

BOONE HALL

Written by

ShaDon Manigault

Address: 226 E Shagbark Trail
North Charleston, S.C. 29406
E-mail: nodahs90@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 843-499-6841
WGA #: I328886

"Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you - although if you can gain your freedom, do so." - 1
Corinthian 7:21

BLACK SCREEN

TITLE CARD: 1840

AUDIO: The sounds of BLACK SLAVES laboring on a plantation. They sing an OLD NEGRO SPIRITUAL harmoniously. The slaves try to remain spirited, even though the heavy labor takes a toll on their bodies.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

We get a beautiful, frontal view of the BOONE HALL PLANTATION. We see the elephantine BIG HOUSE in the center of the frame, it has two stories.

The plantation has other additions such as slave cabins, workshops, a large mill, and etc...

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - AFTERNOON

The sun shines bright on this sweltering afternoon. The sunbeam scourges down on the labored slaves in the woods. They furiously CHOP lumber with machetes like rhythmic machines. Beads of sweat drip down their faces as they continue to SING and PANT, despite the heat and strenuous work.

The overseer JAMES TURNER, yells at the slaves, in the background. He has a whip in his hand and uses it at his will to those he finds inadequate.

JAMES
Get to work boy!

WHIP!

JAMES (CONT'D)
You niggers can't work faster!?

WHIP!

JAMES (CONT'D)
Hurry up before I give you a real lashin'!

WHIP!

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/SLAVE CABINS - AFTERNOON

We see BENJAMIN, 13, a light-skinned slave, a "mulatto" if you will. He feeds grains to chickens in a small poultry house. He sticks his hand in the grain sack and throws food towards them. They huddle around the food, pecking their heads on the ground as they devour the grains.

Although Benjamin is handsome, he looks a bit haggard just like the rest of the slaves who are malnourished in the plantation.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/FRONT YARD - AFTERNOON

We see a little white boy, TIMOTHY BOONE, 8, he wears prestigious attire, he's healthy, and he wanders about, walking away from the BIG HOUSE in an otherworldly, child-like trance towards the working slaves...

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/SLAVE CABINS - AFTERNOON

Benjamin continues to feed the chickens in a peaceful solitude.

TIMOTHY (O.S.)

Hey!

Benjamin freezes, turns around, spots Timothy, and immediately rolls his eyes.

BENJAMIN

You again.

TIMOTHY

Whatcha doin'?

Benjamin lifts the sack up in the air.

BENJAMIN

Ain't it obvious?

TIMOTHY

Can I help you?

Timothy runs towards Benjamin whimsically. Benjamin holds his left hand up to stop Timothy, halting him. Timothy is confused.

BENJAMIN

We've been through this before, you know you can't be 'round here.

TIMOTHY

Why not?

BEMJAMIN

Yer mom told you bout waderin' round here.

TIMOTHY

I am so bored in the house. I ain't got no one to play with.

BEMJAMIN

If she finds you here, she's goin' to kill me.

TIMOTHY

Don't worry, I'll just tell her I was bored so I left the house. She will understand.

BENJAMIN

You don't get it do you!? You can't be here! Go away!

Timothy is upset now, he looks depressed. Benjamin feels guilty, kneels down, and stares Timothy in the eyes. Benjamin notices the sad tears running down Timothy's innocent face, Benjamin wipes them away.

A beat.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Listen, I am sorry okay? I ain't tryin' be rude. It's just we can't -

WOMAN (O.S.)

Timothy!? Timothy!?

Benjamin quickly rises to his feet and goes back to feeding the chickens like normal.

The WOMAN saw Benjamin's actions, he wasn't quick enough. Her name is CAROLINE BOONE, 38, she is wealthy and mean spirited. She stares at Benjamin with pure disgust. She looks to Timothy disappointedly.

CAROLINE

Timothy, what did I tell you 'bout comin over here?

TIMOTHY

I'm sorry momma, I just got bored at home and I wanted somebody to play with.

CAROLINE

I told you before, you don't play with the niggers. They are here to work. When you disturb them, you distract them, and their work gets behind.

TIMOTHY

Yes, momma.

Carolina shoots a detesting glare towards Benjamin.

CAROLINE

And you!

She walks towards him heated. She puts a sturdy finger in his face, livid.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Don't you ever put your hands on him again! Do you hear me!?

BENJAMIN

Yes ma'am, I -

SLAP!

Benjamin holds his stinging cheek, shedding tears.

CAROLINE

Don't talk back to me! Stay away from Timothy and get on back to work! If I find you near 'em again, that's fifty lashes understood!?

Benjamin is silent.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Understood!?

BENJAMIN

(groggily)

Yes ma'am.

Caroline turns and stomps away, grabbing Timothy by his hand and dragging him away.

Timothy looks sadden, he stares back at Benjamin who is crying and holding his cheek still. They both lock eyes, Timothy's eyes are apologetic. Benjamin turns around and continues feeding the chickens...his peaceful solitude ruined.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/SLAVE CABINS - EVENING

Benjamin walks towards his cabin, he still holds his cheek as he sulks, dragging his feet.

INT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/ALBERTA'S CABIN - EVENING

ALBERTA, 35, is in her cabin. She is beautiful, the most beautiful and voluptuous woman on the plantation. Her work is finished for today. She sews a patterned quilt together diligently in her rugged rocking chair.

Benjamin OPENS the door, Alberta smiles from cheek to cheek.

ALBERTA

Hey son, how are you?

Alberta rises from her chair and places her half-made quilt and sewing material on the chair. She walks towards her son, she opens her arms lovingly and hugs him tightly.

Benjamin looks up to his mother. Alberta notices the red mark on his right cheek.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)

What happened to you?

Benjamin lowers his head and sulks again.

BENJAMIN

Mistress Boone did it. Timothy ran off again, he wanted to play with me and she saw me near him.

Alberta takes in the information, her eyes turn sympathetic, she hugs him again, he CRIES to her.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

Why does she hate me so much?

ALBERTA

She hates all of us dear.

BENJAMIN

The way she looks at me is different, she hates me.

Alberta embraces him closer to her.

ALBERTA

It's okay son, it's okay.

Alberta has tears running down her face too.

INT. BIG HOUSE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Caroline and Timothy are at the dining room table waiting patiently with bowed heads.

It is our first scene inside of the BIG HOUSE and what a sumptuous sight it is.

MASTER EDWARD BOONE, 40, is at the front of the table. The family all hold hands together in prayer. He has a glass of whiskey at his side.

MASTER BOONE

Heavenly Father, we gather here
today under one roof. Please bless
the food we are about to receive...

He opens his eyes, takes a peek at his family, and then he closes them.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

And bless this wonderful family of
mine. As I enjoy another
scrumptious meal with them. They
bring me so much joy and
contentment. Amen.

CAROLINE AND TIMOTHY

Amen.

Caroline and Timothy opens their eyes. MAMA MATILDA, 70, OPENS the door from the kitchen and enters the dining room. She is clearly the "mammy" at Boone Hall plantation. She begins serving each family member. She serves rice, beans, corn, and roasted beef.

Timothy is served first. Master Boone and Caroline wait patiently for their food. It is silent, the family doesn't say a word, only the SOUNDS OF THE WOODEN SPOON AGAINST THE POTS as Mama Matilda serves the family subserviently.

Finally, Caroline breaks the ice.

CAROLINE

Timothy?

Timothy stops eating and looks up to his mother with fear.

TIMOTHY

Yes, mama?

Caroline glares at Timothy.

CAROLINE
 Tell your father where I found you
 this afternoon.

Timothy puts his head down, ashamed.

TIMOTHY
 (quietly)
 I was with the niggers.

Master Boone looks at his son questionably.

CAROLINE
 And which nigger did I find you
 with today?

TIMOTHY
 Benjamin.

CAROLINE
 Benjamin, right.

Mama Matilda is now interested in the conversation but remains quiet as a mouse as she continues to serve.

Caroline looks over to Master Boone. They exchange piercing glares to each other, something is behind those glares, it is tense.

Master Boone looks away from Caroline and looks towards Timothy.

MASTER BOONE
 Timothy?

Timothy looks nervously towards his father.

TIMOTHY
 Yes?

MASTER BOONE
 How many times do we have to tell
 you. You leave the niggers alone.

TIMOTHY
 I'm sorry father, I just get so
 bored in here. I have no one to
 play with here.

MASTER BOONE
 I know, but it's still not right
 okay?

TIMOTHY

Okay.

Timothy slumps his head, Master Boone tries to cheer him up.

MASTER BOONE

Hey.

Timothy looks up at his father.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Don't be so sad. You just got to learn to leave them alone, especially Benjamin. You have plenty of toys. Play with them okay?

TIMOTHY

Okay.

Master Boone smiles at Timothy and Timothy smiles back, feeling reassured of his father's love. Caroline disrupts their tender moment.

CAROLINE

(sternly)

I promised 50 lashes to that Benjamin if I catch him near my son again.

Caroline pierces Master Boone with her eyes again, they're full of rage.

Master Boone continues to eat his food while Caroline stares at him persistently, it's uncomfortable. Master Boone takes notice, he seems nonchalant, it's her normal behavior to him.

Eventually, Caroline begins eating her food but she is still clearly troubled.

INT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mama Matilda tucks Timothy in bed, she smiles at him, lovingly.

MAMA MATILDA

You have a goodnight Timothy. You get your rest.

TIMOTHY

Okay.

Mama Matilda turns around and heads towards the bedroom door.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
Mama Matilda?

Mama Matilda turns around.

MAMA MATILDA
Yes?

TIMOTHY
Can you teach me more of your
language...what is it called again?

MAMA MATILDA
Haitian Creole.

TIMOTHY
Yeah that.

Mama Matilda LAUGHS at him, walks closer to him, and sits on the bed with him, smiling. She then clears her throat and speaks in Haitian Creole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA
I love you.

Timothy looks confused.

TIMOTHY
What does that mean?

MAMA MATILDA
It means "I love you".

TIMOTHY
Oh.

MAMA MATILDA
Say it with me.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA AND TIMOTHY
I love you.

Mama Matilda smiles jubilantly.

MAMA MATILDA
Great job Timothy.

He speaks in Haitian Creole again.

SUBTITLES:

TIMOTHY

Thank you.

Mama Matilda responds in Haitian Creole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA

You're welcome.

Mama Matilda goes back to English.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)

Okay. That's enough lessons for tonight. You got to get some sleep.

TIMOTHY

Okay.

Timothy gets comfortable. He speaks in Haitian Creole again.

SUBTITLES:

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)

Goodnight.

Mama Matilda responds to him in Haitian Creole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA

Goodnight.

Timothy smiles warmly to Mama Matilda. Mama Matilda gives him a motherly kiss on the forehead, Timothy accepts it, and readjusts his head on his pillow to get comfortable.

INT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone and Caroline are fast asleep in their bed, or so we think...

Master Boone's eyes are actually wide awake. He sneakily rises from bed and carefully steps out of the dark room, tip-toeing, and careful not to make a sound.

Little does he know, Caroline is already awake. She never rises from bed, she is as still as a statue, and listens to her husband's FOOTSTEPS trail out of the door.

Master Boone quietly SHUTS the door behind him...

Tears run down Caroline's face...

INT. BOONE HALL PLATATION/ALBERTA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Alberta and Benjamin share a bed together. Alberta is fast asleep. Benjamin is still wide awake. It seems like Benjamin is anticipating something in fear.

We continue to focus on Benjamin as the cabin door slowly CREAKS open. Benjamin hears FOOTSTEPS CREEPING closer and closer towards his bed, making the unstable wooden floors CREAK. The footsteps come to a halt, he hears the UNBUCKLING of a belt.

Benjamin hears the panicked CRIES of his mother.

ALBERTA

No, NO! -

Alberta's CRIES are muzzled, presumptively by forceful hands. Alberta fights back, protecting herself...this angers the man - PUNCH!

Alberta YELPS in agony and WHINES.

Benjamin feels the gravity of another human climb on top of the bed.

The bed rocks roughly back and forth: CREAK! CREAK! CREAK!

Benjamin hears his mother's muffled CRIES of agony coincide with the aggressive GRUNTS of the man. The man tries his best to keep quiet. Benjamin does not dare turn around or do anything.

AH! MMHM! AH!

CREAK! CREAK! CREAK!

The man is so close to Benjamin that he feels hot, whiskey wisps on the back of his neck, making his neck hairs stand. Benjamin covers his ears in horror as tears run down his cheeks and his body shakes along with the rhythmic THRUSTS of this mysterious man.

Alberta's muffled and painful WAILS continues...

INT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/CHURCH - MORNING

All FIFTY SLAVES of the Boone Hall Plantation are in the pews, paying close attention to the "word of God".

They stare at Master Boone as if he is God himself.

Mama Matilda, Alberta, and Benjamin sit together. Mama Matilda's Sunday attire is far more prestigious than the rest of the slaves. (Benjamin's lighter complexion sticks out like a sore thumb compared to all the darker slaves surrounding him).

Master Boone is at the front of the pulpit with an opened Bible in his hand. He reads from it with vigor, wanting to make sure each slave gets the message behind His word.

MASTER BOONE

"Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are a slave or free..."

Master Boone takes a pause to look at all of his loyal slaves. He looks at them all like obedient children, animals even.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

That was from Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 5-8.

He takes a special look at Alberta and Benjamin in the crowd. Alberta has an enormous bruise on her left eye. Caroline notices of course. She is detested but abides her emotions to appear collected.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Could someone tell me the meaning of this scripture from our God?

One SLAVE raises his hand excitedly. He is SAMUEL, 27, he is handsome, broad, and eager to impress his master.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Yes.

Samuel stands up, humbled by his master, he bows to Master Boone.

SAMUEL

Evenin' suh.

Master Boone accepts his courtesy with a nod.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

I believe our God wants us to obey
you massa because God put us on
this here Earth to serve you and
all the white men, so that one day
our souls can rest with Him.

Master Boone smiles, satisfied.

MASTER BOONE

Yes, yes, precisely, that's
true...and do you know why God
chose us for you to serve?

Samuel looks clueless.

SAMUEL

No suh.

Master Boone looks out to his slaves.

MASTER BOONE

When you look at an image of Jesus
Christ, how does he look?

The congregation is silent. SLAVE #2 raises their hand.

SLAVE #2

He is white suh.

Master Boone points at SLAVE #2 congratulatory.

MASTER BOONE

You are right. Jesus is white.

Master Boone address his skin color, displaying his hands to
the congregation.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

And what color am I?

CONGREGATION

White!

MASTER BOONE

Here is the hierarchy; there is God
at the very top, and then us white
men as your masters, and then there
is you at the very bottom along
with the animals.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
 Obeying me is your only way to
 redemption.

The CONGREGATION takes in his words submissively.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
 Forget about whatever gods you
 served before. It will lead you
 straight to damnation. Here in
 America, we practice Christianity.
 We practice the sacred verses of
 the Bible and our Savior Jesus.
 Serve me without rebellion, and you
 shall have a special place in
 heaven. Give your life to Jesus,
 give your life to me, and you shall
 be rewarded with eternal life.

The CONGREGATION accepts the word. Alberta raises one hand.
 The hand she raises shakes feverishly.

Master Boone pays close attention to Alberta, he smiles at
 her, charmed, it is kind of sick.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
 Yes, Alberta.

Alberta shakes in fear but musters up the courage to speak.
 Caroline pays close attention to her.

ALBERTA
 What 'bout treatin' the slaves as
 if you were Christ himself? With
 kindness and humility.

Master Boone smiles condescendingly. The slaves await his
 answer.

