

THE TELLING ROOM

by

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1 **INT. WALTER PARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT**

1

A man's hand strikes a match and lights a candle above his desk. Spread out on the desk are unsigned letters of invitation to a secret event. The man picks up a pen and signs: 'WALTER PARKS', checking names off a list as he completes his invites. We see only his hands.

Meticulously, he folds the invites and tucks them into envelopes, stamping them closed with an eerie wax seal.

The camera follows his hand as he places the envelopes in a pile, and pans across addressed envelopes, stacks of books, name tags, candles, newspaper clippings depicting a dark figure called The Caretaker, a disturbing griffin creature, a horrible curse, the appearance of a serial killer in Stonelake City, the 'WANTED' poster of a young man, and finally settles on a newspaper article showing a picture of a beautiful old castle set amongst the trees. The headline reads: 'MURDER AT PARKS MANOR.'

The camera pushes in to the photograph and transitions into the real life Parks Manor.

2 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - NIGHT**

2

Establishing shot of Parks Manor. It's a beautiful old stone castle, with well established gardens and ivy-clad trees. The garden lamps cast an eerie glow across the grounds as the camera takes a dive down, through the prolific flower beds, and underground.

3 **INT. TUNNELS UNDER PARKS MANOR - NIGHT**

3

A dirty boot thumps into a puddle. The camera pushes in between wooden stilts on a dilapidated staircase, revealing a man in an trench coat, fedora hat and baggy trousers walking towards another, less dilapidated staircase. We cannot see his face. This is THE CARETAKER. The camera follows him and pans around and up to reveal an old white door set in the stone walls at the top of the stair case, and a lantern hanging nearby.

4 **INT. THE TELLING ROOM - NIGHT**

4

The Caretaker steps into The Telling Room, holding a lantern, and closes the old white door behind him. The camera pans as he crosses the room to an old wooden desk and chair. To the right is another wooden staircase leading further up into the castle. He sets down his lantern and pulls open a drawer, retrieving something shielded from view. In the shadow, we still can't see his face. He climbs the staircase.

5 **INT. PARKS MANOR MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT**

5

TRACKING SHOT:

The camera sweeps across a luxurious bedroom decorated in red and mahogany, showing a couple fast asleep. This is TONY PARKS and MARTHA PARKS.

MARTHA
Tony!

TONY
Martha!

MARTHA
Wake up!

Tony flies out of bed and grabs hold of the Caretaker as he raises the knife to Martha. They struggle, the Caretaker clinging to the baby, Martha pulling at his arms, and Tony trying to protect her and his son.

TONY
Hey! Put the knife down!

MARTHA
Give him to me!

TONY
Leave her! Face me!

Martha manages to wrest her baby from The Caretaker's arms. He turns to look into Tony's eyes. We still cannot see his face.

MARTHA (IN THE BACKGROUND)
Stop this!

SLOW MOTION, PUSH IN: TONY'S FACE

Tony cannot believe what he is seeing.

Momentarily stunned, Tony loses grip of the Caretaker's arm and the Caretaker stabs Martha in the chest.

12 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - GARGOYLES - NIGHT** 12

The camera flashes to a stone Griffin sitting atop a wall on the castle, and an eerie sound echoes through the grounds.

13 **INT. PARKS MANOR MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT** 13

Martha falls to the ground holding her baby. Tony watches the scene unfold, disoriented.

TONY
Martha!

The Caretaker punches Tony in the stomach and throws him to the ground. He snatches the baby from the dying Martha, and jumps out of the bedroom window. Tony crawls to his wife's side.

TONY
Martha!

MARTHA

Tony! Save him!

Tony struggles to his feet and half falls/leaps out of the window.

14 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - NIGHT**

14

He lands heavily in the foliage outside his bedroom window, injuring his ankle.

TONY

Get back here!

The camera moves from his position up and over the castle, and across the grounds. Tony stumbles down a garden path set between large stone pillars overgrown with granadilla vines. He's out of breath and terror-struck, searching desperately for the Caretaker and his son.

TONY

Where are you?!

Behind him, he hears his son's cry and turns, looking up to see the Caretaker marching on the stepped ground above him. He leans against one of the pillars in an effort to support himself. He does not see the rotting wooden trap door at his feet as he rushes toward his son. He steps onto the trap door. CRACK! It splinters beneath him and he takes a terrible fall down into darkness and, THUMP.

15 **INT. THE TELLING ROOM - NIGHT**

15

A light bulb flickers violently, a terrible buzzing sound, and finally turns on. Tony's eyes open under the dim light. He looks around him, disoriented and concussed. He tries to push himself up to his knees, but he's injured and weak. Overwrought and grief-stricken, he calls for his wife.

TONY

Martha! Why?!

The light flickers. Tony looks up to see someone standing off screen.

TONY

You!

Track back to reveal the Caretaker holding the knife in his right hand, watching Tony struggle in pain. Filled with rage, and dying from a broken heart, Tony points directly at the Caretaker and curses him, the splintered wood from the trap door rattling and beginning to levitate around him as, in his rage and terror, his magical ability manifests.

TONY

You will forever be cursed!

The Caretaker, holding the baby in his other arm, raises the knife high, then swings it violently toward Tony. The screen cuts to black as Tony's son screams.

TRACK BACKWARDS:

The camera pulls out of the dark Telling Room at an angle, through the old white door and into the gloomy dim light of the underground tunnel, twisting away to reveal the film's title, floating in the air.

THE TELLING ROOM.

Lights flicker in the tunnel as the camera hurtles back down the tunnel, away from the title card and Tony's son continues to scream.

20 YEARS LATER

16 **INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

16

An old projector flashes images onto a wall, one after the other, all of grizzly murders.

MAYOR

Alright, that's enough. Hit the lights. I need answers.

The lights flick on. The Mayor of Stonelake City looks to the two policemen, CARL and JASPER, seated at the table with him. Next to Carl is his assistant, LISA, and a well dressed man known as a wealthy benefactor of the town: WALTER PARKS.

CARL

Sir, we think the Occultists are back.

MAYOR

And you want me to publish that? So far as the people of the City are concerned, they're gone, and gone for good.

WALTER PARKS

What about you, Mr. Mayor? What do you think?

MAYOR

It doesn't matter what I think. It's what I say that matters!

Jasper walks around the table and shows a photograph to the Mayor.

JASPER

Sir...

The Mayor takes a look at the photograph.

MAYOR

Looks like a raving lunatic! Is this the fellow you've been interviewing?

JASPER

His name is Chuck Simmons. And he has quite a story, sir.

MAYOR

No Occultists?

JASPER

An animal.

MAYOR

Perfect! That'll buy us time!

Walter Parks and Lisa look surprised and indignant.

WALTER PARKS

This guy was admitted to a housing facility for the mentally ill! His story is not for the benefit of the people!

MAYOR

Sometimes, Mr. Parks, the right thing to do is not always the best thing.

The Mayor sets the photograph down on the table and gets up, satisfied that the meeting is over. Walter watches him go, discomfited.

CLOSE-UP - PHOTOGRAPH

A man with white hair and mad eyes gives an unsettling stare. Words and symbols are painted on the walls behind him in blood. The man in the picture is CHUCK SIMMONS.

17 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - DAY**

17

AERIAL ESTABLISHING SHOT

A city that looks older than today, reminiscent of the industrial revolution, but with the clear stamp of modern life.

Old cars drive slowly through the streets and people walk around leisurely.

AERIAL ESTABLISHING SHOT

Stonelake City dotted with green trees.

18 **EXT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

18

ESTABLISHING SHOT

The apartment is built above a busy street. The door on the second story bangs open and a young man, 20, dressed like an artist, sheets of paper clamped between his teeth, shuts the door behind him. This is the MAGICIAN. His landlord, SAM, hurries up the stairs.

SAM

I hope I've caught you at a good time! I came to remind you about -

MAGICIAN

Patience, Sam, patience! The money will come! I promise! Just as soon as I turn this city around.

Sam rolls his eyes and the Magician walks off.

19 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - DAY**

19

The city is bustling on a busy morning. Two cars pull off from an intersection.

RACK FOCUS TO:

A missing person's poster pasted to a telephone pole. The poster shows a young girl, missing since July.

The Magician makes his way down the street, amongst a throng of people on their way to work. There are missing person's posters up all over. A woman passing him runs into another pedestrian and drops her scarf. The Magician swipes it off the ground as she looks around for it and disappears round the corner, wrapping it around his neck as he goes.

20 **EXT. STONELAKE PRINTING COMPANY - DAY**

20

The Magician runs into an office building.

BOOM UP TO REVEAL:

The name of the building is: "STONELAKE PRINTING CO."

21 **INT. PRINTING COMPANY BOARDROOM - DAY**

21

Five people sit around a table. MR BAGGOT, his SECRETARY, HERBERT, the ACCOUNTANT, and an ASSISTANT.

MR BAGGOT

Well, go on, Herbert, tell everyone that joke. You know, the funny one.

HERBERT

(laughing) The one about the four birds and the dragon?

MR BAGGOT

I don't know, the funny one. No one laughs at any of the others.

The Magician hurries into the room.

MAGICIAN

Morning everyone!

MR BAGGOT

Oh, at last! Herbert was just about to tell us another terrible joke.

The Magician takes his seat.

MAGICIAN

Sorry to keep you all waiting. I see I'm a little bit late.

MR BAGGOT

Dreadfully! You need to work on that, son! Or - whatever your name is.

Mr Baggot pulls a paper folder full of documents from under a coffee mug sitting on the table behind him. The coffee spills all over without him noticing.

MR BAGGOT

(groans) There's coffee all over this case folder!

He passes the case folder to his secretary, who passes it down the table to the Magician.

MR BAGGOT

I want this written today. Orders from the Mayor himself!

The Magician opens the folder and takes a look. It's a case file full of newspaper clippings, research, and notes on the Stonelake disappearances and murders, including a bizarre theory about the infamous Occultists, and a monstrous beast. The Magician flicks through and reads aloud.

MAGICIAN

The verbal account of Chuck Simmons...lived in a mental home and is now in prison because he was a danger to the other patients...He knows who's behind the Stonelake vanishings. The guy's his best friend: a great and terrible hell-beast.

(scoffs)

Are you guys listening to this? How can his best friend also be a great

(MORE)

MAGICIAN (cont'd)
and terrible hell-beast? Is he a
man or is he an animal?

MR BAGGOT
You've missed out a whole bunch of
stuff by skipping through the pages
like that!

MAGICIAN
It's called skim-reading, sir.

MR BAGGOT
It's called what?

MAGICIAN
I said coffee spilled all over the
case folder. I can't read it.

MR BAGGOT
Well, are you going to write the
story or not?

MAGICIAN
Of course not! No one should write
it.

MR BAGGOT
Well, that settles it then. You'll
take over Herb's job as the press
operator, because Herb will be
taking over yours.

Herbert looks pleased. The Magician gets up and throws the
case folder at Mr Baggot.

MAGICIAN
It's filthy anyway.

He pulls the door open.

MAGICIAN
Do you know why there's coffee all
over the case folder, Mr. Baggot?

MR BAGGOT
No. Why?

MAGICIAN
Nevermind.

He slams the door.

22 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - EVENING**

22

AERIAL SHOT MOVING OVER THE CITY IN THE EARLY EVENING. SMOKE
BILLOWS FROM A NEARBY FACTORY. LIGHTS BLINK ALL OVER THE
CITY.

The camera pans across a crowded bar. A dancer in a tight little black number performs as people drink, socialize and move about. A jazz duo perform in the corner. The manager taps her wrist at the dancer: her time is up.

DOLLY IN

A raucous group of men sit laughing and drinking around a table in the corner. The Magician walks up to their table and pulls out two lewd playing cards depicting nude models.

MAGICIAN

I have two lovely females here!

The men around him aren't taking too much notice. They crack jokes and jeer a bit. The Magician holds up one of the cards.

MAGICIAN

And I will make this lovely missus disappear! If I do, twenty bucks.

The men all laugh, disbelieving.

MAGICIAN

One...two...three!

With a flick of his hand, the Magician disappears the card. The men quiet down and stare at him.

MAGICIAN

It's gone! It's gone? Yes, it's gone! Check your pockets - now!

The men all begin checking their pockets. One of them, with long white hair, missing a hand, pulls the risqué card out of his shirt pocket. The men all gasp and holler. The Magician is pleased with himself.

MAGICIAN

Twenty bucks!

One of the men hands over a twenty dollar bill.

MAN 1

Don't spend it all at once!

MAGICIAN

Good evening, gents.

The Magician walks off to the bar and sits next to a young lady, also around 20. She's been watching the group of men. This is JUNE SUMMERS.

JUNE

So, you're a magician, huh?

MAGICIAN

Cardician, actually - er - it means
I know a few magic tricks- not -
not that I'm a -

JUNE

I didn't say you were.

MAGICIAN

Right...

JUNE

Magicians aren't very common
nowadays.

June is staring at the group of men. She seems very
interested.

MAGICIAN

Maybe the ones that are around are
a bit too afraid of being
criticized.

JUNE

Try me.

MAGICIAN

I'm sorry?

JUNE

I want to see if you can impress
someone who isn't already drunk.

MAGICIAN

Alright...well..

The Magician takes out his deck of cards, spreading several
on the bar counter.

MAGICIAN

Choose it only in your mind. Don't
stare.

June looks at the cards and then nods at the Magician. He
starts collecting the cards. Suddenly, Walter slams
violently into him, knocking his cards everywhere.

WALTER PARKS

Sorry! Some drunk just pushed me -
I -

MAGICIAN

Don't worry about it.

WALTER PARKS

I'll get you another drink!

MAGICIAN
 (irritated at the
 interruption)
 No, I'm fine, thanks.

WALTER PARKS
 Alright.

Walter sees the cards on the bar counter and becomes immediately interested.

WALTER PARKS
 So, you're a magician? You know, I own a theatre, and I'm looking for new talent.

MAGICIAN
 I'm not interested in theatre, ok?

WALTER PARKS
 I see.

MAGICIAN
 (to June)
 Put your hand down your shirt.

WALTER PARKS
 Ma'am, is this guy bothering you?
 Because I can -

Walter's words fade as she ignores him and puts her hand down her shirt. She pulls out her chosen card and stares. She turns to Walter.

JUNE
 I can handle myself.

Walter is unimpressed, and moves off.

MAGICIAN
 Look, I'm really sorry about that,
 ok -

JUNE
 I think we're done for tonight, Mr. Magician. Maybe there are better ways to talk to a girl.

June tosses her card down and stalks off. The Magician is speechless. He laughs cynically to himself and then, furious, tosses her card across the room. It wedges into the bathroom door like a knife. The group of men in the corner look on, incredulous and suspicious. The one handed man stands to get a better look at who threw the card, but he's gone.

24 **EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

24

The Magician walks down a dimly lit street, sipping from a beer bottle, looking bleak. Around a corner, two people are arguing. A middle-aged man who is the CRIMELORD, and a young girl, 13, who is PENNY.

CRIMELORD

Look, Penny, all I'm asking is if she had one. Yes, or no?

PENNY

I tried my best. I promise.

CRIMELORD

We are talking about an old lady! A granny!

PENNY

She saw me coming, and there was a man with her -

CRIMELORD

That's not what you said the first time!

The Magician listens carefully from around the corner. He's concerned.

CRIMELORD

Ok. All I'm trying to say is, this information is what keeps you and me alive!

Penny cringes as Crimelord loses his temper.

CRIMELORD

We should be finding them! And clearly, you're not doing anything to help the situation, are you?! Need I remind you how it was living on the streets? No food! No home! No mama! Eating from the dumpster! Do you wanna go back to that?

The Magician enters boldly from around the corner.

MAGICIAN

Hey! Why don't you leave the poor little girl alone, huh?

ANGLE ON:

The Crimelord puts his hand on his gun.

CRIMELORD

You're talking to a very dangerous man, mister!

He pulls out his gun and points it at the Magician.

CRIMELORD

And I think that's close enough.

MAGICIAN

Who's the girl?

CRIMELORD

She's my daughter. You happy now?
Now run along, and leave us to our
little conversation!

MAGICIAN

A little girl shouldn't be working
on the streets!
(tossing his beer bottle
into the wall, it
shatters)
And I refuse to believe she's your
daughter!

CRIMELORD

Ah for god's sakes man!

The Crimelord turns the gun back on the Magician. The Magician watches him, thinking he's bluffing. He takes a step towards him and Crimelord pulls the trigger. BAM! It misses the Magician. The Magician is just as surprised as Crimelord. Crimelord aims and is about to pull the trigger again. Just as the gun is about to fire, the Magician swings his arm towards the Crimelord violently, as if punching a bag. Magically, the gun is swept out of the Crimelord's hand. It bounces against the wall and clatters to the ground. The Magician stumbles back. His heart is pumping with adrenaline, his right arm still in the air, breathing heavily and eyes wide.

PENNY

He is my father, if you must know.

Slowly, the Magician lowers his arm and stares at Penny. He's visibly shocked. She stares back.

PENNY

You're one of them, aren't you? The
ones who hide. I don't need your
help.

CRIMELORD

You heard the girl! Now leave! This
city doesn't need people like you!

The Magician turns and runs. Crimelord stares after him.

