

PETREFLECTORS

Screenplay by

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May 24, 2012
Writer's Draft

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EXT. CLIFF FACE - DAY

CLOSE on RICK BLAKE, 31, lithe and good-looking, FREE-CLIMBING. He jams his RIGHT FIST into a crack and hangs by his right arm, then confidently pulls himself up toward us.

EXT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: ONE YEAR AGO

ARMED GUARDS open a gate and a FLATBED SEMI rolls into a lit COMPOUND. Bolted to the flatbed is a SIX-FOOT DIAMETER OBJECT, fifteen feet long, wrapped in tarp. In the BG rises a 150-foot tall DOME.

INT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG DOME - NIGHT

From a giant derrick a SIX-FOOT WIDE MEGA-DRILL HEAD hangs suspended, its huge interlocking drill teeth poised above the ground. Cables emerge from its rear like tentacles. HARLOW STANDISH, 67, LEAN and WEATHERED, in a Stetson and cowboy boots, stands next to DR. CHARLAYNE BILLINGS, 31, beautiful but hard-looking. Both wear hard hats. ROUSTABOUTS swarm the rig. The Mega-Drill Head's teeth whine into action and bite the ground.

HARLOW

Well, Dr. Billings, better be right.

CHARLAYNE

Believe me, Mr. Standish. I'm right.

HARLOW

Billion dollars for this new gear.
Nothin' quite like it.

CHARLAYNE

Lotta money to be made, sir. Like
nothing you've ever seen.

EXT. DEEP SPACE - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 10,000 YEARS AGO
THE ANDROMEDA SYSTEM IN DEEP SPACE

A supernova EXPLODES and blinds us then slowly fades to DAWN SUN over STROUDSBURG, PA, along the DELAWARE WATER GAP.

SUPERIMPOSE: STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

PRESENT DAY

EXT. SMALL RUNDOWN WOODFRAME HOUSE IN TOWN - MORNING

ELLIE FLANDERS, early 40's, pretty but STRESSED, locks her door, turns and stops. Ellie's POV: her TIRES are slashed. CLOSE on her SMALL CAR'S tailgate covered with NO-FRACKING STICKERS.

ELLIE
Joe Gauge, you bastard.

Punches her CELL.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Barb, give me the Chief ... I don't give
a damn how busy he is. Tell my brother
to get on the phone!

Ellie walks to her car and kicks a flat tire. She's ready to EXPLODE.

INT. POLICE STATION, CHIEF BILL'S OFFICE - MORNING

CHIEF OF POLICE BILL ADAMS, mid-40's, is suddenly WEARY.

CHIEF BILL
(on phone)
Put her on.

CONTINUE ELLIE AT HOUSE...

ELLIE
Billy, they slashed my tires! Ten to one
it's Joe Gauge!

CHIEF BILL
(V.O.)
You saw him do it?

ELLIE
Happened last night!

CHIEF BILL
(V.O.)
So you didn't see him do it.

ELLIE
I was asleep for Christ's sake!

CONTINUE CHIEF BILL IN OFFICE...

CHIEF BILL
Coulda been kids.

ELLIE
(V.O.)
Oh, right. You know perfectly well it
was him!

CHIEF BILL

No, I don't. And don't go around accusing people, Ellie. Not if ya didn't see 'em.

ELLIE

(V.O.)

You find out who did this, and you start with that old bastard!

CHIEF BILL

Okay, okay. I'll send Jonah over. But you know, wouldn'ta happened if you were out at the farm.

CONTINUE ELLIE AT HOUSE...

ELLIE

Don't you dare...

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Ellie, Ed's a good man. Times are tough. How's Adrian doin' by the way?

ELLIE

(a nerve touched)

Screw you, Bill.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - MORNING

Meet ADRIAN FLANDERS, 17, good-looking but SAD. A SCHOOL BUS pulls up to FLANDERS ORGANIC FARM. Cows, chickens and a greenhouse. A beat-up Subaru on blocks. He turns and sees ED FLANDERS, mid-40's, lean and tired, at the FARMHOUSE door. Ed waves. Adrian doesn't wave back as he gets on the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Adrian swings into an empty seat. Looks out at a fenced SHALE GAS DRILL RIG with CONDENSATION TANKS on the farm's property. He sighs and puts in earbuds and listens to Skrillex dubstep.

INT. FUNKY SHOWER - MORNING

Ed sniffs the shower head and cups some water.

ED

(devastated)

Oh, no.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE - AFTERNOON

Adrian holds a SCRIPT BOOKLET -- THE TEMPEST, WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

BOOTS walking. CLOSE on Adrian, bewildered by the script.

RICK BLAKE

(V.O.)

Learn these lines, people, and forever,
all other lines will be easy.

REVEAL RICK BLAKE, a drama teacher and rock climber. WIDEN from Adrian to REVEAL the TROUPE:

EMMA GAUGE is 17, with FRAGILE BEAUTY and UNSURE EYES.

FRANKLIN HUBS is 17, BLACK, 6'4', 340 POUNDS.

SOPHIE ELKIN is 16, GOTH, with PURPLE HAIR, GAUGES, PIERCINGS and TATOOS.

RAMON VILLAROSO is 17, DOMINICAN-AMERICAN, fit and athletic.

SUSIE CHOU is 16, CHINESE-AMERICAN, SHORT and VIVACIOUS.

ALL with BACKPACKS and SLEEPING BAGS at their feet.

EMMA

Am I a spirit or what?

RICK BLAKE

Yes, Emma, Ariel is a powerful spirit on Prospero's magic island.

RAMON

(looking at Adrian)

And the magician guy is out for revenge...

RICK BLAKE

Sort of. Prospero has agendas.

EMMA

We love you, Mr. Blake, but from what I can tell, all these people do is talk and get drunk.

RICK BLAKE

Ah, yes, Emma, and speak Shakespearean lines. People, *The Tempest* is about that magic island, justice and a monster. It will take study.

FRANKLIN

This monster part? I'm not sure I want to wear the Mark of the Alien, Mr. Blake.

BEAT.

RICK BLAKE

Mr. Hubs, Caliban is a very articulate monster. You, too, are very articulate. I know how smart you are. I need you. You'll do a great job.

RAMON

Hey, I'll take his part. I'm doing, like, three of 'em. You can have 'em, Hubs.

RICK BLAKE

Sorry, people. Wish we had more sign-ups. Show's *The Tempest*. You're the actors.

SOPHIE

You can have my parts, Franklin. Mine are all stupid guys.

RAMON

Sophie, you make a good monster.

Sophie gives Ramon the finger.

SUSIE

Be nice, Ramon. She can look any way she likes. Mr. Blake, I like my parts.

EMMA

(glancing at the back packs)
How come we can't just do this here where it's warm?

RICK BLAKE

Two nights in paradise with nothing to do but work on Shakespeare? Are you kidding? Anybody ever been to Depew Island?

Adrian raises his hand.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)

Adrian's been there. It's awesome, right?

The Troupe roll their eyes and smile.

FRANKLIN

Gotta score some new words, Mr. Blake. "Heady" works.

SUSIE

We don't have to climb rocks, do we?

ADRIAN

It's just an island, Susie.

RICK BLAKE

No, actors, no rocks. That's my thing.
Although there are a few nearby. No,
it's just a beautiful island in the
river. It will inspire you.

He picks up his well-worn PACK and shoulders it. His HANDS are RUGGED,
FINGERS CALLOUSED and STRONG.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)

Something has to.

EXT. DELAWARE RIVER - AFTERNOON

In canoes the Troupe and Rick Blake approach DEPEW, an uninhabited
forests-and-meadows island that splits the shallow Delaware into a MAIN
CHANNEL and a BACK CHANNEL.

EXT. DEPEW CAMPSITE - AFTERNOON

Campfire and rehearsal.

ADRIAN

We are such stuff as dreams are made on;
and our little life is rounded by a
sleep.

RICK BLAKE

Excellent, Adrian. All right, our revels
are ended, as the Bard would say. Go
explore while there's still light. Check
out the magic island but do not leave it.
Promise me. I like to know where my
students are.

EXT. DEPEW MEADOW - AFTERNOON

Adrian, Emma and Franklin stare at something.

FRANKLIN

Mark of the Alien, man. That is kickin'.

EMMA

Weird.

ADRIAN

Really.

REVEAL a TEN-FOOT WIDE PERFECT CIRCLE of FROSTED MEADOW GRASS and
WILDFLOWERS, as if dipped in liquid nitrogen. A LOW DANGEROUS HUM
emanates from it. Adrian extends an index finger.

EMMA

Don't.

ADRIAN
 (astonished)
 No, I mean, what the hell?

Adrian touches a white leaf and it crumbles to flakes. CLOSE on a TINY PATCH OF FROSTBITE on his fingertip.

EMMA
 Jesus.

LATER. Rick Blake and the Troupe stand at the circle, now DEAD BLACK and WILTED, but NOT COLD. No HUM.

ADRIAN
 I swear, it was cold, like, frozen.

RICK BLAKE
 You're sure about that, Adrian?

ADRIAN
 I'm sure.

SUSIE
 Adrian, it's warm out.

EMMA
 Susie, it was cold.

Franklin nods.

RAMON
 Somebody dumped something.

SUSIE
 That sucks so bad.

ADRIAN
 It was freezing.

SOPHIE
 Prospero thinks it's magic.

Laughter.

RAMON
 Yeah, somebody's-dumping-shit magic.

Rick Blake pulls a dead leaf, rubs it between his fingers and smells it.

RICK BLAKE
 Strange.

Adrian peels a thin layer of DEAD SKIN from his fingertip. Across the shallow BACK CHANNEL on the far shore rise ROCKS and DEAD TREES. As we tilt horizontal, their REFLECTIONS resemble a HIDEOUS, DEMONIC FACE.

INT. TOWN MEETING ROOM - EVENING

Ellie sits at a town supervisors' table next to JOE GAUGE, in his 70's, crusty and tough, with OTHER SUPERVISORS. A CROWD fills the room.

ELLIE

(leaning over to Joe, hissing)
You son of a bitch. Did you slash my tires?

JOE GAUGE

(chuckling)
Wish I had. Sorry.

ELLIE

(into her mic)
Last night my tires were slashed in my driveway.

The crowd murmurs.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

And that's what it's come to in this town.

(looks at Joe Gauge)
Landmen come in, promise you the world, then your kids get sick.

MAN IN THE CROWD

Hell, you got a well out at your place!

ELLIE

It's not my place anymore. It wasn't my decision.

JOE GAUGE

As we know, the Honorable Mrs. Flanders is, in my opinion, mentally unstable. Town Supervisors don't sponsor political rallies.

ELLIE

I'm a citizen. I'll do anything I can to stop these pirates.

JOE GAUGE

Frackin's a great invention. We're lucky to have it and damn lucky to have the shale.

ELLIE

This is not about fracking in general, it's about doing it here in this watershed, simple as that. After this referendum, there's gonna be rules.

(raises her fist)
(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Rally next Saturday at Courthouse Square!

Catcalls mix with applause. Chief Bill stands in the back. In walks Ed Flanders. He stops next to Chief Bill and looks at Ellie.

CHIEF BILL

Ed.

ED

Bill.

CHIEF BILL

Ellie got her tires slashed last night.
She tell you?

ED

No. Damn.

CHIEF BILL

Yeah, my crazy sister.

ED

Maybe not, Bill.

Ed raises his hand to speak. Ellie sees him.

ELLIE

Well, everyone, the Chair recognizes Mr.
Ed Flanders.

Everybody turns. Ed swallows hard.

ED

Everybody here knows we got a gas well at
our farm.

WOMAN

Ain't organic no more!

MAN IN THE CROWD

That's right!

CLOSE on Ellie, CLENCHING.

ED

Standish guaranteed a two-mile deep well
would never touch my water. Ellie warned
me. Well, this morning my water went
bad. Smells real strong. Don't know
what's in it.

Ellie almost TEARS UP. But she's angry.

ELLIE

Oh, I'll tell you what's in it. Benzene. Napthalene. Disulphides. Kids gettin' headaches, asthma, hallucinations, rashes. And Standish wants to build more of 'em anywhere they can get poor folks to sign.

JOE GAUGE

(to Ed)

Last time I heard, my private property was mine. Ed, buy yourself a water buffalo. I got three and they work fine. No rashes.

Ellie and Ed lock sad eyes.

EXT. DEPEW CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Tents circle a campfire. The Troupe sits on logs and laughs, having fun at Rick Blake's expense. He's good-natured about it.

RICK BLAKE

Okay, tell me what's wrong with "awesome."

ADRIAN

Nothin' other than it's dead like Latin.

FRANKLIN

Really, Mr. Blake, try "dank." Cool dude like you needs some fresh words.

RICK BLAKE

Dank.

SOPHIE

Or "bomb."

SUSIE

I need a pillow for my butt.

RICK BLAKE

Not "the bomb?"
(smiling, to Susie)
How elegant, Susie.

FRANKLIN

Just "bomb." Gotta stay heady, Mr. Blake.

A LOW ELECTRONIC PULSE SHUDDERS THE AIR.

RICK BLAKE

What was that?

RAMON

What the heck?

EMMA
What was that?

Rick Blake grabs a flashlight.

RICK BLAKE
You guys stay here.

ADRIAN
(rising)
No way.

RAMON
(rising)
You said that right.

FRANKLIN
Dank, my people.

SUZIE
(a little scared)
What was it?

SOPHIE
End of the world, maybe.

Grabbing flashlights, they all run into the dark.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL - NIGHT

Flashlights crisscross a WIDE, STEAMING CRATER in the river, still filling with water that boils.

FRANKLIN
(V.O.)
That shit boiling?

EMMA
(V.O.)
What happened?

ADRIAN
(V.O.)
Did that noise do this?

RICK BLAKE
(staring intently, baffled)
Who's got reception?

Adrian hands Rick Blake his cell phone and steps to the shore.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)
Do not go near it. Looks like a hot spring broke through or something.

ADRIAN
You're too protective, Mr. Blake.

SUSIE

Let's take a hot tub. Get naked.

RICK BLAKE

Right. No. Let's get back.
(flashlight on the steam)
Not as peaceful as I'd hoped.

Rick Blake punches 911.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)

This is Rick Blake. I teach at the high school...

MORNING. Chief Bill, DEPUTY JONAH BARNES, 28, tall and easygoing, other OFFICERS and Rick Blake stand ankle-deep by the filled, dark crater. A CHOPPER approaches. Past a flatboat with an outboard on shore stand the Troupe.

CHIEF BILL

(to Rick Blake)
You said it was boiling?

RICK BLAKE

Yep. Heard a big sound before we found this.

CHIEF BILL

An explosion?

RICK BLAKE

No, more like a hum. But loud.

BUBBLES burst from the crater water...

A DIVER surfaces with a light and underwater videocam. Pulls off his mask.

DIVER

Don't know, Chief. Goes down about forty feet. Smooth walls, like a big cone. Nothing at the bottom.

CHIEF BILL

What, a meteor?

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES

Crater that big, meteor shoulda blown up this whole island.

Chief Bill gives a "How do you know that?" look.

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES (CONT'D)

(shrugs)
Watch the Science Channel.

RICK BLAKE
He's probably right.

CHIEF BILL
Could frackin' do this?

A STANDISH OIL AND GAS CHOPPER lands and out steps Charlayne Billings. She wades over. The Troupe look on.

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES
Looks like we'll find out.

CHARLAYNE
Chief?
(shakes with Bill)
Dr. Charlayne Billings,
(Texas accent)
Geologist with Standish.

CHIEF BILL
Bill Adams.

Chief Bill gestures to the crater.

CHARLAYNE
Mind if I take a look?

QUICK IMAGES ...

Charlayne takes water samples, holds up a SNIFFER DEVICE, inspects the riverbed around the crater, talks to the diver and watches video of the crater's SMOOTH SUBMERGED WALLS and CONICAL BOTTOM.

CHARLAYNE (CONT'D)
Well, it's not our operations.

CHIEF BILL
How do you know that?

CHARLAYNE
Floor is sealed. No bubbling. Nothing in the air or water downstream. How gas ignites underwater beats me. Besides, Chief, even a big old gas fireball won't dig a hole that deep. Not in rock.

CHIEF BILL
Okay, then what did? Mr. Blake...
(nods at Rick Blake)
said it was boiling last night. And there was a hum. This a meteor?

CHARLAYNE

You mean a meteorite? You don't even
wanna think about a "meteor." No. This
island would be toast.

Chief Bill looks at Deputy Jonah Barnes who shrugs.

CHARLAYNE (CONT'D)

(to Rick Blake)

Hi. You sure this was boiling?

RICK BLAKE

Wouldn't let anybody go out there and put
their foot in it, but yeah, it was hot.
Bubbling. Steaming.

CHARLAYNE

(dubious)

Bubbling. It's not bubbling now.

RICK BLAKE

But it was.

CHARLAYNE

(more dubious)

Okay.

RICK BLAKE

And steaming.

CHARLAYNE

Fog out here most nights, I'd imagine.

Rick Blake and the Troupe scowl at her tone.

RICK BLAKE

It was boiling.

CHARLAYNE

(to Chief Bill)

Whatever this is, Chief, I'm ruling out
Standish operations.

Charlayne gathers up her GEAR.

CHARLAYNE (CONT'D)

Have a pleasant day, gentlemen.

She walks to the CHOPPER.

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES

Tough. Texas leather.

Chief Bill scratches his head. Rick Blake stares at Charlayne.

RICK BLAKE

(to the Troupe)

Okay, people, let's get out of here.
Enough excitement for one day.

EXT. STROUDSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Adrian and Franklin watch Emma drive off in her NEW RED SUV. Sophie drives off with Susie in Sophie's OLD VW. Ramon pulls out in an OLD PICKUP.

FRANKLIN
Wanna ride home?

Franklin drives a BEAT-UP OLD CIVIC.