MASTER BOONE
 Do you think Christ would treat you
 any different? Christ knows you all
 are primitive and barbaric. He is
 aware of your need for discipline
 and commitment. Us white men are
 trying to make you civil and
 orderly so that one day you can
 make it to heaven. God don't want
 no heathens in heaven. Slavery is
 doin' you all a great favor.

Alberta accepts the words humbly without anymore questions. A
 beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Service is dismissed.

EXT. BOONE PLANTATION/SLAVE CABINS - EVENING

All of the SLAVES from Boone Hall Plantation are outside together, cooking food on a handmade grill (not the best grill but it is all they have).

This is the only day they have off. They always come together for a Sunday dinner on this day. It is their weekly tradition.

They eat their pork (we see a slaughtered pig in the background), cornmeal, and beans savagely; even though their rustic plates are scanty. It is clear they have been famished.

SLAVE #3

This is the first time I had a meal all week.

SLAVE #4

I don't understand, massa got plenty of food on this plantation.

SLAVE #5 looks towards Mama Matilda. Mama Matilda eats with the slaves, she sits by Alberta and Benjamin. She converses and LAUGHS with them. It is her only time to spend with her family and she is enjoying every second of it.

SLAVE #5

Matilda over there need to start bringin' us that fancy food she be cookin' for massa.

Some slaves LAUGH. Mama Matilda looks towards SLAVE #5.

MAMA MATILEDA

You know I can't do that.

SLAVE #6

You need to start, we sufferin' out here.

MAMA MATILDA

If I get caught, massa gon' whip me.

SLAVE #6

Massa will never whip you.

SLAVES #7

You might as well be white. Like yo grandson over there.

The slaves LAUGH again. Benjamin looks insecure and feels uncomfortable.

MAMA MATILDA

That's enough!

SLAVES #7

Come on now, everybody know he kin to massa. He should be in the house with you.

SLAVE #8

Buh that boy suffers more than you. You forgot how it is to be a field nigga.

MAMA MATILDA

I ain't forget nothin'!

SLAVE #8

How can you sit up in that house and forget the massa rapin' yo daughter and the mistress slappin' yo grandson around?

ALBERTA

Leave my momma alone! Leave my son alone! Leave us out of ya mouth!

The SLAVES are quiet and they are back to their eating, aware that they were out of line. There is a tense beat. Benjamin decides to break the ice.

BENJAMIN

Are we still gonna meet tonight?

A beat.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

I was really lookin' forward to it.

Mama Matilda turns to her grandson and smiles to him.

MAMA MATILDA

I think we should. There is some bad energy on this plantation. We need to dance and pray it away.

She raises her voice, trying to get the attention of all the slaves in the plantation.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 Let's meet tonight, let's cleanse
 this bad energy!

The slaves nod their heads and smile, agreeing with her.

INT. BIG HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

The BIG HOUSE is dark but lit with dim candles all around.

Caroline hears distant DRUMS and HOLLERS from outside, it is CERMONIAL MUSIC. She looks outside of the window curiously. In the far distance in the heart of the plantation's woods, she sees the embers of illuminating fires, the dark smoke rises in the night air. It is clear where the sounds are coming from.

Master Boone walks in the kitchen with a lit candleholder. He grabs a GLASS and a CARAFE of whiskey. He POURS himself something to drink. Caroline turns to him, angry.

CAROLINE
 What did we tell them 'bout this?

Master Boone begins to talk. We can tell this is not his first glass of whiskey.

MASTER BOONE
 Let 'em do what they want. It's
 their day off.

CAROLINE
 Let 'em do what they want? You
 can't be serious.

MASTER BOONE
 They ain't hurtin' nobody.

CAROLINE
 Have you heard of the revolts
 'round other plantations?

MASTER BOONE
 Yeah, what about 'em?

CAROLINE
 What about 'em? If we let 'em "do
 what they want", they will think
 rebellion is acceptable. They could
 be plannin' to revolt against us at
 this moment.

MASTER BOONE

I think you're overreactin'.

Caroline can't believe the drunken words from her husband's mouth.

CAROLINE

I don't want anymore night ceremonies on this plantation! Do you understand me!? Timothy is tryin' to sleep and it sounds like a jungle out there!

MASTER BOONE

(irritated))

Yes, Caroline. I hear you, I just -

CAROLINE

You need to have a handle on your niggers! You are the master, why am I tellin' you this!? If you'd put down your glass for a moment, maybe you would start to make some goddamn sense!

Master Boone is offended, he is about to say something but then -

TIMOTHY (O.S.)

Mommy?

Caroline turns around and sees her son staring at her lethargically, wiping his sleepy eyes.

Caroline masks her temper.

CAROLINE

Yes sweetie?

TIMOTHY

I can't sleep.

CAROLINE

I know dear.

TIMOTHY

Where is Mama Matilda?

CAROLINE

She is with her slave friends.

TIMOTHY

Okay...

A beat.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
Can you tuck me to bed then?

Caroline smiles graciously.

CAROLINE
Of course I will.

Mistress Boone storms away, eyes Master Boone, and turns her head with exasperation. Master Boone takes notice and takes another swig from his glass, irritated.

INT. BIG HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT/HOURS LATER

Mama Matilda steadily OPENS the front door, enters the house, and slowly CLOSES it back. She makes her way near the stairwell the best way possible in the pitch black. She is very, very, quiet.

MASTER BOONE (O.S.)
Matilda?

His coarse, raspy, and intoxicated voice resonates in the living room. It startles Mama Matilda, she jumps, and turns her head and body towards the sound of his voice.

A flick of a match FLASHES and reveals Master Boone sitting on a couch in the shadows, he lights a nearby lantern. Mama Matilda bows to Master Boone submissively.

MAMA MATILDA
Yes suh?

She LAUGHS a little.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
You gave me a fright.

Now that there is light in the room, Mama Matilda can see that Master Boone is serious and has a glass of whiskey by his side. Mama Matilda notices and wipes the grin off of her face quickly.

MASTER BOONE
Where were you?

MAMA MATILDA
Massa, it's my day off. I was with muh family and the field slaves.

MASTER BOONE
What were you doing?

MAMA MATILDA
Cleansing the plantation.

MASTER BOONE
Cleansing the plantation of what?

MAMA MATILDA
It's just somethin' me and the
slaves do to spread good energies
on Sundays. It's our tradition.

MASTER BOONE
You gotta stop Matilda.

MAMA MATILDA
But why massa?

Master Boone looks at her questionably. He rises from the couch and walks towards her in an inconsolable rage.

MASTER BOONE
You questionin' me!?

MAMA MATILDA
No suh, I jus -

Master Boone raises a hand to Mama Matilda, she flinches, but he freezes (we can tell he really doesn't want to hurt her).

MASTER BOONE
You always been my best slave. I
never gave you a lashin'. Don't
make me start tonight!

MAMA MATILDA
(desperately)
Massa , I'm sorry, I really am...

MASTER BOONE
No more night ceremonies!
Understand!?

MAMA MATILDA
Yes, suh. Yes suh!

Without another word, Master Boone head towards the front door. Mama Matilda takes notice.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
Where are you goin' massa?

A tense beat.

MASTER BOONE

I told ya 'bout questionin' me
Tilda!

He CLOSES the door behind him as he leaves the house. Mama Matilda is in tears.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - AFTERNOON

SLAVE MEN CHOP lumber in the exhausting heat with axes. They sing a NEGRO SPIRITUAL. Benjamin is in the field today, it is rigorous work for him. Master Boone looks over his slaves on his HORSE and spots Benjamin struggling to keep up with the work.

Benjamin tries his best to chop the lumber. He sweats the most, wiping his forehead with the sleeve of his soaked shirt; clearly this job isn't meant for him.

CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!

He clumsily swings the axe and he misses the tree bark. The axe penetrates the soil below. He strenuously raises the axe over his head from the pierced ground...

His vision gets blurry, he is in a daze, the sweltering heat gets to him, he DROPS the axe, bends over with his hands on his knees, and catches his breath. He GASPS violently, his HEARTBEAT races.

BENJAMIN

Water! Water!

Master Boone's horse GALLOPS closer to Benjamin.

MASTER BOONE

You had yer water already, you hear
anyone else beggin' for water!?

BENJAMIN

(pleadingly)

Please massa, please, I need water,
now.

Benjamin looks desperately into Master Boone's eyes. Master Boone looks towards Benjamin with a surprise hint of sympathy.

Benjamin gradually loses consciousness, he blacks out, and begins to faint.

MASTER BOONE

Benjamin!?

Master Boone immediately gets off his horse, runs towards Benjamin, and catches him before he falls.

The other slaves looks at the commotion. Master Boone notices, he looks a bit embarrassed.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Ya'll get back to work now, yah hear!?

INT. BIG HOUSE/ MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Benjamin slowly regains consciousness again. He opens his eyes and looks inside of the room he is in. His eyes hits the ceiling first and then he scans the entirety of the lavish room. It is a foreign setting, way more high-ended than what he is used to.

Benjamin notices that he is soaked from head to toe. The feeling of his drenched clothes against his skin makes his lips quiver.

Master Boone walks into the room, holding a glass of water, happy to see Benjamin alive. He smiles to him, a smile a father would give to his newborn.

MASTER BOONE

You're alive.

Benjamin doesn't know what to say.

BENJAMIN

Yeah?

Master Boone walks closer to Benjamin.

MASTER BOONE

(gently)

You passed out on the field.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

So, I poured water all over your body, tryin' to hydrate you again. It looks like it worked.

Master Boone hands over the glass of water.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
Here's that water you been askin'
for.

Benjamin takes the glass of water.

BENJAMIN
Thank you suh.

Benjamin quickly GULPS the entire glass down in a matter of seconds. After Benjamin is finished, we can tell something is bothering him. He ponders on what happened in the field and feels inadequate and ashamed. He stutters a little before speaking.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
Ma-Ma-Massa, I am so sorry. I am so
sorry, I fell.

Master Boone puts a hand on his shoulder, attempting to ease him.

MASTER BOONE
It's okay Benjamin. I only care
that you are alive.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
You should be sorry for scaring me
half to death though.

Master Boone smiles at Benjamin and Benjamin smiles back. Their warm moment together is quickly ruined once Master checks himself and comes back to reality.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
(callously)
Imma go head and get you some more
water. After that, gon' and get you
some more rest now. We gon' need
you in the field tomorrow.

BENJAMIN
Yes suh.

Master Boone walks away, out of the door. Benjamin smiles back at him, and then lays back down.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - EVENING

Benjamin is suddenly awakened, he erects his body and GASPS. He hears HOLLERS, the hollers scared him awake.

The hollers are clearly from Caroline and Master Boone. Their voices are from downstairs, it echoes up the stairs, down the corridor, and into the opened master bedroom. The voices are distant, yet every syllable is clear to Benjamin. Benjamin quickly realizes he is the cause of this confrontation.

ZOOM IN on Benjamin's face. We never pan away from this frame while still hearing the erupting argument in the distance.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
 You're changin' the beddin'
 tonight! After you get that
 goddamn, filthy animal off my bed!

MASTER BOONE (O.S.)
 Caroline, he passed out on the
 field today! I had to hydrate him
 and he needed a place to rest!

CAROLINE (O.S.)
 When a slave passes out you always
 send them to their cabin! What
 makes him so different!?

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 After what you did, how dare you
 have the audacity to let that boy
 in our home and to let him lie in
 my bed!?

MASTER BOONE (O.S.)
 What do you want!? For em' to just
 lay down and die!?

A beat.

CAROLINE (O.S.)
 If I told you once, then I told you
 twice, I want that nigger way from
my Timothy -

In the middle of the argument Mama Matilda creeps herself in the master bedroom and spots Benjamin. Benjamin is happily surprised.

BENJAMIN
 Grandma Tilda!

MAMA MATILDA
 Hey, baby...

The argument continues in the background. She has no time for affection.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
I think it's best you go back to
your cabin.

BENJAMIN
But how come you get to stay?

MAMA MATILDA
Because this is my home, you know
that.

Benjamin gazes around the room again.

BENJAMIN
It sure is nice.

A beat.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
Can I stay in your room tonight? I
promise I won't make no fuss.

MAMA MATILDA
I am sorry Benjamin.

Benjamin is sadden.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
Things are different for me. I have
to abide by the rules.

BENJAMIN
I know grandma, I know...

A beat.

MAMA MATILDA
I heard you fell in the field
today. You got your strength back?

BENJAMIN
Yeah, I feel better now.

Mama Matilda smiles to him.

MAMA MATILDA
Wonderful. Now, come on. I'll walk
you to the door.

Benjamin rises out of the bed reluctantly. She wraps her arms around her grandson, as she walks him out of the room.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Benjamin and Mama Matilda are at the front door. Mama Matilda gives Benjamin a tight hug.

MAMA MATILDA

I love you.

BENJAMIN

I love you too.

Through an opening in the hall, Benjamin sees the Boone family at the kitchen table. Master Boone and Caroline continues to argue aggressively. It is INAUDIBLE.

Benjamin notices Timothy. Timothy is in tears as he watches his parents argue...once again. Benjamin waves to Timothy, trying to comfort Timothy. Timothy waves back spiritlessly.

INT. ALBERTA'S CABIN - NIGHT

Benjamin enters the cabin. Alberta is happy to see him but she appears worried.

ALBERTA

Benjamin!?

Alberta spreads her arms open. Benjamin immediately hugs his mother.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)

Where were you?

BENJAMIN

I was with massa?

ALBERTA

With massa!? Don't tell me you in trouble.

BENJAMIN

No ma'am. Today I fell on the field. He put water on my body and let me rest on his bed.

ALBERTA

Massa, let you in his home? On his bed!?

BENJAMIN

Yeah, he did momma! It's so huge inside!

Suddenly Benjamin seems despondent.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
But Mistress Boone wanted me out of
the house though. So, Mama Tilda
led me out.

Benjamin slumps his head. Alberta hugs her son closer to her.

ALBERTA
It's okay baby.

Benjamin accepts her hug, he ponders on something.

BENJAMIN
Mama?

ALBERTA
Yes?

BENJAMIN
I have a question and please be
honest.

ALBERTA
Yes?

A beat.

BENJAMIN
Is the massa really my daddy?

Alberta looks at him with pure shock, she always feared this day would come.

ALBERTA
Whattaya mean?

BENJAMIN
Everybody in the plantation talks
about it. I look so different. I
know some niggas is light-skinned
but...

ALBERTA
But what?

A beat.

BENJAMIN
But I also know what the massa does
to you.

Alberta looks down in shame.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
It's okay momma. I ain't no child
no more. You can tell me.

Alberta looks at her son with love, she smiles at him warmly
but also with a hint sorrow.

ALBERTA
Benjamin...

Benjamin looks in his mother's eyes, waiting for her to
answer the question that has plagued his entire existence.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)
I love you very much. I know you
ain't a child. But the truth is so
hard for me to bare
...

A beat.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)
The truth is for the past 15 years,
after massa's father died, and he
became the owner of this here
plantation...massa always told me I
was his. No other man has ever
touched me. I made sure that never
happened, I feared what would
happen if it did...

Benjamin understands what his mother is stating. Benjamin's
eyes well up with tears.

BENJAMIN
Why don't massa love me the way he
loves Timothy?

ALBERTA
Because son, that's how it is.

BENJAMIN
Since I am his son, I can own the
plantation one day right?

ALBERTA
You know that can't happen.

BENJAMIN
I would be a good massa to the
slaves here. If I owned the
plantation, everybody would be free
and they won't be starvin' or
hurting'.

ALBERTA
I know son, I know.

She hugs her son tightly.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)
But ya gotta stop dreamin', the
reality is when it comes to massa
and the mistress you just another
nigga.