CRIMELORD

Follow him.

Penny gives her father a withering look and then follows the Magician. Crimelord picks up the gun, looking disturbed.

25 **INT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 25

A calm, quiet stillness.

The Magician crashes through the door, mad as hell. He sweeps some nick-nacks off a shelf in a rage and throws his scarf onto the floor. He sees a stool in the corner of the room and immediately reaches out for it, levitating it with his telekinetic powers, and hurls it against the wall above his bed. It bounces off and splinters on the floor. He throws himself onto his bed, worn out and drained of all energy, and cries.

26 **EXT. BROKEN DOWN WALL - DAY (FLASH BACK)** 26

ANGLE ON: A PLANK falls down towards the camera, landing on a piece of brick.

WIDE ANGLE: The plank has just made a bridge across a dangerous gap in a brick wall with a very long drop. Brendon - 10 years old - confidently walks across it.

ANGLE ON: Annette's feet.

RACK FOCUS TO: A young Magician - 8 years old - standing in fear, staring at this very unsafe bridge.

Annette - 9 years old - successfully crosses the make shift bridge, and climbs up a ladder on the high wall opposite.

27 **INT/EXT. THE OVERGROWN HOUSE - DAY** 27

Annette jumps over the wall and into a room with no ceiling, completely overtaken by branches of small trees and shrubs. Paint is peeling off the walls, windows are bricked up, and it looks pretty creepy. Annette looks around the house. She shouts to the others on the other side of the wall.

ANNETTE

Guys, you have to come and see this!

28 **EXT. BROKEN DOWN WALL - DAY** 28

CLOSEUP: The Magician looks in trepidation down at the rickety plank. He bravely steps onto it.

CLOSEUP: The plank under his foot shifts, causing a piece of supporting rubble to fall to the ground. He steps back, afraid.

Brendon looks back at Magician, and smirks in challenge. Magician wants to make an impression. While Brendon looks back to see where Annette has gone, the Magician musters up some courage and attempts to make a step onto the plank and then...JERK! Magician is suddenly pulled backward by some

invisible force.

WIDE ANGLE: Magician looks behind him. There's nobody there.

CLOSEUP: Magician is panicked, confused, afraid. Brendon looks back at him and notices.

BRENDON

What are you doing?

YOUNG MAGICIAN

I tried to step, but - something's stopping me!

BRENDON

Nothing is stopping you, both of us have done it! Why are you being so weird?

29 INT. THE OVERGROWN HOUSE - DAY

29

Annette is walking through the house, exploring, and then stops. She notices some markings on one of the walls.

CLOSEUP: the occultist symbol is painted on the wall.

ANNETTE

That picture! The one on your necklace is on the wall!

30 EXT. BROKEN DOWN WALL - DAY

30

BRENDON

He probably stole it from someone. It doesn't make him special. He never stops about how different he is from the rest of us, having magical powers and everything. It's all a load of rubbish.

Magician is in tears. Annette makes her way back down towards Brendon.

ANNETTE

Brendon stop it! He's done nothing to you!

Brendon looks at her.

BRENDON

You said it yourself! He's a freak! It's just because he's here.

Magician and Annette have eye contact. She quickly looks away. The Magician is hurt, but with new determination. He steps toward the plank, but before he can - SLAM! He's pulled backward harder than before. With a tear streaming down his cheek, he suddenly vomits everywhere.

ANNETTE

What's happening to him Brendon?

Brendon looks at Annette and then back at the Magician. Suddenly, the plank is dislodged and falls. Brendon looks down at the plank and the impossible gap to cross without a bridge, and then back at the Magician. Annette says what Brendon is thinking.

ANNETTE

How will we get back now?

BRENDON

We'll find a way. Come on.

Brendon starts making his way over the wall. Annette stays where she is, concerned for the Magician.

BRENDON

Annette!

Reluctantly, Annette follows Brendon and climbs over the wall, leaving the Magician all alone.

CLOSEUP: Magician watches Annette disappear over the wall. He looks down in front of him, and back behind him. There's nowhere to go.

WIDE ANGLE: Magician stands alone on the small piece of wall, totally alone and afraid.

31 **INT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 31

The Magician wakes up, still fully clothed from the night before. He pulls on a new shirt, checks his hair, grabs some sandwiches out of the fridge, and rushes off to work.

32 **EXT. STONELAKE PRINTING COMPANY - DAY** 32

Establishing shot.

33 **INT. PRINTING ROOM - DAY** 33

The Magician sneaks in, trying not to be noticed. Herbert is in the room.

HERBERT

Hey! Everyone knows you're over an hour late!

MAGICIAN

Hey Herb. Why are you talking to me?

HERBERT

Well, I have to show you how to use the printing press.

MAGICIAN

I know how to use the printing press, Herbert. I was doing stuff a little bit more advanced than that before you took my job.

HERBERT

I didn't take your job! I was promoted!

MAGICIAN

Yes, Herb, you did. You took my job. And you know how it was so easy for you? Coz you're such an idiot!

HERBERT

But if I'm an idiot, why would I be promoted?

MAGICIAN

Coz only an idiot would agree to write that article, Herb! You know, intelligent people just can't do it!

HERBERT

I read the case folder -

The case folder is on a table next to Herbert. He picks it up and opens it. Magician snatches it from him.

MAGICIAN

You know why you shouldn't be reading this, Herb? Because you blindly believe everything in it! You need to learn to decide for yourself what is true and what is false! And maybe you should ask yourself why you work here? Because this -

Magician holds the case folder up in the air and then slams it into a dustbin.

MAGICIAN

Is CRAP.

Herbert stares at him, hurt, and then walks away.

34 **INT. MR BAGGOT'S OFFICE - DAY**

34

Mr Baggot sits at his desk wearing an indecipherable expression.

MR BAGGOT

You should know that I only attend meetings if I'm firing someone, or if they have very big tits!

MAGICIAN

You're firing me?

MR BAGGOT

Well you don't have very big tits
now do you son?

MAGICIAN

But what have I done? You know that
article should not be written!

MR BAGGOT

What have you done? For the love of
God and his lamb that was slain!
What have you done?

Mr Baggot begins counting off on his fingers.

MR

Constantly arriving for work late,
not doing the actual work given,
throwing case files and colleagues
into the rubbish - need I go on?

MAGICIAN

You say that like it's happened
more than one time!

MR BAGGOT

The bottom line, son, is that you
are fired. F - I - R - E - D! And
all because -

MAGICIAN

I don't have big tits!

Mr Baggot roars with laughter.

MR BAGGOT

When you go, retrieve that case
file from the rubbish where you
threw it and give it to Herbert. He
needs something to base his story
on.

The Magician stares in disbelief and then gets up.

MR BAGGOT

Oh, and give him some pointers! I
don't know how the goddam hell he's
gonna write that story! There's
something wrong with him.

Magician smiles tightly, walks out and slams the door.

The Magician takes the case folder from the dustbin and
stands, flicking through it disapprovingly. Out of the

corner of his eye he notices an open door. The Accounts Office. He looks around to see if anyone is watching him and surreptitiously enters.

36 **INT. ACCOUNTS OFFICE - DAY** 36

He pulls open the first draw and finds a bunch of envelopes titled: SALARIES. He quickly empties the envelopes of money into his satchel.

37 **INT. WALTER PARKS' OFFICE - DAY** 37

Walter Parks is sitting at his writing desk. There is a knock on the door.

WALTER PARKS

Come in.

Walter takes his wax seal from the top of his writing desk and seals an envelope as a man in a black suit enters and comes to stand in front of the desk. This is CAROL.

Walter holds up the wax sealed envelope and smiles.

WALTER PARKS

What do you think?

Carol does not comment; simply takes a folded up piece of paper from his pocket and hands it to Walter. Walter looks at him enquiringly.

CAROL

The people who were killed last night, sir.

Walter takes the piece of paper and looks crestfallen. He reads the names, sighs, and then pulls a photograph out.

CLOSE UP:

Walter makes two X's over the faces of two people in a photograph and shoves it away. He glances at Carol.

WALTER PARKS

Thank you. You may leave.

CAROL

I am sorry, sir.

Carol picks up a pile of sealed envelopes and takes them from the room. Walter rubs his temple, disquieted.

38 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - DAY** 38

AERIAL ESTABLISHING SHOT.

39 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

39

The Magician trudges around the corner, looking around to make sure he's alone. He leans against a wall and pulls out the wads of cash he's stolen from the Printing Company. As he looks around, he notices a large rubbish bin sitting in the deserted alley. He walks slowly towards it, contemplating.

Tentatively, he reaches out a hand, willing the rubbish bin to move. It doesn't budge. He looks around, frustrated with himself. He reaches out with two hands, concentrating all his energy and efforts to focusing his magic. The bin does not budge. He grunts in frustration, tired out by the magical exertion. Furious with himself, he kicks at some nearby junk and storms off. Behind him, the bin levitates for a moment and then crashes to the floor. He whirls round, confused and alarmed at his lack of control. He stares at the bin, and then, from across the street, the sound of beautiful piano playing catches his ear. Intrigued, he follows his ears and wanders off.

40 **INT. PENNY'S SANCTUARY - DAY**

40

CLOSE UP:

Handwritten sheet music titled: 'PENNY'S SONG' burns in a make shift fireplace.

CLOSE UP:

Fingers playing on piano keys, then reveal:

SLOW PUSH-IN FROM BEHIND:

Penny. She's lost in her music, playing beautifully.

41 **EXT. PENNY'S SANCTUARY - DAY**

41

The Magician follows his ears to a red brick building.

42 **INT. PENNY'S SANCTUARY - DAY**

42

CLOSE UP:

Penny's eyes are closed. She's in a dream-like state. A door opens behind her. With a jolt, she stops playing and stares at the door.

MAGICIAN

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to
frighten you.

PENNY

You're not supposed to be here. You
need to leave.

MAGICIAN

I didn't know it was you. I just heard the music and... It was so beautiful. Please, continue.

Penny turns back to her piano, and then looks to her right where rows of empty chairs fill the rest of the room. She gazes as though seeing something the Magician cannot.

PENNY

You see all these chairs? To you they look empty. To me, they're filled with people.

The Magician follows her gaze.

PENNY

Not the sort of people who mistake you for a beggar, or a thief, or a burden. These people say nothing. They just listen. They stay for as long as I want them to stay. And I can take them wherever I want with the music. Now, if you could be like one of these people, then I'd let you stay. But people like that don't exist in the real world, do they, Mr. Magician?

MAGICIAN

Maybe not, but... I like to think I come close enough.

The Magician slowly walks over to one of the chairs and takes a seat.

MAGICIAN

Still think I should leave?

Penny does not answer or look at him.

MAGICIAN

Look, I'm really sorry about the other night. If I'd have known he was your father, I wouldn't have... Look, it's really important that you don't tell anyone about that - I can't afford to -

PENNY

They already know who you are. They know where you live. And they know what they're gonna do.

MAGICIAN

Do you trust me enough to tell me your name? Er - Penny?

Penny nods. The Magician gets up.

MAGICIAN

Alright, Penny. I'm gonna do you a favour.

He pulls a huge wad of cash out of his satchel.

MAGICIAN

Take this. Tell that -

He falters when he sees her expression.

MAGICIAN

Tell your father that you couldn't find me - that I've gone out of town. Look, Penny, if this place isn't safe for me, it's certainly not safe for you.

PENNY

He'll know.

The Magician sighs, frustrated at her persistent refusal of help, and makes for the door.

PENNY

If you want to help me, don't just walk out the door.

The Magician pauses without turning.

PENNY

Meet me here, Sunday at 5. He won't be home when I arrive. But... I can't lie to him you know. He'll always know the truth.

The Magician leaves. In the make shift fire place, Penny's Song burns.

43 **EXT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

43

Sam is standing outside the Magician's door. The Magician arrives.

SAM

George -

MAGICIAN

Oh Jeez, my name isn't George!

SAM

Well I really don't mean to be a pain, but -

MAGICIAN

Look, I have your money, alright! Just give me a minute, and I'll be out.

- 51 **INT. SAM'S KITCHEN** 51
- SAM
Darling, do you know George has
painted my walls a hideous green
colour? And he's put the most
revolting posters up on the wall!
- There's no response.
- SAM
Elizabeth!
- 52 **INT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 52
- SLOW PUSH IN FROM ABOVE
- Magician is passed out on the floor. He begins to stir. His eyes slowly open. The masked man is reading through the contents of the case folder on the bed. The Magician lifts his head, disoriented. The masked man notices he's awake and lunges for him. The Magician reacts by swinging his satchel at the masked man's face. All the money flies out of the bag and HOVERS in the air. Everything is perfectly still. The Magician is amazed. Money floats in front of his face. His satchel is suspended in the air. The masked man is frozen like a rock. He looks around, vexed.
- Adrenaline pumping, the Magician lets out an almighty roar, and with all the energy he can muster, swings his arm at the masked man. The man flies backwards, over the bed and into the wardrobe. He scrambles to his feet, grabs the nearest bit of furniture, smashes the window and jumps out.
- 53 **INT. SAM'S KITCHEN** 53
- Sam hears the smash and storms out.
- 54 **EXT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 54
- PUSH IN TOWARD
- Broken apartment window. Masked man is gone.
- 55 **INT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 55
- The Magician picks up the case folder documents and the blue syringe, reeling.
- 56 **EXT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 56
- Sam bangs on the door.
- SAM
What the devil is going on in
there? I've had quite enough of
this you know!

SAM

What in God's name was that racket?!

The Magician tosses the hanky at Sam and walks down the stairs.

MAGICIAN

Haven't the slightest.

SAM

Where d'you think you're going?!

MAGICIAN

To solve a case for the city!

SAM

And what about my money?

MAGICIAN

You'll find it inside the apartment!

SAM

Hey! Are you listening to me? Get back right this minute! Or you're evicted!

The Magician smiles.

MAGICIAN

You're a little late, Sam. I moved out.

Sam throws the hanky down on the ground, infuriated, and storms into the apartment to inspect the damage.

63 **EXT. STONELAKE COUNTRYSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON** 63

An old train rumbles by.

64 **INT. TRAIN - LATE AFTERNOON** 64

The Magician sits in a carriage alone. He's dumped his suitcase and guitar on a seat and sits looking slightly shell shocked.

65 **INT. MOTEL RECEPTION - EVENING** 65

A badly made burger is sitting on a side plate on the reception counter. A hand grabs it.

TRACK BACK TO REVEAL

The motel door opening and Magician stepping inside. He lugs his bags to the counter and turns to the motel manager behind the counter.

The motel manager is disheveled and wearing a filthy shirt. He's completely consumed with eating his burger and barely spares a glance for the Magician.

MAGICIAN

Excuse me. I'd like a room please.

Kevin is mildly concerned that there's a customer.

KEVIN

(through a mouthful of burger)
Here?

MAGICIAN

Well, this is a motel, right?

Kevin snorts.

KEVIN

Yeah, but nobody stays here. I don't have customers.

MAGICIAN

Perfect.

Kevin is surprised.

KEVIN

That'll be twenty-five dollars.

MAGICIAN

(pulling money from his satchel)
I'll pay for two nights.

The Magician slaps fifty dollars on the counter. Kevin doesn't know what to do with it. The Magician picks up his bags.

MAGICIAN

Right. Now. Where can I get some dinner around here?

Kevin is just taking another enormous bite out of his messy burger. Sauce squirts out all over his shirt and he grunts in dismay, then licks the sauce off his shirt. The Magician watches, disgusted. Kevin holds out what's left of his burger.

KEVIN

Do you want some of this?

The Magician grimaces.

MAGICIAN

No. Thank you. Just the key.

Kevin retrieves the key, chucks it onto the counter, and finishes off his burger. He grins in the face of the Magician's disapproval. The Magician grabs the keys and

makes his way up the stairs to find his room.

66 **INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

66

The door opens. The Magician steps inside. He turns on the light to reveal a dump of a motel room.

He sits down at a desk set against the wall and pushes aside the books and papers strewn on it. He opens the case folder and begins to read.

ANGLE ON - CASE FOLDER DOCUMENTS

Research on protective spells, notes on Stonelake's History of the Occult - a book written some years previously, newspaper headlines about the escape of Occultists from The Telling Room, the murder at Parks Manor, theories on a terrible curse, reports on monster sightings, and Chuck Simmons' photo with a caption reading: "I have the answers the book doesn't."

67 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - DAY**

67

AERIAL ESTABLISHING SHOT.

68 **EXT. STONELAKE PRISON - DAY**

68

Establishing shot. The Magician walks up the stairs and enters the prison.

69 **INT. STONELAKE PRISON RECEPTION - DAY**

69

The Magician walks in and approaches the reception. A lady behind the desk is sorting through a pile of messy papers.

LADY AT THE DESK
Good morning, Sir. How
can I help?

MAGICIAN
I've come to talk to Chuck Simmons.

LADY AT THE DESK
Name?

MAGICIAN
Er- Matthew. Matthew Jones.

LADY AT THE DESK
(looking doubtful)
Down the corridor. Second right.
It's the cell right at the end.

MAGICIAN
Thanks.

She watches him go, and then looks down at a 'WANTED' poster with the Magician's photograph on it.