ADRIAN
Yeah, sure. Thanks, Hubs.

FRANKLIN
Sucks about your leaf springs.

ADRIAN
Yeah, another week or two.

INT. CIVIC - MORNING

Franklin barely fits inside. Ahead, a heavy Standish tank truck grinds up a hill.

ADRIAN
So what's your new app called?

FRANKLIN
Prayer Circle.

ADRIAN
No way. Prayer Circle?

FRANKLIN
Yeah. You know, like, when people get sick and shit and people at church get together at a certain time to pray for 'em?

ADRIAN
That's your new app?

FRANKLIN
Yeah. So if you get the app, you and a million other people get notices about people who need some prayers. You get their profile and a time when everybody's gonna pray for 'em.

ADRIAN
Hubs, I never woulda figured you for that. Wasn't your last app about throwing giant boogers on walls or something?

FRANKLIN
Yeah. Kicked it. Sold a few.

ADRIAN

(looking at truck ahead)

My mom says that crap they pump
down there causes cancer. Dumpin' it in
the woods.

FRANKLIN

What's up with your mom and dad,
Flanders?

ADRIAN

Nothing. Sucks ... We saw that frost,
right?

FRANKLIN

How's your finger?

ADRIAN

It's okay. Something's going on out
there, Hubs.

FRANKLIN

Damn, you think?

EXT. JOE GAUGE'S COMPOUND - MORNING

Emma pulls her SUV past Joe Gauge's MCMANSION to her slightly smaller
NEW HOUSE. A SEMI hauls off an old mobile home. Everything says
SUDDEN MONEY on account of SIX GAS PADS and more RIG TOWERS beyond,
drilling. Joe sits on his back deck. Emma gets out.

EMMA

Hi, Grandpa!

JOE GAUGE

Hey, baby! Thought you were comin' home
tomorrow! What happened? How was the
river?

EMMA

Weird. Talk to you later, Grandpa.

Emma goes inside.

INT. FLANDERS FARM HOUSE - MORNING

Adrian sniffs the shower water. Angry, he jumps out and scratches a
RASH on his arm. In a towel he storms down the hall into the kitchen.
Ed looks guilty.

ADRIAN

(yells)

You said this wouldn't happen!

ED

I know, I'm sorry. I was wrong. Thought it might clear out.

ADRIAN

(incredulous)

Oh, you were wrong? Fuck!

ED

Just started yesterday, Adrian. I ordered a water buffalo.

ADRIAN

Shit, smell's been bad enough! Now this? Can't even take a shower?

ED

Look, the money'll send you to college.

ADRIAN

Right. If I live that long!

Adrian stares around his kitchen.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'm outta here.

ED

Adrian...

Adrian grabs soap and shampoo from the bathroom and stuffs them into his pack.

ADRIAN

I don't wanna be here!

EXT. DINGMAN'S FERRY RIVER PUT-IN - DAY

Ed's pickup with a canoe pulls in and Adrian gets out and angrily unties it. Ed leans out.

ED

One night. That's it. Church at noon. Be at the bridge at ten. Got your phone?

Adrian paddles away. Ed stares after him.

ED (CONT'D)

Don't drown.

EXT. CANOE ON RIVER - DAY

Adrian PADDLES.

QUICK FLASH OF IMAGES -- Ed and Ellie with YOUNGER ADRIAN, laughing and feeding chickens. Younger Adrian out in his farm's field with no rig. Younger Adrian floats the river in inner tubes with OTHER KIDS. "I Shall Be Released" -- a Dylan song by The Band -- plays in his mind. Younger Adrian submerges in shallows near shore, brings his eyes to water level -- his MAGNIFIED POV: water striders on the sparkling surface. A LANDMAN watches Ed sign a lease as Ellie storms out their farm's front door, slamming it.

Adrian rubs the rash.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL - DAY

Shirtless in shorts, Adrian sits in the water. Lets it flow over his hand. Sees minnows and bugs. Finds a hole, submerges up to his eyes and watches the surface. His POV: REFLECTIONS of shoreline plants and stones. A water strider paddles by. Adrian's POV: the DEMONIC REFLECTION looks ordinary. Suddenly the water strider crumples and dies. Disturbed, Adrian gets up, dripping.

LATER, in dry shorts and shirt, he stands in shallows next to the crater hole with his script.

EXT. PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP - DAY

As if emerging from a doorway, a driftwood TREE REFLECTION rises and stands, leaving the tree where it was. TRUNK is a twenty-foot tall AKEELI petreflector. Low-frequency sound pulses shake the air. Stern eyes filled with light gaze from a STRANGE FACE of KNOTS and HOLES. Trunk senses something and leaps into the sky.

CONTINUE DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL...

The DEMON FACE reflection rises VERTICAL. The MORGAN KING is STONE. His LEGS and ARMS are DEAD TREES. Eight black SPIDER EYES glint above his MAW -- SIX CROOKED MOUTHS WITHIN MOUTHS that open from horizontal cracks in the stone, each lined with WHITE CRYSTAL TEETH and a SERRATED CRYSTAL TONGUE. As the innermost maw opens, FLAMES BURN INSIDE. Like a huge crab he steps into the river and walks quietly toward Adrian.

ADRIAN

These our actors, as I foretold you, were
all spirits, and are melted into air,
into thin air...

The MORGAN King open his maws. His tongue snakes toward Adrian's neck... THEN--

Out of nowhere Trunk ROARS PAST AND TACKLES the MORGAN King. They tumble down the river, FIGHTING and ROARING. Trunk's blows produce light pulses and the same ELECTRONIC BURSTS Adrian heard last night. The pulses blast FRESH CRATERS. Adrian trips and falls backwards. His script floats away.

TRUNK
 (deep, commanding voice)
 Gua!!!! Gua epir!

SUPERIMPOSE: "BE GONE!"

Trunk hurls the Morga King into his OWN SHORE REFLECTION and the beast grows instantly still, as if a door slammed shut. He turns toward Adrian and pulses like a HALLUCINATION. Low-frequency sound shudders the air. Terrified, Adrian backs away, then turns and runs but trips to his knees in the water. Trunk looms behind him.

ADRIAN
 God, what are you? Don't kill me.

Instead, A HUGE BARK HAND OFFERS Adrian his wet script.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 (in disbelief)
What?

Trunk sees the dead circle and STRIDES onto the meadow, looking down. More sound pulses shake the air.

TRUNK
 (deep worried voice)
 Bashal, a te mor.

SUPERIMPOSE: "SO, IT HAS BEGUN."

Trunk's POV: Adrian is booking out of there, running for the campsite and his canoe.

EXT. MAIN CHANNEL - DAY

Adrian jumps in the canoe but fumbles the paddle into the water. He trips and FALLS FACE FIRST... THEN--

FREEZES... EYES WIDE...

TWO SMALL SYMMETRICAL AKEELI hover up. HORNET has a hornet-like MOSS FACE, STICK WINGS three feet wide and a ROCK ABDOMEN. FUZZ is a TWO-FOOT WIDE COLUMN OF DRY GRASSES with a SMILING FACE, INTERNAL ORGANS and an EXTENDED CROWN. Each Akeeli emanates a PULSE TONE and speaks in a strange ELECTRONIC VOICE.

HORNET
 Palee'. Beshtin fadeh' ahl.

SUPERIMPOSE: "LOOK. THE BOY IS SCARED."

FUZZ
 Paleah.

SUPERIMPOSE: "I SEE."

HORNET
Quao ve Mashal?

SUPERIMPOSE: "HE MET THE BOSS?"

FUZZ
Besh. Elesson morga.

SUPERIMPOSE: "YES. A MORGA HAS EMERGED."

Adrian groans in disbelief.

ADRIAN
No way.

Stumbles to canoe, frantically escapes, looking back. Fumbles out a baggie with his cell phone inside.

EXT. CANOE TAKE-OUT UNDER BRIDGE ALONG RIVER - DAY

Adrian rubs his eyes and shakes his head, unsure if he's been hallucinating. He's scared.

INT. ED'S PICKUP - DAY

ED
That was quick.

ADRIAN
Uh, yeah.
(blinks, unsure of what's real)
Thanks for picking me up.

ED
You okay? Took a bath with your clothes on?

ADRIAN
Just fell in.

They drive for a minute. Adrian stares out the window. Finally...

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
Dad, can fracking chemicals, you know, fumes or stuff in the water, can they make you see things?

ED
Like what?

ADRIAN
I don't know. Things. Shit that's not there.

ED
Your mom thinks so.

ADRIAN
She does?

LATER, they pull into Flanders Farm. Ed gets out. Adrian sits.

ED
You okay?

ADRIAN
Yeah.

Ed walks into the farm house. Adrian sits.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
I'm okay. I'm okay. Shit.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - SUNSET

Adrian and Ed watch as a WATER BUFFALO -- a five-hundred gallon water tank -- is installed next to the farmhouse.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - MORNING

Arms crossed, scowling, Ellie stands with Adrian and Ed by the Water Buffalo. Her car has new tires.

ELLIE
How much that set you back?

ED
Four thousand.

ELLIE
Good grief.

ED
No choice, Ellie.

ELLIE
Oh, you had a choice, Ed.
(to Adrian)
Let me see that rash.

ADRIAN
It's mostly gone, mom.

ELLIE
Let me see it anyway.
(looks at it)
Nasty. Seen a doctor?
(dirty look at Ed)

ADRIAN
Dad says you say that fumes ... or
chemicals ... can make people see things.

ELLIE

That's out of the blue. Have you seen
a...

(darkens)

Oh, God, Adrian. Are you seeing things?

ADRIAN

No, mom. Kids have been talkin' about it
... So?

ELLIE

Okay. Smell that?

Ellie looks across the field at the CONDENSER TANKS.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Might as well put it in a plastic bag and
suck it up your nose.

INT. RAMON'S MODEST APARTMENT - NIGHT

Before a shrine to ST. ANTHONY with candles, ITALIA, Ramon's mother, kneels and prays, then gazes at photos of Ramon with her and her husband outside their bodega. CLOSE on college early acceptance letters. Megabucks tickets sit in a pile. Ramon studies in the next room.

INT. SOPHIE'S DARK GOTH BEDROOM - NIGHT

SOPHIE

Shut up! I hate you!

She slams the door and sits at her mirror.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Don't even look like you. Wonder who my
real parents were.

From behind, we see a TINY TREE TATOO above her collar line.

LATER, in the tub, she removes the LARGE ONYX GAUGES from her lobes. They sag, stretched. She takes a razor blade and nicks herself. Watches the blood trickle into the water.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Hate this stupid life.

She scratches her nails along an ARM TATOO. From behind we see that the tiny tree has a HUGE ROOT SYSTEM that covers her entire back. She sinks back, immersing in the soapy water.

INT. FRANKLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Franklin and his PARENTS and SISTER watch TV. He types fast on a LAPTOP with a label: "Property of SHS". His POV: LINES OF APP CODE.

INT. SUSIE'S APARTMENT ABOVE CHINESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Susie's Facebook page is open. She has 840 friends. She types: "Gotta see it from her point of view. Always. It helps."

EXT. JOE GAUGE'S COMPOUND - NIGHT

Emma, her dad JOE, JR. and PATRICE, her mom, wave back at Joe Gauge and PATTY, his wife, on the big new back deck. Half-finished landscaping surrounds Joe's big new house and Emma's smaller new house.

 JOE, JR.
Great dinner, mom!

 PATTY
You betcha!

 JOE GAUGE
Let's do it again! Plenty for everybody!

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Adrian googles "fracking chemicals hallucinations" and gets

"Symptoms include headaches, tremors, fatigue, hallucinations, distorted perceptions, and convulsions."

Earbuds in, he listens to Skrillex dubstep and FLASHES on Trunk and Morga King. His script is damp. He separates pages.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLS - DAY

Emma passes Adrian.

 ADRIAN
Emma?

 EMMA
 (stopping)
Hi.

 ADRIAN
Hi. How's it going?

 EMMA
Okay, I guess.

ADRIAN

That was weird out on the island, huh,
that cold spot? And that noise?

EMMA

I'm still freaked out.

ADRIAN

Really. But it was real, right?

EMMA

Hubs saw it. I saw it. How's your
finger?

ADRIAN

(relieved but troubled)

Okay. Yeah. No, it's okay. Thanks,
Emma.

(starts to walk off, then...)

Hey, uh, you got rigs out at your place,
right? Have you ever, you know, seen
stuff?

EMMA

Like what?

ADRIAN

I don't know. Weird shit that wasn't
there?

Emma shakes her head.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Okay, well, guess I'll see you at
rehearsal.

EMMA

Sure.

INT. FRIENDLY FOOD BANK OFFICES - DAY

Ellie's desk is cluttered. She's on the phone with Bill.

ELLIE

So, did you find out who did it?

INT. POLICE STATION, CHIEF BILL'S OFFICE - DAY

CHIEF BILL

Not yet.

CONTINUE ELLIE'S OFFICE...

ELLIE

Questioned anybody?

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Got caught up with that thing out on
Depew. That and your damn rally, Ellie.
There goes half my budget.

ELLIE

Permit's a permit.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Yeah, well, got some Staties comin' in to
help. What are we talking about now for
people?

ELLIE

Hopin' for a thousand. And press. Got a
USGS guy, an EPA lady, some kids are
gonna play music.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Gonna be counter-demonstrators, you know
that.

ELLIE

Screw 'em.

CONTINUE BILL'S OFFICE...

CHIEF BILL

People are pissed off. And guess who
gets to keep 'em from killin' each other.

ELLIE

(V.O.)

Yeah, well, Jessie Edgerton's stream is
full of dead fish and your nephew's
asking about hallucinating from fumes, so
who should be more pissed off?

CHIEF BILL

Adrian said that?

ELLIE

(V.O.)

Yes, he did, Bill.

INT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY CONTROL ROOM - DAY

CASWELL, 40, CRUEL FACE and CRAFTY EYES, sits with THREE OTHER MEN.
Charlayne sits in a skirt, legs crossed. Standish enters.

STANDISH

Okay...

CASWELL

Bitch won't slow down, boss.

STANDISH

Didn't get the message.

CASWELL

Hell, no. TV'll be there. Goin' for a county-wide moratorium. Hell, state-wide.

STANDISH

They all do, Caswell.

CASWELL

Monday's the Special Referendum, boss. They come off lookin' good at this thing on Saturday ... or find out what we're doin' here...

STANDISH

They won't, Caswell. Not even from space. Won't come off lookin' so good, either. And somethin' else needs doin'.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE - AFTERNOON

The Troupe, Rick Blake assembled on stage. In BG, Ramon, Sophie and Susie silently mouth *Tempest* lines.

RICK BLAKE

Okay, Ariel?

Emma nods.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)

Okay, remember, you are a powerful spirit over whom Prospero...

(nods at Adrian)

... because he's a great magician, has complete power.

Adrian smiles.

EMMA

Why's that?

RICK BLAKE

Because that's how Shakespeare wrote it, Emma.

EMMA

Okay. If you weren't asking I wouldn't do this.

RICK BLAKE

Thanks. You can appear as anything, even cause tempests.

SOPHIE
 (overhearing)
 Ooh, powers. That's what I need.

Franklin peers intently at his script. Looks increasingly pleased.

FRANKLIN
 (to Rick Blake)
 Damn. Caliban is articulate.

RICK BLAKE
 Told you. Okay, lovers?
 (looks at Sophie and Susie)
 Go.

SOPHIE
 (reading)
 I do beseech you, chiefly that I might
 set in my prayers, what is your name?

SUSIE
 (reading)
 Oh, my father, I have broke your hest to
 say so!
 (looks at Rick Blake)
 What's a hest?

RICK BLAKE
 Your word, Susie. Your promise. Sophie,
 continue...

Adrian moves to Emma, FLASHES on Trunk holding the wet script. Looks
 down at it, rumped. His POV: CLOSE on Emma's smile.

EMMA
 Complete power. You wish.

ADRIAN
 (whispers)
 Out on the island there are creatures,
 Emma.

EMMA
 Indeed, Prospero, master...

ADRIAN
 No, on Depew Island. There are ...
 things.

EMMA
 (amused)
 What things?

ADRIAN
 Monsters. Little creatures. I don't
 know. I swear. And they can talk.

EMMA
 What, in the play?

ADRIAN
 And there are more craters now.

Emma takes this in. CLOSE on Emma's eyes gazing in his.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 One of the big ones looked at that frozen
 circle we saw like he knew what it was.
 Said something. Look, I just wanna see
 if somebody else can see 'em, you know,
 so I know I'm not crazy.

RICK BLAKE
 (V.O.)
 Mr. Flanders, Miss Gauge, would you like
 to share your thoughts with us?

Adrian clams up. Emma looks straight ahead, then at him. FLASHES on
 him touching the frosted leaf and his FROSTBITTEN FINGER.

INT. SUV IN CORNFIELDS NEAR SHORELINE OF RIVER - AFTERNOON

Emma's pulls her SUV to a stand of trees.

EMMA
 Better be more craters.

ADRIAN
 Thanks for doing this, Emma.

EMMA
 Welcome.

ADRIAN
 I know your grandpa and my mom don't get
 along.

EMMA
 (smiles)
 Tell me about it.

ADRIAN
 Well, I'm not her, and you're not him,
 right?

EMMA
 So the river's really right over there?

ADRIAN
 Yeah.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL ABOVE MORGA KING ROCK - AFTERNOON

They stand between the MORGA KING ROCK'S dead tree legs.

ADRIAN
Over there.

Emma's POV: FOUR NEW CRATERS, water-filled, darken the riverbed.

EMMA
Jesus, you're right.

They wade to a new crater.

ADRIAN
The two big ones? Fighting right here.
Remember that sound? That's what makes
the craters. BOOM!
(he punches the air)
New crater.

EXT. DEPEW MEADOW - AFTERNOON

At a FRESH FROST CIRCLE Emma nods, thinking hard.