She looks directly in his eyes, trying to instill confidence
in her son.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)
And you be proud of that, you
understand me?

Benjamin nods his head, with tears.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

Timothy is by himself again in the front yard of the
plantation. He stares at the SLAVES far away in the cotton
fields. He knows not to disturb them again.

So he looks into the woods, no one is out there today. He
smiles at the empty woods, he found a place to play.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - AFTERNOON

Benjamin is in the woods, with an axe, CHOPPING wood over and
over again. Practicing by himself, to get tougher, he doesn't
want to blackout again on the field...

All of a sudden Benjamin hears SCREAMS OF PANIC in the
distance.

Benjamin automatically turns towards the scream. He hears the
SCREAM again, we notice it is Timothy's voice. Benjamin
immediately run towards the sound.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - AFTERNOON

Benjamin continues to dash towards the distant SCREAMS
growing closer and closer...

He runs with angst as his feet CRUNCH on the dirt, sticks,
and leaves...

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - AFTERNOON

Benjamin finally reaches his destination. As expected he spots Timothy but he also spots a pugnacious GREY WOLF eyeing Timothy with rage. The wolf GROWLS threateningly, displaying it's sharp white teeth with drivel dripping down the sides of his mouth.

Without any warning, the wolf sprints towards Timothy and launches its body directly towards him. The wolf TACKLES Timothy to the ground. THUMP!

The wolf attacks Timothy and bites ravenously at him.

TIMOTHY
HELP! HELP! GET OFF ME!

Timothy tries fighting back and dodges many of its strikes but eventually the wolf CLAMPS its jaws on Timothy's right arm, Timothy bleeds, blood squirts from his arm. He SCREAMS IN PAIN.

Benjamin quickly grabs a broken limb from an oak tree. He SWINGS the limb in front of the wolf, attempting to scare it away.

Benjamin SHOUTS like a wild beast, attempting to scare the wolf. He SWINGS at the grey wolf once again with the limb, this time he HITS it on the side. The wolf finally gets the message, runs away, and WHIMPERS. Its FOOTPRINTS TRAILING off as it disappears in the woods...

Benjamin DROPS the tree limb and looks towards Timothy on the ground, bleeding from his arm.

BENJAMIN
Timothy!?

Benjamin runs to Timothy's aid, he keels down, rips off his cheap and sweaty shirt, wraps it around Timothy's arm rapidly and ties it with constriction.

Timothy continues to WHIMPER. Benjamin helps him to his feet.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

TIMOTHY
It hurts so much.

Benjamin hugs Timothy tightly, his eyes water.

BENJAMIN
I am glad I got here on time.

Benjamin lets go of the hug. A beat.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
Come on Tim, I need you to walk
with me. We have to get you to the
Big House.

Timothy CRIES as Benjamin helps him up. Then, they walk out
of the woods together. Benjamin has his arm around him.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

Timothy and Benjamin continue to walk. We see Caroline
running towards Timothy, not Benjamin.

CAROLINE
Oh my God! Timothy!? Where were
you!? I was looking everywhere for
you!

TIMOTHY
Mommy, I went to the woods and...

Caroline notices the shirt tied to his arm, soaked in blood.
Caroline GASPS.

CAROLINE
And what happened to your arm!?

Caroline turns to Benjamin with absolute rage.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
(accusingly)
You! What did you do to my son!?

BENJAMIN
Nothin' ma'am, nothin' I -

Caroline SLAPS Benjamin once more. Benjamin feels the
familiar sting. Tears roll down his face but he stands up to
her.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)
I was saving my brother!

Caroline eyes are wide, petrified. She can't believe the
words that came out of his mouth. Timothy is shocked.

Carline's eyes water, it looks like she could implode at any
moment. Benjamin has crossed the line...

Suddenly, she attacks Benjamin in rage, like a wild animal,
wilder than the wolf in the woods.

She SLAPS, KICKS, and PUNCHES him to the ground, getting dirty. She's on top of him now releasing all of her built up rage. Benjamin SCREAMS IN PAIN, Caroline SCREAMS IN FURY.

Timothy CRIES.

TIMOTHY

Mama, stop! He saved me! He saved me!

Caroline continues to BEAT Benjamin uncontrollably, ignoring her son. Timothy continues to CRY.

Master Boone BURSTS out of the front door observing the chaos.

MASTER BOONE

Caroline!? Caroline!? Whataya doin'!?

CAROLINE

I am tired of seeing his face on this plantation! Edward, give him 100 lashes!

MASTER BOONE

Caroline, you can't be serious!?

CAROLINE

He speaks madness!

BENJAMIN

It's true, you know it's true. Timothy's my brother, massa's my father -

Master Boone looks at Benjamin in disbelief. Caroline SLAPS Benjamin again. Benjamin WHIMPERS, he is bleeding from his mouth.

CAROLINE

You close your filthy mouth! You swine! Don't make me tell you again boy!

She rises from the ground, dusting herself off. She can't believe she lost her temper in such a way. She reverts back to her usual, self-contained poise.

TIMOTHY

Mom, is he really my brother?

Master Boone and Caroline look at each other in shock.

CAROLINE
See? He's filling Timothy's mind
with foolishness!

Caroline turns to Master Boone.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Give him 100 lashes now!

MASTER BOONE
Caroline be reasonable!

CAROLINE
I said now goddamn it!

MASTER BOONE
I will not!

CAROLINE
Don't test me Edward. My father and
brothers would happily lynch you
for your sins. Do as I say and do
it now!

Caroline and Master Boone exchanges malicious glares to each other but it is clear that Caroline wins and Master Boone subtly gives in with defeated eyes.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

Benjamin's hands are tied far above his head. His hands are constricted by thick rope tied around a tree limb. Benjamin looks down and notices that he is hanging several feet off the ground, he is scared. His face is wet from both sweat and tears, he quietly WHINES, anticipating his punishment in fear.

Master Boone is several feet behind Benjamin, with a long whip in his hand. He drinks from a flask to loosen himself up. He tries to appear like he's ready for this, but we can tell he is going to feel reluctant afterwards.

The BOONE HALL SLAVES are hurdled together watching the scene, like an audience ready to watch a theater performance.

Alberta WEEPS uncontrollably. She is on her knees, her CRIES unsettles the other slaves, but they dare not console her in front of the master.

The CRIES of Alberta sink in Master Boone's eardrums, he's tired of it, he has enough on his mind already. He STOMPS towards Alberta and grips her neck, nearly choking her. She GAGS relentlessly.

MASTER BOONE

You hush that racket right now or
you'll be next! You understand!?

Master Boone lets go of his constriction. Alberta GAGS trying to catch her breath again. She silences her noise but WHIMPERS quietly now.

Master Boone gears his attention back to Benjamin hanging on the rope. He hurries towards Benjamin and pulls down his pants, making him fully nude. Master Boone backs away, facing Benjamin's backside.

Without hesitation or a preamble, Master Boone begins to WHIP Benjamin. Benjamin SCREAMS at the top of his lungs.

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

The LASHES and SCREAMS echoes through the horizon.

Alberta watches the commotion in pure horror, she tries her best to ignore it. She shuts her eyes as tight as she can and covers her ears from her son's SHRILL SCREAMS. Her SCREAMS intertwines with his.

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

Benjamin continues to YELP in pain and turmoil. His back is bleeding. Blood oozes from his lacerations, his screams become guttural.

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

Caroline watches the scene from afar. Her face is stern and cold, she shares no sympathy for Benjamin. She even smirks.

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

Timothy is behind Caroline, he winces at the sight, shedding horrified tears.

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

Mama Matilda watches in horror too. She closes her eyes, tears sneak their way down.

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

We hear the shattering SCREAMS of Benjamin once again.

EXT. BOONE PLANTATION - AFTERNOON (MOMENTS LATER)

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

We get a gruesome shot of Benjamin's back after 100 lashes. It is covered in fresh scars, whelps, blood, and deep lacerations. Pink flesh peeks out beneath his skin, the lacerations crisscross one another all along his entire back, creating a horrific and graphic sight.

We see Benjamin's face. He can barely keep his eyes open. In his current mental state, he can't muster up the strength to scream anymore. He's half-conscious and sedated from the pain, in a complete comatose. His eyes are in the back of his head, he still breathes delicately but his body is in shock...

Alberta is still on her knees as she WEEPS, Mama Matilda is in tears, Timothy looks horrified of his father, and Caroline smiles with pride...

Master Boone pauses and observes the horror he has caused, we can't tell if he is proud of himself or if he is about to cry. He takes another swig from his flask and wipes his mouth with the back of his sleeve, feeling tough. He drunkenly spurts out words to his slaves...

MASTER BOONE
AN' THAT GOES FOR ALL OF YA! ANYONE
ELSE WANNA TELL LIES!?

BOONE HALL SLAVES
(subserviently)
No, suh.

Master Boone is content with their response. He turns back to Caroline. He gives her a look asking "are you satisfied now?". Caroline is still stern.

CAROLINE
(to Master Boone)
Lynch him.

Master Boone leers at Caroline, making sure he heard her correctly. She leers back at him and doesn't yield.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Lynch him high. Let's be honest. He
ain't ever gonna learn his lesson.

Alberta SCREAMS savagely.

ALBERTA
NOOOO! NOOOOO!

Without hesitation, Caroline practically sprints towards Alberta and SCRATCHES her in the face, her nails peels some skin off her face. Alberta BELLOWS in pain. She holds her bleeding cheek, her fingers seeps ruby blood.

CAROLINE

You shut your damn mouth you tramp!
You lucky I don't lynch you myself!
But I'm going to give you something
worse than death...

Caroline smiles at Alberta villainously.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

You're gonna witness the lynching
of your only son. How's that!?

ALBERTA

(harshly)
NOOOOOO!

Caroline smirks at Alberta's pain. She then walks her way towards Master Boone sinisterly.

CAROLINE

It's time for you to finally
correct your mistake. He should've
never been here. You lynch him and
you lynch him good!

Caroline storms away and Master Boone takes another swig from his flask in defeat, finishing it off.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

The only sounds we hear so far are the desperate and sorrowful WAILS of Alberta, on her knees once again, she is helpless.

We see a half-conscious Benjamin with a noose around his neck connected to a tree. His body kneels and slouches. It's hard to tell if he is even aware of his surroundings.

Master Boone holds the other end of the rope connected to Benjamin's neck. He looks over to Alberta as she MOURNS, he shares pity for her.

He gradually turns his head towards Benjamin, he stares at his stiff body...he feels pity for him...his eldest son...

Master Boone closes his eyes, without wasting another second, Master Boone hoists the rope with all of his strength.

Benjamin's body rises from the ground abruptly, his feet dangles furiously. He GASPS and GAGS, spittle flies from his mouth. Benjamin CHOKES violently, his body vibrates.

He FOAMS at the mouth, the foam drips to the ground while his whole body continues to vibrate spasmodically..

Alberta's CRIES elevates to SHRIEKS...pure, devastated, painful SHRIEKS...

Benjamin continues to tremble, his body shakes with more vigor...more spittle...more foam...

Eventually, his shakes gradually ceases...

Now, Benjamin's body is stiff, cold, and lifeless, swinging aimlessly with the slight winds, like a ragdoll....

Alberta's ROARS are hoarse and boorish, she can't control her despondency and fury. She just witnessed the final breaths of her only son.

She dashes directly towards Master Boone and punches him repeatedly on his chest in pure outrage...

ALBERTA

HOW COULD YOU!? HOW COULD YOU!? HE
WAS AN INNOCENT BOY! YOU MONSTER!

Alberta continues to punch him on the chest. Master Boone takes the punches in submissively. He does nothing, he knows what he did and looks completely guilty.

Some SLAVES run towards Alberta pulling her away.

BOONE HALL SLAVES

We so sorry massa. Alberta ain't
feeling well. Forgive her massa,
forgive her.

Alberta's SCREAMS trail off as the slaves pull her away. Timothy and Mama Matilda WEEPS. Caroline smiles and GUFFAWS.

A regretful tear roll down Master Boone's cheek as he stares at Benjamin's deceased corpse hanging lifelessly, all because of him. His eldest son dead...

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/SLAVE GRAVEYARD - AFTERNOON

AUDIO: BOONE HALL SLAVES sings a FUNERAL SPIRITUAL.

We see SLAVE MEN digging a deep grave with shovels, six feet under the soil. Several other SLAVE MEN carry a six foot, ligneous COFFIN.

Alberta HOWLS hauntingly as the SLAVES bury the casket in the grave. Alberta runs towards the casket, her cries becomes frantic, wild, vicious...

The SLAVES pushes her away from the descending casket. They console her, the best way they know how. Alberta is on her knees again.

Alberta's feels a hand on her shoulder. Alberta looks up and sees her mother. Mama Matilda's face is soaked and wet from tears and mucus...

Mama Matilda tries to hold it together but she WAILS abruptly. Her SCREAMS turns to sharp SHRIEKS...

Alberta and Mama Matilda SHRIEKS together, it is intense yet beautiful...they need to let it out, it is cathartic for them.

Other slaves tries to console them but they are too traumatized...the slaves understand their sorrow...

SLAVE #8

This just ain't right...

SLAVE #9

Massa ain't never shy away from a lashin' but he ain't never lynch one of us.

SLAVE #10

Poor Benjamin, such a good boy, he didn't deserve this...

SLAVE #11

We all know this is the mistress's doing...

The conversing slaves takes a pause and looks at Alberta and Mama Matilda crying together once more.

SLAVE #11 (CONT'D)

Could you imagine, witnessing the death of your only son?

Alberta and Mama Matilda continue to WEEP gutturally.

SLAVE #11 (CONT'D)

Or your only grandson?

The SLAVES continue to fill the steep grave with soil using their shovels. The coffin slowly disappears under the soil...

FADE OUT:

TIME CARD: 2 WEEKS LATER

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

We get a view of the Boone Hall Planation, the same beautiful view we got before...

EXT. BOONE PLANTATION/ COTTON FIELD - AFTERNOON

The overseer, James Turner, looks over the working slaves on his HORSE. The slaves pick cotton in the heat and they continue to SING...

James stares at something in the field. There is a patch in the field filled with dead, black, and shriveled cotton plants...

James walks closer to the spot, baffled at the site. He kneels down to inspect the plants in closer detail. He sees something slither on a piece of cotton, it's a family of SLIMY COTTON WORMS.

James jumps at the site.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/COTTON FEILD - AFTERNOON

Master Boone and Timothy walks together, side by side, father and son in the cotton fields. They see the SLAVES picking cotton, singing another NEGRO SPIRITUAL "I BE SO GLAD WHEN THE SOUND COMES DOWN" in the distance.

We hear little Timothy CHANT something under his breath (barely AUDIBLE), in Haitian Creole. Master Boone smiles at him.

MASTER BOONE

What are you saying?

Timothy quickly stops.

TIMOTHY

Nothin', I'm just hummin'.

A beat.

Master Boone and Timothy looks out into the plantation, watching the labor before their eyes.

Timothy gears his attention somewhere else, into the woods, the woods where he came in contact with the aggressive wolf. His head then turn towards a tree, connected to the tree is a noose, Benjamin's noose. It was never taken down. Timothy's face turns solemn, a painful thought comes to Timothy's mind suddenly.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)

Father?

Master Boone turns towards him.

MASTER BOONE

Yes?

TIMOTHY

Why did you lynch Benjamin?

A tense beat.

MASTER BOONE

Because...because he was filling your head with lies.

TIMOTHY

But he saved me from the wolf and he was my best friend.

Master Boone looks at Timothy with condoling eyes.