Establishing shot of prison cells and guards walking up and down. The Magician comes through a door to the right. A guard carrying a pot of horrible looking stew walks lazily past. The Magician is disgusted. He approached Chuck's cell hesitantly, and sets his bag and the case folder down on the visitor's bench. Chuck sits on the end of his bed, his back to the Magician.

CHUCK SIMMONS

Who is it now? Work for the paper?
Am I right? You make your living
making a mockery of others.

MAGICIAN

I - I don't work for the paper. The
Mayor intends on publishing your
story. No one's making a mockery,
Mr. Simmons.

CHUCK SIMMONS

So why are you here then?

MAGICIAN

I have a photograph - taken when
you were still in the housing
facility for - well - in that
photograph, there's a symbol on the
wall - painted in blood -

CHUCK SIMMONS

I painted it. With my blood. Did
you like it?

Chuck turns to sneer over his shoulder.

MAGICIAN

Well, Mr Simmons, I have a necklace
that looks just like it.

This gets Chuck's attention. He gets up and finally faces the Magician. Walks towards him. The Magician pulls out the necklace which was hiding under layers of clothes. Chuck reaches through the bars and takes hold of the necklace, looking at it.

MAGICIAN

What is it?

Chuck drops the necklace and steps back, looking up at the Magician, eyes wild.

CHUCK SIMMONS

You know why I'm the only one who
knows who it is? It's because I'm
the only one who survived. (smiling
strangely) A cursed, killing
(MORE)

CHUCK SIMMONS (cont'd)
monster he is. And you wear a mark
that means a great deal to him.

MAGICIAN

But who -

Chuck whirls around, facing the wall again.

CHUCK SIMMONS

I could tell you all you want to
hear right here, right now, but you
wouldn't believe me. To you, he'll
seem like a friend. He'll make you
trust him while turning all those
you trust him, while turning all
those you know and love against
you. (Turning to face Magician)
Happened to me. (Approaching
slowly, eyes glinting madly) Once
he has you in that spot, he'll push
your mind to its splitting point,
where every minute you're getting
closer and closer to begging him
for death.

The Magician is visibly uncomfortable.

MAGICIAN

You're crazy.

CHUCK SIMMONS

You know what, kid? You remind me
of these four walls! Every day
these bastards scream into my ears!
They tell me I'm the craziest son
of a bitch they've ever had in
here. And you know what? They just
might be right.

The Magician stares, disturbed by Chuck's deranged ranting.

CHUCK SIMMONS

But I didn't become this for no
reason. You think that's a pretty
decoration you wear around your
neck, young magician. But it's not.
It's a target.

Terrified, the Magician runs off down the corridor, leaving
his satchel and documents on the bench.

71 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

71

The Magician walks down the street away from the prison,
disturbed. He tucks his necklace into his shirt and out of
sight.

72 **EXT. MARKET SQUARE - DAY**

72

Cars drive past a small fruit and vegetable market in the middle of town.

Behind one of the stalls, a fruit vendor arranges his apples. This is JIMMY CARLYSLE. A sign reading "\$1 each" sits on the table. The Magician steps up to the stall.

MAGICIAN

Looks like some nice apples you got here.

Jimmy looks up and gestures.

JIMMY CARLYSLE

Try.

MAGICIAN

Oh, er - no thank you. Actually, I was hoping you could help me out with something. You see, I'm looking for a library in this area which - well - there's this certain book that I'm -

JIMMY CARLYSLE

Do I look like a map?

MAGICIAN

Maybe I will try one.

The Magician grabs one of the apples and breaks it in half.

MAGICIAN

It's good on the inside too.

Jimmy is insulted by the compliment. The Magician takes a bite of the apple.

MAGICIAN

Anyways, I was hoping -

JIMMY CARLYSLE

Mate, are you gonna pay for that?

MAGICIAN

Oh, right.

The Magician hands Jimmy a dollar. Jimmy snatches it.

JIMMY CARLYSLE

It's three dollars per apple. You gave me one dollar. I need another two.

MAGICIAN

But, your sign -

JIMMY CARLYSLE

That's last week's price, mate,
things have gone up.

MAGICIAN

What -

Jimmy slaps a \$3 sign over the \$1 sign. The Magician looks at the cardboard signs and catches sight of Jimmy's wallet sitting in a box to his left. Defeated, he pulls another two dollars from his bag.

MAGICIAN

Alright. Three dollars it is.

Jimmy snatches the rest of the money.

MAGICIAN

Guess its your lucky day. You've
checked its three dollars, right?

Jimmy carefully counts the bills as the Magician backs away and disappears. Jimmy makes to grab his wallet to put the money away, and then realizes his wallet is gone! The Magician is nowhere to be seen.

JIMMY CARLYSLE

HEY!

73 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

73

The Magician is walking down the street, flicking through Jimmy's Wallet. He pulls out all the cash and pockets it. He pulls out the cards and throws the wallet in a public dustbin. He takes out an ID card that looks valuable, then - SMASH! A man bumps into him and smashes the card out of his hand and onto the floor. It's Walter Parks. Again.

WALTER PARKS

Oh, I'm so sorry!

MAGICIAN

Making a habit out of this are you?

Walter grimaces and picks up the ID card on the floor. He takes a good look at it.

CLOSEUP - ID CARD

The name says Jimmy Carlyle, but the photograph is all scratched out.

WALTER PARKS

Mr. Jimmy Carlyle.

MAGICIAN

Now you know my name.

The Magician puts the card back into his pocket.

WALTER PARKS

Listen, I know you weren't interested when I mentioned it the other night, but I do own a theatre. It would be a paid gig.

The Magician, now unemployed and on the run, considers the offer.

MAGICIAN

You wanna show it to me?

Walter is pleased.

WALTER PARKS

Yes, I could show it to you.

74 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - DAY**

74

A black mercedes drives through the town, headed to the edge of the city. It drives up a gravelly road and turns into a gate which is the very elaborate entrance to Parks Manor. Walter's driving the Magician. The gates automatically open, the car drives through, the gates close

75 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY**

75

The car comes to a stop. Walter and the Magician step out of the car, the Magician looking around in awe.

MAGICIAN

So, this is where you live?

WALTER PARKS

Yes! It's been in the family for generations! Come, follow me.

ESTABLISHING SHOT: PARKS MANOR

The most beautiful castle-like mansion the Magician has ever laid eyes upon. Walter leads the Magician up a few stairs towards the entrance. They reach an archway guarded by two griffin gargoyles, looming. The Magician looks up.

CLOSEUP - GRIFFIN GARGOYLE

The griffin feels dangerous, threatening.

WALTER

Ahh, the griffin. The great protector of life and property. The family were definitely what you would call a superstitious bunch.

The Magician is silent. He notices something else on the wall. He manages to hide his curiosity.

MAGICIAN - POV

The mysterious symbol that was in chuck's cell and on his necklace is positioned at the center of the doorway.

WALTER

I suppose in those days they didn't have security companies, so, they had to make do!(laughs) Come on.

The Magician follows Walter inside. It's nothing short of awe inspiring and majestic.

76 **INT. PARKS MANOR - DAY**

76

Walter leads the Magician on a tour around the mansion. The Magician is generally in awe, looking around. Everything feels lavishly expensive, wealth and beauty beyond anything he's ever experienced.

WALTER

This place was built by my grandfather - Amadeus Parks.

The Magician notices a black and white photograph of a group of people standing together inside Parks Manor. They all wear a necklace just like his.

WALTER

Can I get you something to drink? What would you like?

MAGICIAN

I'm quite alright. Thanks.

Walter continues the tour, leading him through to a sitting room.

WALTER PARKS

Come!

MAGICIAN

I - er - noticed a symbol as we walked in - above the archway. Do you know what it is?

WALTER PARKS

Ah, it's been there since the start. It meant a great deal to the original builders.

Walter guides him through to a wide lounge and piano room. As they descend the stairs, the Magician pauses.

MAGICIAN

And what does it mean today?

WALTER PARKS

Listen to me very carefully. For your own safety, I suggest you
(MORE)

WALTER PARKS (cont'd)
 don't go looking into this sort of
 thing. To be quite honest with you,
 I don't know what it means. But if
 you carry something on you - and I
 believe that you do - you're better
 off without it. You want my advice?
 Throw it away. Don't try and sell
 it, and never speak of it again.

He claps the Magician on the shoulder.

77 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY**

77

Walter leads the Magician through a gate down a path towards
 his theatre.

WALTER PARKS
 And now we come at last to the
 reason we came: the theatre! Hasn't
 been used since my father was
 murdered. He was killed, right here
 on this very property.

Walter pauses, troubled by the memory.

MAGICIAN
 I'm sorry to hear that, Walter. I
 didn't know my parents if that's
 any consolation.

Walter shrugs.

MAGICIAN
 Well, did you ever find him? You
 know, the killer?

WALTER PARKS
 No. Nobody knows what he looked
 like. The police seemed to think it
 was an inside job - the man who
 looked after the grounds. They
 called him the Caretaker. All very
 mysterious if you ask me.

Walter looks brushes off his obviously troubled feelings and
 tries to lighten the mood.

WALTER PARKS
 Let's go inside and see the
 theatre!

REFRAME TO REVEAL: Walter and the Magician have arrived at
 the entrance to the theatre.

78 **INT. CRIMELORD'S HOUSE - DAY**

78

CLOSE UP:

A hand flicks a lighter and lights a rolled up joint. Crimelord brings the joint up to his lips and takes a drag, tilting his head back and getting lost in a drug induced euphoria.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

Crimelord in the kitchen. He picks up his gun and sashays over to the fridge.

CRIMELORD

Mr. Fred!

He swings the fridge door open.

CRIMELORD

Present me with your goods!

The fridge is completely empty.

CRIMELORD

What? Hello?

He jerks, eyes wide.

CRIMELORD

No! I'm not happy with that arrangement, Mr. Fred!

He cocks his gun.

CRIMELORD

Please. Be filled!

Of course, nothing happens. He hears a sound to his left and whirls toward it, aiming his gun.

CRIMELORD

What was that?

The house is silent. He turns back to the fridge and peers inside.

CRIMELORD

Hello? Anybody home? Fred? How about a drink? Perhaps a little carrot?

Nothing happens. He slams the fridge door closed and whirls round to challenge another imagined noise. He begins speaking to the air as though having a very thought-provoking conversation with a philosopher.

CRIMELORD

What was that? I'm sorry, what was that you said?

He seems to hear an answer in his head and whirls back around to confront the stuffed fox above the fridge.

CRIMELORD

The Magician? NO! It's because of people like him that made me lose my last job! Isn't it, Mr. Ginger?

He scratches the fox's nose with the barrel of his gun. His brow creases in thought.

CRIMELORD

Hm. Perhaps we can take it from him some other way. Right?

He becomes maniacal with glee.

CRIMELORD

YES! YES! HAHA!

He laughs hysterically and then stops abruptly. He slowly points his gun at the fridge.

CRIMELORD

That's a very good point you just raised there, Mr. Fred. Penny did mention that money would come on Sunday. And...perhaps... We might as well trust her.

He turns around, thoughts spinning wildly. And then jerks back to the fridge.

CRIMELORD

Trust who? Trust Fred? Really?

He aims a heavy kick at the fridge, and then doubles over in pain. He sinks to the floor and writhes, grunting and groaning.

TRACK BACK TO REVEAL:

Penny peers out from behind a door to another room and sees her father lost in his madness. She sneaks out of the house as he continues to writhe on the floor and laughs hysterically.

79 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - DAY**

79

Establishing shot of the theatre. It has church pews for seats. Walter and the Magician stand on the stage. The Magician looks around as Walter writes something on a table nearby.

WALTER PARKS

And behind there is the back stage area. (finishes writing and puts pen away) It's closed off at the moment while I do some minor renovations.

Walter hands the Magician a piece of card with his name and telephone number on it.

WALTER PARKS

I appreciate you showing me around,
Walt.

WALTER PARKS

It's my pleasure. Listen, I know
that life in this city can be
difficult. It's half the reason I'm
doing all this - to help people
like you. But, I want you to
promise me something. Whatever it
is that you're trying to do -
because I can tell that you're up
to something - be careful.

The Magician smiles and nods. Walter is trying to look out for him. Walter turns to lead him out of the theatre just before stopping.

WALTER PARKS

Oh! Sorry, I haven't even offered
you something to drink! What can I
get you?

Magician notices the time on the clock on the wall behind Walter and realizes he's late to meet Penny. He also realizes he's forgotten his satchel with all the money in it, and the case folder, in the Stonelake Prison!

MAGICIAN

Oh God, I'm late! I'm sorry, I've
gotta go!

WALTER

I'll give you a lift if you like!

The Magician's already out the door. The door swings closed. Walter seems worried - a fatherly concern.

80 **EXT. STONELAKE PRISON - DAY**

80

Establishing shot.

81 **INT. STONELAKE PRISON RECEPTION - DAY**

81

The Magician hurries into the prison, intent on retrieving his satchel and case folder. He is horrified by the scene that greets him. The lady at the desk, the janitor and the guards are dead - their bodies strewn about the place and wounded horribly.

He rushes down to Chuck's cell and finds the cell door hanging open, blood spattering the walls, and his satchel is nowhere to be found. On his way out he finds the 'WANTED' poster that the lady at the desk had been looking at. He rips it in half.

82 **INT. PENNY'S SANCTUARY - DAY**

82

The Magician bursts into Penny's sanctuary, out of breath and out of sorts.

MAGICIAN

Penny!

She's not there. He's missed her. He looks around regretfully and walks over to the piano. He takes all the money out of the wallet he stole from Jimmy Carlisle and slips it into one of the books sitting on top of the piano. As he takes the money out, Walter's card falls out. He picks it up and an idea strikes him.

83 **EXT. MOTEL - DAY**

83

The Magician walks into the motel, on a mission.

84 **INT. MOTEL RECEPTION - DAY**

84

Kevin is asleep at his desk. The Magician walks through the door.

MAGICIAN

Hey. I need to use your phone.

Kevin wakes up sleepily.

KEVIN

Hey.

MAGICIAN

Have you been wearing the same||shirt for three days?

KEVIN

No! I put this on this morning! I guess all my shirts are the same.

Kevin hauls out the motel telephone and sets in on the counter in front of the Magician.

MAGICIAN

Right. Well. Thank you.

The Magician grabs the phone and dials Walter's number. Kevin watches him, trying to disguise his curiosity. The phone rings and the Magician waits.

WALTER (O.S)

Hello?

MAGICIAN

Hey, Walt, it's - uh -

WALTER (O.S)

Jimmy! I didn't expect to hear from you so soon!

MAGICIAN

I'm calling about the concert.

WALTER (O.S)

You're gonna be my magician, right?

Kevin overhears and is incredulous. The Magician tries to block him out of the conversation.

MAGICIAN

Well, I don't really think I'm going to have the rehearsal time, but... There's this excellent pianist I know -

WALTER (O.S)

There's no piano. You've seen the theatre.

MAGICIAN

Singer! She's a singer too! And I was hoping she could take my slot at the end... If that's ok with you.

Kevin continues to eavesdrop in the background.

WALTER (O.S)

You don't wanna come? I was really looking forward to your act.

MAGICIAN

Maybe not the whole thing, but..that end bit, definitely, I'll come watch.

WALTER (O.S)

Well, I guess she's in then! I'll take your word for it. She's a real talent is she?

MAGICIAN

Oh, absolutely, Walt. Thank you so much. Alright, have a good day. Goodbye.

WALTER (O.S)

Alright, goodbye.

The Magician places the phone back on the hook and glares at Kevin pointedly, then stalks off.

KEVIN

Er - that'll be ten dollars! Or you can show me a magic trick! Then we can call it even.

MAGICIAN

Do you always listen in on your customers phone calls? And he said 'musician,', not 'magician.'

KEVIN

You're a musician?

MAGICIAN

Yes, as a matter of fact, I play the guitar.

The Magician walks off again. Kevin leans over the counter, clearly disappointed.

KEVIN

Well, where are you going now?

The Magician swings around, annoyed with this awfully nosy motel manager.

MAGICIAN

To practice! I've gotta find a way to pay for your exorbitant fees!

KEVIN

Can I come?

MAGICIAN

I swear to God you are the worst motel manager I've ever seen!

The Magician finally storms out and Kevin mimes a graceful bow at his back.

85 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

85

A guitar case lying on the ground. It's opened to reveal the Magician's guitar. The Magician is on a street corner. He takes the guitar out and starts to play.

CLOSEUP - FINGERS ON GUITAR

Struggling to play the only chords he knows, and it's hurting his fingers. Finally, he gets a rhythm going with a few basic chords. He's looking around to see if anybody's watching. A man walks past, not even noticing. Another looks at him, then looks away, disinterested. He closes his eyes, blocking out the world, and continues to play. A twenty dollar note falls into the case. The Magician carries on playing, not noticing.

JUNE

So you're a magician that plays the guitar. You know you'll have better luck if you start with money in the case.

The Magician is shocked - caught off guard. He tries to compose himself.

JUNE

June. June Summers.

MAGICIAN

Er, yeah. Uh - thanks for the tip.
I mean - the advice, not the money
-

JUNE

So you're a magician that plays the
guitar. Multi-talented guy.

