

UNTIL DAWN

Chapter 9: "Prey"

by

U. N. Owen

based on the videogame

by

Supermassive Games

FADE IN:

EXT. PRECIPICE - NIGHT - ONE YEAR AGO

HANNAH AND BETH WASHINGTON hang onto the precipice!

THE FLAMETHROWER GUY blasts fire from his flamethrower to a WENDIGO!

The creature SHRIEKS in pain, contorts until it dies.

The man reaches, lends his arm to Beth, who looks at the hand trying to grab her.

HANNAH

You have to let me go.

BETH

Are you crazy?!

HANNAH

There's no way we're both gonna make it out of this alive. But you can!

BETH

I'm not dropping you! Hold on!

HANNAH

You're the best sister I could've ever asked for.

Hannah starts sobbing.

HANNAH

I'll miss you.

BETH

Hannah, DON'T!

Hannah LETS GO OF BETH'S HAND, FALLS TO THE ABYSS!

BETH

HANNAH! OH JESUS!

Beth tries to reach the other person's hand -

- SHE SLIPS, AND FALLS TOO!

INT. MINES - NIGHT - ONE YEAR AGO

BETH LANDS ON A ROCK! - HER BACK BREAKS WITH A CRUNCH.

- She rolls through the mines, every single bone breaking.

Beth's lifeless body ends next to Hannah's, both of them completely bruised...

FADE TO BLACK

INT. MINES - LATER - ONE YEAR AGO

A PAIR OF EYES OPEN.

Hannah Washington GASPS for air. She tries to get up, with no result.

HANNAH
(barely audible)
Be - Beth?

She manages to turn her neck just enough to look at her side...

BETH'S CORPSE STARES DIRECTLY AT HER!

Without strength to articulate a word, Hannah wails quietly.

INT. MINES, CAVERN - NIGHT - ONE YEAR AGO

Hannah carries a SHOVEL, its tip broken. She starts digging a little hole, then another, and so on...

INT. MINES, CAVERN - LATER - ONE YEAR AGO

She DRAGS Beth's body, throws it in the makeshift grave.

Crying, Hannah buries the body.

INT. MINES, MINING FACILITY - NIGHT - ONE YEAR AGO

Her hands trembling, Hannah picks up a map with dangerous zones circled.

Her bloodied thumb prints a BLOODSTAIN on the map.

INT. MINES, MINING FACILITY - LATER - ONE YEAR AGO

Hannah lies with her back against the rock wall. She zones out, barely breathing. She grabs a NEARBY STICK, and carves a STRAIGHT LINE on the wall.

She then writes "2/6/2022".

She closes her eyes, and passes out.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. MINES, MINING FACILITY - LATER - ONE YEAR AGO

Another straight line is added, next to a couple dozen more. Hannah stares at them.

She seems different. More UNHINGED... not in pain anymore.

The girl breathes deeply, and slowly leaves the facility.

INTRO

INT. SANATORIUM, MORGUE - 5:08 AM

TWO HOURS UNTIL DAWN.

A TORCH IS LIT.

MIKE puts his lighter in his pocket. SAM wanders around.

SAM
What is this place?

MIKE
A sanatorium. Some kind of...
Medical facility, I think.

SAM
I know that, I saw this place when
I first got here.

Sam opens a cabinet on the wall.

SAM
I meant what is this room?

MIKE
No, don't open -

SAM SCREAMS, COVERS HER MOUTH -

- A ROTTEN CORPSE LIES INSIDE!

MIKE
Told ya.

Sam quickly closes it.

SAM
Jesus.

MIKE
It's a morgue, as you may have
noticed already.

Sam looks at the dozens of cabinets filling the room.

SAM
Oh my God...

MIKE
Something happened here, many years
ago. Some miners were trapped, and
the survivors were brought here.

The girl approaches A DESK, looks through some files.

SAM
Huh. This place was like rehab,
then.

MIKE

Something like that, I guess.

(beat)

Anyway, we have to go back where I came from in the first place. It's this way.

Mike leads the way, Sam follows him close behind.

INT. SANATORIUM, ADMINISTRATION - 5:11 AM

The duo enters the administration room Mike previously was in. It's the same as it was the first time we saw it.

SAM

They didn't bother to leave this place tidy, from the looks of it.

MIKE

And the flamethrower guy was too busy to do it himself.

Mike approaches the broken stretchers, inspects them.

MIKE

What did this?

SAM

Do you think -?

MIKE

(interrupts)

Wendigos? Could be. I'm telling you, some shit went down in here, and I wouldn't be surprised if it turned out to be those monsters.

SAM

It's not like there are a lot of other possibilities.

Mike keeps walking. Sam gives a quick look around, sees a MAP, barely hanging onto the wall.

SAM

Hey, Mike, check this out.

She straightens the map, tries to interpret it.

MIKE

It's a map of the sanatorium.