EXT. DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL - AFTERNOON

Adrian kneels in the water near shore. Emma stands.

ADRIAN
You gotta kneel down to see 'em. Tilt
your head.

He tilts his head. Adrian's POV: Fuzz and Hornet's reflections.

EMMA
(smiling)
You are crazy.

ADRIAN
No, they were here. Try it.

CLOSE on Emma's face, cheek touching the water ... CLOSE on Adrian and Emma, kneeling head to head ... THEN -- TWO HUMS PULSE BEHIND THEM. Their POV: Hornet and Fuzz hover, THREE DIMENSIONAL, vibrating their SIGNATURE TONES.

EMMA
Oh my God.

ADRIAN
(breathing hard, half-smiling
in relief)
Told ya.

EMMA
 (looking hard)
 Oh my God.

ADRIAN
 Really.

EMMA
 What ... are they?

ADRIAN
 Don't know.

Hornet glides to an INCH from Emma's face. Brushes her cheek with a STRINGY WING.

HORNET
 Besh tala.

SUPERIMPOSE: "SORT OF PRETTY."

Fuzz hovers to Adrian's eyes.

FUZZ
 No morde ishla qualshish, Adrio?

SUPERIMPOSE: "YOU ARE NOT AFRAID TO DIE, ADRIAN?"

EMMA
 What are they saying? Did it say your name?

Both Akeeli hover back and argue.

FUZZ
 (to Hornet)
 Se vish Mashal!

SUPERIMPOSE: "TAKE THEM TO THE BOSS!"

HORNET
 (to Fuzz)
 Mashal fata dubio!

SUPERIMPOSE: "THE BOSS MUST BE SURE!"

FUZZ
 Se vish Mashal!

SUPERIMPOSE: "TAKE THEM TO THE BOSS!"

HORNET
 Bala. Vish. Fata eo fata.

SUPERIMPOSE: "YES. FIND HIM. TIME IS TIME."

Fuzz struggles to speak to Emma and Adrian.

FUZZ
 Gum.

ADRIAN
What?

FUZZ
G...Cuh....

Fuzz hovers off down the shore. Hornet waits.

FUZZ (CONT'D)
(translation complete)
Come. We can spaaek what you spaaek.

SFX: The air fills with LOW FREQUENCY PULSES.

EXT. PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP - AFTERNOON

Hornet and Fuzz hover as Adrian and Emma stand before the DRIFTWOOD TREE, reflected in the still pool. A DEEP LOW PULSE and Trunk rises up. Inside his now translucent skin, liquids pump. He's made of ENERGY. Trunk kneels and lays a limb over his knee.

TRUNK
(deep, warm male voice)
Adrio. Ehhma.

EXT. STAND OF TREES NEAR FLANDERS FARM - AFTERNOON

Ellie pulls off into trees, gets out. Arms folded about herself in emotion, she looks at the farm and rig from a distance, across the field. She weeps.

SFX: A CHOPPER overhead.

CONTINUE PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP...

Emma grips Adrian's arm as a fourth creature, ELBOWS, 5 feet tall, with a TINY HEAD, SKINNY BODY, HUGE ARMS and ELBOWS and SLENDER FINGERS emerges from the shoreline and hovers toward them. The AIR PULSES WITH ELECTRONIC SOUND.

ELBOWS
Thaaeese ayer the ones, commander?

Trunk nods.

ADRIAN
(to Emma)
Commander?

INT. ELLIE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Still weeping, Ellie drives along a narrow cut in the mountainside. Below to her left is a STEEP RAVINE.

CONTINUE PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP...

A fifth Akeeli, EYEBROWS, with GIANT BUSHY GREEN GRASS EYEBROWS that hide his eyes and a THIN MANDARIN MUSTACHE, hovers up and joins them. Eyebrows crackles with faint ELECTRICITY and ROTATES to UPSIDE DOWN.

EYEBROWS
Like this better?

Amazed, Emma smiles and looks at Adrian.

EMMA
The other way?

Eyebrows rotates back upright. Trunk huffs, slightly annoyed.

EXT. RAVINE ROAD TO FLANDERS FARM - AFTERNOON

A BLACK TOWN CAR with tinted windows appears well behind Ellie and ACCELERATES.

CONTINUE PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP...

A sixth creature, WEEPER, is STONE with SHORT YELLOW WEED ARMS. He has a BIG NOSE and his EYES LOOK LIKE HE'S CRYING, or about to.

EMMA
He looks so sad.

INT. ELLIE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Ellie sees the Town Car in her rearview mirror. Thinks nothing of it.

CONTINUE PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP...

A seventh creature, GNOME, SOLID GRAY ROCK with a POINTY HEAD, BULB NOSE and NO CHIN, completes the circle around Adrian and Emma. CLOSE on Emma as Gnome's big face floats near.

GNOME
(to Emma, grouchy voice)
Humph. We'll see.

The Akeeli's PARTS are CONSTANTLY MOVING in 3D. We PASS AROUND THEIR STRANGE FORMS and through them. Each has its SIGNATURE SFX HUM. Together, the hums create an OTHERWORLDLY MUSICAL CHORD.

Gripping Adrian's arm, Emma stares. Adrian breathes hard.

ADRIAN
What are you?

TRUNK
We are Akeeli.

EMMA
No, like, what are you, like, aliens?

FUZZ
Feels that way.

GNOME
Of course not. How dim.

FUZZ
Quiet, Gnome.

HORNET
Do we look like aliens?

Hornet looks like an alien.

ADRIAN
Yeah, actually.

EYEBROWS
Been feeling like one lately.

WEEPER
Makes me want to cry.

HORNET
Don't. We know what happens.

ELBOWS
Weeper's a wimp. Hey, like my muscles?

EMMA
(smiling)
Uh, sure.

TRUNK
We Akeeli haven't been forced to appear
for a long time.

ADRIAN
Why not?

TRUNK
You haven't really needed us.

EXT. RAVINE ROAD TO FLANDERS FARM - AFTERNOON

Town Car rams Ellie into a skid across the white line and slams her
over the RAVINE'S EDGE.

INSIDE... Ellie screams in terror as she flies into space. Her POV in
SLOW MOTION: RAVINE WALLS, WATER, ROCKS below and FOREST spin past her
windows.

Town Car speeds off around a curve.

CONTINUE PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP...

Trunk's POV from above: CLOSE on Adrian's face looking up.

TRUNK
(grunts; senses something)
Fata...

Adrian's POV: Trunk vanishes.

CONTINUE ELLIE'S CAR...

Upside down and falling, Ellie strains her seat belt. Her POV: through the windshield, rocks rush up.

ELLIE
(screams)
No, no!

EXT. RAVINE BOTTOM - AFTERNOON

Ellie's car roof ABRUPTLY HALTS an inch from the rocks. We hear gurgling and the car engine. THEN -- A GIANT LOW-FREQUENCY HUM.

INSIDE ELLIE'S CAR...

ELLIE
(still hanging toward the ceiling)
Oh, God! Oh, God!

Her POV: an upside down stream flows past her head. BEAT. Ellie whimpers. THEN... The car begins to SLOWLY FLOAT UPWARD.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What? No, no, no.

As it floats, it SLOWLY RIGHTS ITSELF. Ellie slides left against the door then sags down into her seat just as the car floats back onto the road and drops. CLOSE on ALL FOUR TIRES setting down, the front wheels still in gear as the DEEP HUM FADES. Ellie screams, slams the brakes, screams in terror and head-bangs the wheel.

EXT. PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP - AFTERNOON

We circle above Adrian, Emma and the six Akeeli. Trunk reappears.

EMMA
Where'd you go?

TRUNK
Somewhere.

ADRIAN
(to Trunk)
What was that ... thing ... you fought in
the river?

TRUNK
The Morga King. Soon the others will
come for you ... for all humans.

EMMA
What thing?

ADRIAN
(to Emma)
I told you about it.
(to Trunk)
You ... threw him back into that place.

TRUNK
His doorway.

ADRIAN
His doorway?

ELBOWS
We all got doorways.

HORNET
Yeah.

EYEBROWS
Obviously, I need a little greenery.

TRUNK
Enough, all of you.
(to Adrian and Emma)
Weak in the light the king of the Morga
is, but soon he will bring his own
darkness. The greed is thick enough.

ADRIAN
The greed?

FLASH TO ... DEEP UNDERGROUND ... the MEGA-DRILL HEAD'S teeth wind
down. SERVOS whine. The drill head MOVES BACKWARDS.

EXT. A RURAL ROADSIDE - AFTERNOON

We see the DAMAGED SIDE PANEL of the Town Car pull up next to an
IDENTICAL, UNDAMAGED TOWN CAR. Shoes and boots move between the cars.
The DRIVERS switch places. Boots slide into the back seat of the
undamaged car. Next to them are TEXAS COWBOY BOOTS.

Both cars speed off in different directions.

EXT. INTERSTATE 80 EAST ON-RAMP - AFTERNOON

The DAMAGED TOWN CAR speeds beneath a sign: NEW YORK CITY, 80 MILES.

INT. POLICE STATION, CHIEF BILL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

CHIEF BILL
 (on the phone)
 The ravine? What? Are you injured? ...
 You're sure? Alright. Get to the farm,
 lock yourself in. Tell Ed to get out his
 shotgun. Leaving right now.

Chief Bill runs out the door.

EXT. CORNFIELDS NEAR SHORELINE OF RIVER - DUSK

Trunk lands gently next to the red SUV with Adrian and Emma in his arms. He sets them down.

TRUNK
 Those who wait at our doors are chosen.
 Bring the others, the ones who were here
 two nights past, and we will give you
 your powers. We cannot do this alone.
 We need you. Human fate rests in human
 hands.

EMMA
 I'm not sure I want to do this. This is
 crazy.

TRUNK
 It is your choice. But know that on your
 Saturday next, no matter what you choose,
 the Morga will come for you.

He leaps into the sunset, turning to a dot.

ADRIAN
 Powers?

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - DUSK

Chief Bill pulls next to Ellie's car, sees MINOR DAMAGE. Gun drawn, he knocks on the door and Ed opens, looking very worried. Ellie sits on the sofa. Chief Bill holsters his weapon and walks in, relieved.

ED
 Thanks for comin', Bill.

CHIEF BILL
 (with a "what now?" tone)
 You bet.

ED

Ellie, tell Bill what you told me.

CHIEF BILL

(sitting down with her)

What happened, Ellie?

ELLIE

(staring ahead)

They ran me off the road.

CHIEF BILL

Where?

ELLIE

At the ravine.

Ed looks at Chief Bill.

ED

(to Ellie)

Tell him what you told me. That you went over.

In tears, she nods yes.

CHIEF BILL

Your car went over the edge, is that what you're saying? Into the ravine?

ELLIE

(face down, weeping, small voice)

Yes.

CHIEF BILL

But Ellie, your car's outside.

ELLIE

I know.

CHIEF BILL

Looks like you sideswiped something, but...

ELLIE

(interrupting, yelling)

They tried to kill me, Bill!

CHIEF BILL

Okay. Okay.

ELLIE
 (sobbing)
 A big black car ... they just...

Bill nods to Ed and they step outside. FOLLOW as they shut the door.
 Ed sighs.

CHIEF BILL
 No way the ravine, Ed.

ED
 I know.

CHIEF BILL
 Look. She's feelin' it, with her rally
 and all.

ED
 She won't say what she was doing out
 here.

CHIEF BILL
 Okay, look. Why don't I get her into
 town. Think she needs some rest.

ED
 Worried about her, Bill. Just wish she'd
 come home.

EXT. STROUDSBURG STREET - EVENING

Chief Bill's POV as he follows Ellie into town. She accelerates into
 oncoming traffic past a Black Town Car just ahead and CUTS IT OFF. It
 brakes abruptly. In a fury she jumps out.

CHIEF BILL
 No, no.

Pulls up fast behind the Town Car and jumps out as Ellie pounds on the
 Town Car's tinted driver's window.

CHIEF BILL (CONT'D)
 Ellie! Ellie!

ELLIE
 (screaming)
 Show yourself you son of a bitch! You
 don't live here! Show yourself!

Chief Bill grabs her waist, drags her back. His POV: Town Car is
 undamaged. He shoves her against her car.

CHIEF BILL
 Stay there! Don't move!

She covers her face and sobs as he quickly walks around the Town Car.
 He points at Ellie.

CHIEF BILL (CONT'D)

(yells)

This car hit nothin'! You stay right the hell there!

Chief Bill taps on the driver's window, but the REAR PASSENGER WINDOW rolls down to reveal Harlow, cowboy boot crossed over his knee.

HARLOW

What's the lady's problem, uh ...
(checks Bill's uniform))
Chief? Am I right?

CHIEF BILL

Yes, Bill Adams. Chief, Stroudsburg Police. And you are, sir?

HARLOW

Harlow Standish. Standish Oil and Gas. Oughta control your women better around here, Chief.

CHIEF BILL

(shocked)
Sorry, Mr. Standish. Just a big mistake.

HARLOW

Seems to me folks 'round here are makin' lots of big mistakes.

CHIEF BILL

Won't happen again, I assure you, sir.

HARLOW

Well, won't press charges on what was an assault on my property...

He looks at Ellie and his eyes narrow. He busts a big grin.

HARLOW (CONT'D)

Just keep her in line, will ya there, Chief? Now, can I go about my business?

Chief Bill nods. Town car pulls around Ellie and her car. She stares at Standish. Eyes locked on hers, he powers his window shut.

INT. TOWN CAR - EVENING

HARLOW

That was her?

DRIVER

Yes, sir.

CASWELL

I saw her go over, boss.
(to the driver)
She went over, right?

DRIVER

I saw her goin' down. That's a sixty foot drop.

HARLOW

(builds to a yell)

So then what the hell's she doin' here with her damn car, still alive?

INT. RED SUV - NIGHT

Emma drives Adrian past Ellie's run down house in town. The lights are on. CLOSE on the damage to her car.

ADRIAN

What the hell happened to her car? Shit. Uh, sorry, this is it. Thanks for doing this, Emma.

EMMA

Sure.

ADRIAN

Give me a minute?

EMMA

You gonna tell her?

ADRIAN

Don't know. She'll think I'm outta my mind.

INT. ELLIE'S HOUSE IN TOWN - NIGHT

Adrian enters. "I Shall Be Released" plays on stereo. Ellie is passed out on her couch, a big bottle of WINE empty on the table. Adrian goes to her and kisses her on the forehead and looks at her, filled with love. Touches a SMALL PISTOL in a belt holster on the coffee table.

ADRIAN

Jesus, mom.

Gets up, pulls a blanket over her and notices her open LAPTOP. Touches a key and up comes a misspelled text document:

"Joe Gauge you bastard I might just come over there and kill you."

Adrian sits back and rubs his eyes, leans forward and deletes the file. Hesitates whether to take the pistol, but leaves it and goes.

CONTINUE RED SUV OUTSIDE ELLIE'S HOUSE...

Adrian gets in beside Emma.

EMMA
She okay?

ADRIAN
You don't wanna know. Do me a favor,
though, Emma. If your grandpa mentions
my mother, tell him to leave her alone.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - NIGHT

Emma stops at Adrian's dirt driveway.

EMMA
I don't know. I think I'm going crazy.
What powers was he talking about?

ADRIAN
Don't know.

EMMA
I mean, c'mon Adrian, is this real?

ADRIAN
We both saw 'em.

EMMA
Yeah, okay. No, you're right.

ADRIAN
So tomorrow, we get 'em out there. After
school. Everybody.

EMMA
You gonna tell your dad?

ADRIAN
Don't know. Let's see what happens
tomorrow. Havin' a hard time getting my
head around this.

EMMA
Tell me about it.

Adrian gets out and she drives off.

CONTINUE... Ed appears.

ED
That Emma Gauge?

ADRIAN
Yeah.

ED
You know who Joe Gauge is?

ADRIAN
She's in the play, dad. Just gave me a
ride home. She's nice.

INT. FLANDERS FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

LATER, at the kitchen table, they eat pizza.

ADRIAN
She said her car floated up?

He FLASHES on Trunk setting them down by the SUV in the cornfield.

ED
She's losin' it.

ADRIAN
Did she see what did it?

ED
(surprised)
What floated a car fifty feet up a cliff?

INT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - NIGHT

Standish and Charlayne check a COMPUTER-GENERATED CROSS-SECTION of Marcellus Shale bulging up to within a thousand feet of the surface.

CHARLAYNE
So, you ready?

STANDISH
Casing and cement are in. Big gun's next. You were right. Like ten thousand wells.

CHARLAYNE
When you gonna blow it?

STANDISH
Be ready on my birthday. How 'bout that?

CHARLAYNE
Might cause a little rumble for your birthday.

STANDISH
Dr. Billings, you're gonna be a very rich woman. What's a little earthquake compared to that?

INT. LOCAL STROUDSBURG BAR - LATER

COUNTRY MUSIC plays. Rick Blake spots Charlayne. They recognize each other. He smiles and walks up to her.

RICK BLAKE
The geologist, right?

CHARLAYNE
That's me.

RICK BLAKE
You're far from home.

CHARLAYNE
For the time being.

RICK BLAKE
Mind if I join you?

CHARLAYNE
(slight, wry smile)
Well, least I'm being hit on by somebody
in this town I've met. Sure. Why not?

RICK BLAKE
Let's reintroduce ourselves.
Rick Blake.

CHARLAYNE
Charlayne Billings.

They shake hands and he sits next to her.

RICK BLAKE
So, the Marcellus Shale brings you here.

CHARLAYNE
Yep, the Marcellus Shale. Two hundred
and sixty-two trillion cubic feet of
natural gas, Rick Blake. Energy for the
good old USA.

RICK BLAKE
We might disagree about drilling for it
here, you know.

CHARLAYNE
Well, you're cute so I'll put up with it.
Buy me a stinger?

He summons the BARTENDER.