KEVIN

I knew it! So you ARE a magician!
He told me all along he wasn't, but
I knew the truth! You ARE! A
magician!

MAGICIAN

I'm not a magician, alright!

JUNE

I don't believe we've met. My
name's June. June Summers. You must
be a friend.

KEVIN

No, he's just staying with me until
he can find a place of his own.
(leans in) He's got nowhere to go,
you see.

The Magician is cringing. Kevin's ruining all his chances.

KEVIN

My name's Kevin, by the way. And
you must be (realization dawns on
him) his girlfriend?!

JUNE

No, no. Actually, I've just met
him. What IS your name, by the way?

KEVIN

He won't say! But I heard it's
Jimmy!

MAGICIAN

It's not Jimmy.

KEVIN

I heard you on the phone! You said
your name was Jimmy.

June feels uncomfortable. A person walks by holding a newspaper. Kevin catches a glimpse of it. He snatches it out of the stranger's hands and turns to the Magician.

KEVIN

This picture looks exactly like you! There's a warrant for your arrest -

The Magician grabs the newspaper and stares at it.

CLOSE UP:

The same 'WANTED' poster filling the whole page. "Stonelake City Thief Suspected of Murder"

KEVIN

Did you know that?!

MAGICIAN

Shut up, alright! I didn't ask you to come! Go back to the motel!

The Magician shoves the newspaper back into the stranger's hands. The stranger is looking at him carefully.

MAGICIAN

I'm sorry about my acquaintance, he's a little - uh - (gestures to his head) Erm - have a nice day, sir!

The stranger moves off, suspicious. The Magician begins packing up his guitar and glances at June.

MAGICIAN

Sorry about him -

KEVIN

(leaning in to whisper to June) I apologize for him. I think he's just lonely, y'know? He hasn't brought a girl home yet.)

In the distance, the Magician hears a voice carrying.

JASPER (O.S.)

This guy said he saw a young man somewhere around here holding a guitar.

The Magician stares down the street in horror as a tall policeman steps into view and looks straight at him. This is JASPER.

JASPER

Baggot! Does this guy look familiar
to you?

Mr. Baggot rounds the corner, out of breath, and catches sight of the Magician. The Magician takes off, pushing June and Kevin in front of him.

MAGICIAN

Run! Run - go!

Kevin looks around, confused.

MAGICIAN

Kevin!

Jasper, Mr Baggot and several back up cops take chase after the Magician, June and Kevin.

JASPER

Out of the way!

MR BAGGOT

Come on! Hurry up!

JUNE

What's happening? Why are we
running?!

86 **EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY**

86

The three tear off around a corner, the cops miss them and take off in the opposite direction. The Magician watches after them, panicking.

JUNE

You haven't answered my questions!

MAGICIAN

What questions?!

As the cops round a corner out of sight, the Magician rushes off while the coast is clear.

87 **EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY**

87

JASPER

Carl, with me. The rest of you - go
down!

A short and wide-eyed cop follows Jasper. This is his partner, CARL.

CARL

Jasper! Where's Baggot?!

JASPER

Nevermind Baggot! We need to move!
Come on!

88 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

88

The Magician, June and Kevin hurry down another street and look behind them, sure they've lost the cops. The Magician and June are anxious, but Kevin is elated.

KEVIN

I've never been chased by the police before!

The police round the corner and the trio take off again.

JASPER

Hey! STOP!

They tear down the street and into an old alley way, the cops in hot pursuit. They come to a gate that is mercifully unlocked.

MAGICIAN

Here! Come on!

They hurry through the gate which leads to the back end of some dilapidated shops.

KEVIN

Why are we running?!

MAGICIAN

Because there are policemen chasing us! And I wouldn't want them to catch us - would you?!

JUNE

This has nothing to do with me!

MAGICIAN

You're guilty by association.

JUNE

Guilty of what?!

MAGICIAN

Stealing large sums of money from the Printing Company, rent unpaid in several months, multiple accounts of identity theft and - er - murder - Come on! Get here!

KEVIN

Murder?!

JUNE

You're joking, right?

June and Kevin duck behind a wall with the Magician as the cops run straight past them.

CARL (O.S)
Do you think the guy with the
guitar is also involved?

JASPER (O.S.)
Who are you chasing Carl!?

Kevin steps out from behind the wall, delighted at their
cleverness.

KEVIN
They missed us!

MAGICIAN
What are you doing!?

This attracts the cops attention and they spot Magician and
co. They give chase.

JASPER (O.S.)
Hey Stop!

CARL
Jasper, I see him! 12 O' Clock,
long legs white shirt.
(referring to Kevin)

89 **EXT. MARKET PLACE - DAY**

89

Vendors sell vegetables at a little market place. The
Magician, June and Kevin come flying through, trying once
more to lose the cops. They push past people and cause a
ruckus. The cops are in hot pursuit. The Magician overturns
a table just as Jasper reaches him, sending him sprawling to
the floor under a load of carrots. Carl hauls Jasper to his
feet and they give chase once more, but the trio of runaways
are far ahead. They slip round a corner.

90 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

90

Jasper and Carl are out of breath.

CARL
They went that way!

JASPER
Are you sure Carl? (breathing
heavily)

CARL
Yes of course I'm sure!

Jasper pulls out his radio.

JASPER
We need back up! Harrow Street!

He and Carl circle round a block of shops, hoping to catch
the Magician and co. on the other side.

91 **EXT. ALLEY - DAY**

91

The Magician, Kevin and June run down an alleyway and come to a dead end. A massive iron gate is locked, blocking their passage. Jasper's back up comes in the form of a police car full of cops coming to a screaming halt right behind them. They've got nowhere to go.

JUNE

When this is over, you have a lot of explaining to do!

MAGICIAN

When this is over, you're gonna thank me for saving your life!

JUNE

You got us into this mess!

KEVIN

Er - guys - I don't mean to interrupt, but - we're completely surrounded.

The Magician and June turn at the sound of an approaching helicopter. There's no way they're getting out of this.

KEVIN

They brought a helicopter!

The Magician and June look around, hearts racing. Helicopters fly above them, police cars parked at the end of the alley. Many men in uniform have guns drawn, aimed at them. Jasper steps into the scene, taking control, and holding a megaphone.

JASPER

Put your hands in the air!

Kevin and June obey. The Magician does no such thing.

JUNE

(hissing at Magician) Put your hands in the air! Now!

MAGICIAN

Listen to me -

92 **FLICKERING MONTAGE: FLASHBACKS**

92

The Crimelord pointing his gun at the Magician that night, the masked man attacking him with the poisoned syringe, his telekinetic powers, levitating the chair in his apartment,

MAGICIAN

Guys, get down. If you wanna get out of this alive, do as I say!

JUNE

What do you mean alive?!

Behind them, the hinges on the iron gate begin to rattle.

MAGICIAN

Put your hands down and get on the floor!

The gate begins to creak and rattle violently. The cops stare, uncomprehending. June and Kevin aren't listening to the Magician. He throws his guitar down, grabs the both of them by their shoulders and hauls them down to the ground, and with a roar, rips the gate from its hinges and send it careening across the alleyway straight into the group of cops. It knocks them violently to the ground and smashes into the cop car. Jasper writhes in pain on the ground. Carl manages to get to his feet and rushes to his partner.

CARL

Jasper! Jasper come on man! Come on, get up man!

The Magician, June and Kevin take off down the alleyway, leaving the cops nursing their injuries. Jasper is enraged.

JASPER

I will not stop until I get that abomination locked up!

Carl helps Jasper off the ground.

CARL

Come on man! We'll get him. You'll see.

CLOSEUP - JASPER'S FACE. Anger and Revenge.

AERIAL SHOT - helicopter unable to find them.

COP IN HELICOPTER A (O.S)

Do you see them?

COP IN HELICOPTER B (O.S)

We've lost visuals.

93 **EXT. ALLEY BEHIND SHOPS - DAY**

93

Magician, Kevin and June are walking speedily down a sidewalk, occasionally looking over their shoulders to see if they're being followed.

KEVIN

That was so awesome!

The Magician says nothing. He carries on walking.

JUNE

Do you two not know what this means? Legally, we're all criminals now!

Two youngsters walking past overhear her and give the trio scared suspicious looks. Kevin rounds on them.

KEVIN

Hey! This is none of your business! Yeah - that's right - keep walking!

The youngsters hurry away.

JUNE

There was a big black thing in the air! How on earth? It almost killed us!

MAGICIAN

Well let's be glad it didn't.

JUNE

Can you two stop for a second and answer my questions?

The Magician stops walking. They all stop.

MAGICIAN

You want to know the truth? I moved the gate. I ripped it out of it's hinges in order to save us.

JUNE

That's not possible.

KEVIN

Unless he's an Occultist. They did that sort of thing all the time.

JUNE

So that's what you are? An OCCULTIST? Because if you are, I'm going to have to report you.

MAGICIAN

You wanna know how I got into this whole mess? I refused to lie. They wanted me to write an article for the paper, which basically said that this whole disappearance thing is a thing of the past! And that some animal is responsible for the killings! But I know it's a person because... I think the killings are connected. I took a bunch of money because they underpaid me and it was wrong. Now I don't know for

(MORE)

MAGICIAN (cont'd)
 sure if I'm an Occultist, but I'm
 not a criminal.

JUNE
 Or maybe you didn't wanna write the
 article because you didn't want
 them to figure you out.

MAGICIAN
 Figure me out? What's that supposed
 to mean, June? You think I have
 anything to do with this?

JUNE
 I don't want to see you again.
 Don't talk to me. Don't follow me.

June walks off, afraid and upset. The Magician stares after
 her, seething.

MAGICIAN
 You came and spoke to me, June! I
 didn't come and speak to you!
 (shouting, angry)

He chucks his guitar down and kicks at the dust.

KEVIN
 Hey, man. I'm sorry about her.
 Women, y'know?

The Magician is close to losing his temper completely.

MAGICIAN
 What did you say your name was,
 again?

KEVIN
 It's -

MAGICIAN
 Kevin?

KEVIN
 Yeah -

MAGICIAN
 Alright, well, Kevin, you listen to
 me. I am your customer. I stay at
 your motel. You're supposed to
 leave me ALONE. You listen in on my
 telephone conversations, you follow
 me around, and you talk really
 REALLY loudly! I wouldn't have been
 spotted if it wasn't for you!

KEVIN
 What, so this is my fault?!

MAGICIAN

Yes!

KEVIN

I didn't know you were a criminal!

MAGICIAN

Well, that's funny, Kevin, because you seem to know every other damn thing about me!

KEVIN

Do you know what it's like just sitting behind a desk doing nothing all day? Let me tell you - it's boring, alright?! Forgive me for wanting to be part of something bigger than my own boring life! I wanted to get to know you better because I thought you were cool.

The Magician is rather taken back by this.

KEVIN

Nothing cool has ever happened to me in my life. (Looks back toward the alley they came out of). That was the coolest thing that ever happened.

The Magician feels a little guilty.

MAGICIAN

I'm sorry man. You seem like a great guy but... you told June I have nowhere to go. Made me look like I'm broke.

He looks around, embarrassed. A smile starts to develop on Kevin's face.

KEVIN

So that's what it is! You have a thing for June.

Magician avoids the comment. He's still irritated.

KEVIN

Why didn't you tell me? I could have helped you out!

The Magician is doubtful. He considers Kevin.

MAGICIAN

Well, I could really do with some help. I have a lot to get off my chest. You can't tell anyone what I'm about to tell you.

KEVIN

Alright, deal. What are we doing?

MAGICIAN

Solving a mystery. Do you know where I can find a library around here?

Kevin smiles.

94 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

94

A crowd gathers around, all focusing on the ground. Something we can't see. A policeman makes his way through the crowd.

JASPER

Alright, people, step aside! Ma'am, step aside!

The crowd clears to reveal a man lying dead on the floor, a pool of blood around his chest area, and a gun lying at his side. Jasper pulls out his radio.

JASPER

Carl!

95 **INT. STONELAKE POLICE STATION - DAY / EXT. STREET - DAY**

95

Carl picks up a connected telephone.

CARL

Uh-huh?

JASPER

Carl! Listen to me. We have a man down, lying in a pool of blood, at the intersection of Plymouth and Stanson.

CARL

Holy shit! Is he - is he dead?

JASPER

He's been murdered and left in the middle of the street, Carl! Yes he's dead!

CARL

Is there any weapon? Can you lift the prints off of it?

Jasper looks at the gun lying next to the victim. Then he sees a corner of a document sticking out of his clothing. He takes a step closer and pulls out the paper.

CARL

Jasper? Jasper?

Jasper unfolds the piece of paper. Splodged in blood, there's the symbol found on Chuck Simmon's cell wall. He turns the page over.

CLOSEUP - PAGE: "My name is Jimmy Carlyle"

JASPER

Carl, check any details under the name 'Jimmy Carlisle.'

CARL

Alright. Lisa, can you check the files for a guy named Jimmy Carlyle, and see if he has a criminal record.

Jasper flips the paper over, studying it. There's a bunch of people standing around looking worried.

JASPER

There's a symbol here as well..I recognize this from...

Jasper bends down and takes a good look at the victim's face.

JASPER

Carl, it's Chuck. The victim is Chuck Simmons.

CARL

Lisa! Did you find any files on Jimmy?

JASPER

Are there any connections?

CARL

And is he connected in any way to a Chuck Simmons?

Lisa enters the room holding a document.

LISA

I doubt it, sir.

CARL

Why? How are you so sure?

LISA

Well, he's got no criminal records. He's only ever done good for the people of Stonelake.

She approaches the desk, holding the document. Carl looks at it.

CARL

So, what's that?

LISA
 (holding it out to him)
 A death certificate, sir.

96 **CLOSE UP:** 96

Jimmy Carlisle's death certificate. He died a long time ago at the age of 83.

Jasper, overhearing their conversation, is vexed.

97 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY LIBRARY - NIGHT** 97

Establishing shot.

KEVIN (O.S)
 This place is creepy man!

MAGICIAN
 Yeah.

98 **INT. STONELAKE CITY LIBRARY - NIGHT** 98

The library is all but deserted. The lights aren't working. The Magician and Kevin carry lanterns around, searching amongst the shelves for a book.

KEVIN
 I can't believe you didn't know about it.

MAGICIAN
 Just focus on the task at hand, Kevin.

The Magician is scanning the shelves but Kevin is just excited to be there. He's chatty and talkative. He follows the Magician as he searches.

KEVIN
 But it's the only library in the whole city! And it says Stonelake Library in massive letters on the door!

MAGICIAN
 Alright! I haven't exactly been the reading type... Up to this point.

KEVIN
 And it's like a block from your old apartment!

MAGICIAN
 Yes, I get the point, Kevin, alright? That's enough.

KEVIN

Well, if you need anything else,
just ask! You can't solve the
mystery without me! I'm your guy!

Magician rolls his eyes and carries on searching for the book. Kevin's annoyed that he's being ignored.

KEVIN

So, we're looking for a book
because it was mentioned in some
case folder thing? Who even made
it?

MAGICIAN

You know, you ask a lot of
questions for someone who knows
everything.

The Magician moves to a new set of shelves.

KEVIN

Maybe. But what's it even called?

Kevin join the Magician at his set of shelves, looking in the exact same place as him.

MAGICIAN

There's no point in us looking in
the same place, alright? Just - go
somewhere else!

Kevin rolls his eyes and moves off to search a different set of shelves. The Magician stops. Something's just caught his eye. He shines his light on a nearby desk/surface. The case folder documents are just laying there.

HERBERT

I thought it meant nothing.

The Magician whirls around to see Herbert standing behind him.

MAGICIAN

Herb?

HERBERT

I'm the one writing the article
now, not you.

The Magician is incredulous. He picks up the case folder and stares at it.

MAGICIAN

How did you...? I took this from
the...

His mind is moving a mile a minute. Realization hits him.

MAGICIAN

Someone wants this article written.

HERBERT

Mr Baggot said -

MAGICIAN

No - no - not Mr Baggot!

HERBERT

I know who -

MAGICIAN

Just shut up, alright?! Stop being an idiot! You're not helping me!

Herbert takes a step back, hurt. He turns to leave.

HERBERT

You know, you aren't very nice.

The Magician is speechless. It hits him harder than he thought it would. Suddenly, there's a shout from across the Library. It's Kevin. The Magician rushes over to see the masked man from his apartment grab hold of Kevin.

MAGICIAN

Hey!

Kevin's carrying a pile of books in his arms. The Masked Man turns to see the Magician arriving at the scene.

MAGICIAN

Drop him!

The masked man pushes Kevin aside. Kevin tumbles over, the books scatter on the ground. The masked man goes after the Magician. With a violent gesture, the Magician tears books from a nearby shelf and sends them hurtling at his attacker. The masked man beats them off and grabs hold of the Magician. They struggle with each other. The masked man is desperately trying to get at the Magician's necklace tucked under his shirt.

MAGICIAN

Kevin! Get the book and run!

Kevin is clumsily trying to pick up all the fallen books, slipping and sliding on the smooth parquet floor. The Magician gets hold of the masked man's collar and manages to swing him around, throwing him to the floor. Kevin rushes past, dropping books as he goes. The masked man has hauled himself up and is upon the Magician in seconds, throwing him onto the floor and aiming a savage punch at his jaw. Before his fist connects, the Magician throws up his arm to protect himself, and, like in his apartment, the masked man freezes, unable to move past the barrier the Magician has created. Kevin is still trying to collect all the books he's dropped, being completely useless.