The map divides the sanatorium into two sections: EAST AND WEST WING.

MIKE

Okay, so, we're currently on the east wing.

He points at it as he talks.

MIKE

We came through the morgue, and we're right here. Administration area.

SAM

Look...

Sam examines the west wing, titled "PSYCH WARD". On the border of the map, it reads: "PASSAGE TO THE MINES."

SAM

The psych ward has a direct passage into the mines.

Mike looks at it as well.

MIKE

Huh. It's true.

SAM

Maybe we should go that way. It looks faster.

He thinks about it.

MIKE

I don't know, Sam. I already know the way through the east wing, and it's safe. We don't know what's on the other side. And psych ward doesn't particularly excite me.

Sam nods, convinced.

SAM

Yeah, you're right. Let's do it your way.

MIKE

Follow me.

INT. MINES - 5:02 AM

EMILY AND JESS continue on their mission.

JESS

You're sure we're on the right path?

EMILY

I'm positive. I'm tracking every move we make, so we can always go back the way we came from.

JESS

And how much longer until we get there?

Emily sighs.

EMILY

I don't know. Maybe a couple of hours?

JESS

We haven't crossed paths with the monster yet.

EMILY

Don't jinx it.

JESS

We have to come up with a plan, a strategy. Just in case.

Emily nods.

EMILY

Yeah.

She feels her pocket, and takes out a FLARE GUN.

EMILY

I can use this.

JESS

You think it'll kill it?

Emily shrugs.

EMILY

It has to do at least some damage. Or it can buy us enough time to escape.

Jess shakes her head.

JESS

I doubt it. For me, at least. I can barely walk.

EMILY

Hey, you're keeping up with me, despite what happened to you.

(beat)

And I don't walk slow.

Jess lets out a slight chuckle, Em looks at her, chuckles as well.

JESS

Em, watch out!

The girl stops, but it's too late - SHE SLIDES DOWN A MUDDY SLOPE!

She lands on her back, and groans in pain.

JESS (O.S)
(from above)
Emily! Are you okay!?

EMILY
I'm fine. It's okay, you can slide down.

Jess does so.

Emily stands up, begins to gather her stuff. She picks up the map and the torch.

EMILY
Shit! I can't find the flare gun.

JESS
I got it.

Jess gives it to her.

EMILY
Thanks.

JESS
Watch your step next time. You were too busy looking at me.

EMILY
Yeah, right.

JESS
I don't blame you. I've been told I cause a special effect on people.

Emily scoffs playfully.

INT. LODGE, BASEMENT - 5:24 AM

ASHLEY locks every door to the basement, her hands trembling uncontrollably -

She wipes her tears and sits on the floor, her knees close to her chest -

She mumbles inaudibly, rocks herself. Her breathing is agitated, short and quick breaths -

IMAGE: The wendigo wrapping both humanoid arms around Matt's torso, hugging him tightly.

Ashley shakes her head in denial.

ASHLEY
No, no, I didn't - I tried to help
him!

INT. SEWERS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Ashley lends Matt her hand, he grabs it firmly.

ASHLEY
Hold on to me!

INT. LODGE, BASEMENT - 5:26 AM - BACK TO PRESENT

Ashley nods repeatedly, trying to convince herself.

ASHLEY
Yes, yes, I helped him...

IMAGE: Ashley pulling Matt up!

ASHLEY
It wasn't my fault. It wasn't my
fault, no, no...

IMAGE: ASHLEY PARALYZED BY SHOCK.

The girl covers her head with her hands.

ASHLEY
No... No! No, no, no!

INT. SEWERS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Ashley DROPS Matt's hand!

He falls, screaming, and with the wendigo's teeth impaled on
his neck!

INT. LODGE, BASEMENT - 5:28 AM - BACK TO PRESENT

Ashley grabs her hair, and lets out a PIERCING SCREAM!

She cries, buries her face in between her knees...

INT. SANATORIUM, MAIN HALL - 5:17 AM

Mike peeks down both sides of a hallway.

MIKE
All clear. Come on.

He and Sam enter the main hall.

MIKE
The door's right there.

The couple keeps walking -

They are stopped abruptly by the faint sound of a door SCREECHING.

The duo lock eyes.

SAM

You heard that too, right?

He nods.

They hear a continuous CLACKING on the ground in the room next door.

SAM

Hide!

Mike THROWS the torch away, hides behind a column. Sam crouches beneath an old desk.

A WENDIGO WALKS IN! - Its claws CLACK onto the floor!

The teenagers hold their breath. Mike spies the creature: it's looking at the lying torch, intrigued.

The wendigo moves in short but fast BURSTS, like if it were hunting something.

Mike scouts for alternatives: Some stairs lead to the upper floor!

He makes eye contact with Sam, points at the stairs. She nods.

MIKE

(whispers)

Okay, okay...