MASTER BOONE

I'm sorry Timothy. I miss seeing him 'round here too.

A beat.

TIMOTHY

Was he really my brother?

MASTER BOONE

Benjamin was a nigger, there is no way in Hell he could be your brother. He was a liar. So he was punished. All the slaves must be punished if they tell lies or if they are disobedient, even if it means death.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

You know...one day you will be an adult and you will take over this here plantation.

TIMOTHY

You mean, this whole place will be mine?

MASTER BOONE

Yes, all of yours and one day you will have to punish slaves.

Master Boone reaches for his whip that is attached to his waist. He takes it off of its latch and hands the whip to his son.

Timothy is excited as he takes the whip from his father. Master Boone looks out to the field.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Hey Samuel!

The loyal slave Samuel turns around towards his master obediently.

SAMUEL

Yes, suh.

MASTER BOONE

Come here a second.

Samuel walks over to his master willingly, Samuel waits for his orders.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Samuel here is my most loyal field nigger.

SAMUEL

(proudly)

That's right suh.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE

(to Samuel)

Take off your shirt and lie down there on the grass.

Samuel does as he is told. He strips off his shirt, displaying his broad and built chest. He lays down on the grass submissively. He lies on his stomach.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Timothy.

Timothy looks at his father.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

You can go ahead and practice your whippin'.

Timothy smiles to his father.

TIMOTHY

Really?

MASTER BOONE

Yes really, go ahead.

Timothy happily prances towards Samuel's body and WHIPS Samuel's back lightly repeatedly, it's not very impressive.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

You gotta try harder son. Whip him harder. He just told you he ain't doin' no work today...

Timothy whips Samuel again, with more force.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Put your back into it! Harder!
Harder!

Timothy whips Samuel harder, WHIP!

Samuel actually winces. Timothy continues to WHIP like a rookie.

TIMOTHY

(playfully)

You will work today! You hear me nigger!

Samuel role-plays with Timothy.

SAMUEL

(jocularly)

Yes massa, yes massa!

WHIP! WHIP! WHIP!

Master Boone smiles proudly at his son and CHUCKLES at the performance.

James walks towards Master Boone and Timothy, his face sweaty from the heat and he is filled with concern.

JAMES

Edward!

MASTER BOONE

Yes James.

JAMES

You should come see this.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/COTTON FIELD - AFTERNOON

Master Boone, James, and Timothy looks at the rotting plants. We get another view of a family of COTTON WORMS crawling sluggishly with their slimy bodies. Master Boone is upset.

MASTER BOONE

Goddamnit!

JAMES

Where do ya think they are coming from?

MASTER BOONE

I ain't got a clue...

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

James, go ahead and plow this soil. Create a fence around this patch and let the chickens roam in it. They should eat 'em up. If that don't work, I don't know what will...

INT. BIG HOUSE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

All the members of the Boone family are at the dining room table once again, as they eat in dead silence. Master Boone has his usual glass of whiskey and sips on it.

The family is quiet, there really is not much to talk about...

Timothy breaks the ice...

TIMOTHY

I whipped my first nigger today mommy.

Caroline smiles at her son.

CAROLINE
Oh, really.

TIMOTHY
Yeah, I whipped Samuel.

CAROLINE
Oh, the learned one.

TIMOTHY
Yeah, daddy told me to for practice
because one day, I will rule this
plantation.

CAROLINE
Oh really?

TIMOTHY
Yeah, it was fun.

Another empty beat.

MASTER BOONE
It looks like there are some cotton
worms in the field.

CAROLINE
Oh?

MASTER BOONE
Yeah, I told James to plow the
fields and let the chickens eat the
worms, maybe that will help...

Another beat of dead silence.

Timothy begins to chant under his breath out of boredom as he
picks at his food. The same chant from earlier.

The quiet CHANTS continue under his breath...

Caroline hears it and it irritates her.

CAROLINE
Timothy?

TIMOTHY
Yes?

CAROLINE
Could you stop please?

TIMOTHY
Okay...

A beat.

After a few seconds, Timothy continues with the chant but in a much quieter tone. Caroline SLAMS her hands on the table.

CAROLINE
I said be quiet!

Timothy looks scared of his mother, he does not dare to make another sound. He continues eating silently.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
What are you saying anyway?

TIMOTHY
It's just a song Mama Matilda
taught me.

Caroline looks upset. She looks directly at Master Boone, Master Boone gets the message.

MASTER BOONE
Tilda!

Mama Matilda comes running in through the kitchen doors.

MAMA MATILDA
Yes suh.

MASTER BOONE
What are you teaching Timothy?

MAMA MATILDA
What do you mean?

MASTER BOONE
Timothy told me you are teaching
him something, some kind of song?

MAMA MATILDA
Yes.

She chants in Haitian Creole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
Let Him in, Let Him in, let the
Almighty in.

A beat.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
It means "Let Him in, let Him in,
let the Almighty in".

MASTER BOONE
Let who in?

MAMA MATILDA
God.

MASTER BOONE
Tilda, stop it. I can't have my son
learning a nigger language.

MAMA MATILDA
But I am teaching him to let God
in. The same God you are teachin'
us slaves about.

Master Boone is enraged, rises from his chair, and pushes
Mama Matilda down to the floor - THUMP!

Mama Matilda CRIES in shock. Caroline smiles a little.

Master Boone grabs her by the neck. He looks vicious as he
leers directly in Mama Matilda's eyes, squeezing her larynx.
Mama Matilda GAGS for breath.

MASTER BOONE
Didn't ask you that, did I?

Mama Matilda shakes her head weakly.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
I said stop teaching my son that
garbage and that is final!

Master Boone lets go of Mama Matilda's neck. Mama Matilda
GAGS and GASPS severely.

Master Boone goes back to his seat without another word and
continues to eat the food Mama Matilda prepared for him.

Caroline smiles at her husband, proud of him.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone tip-toes out of the room in the midst of the
night with a lit candle-holder.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Master Boone walks quietly in the dark hall. He begins to hear soft and distance WHISPERS. Master Boone turns towards them, it is coming from Timothy's opened room door.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone peaks inside of the room, careful not to make a sound.

Timothy is standing up in his room. The moonlight highlights his face. He stares outside the window in a distant gaze. His eyes are unearthly and he has a conversation with himself.

TIMOTHY
How are you today?

Master Boone is baffled. A beat.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
Guess what? One day I will be the
master on this plantation.

A beat.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
Thank you...I can't wait to be a
grown up. How old are you Barry?

A beat.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
You're ancient? Stop kidding me.
You're so funny.

MASTER BOONE
Timothy?

Master Boone's booming voice startles Timothy, he turns around and GASPS.

TIMOTHY
Father, you scared me.

MASTER BOONE
Who were you talking to?

TIMOTHY
Barry.

MASTER BOONE
Who is Barry?

TIMOTHY
A new friend I made.

Master Boone looks around the room puzzled.

MASTER BOONE
How long have you known Barry?

TIMOTHY
Ummm, for awhile. He likes to visit
me he says.

Master Boone looks suspiciously towards his son. Timothy
smiles at him. A beat.

MASTER BOONE
You need to get your rest son.

TIMOTHY
Okay.

Timothy slowly walks towards his bed and gets under the
cover. Master Boone walks closer to the bed.

MASTER BOONE
Don't lose your sleep over
imaginary friends.

TIMOTHY
Okay dad, I am sorry.

Master Boone kisses Timothy on his forehead. Timothy smiles
at his father.

MASTER BOONE
Goodnight.

TIMOTHY
Goodnight.

A beat.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
Barry says good night too.

Master Boone looks concerned but smiles at his son anyway.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see a hand reaching for Caroline, it shakes her,
attempting to wake her.

MASTER BOONE
 Caroline...Caroline...

Caroline stirs in her sleep, then opens her eyes drowsily.
 She spots Master Boone staring at her.

CAROLINE
 What? What is the bother this time
 of night?

MASTER BOONE
 It is Timothy.

CAROLINE
 What about him?

MASTER BOONE
 He speaks to himself.

CAROLINE
 Excuse me?

MASTER BOONE
 I saw him in his room, looking out
 the window, talking to an imaginary
 friend. He said his name is Barry.

CAROLINE
 He's a child Edward, that's what
 they do. No need to wake me for
 this nonsense.

MASTER BOONE
 Don't you think he is a little too
 old for this? You don't find it
 queer?

CAROLINE
 No I don't. What's strange is you
 waking me up for this foolishness.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE
 I think I know why Timothy is
 making up friends.

CAROLINE
 And what is your proposal?

MASTER BOONE
 He always talks about not having
 anyone to play with.

(MORE)

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
Maybe we should think about giving
him one...a brother or sister...

CAROLINE
You have got to be fooling me.

Master Boone grabs Caroline's hand and rubs it delicately.

MASTER BOONE
No, I'm not.

Master Boone smiles romantically at her. Caroline looks into Master Boone's eyes, he appears sincere. Caroline is honored (there is a beam of hope that her husband still loves her). Caroline smiles back at him.

CAROLINE
Okay.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone is on top of Caroline attempting to "make love" to her. Master Boone THRUSTS his body against Caroline's repeatedly but there is no emotion behind it, it is stagnant and mechanical.

Caroline tries to make eye contact with her husband but he never looks at her, he looks out in the distance. Caroline is disappointed and gives up...her husband is somewhere else...

He eventually looks back at his wife but imagines being on top of Alberta. Her round doe eyes staring directly into his, he is in paradise.

Master Boone's body THRUST faster and faster, he is in ecstasy now. Caroline looks into her husband's eyes, he is looking back at her, but the contact isn't there, his stare is unfocused and dreamy...

The thrusting continues passionately...

He breathes heavily, his body stops, then his body begins to lightly jerk, he releases an elongated MOAN with his mouth gaped open and with sweat dripping from his forehead. After he is finished, he immediately gets off his wife and lies down next to her, catching his breath without a word...

There is an awkward silence...

CAROLINE
Edward?

MASTER BOONE

Yes?

A beat.

CAROLINE

Never mind...goodnight.

MASTER BOONE

Goodnight.

Master Boone turns around and positions himself to get comfortable under the linen.

Caroline gets comfortable too, a single tear races down her right cheek.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - MORNING

We see a CLOSE UP of Master Boone, his eyes are looking out, he is extremely baffled...

We finally see what he is looking at...the decaying patch in the cotton field has expanded; more dead, shriveled, black plants and slithering cotton worms cover the horizon, expanding way beyond the contained and hand-made chicken fence.

Master Boone doesn't know what to say or do, he is in pure shock.

EXT. BOONE PLANTATION/COTTON FIELD - MORNING

Master Boone walks towards James, he is upset.

MASTER BOONE

James!

James turns around.

JAMES

Yes Edward.

MASTER BOONE

I thought I told you to plow the soil so the chickens can eat the worms.

JAMES

I did.

MASTER BOONE

Why is that patch spreadin' on the field?

JAMES

There's just too much cotton worms sir.

A beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)

It looks like some kind of plague.

Master Boone's eyes stays focus on the decomposing cottonfield. We linger on his stare for moments.

TIME CARD: A MONTH LATER

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - EVENING

We get another view of the Boone Hall plantation. This time the entire cotton field is completely covered in dead, dried up, black plants. The cotton worms has spread like a plague all around the field, devouring the life and vegetation from it. It is an eerie and ominous site.

INT. BIG HOUSE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Boone family are all together at the dinner table. We get a view of a plate. We see cornmeal and chicken in tiny morsels, everyone's food is scanty.

We get a shot of Caroline staring at her plate with contempt, she then transfers the same contempt to her husband. This isn't the first time the portions have been small, she is fed up now.

Master Boone glances at his wife, he shamefully looks back at his plate and continues eating.

Caroline notices.

CAROLINE

Edward?

MASTER BOONE

(annoyed)

Yes?

CAROLINE

What is this?

A beat.

MASTER BOONE

You know what's going on in the fields. I am trying my best.

CAROLINE

You told me the problem would be fixed about two weeks ago.

MASTER BOONE

I know Caroline.

CAROLINE

We've been eating the same meal and the portions are getting smaller and smaller every night.

MASTER BOONE

(agitated)

I know Caroline.

CAROLINE

You have a family to feed. The slaves too.

Master Boone SLAMS his hand on the table. Timothy and Caroline jumps at this.

MASTER BOONE

(abruptly)

What do you want me to do Caroline!? The god damn field is infested! Those god damn worms are sucking everything dry! I ain't makin' no profits!

A beat.

CAROLINE

I think it is about time to ask Master Williams down in Charles Valley if he could take the slaves for now.

MASTER BOONE

What?

CAROLINE

He got a big plantation over there, plenty of room for them. If he decides to help us, we can send James over there to help him watch over 'em.

(MORE)

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Either that or all the slaves will starve to death. We can't have that.

Master Boone calms down and continues to eat without another word, knowing she is right.

Timothy continues to chant under his breath BARELY AUDIBLE.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

The plantation looks like the same disaster but now we see it in the sunlight.

EXT. BIG HOUSE/FRONT PORCH - AFTERNOON

Master Boone stands on the front porch looking out in the fields in disappointment.

Samuel walks by and Master Boone quickly conceals his emotions. Samuel smiles at him.

SAMUEL

Good afternoon, suh.

MASTER BOONE

Hey Samuel.

Samuel quickly notices Master Boone's face, he immediately appears concerned.

SAMUEL

What's wrong?

MASTER BOONE

It's just a lot goin' on as you can see.

SAMUEL

Yeah, I know. The nights are getting colder too. What are we going to do?

MASTER BOONE

I don't know Samuel, I don't know.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

But I do have an idea. Could you do me a favor?

Samuel's face lights up.

SAMUEL

Yes suh.

EXT. BIG HOUSE/FRONT PORCH - AFTERNOON

Master Boone and Samuel sit at a luxurious table on the front porch. Master Boone writes a letter with parchment paper and a quill pen delicately.

He reads over the letter and hands the note to Samuel.

MASTER BOONE

Go down to Master Williams in Charles Valley. He ain't too far away. Only 'bout 20 miles. You know where he is at. Ask him if the slaves here can stay with him, until we get the plantation back to normal. If anyone asks, Master Boone sent you.

SAMUEL

Yes, suh.

Samuel rises from his chair and commences his journey, smiling as always.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

Timothy is fast asleep in his bed, sleeping heavily. He suddenly jolts up from his bed, and GASPS for air like he is suffocating.

We can see his breath in the night, it's icy and cold. Timothy shivers in the arctic atmosphere.

He gradually steps out of his bed and walks in an apparent trance. He walks but it looks unnatural and strange, like he is hypnotized.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Timothy continues to walk slowly. We get a shot of his backside. Timothy's icy breaths continue to pulsate.

He exits the front door, leaving it wide open.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - MIDNIGHT

CLOSE-UP of Timothy looking up and staring at something. He's completely zoned out, still in a trance-like state. We linger on his staring...

We finally get a shot of what he is staring at...it is a noose hanging high (the same noose Benjamin was hanged on).

Timothy continues to stare with intensity, it's unsettling and haunting. We continue to see his cold breath in the night. All of a sudden - something grabs him by the shoulders.

MASTER BOONE (O.S.)

Timothy!

Timothy jumps, turns around, and sees his father. Master Boone's emotions are a blend of anger and relief. Master Boone immediately hugs Timothy and shoves his body against his. He hugs Timothy roughly but it is genuine. Caroline is behind Master Boone and joins Master Boone in hugging her son.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Timothy!? What are you doing!? Why are you out here in the cold!?

TIMOTHY

I don't know.

CAROLINE

What do you mean you don't know?

TIMOTHY

Where am I?