MAGICIAN

Kevin! Get out of here!

Using all the energy he has left, the Magician lashes out and sends the masked man flying back. He takes off down toward the exit, the masked man getting up and pursuing him. With another gesture he sends a nearby chair flying into the masked man, knocking him back.

MAGICIAN

Run, Kevin!

They sprint for the exit, the masked man close on their heels. The Magician manages to slam the big oak door shut and latches it before the masked man catches them. Kevin is clutching the books outside and the Magician sinks to the floor, his back against the door, drained of all energy. The masked man roars on the other side of the door.

MAGICIAN

Kevin... Did you get the book?

Kevin doesn't answer, simply catches his breath.

KEVIN

You didn't tell me everything, did you?

99 INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

99

The Magician chucks a heavy book onto a desk. It's titled: STONELAKE HISTORY OF THE OCCULT. He starts chucking cards from his deck into a dartboard on the wall. Kevin sits in a chair nearby, marveling at the card throwing.

MAGICIAN

Apparently his name was Jimmy Carlyle, but who knows what it really is.

KEVIN

That's really low man. All because you were looking for this book?

MAGICIAN

He was an idiot, alright? You cheat someone, it's gonna come back around.

KEVIN

How did you lose fifteen grand though?

The Magician ignores him and continues to throw cards into the dart board.

KEVIN

How do you do that? The card thing?

The Magician continues to ignore him. Kevin becomes annoyed. He walks over to the desk and looks at the book. The Magician glances at him.

MAGICIAN

Go ahead. Doubt there're any answers in it.

Kevin looks incredulous.

KEVIN

You don't want it now? After everything we went through to get it?

The Magician doesn't answer. Annoyed, Kevin grabs the book and starts to read. The Magician keeps pumeling cards into the dart board.

KEVIN

I think I've found something.

The Magician takes no notice. Kevin huffs.

KEVIN

You know, you don't have to ignore everything I say. You're not the only one who has important thoughts.

MAGICIAN

Kevin, when you say something worth listening to, I assure you that I'll listen.

KEVIN

Alright. This is worth listening to!

The Magician pauses in his card throwing, jaw clenched. He's in a terrible mood.

KEVIN

Would you just sit down?! The card thing is getting really annoying.

The Magician doesn't like being challenged, but gives in. He takes a seat and raises an eyebrow at Kevin, waiting for him to go on. Kevin turns to the book and begins to read.

BEGIN ANIMATED SEQUENCE

2D Animated Sequence helps tell the story Kevin is reading as a voice-over.

KEVIN

There once was a group of travelers who possessed a magical gift.

(MORE)

KEVIN (cont'd)

Ostracized by conservative communities, they wandered from town to town for a home they could call their own. A group of them settled in the city of Stonelake trying their best to conceal their magic for fear of being driven out. But it was only a matter of time before they were discovered, hated, hunted, and given the name 'occultist.' A man among them, Amadeus Parks, lead a group of them into a forest, where they built for themselves a castle; a sanctuary among the trees. They cast over it protective spells, and, combining the darkest of their magic, created a dreadful curse that awaited anyone who might attempt to harm them. Years later, a young explorer found the castle hidden in the forest, but was captured by the occultists and brought in for interrogation. In exchange for his life, they offered him position of caretaker of the grounds, where he would remain till the end of his days. As Amadeus was nearing the end of his life, he feared for the safety of his people, and crafted 23 necklaces from a castle stone, so that wherever they went, they'd carry with them the castles protective powers. After the death of Amadeus, the castle was inherited by his first born son, Tony, a lover of power who despised his father's wisdom. He ruled the castle with an iron fist, driving out many of the inhabitants, and sent the caretaker to live in a small room underneath the castle. Seeing no good in tony, a bitterness grew inside the heart of the caretaker, until one night, it lead him to murder tony and his wife while they slept. But, seeing the light of Amadeus in the eyes of their baby boy, he decided to spare his life. That night, a dreadful curse was placed on the caretaker, corrupting his body and mind, making his life a never ending torture. So long as the spellmakers and their descendants lived on, so would his curse. Those who heard of the murder at Parks Manor tried to

(MORE)

KEVIN (cont'd)
 find the Caretaker, but to no
 avail. Where he went, and what he
 became, will forever remain,
 Stonelake's greatest mystery.

END ANIMATED SEQUENCE

The Magician and Kevin are moved.

MAGICIAN
 Guess I'm not the only one.

KEVIN
 You were the only one worth
 murdering to the masked guy back at
 the library.

MAGICIAN
 At Parks Manor there was a
 photograph... In it, everyone had a
 necklace just like mine. Do you
 think my parents could be in that
 photograph?

He looks at Kevin hopefully. He feeds the necklace through
 his fingers, seeing it for the first time in it's true
 light.

KEVIN
 I don't know.

MAGICIAN
 Do you wanna find out?

Kevin grimaces and purses his lips. He looks apprehensive
 and resigned all at once.

100 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - NIGHT**

100

Establishing shot. The castle is bathed in moonlight.

KEVIN (O.S)
 This is the worst idea you've ever
 had!

Cut to reveal Kevin giving the Magician a leg up over a wall
 onto the front veranda directly outside the room the
 Magician saw the photograph in. The Magician struggles up,
 then turns to watch Kevin climb.

KEVIN
 Do you mind helping me? Thank you!

The Magician sneaks up to the windows and looks hurriedly
 for one that's open. In the dark he becomes quickly
 frustrated.

MAGICIAN

None of them are open!

Kevin walks up to one and swings it open.

KEVIN

There's one right here.

The Magician peers in, looking for the photograph. It's gone.

MAGICIAN

It was definitely in here! Let's go!

The Magician starts climbing through the window. Kevin grabs his arm.

KEVIN

No! Hang on! I'm gonna stay out here if that's alright with you.

The Magician rolls his eyes.

MAGICIAN

Fine, then. Oh, by the way, d'you remember that crazy flying monster thing we were talking about?

Kevin freezes, terrified.

MAGICIAN

This is where he was cursed. He likes to hang around castles, particularly in the shadows. Just a fun fact.

The Magician turns to climb through the window, but Kevin is now petrified of being left outside alone with a flying monster and shoves the Magician out of the way, climbing clumsily through the window first.

KEVIN

On second thought, I found the book. You'll probably need my help!

101 INT. PARKS MANOR - NIGHT

101

As he climbs through, he knocks over a huge brass ornament and it clatters loudly to the ground. The Magician jumps through the window after him, incensed.

MAGICIAN

Kevin! SSSHHH!

He picks up the fallen ornament and hastily puts it upright. Outside, they hear an eerie noise.

Kevin who is closer and nods toward the plaque.

MAGICIAN

Can you read it?

Kevin is battling to relax. He barely glances at the plaque.

KEVIN

Can't you read it?

The Magician rolls his eyes.

MAGICIAN

Not from this angle!

KEVIN

It's too dark!

Kevin is terrified of being caught.

MAGICIAN

Just try, Kevin! I'm not leaving here with nothing!

KEVIN

Alright!

Kevin squints at the plaque and begins to read.

KEVIN

Hear ye now, the griffin stones
Protectors of this ancient home.
A caution to the fool who seeks
To kill, destroy, or treasures keep
- It's talking about the curse!

In his excitement, Kevin almost shouts.

MAGICIAN

SSHH KEVIN!

KEVIN

It's talking about the curse!

MAGICIAN

You don't say, Kevin!

Walter above them hears the muffled noise and strains to see through the darkness in their direction.

KEVIN

We don't forget the things we know
We never sleep, we never go.
Take a life, and we'll take yours
And send it back in our cursed
form.
What does it mean?

The Magician is disappointed. It all sounds like superstitious nonsense to him.

MAGICIAN

Nothing.

Behind them, Walter switches off the security light and goes back inside.

MAGICIAN

Let's get out of here.

They take off under the cover of darkness, leaving the castle grounds.

107 **INT. CRIMELORD'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

107

CRIMELORD

We could be getting thirty thousand out of this. Did you know? Thirty grand!

CLOSE UP:

Penny is sitting, head bowed, on a chair in their make shift home. Crimelord cocks his gun and puts it to her head.

CRIMELORD

I cannot trust you, can I? And simply the money did not come! I care for those who can do the job and care to do it well!

Penny is staring at something straight ahead, a disgusted look on her face.

PENNY

She's a traitor.

TRACK BACK TO REVEAL:

June is sitting opposite Penny on another couch.

JUNE

He's dangerous to the city. Do you know what he's capable of?

Crimelord chucks the Magician's satchel, still full of money, at her. She catches it.

CRIMELORD

That's fifteen. Half of the money. Do you wanna count it?

June gives him a dark look. He leans forward in challenge, mad eyes boring into hers.

JUNE

I'll take your word.

CRIMELORD

Good. It's good doing business with you.

He walks out, leaving June and Penny alone. Penny stares at June with hatred.

JUNE

What? I need the money. (Then whispering) And who's to say I'll actually go through with it.

June slings the satchel over her shoulder and walks out the room.

PUSH IN: PENNY. Penny is angry. Hates injustice.

108 **EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY**

108

The Magician and Kevin walk up to a coffee shop. Kevin peers inside.

KEVIN

This one looks empty.

The Magician catches sight of his 'WANTED' poster on the window and grimaces. They enter and he grabs a menu to hide behind, hoping no one will notice.

109 **INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY**

109

They take a seat at a table that hasn't even been cleared or cleaned. The Magician is apprehensive, looking around him, wondering if he will be recognized any second.

KEVIN

I'm sure Walter would give you the picture if you just asked. He seems like a nice guy.

MAGICIAN

Kevin. The baby in the story IS Walter. Get it? He's trying to protect me from the very person I'm tryna find.

Kevin shrugs.

KEVIN

He has a point.

MAGICIAN

I have to know who he is. I'll get him alone and I won't let him leave until all his secrets have been told.

Kevin looks exhausted by the Magician's determination.

KEVIN

Right. So we are getting the picture then.

Kevin's annoyed with Magician's intensity. It's getting a little bit too much.

MAGICIAN

I want us to search Parks Manor from top to bottom. The place must be littered with clues.

Kevin absolutely hates the idea.

KEVIN

You know, I've been thinking. Maybe you should take some time off from all of this. Think it over? You could always just throw your necklace away. I mean that's all your powers! It would be all your problems gone!

MAGICIAN

I've spent the last twenty years thinking it over, alright? And besides, I don't get my powers from my necklace.

KEVIN

It's June.

MAGICIAN

What do you mean June?

KEVIN

Behind you.

The Magician turns to see June walking into the coffee shop. He turns to give Kevin some closure on their conversation.

MAGICIAN

I'm gonna go talk to her. Stay here.

KEVIN

That's exactly what she asked you NOT to do!

The Magician is already walking towards June.

MAGICIAN

June, what a pleasant surprise. I - what are you doing here?

The Magician is defensive, ready to have it out with her. He's still bitter. He's still hiding his face from the

public with the menu.

JUNE

You know, people will notice you more with that...

MAGICIAN

Erm - yeah -

Embarrassed, he puts the menu down to his side.

MAGICIAN

Listen, I know you told me not to speak to you again but there's a few things -

JUNE

Wanna go somewhere else?

The Magician is confused by this new tone.

MAGICIAN

What's changed?

JUNE

I can tell when I'm being lied to. Everything you told me - I don't know how its true but... I know you were telling the truth.

The Magician nods. This is going better than he thought it would.

MAGICIAN

Alright, let's get out of here before Kevin sees where I'm going!

They hurry out of the shop as Kevin is distracted. When he finally turns his attention to them again, they're gone. He sighs, annoyed.

110 **EXT. MOTEL - DAY**

110

Kevin walks round the side of his motel, eating another greasy burger. He's totally engrossed, not paying attention to anything around him. A minivan pulls up next to him, and Crimelord leaps out of the car. He marches around to Kevin.

CRIMELORD

Hey! Are you Kevin?

Kevin looks apprehensive.

KEVIN

Why?

CRIMELORD

Does it matter? Is your name Kevin? Or, it's something else?

Behind them, in the van, Penny is tied and gagged. Impatient with Kevin's lack of response, Crimelord grabs him by the collar and puts his gun to Kevin's head. Kevin drops his burger, terrified.

CRIMELORD

Does this improve your hearing?

KEVIN

I'm Kevin!

CRIMELORD

Now that I've got your attention, I want you to do something for me. Which is finding the key that unlocks all the doors in this motel and give it to mwa! Now! Chop chop!

He pushes Kevin into the motel.

111 **INT. MOTEL RECEPTION - DAY**

111

Kevin scrabbles around looking for keys. He's trembling and petrified of Crimelord. Crimelord stands watching him, eyes wild. Kevin hands him a key.

CRIMELORD

Is this the master key?

KEVIN

Yes.

Crimelord inspects it, and nods. Then suddenly punches Kevin's face, and he tumbles backwards. Crimelord looms over him.

CRIMELORD

First lesson: you do not lie to me!
Let's do this again!

He hauls Kevin to his feet.

112 **EXT. ABANDONED THEME PARK - DAY**

112

Establishing shot. The park is abandoned, disused and overgrown. The paint on the rides is peeling and faded. But it's got a magical feel to it, somewhere away from the bustle of Stonelake City. June and the Magician walk slowly through the grounds.

JUNE

So... I guess this is sort of like your ivory tower?

MAGICIAN

Ivory tower?

JUNE

You know, like a place you feel you can always go to when you need to escape the world.

MAGICIAN

I guess you could say that.

JUNE

It's peaceful.

MAGICIAN

Yeah.

They walk around one of the smaller rides.

MAGICIAN

So?

JUNE?

So?

MAGICIAN

Why are you talking to me all of a sudden? I'm the hated type, remember?

JUNE

And I'm guilty by association, remember?

MAGICIAN

(laughs) I guess I said that, but (sighs) you don't have to be. Right now I feel the entire city's chasing after me. I can't even go into a coffee shop without hiding my face. Just because -

JUNE

You're an occultist?

Magician walks off, clearly upset.

JUNE

Do you feel like hiding around me?

Magician doesn't respond.

JUNE

You've got to talk to someone you know. You could leave this place while you can. (beat) Set yourself free. Instead of trying to change the minds of people who just don't see your point of view.

Still no response from him.

JUNE

Have you never thought about running away, across the oceans, creating dreams in a new land? You can't honestly tell me you like not being free?

MAGICIAN

It's all these questions June, this fog of just not knowing. That's what really robs me of my freedom. I kind of feel that if I can just figure it out, then I could tell the truth to the city, and maybe they'll be free too. It's not just me, you know it's true June. Everyone hides, occultist or not.

JUNE

Aren't you afraid they'll kill you, like the rest of them?

Magician takes out his necklace.

MAGICIAN

This has protective magic. Apparently. At least that's what I've read. Maybe it's just a good luck charm. So far it's done a pretty good job... Still alive.

JUNE

You know you're very brave.
(beat)It'll get dark. I live far from here so I better get going.
Was good seeing you.

MAGICIAN

Why not just stay at the motel, I'm sure Kevin could give you a free room? It's close. You won't have to walk by yourself.

JUNE

(laughs)I can't get out of this can I?

MAGICIAN

What?(beat)Get out of what?

JUNE

You know, I don't even know your name yet, and you're asking me to stay over?

She smiles and walks off. The Magician smiles and follows her.

113 INT. MOTEL RECEPTION - DAY

113

Kevin is scrawling a note under Crimelord's dictation.

CRIMELORD

I'm going out to get dinner. Don't wait up for me. Good. Now leave it there.

He hauls Kevin towards the door.

CRIMELORD

You're coming with me.

Kevin fights him, tries to punch him, but is easily overpowered.

CRIMELORD

You never learn, do you?

He punches Kevin and drags him out.

114 INT. MOTEL RECEPTION - NIGHT

114

The Magician and June arrive later to an empty motel.

MAGICIAN

Kevin, we need an extra room! Can you help us out?

There is no answer.

MAGICIAN

Kevin?

The Magician finds his note and reads it, frowning. June is looking around the run down reception area.

MAGICIAN

Strange. He never goes out at night.

He squints at the note again and then shrugs.

MAGICIAN

Weird. I didn't think he could write.

June is quiet. She's torn between her deal with Crimelord and her heart for the Magician. She looks around, not sure what to do.

JUNE

Can I... Use your bathroom?

MAGICIAN

Yes, of course. It's right upstairs.

He leads the way up to his room. June follows, then hesitates. She doesn't want to go through with this, but she's in too deep.

115 **INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

115

The Magician opens the door for June.

MAGICIAN

Sorry about the mess. I don't get much time to clean up.

June looks around, noting the dust.

JUNE

So, are you going to tell me about this mystery you've been solving?

MAGICIAN

Well if I knew much about it, it wouldn't be a mystery, would it? The bathroom's through there.

JUNE

Thanks.

MAGICIAN

Oh and - uh - the hot water doesn't work.

JUNE

That's ok.

June disappears into the bathroom.