CLICK - Mike disengages the safety on his SHOTGUN.

The wendigo SNARLS at Mike, and SPRINTS towards him!

Sam seizes the opportunity: without making any sound, she starts walking to the stairs...

Mike side eyes the wendigo, just a few feet away from him!

Sam makes it to the stairs, looks at her friend.

She takes her gun out, closes one eye to have a better aim...

The wendigo stays still for a second, looking for Mike -

BANG! - Sam SHOOTs THE MONSTER'S HEAD, PUSHES it backwards!

SAM

RUN!

MIKE MAKES A RUN FOR IT! - The wendigo SHRIEKS and goes after them!

MIKE
Go, go, go, go!

The teens run as fast as they can!

INT. SANATORIUM, STAIRS - 5:20 AM

The wendigo ignores the stairs and climbs up the wall!

SAM
Watch out!

The wendigo LUNGES at Sam!

THUMP! - Mike SMACKS the wendigo mid-air with the BUTT of his shotgun!

MIKE
Keep going!

INT. SANATORIUM, WEST WING - 5:22 AM

The teenagers close the door behind them, quickly lock it with a wooden board!

The wendigo BANGS on the door, screams at it for a while...

The banging stops, and we hear the sound of FOOTSTEPS leaving!

The teenagers exhale in relief.

SAM
That was close.

MIKE
Nice shot back there. I'm surprised.

SAM
Thank my father for insisting I take archery classes since I was ten.

Mike stares at his shotgun.

MIKE
Maybe we should switch weapons.

Sam smirks.

SAM
You're saying I'm better at this?

MIKE
(scoffs)

No.

(beat)

Maybe. I got used to the revolver
anyway.

SAM
Fine. Whatever you say.

They exchange weapons. Sam loads the shotgun.

SAM
We're not alone in here. Get ready.

MIKE
(playful)
I always am, Sam.

They venture into the sanatorium.

INT. MINES - 5:18 AM

Emily inspects the map, Jess by her side holding the torch.

JESS
Have you figured out where we are?

EMILY
(sighs)
No. That slide wasn't marked in
this thing. We're somewhere off the
map.

Emily looks up to where she fell.

EMILY
It's impossible to climb back up.
We're gonna have to keep going this
way.

Jess points at a spot on the map.

JESS
Okay, but not too long ago we were
here, you said.

Emily nods.

JESS
So we have to be somewhere over...
(slides her finger)
Here, maybe?

EMILY
I mean, it's possible, but not
certain. As long as we keep heading
in the same direction, we should
find the exit nonetheless.

JESS

Okay, then, nothing changes. We don't stop.

Emily rolls the map and takes the torch.

EMILY

Let's go.

A LOUD SHRIEK RESONATES THROUGH THE MINES!

EMILY

Oh my God...

JESS

That... sounded pretty loud. We're getting closer to them.

Emily lends Jess the torch.

EMILY

Here. Take this.

Emily readies her FLARE GUN.

EMILY

Just in case.

JESS

Let's hope we don't have to use it.

INT. SANATORIUM, HALLWAY - 5:27 AM

It's a narrow, dark corridor, that splits into two, with several doors to the sides, leading to different rooms.

MIKE

This is where all the lunatics were, huh?

SAM

We're in the psych ward. So, yeah.

They walk, alert, their weapons ready.

RATS SQUEAL, hide in holes in the walls. SPIDERS hang onto webs in the corners.

SAM

Ugh, disgusting.

DRY BLOOD STAINS THE OLD WALLS.

SAM

Jesus... What the hell happened in this place?

Mike looks at one of the rooms on the side. He notices a DETERIORATED FILM PROJECTOR, lying on the ground.

MIKE
Hey, over here.

SAM
What?

They enter the room.

INT. SANATORIUM, PROJECTION ROOM - 5:31 AM

It's a small, dark room. There's a RESTRAINING CHAIR, and a TABLE, both broken.

There's dry BLOOD all over the floor.

SAM
Mike, what are we doing here?

MIKE
Look at this.

Mike picks up the projector.

SAM
Is it still working?

MIKE
We'll see.

He CLICKS on the power button -

- A TAPE IS PROJECTED ON THE WALL.

MIKE
Nice.

SAM
After all these years...

The teens watch the recording.

BILLY BATES APPEARS ON THE FILM, LOOKING DIRECTLY AT THE CAMERA.

We ZOOM IN...

INT. SANATORIUM, PROJECTION ROOM - NIGHT - 1952

Billy stares at the camera, sitting on the restraining chair, although he's not tied up.

He's exhausted, resembles a zombie.

BRAGG (V.O)
March 14th, 1952. My name's Dr.
Jefferson Bragg, head of the
Blackwood Pines Sanatorium. I'm
here with one of the several miners
(MORE)

BRAGG (V.O) (cont'd)
who were trapped for a few weeks.
(beat)
Sir, your full name and age?