RICK BLAKE
Two stingers.

Turns to her.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)
Strong stuff.

CHARLAYNE
Uh, huh. So, Rick Blake, what were you
doing out there lookin' at bubbles?

RICK BLAKE
The water was hot, by the way. We were
camping. My kids and I. I teach drama
at the high school.

CHARLAYNE
 (checking out his body)
 You're kidding.

RICK BLAKE
 What?

CHARLAYNE
 No, no. Just that... drama?

He smiles. Been challenged.

CHARLAYNE (CONT'D)
 I mean, in the face of national
 imperatives like energy?

RICK BLAKE
 Imperatives. Okay, my kids are doing *The
 Tempest*. Took them there to get them
 inspired.

CHARLAYNE
 Tempest. Sorry, don't know it.

RICK BLAKE
 That's okay. Full of characters driven
 by very old imperatives. They don't
 change, you know.

CHARLAYNE
 Oh, I think they do.

Bartender sets down the drinks. They toast, enjoying the banter.

RICK BLAKE
 Well, we'll agree to disagree.
 (he sips)
 Whoah, strong stuff for such a young
 lady.

She looks at herself in the mirror, darkens momentarily, then brightens
 back up bravely.

CHARLAYNE
 Strong stuff, you said it.

INT. POLICE STATION, CHIEF BILL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES
 Chief, I got reports of charter buses
 from as far as New York City and Philly
 for this thing. Gonna be a lot bigger
 than we thought.

CHIEF BILL
 Hotels?

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES
 Fifty miles around. Booked solid.
 Campgrounds, you name it.

CHIEF BILL
 Damn. All right. You ordered the mesh?

Deputy Jonah nods.

INT. JOE GAUGE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dinner at Joe's big table. Emma eats quietly.

PATTY
 Hear it's gonna be big.

JOE GAUGE
 I don't give a damn. Hippies, dirtbags
 and city folks.

JOE, JR.
 Let 'em vent. You got your leases.

JOE GAUGE
 They win this vote, I could get shut
 down! All this could go away.

JOE, JR.
 Really?

JOE GAUGE
 Hell, I don't know. But you better
 believe I'll make some noise.

EMMA
 Don't go, Grandpa. Don't anybody go.

JOE GAUGE
 (sitting back)
 Well, well. And why's that, young lady?

EMMA
 Because something bad might happen?

The adults exchange glances.

JOE, JR.
 Emma, what are you talking about?

EMMA
 Not really sure.

Emma gets up.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Excuse me. I've got homework.

INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

On Facebook, Emma types in: "Don't go to the rally in Stroudsburg this Saturday. Monsters might be coming."

EXT. DELAWARE RIVER - NIGHT

Along the shoreline, a low, menacing hum. Dark forms move inside the rocks like immense unhatched wasps.

INT. ELLIE'S IN-TOWN HOUSE - NIGHT

Ellie wakes, hears a sound. Paranoid and still a little drunk, she grabs a flashlight and her PISTOL. Moves to the front door and is shocked that it's not locked. She locks it, then slides down the wall, collapses in sobs.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - LATER

Ed opens the screen door. His POV: Ellie, scared.

ELLIE

I'm sorry, Ed. I'm just so scared.

ED

You shoulda called me, babe. Woulda come and gotten ya.

He puts his arm around her and gets her inside, looking into the darkness. Catches a glimpse of their rig. Adrian appears, tousled.

ADRIAN

(sleepy)

What, dad?

He sees his mom.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You drove here?

INT. FLANDERS FARM LIVINGROOM - LATER

Ed snores down the hall. Ellie sips a coffee.

ADRIAN

If I told you something, something you wouldn't believe in a million years, but it was the truth, would you believe me?

ELLIE

I know it's been hard with me and your dad.

ADRIAN

What happened with your car today...

ELLIE

I imagined it. That's the only way...

ADRIAN

No, Mom. It's not.

QUICK FLASHES of Adrian telling his story to Ellie. Her eyes go from wide to worried to incredulous as he gestures and talks. They end on WORRIED.

ELLIE

You and Emma Gauge. Just today. Adrian, have you been seeing things? Is it fumes?

ADRIAN

You said what happened was like a miracle.

ELLIE

No! I must've ... hit something ... knocked my head...

ADRIAN

Emma was there. She saw them.

ELLIE

(suddenly angry)

You expect me to talk to Joe Gauge's little granddaughter? For all I know he slashed my tires and ran me off the road! You stay away from that little bitch with her fancy car and all that filthy money! You hear me? You stay away from her!

(rises)

I'm going to bed!

ADRIAN

Mom, please. Cancel the rally. You could do it.

Ellie walks down the hall to the bedroom, half out of her mind.

ELLIE

No.

ADRIAN

Where'd ya get the gun?

Baffled and angry, she slams the door. Adrian buries his face in his hands.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

The Troupe sit with trays as Adrian and Emma sit.

SUSIE
(to Adrian and Emma)
Guys have a good time yesterday?

RAMON
Yeah, what's up? Doin' La Bamba?

SOPHIE
Yeah. Everybody saw you guys leave together. Mmmm, love.

Franklin is busy eating.

SUSIE
(to Emma)
You didn't answer anybody on Facebook about the monsters, either.

Adrian asks Emma "What?" with his eyes.

SUSIE (CONT'D)
She posted about not going to the rally cuz of monsters.

Emma encourages Adrian with her eyes. Long BEAT.

ADRIAN
(huffs and says it)
Okay. Here you go. There are monsters on Depew Island. This Saturday other monsters are gonna attack everybody but the good monsters are gonna give us powers.

Silence, then everybody cracks up except Franklin, who slows his chewing. Emma and Adrian look deadly serious.

RAMON
Look at 'em! You guys are good.

EMMA
That noise we heard? That crater? They did it.

RAMON
You saw that?

ADRIAN
No, I did.

RAMON

You were at the campfire. You didn't see
squat.

SUSIE

Nobody did.

ADRIAN

No, the next day. I saw 'em fighting.
(to Franklin)
That cold circle? That's their mark,
Hubs. They come out of reflections in
the water.

All but Franklin crack up again.

RAMON

Man, you guys are good at bullshit.

ADRIAN

Okay, dare you to come out with us after
school. We'll show ya.

SUSIE

Canoe again? No way.

ADRIAN

No, there's a cornfield. You can walk
across. Got more craters.

SOPHIE

We'll miss rehearsal.

FRANKLIN

More craters? How?

EMMA

And we need to bring Mr. Blake.
They said we've all been chosen.

The others exchange weirded-out glances. Adrian puts up his hands.

ADRIAN

Truth.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE - AFTERNOON

The actors watch as Rick Blake walks in.

RICK BLAKE

Okay, scripts to Act II please.

Nobody moves.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)

Okay, what's up?

ADRIAN

Remember the weird sound and the crater?

RICK BLAKE

No, I forgot. What is this?

ADRIAN

There are more craters now? We think we've figured it out? You know all about rocks and stuff.

EMMA

We can rehearse out there if you like.

RICK BLAKE

More craters? C'mon, Flanders.

EMMA

It's kinda hard to explain. Please, Mr. Blake. Trust us. It's true. You know we love you.

Rick Blake is amused, but senses something.

RAMON

(whispers to Franklin)

Monsters. Right.

RICK BLAKE

Too late in the day for canoes, people.

ADRIAN

We can drive. There's a field. Take twenty minutes.

RICK BLAKE

Okay, how to justify this latest folly? Well, we did miss our second day of rehearsals and that was approved. I can float that. Who's got wheels?

EXT. DEPEW MEADOW - LATE AFTERNOON

Rick Blake stares at something.

RICK BLAKE

Okay. This cannot be.

ADRIAN

(V.O.)

Told ya.

WIDEN to show teens and Rick Blake next to a humming FROST CIRCLE, then WIDER. CIRCLES pock the meadow and FOUR DARK HOLES shadow the water. His POV: the frosted plants. A BUTTERFLY flies into the circle, turns CRISP WHITE and FALLS.

RICK BLAKE

This looks ... dangerous.

EMMA

Not if you don't touch it.

ADRIAN

(holding up his fingertip)

Freeze your damn finger off.

The sun dips below the trees. A shadow sweeps the meadow. Adrian looks at the MORGA KING'S ROCK and tilts his head to see the FACE. SUDDENLY... THE FAR SHORELINE STARTS TO MOVE... CLOSE on Adrian's eyes, noticing ... THEN...

A DOZEN WOLF-SIZED MORGA with STONE BODIES and DEAD STICK LEGS EXPLODE into the water like RUNNING SPIDERS. SPIDERWOLVES. Everybody turns.

SUSIE

What are those things?

ADRIAN

Oh, shit, little ones!

EMMA

Think we better run.

Adrian and Emma run for the campsite. Transfixed, the OTHERS stand there. Rick Blake stares in disbelief.

EMMA (CONT'D)

(screams)

Run! You wanna die?

CLOSE on a charging spiderwolf: its MAW opens, filled with NEEDLE FANGS and a CRYSTAL-BARBED TONGUE. We fly down its throat into FLAMES.

EVERYBODY screams and runs. Spiderwolves reach shore and pursue, loping into the meadow and splitting up into small packs and single pursuers. The kids and Rick Blake split down different paths. Adrian and Emma run hard into the tall trees.

ADRIAN

Gotta wake 'em up!

CLOSE on Susie, a slow runner. CLOSING IN, a spiderwolf's FANGS drip SPARKS like SALIVA.

SUSIE
 (huffing)
 Oh, no! No!

It BITES into her CALF and tears it off ... NOT FLESH... SPARKLING SPIRIT FLESH, SHAPED LIKE A CALF...

CLOSE on Susie's RUNNING LEGS. They look intact, but SMALL SPARKS pour from the BITTEN ONE.

The spiderwolf stops to devour the spirit flesh. TWO OTHERS pounce on it, fighting over it, tearing it into EXPLODING SPARKS.

EXT. DEPEW ISLAND FOREST - DUSK

FROM ABOVE: Rick and the kids sprint down different paths. BEAT. SINGLE PURSUERS and packs of TWO and THREE spiderwolves break off down the paths.

EXT. DEPEW CAMPSITE - DUSK

Adrian and Emma run past the campfire pit, sprint down to the shore and splash to where Hornet and Fuzz first appeared.

ADRIAN
 (yells)
 Hey! Hey! Where are you?

CLOSE on Adrian. His POV: the placid river at dusk. No sign of movement. He cups his hands around his mouth.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
Hey! These are our friends!

A branch falls from a tree downriver and splashes.

LOW ELECTRONIC HUMS SHUDDER THE AIR.

QUICK FLASHES...

Two spiderwolves leap at Emma. TWO BLASTS of LIGHTNING from Eyebrow's hidden eyes hurl the beasts into FLAMING DOORS.

A huge spiderwolf leaps at Adrian. Like a SPEAR, Fuzz flies through it and rips it to sparkling shreds.

On a pebble beach Sophie screams as two spiderwolves leap for her face. Weeper cries out and his sad eyes shoot two JETS OF PROJECTILE TEARS down the maws of two Spiderwolves who shudder as their inner flames hiss out and they burst apart.

Ramon leaps up a tree as a spiderwolf just misses his foot. SOMETHING HUMS overhead and Ramon's eyes go wide as he looks up. Above him hovers Hornet.

Emitting an ELECTRONIC TONE, Hornet shoots down and STABS the spiderwolf with his STICK HAIRS. The spiderwolf shudders as if STUNG and growls into a flaming door.

Rick Blake jabs a big spiderwolf with a stick, but it BITES his LEFT HAND. Out pour SPARKLES. Gnome roars LOW-PITCHED SOUND as two other beasts attack Rick Blake. The SOUND vaporizes all three attackers.

Spinning, Elbows slashes two spiderwolves in half with his arms like swords. Their halves growl into flaming doors as Franklin stands flat against a tree, breathing hard.

Susie is pinned at her shoulders to a tree by a spiderwolf. Its tongue flicks near her eyes and its maw opens to bite her face. Trunk lands with a crash, grabs the beast and hand-crushes it into sparkles, then grabs Susie and leaps straight up into the sky. The two hurtle to 1,000 feet above Depew. Susie is screaming the whole time. As they slow and stop... SILENCE and BREEZE in her hair, a moment of peace, then they FALL ... and she SCREAMS again. Her eyes look EMPTY.

EXT. DEPEW CAMPSITE - DUSK

Stunned and terrified, Sophie, Franklin, Ramon and Rick Blake stagger into a group. Rick puts his arms protectively around them, vigilant. CRASH! Trunk lands with Susie and sets her down, still screaming.

TRUNK

Be calm. You are safe now.

ADRIAN

(V.O.)

They won't hurt you!

All turn. Adrian and Emma appear. Hornet, Fuzz, Weeper, Elbows, Eyebrows and Gnome hover in, glowing in the gathering darkness.

TRUNK

It is not your flesh they want. Who else has been bitten?

He nods to Susie as Hornet floats over to her and INJECTS A TWIG HAIR into her calf, withdrawing DARK SPARKLES and INJECTING BRIGHT SPARKLES into her. She REVIVES, her eyes normal again.

RICK BLAKE

(stammering)

What? What?

ADRIAN

Meet the Akeeli, Mr. Blake.

RICK BLAKE

No. No, I don't think so.

FRANKLIN

Damn. You weren't shittin'. Fuckin' monsters.

EMMA

They come out of reflections in the water.

SUSIE

Your post ... I get it.

The hovering Akeeli tilt HORIZONTALLY and look like ordinary reflections. Rick Blake stares at Gnome.

GNOME

Take a picture, why don't you?

EMMA

Sorry, Mr. Blake. Like I said. Kinda hard to explain.

Susie looks up timidly at Trunk. He smiles. Still freaked-out, she half-smiles back, losing some of her fear. Franklin examines Elbows up close.

FRANKLIN

Uh, thanks for savin' me?

ELBOWS

No problem.
(he flexes)
Muscles.

TRUNK

For now, you are all safe.

Sophie clicks a photo of Trunk with her phone and checks it. NO IMAGE of him appears, just trees.

EXT. DEPEW CAMPSITE - NIGHT

CAMPFIRE. Teens on cell phones in BG telling their families they're staying late for rehearsal. Sophie and Ramon try to snap pictures. Again, EMPTY SPACE. Rick is amazed.

TRUNK

What are we? We are the forward guard.

The smaller Akeeli hover like shields behind the kids. In the dark their pulsing parts emanate light.

HORNET

And trouble's coming.

FUZZ

Big trouble.

TRUNK

The creatures that chased you? Those are just little Morga.

ELBOWS

Ugly, right?

Elbows is ugly, too.

RICK BLAKE

Wait, there are big ones? What did you call them? Morga?

TRUNK

The Greater Morga create their own darkness, which they need to emerge in force. Their king appeared twice now, but he expended energy in doing so. When the Boundary thins, however, it will be effortless. They will all emerge.

FRANKLIN

Boundary.

TRUNK

The light front that approaches. With it, the Boundary thins.

FRANKLIN

What boundary?

TRUNK

The one between your world and ours.

RICK BLAKE

And where's ... yours?

TRUNK

Close, at certain times.

RICK BLAKE

Okay. I'm trying to ... Forgive me if I'm a bit ... you know ... what, I don't know.

GNOME

Don't blame you.

SOPHIE

(to Susie)

Wow. Mr. Blake with no words.

RICK BLAKE

So, those things. You call them Morga?

FUZZ

Your oldest enemies. Yourselves.

HORNET
Your reflections. Ha ha, get it?

TRUNK
Please, you two.

RICK BLAKE
How come nobody's ever seen ... you
before?

TRUNK
You have. A few of us. We take many
forms. We have always been here. But
never our entire army.

SOPHIE
You said there are more ... Morga?

TRUNK
Their army. We have fought them before.
But they are stronger than ever, now.

FUZZ
So, you gonna help us?

SUSIE
Us?

TRUNK
It is not for us to deliver the Origin.
For some reason even we do not know, you
are the ones who were here when our doors
opened.

All but Adrian and Emma glance at Rick Blake.

RICK BLAKE
Don't blame me, people. It was just a
rehearsal. You know, nice island. Peace
and quiet.

SUSIE
(looks around)
Uh, how many of ... you...
(looks at Adrian)
What are they?

ADRIAN
Akeeli.

SUSIE
How many of you Akeeli are there?

TRUNK
Just we seven, until you deliver the
Origin. To do that, you will need to use
your powers wisely.

RAMON
Powers.

SUSIE

Origin?

TRUNK

You will each have one minute of extraordinary power. If you choose to accept it.

Trunk rises and looks out at the river.

SOPHIE

So what's this Origin thing?

TRUNK

We will explain if you accept. You cannot tell each other, or anyone, what your powers are, or they will cease to reside within you. As Fuzz asked, will you help us? Human fate rests in human hands.

Unsure glances exchanged.

ADRIAN

I've seen the King. Almost killed me. Like a giant rock that walked. Spider legs and shit.

Rick Blake listens intently. His LEFT EYE blinks.

TRUNK

Unless you can free us all, there will be no stopping him. All on earth will die under his darkness.

FRANKLIN

Say what?

SUSIE

Uh, Mr. Tree?

HORNET

He's the Commander.

TRUNK

Call me Trunk.

SUSIE

Okay. Just wanted to know. Okay, uh, Mr. Trunk, why's this happening here?

FRANKLIN

Everybody on earth?

TRUNK

This place, this time in your history, is where you must choose between the greed, which is thicker than we have ever seen, and that which gives you life.

(MORE)

TRUNK (CONT'D)

It is a difficult choice. Sounds simple,
but the problem is your water.

Trunk strides to the river, cups water in his bark hands and returns.
CLOSE on it, SPARKLING in the MOONLIGHT.

TRUNK (CONT'D)

You are made of it. We enter through it.
If you humans choose to foul it here, it
cannot be undone. The Storm Shadow will
grow from the Morga King. Unchecked, it
will kill off life on your planet.

RAMON

Damn. That sucks.

SOPHIE

Be serious, Ramon.

RAMON

I am. I am.

GNOME

You have done it to yourselves.

EMMA

(looking at the river)

But there's plenty of water.

TRUNK

Not for long. For this arrival we depend
on it, in this river, to emerge. If it's
too high our doorways disappear. Too
low, we become too heavy to move. For
Morga, it does not matter. They worship
death, and can take any shape.

CLOSE on Sophie, listening intently.

RAMON

They're bigger than the ones that chased
us?

Trunk nods.

ELBOWS

They don't just bite, either.

BEAT.

ADRIAN

I'll take my minute.

SOPHIE

Powers. That's wild.

SUSIE

Okay.

EMMA

Me, too.

FRANKLIN

Definitely.

RAMON

Yeah, I'm cool.

RICK BLAKE

(hint of sarcasm)

How did I get into this?

A SERIES OF QUICK SCENES where Adrian, Emma, Susie, Sophie, Franklin, Ramon and Rick Blake each stand before the Akeeli that saved them in different spots in the woods, learn their powers, nod in agreement and are momentarily BATHED IN LIGHT. CLOSE on Rick Blake's LEFT HAND. Bitten, it remains DARK. If Gnome notices, he says nothing.

CONTINUE at campfire. The teens exchange glances. Each has a secret now. From inside his body, Trunk pulls forth THE ORIGIN -- a GEODE the size of a LARGE MARBLE. He hands it to Adrian.

TRUNK

Small, but it carries great power. You, Adrio, were first here, so you are the Keeper. Keep it safe. Use it and it will free forth all the Akeeli.

Everyone stares at the Origin. Rick Blake's left eye blinks as Adrian closes it in his palm.

TRUNK (CONT'D)

Find out where and how to use it. When the light comes, so will the darkness. Act swiftly. Human fate rests in human hands. You are the humans.

SUSIE

When's this happening?

TRUNK

In four days. When the sun is highest.

RICK BLAKE

Four days. That's Saturday...

RAMON

Adrian, Saturday's your mom's big thing in town, right?

ADRIAN

Yeah.

EMMA

Can we warn people? Our families?

TRUNK

You can try.

The teens swallow, solemn. Rick Blake's left eye has dulled.

FRANKLIN

I'll modify my app. Warn the world.

SUSIE

Time to post.

TRUNK

Thank you. With ingenuity, you will discover what you need to do. We must rest to gather force. Our enemies are gathering theirs.

Everyone rises.

TRUNK (CONT'D)

One last thing. You each know what your power is. Summon it only once. Summon it twice, its force will kill you.

Everyone nods, excited, awed and scared. Rick Blake flexes his LEFT HAND, distracted by something.

RAMON

(quietly)

Hey, Sophie.

She turns to him.

RAMON (CONT'D)

What I said about you makin' a good monster? That's not true. Never was. I was just bein' stupid.

Sophie looks at him, accepts his words, touches his arm.

INT. RED SUV - NIGHT

Emma drives next to Adrian with Ramon, Sophie and Susie in the back seat. The girls text. Adrian stares at the Origin.

AHEAD ... Franklin drives his Civic. BEHIND ... Rick Blake drives his MUDDY XTERRA filled with ROCK CLIMBING GEAR.

EMMA

I can't get my head around this. I can't.

ADRIAN

Really.

SOPHIE

My power's so weird. I have no idea...

SUSIE

Don't talk about it.

ADRIAN

(cell phone open)

Forget about that. We gotta warn people.
If I call my uncle on speaker, you
guys'll back me up, right? Okay.

(dials)

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Bill Adams.

ADRIAN

Uncle Bill, it's Adrian.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

How's your mom doin'?

ADRIAN

Uh, busy. Working, I guess.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Be glad when this rally is out of her
hair. And mine.

ADRIAN

Actually, that's what I'm calling about?
Uncle Bill, I know this is gonna sound
weird, but something's gonna happen on
Saturday. Something bad, so can you
cancel the rally and tell everybody to
stay home?

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Adrian, I'm kinda busy.

ADRIAN

Remember that crater out at the island?
There are more now.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

More craters?

ADRIAN

I swear. You can check it out.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

What's that got to do with the rally?

ADRIAN

Uh, gonna be more craters? ... in town?
... explosions and...

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Adrian, this is serious what you're
telling me. Are you talking about
terrorism?

ADRIAN

Not exactly.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O., getting annoyed)

Then what are we talking about here,
young man?

ADRIAN

(deep breath)

Okay. This Saturday, uh, the Akeeli are
going to war here against the Morga?
They're ... monsters.

GROANS from the back seat.

SOPHIE

We are so dead.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Who's that with you?

ADRIAN

Friends. Call Mr. Blake! He knows about
it!

EMMA

He's right, Chief.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Who's this?

EMMA

Emma Gauge.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Miss Gauge, you could get in serious
trouble for this.

EMMA

Yes, sir. What Adrian said is true.

ADRIAN

Call Mr. Blake! He's right behind us!

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

I will. Meanwhile you and your friends
get in here to the station. Now.

He hangs up.

SOPHIE

We are very so dead.

RAMON

Mami and Papi are gonna kill me.

INT. RICK BLAKE'S XTERRA - NIGHT

Rick Blake's left eye is DIFFERENT. In the dark car, SPIRIT BLOOD SPARKLES pour from his BITTEN LEFT HAND. He's on his phone. Speaks strangely from the left side of his mouth.

RICK BLAKE

Adrian? Been acting a little funny
lately.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

How?

RICK BLAKE

Well, I think it's fumes from the rigs.
Hallucinations.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

You think he's hallucinating?

RICK BLAKE

Either that or he and his friends have
been doing drugs.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Emma Gauge?

RICK BLAKE

She's one of them.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Are you saying she's hallucinating on drugs?

RICK BLAKE

Well, with stories about monsters, Chief, what do you think?

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

So, you don't know anything about this?

RICK BLAKE

Been trying to talk them down. Doesn't seem to work.

CHIEF BILL

(V.O.)

Okay, thank you, Mr. Blake.

RICK BLAKE

Welcome, Chief. Have a good evening.

Rick takes a sharp right, leaving the cars up ahead. His HAND bleeds more SPARKLES. He FLASHES on Adrian holding the Origin.

INT. POLICE STATION, CHIEF BILL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CHIEF BILL

Damn.

LATER...

The Troupe sits stunned before Chief Bill.

ADRIAN

That's bullshit.

EMMA

He was there!

CHIEF BILL

He said he's been trying to "talk you down" so you listen.

(angry)

You have falsely reported a threat. I could throw you all in jail.

Franklin sinks in his seat. The others blink.

ADRIAN

Uncle Bill...

CHIEF BILL

You're lucky I'm a little too busy right around now to deal with this.

(MORE)

CHIEF BILL (CONT'D)

If you're seeing things from fumes or whatever, well maybe that's what I'm gonna tell myself today. So as long as I don't hear any more about this, I'll let it go.

RAMON

You're not gonna tell my folks?

CHIEF BILL

Not this time. Okay, get out. Everybody.

Adrian rises with the others.

CHIEF BILL (CONT'D)

(to Adrian)

Not you.

The others clear out fast. Emma gives Adrian a determined look and leaves.

ADRIAN

I swear, Uncle Bill. This isn't drugs. I swear.

CHIEF BILL

I gotta tell your mom.

ADRIAN

She already knows.

CHIEF BILL

(surprised)

You told her this ... this ... crazy bullshit?

ADRIAN

She didn't believe me, either.

CLOSE on Adrian as he thinks hard and backs off.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'll stop, Uncle Bill. I guess it's the fumes.

CHIEF BILL

Better go see a doctor.

ADRIAN

Yes, sir, I will. Ever since our water went bad, I've felt kinda weird.

CHIEF BILL

(softening)

How you gonna get home?

ADRIAN

I'll walk to mom's office. Catch a ride with her. She works late.

CHIEF BILL
 Good enough. Out.

ADRIAN
 Yes, sir.

EXT. POLICE STATION ON COURTHOUSE SQUARE - NIGHT

Adrian steps outside onto COURTHOUSE SQUARE, a WIDE TOWN COMMON with scattered TREES. Across it rises the tall old-fashioned COURTHOUSE with a TOWER. A half-built PORTABLE STAGE sits under lights.

FLASH TO...

EXT. FT. WORTH BUS STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

TEN MEN -- lean, rugged and dangerous -- board the EXPRESS NYC bus.

EXT. GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO BUS STATION - LATER

TEN SIMILAR MEN board the EXPRESS NYC bus.

CONTINUE COURTHOUSE SQUARE...

Adrian walks down the block under street lights. Passes Harlow's town car, parked.

INT. BLACK TOWN CAR - NIGHT

HARLOW
 We all set for Saturday?

CASWELL
 Yes, sir. Black bandanas, ball-peens,
 the whole nine yards.
 (sees Adrian)
 Well, shit. The Flanders kid.

HARLOW
 (to driver)
 Pull up to him.

CASWELL
 You sure?

HARLOW
 Shut up. Do as I say.

The town car pulls forward and Harlow rolls down his window.

HARLOW (CONT'D)
 Hey, kid!

Adrian slows. Turns. Doesn't know Harlow.

HARLOW (CONT'D)
Your momma like all the money from that
well?

ADRIAN
Blow me, dude!

Harlow darkens and powers up his window. Town car pulls away. Adrian
pulls the Origin from his pocket and stares at it.

INT. FLANDERS FARM BARN HAYLOFT - NIGHT

Adrian shoves the Origin beneath a HAY BALE.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLS - MORNING

Emma walks to class. STUDENTS give her looks.

STUDENT #1
Hey, Emma, we hear monsters are comin' to
the frack rally. You're a fool on
Facebook.

STUDENT #2
Everybody's comin' now. Don't wanna miss
'em.

EMMA
(dead serious)
Don't go.

STUDENT #2
Gettin' weird, Emma. You and Susie and
the goth bitch.

STUDENT #1
Really.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE - AFTERNOON

The Troupe waits, angry. Rick Blake walks in.

RICK BLAKE
(sounding hoarse)
Okay, Act I without scripts.

The teens stare at him.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)
What?

ADRIAN
Mr. Blake, what's the deal?

EMMA
Why did you say we made it all up?

RICK BLAKE
What's this again?

ADRIAN
The Akeeli! You lied to my uncle!

RAMON
Yeah. You did.

SOPHIE
This is so freakin' weird.

SUSIE
Are you okay, Mr. Blake? What's wrong?

RICK BLAKE
Look, all I remember is going to Depew to
rehearse and hearing some crazy story
instead.

EMMA
What? That's a lie!

RICK BLAKE
Never should have taken you there, I
guess.

Adrian throws his script to the floor.

ADRIAN
I used to like you. But screw your play.

FRANKLIN
What power did they give you, Mr. Blake?
Tell us so it ain't yours anymore.

SUSIE
Really, I can't believe you lied about
this.

Rick Blake smiles WEIRDLY. The Troupe toss their scripts at his feet
and walk offstage, muttering. His ring tone sounds: CHARLAYNE.

RICK BLAKE
Well, hello. How nice.

Rick is NOT THE SAME PERSON. CLOSE on his LEFT EYE. Strange, like
Susie's eyes before she was healed.

INT. JOE GAUGE'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Emma with parents and grandparents.

PATRICE

So what's this I hear about you on Facebook?

EMMA

What?

PATRICE

Monsters? Emma, you're going to college next year and you're talkin' in public about monsters?

EMMA

Just stay home Saturday. Stay in the house.

JOE GAUGE

What the hell's gotten into you lately?

PATRICE

Maybe it's that you've been hanging out with that Flanders boy. He's got a crazy bitch mother so here's the deal.

(looks at Joe, Jr. and Joe Gauge)

You are to have nothing to do with that boy. Nothing. And if we hear that you are, no car keys. Ride the bus with the poor kids.

Disgusted, Emma gets up and walks out.

JOE GAUGE

(fuming)

Spend all my life loggin', finally get some goddamn money outa nowhere and my granddaughter's hangin' out with hippie dirtbags who wanna shut me down.

EXT. DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL - NIGHT

Morga stir in their confinements, legs moving like fat, soon-to-hatch wasps. A low hum shudders the meadow. Trunk's tree is silent driftwood in the moonlight.

INT. FRANKLIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Franklin chews pizza as he TYPES RAPIDLY on his laptop.

INT. RICK BLAKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rick Blake grunts and chugs a SCOTCH BOTTLE. His LEFT FINGERNAILS are YELLOWED. Calls Charlayne.

RICK BLAKE
 (hoarse voice)
 Got your call ... Don't know ... Cook you
 dinner ... Get to know each other better
 ... Place like this can be lonely ...

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - MORNING

Chief Bill and Deputy Jonah Barnes watch RALLY PREPARATIONS. FINAL
 STAGE CONSTRUCTION. PORT-O-POTTIES unloaded. VENDORS setting up
 STALLS.

CHIEF BILL
 It's the Joe Gauges I'm worried about.
 This thing could get ugly.

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES
 Mesh'll keep 'em apart.

CHIEF BILL
 Sure hope so ... So, Jonah, do me a favor
 and drive on out to Depew Island.
 There's a cornfield back behind the
 trees? Take a look at that crater we
 found and tell me if there's any more of
 'em.

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES
 More of 'em?

CHIEF BILL
 Just take a look.

INT. RICK BLAKE'S BATHROOM - MORNING

In a robe, Rick stands before the mirror as Charlayne, dressed, leans
 on the doorjamb. He puts his LEFT HAND in his pocket.

CHARLAYNE
 That was fun.

RICK BLAKE
 (hoarse)
 Sure was.

CHARLAYNE
 Let's uh ... keep it up.

RICK BLAKE
 Anytime.

She leaves and his apartment door clicks shut. He pulls out his HAND,
 inspects his YELLOWED NAILS and leans to the mirror, showing his TEETH.
 UPPER AND LOWER, the teeth on the left side of his mouth are GRAY.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)
 (Rick's regular voice)
 This isn't good.
 (hoarse voice)
 Sure it is.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - MORNING

Ed and Ellie get in Ed's pickup and drive off. Moments later, Rick Blake drives up. Gets out and knocks on the front door, waits, tests the door, finds it open.

RICK BLAKE
 (Rick's regular voice)
 Shouldn't be doing this.
 (hoarse voice)
 Oh, yes we should.

He LICKS HIS TEETH and goes inside.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL - MORNING

Jonah stands, scratches his head. His POV: FOUR MORE WATER-FILLED CRATERS.

DEPUTY JONAH BARNES
 Well, I'll be.

Morga King is behind him. His crystal tongue slices through Jonah's neck. Out spurts SPIRIT BLOOD. Jonah stands, shocked, eyes bugged out. Morga King's maws open. Like an anglerfish gulping prey, he SUCKS IN Jonah. Sounds like a SEMI ROARING PAST.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLS - MORNING

Adrian and Ramon talk in low tones as Emma appears, coming the other way with TWO GIRLS. Emma smiles at Ramon but ignores Adrian.

RAMON
 What's with Emma, man? You piss her off?

ADRIAN
 (smiles)
 No.

EXT. CORNFIELDS NEAR SHORELINE OF RIVER - AFTERNOON

TWO COP CRUISERS, lights on, park near Jonah's CRUISER.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL ABOVE MORGA KING ROCK - AFTERNOON

Chief Bill and COPS survey the river.

CHIEF BILL
Well, get to it. Find him.

INT. DEPUTY JONAH'S LITTLE HOUSE - NIGHT

DEPUTY JONAH'S WIFE, 26, PREGNANT, listens to Chief Bill.

CHIEF BILL
We checked downstream and got a
bloodhound to run the woods. Just don't
know.

JONAH'S WIFE
Well, he wouldn't just disappear.

CHIEF BILL
I agree. So tell me, you two been
havin', you know, like, any marital
difficulties?

JONAH'S WIFE
No. We do it all the time.
(she blushes)
I mean, carefully.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM STAGE - NIGHT

The stage is empty, lights down.

INT. ADRIAN'S ROOM - EVENING

Adrian, Ellie and Ed look shocked at Adrian's TORN-UP room.

ED
Did you do this?

ADRIAN
Found it this way.

ELLIE
Sweet Jesus.

INT. FLANDERS FARM BARN - NIGHT

Adrian retrieves the Origin, sighs in relief. Puts it in his pocket.

INT. FLANDERS FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Adrian walks in. Ellie's on the phone.

ELLIE
No, it was just Adrian's room ...
Anything taken? Adrian! Did they take
anything?

ADRIAN

Nope.

ELLIE

Didn't take anything, Bill. I don't know ... You bet we'll lock it. Still haven't found Jonah?

ADRIAN

What's up with Jonah?

ELLIE

(cups phone)

Went out to Depew Island and they found his car but not him. Been looking all day.

INT. ADRIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

He's on the phone amid the mess, holding the Origin.

ADRIAN

Hubs. Somebody broke in here. Went through all my stuff ... No, no I got it ... Don't know, but we gotta do something. Find out where to take this thing before we lose it ... Well, it's gotta be around here, right? ... Okay, tomorrow night ... Nah, Emma's parents said they'd take her keys ... Let's get Ramon ...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLS - MORNING

Adrian approaches Emma between classes. Expressionless, they pass each other, brushing hands. Down the hall, Emma palms the NOTE.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - MORNING

Adrian, Franklin and Ramon sit together, the girls apart.

RAMON

Heard Mr. Blake called in sick.

INT. RICK BLAKE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Rick's cellphone rings. CHARLAYNE. We do not see his face, but his LEFT HAND'S FINGERS look gnarled, the NAILS THICK and DARK, as he picks up.

RICK BLAKE

(rougher, deep voice)

Hello, Charlayne.

CHARLAYNE
 (V.O., noise in BG)
 Hi. You sound terrible.

RICK BLAKE
 Musta caught a bug.

CHARLAYNE
 (V.O., noise in BG)
 I was thinkin' we might do a repeat of
 the other night's grand performance.

RICK BLAKE
 (rough)
 Love to.
 (normal voice)
 No, Charlayne! Some other time. Sorry.
 Gotta go.

Rick's normal right hand snatches the phone and presses OFF. CLOSE on Rick's MOUTH. HIS LIPS on the LEFT SIDE of his MOUTH are SWOLLEN and CRUSTED.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)
 (rough, evil laugh)
 Well, well. Look who's fightin' back.
 The good little drama teacher. What,
 don't wanna get laid?

INT. STANDISH OIL CHOPPER - DAY

CHARLAYNE
 (staring at her phone)
 You son of a bitch. How dare you?

She looks down at the mega-facility's dome, secluded deep in WOODS. The chopper flies over a MOUNTAIN with a FLAT OUTCROP on its summit to reveal the DELAWARE RIVER VALLEY and DEPEW ISLAND far below.

CHARLAYNE (CONT'D)
 (mutters to herself)
 Weren't that good. Amazing body, though.

INT. FRIENDLY FOOD BANK OFFICES - DAY

Ellie's BLUE T-SHIRT reads "Monroe County Citizens Against Fracking."

ELLIE
 (on phone)
 The *Times*? You're kidding! Oh my God,
 the whole world's gonna be here!

She brings up New York Times.com. Headline: A TOWN DIVIDED:
 STROUDSBURG, PA. She reads it.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, yes. Mention my rally. Oh, yes, you are so beautiful. Thanks, Frank.

(hangs up and dials)

Bill? Any word about Jonah? No? That's the strangest thing. Gee. I'm so sorry. Uh, wanted to let you know that I think we'll be above ten thousand tomorrow. *New York Times* just ran a piece.

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DAY

Chief Bill on his phone watches as OFFICERS deploy ORANGE POLICE CROWD CONTROL MESH along the wide grassy park's SIDEWALK EDGE. A second orange mesh runs down the middle of blocked-off MAIN STREET. Separated by half the street, empty except for COPS, is a COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS AREA. A VENDOR hangs T-SHIRTS that read "Frack the Arabs" and "Our Country, Our Gas" and glares at another VENDOR whose T-SHIRTS read "Are You Fracking Crazy?" and "Save our Watershed."

BILL

Dammit, Ellie, you're makin' my bad day worse.

ELLIE

(V.O.)

Love you, too, big brother.

She ends the call.

BILL

(to himself)

Where the hell are you, Jonah?

INT. FLANDERS FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

ED

Gotta pick her up soon.

ADRIAN

She told you, didn't she?

ED

So did your uncle. We're worried. About you. Your friends.

ADRIAN

Keep her home, dad.

ED

Hell, I can't keep her home. Tomorrow's her day. Gonna make sure she's safe.

Ed looks out the window at the gas rig.

ED (CONT'D)

Damn fumes.

ADRIAN

Jonah Barnes disappeared, Dad. Right out there where...

ED

People disappear all the time. Doesn't take monsters.

Checks his watch.

ED (CONT'D)

Okay. We'll be out early tomorrow. So, you're really not coming?

ADRIAN

No.

ED

You're the reason she's doing all this.

ADRIAN

I know. Oh, I'm goin' out later. Franklin's pickin' me up.

INT. CIVIC - LATE AFTERNOON

Franklin drives next to Adrian, who holds the Origin in his hands. Ramon has the back seat.

EXT. PEBBLE BEACH AT ISLAND'S TIP - SUNSET

The three look around. All is silent. Trunk's tree is still.

ADRIAN

Guess that answers that.

EXT. JOE GAUGE'S COMPOUND - SUNSET

CLOSE on Emma as she stands outside, watching the sunset. Wind moves her hair.

INT. SUSIE'S APARTMENT ABOVE CHINESE RESTAURANT - SUNSET

Susie looks out her window at the sunset, then down at PEOPLE on the street. Rubs her eyes.

SUSIE

No, wait til it's time.

INT. SOPHIE'S BATHTUB - SUNSET

Sophie cups bath water and stares at it.

INT. RICK BLAKE'S APARTMENT - SUNSET

A MUSCULAR STONE ARM reaches for the scotch bottle. The LEFT HAND is CLAWED and HIDEOUS. From the RIGHT we see Rick Blake's NORMAL FACE, sagged as if from a stroke, eye dripping TEARS.

RICK BLAKE
(guttural, demonic voice)
Don't worry so much. It'll all be over soon.

He chugs the bottle held by the claw. FROM THE RIGHT, as Rick's MOUTH OPENS, we see, beyond his normal teeth, FANGS LIKE NEEDLES. He drinks and smacks his lips.

RICK BLAKE (CONT'D)
(guttural voice)
Ah. Aren't you lucky to always know where your students are? Quite the power to have. Gonna last longer than a minute, too.

INT. CIVIC - NIGHT

Franklin stops at a CROSSROADS. Adrian stares at the Origin. It GLOWS SLIGHTLY. Franklin turns right. The GLOW FADES.

ADRIAN
Wait.

FRANKLIN
What?

ADRIAN
It's doing something. Go the other way.

Franklin turns around and the Origin GLOWS SLIGHTLY BRIGHTER.

RAMON
Look at that.

LATER...

The three see a LARGE CHARTER BUS turn right onto a DIRT ROAD ahead but keep on driving past the road. The Origin dims slightly.

ADRIAN
Back there. Where the bus went.

EXT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - NIGHT

The TWENTY MEN from Texas and Colorado get off the bus. Caswell watches.

EXT. DIRT ROAD NEAR MEGA-FACILITY - NIGHT

Lights off, the Civic drives slowly, a GLOW INSIDE.

IN THE CIVIC... the three see BLAZING PERIMETER LIGHTS up ahead.

ADRIAN

Pull off, man. Pull off.

EXT. WOODS NEAR MEGA-FACILITY PERIMETER - NIGHT

The three look at the PERIMETER GATES from a hiding place. TWO ARMED GUARDS man the gates. The Origin is BRIGHT in Adrian's hand.

ADRIAN

It's warm. That's new.

FRANKLIN

Hide it, man. They're gonna see us.

RAMON

Dudes have guns. What is this place?

Adrian puts the Origin in his pocket.

ADRIAN

It's getting hot.

CLOSE on Ramon as he inhales deeply and stands up.

FRANKLIN

(hisses)

What the hell are you doin'?

RAMON

I'm gonna use it.

ADRIAN

What?

RAMON

Gonna use my power. No, really. Think so, man. Gotta see what's inside.

ADRIAN

But ...

Ramon opens his arms and VANISHES. Adrian and Franklin are stunned.

INT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - NIGHT

Ramon APPEARS behind GIANT FLEXIBLE DRILL PIPES in STACKS.

RAMON

Whoah. Shit. Okay, one, two ...

Looks up. Sees the derrick beyond. Crawls into a PIPE toward it. From the PIPE'S END, he looks out. Ramon's POV: the mega-drill head lies off to the side. Poised above a SIX-FOOT WIDE HOLE under the derrick hangs a 30-FOOT LONG METAL TUBE. ROUSTABOUTS lower SHAPED BUNDLES marked HIGH EXPLOSIVES into it. Across the wide, concrete slab floor, TWO ARMED GUARDS stand by an entry door next to a closed warehouse door.

RAMON (CONT'D)

Fifteen, sixteen ...

Caswell enters followed by the twenty men from the bus. The BACK OF A THIRD GUARD'S HEAD suddenly appears TWO FEET from Ramon's hiding place. STARTLED, Ramon makes a sound. The guard turns and spots him.

GUARD

Hey!

RAMON

Oh, man!

Ramon scuttles back into the pipe out of the guard's reach. The guard barks into his walkie-talkie.

As Ramon's FEET EMERGE at the pipe's other end, TWO MORE GUARDS grab him. Standish and Charlayne come running from the nearby CONTROL ROOM. Ramon struggles.

RAMON (CONT'D)

Get off me, assholes!

HARLOW

Who the hell is this?

Ramon recognizes Charlayne from the river. She does not recognize him. In BG, Caswell scowls and halts the twenty men.

RAMON

(to everybody, loudly)
What is this place?

HARLOW

How'd this kid get in here?

GUARD #2

Don't know, sir.

HARLOW
 (to Ramon)
 How'd you get in here?

RAMON
 None of your damn business.

HARLOW
 (furious, to Guards)
 Pay all this money, some damn kid walks
 in? Bring him!

They drag Ramon across the concrete into the Control Room and throw him
 in a chair.

RAMON
 What's that big hole in the ground?

HARLOW
 Shut up! A god damn kid! Now what?

Harlow nods. A GUARD pulls a GLOCK and aims it at Ramon. Charlayne
 watches, eyes narrow.

HARLOW (CONT'D)
 Better tell me, son. How'd you get in
 here?

Ramon VANISHES from the chair.

HARLOW (CONT'D)
 What the hell?

EXT. WOODS NEAR PERIMETER - NIGHT

Ramon REAPPEARS next to Adrian and Franklin. INTRUSION ALERTS blast
 from the Facility. SECURITY LIGHTS BLAZE ON.

ADRIAN
 Jesus, man, where were you?

RAMON
 I got inside. Jumped.

FRANKLIN
 You mean, that was your...

RAMON
 Yeah. Let's get outta here.

INT. CIVIC - NIGHT

Franklin drives fast.

RAMON

I don't know. I think they were gonna kill me, man. And that lady from the river was there.

ADRIAN

What, that geologist?

RAMON

Yeah, it was her. But this rig, man, it was big. Hole was big as this car. Dudes were packing this thing full of dynamite or something.

Adrian pulls out the Origin. Glow is fading.

FRANKLIN

What did it feel like, to jump like that?

RAMON

Don't know. I was just there.

ADRIAN

So, the powers work.

RAMON

Oh, yeah. This is for real.

Adrian and Franklin exchanges glances.

ADRIAN

I don't wanna know.

FRANKLIN

Don't worry, you won't.

INT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - NIGHT

Guards stand before Standish and Charlayne.

GUARD #3

Sorry, sir. We checked the entire compound. No breaches in the fence. Security cameras show nothing.

STANDISH

Who is this kid, Houdini?

INT. EMMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Emma's cell buzzes. ADRIAN. She picks up and walks into her bathroom, closing the door.

EMMA
(whispering)
Hi.

ADRIAN
(V.O.)
We think we know where the Origin goes.
This big place in the woods. Can you get
Susie and Sophie and meet us at the
cornfield tomorrow?

EMMA
What time?

ADRIAN
(V.O.)
I don't know. Ten?

EMMA
I'll call 'em.

INT. FLANDERS FARM BARN - NIGHT

Alone, Adrian pulls down a BOLT CUTTER from a pegboard.

SUNRISE. SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS AROUND STROUDSBURG AT DAWN. COURTHOUSE SQUARE. POLICE BARRICADES. ROWS OF PORT-O-POTTIES. VENDORS UNLOCK STALLS. "RALLY PARKING" SIGNS BY FIELDS OUTSIDE OF TOWN. CHIEF BILL WATCHES OFFICERS BLOCKING OFF STREETS AROUND THE SQUARE. VOLUNTEERS ARRIVE IN BLUE T-SHIRTS WITH MORNING COFFEES...

AS...

RADIO ANNOUNCER
(V.O.)
Good morning, Monroe County! Got a
perfect fall Saturday on tap today.
Clear skies. Highs in the mid-seventies.
Great day to get out and enjoy!

EXT. PARKING FIELDS OUTSIDE TOWN - MORNING

VOLUNTEERS wave in CARS and BUSSES. Lines of vehicles waiting to park stretch into the distance. RALLYGOERS -- FAMILIES WITH STROLLERS, URBAN TYPES, COLLEGE STUDENTS, GRAYING COUPLES -- walk toward town with ANTI-FRACKING SIGNS. COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS -- FARMERS, GAS WORKERS, TRUCK DRIVERS, WORKING CLASS TYPES -- carry PRO-FRACKING SIGNS. The class divide is evident.

COPS and STATE TROOPERS stand by, watchful.

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - MORNING

Chief Bill watches as thousands herd into the filling park behind the orange mesh. Separated by half the street, counter-demonstrators assemble. A few already CATCALL at the larger crowd.

Ellie is on stage with her task list and walkie-talkie. SPEAKERS and VOLUNTEERS chat. Ed sits in a folding chair in the grass. He sips coffee and looks around, vigilant. A YOUNG FAMILY with a BABY and TODDLER set themselves up next to him. On his other side, a MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE settles in.

MIDDLE-AGED MAN
So, starts at 11:30?

Ed nods.

EXT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - MORNING

A bus waits as the twenty men queue past Caswell. Each is handed a BLACK OCCUPY WALL STREET T-SHIRT, a BALL-PEEN HAMMER and a BLACK ANARCHIST BANDANA.

EXT. CORNFIELDS NEAR SHORELINE OF RIVER - MORNING

Emma's SUV, Sophie's VW, Ramon's pickup and Franklin's Civic are parked.

SOPHIE
So they really work.

RAMON
Yeah. I actually jumped. Wild as shit.

ADRIAN
If we can get inside once the light front hits, whatever that is ...
(palms the Origin)
... it'll tell us. Gotta get past the guards.

RAMON
Shitload of guards. With guns.

FRANKLIN
How many?

RAMON
I saw ... what ... two outside and like ... five, maybe, inside?

FRANKLIN
Seven dudes with guns. Shit.

SUSIE
How long will it take to get inside? If we run?

They all turn to her.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Not saying how, but I might be able to help with the guards.

ADRIAN

(nodding, understanding)

What, Ramon? If the door's open?

RAMON

Thirty seconds maybe, if we book it.

ADRIAN

(to Susie)

That enough time?

SUSIE

Got a minute.

FRANKLIN

Yeah, okay. Inside, right? But where? Don't wanna put it in the wrong damn place.

CLOSE on Emma: she closes her eyes slowly, coming to a decision.

EMMA

Guys give me a minute?

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL ABOVE MORGA KING ROCK - MORNING

Emma stands alone, closes her eyes and puts her hands to her temples. A QUICK RUSH OF IMAGES...

DARKNESS OVERHEAD. ROARING WINDS. THE EARTH SHAKES. What looks like a VOLCANO erupts from a nearby MOUNTAINTOP. Spiderwolves swarm as huge Morga emerge from a NEARLY-DRAINED RIVER and GRIND DEEP TROUGHS as they move. The Akeeli are TRAPPED in their DRAINED DOORWAYS. A SMALL SUN below and to the right of the SUN shines in a blue sky. The Courthouse Tower in town TOPPLES OVER. THOUSANDS of SCREAMING PEOPLE run in fear. Next to a STACK OF GIANT PIPES, lit by flames, Franklin kneels next to Adrian who bleeds from a gunshot wound in his chest, his PALM BURNED. The Origin falls past BLACK CABLES hanging down into DARKNESS. THE IMAGES END.

EMMA

No!

We follow her as she staggers through the trees to the cars.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Oh, god. Oh, god.

Adrian runs to her and holds her up as the others help.

ADRIAN
What? You okay?

EMMA
I saw ... I saw ...

ADRIAN
Saw what?

She leans against her car sobbing, face buried in her hands.

SOPHIE
What was it, Emma?

SUSIE
C'mon, girl, tell us.

Susie and Sophie hug her as Emma stares at Adrian.

EMMA
I saw what's gonna happen!

SUSIE
You mean ...

EMMA
Yeah! That was it. To see the future
for a minute. Oh, god.

LATER, they all sit around her. She wipes tears, eyes on Adrian.

EMMA (CONT'D)
All the water was gone from the river.
These horrible things were coming out,
under like a storm or something. The
Akeeli's reflections were gone and they
couldn't get out. People were getting
killed, I don't know! And ...
(looks at Adrian)
and ... I can't ... I don't know. It
can't be real!

CLOSE on Sophie: she looks off through the trees toward the river.

RAMON
It's real, Emma. I jumped into that
place.

FRANKLIN
(his own power confirmed)
Okay...

EMMA
The Origin. It was falling. Down into a
tunnel or something.

RAMON
Has to be the drill hole. Right in the
middle of the place. It's the drill
hole.

EMMA
The hole in the floor?

Ramon nods.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Yeah. That's it.

ADRIAN
Okay. So that's it. Ramon, Emma, you
can't do this anymore. You're done.
That means it's us now.

RAMON
Sorry. No way I'm not goin'. I've been
inside. I've seen it.

Emma suddenly hugs Adrian. Kisses his cheek. He's surprised.

EMMA
Can I talk to you?

AWAY from the OTHERS, Adrian and Emma stand by the trees.

ADRIAN
Okay.

EMMA
(struggling)
I ... I saw you. In that place.

He wipes a tear from her cheek. Feeling early love.

EMMA (CONT'D)
Franklin was there. You ... you were on
the ground. And there was blood! I
don't know, it looked like you'd been
shot.

She hugs him hard and sobs.

EMMA (CONT'D)
I don't want you to get killed! I want
... I want ...

Adrian stares off into his mind.

INT. A DARK, UNDEFINED SPACE - DARKNESS

The six Akeeli hover around Trunk. They light each other. Their sound
pulses created the CHORD.

GNOME
Never happen. Just a bunch of kids.

EYEBROWS
Too much left to chance.

ELBOWS

Yeah.

HORNET

What about the teacher?

TRUNK

What will be will be.

FUZZ

But Commander, the darkness will come.
It will be over, the whole show.

WEEPER

I feel like crying.

TRUNK

Don't cry yet, Weeper. You never know.

CONTINUE CORNFIELD AWAY FROM THE OTHERS...

ADRIAN

If we don't free the Akeeli, if we don't
try, your family, my family, all our
friends, everybody ...

EMMA

(interrupting)

I know ... I know ...

ADRIAN

It was nice to get to know you, Emma.

She kisses him hard. He kisses her back and smiles.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

So at least we make it inside the
building. That's good to know.

He checks his phone.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

11:40. We better go.

CONTINUE back with the Troupe by the cars...

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Okay. Everybody ready?

SOPHIE

I'm not going. I need to stay here.

Surprised looks. Confusion.

EMMA

Sophie, what?

SOPHIE

Trust me. My power, it won't do any good where you guys are going. My place is here. I know that.

RAMON

You sure about that?

SOPHIE

(scared but committed)

No.

BEAT.

EMMA

Okay.

BEAT. Everybody nods. Sophie sees.

SOPHIE

Thanks. I love you guys a lot. You're the only friends I've ever had.

They all hug each other.

RAMON

We better go.

SOPHIE

Be safe. Please.

EMMA

Thanks. We can all fit in my car. Franklin?

He looks at his Civic.

FRANKLIN

Little tight anyway.

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - MORNING

TV REPORTER with CAMERAMAN interviews YOUNG DAD with BABY in a carrier on his back. Dad holds a BLOWN-UP PHOTO on a stick of a DRILL RIG on a peninsula in a RESERVOIR.

TV REPORTER

Sir, why are you here?

YOUNG DAD

This is a frack pad built by a reservoir for people's drinking water. My baby's drinking water. Standish doesn't care where they put these things.

In BG, Joe Gauge and Patty stand across Main Street behind the orange mesh. CLOSE on them. Joe holds an AIR HORN. OTHERS behind him hold VUVUZELAS.

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE STAGE - MORNING

Ellie's at the podium.

ELLIE

Welcome to Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and
the biggest no fracking rally in America!

Cheers, applause, vuvuzelas farther away, and an air horn's chirp.

INT. RED SUV - MORNING

Ellie's speech runs V.O. over LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS RADIO as Emma, Adrian, Franklin and Susie drive toward the Mega-Facility. Adrian drives, Emma next to him. No one says a word. They listen. Adrian's bolt cutter and an OVEN MITT lie on the floor.

ELLIE

(V.O.)

My name's Ellie Flanders, and I'm just an ordinary person. I eat food, I breathe air, and, oh yes, I drink water. My family lives here. I grew up here. We weren't rich, but when we ran our water we knew we could drink it. Not light it with a match.

Boos from the counter-demonstrators are audible.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Hear those folks over there? Lots of them are my friends and neighbors.

MAN IN THE CROWD

(V.O.)

You don't have friends, Ellie!

WOMAN

(V.O.)

Mind your own goddamn business!

ELLIE

(V.O.)

See? That's what it's come to. And my family was a part of it. I got a rig on my farm.

Listening, Emma looks over at Adrian.

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

And when Standish Oil and Gas came in here, those landmen told us don't worry, it's safe, the shale is two miles down. Far below the water table. Nothing will happen. Well, they lied.

Roar of the crowd and catcalls are audible.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL - MORNING

Morga King's REFLECTION is behind her as Sophie wades onto Depew Island.

ELLIE
(V.O.)

Now we gotta to buy our water but the lease won't pay for that, oh no. My son, he ... my son and other young people in this town are seeing things, hallucinating...

CONTINUE RED SUV...

FRANKLIN
Don't think so.

ADRIAN
Nope.

Emma touches Adrian's upper arm and rubs it.

ELLIE
(V.O.)

But they're not taking drugs, they're breathing fumes from condensation tanks...

INT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY CONTROL ROOM - MORNING

A BIRTHDAY CAKE for Standish sits on a table. Standish slaps the backs of OTHERS, all smiles. Charlayne hands him a DETONATOR REMOTE. He holds it up AS...

ELLIE
(V.O.)

But don't take my word for it. Today you'll hear scientists, doctors, state representatives, all kinds of people who'll tell you a story that'll scare you. A story that will get you to vote yes on Monday just to regulate this rapacious business that's shown up out of nowhere. America needs the energy, yes. Are there places to frack in this country? Yes. But certain things belong in certain places.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

If I go to the bathroom in the bathroom,
that's fine. But if I walk into a church
or temple sanctuary and go in front of
the altar? That's not fine! Ours -- the
cleanest watershed in America -- is an
altar! Don't shit on it!

Harlow blows out candles. His POV: MAP on the WALL shows a BRIGHT RED
LINE running under the MOUNTAIN from the mega-facility to 1,000 FEET
BENEATH Depew Island. He presses DETONATE.

EXT. DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL - MORNING

Sophie stands at the shore. A TREMOR shakes the river. Ripples
vibrate the suddenly CHOPPY SURFACE. Flocks of birds lift from trees.

CONTINUE ON STAGE... A USGS SCIENTIST takes the podium.

USGS SCIENTIST

I'm Dr. Walter Evans of the U.S.
Geological Survey...

A MILD TREMOR shakes the podium. The crowd goes silent. A glass falls
off a table on stage. CLOSE on PEOPLE looking at each other, scared.
CLOSE as a CRACK opens in the COURTHOUSE TOWER.

USGS SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

Well, that was a mild tremor, ladies and
gentlemen. You can expect these more
often as disposal wells...

CONTINUE RED SUV...

Adrian turns onto the DIRT ROAD.

CONTINUE COURTHOUSE SQUARE...

The twenty men in OWS SHIRTS pull up BLACK BANDANAS and smash shop
windows with HAMMERS.

TV REPORTER

(to cameraman)

Get that! Quick!

(into camera)

Black clad anarchists in Occupy Wall
Street shirts are attacking businesses
here in Stroudsburg. Folks, this
peaceful demonstration has just turned
ugly.

Chief Bill barks orders into his walkie-talkie and runs.

The twenty men drop hammers and packs and run into the crowd, stripping
off bandanas and shirts and donning baseball caps.

CONTINUE Sophie on DEPEW...

SUDDENLY ILLUMINATED, Sophie squints and looks up.

BELOW AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE SUN, A SECOND SMALLER SUN NOW SHINES.
The supernova's light has arrived on earth.

EXT. DEPEW'S BACK CHANNEL/MORGA KING ROCK - NOON

Morga King explodes from his reflection and JUGGERNAUTS into the CORNFIELD TREES, blowing them aside, then onto the cornfield. He smashes aside the Civic and VW and ploughs into the woods. We rise and see a TRAIL OF FLIPPING TREES and where he's going: the nearby ROCKY MOUNTAINTOP, the one Charlayne flew over.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - NOON

Morga King slams to a stop and looks up at the twin suns, ROARS at the sky with his open MAWS, falls on his back and opens his INNERMOST MAW. FLAMES roar inside and out belches an ERUPTION of ROILING BLACK CLOUDS.

EXT. DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL - NOON

MORGA, some twenty feet long, jerk and twist in their reflection confinements, about to hatch.

EXT. WOODS NEAR MEGA-FACILITY PERIMETER - NOON

Adrian, Emma, Franklin, Susie and Ramon run toward the fence. Adrian holds the bolt cutters and oven mitt.

EMMA

Adrian, look up!

Her POV: the TWIN SUNS. Adrian looks up.

ADRIAN

The light front.

He pulls out his cell phone.

CONTINUE STAGE AREA...

Ed runs to Ellie on stage, holding her. They both look up. The crowd is terrified, staring at the sky.

USGS SCIENTIST

(checking his smartphone,
turning to the podium mic)

According to NASA we are witnessing a distant supernova's visible light. It originates in the Andromeda system.

(MORE)

USGS SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

There is no danger! It's too far away to harm us! Just don't look directly at it!

In SHADES, many are looking directly at it. Some turn their eyes away. Ellie takes the podium.

ELLIE

Please folks, calm down. We're all gonna be okay. And whoever those vandals are smashing windows, we don't know them!

JOE GAUGE

Yes, you do! They're your damn friends!

Chief Bill's CELL PHONE buzzes.

CHIEF BILL

Adams. Adrian? ... Yes, I see it! We all see it!

INT. ROCK LAYERS BELOW DEPEW - NOON

FX: Standish's exploded HORIZONTAL MEGA-BORE spiderwebs FISSURES upward into solid rock at INCREASING SPEED, racing for the surface.

CONTINUE WOODS NEAR MEGA-FACILITY...

ADRIAN

(on his cell phone)

It's off 109! Dirt road! Right beneath the mountain!

He hangs up and turns to the others.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Okay. Did my best.

Adrian bolt-cuts a hole in the fence as the others crouch, staring upward at the Twin Suns, scared. They shove through and run to behind a pile of PIPES. Susie's EYES DARKEN as she sees something in the sky.

SUSIE

What is that?

What looks like a VOLCANIC ERUPTION spreads outward above the mountain.

EXT. TURNOFF TO DIRT ROAD TO MEGA-FACILITY - NOON

Rick Blake's Xterra turns in and races for the facility. Rick's POV: the erupting mountaintop.

RICK BLAKE
 (low, evil voice)
 Right on time.

CONTINUE Sophie on Depew...

Sophie stares as CRACKS open under the river and the WATER LEVEL DROPS, draining into puffing fissures. She strips her blouse, revealing her ROOT TATTOOS beneath her bra strap. Her back to the drained riverbed, she CROSSES HER HANDS ON HER CHEST and FALLS BACKWARDS toward the rocks.

Her body EXPLODES into an IMMENSE SURGE of water that IMMEDIATELY STILLs. The Twin Suns shine. Trunk and the Six Akeeli burst from their reflections.

TRUNK
 Prepare!

FUZZ
 You got it.

HORNET
 Brave kid.

WEEPER
 Smarter than I thought.

GNOME
 Not over yet.

FUZZ
 Look. It has begun.

They all turn and see the SHADOW STORM racing outward from the mountaintop. Underneath are DARKNESS and HIGH WINDS.

ELBOWS
 Time for a fight.

A LOW RUMBLE shakes the island and CHOPS the still water.

FUZZ
 What's going on?

TRUNK
 Don't know. Not expected.

ELBOWS
 Gonna be too many for us without the Origin.

CONTINUE PILE OF PIPES AT MEGA-FACILITY...

Adrian tilts the glowing hot Origin into the oven mitt. It smokes. The teens' POV: GUARDS at the locked door see SUDDEN DARKNESS above.

A GUARD steps out, looks up, sees the Shadow Storm blot out the Twin Suns. Barks into his walkie-talkie.

ADRIAN

(to Susie)

So, do what you're supposed to do.

SUSIE

Not yet.

FRANKLIN

Jesus, man, I'm dyin' from this.

RAMON

What's your power?

SUSIE

(watching the guards)

Shut up, Ramon.

A THIRD GUARD bursts out of the locked door. It HANGS OPEN. Susie stands and walks out into the open.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

(loud, to the Guards)

Hey!

(to the teens)

Get ready. Okay, let's go.

RAMON

They're gonna shoot us!

SUSIE

Trust me.

She walks fast toward the Guards, who lift their weapons. The four others follow Susie, walking fast toward the Dome. One guard DRAWS a BEAD. Susie raises the PALMS OF HER HANDS. The Guard's EYES GLAZE and the ALL THREE GUARDS GROW STILL.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

(deep breath of relief)

Oh my God, it works.

(to the four others)

Go! Run! We've got one minute!

FRANKLIN

What's your power?

SUSIE

Controlling minds. Everybody in the place at the moment. Go!

The Origin smokes in Adrian's oven mitt. The Five Teens dash for the OPEN DOOR AS...

Rick Blake's Xterra STOPS at the gate and DEMON-RICK emerges. His LEFT SIDE is a STONE DEMON. His RIGHT SIDE is HUMAN. He DRAGS his UNWILLING RIGHT LEG to the gate and SLASHES the fencing away with his LEFT CLAW, then LEAPS like an ANIMAL toward the Dome.

DARKNESS and HIGH WINDS strike as the Shadow Storm flows over the Facility. Demon-Rick is at the door as a GUST slams it shut. He roars in fury and swipes at the three unmoving guards, knocking them each TEN FEET.

CONTINUE DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL...

The Shadow Storm sweeps the riverbanks and HUNDREDS of grotesque MORGA emerge, all sizes. They GRIND across the water, gouging troughs, as spiderwolves swarm out to join them.

We hear Sophie GASP, V.O. AS...

She crawls up from the water surface, HUMAN AGAIN, and the WATER REMAINS. A Morga turns toward her and opens its maw, BUT...

AN ELECTRONIC HUM ... and Trunk swings his limbs, cutting the Morga apart into HOT SPARKLES that vanish into flame holes.

Sophie leans against a tree. The SIX AKEELI form a protective ring around her as Trunk leaps away. A BATTLE begins...

Like a DUAL SWORDSMAN, Elbows whirls into Morga, slashing them apart with his arms. Eyebrows blasts them with lightning from his hidden eyes. Gnome explodes them with low sound pulses. Fuzz bores through them like a flying drill. Weeper cries out and douses their MAW FLAMES with JETS OF TEARS like FIREHOSES. Hornet stings them into DYING SPARKLES. The Akeeli's SONIC SIGNATURES SCREAM, making a WILD MUSIC with each strike... BUT...

We WIDEN and see that under the Shadow Storm, too many more Morga are emerging along both dark shorelines... Six fighters against hundreds...

Like BULLDOZERS, some Morga grind downstream and through the trees, toppling them. Others WALK like GIANT SPIDERS.

EXT. CABIN ALONG RIVER - STORM SHADOW

A large MORGA bursts through the walls into a WOMAN'S KITCHEN. Its crystal tongue twists around her waist. It gulps her into flames.

CONTINUE ON ROCKY MOUNTAINTOP...

Trunk lands with a crash and strikes Morga King, who tumbles and STOPS BELCHING STORM. He roars. They CHARGE each other and CLASH with a SONIC BOOM.

CONTINUE MEGA-FACILITY...

Inside the slammed door, Ramon strips a MACHINE PISTOL from one of FOUR MOTIONLESS GUARDS positioned around the space. Franklin sees and grabs an ASSAULT RIFLE from another.

FRANKLIN
 (to Susie and Emma)
 Get their guns!

SUSIE
 (palms outward, in a crouch)
 I'm a little busy!

Emma shakes her head no. Her POV: Standish, Charlayne and Caswell stand motionless inside the control room. Emma looks at her phone. Franklin and Ramon run to TWO MORE GUARDS and strip their weapons, but neglect their HOLSTERED PISTOLS.

EMMA
 Twenty-seconds in!

Ramon aims the machine pistol upwards and squeezes the trigger. Nothing happens.

RAMON
 Damn.

FRANKLIN
 The safety! Button on the side! Push it to red!

Ramon clicks off the safety and SQUEEZES OFF A BURST.

SUSIE
 (startled)
 Jesus.

RAMON
 Okay, okay, it works!

EMMA
 Twenty-five seconds! Ramon, don't shoot anybody!

Adrian is halfway across the space to the derrick when Demon-Rick tears a hole in the GARAGE DOOR and bursts inside. Franklin, Ramon, Emma and Susie turn and see him.

FRANKLIN
 Mr. Blake?

EMMA
 Oh, Jesus.

DEMON RICK
 Adrian!

Adrian stops and turns, sees Demon-Rick, who hops toward him. The ORIGIN glows RED HOT. Adrian's palm starts to burn. He backs toward the drill hole.

ADRIAN

Mr. Blake? Is that you?

DEMON RICK

(guttural voice)

The Akeeli lied! That Origin will
destroy the world! Your families will
die!

CONTINUE ROCKY MOUNTAINTOP...

FLUNG, TRUNK CRASHES against STONE. Exhausted, he struggles to stand
as Morga King approaches. WIDEN to reveal HUNDREDS OF SPIDERWOLVES
surrounding them, closing in.

CONTINUE MEGA-FACILITY...

ADRIAN

No. No.

DEMON RICK

(guttural voice)

They've used us all along! Look what
they did to me!

ADRIAN

You don't sound like Mr. Blake. Mr.
Blake?

EMMA

(to Susie)

Thirty-five seconds!

DEMON RICK

(guttural voice)

When they wake up, these men will kill
you! I'll protect you!

Demon-Rick follows Adrian under the derrick. His RIGHT ROCK-CLIMBER'S
HAND grabs a stanchion. The demon side GRABS the RIGHT ARM, struggles
against it and yanks loose the iron grip.

DEMON RICK (CONT'D)

(guttural voice)

Give it to me, Adrian.

The DEMON CLAW opens but RICK'S HUMAN HAND waves, as if saying "Don't
do it."

EMMA

Fifteen seconds left!

Adrian turns and runs toward the hole. Demon-Rick leaps from his STONE
LEG and tackles Adrian. The Origin BREAKS from his grip and rolls
toward the hole but STOPS an inch from the edge. Adrian STRUGGLES.
Demon-Rick BALLS HIS STONE FIST and raises it to punch Adrian's face...

BUT...

Rick's RIGHT HAND DEFLECTS the FIST. It CRACKS THE CONCRETE. CLOSE on Rick's agonized HUMAN FACE as his RIGHT LEG TWISTS AROUND THE STONE LEG like a WRESTLER. Freed, Adrian scrambles backwards. His POV: Demon-Rick is FIGHTING HIMSELF.

DEMON RICK

(his RIGHT FACE, normal voice)

Go, Adrian! Go!!!

ADRIAN

Mr. Blake! That you?

DEMON RICK

(his RIGHT FACE, normal voice)

Go!!!

Adrian fast crawls the last few feet and SLIDES ON HIS BELLY, ARM OUTSTRETCHED toward the now FLAMING Origin. CLOSE on his HAND, PALM BURNED, reaching for it, BUT...

CLOSE on the DEMON HAND as it GRIPS HIS ANKLE...

CLOSE on Rick's HUMAN HAND PRYING at its grip, BLOOD OOZING... UNTIL...

The demon hand RELEASES...

The FOUR GUARDS AWAKEN along with Standish, Charlayne and Caswell in the Control Room. CLOSE on Standish as he SEES the red hot Origin near his gas shaft.

CLOSE on Adrian's FROSTBITTEN FINGERTIP as he flicks the Origin in SLOW MOTION OVER THE EDGE.

The Origin FALLS down past THICK BLACK CABLES into DARKNESS.

DEMON RICK (CONT'D)

(guttural voice)

No!!!

A RUMBLE from UNDERGROUND. The concrete FLOOR bounces as an EARTHQUAKE strikes.

Demon-Rick lies on his FACE, GASPING and BOUNCING.

EVERYONE FALLS, unable to stand. In the control room Standish, Charlayne and Caswell topple over desks and fall to the floor. Objects fall from the derrick and ceiling.

INT. CHIEF BILL'S CRUISER - STORM SHADOW

Chief Bill SKIDS AROUND a MORGA. His POV: TWO LOCAL COP CRUISERS, lights flashing, follow on the BOUNCING ROAD as CRACKS spiderweb the asphalt. Chief Bill's squad car jolts. He swerves.

CHIEF BILL

Jesus!

(regains control)

All right, Adrian. Sure as hell ain't fumes.

EXT. DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL - STORM SHADOW

Sophie hugs herself beneath a tree in the MIDST OF THE BATTLE and feels the earthquake. Elbows flies by, swinging at Morga. Fuzz shoots through another. Gnome sound-punches another nearby. Weeper shoots tears.

A UNIQUE, LOW, FUNDAMENTAL SOUND PULSE shakes the island.

ELBOWS

The Origin!

GNOME

I don't believe it.

FUZZ

Free the Akeeli army!

OTHER AKEELI begin to EMERGE from REFLECTIONS along the shoreline...

BUT...

The riverbed RUMBLES OPEN and the WATER POURS DOWN into a yawning CHASM. The REFLECTION DOORS CLOSE. HALF-FORMED AKEELI flop and fall into the chasm.

FUZZ (CONT'D)

No!

GNOME

Told you.

Morga roar and MORE EMERGE, slamming the Akeeli and swarming them.

CONTINUE ON ROCKY MOUNTAINTOP...

Trunk is OVERRUN by SPIDERWOLVES that leap and BITE HIM. SPARKLES pour from him. He falls. Morga King flops onto his back and belches out more STORM.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOODS OUTSIDE TOWN - STORM SHADOW

MORGA burst into HOUSES and SUCK PEOPLE IN.

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE RALLY STAGE - DAY

Ellie, Ed and OTHERS on stage stare as the Storm Shadow sweeps toward town. BUILDINGS in the distance COLLAPSE. Fires explode. The CROWD panics and runs. Joe Gauge and Patty Gauge see advancing Morga. People are trampled.

CONTINUE DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL...

CLOSE on Sophie. Morga and spiderwolves have swarmed her protectors. She remembers Trunk's words (begin V.O.). She slowly gets up and walks to the chasm, turns to face us, closes her eyes and crosses her hands on her chest. CLOSE on her eyes. She looks radiant and at peace.

TRUNK

(V.O.)

For this arrival we depend on it, in this river, to emerge. If it's too high our doorways disappear. Too low, we become too heavy to move. For Morga, it does not matter. They worship death, and can take any shape.

Sophie falls backwards.

WATER EXPLODES and fills the chasm. The water level rises back to the Akeeli DOORWAYS.

Along the river, the AKEELI ARMY surges forth, THOUSANDS of petreflectors in all shapes and sizes.

CONTINUE MEGA-FACILITY...

The earthquake passes. Scared, Franklin and Ramon aim weapons at the UNSURE GUARDS. Standish, Charlayne and Caswell stagger from the control room. Charlayne sees Demon-Rick as he slowly rises. She stares in horror.

CHARLAYNE

Rick?

Pieces of HOT STONE fall off his FACE and BODY, revealing his FORMER SELF, underneath. He's gasping.

RICK BLAKE

(to Charlayne)

Never ... should have ... touched you. I know what you're doing here.

Emma and Susie run and kneel by him. Standish and Charlayne walk to the drill hole and look down suspiciously. A RUMBLE builds below. Harlow draws a PISTOL and yells at Franklin and Ramon. Charlayne stands behind Harlow.

HARLOW

Who you gonna shoot, boys? Gonna shoot those men?

Franklin and Ramon are scared and confused, but keep their weapons up.

RICK BLAKE
Don't. Don't do it! You're good kids!

HARLOW
(recognizing Ramon)
Look. It's Houdini boy. Back again?

Harlow aims at Adrian.

HARLOW (CONT'D)
Why don't we all just calm down?

The guards' hands move slowly toward their HOLSTERED SIDEARMS.

HARLOW (CONT'D)
(to Ramon and Franklin)
You want killin' on your soul?
(to Adrian, with hate)
But you. You rolled somethin' hot into
my gas mine. I don't appreciate
sabotage. Hope your mother misses you.
She oughta be dead herself.

He FIRES and hits Adrian in the HEART. In SLOW MOTION Adrian staggers
and falls. CLOSE on his face as he hits the floor: his EYES GO EMPTY.
He's DEAD.

EMMA
(screams)
No! No!

Franklin drops his guns and runs to Adrian. Emma follows and falls to
him. Ramon swings his weapon back and forth at the guards. Susie
falls to her knees, giving up.

RAMON
(to Standish)
You son of a bitch! You son of a bitch!

Ramon releases a BURST OF BULLETS upward. The guards' hands near their
holsters HESITATE.

EMMA
Adrian! Adrian!

Standish swings his gun toward Ramon.

HARLOW
Hey, Houdini!

Inches from Harlow and Charlayne, the WELL SHAFT EXPLODES upwards in a
COLUMN OF FLAME. Too close, Harlow and Charlayne burst into FLAMES.

INT. DRILL SHAFT - DARKNESS

In the shaft a thousand feet down, the Origin is now THREE FEET WIDE,
white hot and growing. EXPLOSIVE FLAMES pour from its upper surface.

CONTINUE MEGA-FACILITY...

A FIREBALL surges up the derrick toward the dome's ceiling, hits it, and FLOWS DOWN TOWARD EVERYBODY. Morga burst in through the walls. Franklin picks up Adrian and runs. EVERYBODY RUNS for the door, including the guards. Susie helps Rick Blake, his STONE SKIN NOW GONE, stagger for the door. Emma runs alongside Franklin, eyes full of tears, staring at limp Adrian.

EXT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - STORM SHADOW

Chief Bill RAMS the gates with his cruiser. The other two CRUISERS follow and skid to a stop. Chief Bill's POV: FIGURES run from a door into the yard: Guards. Ramon. Franklin holding Adrian with Emma. Susie helping Rick Blake. As they clear the door a JET OF FLAMES just misses them. Under the Storm Shadow, Morga smash facility walls and grind toward them. The cops fire at them.

DEPUTY #1

How do you shoot a goddamn rock?

AKEELI suddenly FLY IN and ATTACK the Morga, vaporizing them.

EXT. STANDISH MEGA-RIG FACILITY - STORM SHADOW

CLOSE on Franklin as he runs to the PIPES and sets Adrian's body down.

RAMON

(to the COPS, pointing to the guards)

Get them! Get them!

His back on fire, Caswell staggers and collapses.

CHIEF BILL

Do as he says!

Chief Bill and COPS draw on the guards, who raise their hands and drop their sidearms. The dome's roof EXPLODES and a COLUMN OF FLAME surges into the dark sky. Akeeli fly off down the Storm Shadow's edge, killing other Morga.

EXT. STANDISH FACILITY BEHIND STACK OF PIPES - STORM SHADOW

Franklin kneels next to Adrian's body. CLOSE on Franklin as the explosion's light flashes. He's sweating, staring at Adrian. Emma kneels. Susie and Rick Blake stand, watching. Ramon watches, tears in his eyes. BACK TO FRANKLIN: he looks at his friends and down at Adrian.

FRANKLIN

Say your prayers, people.

He puts one HAND ON HIS HEART and extends the OTHER toward Adrian's BLOODY CHEST.

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

Okay. Start now.

CLOSE on Adrian's CHEST. A BULLET wiggles from his chest and hovers away. Franklin squeezes his eyes shut, dripping sweat, and puts his HAND ON ADRIAN'S HEART. Chief Bill runs up, sees, looks DEVASTATED.

BEAT.

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

Come on.

Nothing.

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

Come on, Flanders.

CHIEF BILL

What?

EMMA

Shhhh!

FX: The HOLE in Adrian's HEART CLOSES and the heart starts to beat.

Adrian's eyes open and he takes a deep breath, looks up, sees them. Rick Blake lets go of Susie and falls to his knees. Emma kisses Adrian and drips tears on his face. Franklin rocks back on his knees.

FRANKLIN

Son of a bitch, it works. Truly dank.

CONTINUE MOUNTAINTOP...

A PLATOON of AKEELI tear spiderwolves from Trunk's back, killing them. He looks around. Morga King is gone. Trunk strides to the outcrop's edge and sees him RETREATING across the cornfield toward the river. Trunk LEAPS INTO SPACE... and LANDS on Morga King's BACK. He PLUNGES A FIST inside.

FX: From INSIDE Morga King we see Trunk's HAND probing LEVEL AFTER LEVEL until it reaches FLAMES.

Trunk pulls forth a MAN-SIZED bag of slime, like a BIG ANT EGG, and drops it, then hauls out MORE BAGS. Morga King roars in agony. Trunk FORCES OPEN his MAW and TEARS OUT the CRYSTAL TONGUE, then tears open each INNER MAW until he reaches the flames.

TRUNK

Gua epir!

Morga King SHUDDERS and EXPLODES into sparks.

EXT. COURTHOUSE SQUARE - DAY

FLEEING PEOPLE trample Joe Gauge and Patty Gauge as they trip and fall. CLOSE on the Gauges' faces as they look back. Their POV: a MORGA'S MAW is open. Its TONGUE wraps Joe's ankle then TURNS to SAND and COLLAPSES. The Morga turns to an INANIMATE BOULDER. Its SPIDER LEGS drop to the street, now TREE LIMBS. WIDEN to reveal various MORGA as they BURST through BUILDING WALLS and grind to a halt, boulders again.

CONTINUE DEPEW ISLAND AND OTHER LOCATIONS...

OUTSIDE HOMES, ALONG ROADS, along the river, the FULL ARMY of AKEELI destroy Morga like flying army ants devouring large insects. Suddenly the Morga roar and turn to steaming BOULDERS. The spiderwolves YELP and turn to ROCKS and STICKS, suddenly ILLUMINATED by SUNSHINE. The Akeeli hover, the battle over. The Storm Shadow dissipates. BOULDERS that have shoved halfway into houses grow still.

CONTINUE ORIGIN SPHERE IN MINE SHAFT...

A LOW SOUND slowly builds as the Origin PULSES until... IT LIQUIFIES into MAGMA and EXPLODES.

CONTINUE STANDISH MEGA-FACILITY...

Cops shove agonized Caswell and the Guards into cruisers. Adrian has his arm around Emma. Susie talks and gestures to an astounded Chief Bill. Ramon hands over his weapon to a COP as Franklin looks on. The Morga have stilled. THEN...

The LOW SOUND grows louder AS...a COLUMN of FLAME explodes upward from the dome's roof.

EVERYBODY staggers back. The dome COLLAPSES into WHITE HOT LIGHT and MELTS. FRACKING FLUID TRUCKS slide on their wheels toward it. Pipes in the yard CLANG and roll toward it. They are sucked into the earth.

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - DAY

The rig explodes and melts into the earth. WIDEN to reveal RIGS ACROSS MONROE COUNTY exploding into columns of flame.

FX: THE MARCELLUS SHALE beneath MONROE COUNTY...Spiderwebs of MAGMA surge through the SHALE. FISSURES GRIND SHUT.

CONTINUE DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL...

The chasm grinds shut, shaking trees, as river water flows across the NEW RIVERBED. The Lesser Akeeli dive back into their doorways and are gone. No sign of Sophie. The island and riverbed are dotted with boulders. Dead TREE LIMBS float away from them, moved by the water.

CONTINUE COURTHOUSE SQUARE...

The COURTHOUSE TOWER'S CRACK WIDENS and it crashes to the STREET. PEOPLE run. On the stage, Ed and Ellie hold each other. Ellie's cell phone buzzes.

ELLIE

Yeah?

BILL

(V.O.)

Ellie, I got Adrian here. He's ... he's ... okay. You won't believe what I've just seen.

She looks at a BOULDER inches from the stage.

ELLIE

Try me.

CONTINUE STANDISH MEGA-FACILITY...

As Trunk lands with a crash, the Six Akeeli hover down to before Chief Bill, the cops, the prisoners in the cruisers, Adrian, Emma, Franklin, Ramon, Susie and Rick Blake. Bill is on his cell phone with Ellie.

CHIEF BILL

(astounded)

Wait a minute.

The teens step forward to the Akeeli as the others hang back, awed. Rick hangs back.

ADRIAN

(to Trunk)

Where's Sophie? She okay?

TRUNK

She chose to use her power twice.

SUSIE

What? What does that mean?

TRUNK

She saved us. All of us.

The realization that Sophie is dead dawns on them.

EMMA

Oh god. Her power. What was it?

FUZZ

Water.

HORNET

Lots of it.

TRUNK

It was her choice. She chose it bravely. Remember her.

Susie and Emma sob. Adrian, Ramon and Franklin are devastated. So is Rick.

TRUNK (CONT'D)
 (to Chief Bill)
 Remember what you have seen.

Dumbstruck, Chief Bill nods. CLOSE on Chief Bill's eyes. He sees something on the ground -- SHADOWS of the Akeeli cast by the Twin Suns. The other officers see them, too. For a split second, the shadows resemble those of WINGED ANGELS until the Akeeli hover upward and the shadows disappear. Chief Bill blinks, unsure of what he's seen.

TRUNK (CONT'D)
 (to the teens)
 Thank you.

The six Akeeli tilt, as if bowing. Trunk turns to Rick Blake.

TRUNK (CONT'D)
 Humph.
 (he nods in approval)
 Human hands.

Rick looks at his RIGHT HAND and nods. Trunk slowly looks around him.

TRUNK (CONT'D)
 Sacred ground.

Trunk leaps away over the mountain, followed by the Six.

CONTINUE DEPEW ISLAND'S MAIN CHANNEL...

Each Akeeli dives into his DOORWAY and is gone.

CONTINUE STANDISH MEGA-FACILITY...

Chief Bill stares at the teens, as if seeing people he's never seen before. They embrace in a GROUP HUG. CLOSE on their circle of exhausted faces from BELOW.

ADRIAN
 Thanks, Franklin.

FRANKLIN
 Kicked it, man.

SUSIE
 Can't believe Sophie's ...

EMMA
 She was always too brave.

BEAT. They all close their eyes, remembering.

RAMON
 (suddenly realizing)
 Adrian. Your power, man. When did you use it?

Adrian looks at the others and half-smiles.

ADRIAN
Never did. Gonna hold on to it.

They all look up at the twin suns, light on their faces.

CREDITS ROLL to DUBSTEP. THEN...

EXT. CORNFIELDS NEAR SHORELINE OF RIVER - DAY

Between the WRECKED CIVIC and VW, the pile of slimy eggs lies still. CLOSE on one EGG. From inside, FINGERS tear the SLIME SHELL AWAY. Deputy Jonah Barnes emerges, gasping for breath. He crawls out, naked. Other eggs move, hands inside.

MORE CREDITS, THEN...

EXT. FLANDERS FARM - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: ONE YEAR LATER

Ellie and Ed are interviewed by a FEMALE TV REPORTER in front of their farm. The Water Buffalo is gone. In BG, their former rig area is enclosed by a WHITE PICKET FENCE near a PARKING LOT FULL OF CARS. Inside the fence, PEOPLE walk the grass, looking down, then up.

FEMALE TV REPORTER
One year after an extraordinary geological event that remains a mystery to science, citizens in this small Pennsylvania community have come together over what the fracking industry have termed wild assertions about the unexplained disappearance of billions of dollars worth of equipment, formerly in place here in Monroe County.

QUICK SHOTS of FENCED-IN former FRACK SITES.

FEMALE TV REPORTER (CONT'D)
Standish Oil and Gas, whose president, Harlow Standish, disappeared in the event, is still attempting to sue for damages. However, with no photographic evidence of any kind surviving what locals, even some police, are calling the appearance of angels and demons, Standish's case may soon be thrown out of court. Psychologists have labeled what took place here a mass psychosis in the face of a natural disaster.

QUICK SHOTS of STREAMS.

FEMALE TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

With videos of sworn police testimony about angels gone viral, attention has been non-stop for over a year. To add to the mystery, EPA reports that all groundwater and soil in Monroe County, Pennsylvania test clean of all contaminants. Tourists from around the world are flocking to what some claim is America's first Holy Site.

QUICK SHOTS of PEOPLE walking the fenced-in SITES.

FEMALE TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

Hotels and local shops are full, and local produce is bringing extraordinary prices.

She turns to Ed.

FEMALE TV REPORTER (CONT'D)

Ed Flanders is a local farmer here on the site where one of the wells stood. Mr. Flanders?

ED

We got the purest groundwater around. Want a free range organic chicken? Buy Monroe County brand. Costs more, but hey, these chickens drink the best water on God's earth.

MORE CREDITS, THEN...

EXT. JOE GAUGE'S COMPOUND - DAY

Joe Gauge stands by a fenced-in former frack pad, taking admission dollars from TOURISTS. His three WATER BUFFALO are gone.

MORE CREDITS, THEN...

EXT. DEPEW'S MAIN CHANNEL - DAY

A YOUNG NATURALIST walks SCHOOLCHILDREN along Depew's shore. She kneels in the shallow water and the kids do so as well.

YOUNG NATURALIST

Now, tilt your heads. You'll see angels.

SCHOOLKID

Where?

YOUNG NATURALIST

In the reflections, on the water. Keep looking. They're there. Just have to look to see 'em.