June is panicking. She's between a rock and a hard place. She needs space to think. She turns on the shower so she has an excuse for taking her time in the bathroom. She leans against a wall and tries to clear her mind.

The Magician doesn't know what to do with himself while he waits. He hears the shower turn on. He picks up a book and gets comfortable, and tries to distract himself. This is all very odd. Too good to be true.

MAGICIAN

Everything alright in there?

June is looking at herself in the mirror. Trying to decide what to do. She startles at the Magician's voice.

JUNE

Everything's fine!

She looks at herself hard in the mirror, anxious and distressed, and makes up her mind.

JUNE

Actually... No... I need to tell you something.

The Magician can't really hear her over the shower.

MAGICIAN

Sorry, what was that?

June makes to leave the bathroom. She's going to tell him everything. They're going to find a way out of this together. But suddenly, the closet door in the bathroom swings open and Crimelord steps out, blocking her path.

MAGICIAN

June? Is everything ok in there?

Crimelord glares at her and puts a finger to his lips. She glares back and stays silent. He holds up some sexy lingerie and flings it at her, daring her to cross him. He's come to make sure she keeps up her end of the bargain.

With no choice but to go through with it, June puts on the lingerie, smooths her hair out and steps back into the bedroom. The Magician is paging through a book.

MAGICIAN

Oh there's a clean towel on the rack inside -

He turns to see her and gulps. This is all so odd. Women are impossible to understand.

MAGICIAN

I see - y - you must have f - found one - erm....

He tries to ignore the fact that she's half naked and clearly intent on staying the night. He tries to play it cool, and sits up.

MAGICIAN

I'm sure Kevin's back by now... I can go and see if he can get you a key...

June runs a hand over his leg and moves toward him.

JUNE

I'm sure Kevin can wait.

Slowly, she climbs over to straddle him, pushing him gently back down onto the bed.

JUNE

Do you remember the first night we met?

The Magician is overwhelmed. She's beautiful and soft and being so kind.

JUNE

I knew what you were thinking.

MAGICIAN

Really? What was that?

JUNE

I was thinking it too. You know, you never finished your magic trick.

He's starting to relax, enjoying this. He smiles.

MAGICIAN

What if its still going on?

JUNE

I didn't stare. How did you know that was my card?

He shrugs, pleased that he impressed her after all.

JUNE

What was your plan? You know, before Walter came into it?

He searches her face.

MAGICIAN

Make an impression. Isn't that... What you wanted?

She stares back at him, her face a mixture of emotions he can't quite read.

JUNE

I wanna know how it ends.

MAGICIAN

Sometime, the suspense is where the magic truly is.

JUNE

You wanna know what I'm thinking now?

June is fiddling with the buttons on his shirt. She opens up his collar and he closes his eyes. Sensory overload.

JUNE

It's ok. Relax.

There's something in her voice he can't quite put his finger on, but she's so perfect, leaning over him and opening up to him.

JUNE

Close your eyes.

He does. She kisses him. He feels her fingers at his neck, and then she's tearing away.

JUNE

I'm sorry!

He's confused. What's happened?

MAGICIAN

June? Was it something I said?

He follows her into the bathroom, upset. She's standing at the far wall clutching his necklace, face a careful mask. As he walks in, a strong arm grabs him and puts him in a headlock. He struggles wildly. June's mask cracks as she becomes distraught. The Magician's face is a picture of horror as he realizes what's happening. Crimelord stabs him in the neck with a syringe full of blue liquid. He passes out.

116 INT. PARKS MANOR DINING ROOM - DAY

116

It's morning. The Magician wakes up with a cough and a splutter. He's shocked, scared, panicked. He's sitting at the table with an English breakfast steaming in front of him.

WALTER (O.S)

It's okay. Calm down, I'm not going to hurt you.

MAGICIAN

Walt?

Walter nods. The Magician is still traumatised.

WALTER

You were injected with a dangerous poison. You were out for a couple of hours. Thankfully I managed to wake you.

The Magician leaps out of his chair and grabs Walter by the collar. He's aggressive/confused/afraid.

WALTER

Hey! Listen! If I wanted to kill you, would you be in my dining room? Would I have made you breakfast? Sit down.

The Magician sits down, trying to gather his thoughts.

WALTER

Makes you hungry, doesn't it?

The Magician is hungry. He takes a few bites of food.

MAGICIAN

I'm sorry, Walt. I - honestly - I don't remember anything...

WALTER

You remember there's a variety concert on tonight?

The Magician grimaces, shakes his head.

WALTER

Thought it might have slipped your mind. I wanted to make sure you had Penny prepared. That number you called on turned out to be the old motel on Padton Street. So I called up, and spoke to some guy -

MAGICIAN

- that's Kevin!

WALTER

When I asked to speak to you, he cut me off. So I went round. There was nobody there. The phone was off the hook and I found you unconscious on the bathroom floor! And then when I saw this? I knew.

MAGICIAN

What? What did you know?

WALTER

That you'd become a threat. That you were getting answers. So they left you for dead, just like Chuck Simmons! Many years ago, my grandfather, Amadeus Parks -

MAGICIAN

Yes, you were telling me. He built this place didn't he? Turned it into a fortress.

WALTER

(smiling) Yes. A fortress which you broke into the other night. And you saw the engraven stone.

The Magician is abashed. He looks down at his meal.

MAGICIAN

That's not all I've read. The people the Caretaker's hunting? Well, I belong to that group. I think my parents were part of the original group that cast the spell.

Walter turns away. He realizes the Magician found the book.

WALTER

Yes you're right. They were murdered.

The Magician is shocked. Betrayed. He's on his feet before he knows what he's doing.

MAGICIAN

You knew my parents?! Why the hell didn't you tell me before? What were their names?

Walter doesn't appreciate this new tone. He rounds on the younger man.

WALTER

How do you think I came to live in this castle? How do you think I came to know who I was? Who my own father was? I grew up disconnected from all of this!

The Magician is taken aback at his outburst.

WALTER

I know what it means to search! I have been solving this mystery for a lot longer than you have! You're not the only person whose life is on the line!

The Magician sits back down, reeling and confused.

WALTER

For instance, I know that your name is not Jimmy Carlisle. Listen. If I'm going to show you what I've learned, I'm going to have to trust that you respect that.

Walter holds out his hand. The Magician considers him a moment, then shakes it reluctantly.

117 **INT. PARKS MANOR LOUNGE - DAY**

117

Walter leads the Magician through the castle. The Magician reflects on everything that's been happening.

MAGICIAN

I should have seen it all before. The signs were right there in front of me the whole time. Why didn't I want to believe it?

WALTER

This June, is she the same girl from the bar?

MAGICIAN

Yeah. Of all the people I trusted,
she should have been the last.

Walter listens, concerned and sympathetic.

MAGICIAN

I'm such an idiot.

118 **INT. THE TELLING ROOM - DAY**

118

They walk down wooden stairs into The Telling Room. On the wall is an intricate collage of maps, photographs and newspaper clippings. There are chairs stacked under the stairs, some covered in sheets.

WALTER

The Caretaker called this 'The
Telling Room.' It was his home.

The Magician looks around uneasily.

MAGICIAN

Why did he call it 'The Telling
Room?'

WALTER

More comfortable than 'The Torture
Room' I suppose. He wouldn't let
Occultists leave until they had
told him all their secrets. You get
one, you get the whole family. That
sort of thing.

The Magician is horrified.

MAGICIAN

Isn't it a bit strange for you?
Coming down here? Knowing he killed
your father?

WALTER

I wouldn't want to work anywhere
else. Its a constant reminder of
why I do what I do.

The Magician watches him, unsettled.

MAGICIAN

Which is?

WALTER

Staying one step ahead of the
Caretaker.

Walter grins. The Magician's gaze catches on the photograph he was hunting for with Kevin. It's pinned to the middle of the collage on the wall. Several of the people in the photograph now have red crosses over their faces.

MAGICIAN

This photograph - I noticed it the first time I came to Parks Manor. What are the red crosses?

WALTER

It's the ones without the crosses that matter. They still have a chance. You see, the Caretaker believes that if he stops each of the blood lines, his curse will be lifted.

Walter's eyes glimmer.

WALTER

Which is why Parks Manor needs to be restored to the sanctuary it once was. The people who are invited to this concert are not just any people. They're the last ones remaining. This is where they can be safe.

The Magician is incredulous.

MAGICIAN

So what are you gonna do?

Walter laughs and then becomes very serious.

WALTER

You thought that this concert was just for show business?
No.
It's a rescue mission.

MAGICIAN

Do they know? That you don't intend for them to leave?

Walter turns away.

WALTER

A choice should not be given to them when the alternative is their death.

The Magician doesn't know what to make of this. His gaze drifts to the chairs and sheets that seem to be covering something under the stairs.

MAGICIAN

What's under this sheet?

WALTER

Just another guy going by the name of Jimmy Carlisle.

Walter tugs the sheet down to reveal a drugged and tied up Jimmy. The same Jimmy that the Magician bought an apple from. The Magician is horrified.

MAGICIAN

What? (turning to Walter) Did you do this?

WALTER

He works for the Caretaker! I had to bring him in!

MAGICIAN

Why not hand him over to the police?!

WALTER

The police?! Do you think they care about any of this? Besides, as far as they're concerned, he doesn't exist. He's been killing Occultists all over the city using a dead man's name!

The Magician can't believe it.

MAGICIAN

No. He was a fruit vendor. He sold me an apple.

WALTER

Listen to me! You asked about the red crosses - your parents are in that photograph! Both of them have one! They were killed! For all we know, this man might be the very person who killed your parents!

The Magician is stunned. He looks down at the groggy Jimmy.

MAGICIAN

Are you going to hurt him?

WALTER

No. I'm just going to interrogate him. It's what I've been trying to do all week. And I'm getting nowhere.

MAGICIAN

I wanna try.

Walter thinks about the Magician's request, then nods. He walks over to his desk and pulls out a chef's knife.

WALTER

They found this here when my father was murdered.

He hands it to the Magician.

WALTER

The Caretaker's knife. I've found
it to be quite persuasive.

The Magician accepts the knife, mind spinning. He examines it, and then looks once more at Jimmy, sem-conscious, vulnerable, unable to defend himself.

MAGICIAN

You said you've tried this already?
If it didn't work for you, is there
a point? This is a man who's
killing people. Innocent people
because one man - I don't care who
he is - gives a command. I've spent
my entire life trying to figure out
something as simple as my own name!
My mother and father were the only
ones who could have possibly
understood what I went through. And
they were taken away from me.

Walter is moved. He watches him, silent.

MAGICIAN

You don't wanna hurt him, Walt.
You're a good guy, you really are.
But why shouldn't I?

Walter considers him.

WALTER

I think that I would
understand...if you did it.

The Magician stares at him.

MAGICIAN

You'd understand me taking another
man's life? Why?

WALTER

For freedom. For our people! Nobody
will know.

The Magician stares at Jimmy.

119 **FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:**

119

120 **INT. PRECIOUS CHILD ORPHANAGE DORM ROOM - DAY**

120

A young Magician sits on his bed next to the orphanage matron. He's shuffling playing cards, his head bowed as he talks to her.

YOUNG MAGICIAN

But, nobody will know.

MATRON

The truth has a way of finding us,
dear.

YOUNG MAGICIAN

But I'll be hated. Forever.

The Matron takes a breath, trying to work out how to comfort
this sensitive child.

MATRON

You can't let another person's
fears dictate your path. Brendon
was scared. That's why he said
those terrible things.

YOUNG MAGICIAN

But...what if he's right?

MATRON

He can only be right if you let his
words have power.

121 **EXT. ORPHANAGE PLAYGROUND** 121

BRENDON

You just think you're better than
me! You don't care about anyone
else? Do you?

Young Magician is intimidated. He doesn't answer.

BRENDON

DO YOU?! (pushes Magician back)

122 **INT. PRINTING ROOM - DAY** 122

MAGICIAN

Only an idiot would agree to write
that article, Herb!

123 **INT. STONELAKE CITY LIBRARY - NIGHT** 123

HERBERT

You know, you aren't very nice.

124 **INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY** 124

KEVIN

You aren't the only one who has
important thoughts.

125 **INT. PRECIOUS CHILD ORPHANAGE DORM ROOM - DAY** 125

MATRON

You can't hide forever, just
because others can't accept it.

YOUNG MAGICIAN
 (in tears) It's me. I
 can't accept it.

The young Magician drops his cards to the floor and runs
 form the room.

126 **EXT. ORPHANAGE PLAYGROUND**

126

The Magician launches himself at Brendon, throwing him into
 a pile of swept up leaves and hitting him repeatedly.

YOUNG MAGICIAN
 Take it back!

BRENDON
 No! Get off me!

YOUNG MAGICIAN
 I'm not a freak! I'm just like you!

BRENDON
 I'll never be what you are!

The young Magician raises his fist to hit Brendon one more
 time and pauses, breathing heavily.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE.

127 **INT. THE TELLING ROOM - DAY**

127

The Magician is emotional. He raises the knife, pauses, mind
 reeling. Behind him, Walter is impatient.

WALTER
 Kill him!

The Magician turns slowly to face Walter.

MAGICIAN
 Why do that, when I could just kill
 the Caretaker?

Walter's surprised. The Magician throws the knife right into
 Walter's chest. Walter's shocked, wide eyed, and falling to
 the ground. He starts off in pain, and as the Magician
 speaks, his pain increases more and more.

A series of flashbacks appear during the Magician's
 'speech':

MAGICIAN
 You think I'd never figure it out,
 Walt?

He walks over to Walter who is now writhing on the ground.
 His face is puffing slightly. He's in terrible pain.

MAGICIAN

The whole time you spoke about Jimmy you were talking about yourself! To divert the studies of anyone else working on the case, you wrote a version of the Parks Manor story and slipped it into a book of which you knew there was only one copy.

FLASH BACK: The Stonelake History of the Occult book on the motel room desk.

MAGICIAN

The illustrations in that book come from the same hand as the sketches on your wall. So does the handwriting.

FLASH BACK: The Magician examining the case folder in the library. Looking at the business card Walter gave him in Penny's sanctuary. Comparing the handwriting.

MAGICIAN

After killing Tony and Martha Parks, you came and posed as Walter Parks coming to mourn the death of his brother. And in doing so, inherited the wealth and riches of Parks Manor.

FLASH BACK: Arriving at Parks Manor for the first time with Walter. "It's been in the family for generations!"

MAGICIAN

You killed Chuck Simmons using this innocent man in this chair, and in the same way wanted him dead through me!

FLASH BACK: Chuck Simmons dead on the street. Jasper finding the note with Jimmy's name and the Occultist symbol on it.

MAGICIAN

How were you gonna kill them all, Walt? There'll always be those who refuse a drink.

FLASH BACK: Walter offering the Magician a drink at Parks Manor and in the bar.

MAGICIAN

Perhaps you thought of gassing. All you'd need is a large room, and a large number of distracted people of which you have complete control.

FLASH BACK: The Magician looking around the theatre and up at the ceiling.

MAGICIAN

You ensured it would be a secretive event, so that no one would hear about the morning where hundreds of people never woke up in Parks Manor!

FLASH BACK: Walter sealing secret invitations to his variety concert with wax.

MAGICIAN

And it almost worked! It almost worked. But when I started to get answers, you realized I was a threat.

FLASH BACK: The Magician picking up the syringe and case folder after being attacked by the masked man. Walter telling him to be careful. "I suggest you don't go looking into this sort of thing."

MAGICIAN

And when all attempts at stopping me failed, you turned to the one person who could get me in the position I'm in right now.

FLASH BACK: The masked man chasing the Magician and Kevin in the library. June taking his necklace in the motel room. "I'm sorry."

MAGICIAN

You've told so many lies in such a short space of time, Walt.

On the floor, Walter continues to writhe, and his eyes turn white.

MAGICIAN

But you were right about one thing. Tonight's show is a rescue mission. But it's not yours.

The Magician turns to Jimmy and unties him. Walter begins to make gurgling noises, flailing about and screaming as though he's been possessed. The Magician ignores him, intent on getting Jimmy and getting OUT. He helps Jimmy up. Jimmy is groggy and incoherent but he keeps mumbling something and turning to the other side of the room where a door is closed.

MAGICIAN

Come on! Let's get out of here!

Something terrible is happening to Walter. He's screeching and going wild on the floor. The Magician just wants to get out.

Kevin's jaw drops.

MAGICIAN

You're not gonna die! But the man behind it is Walter Parks.

JUNE

Walter?

MAGICIAN

More importantly, this evening there's going to be a variety concert on these grounds. Hundreds of people are going to attend. And if things remain as they are, no one will leave alive.

Everyone is shocked.

MAGICIAN

The cops are not on our side. We have to stop it.

Penny is shell shocked. The Magician puts a hand on her shoulder.

MAGICIAN

Penny, what I need you to do is prepare a song for tonight. Alright?

PENNY

I don't understand. How am I supposed to think about music? After all you've just said?

MAGICIAN

Remember all those people that you imagined filling all those chairs? Listening to your music? Well, those are the kind of people that are going to be coming to the show tonight. I wouldn't want you to miss it for the world. I wouldn't want them to miss it.

Penny does not appear to be convinced.

