.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Shane moves back to the kitchen table and lights a candle. As he's about to turn towards the front door to leave he sees Adam standing there.

ADAM

Shane?

Shane says nothing and aims his rifle. Adam raises his hands. He speaks gently.

ADAM (CONT'D)

The gas will ignite if you fire.
Please don't do that.

SHANE

The room hasn't filled with that
much gas yet.

ADAM

How do you know? How do you know
one of the sparks of your rifle
won't ignite the gasoline across
the floor?

Shane turns back to the gas cooker, still hissing, and then looks at the candle on the table. Its flame flickers in the wind. The rifle trembles in Shane's hands.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You can still be one of us, Shane.

Shane scoffs through unsteady breaths. Adam steps a little closer.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I was hoping we could talk man to
man-

SHANE

You're not a man- You're not even
human. You're just a fucking wolf.

ADAM

You shoot now, we're both dead. I
want to talk to you.

Shane steadies himself and aims at Adam's head.

SHANE

Wolves don't talk. Everything you
ever said was just a tactic to
bring me to the dinner table.

All expression drops from Adam's face leaving it cold and emotionless.

Adam charges at Shane, causing Shane to drop the rifle. Shane reaches for his hunting knife.

Adam grabs Shane's neck and lifts him off the ground.

Shane's feet dangle mid-air and Adam's face is emotionless the whole time.

With a desperate thrust, Shane stabs the blade into Adam's abdomen. Adam doesn't even wince.

Shane drags the blade through the flesh, disembowelling Adam.

Adam steps back, dropping a coughing Shane to the floor whose hunting knife skids across the room, stumbling limply as if he's lost the strength in his torso to properly carry his upper body. Instead of intestines, a huge white wolf's head peeks out from the hole in his stomach.

Adam's human head is expressionless and hangs crooked to the side as the wolf's snarls.

Like a puppet on strings, Adam's body awkwardly dashes forward towards Shane.

Shane dodges, falling to the ground. Adam almost falls over the kitchen counter and madly swings his arms into everything over the counter.

Shane stands up and sees, on the other side of the kitchen, a knife block.

Adam marches over. Shane tries to hit him back. Adam grabs his arm.

Shane tries to use the other to grab a knife from the block but Adam whips him around to face him and grabs his other hand.

Adam pulls Shane closer to the madly biting, barking, wolf head in his torso.

Shane tries to stop the gap between them from closing with desperate kicks.

A boot lands in the wolf's mouth and it chomps down hard. Shane groans as the wolf crushes down on the hard leather of his combat boots.

Adam pushes Shane against the kitchen counter, his head still crooked off to the side. Shane sees his opportunity.

Shane bites down into Adam's neck. Blood sprays wildly.

Adam's failing body flails wildly trying to cover his bleeding neck wound but the blood loss is causing it to lose strength as he his swings get slower and slower. His body goes pale.

Adam's human body slumps to its knees but the wolf inside pushes harder, tearing open the entire chest cavity, trying to get out.

Shane backs away from the wolf and goes for his rifle. He points it at the massive wolf appearing from Adam's body, a huge gore-soaked white wolf.

He hesitates.

Adam, a majestic supernatural wolf with glowing green horns, gets closer, eyes shining bright yellow.

He closes his eyes and fires.

BLAM.

A bullet lands in the wolf's shoulder.

BLAM. BLAM.

Another two shots cave its face in. It slumps down dead.

Shane opens his eyes. Inspecting his body, he's shocked he's still alive. He turns to the candle on the table. *I have to get out of here now!*

Shane turns to hear horrible scratching noises as a pack of wolves try to break down the back door. Shane starts to limp away, back towards the front door.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Shane struggles down the hallway. The patter of clawed paws across wood is heard all around him. He can hear them circling in the rooms above, the basement below and even inside the walls.

The painting of the wolf hunt explodes as several wolf maws burst through it, all struggling to get a bite at a passing Shane.

Somewhere behind him, the back door's glass explodes.

There's a terrible hyena like cackling. Shane turns. Leading the pack towards him is a dark-furred, silver underbelly wolf, limping on its injured front paw.

SHANE
(With Contempt)
Roman...

Shane fires his rifle as he backs up. BLAM BLAM BLAM. Every member of the pack coming towards him falling dead with his gunfire.

Roman tries to limp ahead. Shane shoots. Roman slumps down, injured in his side and panting heavily as he pours blood. The others in his pack simply walk over him.

Shane keeps shooting. His back finally reaches the front door. He reaches with a spare hand to open it. BLAM. BLAM.

BLAM. The final gunshot flies through the air, missing its target and landing in the kitchen, sparking off a metal surface. An inferno erupts.

EXT. BACK GARDEN - NIGHT

Flames explode out the back. Lila, in wolf form, watches several of her children, covered in flames, run out the back and die on the grass.

The entire wooden cabin starts to catch alight quickly. Flames leap out and set fire to the surrounding forest.

She, and a couple others of her surviving children, run out into the forest away from the blaze.

INT. CHAMBERS' HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The fine furniture and paintings are all wreathed in flames, disappearing in the smoke.

FADE OUT:

BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

A TV screen plays in the corner. A reporter stands to the side in front of the Chambers' burned-out cabin.

The TV is on mute but a headline flashes. 'WA town damaged by small wildfire'. Firefighters pour water onto charred smoking trees. Charred corpses are laid under tarps by the burned out Chambers' home.

Ellis, bandages across his face and arms, sits in a wheelchair. He groans as he tries to put on his jacket.

Shane walks into the room. His cheek is bandaged but branching out from underneath it, across his face, are burn marks.

SHANE

The nurse says she has to wheel you out herself. Hospital policy.

ELLIS

Do we have to pay for that?

Shane walks over to his father and rests a hand on his shoulder.

SHANE

I'll go ask.

Ellis looks up at the TV.

ELLIS

Sheriff must have a lot on his hands. Wolves and now this?

SHANE

Not our problem.

Shane leaves the room.

EXT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

It's a sunny day. The wind chimes sing in the breeze. The Rivers' truck pulls up to the household.

Shane gets out first and helps Ellis into his wheelchair.

ELLIS

How far was the controlled burn?

SHANE

About half a mile. We were lucky.

ELLIS

Doesn't feel that way. Won't be much to hunt.

Shane wheels him into the house.

INT. RIVERS' HOUSEHOLD - DAY

Shane is washing up some dishes while Ellis drinks a coffee at the kitchenette. Ellis spots an open copy of NATIVE AMERICAN FOLKLORE on the table and smiles warmly. He clears his throat, working up the courage to say something.

ELLIS

...I'm not sure I'll be able to help out hunting for quite a while-

SHANE

It's alright. I'll figure something out. They might let us graduate without doing our exams, because of what happened to the...I'll get a job somewhere.

ELLIS

...I'm sorry-

SHANE

Stop. It's not your fault.

Shane stops washing up and quickly goes to put on his coat.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I'm going to see if we can grab anymore pelts before sundown.

ELLIS

Good idea...

Ellis hangs his head in shame.

Shane is about to leave when he stops, turns around and walks up to his father.

He kisses his father's forehead and walks away shyly.

The backdoor shuts. Alone in the house, Ellis smiles to himself.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Shane walks through the forest with his crossbow ready. A breeze blows through the tree canopy. He looks up to see the branches shake.

A break in the clouds causes the forest floor to be covered in golden dappled light.

Shane lets his crossbow fall to his side and stands there. He closes his eyes and feels the breeze on his face.

He stands happily, in a calm and serene part of the forest.

THE END.