Timothy tears up and begins to CRY. Master Boone holds his son, comforting him as Timothy CRIES.

As Timothy continues to sob. Master Boone slowly looks up towards the noose hanging on the tree. Something isn't right about it. Chills run down Master Boone's spine.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone enters Timothy's room, holding him, and Caroline follows behind him holding an antique candle holder.

Master Boone lays Timothy down on the bed.

(In the background Caroline is distracted by something on the ground, she kneels down inspecting something on the floor with the candle light.)

Master Boone kisses Timothy on the forehead.

MASTER BOONE

You go to sleep son. Don't scare us like that again.

TIMOTHY

Okay...I am sorry.

MASTER BOONE

It's okay.

Master Boone walks away.

CAROLINE

Edward, come here.

Master Boone turns around and walks towards his wife curiously. She is still kneeling on the ground.

MASTER BOONE

Yes?

CAROLINE

Look.

Caroline points to the ground. Master Boone directs his eyes to the wooden floor. The candle light illuminates the floor, on the floor are black markings. It appears to be some kind of ESOTERIC SYMBOL.

The symbol's design looks like an erect cross standing on three platforms. On each side of the cross are two coffin-like shapes. There are other obscure embellishments in the design as well, it is very puzzling.

Master Boone is confused. He immediately turns to Timothy.

MASTER BOONE

Timothy?

TIMOTHY

Yes?

MASTER BOONE

Are you marking on the floor?

TIMOTHY

No sir.

MASTER BOONE
Why are there markings on the
floor?

TIMOTHY
What markings?

Master Boone seems irritated.

MASTER BOONE
Never mind. Go to sleep.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
(to Caroline)
Come on, let's go to bed.

Master Boone walks out of the door. Caroline's eyes linger on the symbol. Then she stands up and follows her husband to bed.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone and Caroline enters the room. They both look concerned and worried.

MASTER BOONE
I told you Timothy has been actin'
strange. What was he thinkin'
walkin' in the cold like that?

CAROLINE
Maybe he was sleepwalkin'.

MASTER BOONE
And where did those markings come
from?

CAROLINE
I don't know.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE
Did you notice where he was?

CAROLINE
Yeah, outside in the field.

Master Boone looks disappointed.

MASTER BOONE
Never mind.

CAROLINE
What?

MASTER BOONE
(abruptly)
He was near the noose Caroline!

Caroline is silent, she is obviously aggravated now.

CAROLINE
Goodnight Edward.

Caroline grabs the linen with vigor and gets in bed. Master Boone joins her reluctantly.

INT. MASTER BOONE/WOODS - MORNING

Master Boone is out in the woods with James, looking over the slaves in the woods. This is the only place in the plantation that isn't infested.

Samuel runs towards Master Boone, he is back from his journey.

SAMUEL
Massa!

Master Boone turns around, shocked.

MASTER BOONE
Hey Sam, you're back?

SAMUEL
Yes suh.

MASTER BOONE
Well that was quick, what's the word?

SAMUEL
Master Williams is willing to take all of us on his plantation.

MASTER BOONE
Oh, that is great. Thank you Samuel.

Samuel pulls out a note from his pocket and hands it to him.

SAMUEL

No problem, here is his letter of approval. Master Williams says he will take us all as soon as tomorrow morning.

MASTER BOONE

I'll be sure to arrange something with James. Thanks again Samuel. You can rest for the day in your cabin.

SAMUEL

Thank you suh.

Samuel smiles and walks away gleefully.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - EARLY MORNING

FIVE HORSES AND CARRIAGES are lined up next to each other. The horses appear to be malnourished and skeletal. Hordes of flies BUZZ around their ears, annoying them.

Each carriage is packed with at least ten slaves, even though the carriages are meant for five passengers. The slaves are compacted tightly in the carriages. They look sleep deprived.

James is on top of one of the horses. Samuel is on top of another and three other trustworthy slaves occupy the other horses, ready to gear them.

Master Boone converses with James. Caroline and Timothy are behind him. There are dark circles around Timothy's eyes, he is beginning to appear pale and skeletal too.

MASTER BOONE

The horses don't look too good.

JAMES

Yeah, this is all we have. Two of 'em deceased.

Master Boone looks upset.

MASTER BOONE

You think they can make the journey?

JAMES

Yeah don't worry, they ain't got to go too far.

(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

Master Williams got plenty of vegetation on his plantation. I will make sure they are well fed once we arrive.

MASTER BOONE

Thank you James and make sure to take care of them slaves too. Keep them in line.

JAMES

Yes sir.

We hear some CRYING. James and Master Boone turn their heads. Mama Matilda hugs Alberta tightly in the carriage. They CRY together.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Tilda ain't comin'?

MASTER BOONE

No, she got to stay here and help us in the house. We need her now more than ever. We need a third person watching over Timothy too.

James looks towards Timothy.

JAMES

Oh right.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE

Alright, it's 'bout time y'all get goin'. Tell Master Williams I said thank you.

Master Boone digs in his pocket, pulls out a sheet of parchment paper and hands it to James.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Make sure he gets this letter. It's a letter just thankin' him. I will forever be in his debt.

JAMES

Yes sir, will do. You take it easy now.

MASTER BOONE

You too.

JAMES
(to the slaves on horses)
Aight, let's giddy up boys!

James pulls on the reigns of his horse and his horse slowly GALLOPS away. Samuel follows his lead.

The other three horses follow behind each other as well. Mama Matilda says her final goodbyes to Alberta as the carriage carries her away.

ALBERTA
I will see you again Mama. I will
see you again!

Master Boone stares at Alberta, he is going to miss her. Alberta does not share the same feelings. She stares back at Master Boone bleakly, her eyes are full of rage. She has not forgiven him at all. Master Boone takes notice but still can't take his eyes off of her beautiful face.

All of a sudden - GAG!

Caroline SCREAMS.

Master Boone snaps back into reality and turns his head towards the sound.

It is Timothy, he is hunched over. BLACK SLUDGE is on the dead grass and it covers his feet. Timothy GAGS again and more black sludge slides out of his mouth seamlessly.

Master Boone looks horrified. Caroline continues to SCREAM. Master Boone runs towards Timothy and so does Mama Matilda.

Master Boone kneels down before his son, careful not to get the black sludge on him.

MASTER BOONE
Timothy!? What's wrong!?

TIMOTHY
I don't feel too good. I need to, I
need to -

Timothy is dazed and he passes out. Caroline SCREAMS again. Master Boone catches him before he hits the ground.

BLACK OUT

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - MORNING

We begin to see tiny slits of horizontal light open and close. A fuzzy vision of a room appears, with three people hovering over the subject, like we are seeing through a POV. But then the slits closes and it is black again.

Suddenly, we see the same unfocused vision of the room. It is still an unclear vision for a moment but gradually it becomes focused and sharp.

We are in Timothy's room and seeing through his POV. Standing and watching over him is Master Boone, Caroline, and Mama Matilda. They all look worried and concerned for little Timothy but they are happy now that his eyes are finally opened.

Our focus is now on the exhausted and feeble Timothy. The circles around his eyes are darker, hollow, and sunken. His skin is pale, his lips are white and chapped, and he sweats uncontrollably. His breathing is extremely slow, it seems like the breathing is painful for him, he winces every time he takes a breath.

Master Boone, Caroline, and Mama Matilda all turn to each other, without saying a word. They can all agree Timothy is ill and it scares them. Caroline turns her head away, she can no longer stand to see her son in this condition. Master Boone turns to Timothy.

MASTER BOONE

Hey there buddy.

Timothy stares at his father, his larynx rises up, he tries to speak but yet it pains him.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

You don't have to talk son. Just get your rest.

Timothy relaxes but then the black sludge rises out of his lips. It chokes him and he GAGS, he sits up, and turns his head towards the floor letting it all out.

Mama Matilda quickly grabs a towel, kneels down, and begins wiping the black slime from the wooden floors. Caroline CRIES again and embraces Master Boone for support. He holds his wife half-heartedly but understands she needs it at this time.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Caroline sits on the bed with her elbows on her knees, hands over her face, WAILING.

Master Boone stands on the opposite end near the bed. One hand on his hip and the other hand on his forehead. He closes his eyes, stressed, and massages his temples with his thumb and index finger in a circular motion.

A beat.

CAROLINE
What is wrong with my son?

MASTER BOONE
I don't know Caroline, I don't know.

A beat.

CAROLINE
Oh, I know.

MASTER BOONE
What is it?

A beat.

CAROLINE
The boy is not eating a proper diet Edward.

MASTER BOONE
(offended)
What is that supposed to mean?

CAROLINE
None of us are eating properly but he is a growing boy, he needs nourishment.

Master Boone ponders on her words.

MASTER BOONE
No, I think it's the yellow fever or somethin'.

CAROLINE
Don't try to deflect your responsibility.

MASTER BOONE
I ain't tryin' to Caroline!

CAROLINE

If he is starvin' you can't afford
food! If he has the yellow fever
you can't afford a doctor! What are
you good for!?

Master Boone begins to leave the door without another word.
He can't take his wife's attacks.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Go ahead and fix yourself a drink.
It's all you really care about!

Master Boone looks at his wife with a loathing sneer. Biting
his lip, he exits the room door.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

There is scintillating moonlight beaming through their
window, radiating the room with a faint silver light.

Master Boone and Caroline are fast asleep in the bed
together. They are facing away from each other as they
slumber.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

There is a shot of someone's feet, they are feet of a child.
They walk unnaturally and trance-like down the hall. Two
nooses drag behind.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone and Caroline continues to sleep. The door
creepily CREEKS open.

Timothy walks in the door, he isn't there mentally,
completely zoned out as he creeps closer and closer to his
parents.

He places one noose on Caroline's neck and tightens it.
Caroline stirs a little but goes back to sleep. And then
Timothy walks towards his father peculiarly and does the same
to him.

Timothy backs away and examines the nooses around his
parent's neck. He stands completely still, like a statue.

He snaps "out of it", suddenly GASPS, and covers his mouth in
pure terror.

We first see Caroline. We see a horrid image of her. Her stomach is split open, right in the center. Her stomach is gaped open, we can see her intestines inside, and the red blood stains her white gown, like splattered red paint on a white canvas.

We then focus on Master Boone. He is completely burnt, blacked, and charred from head to toe. We can see some hidden pink flesh under the black char and ashes on his skin. It's a haunting sight.

Timothy's terror elevates, he can't take anymore, and he SCREAMS at the top of his lungs.

Both Master Boone and Caroline jolt up suddenly. They both see Timothy at the foot of their bed. Without any questions, Master Boone and Caroline scurries towards Timothy. The both of them try to console him with their arms but he continues to SCREAM in sheer terror. He continues, despite his parents' arms around him.

MASTER BOONE

Calm down Timothy!

CAROLINE

Timothy! Look! It is us!

Finally, Timothy snaps back to reality. Even though the screaming ceases, he still looks dazed and confused.

MASTER BOONE

Tell us Timothy! What is wrong!?

Timothy's eyes are wide opened. He spots the nooses he absently placed on his parents. He points at the one on Master Boone's neck. Master Boone is curious and looks under his chin, he sees the noose, he can't believe it.

Timothy then points towards the one placed on Caroline's neck. She slowly feels the rope placed tightly around her neck.

Master Boone and Caroline looks at each other in pure shock, stunned. Master Boone immediately turns to Timothy, in a rage.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Timothy!? Why are these nooses around our necks!? WHY!?

TIMOTHY

I don't know father, I don't know!

Master Boone shakes Timothy relentlessly.

MASTER BOONE
Tell us now godammit!

CAROLINE
Calm down Edward!

MASTER BOONE
Tell us!

TIMOTHY
Barry did it!

Master Boone pauses, he can't believe what he heard, he is dumbfounded.

MASTER BOONE
Caroline! Take him to bed. I can't deal with him.

TIMOTHY
It's true father! It's true!

Master Boone has nothing else to say as he takes off his noose, SLAMS it on the ground, and climbs in bed with fury. He's done.

Caroline takes the noose off her neck as well. Then, she grabs a candle holder and matches on a wooden drawer. She lights the match and ignites the candle. She walks towards Timothy, a bit scared of him but her love for him overrides her fear. She kneels down and gets personable with him.

CAROLINE
Come on, time for bed.

She smiles at Timothy but continues to look terrified. Timothy looks clueless, he honestly doesn't know what is going on.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT/MOMENTS LATER

Caroline walks back in the master bedroom with her ignited candle and CLOSES the door behind her. Master Boone is still lying in the bed. He pierces Caroline with a paranoid leer.

She looks back at him with despair and she sheds a tear. They don't know what to say to each other.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE
I never thought I'll say this but I am afraid of my own son.

Caroline takes his words in.

CAROLINE
I'll go ahead and lock the door.

She walks towards the drawer and opens it. She clutches a key in the drawer and makes her way towards the door and locks it with urgency.

MASTER BOONE
I think our son is possessed.

Caroline turns around.

CAROLINE
Excuse me?

MASTER BOONE
That's the only way I can define his behavior lately. He's been talking to himself, sleep walking, not sure where he is...

Something catches Caroline's eyes on the floor. Her mouth gapes open in shock.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
Vomiting, and now trying to kill us, we need to call an exorcist...

CAROLINE
Edward, come here now...

MASTER BOONE
What's wrong?

CAROLINE
Just come here now.

Master Boone gets out of bed immediately. He eventually reaches Caroline.

MASTER BOONE
What now?

Caroline quietly points to the ground. Master Boone's eyes follows her index finger. His eyes reaches the floor, he is astonished.

The same ESOTERIC SYMBOL in Timothy's room is now marked on their floor in black. Master Boone and Caroline look at each other alarmingly.

INT. BIG HOUSE/DINING ROOM - MORNING

The Boone Family sit at the table together. On their plates is breakfast, porridge in morsels. They eat slowly. Not one smile at the table. Master Boone is internally angry, Caroline is in fear, and Timothy is full of guilt and confusion.

Timothy isn't looking better at all but finding strength to eat breakfast, trying to get as much nourishment as he can.

MASTER BOONE

Timothy.

TIMOTHY

(sheepishly)
Yes?

MASTER BOONE

What happened last night?

There is a tense pause.

TIMOTHY

I don't know.

MASTER BOONE

Don't tell me that.

TIMOTHY

I really don't know.

Master Boone is quiet and pissed. Caroline decides to chime in.

CAROLINE

You mentioned someone...Barry?

Timothy looks at his mother, she has his full attention.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Who is that?

TIMOTHY

Someone who visits me at night.

CAROLINE

Have you seen him?

TIMOTHY

No...

CAROLINE

Does he speak to you?

A beat.

TIMOTHY
Sometimes...

CAROLINE
What does he say?

TIMOTHY
He tells me he wants to send us
somewhere. Where we can all be
happy as a family...

MASTER BOONE
Preposterous.

CAROLINE
Edward!?

MASTER BOONE
Do you hate us Timothy? Is that why
we woke up with nooses on our
necks!?

TIMOTHY
No, I love you all.

A beat.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
But do you love each other?

Master Boone and Caroline look at each other in shock. They
are speechless for moments.

MASTER BOONE
Yes, yes we do.

TIMOTHY
Why do you argue all the time?

A beat.

CAROLINE
Because we have disagreements, it
happens but it doesn't change our
love for each other.

TIMOTHY
Barry tells me that is a lie. You
two don't love each other.

Master Boone rises from his chair abruptly.

MASTER BOONE
There is no Barry, Timothy!

Timothy turns to his mother.

TIMOTHY
 Mother, Barry says you think father
 is a pathetic drunkard.