MAGICIAN

Trying to run from these guys will only make it worse. Let them think they're winning.

Penny nods, plucking up the courage to do as the Magician asks. The Magician turns to Kevin.

MAGICIAN

Kevin, you gonna help me stop a whole bunch of people being gassed to death? Sound fun?

Kevin grins, in spite of himself. Behind them, June picks up the satchel full of money. She hands it to the Magician, ashamed.

JUNE

This is yours.

MAGICIAN

How did you get this?

JUNE

I'm sorry. I needed the money, ok? I wasn't gonna do it - but he said he was gonna kill me -

MAGICIAN

It's not your fault, June, it's in the past. What happened, happened.

June looks down. Kevin is digging in the satchel.

KEVIN

I can't believe there's still money in here!

The Magician turns to see for himself.

KEVIN

When we're done, we're splitting this!

JUNE

If it wasn't for me, none of this would have happened.

MAGICIAN

If it wasn't for you, they would have found another way to get to me. They wouldn't have stopped. Just - just look at me, June?

JUNE

I can't!

June refuses and turns away from him. He pulls her to him and kisses her. Kevin and Penny look at each other, brows raised.

KEVIN

Um, guys, I don't mean to interrupt, but...this isn't really the time. We need to get out of here.

The Magician gathers himself.

MAGICIAN

He's right.

132 **INT. THE TELLING ROOM - DAY**

132

They all hurry through the Telling Room and up the stairs, now covered in blood, trying not to look too long at Jimmy's remains.

CRIMELORD

Oh! Did you think it was gonna be that easy?

Crimelord stands at the top of the stairs, barring their passage. He holds the keys to the next door.

JUNE

You're STILL on his side? Let us pass before hundreds of people die!

Crimelord sniggers.

CRIMELORD

This isn't the Caretaker's work anymore! It is my OWN!

The Magician lunges for the keys Crimelord holds carelessly in his left hand. But Crimelord is fast. He shoves the Magician over the staircase railing. They struggle. The Magician pushes back and Crimelord pulls his gun out, grinning and wild-eyed.

CRIMELORD

Well, well, well! Doesn't this look familiar?

He cocks the gun.

CRIMELORD

Only that you do not have your magical powers to help you!

Out of nowhere, Kevin punches Crimelord in the stomach, sending him careening to the floor in a heap. He wheezes, winded. Kevin gasps and cradles his hand, but turns to his friends, gleeful.

KEVIN

Some people never learn!

They all rush out into the next room and up into the castle. The Crimelord laughs maniacally from the floor behind them.

KEVIN

I think I broke my hand!

They run up some more stairs and through little narrow corridors, finally coming to the front rooms of the castle. They hear strange growling noises and the Magician backs them up, motioning for them to be quiet. He leads them down another corridor. Kevin lags behind, fascinated and terrified all at once.

MAGICIAN

Kevin! Come ON!

They race through the castle, searching for an exit. They run into the drawing room and come face to face with the Griffin. It roars at them and they stumble back, panicking. It takes a leap toward them. They duck and scatter, the Griffin missing them.

MAGICIAN

Penny, get back!

June makes it out of the room. Penny cowers in a corner. Magician and Kevin are on the floor. The Magician gets up, drawing the Griffin's attention. It claws at him, knocking him to the ground. June rushes back into the room, desperate to get to Penny.

MAGICIAN

June, wait!

Penny tries to run to June.

KEVIN

PENNY GET BACK!

The Griffin stalks toward Penny. She backs up into the corner, petrified. Kevin rushes towards it, to distract it from Penny. It claws at him, slicing his shoulder open and knocking him down. He falls to the floor, injuring his ankle in the process. Meanwhile, June and Penny have made it out of the room and to safety.

MAGICIAN

Kevin!

The Magician rushes at the Griffin. It knocks him back against the book shelf. He launches himself onto its back and it shrieks, then flies out of the room with him. Hearing Kevin's cry, June and Penny rush back in to help him.

KEVIN

My ankle!

Together they carry him down into the piano room which is close by.

The Griffin smashes out of a window with the Magician clinging to its back. It takes off into the sky and flies up around the castle. The Magician tries desperately not to

fall off as it whirls around and swoops over the lake behind the castle. It dives between a walkway of pillars, screeching, trying to shake the Magician from its back. Then, it begins to fly higher and higher, climbing until the Magician is dizzy with the height. It hovers high above the castle for a few moments before taking a swift dive downward.

134 INT. PARKS MANOR PIANO ROOM - DAY

134

June and Penny get Kevin onto a couch and June rushes to find something to bind his bleeding shoulder with. She managed to find an old cloth in a cleaning cupboard under the stairs and together they make a makeshift bandage. The cut hurts, but its not extremely deep. Kevin will live. Outside, they hear the ear-splitting shriek of the Griffin. June thinks of the Magician.

JUNE

He needs help!

She rushes up the stairs.

JUNE

Penny, I need you to stay here and look after him!

Penny rushes after her, anxious.

PENNY

You can't leave me here!

JUNE

You don't have to do anything - just talk to him!

PENNY

But - I

June comes back down the stairs, sympathizing with the younger girl.

JUNE

I have something for you.

She pulls the Magician's necklace from her pocket and fastens it around Penny's neck.

JUNE

It protected the Magician his whole life. If it can protect him, it can protect you.

Penny nods, mustering courage.

JUNE

It'll mean the world to the Magician if you sing in that
(MORE)

JUNE (cont'd)
 theatre tonight. Do you think you
 can do it?

Penny nods. June rushes off to find help.

135 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY** 135

The Griffin is still flying around, trying to shake the Magician. He slips, but manages to catch onto its talons and dangles there as it screeches and flies about. From underneath, the Magician can see the kitchen knife still embedded in the Griffin's chest. He manages to haul himself back up and onto the Griffins back. He pulls the knife out of the Griffins chest. It gives an enraged howl. He begins stabbing it repeatedly. It screeches in pain and begins to spiral. Coming up to a nearby tree, the Magician throws himself off, grabbing hold of a protruding branch before the Griffin crashes into the forest, thrashing in pain.

136 **INT. PARKS MANOR PIANO ROOM - DAY** 136

Kevin is lying on the couch, shell shocked and trying to gather himself. Penny notices the piano and goes to it, seeking comfort in music like she always has. She sits down and begins to play.

137 **INT. THE TELLING ROOM - DAY** 137

June needs evidence before she can get any help from the police. She rushes down into The Telling Room, the sight of Jimmy's mangled body disturbing her once more. She pointedly ignores it and begins rummaging through the Caretaker's desk, looking for anything that might prove useful. She finds Tony Parks Last Will and Testament.

138 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY** 138

Two police cars hurtle through the gates of Parks Manor. Someone has tipped them off that the Magician is on the premises.

The Magician has climbed out of the tree and stumbles up toward the castle in search of his friends. The police cars come to a screeching halt alongside him and Jasper and Carl get out and rush over to him. He sees them coming and tries to keep walking but Jasper grabs him and swings him around.

MAGICIAN

I know who murdered Chuck Simmons!

JASPER

So do I!

MAGICIAN

What? You still think I'm the
 murderer?

Jasper gives him a disgusted look.

MAGICIAN

Have you any sense at all?!

He tries to leave but Jasper keeps a firm grip on him.

JASPER

Oh I know what you are. People like you are dangerous to the city.

MAGICIAN

Everyone is dangerous when they're afraid! You gave the Occultists no choice but to fear for their lives! They had to use the powers they had to defend themselves!

He tries to make a run for it again, but Jasper hauls him back.

JASPER

You seem to know quite a lot about a bunch of people you've never met. Cuff him, Carl.

MAGICIAN

You don't have to have met them to understand! You just have to be human!

Jasper scoffs as Carl handcuffs Magician.

JASPER

You, my friend? Human?

Carl pulls a wallet out of the Magician's pocket and hands it to Jasper. Jasper opens it and finds Jimmy Carlisle's ID. He laughs.

JASPER

Jimmy Carlisle! We meet at last.

MAGICIAN

My name's not Jimmy, alright! Jimmy Carlisle is dead!

JASPER

And it's been very convenient for you, hasn't it?

MAGICIAN

What? He was murdered on this property! I've done nothing wrong!

MR BAGGOT

Oh really?

The Magician turns to see Mr Baggot making his way toward them.

MR BAGGOT

You have stolen a lot of money from me, son! A lot of money! And that makes you a criminal! And if you can steal, what else can you do?

Mr Baggot turns to Carl.

MR BAGGOT

It's his sneakiness! I've always hated the way he sneaks!

CARL

(throwing the Magician a dirty look) Sneaky sneaky!

MAGICIAN

I didn't wanna lie to the people! This story about a wild beast - I thought it was a lie! But Chuck Simmons -

Carl tugs the Magician's satchel off his shoulder.

CARL

The money's still in here!

Mr Baggot grabs the satchel and looks inside.

MR BAGGOT

Ah! Look at that! So I was right all along! You weren't desperate or underpaid! You were just greedy!

Carl nods and grunts in agreement.

MR BAGGOT

Look at him! He's got greedy eyes!

CARL

Mm. Greedy!

MAGICIAN

I'm sorry about the money but you have to listen!

Mr Baggot ignores him and claps the police on the shoulders, shaking their hands.

MR BAGGOT

Ah, well done gentlemen! Well done
-

MAGICIAN

The guy who calls himself Jimmy Carlisle was murdered on this property by Walter Parks! He's the one behind all these killings!

The cops roll their eyes. Mr Baggot scoffs.

MR BAGGOT

So what is he? Is he a man or an animal?

The Magician falters.

MAGICIAN

Erm - both?

Mr Baggot roars with laughter. Carl joins in.

CARL

Both! (laughing)

MR BAGGOT

Both? (also laughing)
Well that's just typical
isn't it? Come on. Bung
him in the car.

Carl shoves the Magician toward the cop car.

CARL

Come on, move it.

Mr Baggot takes a great sniff of his precious cash as he follows.

MAGICIAN

One day you'll realise that I was
right and you were wrong!

139 **EXT. PARKS MANOR ENTRANCE - DAY**

139

The two cop cars drive out of Parks Manor, their thief and suspected murderer successfully apprehended. As they pass through the gates, Crimelord appears and begins shooting at them, laughing like a maniac. They slam on brakes and Jasper jumps out of the car and shoots back. A bullet ricochets off one of Crimelord's pieces of heavy chain jewelry, bruising his leg. He overreacts, throwing himself to the floor in a fit and yowling. Jasper walks over, hauls him to his feet and shoves him in the car with the Magician. He doesn't bother cuffing him. Crimelord fights as the door is slammed in his face. He shouts incoherently.

CARL

Hey! Behave!

Crimelord spits like a salted cat but makes no move to escape.

CARL

Watch yourself.

Crimelord turns to grin at the Magician. He laughs hysterically, eyes bulging.

140 INT. PARKS MANOR PIANO ROOM - DAY

140

June rushes back in.

JUNE

Kevin! Penny!

PENNY

June!

Penny rushes to June and hugs her tightly. June is slightly taken aback and returns the hug.

PENNY

I thought you were gone.

KEVIN

Where is he?

JUNE

Kevin, there's been a change of plans. The cops have taken him. You and Penny will have to save them now.

Kevin punches a pillow, enraged and feeling powerless.

KEVIN

Well that's just it then!

JUNE

What are you talking about?

KEVIN

You don't understand, June! Without the Magician there isn't any hope! You're kidding yourself if you think otherwise! Did you not see that thing? If you want to stay, you're welcome to, but I've gotta get Penny out of here!

JUNE

Kevin, look at me! The Magician needs us! And I'm not gonna let him down. Not again.

Kevin shakes his head. He's not convinced.

KEVIN

Yeah, well good for you. Coz I'm done. Come on, Penny. Let's go.

JUNE

Is that what you want, Kevin? You're happy to leave hundreds of people here to die?

Kevin turns away, not wanting to face this.

JUNE

Is that the kind of thing you always imagined yourself doing? Is that the kind of thing the Magician would do?

KEVIN

I'm not the Magician, alright? I'm not! And I never will be!

June stares at him, a mixture of pity and disappointment. He watches her as she turns and leaves.

KEVIN

I can't do anything! I'm just a motel manager! The worst one he's ever seen!

PENNY

Kevin, you may not be the Magician but that doesn't mean you can't be a hero.

June pauses at the top of the stairs.

PENNY

I saw the way he looked at you when you punched my dad. In that moment, you were his hero. You were my hero.

Kevin frowns, bites his lip, finally looks at Penny.

KEVIN

Do you really mean that?

Penny grins.

PENNY

I've waited years to see that happen. It was the coolest thing ever!

Kevin is delighted and moved, but he's still scared.

PENNY

Are you ready to give it another shot?

Kevin contemplates, takes a moment to steel himself, then turns to Penny and nods. At the top of the stairs, June smiles and rushes out.

141 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY**

141

In the forest, Walter is lying face down in the underbrush. He pushes himself up, groaning. His transformation back to human form has left him weak. But there is no sign of the injuries he sustained before. His curse has kept him from

dying yet again. He breathes heavily and hauls himself to his feet.

142 **INT. PARKS MANOR - STAIRS ROOM**

142

Walter enters the room carrying his coat and hat. He's wearing an unbuttoned white shirt. He's doing up his buttons. Carol notices him entering.

CAROL

Walter, where were you!?

Walter gets a shock by Carol's presence, but is instantly relieved.

WALTER

Oh, it's you. Get me a drink, will you.

We see Carol stomping down the stairs, holding a piece of paper. It's the list of names.

CAROL

They have escaped! If the boy and Penny are not in that theatre, then this plan will not work!

WALTER

Just get me a drink, Carol.

CAROL

Alright.

143 **INT. PARKS MANOR DRINKS ROOM - DAY**

143

Carol marches into the next room and Walter follows, still buttoning up his shirt. Carol slams the document onto the table.

CAROL

It's just that everybody on this list is here. I had them locked up inside the Telling Room! And now you expect me to believe that they have escaped?

Walter is barely keeping a lid on his temper. He leans against the table as Carol grabs a tumbler and a decanter full of whiskey.

WALTER

You know, there's something I've always wanted to ask you. Why on earth is your name Carol?

Carol is slightly taken aback by this question.

CAROL

Carol... is the name of Kings!

Walter cocks an eyebrow at him, as if to say, "really?"

CAROL
(slightly defensive) In Romania.

Walter grabs the drink Carol has poured for him.

WALTER
Well I must say it's the most
unexpected name for a hit man.

Walter swallows the rest of his drink in one gulp.

WALTER
But it's growing on me!

Walter slams the empty glass down on a table in front of Carol, unimpressed with his insubordination, and walks out the door. Carol is shaking his head. Partly insulted, but partly in fear/dread/panic about the situation they're in. He grabs Walter's glass and follows him out the door.

144 INT. PARKS MANOR STAIRS ROOM - DAY

144

CAROL
This is the end for both of us! It
was a mistake involving the
girlfriend! She will tell them
everything! And who knows -

WALTER
STOP!

Carol looks up at Walter. He looks terrified.

WALTER
You're right. They know everything.
They've escaped. But they're still
on the property!

Walter walks through another door into his office. Carol looks down...his worst fears have come true

INT. PARKS MANOR - WALTER'S OFFICE

Walter is casually buttoning up his shirt. He seems to feel like he's still in control, not sharing the concerns Carol has. Carol walks into the room, pouring himself a drink in Walter's glass. Walter notices that Carol's perspective isn't improving.

WALTER
No need to dread what is to come,
Carol. After all, nobody will
believe him. He's a thief.

Walter walks out of frame as if to get something. Carol finds a place to sit and takes a sip of the drink.

CAROL
 Why did you not kill him when you
 had chance?

WALTER (O.S)
 I wanted to see if he'd do it.

CAROL
 Escape? (sarcastic)

WALTER (O.S)
 Take one life to save others.

Walter walks back into frame carrying the photo frame last
 seen in the dining room.

WALTER
 I thought if he had it in him...I
 wouldn't be the only -

Carol is sinking into depression.

CAROL
 Monster? It's not too late to turn
 back, Walter. I don't want to be a
 -

WALTER
 You have NO IDEA...

Carol is surprised by Walter's sudden shift in tone. He
 looks at him.

WALTER
 What it means to be a monster! To
 wake up in the morning and have no
 idea who you've killed! I look at
 myself in the mirror... I don't
 know what I've become! I have more
 blood on my hands than all the
 people in that theatre!

Walter turns, and Carol can see for the first time his
 distress, the wild haunted look on his face.

WALTER
 It's too late for me.

Walter sits down across from Carol.

WALTER
 I don't expect you to understand.
 There's no other way. When my curse
 is broken I'll finally be able to
 die. And you? You'll leave this
 place a rich man.

Walter stares down at the photograph of Amadeus. He picks it
 up and slowly walks across the room, gazing at the old

familiar face.

WALTER

He reminds me of him, you know -
the boy. I could never bring myself
to hurt him. Even when he was a
baby.

Walter gives the picture a last look, then sets it down.

WALTER

But he'll die tonight. Penny will
sing, and she'll die too.

He puts on his coat.

WALTER

Don't let me down Carol. I've set
the timer for nine. It'll give them
time to get stuck into the show.
Sink the cars, and dispose of all
evidence. Lock the doors and make
sure nobody leaves the theatre till
the grand finale.