BILLY
Billy - William Bates. Thirty-two
years old.

He's uneasy, squirms in the chair.

BRAGG (V.O)
Can you talk us through what
happened, while you were trapped in
the mines?

BILLY
We, uh... Many of us were killed by
the cave-in. The survivors, we...
We found an emergency food supply.
We had to get by using that and the
water in our canteens.

BRAGG (V.O)
I see. And can you explain why
there were dead bodies, that
apparently looked eaten?

Billy stays silent.

BRAGG (V.O)
Mr. Bates?

BILLY
I'm not feeling well. Can we
continue later?

BRAGG (V.O)
Answer the question and then -

BILLY
(severe)
I said I'm not feeling well.
Please.

Bragg sighs.

BRAGG (V.O)
Fine, sure.

CLICK. The projection turns off.

INT. SANATORIUM, PROJECTION ROOM - 5:35 AM - PRESENT DAY

Sam and Mike stay silent, waiting for more.

SAM
Is that it?

MIKE

It appears so.

THE PROJECTOR STARTS AGAIN.

MIKE

Or maybe not.

INT. SANATORIUM, PROJECTION ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

It's JEFFERSON BRAGG, a middle-aged man with glasses. He looks at the camera, concerned.

BRAGG

March 24th, 1952. After a few weeks, the miners we rescued have... Changed, somehow. I heard what happened down there a thousand times, but, it just doesn't add up. I'm afraid they had to resort to... Extreme measures, in order to survive. I can't imagine how that could impact their psyche.

He takes a deep breath, lets it out.

BRAGG

They've grown more violent, too. Trying to bite the staff, resisting the medicine. It's like they are animals in the vet. I'll keep an eye on them, and double the security. I have a bad feeling about them that I can't shake off.

CLICK - ANOTHER RECORDING STARTS IMMEDIATELY.

It's Billy again, but he looks different. He lost hair, he's thinner, paler, and his teeth pointier. His eyes are more round, and this time he is RESTRAINED.

DOCTOR (V.O)

April 1st, 1952. Hello, Billy. I'm Dr. Martin Roberts. Dr. Bragg couldn't make it this time, so I came in his place.

(beat)

How are you feeling today?

Billy doesn't answer. He intensely licks his lips, like he were EYEING HIS MEAL.

DOCTOR (V.O)

Billy? Is everything alright?

A SCREAM OF AGONY COMES FROM ANOTHER ROOM!

DOCTOR (V.O)

What was that?

BILLY RELEASES HIMSELF FROM THE CHAIR!

DOCTOR (V.O)
Billy, stay right there.

Billy smirks, revealing his deformed teeth.

HE LUNGES TO THE CAMERA!

DOCTOR (V.O)
AGH! NOOOOO!

CLICK! - The projection stops.

INT. SANATORIUM, PROJECTION ROOM - 5:37 AM - PRESENT DAY

Sam and Mike look at each other.

SAM
Oh my God...

MIKE
It's them. The wendigos.

SAM
Jesus.

Sam rubs her eyes and breathes deeply, stressed.

MIKE
How many of them are there?

SAM
I don't know, and I'm not planning
to find out.

MIKE
Me neither. Let's get the hell out
of this mountain.

INT. LODGE, BASEMENT - 5:33 AM

Ashley bites her nails, sitting against a wall.

ASHLEY
Huh? What was that?

Pure silence.

ASHLEY
You know, maybe... Maybe I did the
right thing by letting him go.

Ashley fixates her eyes on one spot, as if she were talking
to someone.

ASHLEY

Yeah, think about it. He was bitten! He was going to turn into a wendigo and kill me!

She chuckles nervously. Her smile slowly fades out.

ASHLEY

The bite, infectious?

(beat)

Yes, it has to be. That's how you turn into one.

She bites her nails, deep in thought.

ASHLEY

I know! You'll see I'm right. Hold on.

She stands up, grabs the DIARY, starts reading it.

ASHLEY

Okay, let's see...

She flips pages.

ASHLEY

No, no... No, not that...

She stops.

ASHLEY

Aha!

(reads)

"Wendigo bites are a likely consequence after an encounter. They are dangerous, and have to be treated quickly."

She smiles, satisfied, but it only lasts a few seconds.

ASHLEY

"Although they have to be sanitized in order for them to not get infected...

(long pause)

...there are no side effects. I've been bitten several times, with no lasting consequences."

She stays paralyzed, in disbelief of what she just read. She DROPS the diary, covers her mouth with her hand.

ASHLEY

Oh my God...

Ashley starts to get watery eyes.

ASHLEY

I... Killed him. I killed Matt.

Tears fall down her cheeks, her mouth wide open.

ASHLEY

What have I done?

INT. MINES, TUNNEL - 5:31 AM

Emily and Jess, who carries the torch, keep walking. They pass by some MINING CARTS and EQUIPMENT.

JESS

I wonder how old these things are.

EMILY

Probably pretty old. Can't say for sure, but probably mid twentieth century.

JESS

Everything looks abandoned... You think the monsters got 'em?

Emily nods slowly.

EMILY

When I was alone down here, I found a couple of skeletons lying around.

JESS

Oh my God!

EMILY

Yeah, it was disgusting. Anyway, it is possible something happened to them.

JESS

You mean the monsters happened.

EMILY

Yeah...

She doesn't sound really convinced.

JESS

You don't believe me.

EMILY

Look, the only evidence I have that they exist is what you told me. Some things you have to see for yourself.

JESS

And those loud screams we keep hearing? What are they, then?

EMILY

Maybe the wind. Down here it's possible -

Jess puts her hand on Emily's mouth.

EMILY

What -

Jess has a finger on her lips, her eyes wide open.

A dim, flickering light from a lantern prints A HUMANOID SHADOW on the wall.

Emily looks at Jess, she nods...

JESS

It's the monster.

Jess puts the torch down slowly, and they start retreating -

The footsteps of the wendigo are loud, they STOMP the ground beneath - It approaches the girls!

Emily notices a SMALL CAVE on her side.

EMILY

(whispers)

Over here!

Both teens hide, stay still. They don't dare to peek.

THE FOOTSTEPS GROW CLOSER!

Emily prepares the flare gun. They hold their breath...

THE WENDIGO WALKS PAST THE CAVE! The girls look at the wendigo, with all its deadly features.

The creature turns its head towards the cave!

Emily readies her finger on the trigger -

THE WENDIGO LEAVES!

The girls stay still, wait until the footsteps disappear.

EMILY

I think it's gone.

JESS

How the hell did it not see us!?

EMILY

I don't know, I don't know. It was pretty dark.

Jess shakes her head.

JESS

I could see it just fine. That thing's blind or something.

Emily doesn't reply. She catches her breath, processing what she just saw.

Jess takes the torch from the ground, puts her hand on Em's shoulder.

JESS

Em.

EMILY

I can't - I can't believe it.

Jess puts a hand on each shoulder, SHAKES Emily.

JESS

Emily! Listen to me. Don't freak out, okay?

EMILY

(scoffs)

Don't freak out!?

JESS

I need you to stay sharp. There's no way we're making it out without you.

Emily shakes her head, releases herself from Jess' grip.

EMILY

No, no, I can't do this. I've been trying to keep it cool for hours now.

She starts to sob.

EMILY

We're not making it through the night.

JESS

You're just saying that because of the monster. It's the shock that's talking, not you.

EMILY

Oh, come on! Are you seriously going to tell me that you thought we had a chance?

Jess doesn't say anything.

EMILY

All we're doing is walking, hoping
we find an exit, if we're not
killed first.

Emily sits, lets out a sigh.

EMILY

It's pointless.

JESS

You can't give up now.

EMILY

Well, guess what.

(beat)

I just did.

INT. SANATORIUM, HALLWAY - 5:43 AM

Sam looks at a closed door, with a sign that reads "BRAGG'S
OFFICE."

She opens it, takes a peek. She sees an SKELETON sitting on
a chair, fully clothed.

SAM

Oh my God... Mike, look at this.

MIKE

What?

They go in.

INT. SANATORIUM, BRAGG'S OFFICE - 5:45 AM

The small office is as old and messy as the whole
sanatorium.

Mike stares at the deteriorated skeleton.

MIKE

Jesus Christ... What are we doing
here?

SAM

Don't you wanna know what happened?

MIKE

Not really.

SAM

It'll be just a minute.

Sam approaches the corpse. Mike picks up a VIAL.

IT'S POISON.

MIKE
Guess we know how he died.

SAM
He drank it voluntarily?

Mike shrugs.

Sam notices a SMALL PIECE OF PAPER in the hand of the skeleton.

SAM
Okay...

She takes it, avoiding to touch any bones -

A RAT COMES OUT FROM THE INSIDE OF THE CLOTHES!

Sam shrieks, shakes her hand. The rat leaves.

MIKE
(laughs)
You alright?

SAM
Jesus, that scared me.

MIKE
For a moment there I thought you
were gonna shoot it.

SAM
I could've.

She catches her breath, picks up the paper.

MIKE
What is it?

She inspects it.

SAM
It's... A note.

MIKE
From who?

Sam keeps reading.

SAM
It's signed. Dr. Jefferson Bragg.
April, 1952.

MIKE
That's the date we heard in the
tape.

SAM
Let's check this out.

INT. SANATORIUM, BRAGG'S OFFICE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Jefferson Bragg scribbles on the small piece of paper. He looks tense.

He glances at the door, sealed shut and with a wooden board locking it.

BRAGG (V.O)

I don't know how much time I have left. The rescued miners appeared to be well, but in a matter of weeks they turned into something I cannot describe.

On the other side of the door, we hear SCREAMS OF AGONY, followed by SHRIEKING and SCREECHING.

BRAGG (V.O)

They're killing everybody out there. My chances of survival are null. Tonight is when I die.

SLAM! - A BLOODY HAND BANGS ON THE DOOR!

A DOCTOR looks through the door's small window.

DOCTOR #2

HELP! OPEN, PLEASE!

Bragg watches him, paralyzed.

The man is DRAGGED AWAY -

BLOOD SPRAYS ON THE WINDOW!

Bragg writes faster!

BRAGG (V.O)

I won't end up like the others. I'll make sure of that.

He opens a POISON BOTTLE.

BRAGG (V.O)

If anyone reads this someday, I hope these creatures aren't still around. If they are, the best and only thing you can do is pray. This is how I'm going to spend my last moments. Jefferson Bragg.

A WENDIGO peeks through the window. Bragg and the creature exchange looks.

THE WENDIGO SCREECHES, TRIES TO TEAR THE DOOR DOWN.

Bragg closes his eyes.

BRAGG
 Forgive me, Lord, for all my sins.

BANG!

BRAGG
 It was You who said that in the
 end, we shall be reunited in
 paradise.

BANG, BANG, BANG!

ANOTHER SHRIEK!

BRAGG
 I hope You'll accept me with your
 arms open for the rest of eternity.

He takes a deep breath, SIPS THE POISON!

Bragg quickly starts PANTING, GASPING FOR AIR. He grabs his
 neck in despair.

He KNOCKS the vial to the ground, picks up the note, and...

He dies.

INT. SANATORIUM, BRAGG'S OFFICE - 5:47 AM - PRESENT DAY

Sam sighs.

SAM
 So that was what happened...

MIKE
 An outbreak. That'd explain why
 they're loose throughout the entire
 mountain.

SAM
 Remember what the flamethrower guy
 said? He had been hunting them,
 containing them.

Mike opens his eyes wide.

MIKE
 Oh, shit. Shit, shit, shit!

SAM
 What?

MIKE
 I'm afraid we walked right into the
 lion's den.

SAM
 You don't mean -

He nods.

MIKE

They're here.

INT. MINES - 5:38 AM

Jess and Emily sit in the dark tunnels of the mines. They don't speak, both of them deep in thought.

Jess glances at the other girl, takes a deep breath.

JESS

I was thinking...

Emily looks at her.

JESS

If this is really the end, then...
There's something I want to tell
you.

She bites her lip, nervous.

JESS

When you and Mike were going out,
I... I already had feelings for
him. I obviously never told you,
but I was crushing on him really
hard.

She takes a deep breath.

JESS

That's why when you two broke up, I
tried to get him to notice me, and
eventually like me. I figured if I
waited, you two would get back and
that I would blow my chance with
him.

Emily doesn't reply.

JESS

I know I should've asked you, or at
least wait a little bit until it no
longer bothered you. The truth is,
I was selfish. I put my feelings
for Mike above our friendship.

(sighs)

And I'm sorry for that.

Silence.

JESS

Aren't you going to say something?

Emily opens her mouth, like she were about to talk, but no words come out.

JESS

Fine. I thought that -

EMILY

I knew.

Jess stares at her, shocked.

JESS

What?

EMILY

I knew you liked him. Girl, you can't act for shit. Every time he walked into the room, you'd have this huge smile on your face. It was pretty obvious.

JESS

Why didn't you say something?

EMILY

What did you want me to say? I thought that if I confronted you, it'd only lead to conflict. And, of course, I was right.

JESS

What do you mean?

EMILY

(chuckles)

Well, look at us. It was our feelings for Mike that eventually made us hate each other.

Jess thinks about it for a minute.

JESS

I never looked at it that way.

EMILY

(sighs)

It's just that... Mike has that effect on people. You probably noticed already.

Jess smiles, nostalgic.

JESS

He does.

(beat)

I miss him.

EMILY

Me too.

Jess shakes her head, confused.

JESS

I don't understand. What about Matt? He's a great guy.

Emily groans, dips her head in her hands.

EMILY

Ugh, Matt. He can be a handful sometimes.

She breathes deeply.

EMILY

I started going out with him just to make Mike jealous, to be honest. However, I genuinely began to like him. He's sweet, understanding...
(sighs)
He doesn't deserve me.

JESS

Don't say that.

EMILY

It's true. The first thing I did when I came here was talk to Mike. I don't know what I was trying to do. He basically turned me down, and I felt... Defeated.
(nods)
But now I realize that's what I needed.
(beat)
I just wish I could apologize.

Silence.

JESS

Well, there's two ways you can approach this, Em.

EMILY

Enlighten me.

JESS

You can either sit here and wish that things will work themselves out, or...

Jess stands up, grabs the torch, and lends Emily her hand.

JESS

...We can get the fuck out of this place, and you can apologize to Matt in person.

Encouraged, Emily takes her friend's hand.

EMILY
Fine. We got this.

JESS
That's what I'm talking about.

Emily takes the map and the flare gun.

EMILY
Oh, and one more thing. Everything
I told you, I -

JESS
Hey, what happened in the mines,
stays in the mines, right?

EMILY
Right.

They smile at each other.

INT. LODGE, MAIN HALL - 5:46 AM

Ash looks around the main hall. She seems lost, walking with no clear purpose.

She walks up to a desk, finds the photo that Sam brought, with all the teens in it.

FLASHBACKS FLOOD ASHLEY AS SHE LOOKS AT THE PICTURE.

BEGIN FLASHBACKS.

EXT. PATH TO THE LODGE - NIGHT

Ash and Chris watch a squirrel eat a cereal bar...

The animal fetches it, runs away.

Ashley and Chris look at each other, awkwardly stand up.

INT. LODGE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

CHRIS gives Ash a peanut butter banana sandwich, a smile on his face.

She eats it, nods in approval.

INT. JOSH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Chris and Ashley laugh to "Dumb and Dumber".

He looks at the screen with a smile on his face, while she looks at him, so happy...

Ash smiles tenderly.

INT. LODGE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Chris comforts Ash with a hug. She cries uncontrollably.

CHRIS (V.O)
I couldn't let anything happen to
you.

INT. LODGE, MAIN HALL - NIGHT

Ashley opens her arms. Chris collapses on her, and breaks down.

ASHLEY (V.O)
Everything's gonna be fine.

She breathes deeply, hugs him tighter.

INT. LODGE, MAIN HALL - NIGHT

Ashley wraps her hand around Chris'.

ASHLEY (V.O)
I like this.

THEY KISS.

CHRIS (V.O)
I love you, Ash.

END FLASHBACKS.

INT. LODGE, MAIN HALL - 5:48

Ash sheds a tear, keeps looking at the photo.

BEHIND HER, BY THE DOOR, SOMEONE WATCHES HER.

CHRIS (O.S)
Ash.

She freezes, puts the photo back.

She slowly turns...

CHRIS SMILES AT HER!

CHRIS
Ash, it's me.

ASHLEY
Chris?

She runs to the door.

CHRIS
It's so good to see you again.

ASHLEY
How is it possible?

CHRIS
I managed to shoot at the wendigo
before it did anything to me.

Ashley doesn't realize that Chris is basically INTACT.

She smiles, opens the door.

EXT. LODGE ENTRANCE - 5:51 AM

Ash keeps looking at him in disbelief.

ASHLEY
I missed you so much.
(choked up)
I didn't know if you were alive,
I...

CHRIS
It's okay. We're together now.

He opens his arms.

CHRIS
Come here.

She runs up to him, hugs him.

ASHLEY
I wanted to tell you I feel the
same way. I love you.

She closes her eyes and smiles, her head on his chest.

ASHLEY
Nothing is going to keep us apart
now. We're okay.

Ash breathes deeply.

A DROP OF BLOOD FALLS ON HER SHOULDER!

Unfazed, she keeps hugging him.

ANOTHER DROP!

ASHLEY
Chris?

She checks her bloodstained shoulder.

ASHLEY
What?

The girl unwraps her arms.

ASHLEY

How? Chris -

A WENDIGO IS IN FRONT OF HER, BLOOD DRIPPING FROM ITS MOUTH.

Next to it, Chris smiles at her, with a bit of pity.

CHRIS

I told you, Ash. We're together
now.

THE WENDIGO LUNGES AT THE GIRL!

EXT. MOUNTAIN - 5:52 AM

A FLOCK OF BIRDS fly away, scattered by the sound of ASH'S
SCREAM OF AGONY.

INT. SANATORIUM, PSYCH WARD - 5:53 AM

Mike and Sam run through the sanatorium.

MIKE

I should've known. I heard them
when I was here earlier. This place
is a death trap.

SAM

Mike, calm down. For all we know,
they're contained.

MIKE

Yeah, well, not all of them.

They turn a corner.

MIKE

It's this way.

There are some CELLS on the side of the hallway. They don't
pay attention to them.

SAM

What do you think -?

A WENDIGO SNARLS, LEAPS TOWARDS MIKE!

The duo SCREAMS TERRIFIED, before realizing...

The wendigo is trapped. It tries to escape the cell,
reaching with its arms through the bars.

Sam aims at it with her shotgun, Mike stops her.

MIKE

It's not worth it. You'll only
waste your shells.

SAM
Yeah. We're okay.

They keep glaring at it, catch their breath.

MIKE
They're really nasty fuckers, huh?

SAM
Tell me about it.

They walk carefully through the cells, occupied by wendigos.

SAM
Oh my God...

MIKE
There's more of them than I
thought.

They continue, their eyes fixated on the wendigos.

SAM
And to think these things were
people once...

MIKE
No one's going to believe us.
(beat)
If we ever make it out.

Sam puts her hand on her friend's shoulder.

SAM
We will. That's why we're doing
this, right?

MIKE
(sighs)
Right.

The contained wendigos shut up.

MIKE
Well, thank you. That was
unexpected.

One by one, they let out a PIERCING SHRIEK.

MIKE
(groans)
Shit.

SAM
Wait...

From afar, they hear ANOTHER SCREECH, ANSWERING THE CALL.

MIKE
What are they doing?

SAM
They're... Communicating?

The shrieks begin to grow louder!

Mike opens his eyes in realization.

MIKE
They're telling the rest we're
here.
(pause)
RUN!

Mike and Sam scatter away!

INT. SANATORIUM, HALL - 5:55 AM

It's a big room, with four other corridors. Few lightbulbs illuminate the hall.

SAM
Where to now!?

MIKE
We have to get back to the main
floor to get out of here.

Mike looks at a small HOLE IN THE GROUND.

MIKE
I bet we could fit in there.

SAM
Well, let's go!

CRASH! - THE LIGHTS GO OUT!

SAM
(whispers)
Shit!

MIKE
They're here.

SAM
Stay still.

MIKE
What!?

SAM
Just trust me!

It's pitch black, the teens can't even look at each other.

CLACK! - We hear the sound of CLAWS clicking on the ground.

MIKE

We can't stay like this forever.
They're going to find us.

SAM

Okay, just move slowly.

It's a mix of sounds: HEAVY BREATHING...SHRIEKING...FAINT
FOOTSTEPS...

MIKE

I think we're almost there.

A PIERCING SCREAM, AND SAM IS TAKEN BY A PAIR OF CLAWS!

MIKE

SAM!

SAM

MIKE HELP ME!

MIKE SHOOTS AT THE CEILING!

The flash of the shot gives him a quick glimpse: SAM IS ON
THE GROUND, TRYING TO FEND OFF THE WENDIGO!

SAM

GET OFF OF ME!

BANG!

MIKE

Was that you!?

SAM

I think I shot it!

Mike SHOOTS AGAIN! - the flash reveals the wendigo RUNNING
TOWARDS SAM!

MIKE

Sam, stay still!

Mike aims, breathes...

BANG! - HE SHOOTS AT THE CREATURE!

SAM

Oh my God, Mike, thank you.

MIKE

Go into the hole. I'll kill this
fucker.

SAM

Mike, it's impossible. Let's go!

Mike hesitantly follows her into the hole.

INT. SANATORIUM, OLD STORAGE - 6:01 AM

The teens DROP into an old, dusty room, barely lit. It has broken desks, documents, and BARRELS FULL OF OIL.

SAM

Let's go, we can't linger!

From a corridor, ANOTHER WENDIGO COMES RUNNING!

Mike glances at a WINDOW!

MIKE

To the window!

SAM SHOOTS AT THE RUNNING CREATURE, KNOCK IT BACK!

ANOTHER WENDIGO DROPS FROM THE HOLE!

Mike SHATTERS the glass with the butt of his gun.

MIKE

Come on!

Sam makes a run for it!

Mike covers her: he SHOOTS at both wendigos, gives her enough time to get to him!

Mike pulls the trigger once more...

CLICK.

MIKE

Shit!

SAM

Get out of here!

MIKE

The barrels, Sam.

SAM

What?

MIKE

SHOOT THE BARRELS!

Mike flees! Sam looks at the stock of oily barrels, smiles.

A WENDIGO JUMPS TOWARDS HER!

At the same time, Sam SHOOTS a barrel!

BOOM! - THE ROOM EXPLODES, SAM FLIES THROUGH THE AIR.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - 6:03 AM

The sanatorium EXPLODES, BURNS TO CRISPS.

Mike checks on Sam, who's lying on the ground.

MIKE
Sam! Sam, you okay?

She groans in pain, stands up with her friend's help.

SAM
I'm fine.

They look at the burning building.

MIKE
Pretty badass, huh?

Sam chuckles.

SAM
We're not done yet.

MIKE
Uh-uh.

They breathe deeply and leave.

EXT. RUINS OF THE SANATORIUM - 6:07 AM

From within the ash and ruin, a BURNING CLAW RISES!

INT. MINES - 5:59 AM

JOSH WASHINGTON groans, grabs his head.

JOSH
Ugh... Jesus... My head.

He struggles to get up, scouts around him.

He's in a CAVE, dark, damp, and all alone.

JOSH
Sam? Chris? Mike?

No response.

JOSH
(voice trembling)
Anyone?

He whimpers.

JOSH
Where am I?

Josh's only company are his tears...

FADE OUT

THE END