Timothy turns to his father.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
 Father, Barry says you are in love
 with Benjamin's mother Alberta.

Master Boone and Caroline connect eyes, they are speechless again. Timothy looks directly into his father's eyes, it pierces into Master Boone's soul.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
 And Benjamin was my brother and you
 know it...

Timothy's voice changes, it deepens and sounds sinister. His eyes are frenzied, he shakes a little.

TIMOTHY (CONT'D)
You deserve to be punished for your
 lies!

Master Boone viciously SLAPS Timothy in the face. Caroline GASPS. Timothy WAILS uncontrollably, holding his stinging cheek. Mama Matilda comes in with a steaming tea pot on a tray, with three cups. She sees the commotion. Master Boone can't believe what he did, he is shell shocked.

Timothy's CRIES overpowers the silence. Master Boone sheds a tear.

CAROLINE
 Edward!? How could you!? HOW COULD
 YOU!?

Master Boone stares at Timothy, still in disbelief.

MASTER BOONE
 (quietly)
 Tilda, send Timothy to his room, he
 needs some more rest.

Master Boone storms off. Mama Matilda places the tray on the dining room table. Then, Mama Matilda consoles Timothy.

MAMA MATILDA

Come on Timothy, lets go rest.

Timothy holds on to Mama Matilda for emotional support as she leads him to his room. Caroline stays at the table and CRIES.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

Timothy lies in bed sleeping. His breathing still seems to hurt him. He suddenly jolts up again, his body is erected. He GASPS and breathes heavily for air. We see his cool breaths in the air. His pupils shake, trying to focus his eyes.

There is hardly any light in the room, only the faint silver light from the moon through the window.

There is a DARK AND MURKY FIGURE in the room, hiding behind the moonlight, barely noticeable. It has no shape, almost like an elongated mass of darkness, it is vaporous and cloud-like.

It swiftly creeps towards the door, like black air blowing in the wind. The door CREAKS open, and the figure disappears, into the shadows in the hallway.

TIMOTHY

Barry?

There is no response. Timothy rises out of bed, wanting to follow the figure. He walks towards his room door, in a hypnotized fashion.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Timothy continues to walk in the hallway, breathing icy air. He walks out the front door and exits out, leaving the front door open once again, letting the cold air in...

EXT. BOONE PLANTATION - MIDNIGHT

Timothy looks upward, staring at something. To no surprise, it is the same noose he's been obsessing about. He stares at it with the same intensity as before. His face is completely flushed, white, and blank...

We linger on his stare for moments...

He mystically begins to LEVIATE off the ground. He doesn't scream or say anything, he is still under a trance.

He floats up closer and closer towards the noose. His head squeezes tightly through the looped rope. The loop tightens by itself, gravity returns instantly, and Timothy's body DROPS. His feet dangle wildly in pain.

Spittle flies out of Timothy's mouth. He CHOKES and GAGS as he hangs by his neck. His body vibrates spasmodically. He FOAMS at the mouth. His eyes rolls to the back of his head.

He continues to shake uncontrollably for moments...

Eventually, the shakes become less vigorous, and his body slowly becomes lifeless...

We PAN on his bent neck attached to the noose, the foam from his mouth still dripping to the ground, and his all white eyes...he's dead...

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOHTY'S ROOM - MORNING

Caroline enters Timothy's room.

CAROLINE

Come on, Timothy time to wake up.

Caroline searches for Timothy on the bed. She doesn't see him. He must be hidden under the covers, so she walks closer to the bed.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Wake up sleepy head. Your father
and I want to talk to you.

She pulls the cover off the bed, no one is there. Caroline GASPS.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Timothy!?

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

The door SLAMS open. The sound jolts Master Boone right up. Caroline looks frightened.

CAROLINE

Timothy is missing!

Master Boone immediately gets out of bed.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - MORNING

Master Boone and Caroline runs frantically in the front yard, yelling for their child.

MASTER BOONE
TIMOTHY!

CAROLINE
TIMOTHY!

MASTER BOONE
TIMOTHY! I AM SORRY! WHERE ARE
YOU!?

Caroline SHRIEKS as she holds her hands to her mouth. She heavily falls to her knees and BELLOWS in despair. She can't even breathe. She is shell shocked, it looks like she is in excruciating pain, on the verge of a panic attack. She can only muster up the strength to point high in the sky to communicate to Master Boone what she is witnessing.

Master Boone's eyes follows her finger and looks up.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
OH MY GOD!

We get a SHOT of Timothy still hanging on the noose. There are DISGUSTING AND SLITHERING MAGGOTS covering his decomposing body from head to toe, FLIES hover over the corpse as well.

Master Boone is completely flushed and stunned. He can't move, he just stares at his dead son.

CAROLINE
NOOOOOOOOOO!

Her CRIES becomes guttural, she COUGHS manically. Master Boone snaps out of his daze, runs to his wife, and consoles her with his arms. He wraps them around her, kneels down and completely supports her.

The tears continue to run down her cheeks as mucus oozes from her nose. She buries her head on her husband's chest. She suffocates for breath again, she BELLOWS one more time, shaking uncontrollably.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
NOOOOOOOOOO!

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON

Caroline's painful and elongated WAILS continue. Mama Matilda holds on to Caroline as Master Boone places dirt in a grave buried six feet deep with a shovel. A wooden coffin is inside the grave. It slowly disappears as Master Boone shovels more dirt on top of it.

Caroline can't control herself, shaking in her grief.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - AFTERNOON/MOMENTS LATER

Caroline hasn't calmed down one bit. Master Boone places a cheap, hand-made WOODEN CROSS, on top of Timothy's grave. There are carvings engraved in it:

"R.I.P. TIMOTHY ARTHUR BOONE 1830-1840, A BELOVED SON"

Master Boone impales the cross on top of the grave, making it erect. He keeps his eyes on the grave...and then suddenly he falls to his knees, he can't hold the weight of his despair anymore. His eyes are full and tears run down like waterfalls, he breaks down.

MASTER BOONE
OH GOD! NOOO! WHY GOD! WHY HIM!?

Mama Matilda walks over and bends down to console Master Boone with her arms. He cries on her breast as she caresses him. He continues to WEEP on the ground without any restraints, like a newborn infant.

INT. BIG HOUSE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone and Caroline eat their small dinner together in pure silence. The type of silence that speaks for itself. The silence hovers over the broken couple. Nobody wants to talk, there is too much weight. Only the TICK TOCKS of the grandfather clock fills the room...

Caroline looks over to an empty chair, Timothy's chair. She stares at the chair wistfully. Her eyes well-up with tears, she catches herself before a tear falls and directs her attention back to her food.

Master Boone focuses directly on his food, he does not dare to look at the unoccupied chair, avoiding it at all costs.

TICK TOCK

TICK TOCK

Caroline continues to eat but the tears fall out once again, silently.

A beat.

CAROLINE
You asked him if he hated us.

Master Boone looks up to his wife, confused.

MASTER BOONE
What?

CAROLINE
You asked him if he hated us.

MASTER BOONE
Yeah, I did.

A beat.

CAROLINE
The question is, do you hate us?

MASTER BOONE
What?

CAROLINE
Do you hate us?

MASTER BOONE
Stop with the foolishness Caroline.

Master Boone continues to eat.

CAROLINE
If you loved him, he would be sittin' at that table right now.

Master Boone looks at his wife in disbelief.

MASTER BOONE
I can't believe you would say somethin' like that.

CAROLINE
You couldn't feed him or take him to the doctor. He killed himself because he was starvin' and sufferin'...or maybe it was because you put your hands on him.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 You never apologized to him did
 you?

Master Boone decides to tune his wife out.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
 And why did you lynch Benjamin in
 front of Timothy? Did you see the
 way he killed himself? He learned
 from you! *This is your fault!*

Master Boone rises to his feet in rage.

MASTER BOONE
*Don't you dare blame me for this! I
 love Timothy! I love him with all
 my heart and I miss him dearly! And
 I am sorry I hit him okay!? I am
 sorry!*

Caroline is petrified. Master Boone takes a pause to collect
 his thoughts, then his rampage continues.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
 It's about time you get off your
 fuckin' high horse. I loved all of
 my sons! *It's you who wanted
 Benjamin dead, remember?! It's you
 who forced me to kill my eldest!
 It's you I don't give a damn about!*

Caroline GASPS, she is in tears.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
*You want to know why I always have
 a whiskey at hand!? You want to
 know why I'm a pathetic drunkard!?
 Because you make my life a living
 hell EVERY SINGLE FUCKIN' DAY!*

Those remarks pierces and shatters Caroline's heart. She
 can't take the brutal honesty. She runs away from the dinner
 table abruptly and in tears, totally shell-shocked.

Master Boone remains silent as he sits back down. He feels
 relieved that he let that out. Not one bit of guilt on his
 face as he finishes his meal in solitude.

INT. BIG HOUSE/RESTROOM - NIGHT

Caroline continues to CRY, leaning over the restroom sink.
 She HEAVES heavily against the sink. She then VOMITS.

She looks down on the ground, the vomit is thick, chunky, and pink.

Caroline is bewildered as she wipes her tears and then her mouth.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone lies down in bed, asleep. His wife is not present in the bed with him.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mama Matilda walks down the hall with a candle holder, heading towards her bedroom. She hears hushed CRIES nearby. She turns around, the cries are coming from Timothy's cracked room door.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mama Matilda opens the door and her eyes adjust to the darkness. She sees Caroline lying in Timothy's bed, clutching Timothy's pillow closely as she WEEPS on it.

Mama Matilda feels sympathy for her and walks towards her.

MAMA MATILDA

Mistress...

Caroline looks up to Mama Matilda suddenly, Mama Matilda startles her. Her shock quickly dissipates as the tears continue to run down her face.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)

I am so sorry...

CAROLINE

How Tilda? How can God do this to us? Why would he forsaken our family?

MAMA MATILDA

I don't know ma'am.

CAROLINE

A mother should never witness the death of her son.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I just want to see his precious
face again. I just want to hold him
again.

MAMA MATILDA
I know you do.

CAROLINE
He was the only one keeping us
together, how can we recover from
this?

The CRIES continues and Mama Matilda continues to console her
on the bed. A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Tilda, can I tell you something?

MAMA MATILDA
Anything.

Caroline stares at Mama Matilda with angst.

INT. BIG HOUSE/KITCHEN - MORNING

Master Boone is at the table by himself, eating porridge. He
hears the front door OPEN and SLAM shut. Master Boone knows
who it is and where she is going...

EXT. BOONE PLANTATION/TIMOTHY'S GRAVE - MORNING

Caroline kneels near Timothy's grave, her MOURNING is
nonstop. Master Boone quietly walks up from behind her and
touches her shoulder apologetically. She jerks her husband's
hand away from her shoulder.

MASTER BOONE
I am so sorry for the things I
said.

Her attention is on the grave instead. She smiles a little at
the grave.

CAROLINE
Hey Timothy.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I miss you so much.

MASTER BOONE
Caroline! Speak to me!

She continues to ignore him. Her focus does not yield away from the grave.

CAROLINE
Timothy, one day we will see each other again. I promise.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I have something to tell you, Timothy.

MASTER BOONE
What do you have to tell him?

Caroline ignores her husband's question.

A beat.

This pisses Master Boone off. He kicks up some dead grass on the ground and walks away in frustration.

Caroline continues to SOB desperately.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone lies in bed again. He looks to his side and Caroline is not there once again. Master Boone is sick of it and SIGHS.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Master Boone walks down the hall with his lantern. He is searching for Caroline.

MASTER BOONE
Caroline? Caroline?

Master Boone sees soft candle light illuminating from the door's crack from across the hall. He walks closer and closer towards the door. He listens intently and hears a QUIET CONVERSATION. He hears Mama Matilda...and then Caroline...Master Boone opens the door quickly -

INT. BIG HOUSE/MAMA MATILDA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mama Matilda continues to support Caroline on the bed as she WEEPS, totally distraught. Mama Matilda's hand caresses her stomach softly.

Master Boone BURSTS inside of the room. Caroline and Mama Matilda are startled and sees Master Boone staring at them. Caroline immediately turns her head away from him and Mama Matilda lets go of Caroline's stomach and stands up suddenly.

MAMA MATILDA

Is there something you need suh?

MASTER BOONE

Yeah, gon' head and wash the dishes
or somethin' I need to talk to my
wife in private.

Mama Matilda continues to stare at Master Boone, not moving.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Go!

Mama Matilda dashes towards the room door, opens it wider, and hurries along down the corridor...

Master Boone notices Caroline wiping tears away from her face, still sitting on the bed.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Caroline, how long are you goin' to
keep this up?

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

I told you I am sorry, what else do
you want from me?

Silence.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Fine. Suit yourself, goddammit.

Master Boone exits the room door and SLAMS it shut. Caroline continues to CRY.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

Caroline lies in Timothy's bed, she is wide awake. We can see her cool breath in the night air. Her eyes are blank, she's not there and zoned out. She jolts up and begins walking out of Timothy's door, hypnotized.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Caroline leaves the front door and CLOSES it loudly.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER'S BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone wakes up abruptly. He immediately looks out his window and sees Caroline walking strangely on their misty front lawn, he looks at her in disbelief. Caroline begins to speak, we hear her muffled voice through the glass window. She stares into thin air as she says...

CAROLINE

Oh, I'm so happy to see you!

Master Boone looks questionably at his wife and he immediately runs downstairs.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/FIELDS - MIDNIGHT

Caroline looks completely deranged as she smiles at thin air, embracing an invisible figure, like she is pantomiming. She CRIES, the tears run down her face like rivers.

CAROLINE

Now that you're back, I promise
daddy and I will stop
fightin'...we're going to be happy
again.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

I have great news for you Timothy -

Master Boone grabs Caroline, Caroline is in shock and SHRIEKS. She is back to reality.

MASTER BOONE

Caroline! What are you doin'!?

CAROLINE

What? What is happenin'?

She still looks dazed and then Caroline wraps her arms around herself.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
It's cold out here.

MASTER BOONE
Caroline, who were you talkin' to?

Caroline is distracted, looking far into the distance.

CAROLINE
Did you see Timothy out here?

Master Boone is completely dumbfounded.

MASTER BOONE
What?

CAROLINE
Timothy, wasn't he out here?
Getting lost again as he always
does?

Caroline LAUGHS a little.

MASTER BOONE
No, Caroline...

CAROLINE
That can't be right, I just saw
him.

Caroline WAILS again.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I just saw him...

She throws herself at her husband. He embraces her.

MASTER BOONE
Come on, let's go to bed. We will
talk in the mornin'.

Master Boone and Caroline walks towards the house together.

INT. BIG HOUSE/DINING ROOM - MORNING

Master Boone and Caroline are at the dining room table. Mama Matilda pours some tea for Master Boone and then Caroline.

Caroline doesn't look good. She is frail, pale, and has sunken and darken eyes. She appears skeletal.

Caroline never slept the previous night, she was too paranoid. She begins to speak but very weakly, she shakes as she speaks, like it pains her.

CAROLINE

Edward listen, you have to believe me when I say I saw him in the front yard...

MASTER BOONE

That's not possible Caroline.

CAROLINE

But I held him, he talked to me, I felt his breath...

A beat.

MASTER BOONE

I'm afraid you've lost it Caroline.

CAROLINE

Don't you dare!

Caroline BREAKS DOWN.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What is happenin' to me? What is happenin' to me!? I am so scared.

Her CRIES elevates.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Something is taking over me!

Master Boone looks at Caroline with sympathy, musing over her words.

Caroline begins COUGHING manically, she GAGS relentlessly. She drops on all fours, weak to her knees.

MASTER BOONE

Caroline!?