Carol steels himself, trying to squash his emotions and
return to a more practical mindset.

WALTER

And then it will all end in a
peaceful, pain free bliss!

He picks up his fedora hat.

WALTER

It'll be the end.
The end of me.
And the end of the Telling Room.

Walter walks out the door.

We Push in on Carol: deep in thought, holding an empty glass
on the table. Then he throws the glass onto the floor -
SMASH!

Walter makes his way down a set of stairs, on his way to
greet his guests. He stops to check his reflection in a
mirror. His face is set, determined. There's no turning
back. He's so focused on the task at hand he doesn't even
notice June as he marches out the door, hiding just out of
sight. She's heard the whole conversation between him and
Carol.

145 **EXT. STREET - DAY**

145

The two cop cars drive down the street, on their way to the
station. Carl is driving the Magician and Crimelord. Jasper
is in the car behind them. Carl looks at them in the review
mirror.

CARL

You two are going straight to the big house. People like you don't deserve a trial.

Suddenly, the Magician begins kicking at Carl's seat.

CARL

Hey! Don't -

The Crimelord finds it hilarious. He's laughing maniacally. The Magician carries on pushing Carl with his foot until he's pressed against the steering wheel. Carl loses control of the vehicle, slams on brakes as they careen off the road and smash into a lamp post. The Magician leaps on Carl from behind, half strangling him.

MAGICIAN

Next time, cuff the hands at the back!

The Magician carries on attacking Carl until Carl jumps out of the car, leaving the keys in the ignition. The Magician starts the car and speeds off. The Crimelord is laughing hysterically. Jasper stops by Carl to collect him. Carl jumps into the car and a chase ensues. The Magician is racing away from the cops. They're finding it hard to catch up. The Crimelord is laughing hysterically. He starts to kick at the Magician the same way the Magician kicked at Carl.

MAGICIAN

What are you doing?! Get off!

They smash into the stands of a small market on the side of the road. The Crimelord just laughs, and carries on. The Magician elbows him. The Crimelord is very amused by the Magician's anger. He carries on fighting for power over the steering wheel. The Crimelord pulls the steering wheel towards him. The car skids, flips and SMASH. Jasper and Carl pull up from behind them and stop the car in front of the crash. They get out the car and just stare at the wreck. Jasper gets on the radio.

JASPER

We've got him.

WALTER (O.S)

Whatever you do, don't let him get away.

JASPER

No. He's not getting away. Not this time.

Cars are driving into Parks Manor. Guests are all starting to arrive. They get out of their vehicles and chat to each

other excitedly.

147 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE FOYER - DAY** 147

Walter greets guests as they have cocktail snacks and drinks in the foyer. Everyone is excited about the show and excited to meet Walter Parks. Walter is his usual warm friendly self.

148 **EXT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - DAY** 148

June runs up to the theatre. She peers in through the windows. She watches Walter from outside. He's talking to his guests, greeting them enthusiastically. She's horrified. Walter notices June. June ducks.

149 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE FOYER - DAY** 149

WALTER
Will you excuse me?

His guests politely excuse him and he walks outside to find June.

150 **EXT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - DAY** 150

He hears a car trying to start, but failing. He follows his ears.

151 **EXT. PARKS MANOR, PARKING LOT - DAY** 151

June is trying to hotwire a car, but it's not starting. Walter reaches her before she gets it started and pulls open June's door, attempting to haul her out the car. June kicks him in the stomach, and the car finally starts. She screeches out the parking lot in reverse and then drives off. Walter rushes to his car and takes off after her.

152 **INT. PRISON CELLS - EVENING** 152

Carl and Jasper bring the Magician and Crimelord in, throwing them unceremoniously into two separate prison cells. Carl locks the door on Magician's cell.

CARL
Sleep tight, Mr Houdini!

Jasper chucks Crimelord onto the floor and proceeds to lock his cell. Crimelord laughs hysterically pointing at Jasper. As the prison gate slams shut and locks, his laughing subsides and he realizes what is happening.

153 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - EVENING** 153

Guests enter the theatre, handing their secret invites to Carol as they come in. He counts off their names. They are all excited, chatting to each other. An MC stands at the front of the stage with a microphone.

M.C.

Alright, folks, if you'd like to
take your seats please! Our show is
about to begin!

The people settle. All very excited. An opera singer walks
onto the stage wearing a tuxedo. He takes a bow, then
arranges himself behind a microphone and adjusts the stand.
He begins to sing, his voice filling the theatre.

Outside, Carol locks the doors.

154 **EXT. STONELAKE POLICE STATION - EVENING**

154

June pulls up to the entrance of the police station and
rushes up to the door. She bangs on it viciously. Lisa opens
it.

LISA

Ma'am?

JUNE

I have some information to share
with two particular policemen, it's
urgent.

Carl and Jasper walk up behind June. They've just arrived.

JASPER

Can I help you miss?

June turns to look at them.

JUNE

You two are such idiots!

Carl and Jasper look at each other.

155 **EXT. PARKS MANOR, THEATRE - EVENING**

155

Kevin and Penny rush up some stairs and up to the exterior
of the theatre. They look through one of the windows.

KEVIN - POV

Everyone is sitting still, watching the opera singer.

CLOSEUP - OPERA SINGER

Giving a passionate performance. The music is uneasy.

KEVIN

Penny, look up there, on the
ceiling.

Penny looks up and tries to see what Kevin's talking about.
There's a bunch of steel pipes intertwined on the ceiling.

KEVIN

Those pipes lead somewhere.

Penny nods. Kevin and Penny sneak around the building and find a small door that looks promising and is mercifully unlocked. They go inside.

156 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - EVENING** 156

The opera singer finishes his performance and the audience claps enthusiastically. They're having a wonderful time.

157 **INT. THEATRE, GAS ROOM - EVENING** 157

The gas room is full of bottles of poison, wires and pipes.

KEVIN

Penny, this is it! Look at all these pipes!

Penny sees the masked man, who we see now is Carol, in the corner. He's holding an axe. He comes charging at them, swinging the axe like a madman. Kevin leaps out of the way, landing hard against the wall, he drops to the floor just as Carol embeds the axe in the wall above his head. Intent on hacking Kevin to pieces, Carol doesn't pay Penny much heed. She watches, distraught and not sure what to do. Kevin is on the floor. He grabs a steel bar nearby and rolls over just in time to block the axe coming down on him. Carol uses the axe head to pry the steel bar from Kevin's grip and raises it to deliver a killing blow. Penny grabs a glass bottle and with all her might beats Carol over the back of the head, knocking him out. He drops the axe and sinks to the floor.

Kevin and Penny look at each other proudly. Kevin is trying to catch his breath. He grins at Penny.

KEVIN

That guy...(catches his breath)
Really deserved that!

Penny grins. Kevin is surprised he didn't die. They turn their attention back to the mess of wires and pipes.

CLOSE UP:

A clock sits on a shelf, attached to a bunch of wires. The time is five minutes to nine.

158 **INT. STONELAKE POLICE STATION - EVENING** 158

Jasper, Carl and June are seated at a desk. Documents and evidence June has brought from Parks Manor are spread out across it.

JASPER

But it doesn't make any sense.

JUNE

Have you been listening to me? He was cursed!

CARL

But Walter's a good guy!

JUNE

Look at the photograph! Both of you!

Jasper picks up the photograph, annoyed.

JASPER

What are we looking at?

JUNE

The necklaces. You see how they're all wearing necklaces? Well two of them are different. The ones around Tony and Martha Parks' necks - the folks in the middle - one of those is the Magician's!

CLOSE UP: photograph of Tony and Martha Parks and the matching necklaces.

JUNE

The guy you just put in prison? He's the SON of Tony and Martha Parks! And therefore the rightful owner of Parks Manor!

Realization dawns on Jasper's face. He sits back, shell shocked. Carl is confused.

CARL

So what does that mean?

JASPER

Oh shut up, Carl!

Jasper rips the office phone off the hook and makes a call.

159 **INT. STONELAKE PRISON CELLS - EVENING**

159

The Magician lies semi-conscious on the cell floor. He's had it rough. Walter Parks walks in through the door, making a beeline for the Magician's cell. The guard on the other side of the room takes no notice.

CRIMELORD

YOU!

Walter pauses at Crimelord's cell. Crimelord gets up, furious, pointing at Walter.

CRIMELORD

What is this?! We had a deal!
You're gonna get me out of here
right now!

Crimelord comes to stand at the bars, holding onto them and glaring at Walter. Walter stares into his wild eyes for a moment and then pulls out a large knife and stabs him in the abdomen through the bars. Crimelord chokes and stumbles back, shocked. Blood starts foaming at his mouth. Crimelord looks around, almost lucid.

CRIMELORD

Penny.

He drops to the floor, dead. The guard's attention is drawn and he hurries over.

GUARD

What are you doing?!

Walter turns to the guard and picks up a long blade discarded on the floor from when Jasper and Carl brought Magician and Crimelord in and searched them. He swings it at the guard, slicing his neck open. The guard drops to the floor. Walter snatches the keys to the cell from the guards hand and begins looking for the one for the Magician's cell.

160 **INT. THEATRE, GAS ROOM - EVENING**

160

KEVIN

It's on a timer, Penny! This is
what's gonna send tonnes of gas
into the air out there! We have to
re-set it!

Penny rushes forward in a panic.

PENNY

Wait wait wait! Kevin! Stop! What
if it doesn't work? What if it
makes it worse?

Kevin pauses, reconsiders. He looks around the room and notices a locked box attached to a huge gas cylinder.

KEVIN

Keys!

He turns to Penny.

KEVIN

Those drawers outside! Go look for
keys in them! I'll look in here!

They begin hunting for a key to unlock the control box.

161 INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - EVENING

161

M.C.

And now we come to the last act of our show tonight, ladies and gentlemen. Please give it up for our final act: the girl with a heart of gold, our very own Penny!

162 INT. THEATRE, GAS ROOM - EVENING

162

Kevin hears the announcement as Penny comes rushing back into the room.

KEVIN

Penny, it's your time! You need to go sing. I've got it from here. I can handle it. Go!

Penny doesn't think she can do this. She's afraid. She doesn't want to leave Kevin. She doesn't want to go into that theatre where hundreds of people are about to die.

PENNY

But... what if you can't do it in time?

She turns beseechingly to Kevin.

KEVIN

For goodness sake, Penny! Just go sing your song! We only have one shot at this! I have one shot too!

He pauses, gathering courage.

KEVIN

To be a hero.

Penny looks up at him.

KEVIN

Let's make it count! Now go!

Penny ties the Magician's necklace round her neck and runs off. Kevin fiddles with the keys and the control box.

163 INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - EVENING

163

The M.C is looking uncomfortable.

M.C.

Erm - it seems that Penny is not with us tonight.

The audience looks around, disappointed.

Walter lies with five playing cards embedded in his chest.

176 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - NIGHT**

176

Penny stares across the audience, singing the last lines of her song. In the crowd the Magician beams at her. He's wearing the Caretaker's coat and fedora hat. He's bruised and bloodied but alive. The audience claps after her performance, moved and enthralled.

M.C.

That is the end of our show,
tonight, ladies and gentlemen!
Let's give it up one more time for
our very own Penny!

The audience gives her a standing ovation. The Magician rushes up the stairs to the stage and hugs her.

MAGICIAN

Penny! You did it! You brought
tears to their eyes. Look at their
faces! And it's past nine - you and
Kevin must have done it! Where is
Kevin?

Penny looks apprehensively out to the crowd. That he hasn't turned up yet is not a good sign. She looks anxiously at the Magician.

MAGICIAN

Penny?(anxious) Where's Kevin?

The audience begin to file out of their chairs and towards the exits. Penny grabs the Magician's arm and they race backstage toward the gas room.

177 **INT. THEATRE, GAS ROOM - NIGHT**

177

The door to the gas room is closed, but gas is seeping underneath it. The Magician is horrified.

MAGICIAN

Penny! Get out of here!

Penny obeys, running back downstairs. The Magician wrenches the door open and rushes inside, despite the poisonous gas filling the entire room. He clamps a hand over his mouth but can't keep from calling out for his friend

KEVIN

KEVIN!

178 **INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - NIGHT**

178

The two main exits to the parking lot are closed. The audience is confused, trying to open the doors to no avail. Outside, Penny rushes up to the door and unlocks it. The audience all file out, confused and looking around.

179 INT. THEATRE, GAS ROOM - NIGHT

179

The Magician hauls Kevin out of the gas room and down to the theatre, away from the poisonous gas filling the upstairs section. Kevin is a dead weight: lifeless.

MAGICIAN

Kevin! No!

180 INT. PARKS MANOR THEATRE - NIGHT

180

The show goers have all left, the parking lot clearing as they go home, unharmed and unaware of the mortal peril their were in.

Penny sits knees to her chest in the empty theatre, anxious for Kevin and the Magician.

The Magician bursts through the door dragging Kevin.

PENNY

Penny! Help me!

PENNY

Kevin!

They kneel over him, shaking him, trying to wake him. He doesn't move. Unresponsive. Not breathing.

PENNY

Kevin! Kevin, it's Penny! You did it! You saved the day! You saved all those people!

She tries in vain to shake him awake. The Magician stares at his friend. They're too late. He was too late. Tears run down his cheeks. He tries to pretend.

MAGICIAN

Just open your eyes Kevin.
Everything's going to be alright.
Just... Just open your eyes. Kevin!

June bursts through the door and comes to a horrified halt. She stares at Kevin on the ground. The cops are right behind her.

Slow pull out as June kneels next to her friends, holding onto each other and weeping for Kevin.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE FROM BLACK.

CLOSE UP:

Newspaper Headline: WALTER PARKS RESPONSIBLE FOR STONELAKE KILLINGS

181 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - DAY** 181

WIDE ANGLE:

Headlines are pasted on posters around the city, blaring the news to all.

182 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY** 182

CLOSE UP:

In the beautiful Parks Manor gardens, a butterfly takes wing from a plant.

WIDE - SLOW PUSH IN:

Parks Manor. A sign in the front garden: "PARKS MANOR: SAFE HOME FOR OCCULTISTS."

183 **INT. PARKS MANOR - DAY** 183

CLOSE UP:

The Magician's hand dips a quill into an ink bottle.

Track back to reveal him sitting at a desk. He's dressed in smart clothes, writing on some documents. June, also well dressed, walks up behind him and sets her hands on the back of his chair.

JUNE

So, what are you going to do now?

The Magician chews his lip a moment.

MAGICIAN

I have a few wrongs that I need to make right.

184 **EXT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 184

Sam enters the apartment.

185 **INT. MAGICIAN'S APARTMENT - DAY** 185

Inside, he is white washing the walls and cleaning up. Something catches his eye. He turns to find a box of chocolate donuts and an envelope: all the rent he was owed by the Magician. The envelope reads: "Sorry it's late."

186 **INT. PENNY'S SANCTUARY - DAY** 186

Penny walks over to her piano. She's wearing a bright dress, her life clearly much improved. On the piano is a letter. She picks it up to examine it. It's an acceptance letter from the Stonelake Music Academy notifying her of her

acceptance to their music program, and that her tuition has been paid in full. She smiles, clasping the Magician's necklace around her neck that she still wears.

187 **INT. STONELAKE PRINTING COMPANY - DAY**

187

Herbert walks through the printing room and then stops, doing a double take. The Magician is waiting for him.

MAGICIAN

I owe you an apology, Herb.

Herbert looks at him doubtfully.

MAGICIAN

You were right about everything.

Herbert considers him, then comes towards him, willing to hear him out.

MAGICIAN

The story was true. Recently, I lost a great friend of mine. I realize that I should have treated him better. I should have treated you better, Herb. And I'm sorry. For everything.

Herbert shakes his head, a smile tugging at his lips. He rushes over and gives the Magician a bear hug. The Magician is taken aback but smiles in spite of himself.

HERBERT

Do you wanna hear a joke?

The Magician grimaces.

188 **EXT. PARKS MANOR - DAY**

188

June and the Magician lay flowers at the foot of a gravestone.

Track back to reveal a life size statue of Kevin. June and Magician look up, remembering their friend. They walk down some garden steps, hand in hand, to another collection of older gravestones, showing the names of the Magician's forbears, including his parents.

189 **INT. PARKS MANOR - DAY**

189

Back at the writing desk, the Magician finishes up all but one document.

JUNE

I'm proud of you. But you know, you still haven't answered any of my questions.

MAGICIAN

Such as?

JUNE

You haven't told me your name, for starters! Figured it out yet?

The Magician grins.

MAGICIAN

Well..

He turns back to his last document. It's a Last Will and Testament.

CLOSE UP:

He puts the quill to the paper and makes the first stroke of the first letter of his name.

CUT TO BLACK.

From black, the Griffin's eye BLINKS OPEN.

190 **EXT. STONELAKE CITY - NIGHT**

190

In the gloom, the griffin leaps up over a rooftop. It surveys the city. Shouts below can be heard.

RANDOM MAN 1

Find the beast!

RANDOM MAN 2

Kill it!

The Griffin scrabbles back over the rooftop and takes off into the night, swooping over the city and straight toward the camera.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.