He rises to his feet and goes to his wife's aid. Then she VOMITS - the vomit is sludgy and black.

Master Boone is astonished. Caroline covers her mouth as she CRIES, Master Boone holds her as she cries feeling defeated and helpless.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - EVENING

Caroline lies in bed, she resembles a corpse, she sweats feverishly.

Master Boone kneels down by her side. Master Boone eyes well up while looking at his wife. He quickly tries to redirect his mind.

Mama Matilda is in the background, tears roll down her face.

Master Boone turns to a glass of water on a nearby stand and grabs it.

MASTER BOONE

Here, have some water.

Master Boone places the tip of the glass on his wife's chapped and scarred lips. He tilts the glass but the water only spills into Caroline's mouth and neck, making her CHOKE.

Master Boone quickly puts down the water and hoists her up, patting her back. Caroline gains control over the muscles in her mouth and swallows the water, even though it is harsh on her throat. Master Boone carefully lays her back down.

Caroline looks into his eyes. She whispers to Edward.

CAROLINE

Edward.

MASTER BOONE

Yes?

CAROLINE

Don't leave me.

Master Boone grabs Caroline's hand delicately.

MASTER BOONE

Never.

Caroline tries to smile but she doesn't have the strength.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone and Caroline lies in bed together, Caroline's breathing is harsh. We see Caroline and Master Boone holding hands, it's sweet and tender...

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT/MOMENTS LATER

Master Boone slowly wakes up, looks next to him, and notice that Caroline is not present...again.

MASTER BOONE
Caroline?

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone has an illuminated lantern in his hands as he walks down the hallway cautiously, searching for Caroline.

MASTER BOONE
Caroline? Caroline?

Master Boone begins to hear subtle WHISPERS and LAUGHS in the hallway.

There is a stench in the hallway. Master Boone covers his nose with his arm.

As he creeps closer and closer towards Timothy's room, the WHISPERS become more pronounced and the stench becomes more repugnant, it's like he entered a cloud of foul smog. He starts hearing the BUZZING of flies through Timothy's door.

Master Boone holds his breath as he reaches for the golden door knob.

He then OPENS the room door. The whispers immediately stop, the voice is completely silent now.

INT. BIG HOUSE/TIMOTHY'S ROOM - MIDNIGHT

The entire room is swarmed with BUZZING FLIES. The stench hits Master Boone's nose, he GAGS but he continues to walk inside of the room. He tightens his arm against his nose. The room is completely dark besides a faint light from a lantern on a dresser. There is a wooden chair in the middle of the room, turned backwards. Something occupies the chair, something still, something human, a body...

Master Boone moves closer to investigate this mysterious object. He walks in front of it, attempting to see the face. The glowing light on his lantern hits the body on the chair. He moves the lantern up the body, slowly eating the shadows away revealing the rotting, decaying, and blackened face of Timothy. There is still dirt on him like someone dug him up, slimy maggots continue to crawl on his body and face.

Master Boone YELPS in terror and VOMITS. He HEAVES heavily on his knees.

MASTER BOONE
OH MY GOD!

All of a sudden someone JUMPS on top of his back, attacking him. This mysterious person punches at him repeatedly.

It hurts Master Boone. He throws the person off of him and SHOVES them to the floor. THUD!

Master Boone points his lantern in front of him urgently. He shakes as he places the lantern closer to the attacker. It is Caroline - she looks like a petrified deer in headlights.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
Caroline!?

Caroline is completely dumbfounded, her lips quiver incessantly, she can't conjure up one word.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing!?

CAROLINE
Edward...tell me...what is happenin'?

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Where am I?

Caroline looks around, she is honestly not sure what is happening. She spots Timothy's rotten corpse on the chair, she WELPS and VOMITS.

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Oh my God! Edward, what did you do!?

MASTER BOONE
When I walked up here, his body was sitting here. This is your doing!

CAROLINE
No I didn't! I -

Caroline looks at her hands in the candle light. Her hands are filthy from dirt. She looks down and her gown is covered in soil.

Master Boone is disgusted.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
Edward, you got to believe me I -

MASTER BOONE
(irate)
Goddammit! What the hell is wrong with you Caroline!? Timothy is dead! Okay!? Dead! Diggin' him up from the grave ain't going to change that!

CAROLINE
I didn't do it, you got to believe me!

Master Boone STOMPS away from the room and exits it in fury.

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone continues to STOMP. Mama Matilda is in the hallway too. She spots her master and is concerned for him.

MAMA MATILDA
Massa?

Master Boone passes by Mama Matilda without a word. He jolts into his bedroom and SLAMS the door shut. He SCREAMS in frustration, we hear it through the closed door.

Caroline runs after him down the hall. She tries to open the door but she struggles and realizes it is locked, she SHAKES the door knob desperately.

CAROLINE
Edward!? Edward!? Talk to me!

Caroline BANGS on the door furiously.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
YOU OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW AND
TALK TO ME!

Caroline BANGS on the door again. There is no response from Master Boone. Caroline gives up and CRIES, kneeling at the door, desperate for her husband's love again.

Mama Matilda sees Caroline crying at the master bedroom's door.

MAMA MATILDA
Mistress, what is happenin'?

Caroline is silent but eventually muster up words.

CAROLINE

I was talking to Timothy in my dreams, he was there. His eyes, his face, his voice...I told him the good news, he was smiling ear to ear, you should've seen his face...

A beat.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

And then I woke up and his corpse was in the room, it is still there...

Mama Matilda looks terrified.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

And I am covered in soil from head to toe.

Caroline BREAKS DOWN.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

What is happening to me?

Mama Matilda shows tenderness to her.

MAMA MATILDA

Come on Mistress, it has been a long night. Go ahead and rest in my bed.

CAROLINE

What about the corpse?

A beat.

MAMA MATILDA

(reluctantly)
I'll clean up the mess.

Caroline smiles tearfully at Mama Matilda.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/GRAVE - MIDNIGHT

Timothy's corpse lies on the ground in the coffin, next to a dug grave.

Mama Matilda drags Timothy's coffin in the grave, practically throwing him in there. His body is way too heavy for her old and weary arms...

She then says a SILENT PRAYER in Haitian Creole...

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT/MOMENTS LATER

The room is very dark, only scanty moonlight enters the room from the windows.

We get a glimpse of the bed again. Master Boone is fast asleep...

A drop of dark liquid spills on top of Master Boone from above. Another drop SPLATS on his face. He squirms in his sleep.

SPLAT!

Another drop hits his face.

This awakens him, he processes his surroundings. He feels the liquid slide down on his face. He reaches for his face and wipes it off with his hands, smearing the blood on his face.

We hear the sounds of SLICING, LIKE A BLADE CUTTING FLESH.

SPLAT!

There is another drop that hits his face, the drops are getting heavier. He wipes it off and focuses his eyes towards the ceiling, where the source is.

What he sees is obscured by shadows. He squints his eyes trying to focus his sight in the black and murky room. It seems as though someone is levitating above him. The feet dangling in front of him and dripping blood.

SPLAT!

Another gush of blood SLAPS his face in the night. He rises out of bed, lights a match in a rush, and ignites the lantern on his bed side. We see his face splattered with blood. He pushes the lantern in front of him making the shadows dissipate. Pure terror creeps up his spine.

Caroline hovers over the bed, gripping a butcher knife. The knife is impaled right through her stomach. The blade slides down her stomach viciously, like she's trying to dig something out, intestines fall out.

Blood, blood, and more blood, spills on top of the bed.

MASTER BOONE

CAROLINE!?! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'!?! OH
GOD! STOP!

Caroline's face is completely blank as she continues to unconsciously mutilate herself. Her eyes eventually closes and she falls into the bed. Her body SPLASHES into the pool of blood on the bed.

Master Boone gets on top of the bed and caresses his deceased wife, getting the blood all over his body.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
CAROLINE! CAROLINE! GET UP! GET UP!

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
TILDA! TILDA!

Moments later, Mama Matilda bursts the door open, clutching a lantern.

MAMA MATILDA
Yes Massa!?

MASTER BOONE
HELP! HELP! OH GOD HELP!

Mama Matilda slowly makes her way towards the bed, the horror is exposed to her. She SCREAMS in terror.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/GRAVE - DAY

Master Boone stares wistfully at the two graves aligned next to each other. One of his son, and one of his wife...

Mama Matilda sings an OLD NEGRO FUNERAL HYMN (in Haitian Creole) to comfort Master Boone...

He doesn't even cry, he just stares desolately, too shocked for emotions, he's in complete disbelief...he looks sort of pale...

INT. BOONE PLANTATION/KITCHEN - EVENING

He washes his face at the kitchen sink. Something is in his throat, he GAGS, bends down over the sink and VOMITS. He slowly looks down in the sink - his vomit is black.

MOMENTS LATER...

Master Boone sits at a table and sips his whiskey in a very distant daze. His eyes are red and full of tears. He looks sullen, angry, and paranoid. His face is pale and his eyes are sunken and hollow...

Mama Matilda walks by to check up on him....

MAMA MATILDA
Is everything okay massa?

A beat.

MASTER BOONE
(condescendingly)
Peachy.

Mama Matilda walks closer to the table where Master Boone sits. She quickly turns sullen, like she is going to regret telling him some news.

MAMA MATILDA
Massa? I have to tell you
something.

Master Boone looks at Mama Matilda, intrigued.

MASTER BOONE
Yes?

A beat.

MAMA MATILDA
Massa...I am scared...

Master Boone looks at her despondently.

MASTER BOONE
I am too...

His face seems disturbed now.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
You shoulda seen the way she was
stabbin' herself, like she wasn't
even there...and she was
levitatin'...how is that even
possible?

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
And I...I...

He's in tears.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
 I just vomited...black bile...
 Timothy did it...Caroline did
 it...whatever they had is getting
 to me...

MAMA MATILDA
 That's why I can't stay here.

Master Boone looks irritated.

MASTER BOONE
 Whattaya sayin'?

MAMA MATILDA
 I got to go massa, I can't stay
 here.

MASTER BOONE
 Where are ya gonna go?

MAMA MATILDA
 To Massa Williams's.

He pauses. Then BURSTS into tears. He lets out all of his built up fears, sorrows, and anxiety. Mama Matilda caresses her master. He BAWLS.

MASTER BOONE
 Don't leave me Tilda don't leave
 me. I have no one, no one left. You
 always been my best slave...stay
 with me...

She holds Master Boone, caressing him.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
 I don't want to die...

Mama Matilda feels guilty and shares tears with her master.

INT. BIG HOUSE/MASTER BEDROOM - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone sleeps in his bed all alone, all of a sudden - SLAM! Master Boone jolts straight up. The slam sounded like it came from the front door downstairs. He rises from his bed and looks out of his window, peering into the misty night.

He sees Mama Matilda carrying a lantern in front of her in the dark night, running away, we can see her breath, she looks kind of hypnotized...

MASTER BOONE
Goddamnit!

INT. BIG HOUSE/HALLWAY - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone races down the hall with a lantern clutched in his hand...

INT. BIG HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Master Boone runs into the living room and runs towards the front door, he SLAMS the door OPEN and looks outside in the fields.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - MIDNIGHT

From a far distance Master Boone sees Mama Matilda enter the woods...

INT BIG HOUSE/KITCHEN - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone runs after her immediately, leaving the door wide open.

MASTER BOONE
TILDA!

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone steps in the ominous woods. It's completely dark, misty, and translucent. Master Boone can't even see a foot in front of him. He shivers as his breaths and body pulsates frantically, we can see his breath in the air.

All he sees is the silhouettes of large, elephantine trees. Their branches sprout in every direction possible, like demonic claws. It's frightening, almost like there is another being present.

MASTER BOONE
TILDA! TILDA!

He doesn't hear anything.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
TILDA!?

He continues to walk, CRUNCHING on branches and fallen leaves with his feet.

MOMENTS LATER...

Master Boone continues to cautiously walk in the woods, going in deeper and deeper. He hears the HOOTS of owls, the HOWLS of coyotes, and the SCREECHES of bats creating a composed yet chilling symphony. They are boisterous - almost like they are trying to alert him of something -

The slave cabins are in sight now. Something catches his eye from far away...there is soft candle light illuminating from one of the slave cabin's window. Could Tilda be in there?

He walks towards it, ready to investigate.

MOMENTS LATER...

He reaches the illuminated cabin, stepping closer and closer, he opens the door and enters...

INT. BOONE HALL/SLAVE CABIN - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone enters the cabin and looks around with his lantern.

MASTER BOONE

Tilda?

He looks around in the cabin, it is bare and dusty. There is only one bed, he doesn't see anyone here...

WOMAN (O.S.)

Massa?

The voice comes from behind him, the voice is eerily familiar. Master Boone is startled and turns around, shaking.

Master Boone spots Alberta staring at him, she smiles to him and he GASPS. It's like she emerged from thin air.

ALBERTA

Hello, massa.

Master Boone is in complete shock, stuttering.

MASTER BOONE

Alberta...wha, what, what are you doing here? I thought you were at Master Williams with the others.

ALBERTA

I was...but I came back.

A beat.

ALBERTA (CONT'D)
I've missed you.

Master Boone looks delighted.

MASTER BOONE
I've missed you too.

A beat.

ALBERTA
I traveled twenty miles just to see
you again.

She walks towards him and caresses his chest. Master Boone is immediately turned on. She lightly kisses him on the lips and Master Boone kisses her back passionately. They gradually part their lips. Master Boone shed tears and clutches Alberta's hands.

MASTER BOONE
Alberta, you're really back. It's
really you.

ALBERTA
Yes, it is.

MASTER BOONE
I can't believe my eyes.

Suddenly, a thought strikes Master Boone's mind.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
Alberta, I have to tell you
something.

ALBERTA
Yes, anything.

MASTER BOONE
I am so sorry...

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
I am so sorry I killed your
son...our son...

Master Boone BREAKS DOWN.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
It was Caroline! She wanted him
dead!

Alberta shed tears. A tense beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
I want you to know, Alberta.
Everyday I think about you and him.

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
I think about a life we could've
had together, far away from here.
We could've moved to the north, get
a nice cabin, and be free...

His CRYING continues. Alberta caresses Master Boone.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
It's not too late for us. Let's go
now!

ALBERTA
What?

MASTER BOONE
Let's go up to the north where we
can be together, I have nothing
else to lose...

ALBERTA
Massa, that's crazy talk...

MASTER BOONE
Do you not love me?

Alberta pauses, she looks guilty.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
You do...you do, and you know it.

Master Boone kisses Alberta again, Alberta can't resist and she kisses back with pure passion.

Alberta and Master Boone hold each other as their lips connect. Master Boone lifts Alberta up and Alberta wraps her legs around his hips.

Master Boone carries Alberta towards the bed. Master Boone pushes Alberta on it. Then he climbs on top of her and caresses her neck with his lips.

Alberta MOANS in pleasure, she doesn't fight back this time.

Master Boone reaches for Alberta's skirt and pulls it off. After that, he UNBUCKLES his pants, takes them off, and throws them on the floor.

He wraps his whole body around Alberta, and Alberta does the same, their bodies completely intertwined with love, fully embracing each other.

Master Boone THRUSTS his body against Alberta's, he's in her. Alberta GASPS and MOANS rousingly. Master Boone continues to propel his body against Alberta's repeatedly, creating a rhythm.

Master Boone and Alberta MOAN and GROAN together, creating erotic music together. Master Boone has never made love like this before; he sweats, he makes direct eye contact, and says

-

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

I love you.

ALBERTA

I love you too...

Master Boone continues to mate...

From his peripheral vision, he sees a figure standing to the right of him at the head of the bed. Master Boone pauses. He takes a look at the feet first, they're feet of a child, his bare feet looks familiar to Master Boone.

Master Boone slowly raises his head, his eyes scanning up the body until he reaches the figure's face.

Master Boone GASPS, it's Timothy's face. There is still a noose around his bent and distorted neck.

MASTER BOONE

Timothy!?

Timothy points towards Alberta. Master Boone's eyes follows his finger.

Master Boone looks down at Alberta but Alberta is not under him, it is Caroline and she has a sinister smile on her face.

Master Boone SCREAMS in shock and quickly gets off of Caroline. He falls down backwards and lands on his bottom.

Caroline rises out of the bed. She looks exactly how she appeared when she died. There is a sliced gap in her stomach exposing her intestines and her white gown is stained red with splattered blood.

She walks towards Master Boone, LAUGHING menacingly and maniacally. Master Boone is in pure horror as he backs away using his hands and feet to back away from his wife.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
GET AWAY FROM ME!

She continues to LAUGH, it is jocular. She digs her hands inside of her stomach. She stirs her hands in there deep, intestines fall out, she LAUGHS as if it tickles her.

She then clutches on to something in her stomach, she pulls at it viciously.

SPLAT!

Blood spills on the ground.

Caroline hands are clutched together in a bloody fist, like she is holding something. The blood continues to ooze through her fingers, she shakes looking crazed, and continues to LAUGH. She slowly opens both of her hands revealing a bloody fetus.

Master Boone WELPS in terror and charges towards the door frantically.

Caroline LAUGHS hysterically in the background.

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION - MIDNIGHT

Master Boone continues to run and SCREAM. Before we know it - CLUMP!

Something hits Master Boone in the head. He falls to the ground backwards.

We are looking from Master Boone's POV. He looks unto the dark night's sky, his vision is fuzzy and unclear. We see a dark and broad figure standing over him, carrying a mallet. Master Boone's vision gradually becomes focused. Samuel stares down at his master. Samuel's face is stern and menacing, the complete opposite of what we are used.

MASTER BOONE
(groggily)
Samuel?

Other obscure figures crowd over his body, staring down at him. Master Boone faints.

BLACK OUT

EXT. BOONE HALL PLANTATION/WOODS - MIDNIGHT

Fire embers reflect on Master Boone's unconscious face, flickering neon orange and yellow.

Master Boone GROANS in pain, blood drips from his forehead. He feels sharp pains in his arms, he looks straight up, his hands are tied above his head in a durable knot. He's tied to a tree, hanging by his hands in the nude. Master Boone PANICS and sweats. His eyes then look below him. He GASPS, startled. He is a couple of yards off the ground.

All fifty of his slaves are dressed in all white ceremonial robes. Their faces are powdered, making their faces white and dusty. The females wear white headwraps. Other slaves have handmade drums in front of them and a variety of other instruments. Samuel and Alberta are in the crowd. We hear a cow MOO in the background, a corpulent cow is tied to a nearby tree in the center. The cow is just as scared as Master Boone.

The slaves are hurdled in a circular barrier created by many lit tiki torches, igniting the night...

The slaves are still, silent, and appear unhinged as they continue to stare at their master. It's like they're waiting for something or someone...

It's completely silent, besides the terrified SCREAMS of Master Boone echoing in the night...

MASTER BOONE
YOU ALL LET ME DOWN FROM HERE! LET
ME DOWN RIGHT NOW!

A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
SAMUEL!? YOU HELP YOUR MASTER RIGHT
NOW!

Master Boone looks towards Alberta. A beat.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)
ALBERTA! DON'T YOU LOVE ME!? HELP
ME, SO WE CAN GO TO THE NORTH FOR A
NEW LIFE!

Silence...

Master Boone looks out again at the menacing scene, in the middle of the circle is some kind of HAND-MADE THRONE, fit for a king.

The throne is occupied with a body slumped over, it's a decaying corpse, flies BUZZ around it. The corpse wears a fresh black tailcoat. A LARGE ANACONDA slithers around the corpse's body and constricts it like it is making love. We can't see the corpse's face.

A WOODEN CHEST is in front of the throne, along with a SACK of dry cornmeal, a LUXOURIOUS TOP HAT, an erected STAFF decorated with feathers and a skull on top, standing by itself and impaled to the ground.

Someone steps out of the woods. It is Mama Matilda. She walks towards the slaves. Her outfit is the most elaborate with golden ornamentation scattered around the beautiful white gown and glamorous head piece.

All of the slaves bow to their knees when they see her. They are humbled by her godly presence. They all CHANT together in Haitian Creole...

BOONE HALL SLAVES
MAMBO MATILDA, WE HAIL THEE!

Mama Matilda looks out to all of the slaves accepting their love in radiating confidence.

MAMA MATILDA
Boone Hall slaves, I welcome you to
our ceremony of freedom!

The slaves CHEER in triumph. We hear some drums playing lightly. Mama Matilda raises her hands in the air, the slave are silent again.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
Let's begin with a prayer.

The entire group closes their eyes and bow their heads.

MASTER BOONE (O.S.)
TILDA!? TILDA!?

MAMA MATILDA
Baron Samedi, Loa of the Dead.
Thank you for coming to the Boone
Hall Planation to aid us in our
freedom. Baron Samedi, this
ceremony is for you. We will give
praise to your name, give you
offerings, and give you a human
host so that you can lead us on
this earthly plane. We will always
follow you and will always be
indebted to you. Amen.

BOONE HALLS SLAVES

AMEN!

Mama Matilda opens her eyes, she looks out to the slaves again and smiles to them all.

MAMA MATILDA

Let us dance!

The slave begins to CHEER!

MOMENTS LATER...

The drums BEAT, CREATING A CERMONIAL RYTHMN....

The slaves dance and gyrate to the music. Their movements intertwine with the beat. The beat gradually increases in speed and intensity...and so does the dance and movements of the slaves. They SCREAM and SHOUT, like they are relieving internal pain or being possessed by a spirit, maybe it is both. Their bodies jerks and spasms uncontrollably. Their eyes roll to the back of their heads...

The dancers create pure and terrifying BEDLAM...

Mama Matilda walks closer to the cow constricted to a large oak tree. She picks up a machete placed next to the cow. Without a word, Mama Matilda savagely slices the neck of the cow. The cow BLEEDS severely through its neck, the cow HOWLS in pain and runs frantically around the oak tree. Mama Matilda backs away, waiting for the cow to calm down.

(The CEREMONIAL MUSIC continues in the background)

Eventually, the cow slows down and falls to it's belly THUMP! She then walks towards the deceased cow and strenuously attempts to flip it on its back, she succeeds.

She then penetrates the cow's stomach with the machete and SLICES the stomach open, gutting it like a butcher, blood spills everywhere...

She drops the machete, then sticks her hands in the cow's stomach, maneuvering her hands in it and teasing the intestines. After, she takes her hands out of the cow and smears the blood from the cow on her face, she looks completely crazed, the blood mixing in with the powder on her face. She SCREAMS AND HOLLERS in a haunting ecstasy, her screams are the loudest and overpowers the other slave's voices. Her eyes roll to the back of her head.

The other slaves elevates their voices to match her volume. She screams in Haitian Creole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 BARON SAMEDI! WE OFFER YOU THIS
 COW!

The slaves HOLLER.

She then makes her way in front of the throne, blood dripping from her face. In front of the throne is the sack of cornmeal.

Mama Matilda sinks her hand inside of the cornmeal, gripping a handful of it in her palm. She then takes her covered fist out of the sack. She delicately sprinkles cornmeal from her fist to the ground. She is very meticulous about how she spills the cornmeal, she goes in all directions but has a method behind it. She sticks her hand back into the sack and repeats the routine, she resembles a painter finishing a masterpiece.

She is all finished now, she steps back, and observes her work. We see the familiar ESOTERIC SYMBOL made from the spilt cornmeal...she smiles, satisfied...she chants frenziedly...(the same chant Timothy chanted). She SPEAKS in Haitian Creole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 LET HIM IN, LET HIM IN, LET THE
 ALMIGHTY IN!

The rest of the slaves chime in.

BOONE HALL SLAVES
 LET HIM IN, LET HIM IN, LET THE
 ALMIGHTY IN!

The chant's intensity rises.

BOONE HALL SLAVES (CONT'D)
 LET HIM IN, LET HIM IN, LET THE
 ALMIGHTY IN!

MAMA MATILDA
 BARON SAMEDI, WE GIVE TO YOU THIS
 HUMAN HOST! ACCEPT OUR OFFER!
 INVOKE HIS BODY!

The lifeless CORPSE sits on the hand-made throne. It begins to move its finger very lightly, it flicks his finger, flinging off soil.

Gradually, movement maneuvers up his arms, his legs, and he shakes, the entire body shivers (like something entered it).

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 INVOKE! INVOKE! INVOKE!

BOONE HALL SLAVES
 INVOKE! INVOKE! INVOKE!

The corpse SHAKES with vigor, spasmodically....

MAMA MATILDA AND BOONE HALL SLAVES
 INVOKE! INVOKE! INVOKE!

Suddenly, the movements of the body ceases...

Mama Matilda and the slaves await for some kind of response. They wait, and wait, and wait...nothing...

Mama Matilda and the slaves look disappointed but then - the corpse moves and slowly raises his head. Mama Matilda is exuberated...

CLOSE-UP: We can only see the eyes of the corpse. His face is all white with paint and the eyes are all black, beady, and demonic.

MAMA MATILDA
 HE IS HERE! HE IS HERE! PRAISE
 BARON SAMEDI!

BOONE HALL SLAVES
 PRAISE BARON SAMEDI!

The slaves bow down to their knees, their heads pointing towards the corpse. The corpse stands up like a sloth, soil falls of his body gradually. We don't see the face of the figure yet. The anaconda continues to slither around his body seductively. Mama Matilda walks closer and drops to her knees, she looks into his eyes, awe-struck. The corpse is quiet.

MAMA MATILDA
 Oh, how grateful we are to have you
 here. Thank you for your aid when
 we needed you the most.

A beat.

Mama Matilda walks towards the wooden chest, bends down, and pushes it towards the feet of the standing corpse now known as Baron Samedi.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 Baron Samedi, we give you these offerings. We hope you will accept them and be pleased with them.

The corpse creepily walks towards the chest, bends down, unlocks it, and opens it.

We see inside of the chest, it is filled with rum bottles, other alcoholic drinks, matches, cigarettes, and cigars.

CLOSE UP: We only see the lips of the corpse, it's painted white and black. The paint on the mouth is painted similarly to a skeleton.

The corpse gives an eerie and satisfied smirk; displaying its' rotten and decayed teeth.

The corpse picks up one of the cigars and places it on his lips. Mama Matilda suddenly rises from her feet and grabs a box of matches, she lights a match and places the match on the tip of his cigar, the cigar tip lights.

CLOSE UP: Baron Samedi takes a puff from the cigar. He slowly inhales and exhales and smiles again, but wider and creepier...Mama Matilda smiles again and CHEERS.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 HE ACCEPTS OUR OFFERINGS!

The slaves CHEER with her. Baron continues to smoke his cigar. Mama Matilda takes the staff out of the ground and hands it to Baron Samedi. He grabs it. Mama Matilda then picks up the luxurious top hat and places it on his head ceremoniously.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 Baron Samedi, Almighty, we just ask one more favor from you...

Baron's eye are fixed on Mama Matilda, he stares at her with dire intensity.

A beat.

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
 Send the spirits of the Boone family to Hell...let them burn...

MASTER BOONE
 TILDA! WHAT ARE YA DONIN'! GET ME DONE FROM HERE!

Mama Matilda hears her master's cry. A part of her feels guilty, she clamps her eye lids together and sheds a tear. This pains her but she abides her emotions and wipes her tear as she talks towards Baron Samedi once again.

MAMA MATILDA

Let their spirits rot for eternity
for what they did...

Baron Samedi smiles, that familiar sinister smile...without a word Baron Samedi walks away.

We notice he is creeping closer and closer to Master Boone still hanging by his arms.

MASTER BOONE

WHAT IS GOING ON!? SOMEONE HELP ME!
I AM YOUR MASTER GODDAMNIT!

Baron Samedi is only feet away from Master Boone. Master Boone hangs several yards above. Baron Samedi continues to smoke his cigar and the anaconda continues to slither around his body as it HISSES. Master Boone continues to panic.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU!? GET AWAY
FROM ME! GET AWAY!

Master Boone looks down at Baron Samedi. Baron's head is tilted at an angle, the rim of his top hat conceals his face. Master Boone SPITS on Baron.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

I SAID GET AWAY!

Baron Samedi sluggishly raises his head upwards, we finally get a look at his face. His face is completely covered in white and black paint, showing a very embellished skeletal design on his face...but what is behind the paint makes Master Boone GASP and shiver...

CLOSE UP: We see a familiar face behind all of the paint and embellishment...Benjamin's face...

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

Benjamin!?

Mama Matilda PULLS out a MINATURE DOLL (made of cloth and stuffed with cotton) from one of her pockets. She lights a match and places it near the foot of the doll.

Baron Samedi/Benjamin BANGS his staff and Master Boone begins to catch on fire, starting at his feet, he SCREAMS feverishly.

Baron Samedi/Benjamin seem to LAUGH manically but there is no sound, it is mute.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

AHHHHHHH!

The fire slowly travels up his legs, to his knees, to his waist...

Master Boone's hysteric SCREAMS continue...

Eventually Master Boone's entire body is engulfed in flames, besides his head. The flames eat away at his body and flesh viciously...

Mama Matilda drops the first burning doll. She then pulls out two other DOLLS. One doll has a piece of yarn hanging like a noose around its neck, the other is split open at the stomach with cotton sprouting out of it.

Master Boone looks down and continue to SCREAM in agony. He sees TWO APPARATIONS in the distance, one is Timothy (with a noose around his neck) and the other is Caroline (with her stomach gaped open).

Mama Matilda ignites the two dolls with flames using matches...

The TWO APPARATIONS apparently catch on fire, the fire engulfs their entire bodies, they fall to their knees, and they both SCREAM in agony, reaching for Master Boone.

MASTER BOONE (CONT'D)

TIMOTHY!? CAROLINE!?

Mama Matilda drops the two dolls. She drops them on top of the first doll. The three dolls burn together sharing the same flames, the flames connects them all, and they slowly burn to ashes, their entire bodies engulfed together as they burn as one family...

Master Boone's entire body (including his head) is now engulfed in vicious and fiery flames. We hear his last SCREAMS...

Now he is silent...dead...

We see a final image of his charred body submerged in the flames of Hell...

Mama Matilda is relieved and at peace now. She speaks in Haitian Creole to the Boone Hall slaves.

MAMA MATILDA
BOONE HALL SLAVES, FROM THIS DAY
FOWARD, WE ARE FREE! FREE AT LAST!

Mama Matilda and the slaves CHANT in Haitian Créole.

SUBTITLES:

MAMA MATILDA (CONT'D)
PRAISE BARON SAMEDI!

BOONE HALL SLAVES
PRAISE BARON SAMEDI!

MAMA MATILDA
PRAISE BARON SAMEDI!

BOONE HALL SLAVES
PRAISE BARON SAMEDI!

The slaves commence their CERMONIAL MUSIC again, creating jovial bedlam and ruckus, celebrating their long awaited freedom. The CHANTS continue...

Baron Samedi/Benjamin looks directly at us (the audience), with those black and demonic eyes. He breaks the fourth wall. He smiles displaying his rotten teeth, the same haunting snicker that chills our spine, smoking his cigar casually...

THE END

FADE OUT: