

Solice

by

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05/2023

Harsh STATIC noise over BLACK.

INT. APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

A young boy, ELI REYES, 6, holds his hands over his ears, muffling the NOISE coming from his MOTHER and FATHER, seen in his peripheral fighting and arguing.

Eyes swollen with emotion, face contorted with fear, his attention is on a coffee mug which has been knocked over and is now falling...for what seems like a life time.

The mug finally lands-- SHATTERING!

Blood splashes all over the tiled-floor, rushing towards Eli like a mad river, filling his field of view.

MAIN TITLE CARD:

S O L I C E

INT. HOUSING PROJECT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

A MONSTROUS BELLOW--

*A flesh-eating Monster ROARS after having just killed you. You fall to your death; "YOU ARE DEAD" appears on the screen.*

ELI, now 16, headphones around his neck, holds a video-game remote; he's playing the latest survival-horror video game.

A bit stirred, he looks to his left and sees his GRANDMA, Maria Reyes, late 60s, is on her knees cleaning up broken shards of a glass. She's got a big heart, but it's full of scars.

GRANDMA

Why you always alone? Don't you have any friends?

ELI

(turns away)

I do.

GRANDMA

It's not good to always be by yourself.

ELI

Why not?

Grandma finishes scooping up the glass, stands back up.

GRANDMA  
Everybody needs a friend.

He turns away in disagreement.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
(opens up her cigarette  
pack)  
I need a pack--

ELI  
Right now? But it's raining.

Eli doesn't look too thrilled as she takes a few crumbled up bills from inside her purse-- stopping herself.

GRANDMA  
He did it again.

She counts her money.

ELI  
Maybe it wasn't him--

GRANDMA  
(handing him the bills)  
So who was it then? You?

Eli grabs the bills, turns around and heads for the front door...

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
Take an umbrella--

SLAMMING it as he leaves.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
And stop slamming the door, ay dios  
mio!

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT - NIGHT

Rolling THUNDER lights up the Empire State building in the distance, flashing a glimpse of this housing community of more than 10 multi-story projects, all squeezed tightly close to one another.

Heavy rain pours down on Eli as he races past a sign that reads "Welcome to Wonderful Kings Gardens"

EXT. CORNER DELI - NIGHT

Eli steps out of the deli, when a disgruntled CHIP, 18, surprises him with a hit on the chest. Neighborhood bully, he's got his hair braided, gold chain around his neck, front tooth chipped, and a mean look on his face.

CHIP  
Yo E, lemme get some money!

ELI  
I don't got, I gotta go--

CHIP  
Come on, I know you got!

Chip pats him down.

ELI  
What the hell?--

CHIP  
I'm askin' you nicely--

ELI  
I told you, I don't got anything!

Chip sees the pack in Eli's hand and grabs it.

CHIP  
You smoke now?

Chip starts unwrapping the pack.

ELI  
Yo those ain't for me, come on--

Eli attempts to take them back, but Chip pushes him, sending him to the ground.

CHIP  
Son, why you lyin'?  
(he takes a cigarette out  
for himself)  
They mine now--

Someone grabs Chip from behind, arms around his neck, choking him.

Chip tries to wrestle away from the unknown vigilante, but to no avail.

CHIP (cont'd)  
(struggling to breathe)  
Who the fu--?!

The assailant's arms squeeze tighter, Chip goes to sleep.

Eli watches as Chip falls to the floor, surprised to see his older brother, VINCENT REYES, 17, appearing before him. Tattoos on his neck and hands, he's unhinged; the polar opposite of Eli.

VINCENT  
(grabbing the pack of  
cigarettes)  
You let this piece of shit mess  
with you?

Vincent extends his hand for Eli, but when Eli goes to grab it, Vincent retracts his, slicking his hair back instead and lighting up a smoke.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
You're alone bruh.

With a glint of hatred, Eli gets up on his own.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
We all alone.

Vincent gets down next to Chip, pulls a gold chain off Chip's neck, snapping it.

ELI  
You didn't have to do that.

VINCENT  
The thanks I get.

He gives the rest of the pack back to Eli.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
Just tell her it was me.  
(takes a puff of his cig)  
Like you always do.

Eli turns around and starts walking the other way.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
Hey!

He grabs Eli's shoulder, stopping him.

ELI  
Let go!--

VINCENT

Listen, I need you to hold on to  
this for me.

Vincent looks both ways before pulling a pistol out, tucked  
in his pants.

ELI

What? No way-- I can't--

VINCENT

Yes, you can.

He hides the gun in Eli's inner jacket pocket.

ELI

Come on--

VINCENT

Don't worry, no one gonna check  
you.

Vincent grabs Eli by the neck, squeezing him hard, pressing  
his forehead against his.

VINCENT (cont'd)

You have no idea.

Police sirens WAIL in distance, approaching fast. Vince lets  
go, checking his surroundings.

ELI

About what?!

Vincent jets off into the night--

Chip is heard groaning back to life, rain splashing down on  
his face, he starts coming back to it.

Paranoid about the gun and seeing Chip wake up, Eli makes a  
run for it back home.

INT. HOUSING PROJECT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Drenched, Eli races into the lobby that looks more like  
Central Booking with its rusted doors and teal green walls.

The fluorescent lights above BUZZ static, FLICKERING as he  
passes by.

ELEVATOR -

He hops into the grimy elevator and presses 14. It's the floor above 12.

The doors close revealing scratches and sloppy graffiti, the one that sticks out the most is "WELCOME HOME"

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM -

Grandma's in bed with a cigarette. She has a cloud of smoke surrounding her and a packed ash tray beside her on the bedside drawer.

The space is cramped. Her bed's on one side, and two more single beds next to each other on the opposite side of the room.

Eli drips water all over the floor, standing in front of her, who sees her cigarette pack has been tampered with.

GRANDMA

God help me forgive him.

Eli takes off his wet clothes, hanging them on a chair.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

Him, your father-- All of them.

ELI

What if we don't?

GRANDMA

Then it will be the end of me.

(beat)

Today me, tomorrow you.

BEDROOM - LATER

Eli hears Grandma in the bathroom taking a shower--

He reaches under his bed and pulls out a shoebox, it's where he keeps old toys and keepsakes.

He turns his attention to an old family picture. A YOUNG ELI standing next to his mother, SOPHIA REYES, and a YOUNG VINCENT on the other side, standing beside their father ANGEL ALVARADO, who has his arm around Vincent with a slight grin on his face.

He puts the picture and the gun in the shoebox and closes it.

LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

The TV lights up the dark room. Eli sits on the couch playing his xbox.

Grandma walks in, half asleep, cigarette in hand.

GRANDMA

He not back yet?

He shakes his head.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

If you get hungry there's still  
some rice and chicken in the  
fridge.

ELI

OK.

GRANDMA

Don't stay up too late pappi, you  
always have trouble getting up.

She walks back into the bedroom puffing away.

BEDROOM -

Eli lays down, looks over at his bedside digital alarm clock,  
it's 12:49am.

He glances over at Vincent's empty bed and shuts his eyes.

BEDROOM - MORNING

Eli wakes up, hears the RADIO coming from the kitchen.

KITCHEN -

He walks in and finds Grandma cooking some home fries; a  
plate of eggs and bacon are already waiting for him.

GRANDMA

Breakfast almost ready.

ELI

Morning.

GRANDMA

I know he not coming so I'm not  
even gonna bother making him any.

He takes a seat, grabs his fork.

ELI  
He just needs some time on his own.

GRANDMA  
He scares me, pappi. He takes after  
his father.

Eli takes a forced bite of his scrambled eggs.

ELI  
You ever go see him?

She brings the skillet up to his plate...

GRANDMA  
(demanding)  
I forbid you.

ELI  
What? I'm just asking--

She finishes his plate off with some home fries.

GRANDMA  
No, what you trying to do is upset  
me.

He warily digs into his plate.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
I'm making pasteles tonight.  
(beat)  
They were your mother's favorite.

She looks at him a beat.

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT - DAY

Eli passes by his desolate, torn-up playground in the  
courtyard of his project development.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Eli exits a local flower store holding a handful of pink,  
white, and red Peonies.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Eli brushes his hand against a black granite headstone, *clearing* the dust off.

He puts the flowers into a bottle of water and places them beside the headstone engraved SOPHIA REYES.

ELI

First batch-- just in time for you,  
like always.

He sits down, leaning up against his mother's headstone, almost lost in reverie.

ELI (cont'd)

Happy birthday, Mom.

INT. TACO TUESDAY'S - DAY

A local fast food spot in Brooklyn, open-late, drive-thru.

Eli works the pass. He fills up tacos and wraps them up.

ACACIA, 17, works the pass next to him. She's a delicate beauty that protects herself with thorns.

Eli notices her hand shaking.

ELI

If you want a break go for it, I  
got you.

ACACIA

Just a few more hours...

Acacia shoves a messy taco into a paper bag and tosses it down the shoot--

ELI

Wanna see a movie tonight?

ACACIA

No, I can't--

ELI

Oh yeah, you got plans-- my bad.

Eli glances down and sees blood around her ankle, seeping through her jeans.

ELI (cont'd)

Yo Casha...  
(beat)  
You got some...

She looks down and sees it.

ACACIA

Shit. Sorry...

Embarrassed, she takes off her gloves and runs into the bathroom.

Eli stares at a droplet of blood on the tiled-floor where she was standing.

EXT. TACO TUESDAY'S - NIGHT

Eli chucks a trash bag into the dumpster, Acacia smokes a cigarette, looking the other way.

ELI

Maybe hit up that thrift you wanted  
to go to? You always find the  
coolest stuff--

ACACIA

Not tonight.

He throws another garbage bag in, glances at the blood stain around her ankle.

ELI

Is that a new one?

She stomps out her cigarette and heads back inside.

EXT. THRIFT STORE - NIGHT

Eli makes his way home when he passes by a local thrift store, sign on the window says "Movies & Games 50% off".

INT. THRIFT STORE -

Surrounded by old junk from pretty much every decade, Eli finds the box labeled Movies & Games, and starts digging.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)

Mom, I want this one!

Eli looks up and sees a YOUNG BOY showing his MOTHER an action figure he wants.

MOTHER (O.S.)  
No honey, you already have plenty  
of those--

He watches them for a moment, as if transfixed...

CLERK (O.S.)  
(taking notice)  
If you find something you like,  
I'll take an extra few bucks off.

Eli turns and sees the CLERK, a scruffy man in his 50s, glancing up at him, taking a break from an old radio he's fixing.

Eli continues, reaches down to the bottom of the box and pulls out an old Ouija board--

CLERK (cont'd)  
The Ouija board? Take it for 5.

ELI  
It doesn't work-- It's not real  
though right?

CLERK  
It's a board game kid. You don't  
like it, there's plenty of other  
stuff.

Eli flips the box and sees "Ask The Oracle Anything, Receive An Answer!"

CLERK (cont'd)  
It's been here for a while, as long  
as I can remember.

Eli thinks about it, his interest has certainly piqued.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Grandma and Eli sit at the table, plates in front of them, plantain rolls stuffed with pork ready to be served.

GRANDMA  
What did we expect?

Eli looks over to see Vincent's empty chair, he shrugs his shoulders.

She shakes her head in disappointment.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
Eat. It's gonna get cold.

Vincent enters, SLAMMING the door shut on his way in.

Grandma shutters, anger boiling.

VINCENT  
I'm starving! What's for dinner?

Eli doesn't show much enthusiasm to his grand entrance, Grandma gives Vincent a cold stare as he sits down.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
(care-free)  
What happened? Feels like somebody  
died up in here.

He reaches into the serving plate, grabbing a pastelito with his hand, devouring it.

GRANDMA  
(simmering)  
How dare you?

VINCENT  
(munching)  
--

GRANDMA  
How dare you be so disrespectful?

Vincent grabs another one, scarfing it down, churlish.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
And you're loaded--

VINCENT  
(mouth full of food)  
You want me to cry? Be sad and  
sober like the two of you? Nah.

Eli glances over at him, tries not to be involved in the drama.

GRANDMA  
If only she could see how you act--

VINCENT  
(sardonic)  
But she can't. She can't see  
nothing-- She don't exist.

Beat.

GRANDMA  
How you pay for them tattoos and  
the liquor, Vincent?

VINCENT  
How you think?

GRANDMA  
With my money.

VINCENT  
Yeah right--

GRANDMA  
You don't got a job--

VINCENT  
So?

GRANDMA  
So I know what you doing, and I'm  
warning you--

VINCENT  
Don't worry, one day you won't have  
me to blame anymore--

He throws the rest of his food down, gets up and heads into  
the bedroom, SLAMMING the door behind him.

GRANDMA  
What am I gonna do with him?

She gives Eli a look.

He doesn't eat, doesn't talk.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
That's your blood.

He gets up and puts his plate on the kitchen counter.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
You barely touched your food.

ELI  
I'm not hungry.

LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli sits on the floor by the couch, game remote in hand. After a few moments he glances at the Ouija board next to him, it seems to be irresistible.

He places his fingers gingerly on the planchette.

ELI  
Am I alone?

He keeps his hands firm on the piece.

ELI (cont'd)  
Hello?  
(beat)  
Is anyone there?

...

ELI (cont'd)  
If there's someone else here...say something.

...

ELI (cont'd)  
Mom?  
(beat)  
Can you hear me?  
(beat)  
So stupid.

Given up, Eli takes his hands off the planchette and leans back against the couch when--

The planchette moves. Eli wide-eyed, watches it slide across the board, landing on I...

ELI (cont'd)  
(following planchette)  
Is...Sophia...your...mother.  
(beat, ruffled)  
Yes.

The planchette is now still.

ELI (cont'd)  
Who are you?

Beat.

The planchette heads to W...

ELI (cont'd)  
 (reading)  
 Wanna...be...my...friend...  
 (unnerved, responds)  
 How did you die?

Eli watches as the planchette fires to 5, 1, 7--

ELI (cont'd)  
 (reading)  
 517...0...5...51705?  
 (beat)  
 I don't understand?

The planchette continues, jolting to the same numbers over and over again.

Shaken up, Eli grabs the planchette, stopping it--

Beat.

ELI (cont'd)  
 Can I see you?

The planchette jolts to 3 A M--

VINCENT (O.S.)  
 Hey.

Startled, Eli turns to see Vincent is awake, standing in the dark behind him.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
 Can't sleep.

He approaches, takes a seat next to Eli.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
 What you got that for?

ELI  
 N-nothing.

VINCENT  
 Let's play--

The planchette moves on its own, darting from one letter to another, Eli tries to keep up, reading it.

ELI  
 (reading)  
 Vin...cent...

Eli looks up at Vincent, fear rushing into him.

ELI (cont'd)  
It said your name.

The planchette continues--

VINCENT  
(amused)  
That's a good one...

ELI  
(reading the planchette)  
Mother...waits...4...U...

Eli gives a worrying, bewildered glance at Vincent, who's quiet--

Beat.

Vincent snaps, throws the board across the room, sending the planchette flying as well.

VINCENT  
Sick joke o' yours?

ELI  
No, I swear, I didn't!  
(beat)  
It wasn't-- It wasn't me.

He gives Eli a cold glare.

ELI (cont'd)  
You gotta believe me.

VINCENT  
I know you hate me.

ELI  
I don't hate you.

VINCENT  
It's OK. I want you to hate me.

ELI  
Vince, I don't--

VINCENT  
You know why?  
(beat)  
Because I think she deserved it.

ELI  
No--

Eli is *boiling*.

VINCENT

Nothing you can do about it.

Vincent gives him a malevolent, unforgiving stare, then gets up and walks away, leaving Eli fuming.

BEDROOM -

Eli's on his laptop, he types 51705 in a search engine, but the results don't make any sense to him: "CODE 51705 - Removal of skin suture..."

Not convinced, he shuts his laptop and glances over at Vincent who has his back turned to him.

He rests his head on his pillow and closes his eyes.

On his bedside digital clock, 2:59 turns to 3:00 A.M.

His eyes snap open as if never asleep--

Razor-sharp STATIC NOISE CUTS THE SILENCE, hitting Eli's eardrum, and painfully.

A GHASTLY SKELETON FACE conjures up just a breath away. Pale-white, terrorizing every bone of Eli's body before dissolving into the darkness of the room.

Aghast and gripped by fear, Eli is unable to move.

His jaw is locked.

His limbs are numb.

He is experiencing sleep paralysis.

The only thing he can move are his eyes.

Face contorted with frenzy, he scans the room, looking left--

A **darkness** creeps in from the hallway, gradually **devouring** the light in the room.

Eli can only watch as it covers the **walls.... floors, ceiling...**

**Engulfing** Grandma and Vincent, advancing further...

Now **SURROUNDING** him.

Eli's ears are assaulted with heavy STATIC noise when a figure becomes visible:

A pitch-black figure of a Man, standing at around 8 feet tall, his daunting reflective eyes glimmer under his wide-brimmed hat. No other features can be seen, his face, nor his limbs.

He is the SHADOW MAN.

KITCHEN -

The window slides OPEN with force--

BEDROOM -

Eli hears it-- terrified, unable to move.

KITCHEN -

A gust of wind blows the window curtains to the side.

A small hand reaches up and clenches onto the window sill.

Then another hand, broken fingers clasping on--

BEDROOM -

Eli hears BONE CRACKING, subtle WHIMPERS.

Troubled, he sees a small GIRL crawling on the floor towards him, every movement pained, she reaches the foot of his bed and stands up for him to see--

She is SOLICE, 6, tortured and malignant; The face of a broken porcelain doll.

Her knees are twisted and dislocated, giving her a crooked stance. Her head lolls sideways from a broken neck, and her skull has been smashed around her right side from heavy impact fall.

Eli sees her piercing reflective eyes staring back at him.

Face white from terror and adrenalin, Eli shuts his.

All that can be heard is loud, engulfing, static NOISE.

CUT TO BLACK

Still in BLACK... A new sound... A Spanish soap opera.

BEDROOM - MORNING

The TV set in the bedroom plays one of Grandma's favorite novellas.

LIVING ROOM -

Eli wakes up on the couch, covered in sweat. Looks around, startled to see Grandma standing over him.

GRANDMA

Hello?!

He has two pillows around his ears and a heavy blanket around him.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

You got a fever or something!?

Eli shakes his head, scanning the room for any oddities.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

I can hardly breathe and you got all this-- aren't you hot?

He uncovers himself, sits up.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

And why you sleeping on the couch?

ELI

I uh-- So what?!

GRANDMA

What's next? You gon' start stealing money out my purse too?

ELI

What are you talking about-- Come on?!

GRANDMA

Yeah, you might as well go sleep on the streets with your brother--

ELI

Will you stop?

He heads out of the room.

GRANDMA

You just don't want to be near me--

BATHROOM -

Water running, Eli washes his face, finally able to release some tension. He massages his jaw after grinding his teeth all night.

He looks at himself in the mirror, afraid and unsure of what he's done.

KITCHEN -

Eli walks in, this time no breakfast. Grandma has a cigarette in her hand and a cup of coffee on the table.

GRANDMA

I slept like shit. You gonna have to make something yourself.

Eli pours some cereal into a bowl.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

Felt like someone was choking the life out of me.

He starts pouring milk...

GRANDMA (cont'd)

By the way you was up at night--  
Walking around the house, I guess  
you were sleep walking--

ELI

A what?--

He pours too much into his bowl, overflowing it and spilling milk on the table.

GRANDMA

You're making a mess!

Grandma grabs a towel and soaks up the milk off the table.

ELI

What do you mean I was sleep  
walking?

GRANDMA

Yeah, I was afraid to wake you,  
pappi.

Troubled, he sits down and has a hard time looking at her.

ELI  
Grandma?

GRANDMA  
What?

ELI  
(pensive)  
Was there ever a lil' girl?

GRANDMA  
A what?!

ELI  
A girl that lived here, that died.

Eli looks back at her, *he's dead serious*.

GRANDMA  
What's gotten into you?

She puts her cigarette out.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
(diverts)  
Listen I gotta go--  
(a sudden cough grabs her)  
Shit-- Last thing I need right now--  
(more coughing)

Eli lost his appetite, watches her grab the keys and leave the apartment.

LIVING ROOM -

Eli has his backpack on, headphones around his neck ready to go, when he notices the Ouija board on the floor.

He approaches it, something feels *different* about it.

He shoves it into his backpack.

EXT. THRIFT STORE - DAY

Eli comes back to find the place closed; Gate down.

ELI  
Shit.

DOWN THE STREET -

Eli takes one last glance at the Ouija board before--

He chucks it into a garbage bin.

INT. TACO TUESDAY'S - DAY

Eli works the pass along with Acacia.

ACACIA  
You look sad.

ELI  
I'm fine.

ACACIA  
What happened?

ELI  
Nothing--

ACACIA  
Doesn't look like nothing.

Beat.

ELI  
I should've never messed with it...  
the Ouija board.

ACACIA  
A Ouija board, really? What is it  
the 90s again?

Eli shows her a look of fright.

ELI  
From that old thrift store...

ACACIA  
It's just a game anyway, how bad  
could it be?

ELI  
It does things.

ACACIA  
Like what kind of things?

ELI  
I never sleep walked before.  
(beat)

(MORE)

ELI (cont'd)  
It told my brother he's better off  
dead.

ACACIA  
You trippin'--

ELI  
And I saw someone...

Eli looks over at her, there is not an ounce of comfort in  
his body at the moment.

ACACIA  
You mean like a ghost?

He nods.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
You realize it's made by like  
hasbro or some shit, right?

EXT. TACO TUESDAY'S - NIGHT

Acacia closes up, lights up a cigarette and starts walking  
when Eli runs up to her.

ELI  
Hey, wait up.

Acacia keeps her pace up.

ELI (cont'd)  
Can I walk you home?

ACACIA  
Not today, I'm good.

ELI  
Why not?

She turns around, Eli sees she's holding her wrist with her  
other hand, some blood seeping through her fingers.

ACACIA  
Listen, I'm just not in the mood,  
OK?--

ELI  
Holy shit--

ACACIA  
This one just-- It won't stop--

Acacia feels light-headed, knees weak, unable to keep herself standing when she begins to fall--

Eli dives in to the rescue, catching her.

ELI

I got you, come on.

She opens her eyes, finding herself in his arms.

EXT. ACACIA'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Acacia drinks a can of Budweiser while Eli wraps her hand up with gauze.

ACACIA

What's your biggest fear?

He looks around noticing the unkempt shrubs, an old rocking horse.

ELI

Heights.

ACACIA

Really? Heights?

He nods.

ACACIA (cont'd)

Not cancer? Getting hit by a car?  
Nuclear apocalypse, or spending  
eternity in hell alone?

ELI

No, just heights.

ACACIA

I envy you.

ELI

Don't. You should be good.

He lets go of her hand, she glances over at him, grateful.

ELI (cont'd)

You might wanna give that arm a  
break...

She shows him her leg. It's full scars. 2 to 3 inches long, horizontal, diagonal, vertical scars.

ELI (cont'd)  
 (shocked)  
 Shit.

ACACIA  
 Does it scare you?

ELI  
 No.

She pulls her pant leg back down, a slight hint of relief brushing across her face.

ELI (cont'd)  
 She had cuts, bruises all over her  
 too...  
 (beat)  
 Broken bones...

ACACIA  
 (disturbed)  
 What else did she say?

ELI  
 Some number-- 51705.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eli walks into the room and sees Grandma is on her knees, eyes shut, slouched against the bed, hands clasped together. Her favorite photographs are facing her. One of her PARENTS, one of Sophia, one of the Virgin Mary, one of Eli, and one of Vincent.

ELI  
 Grandma?

No response as he approaches closer with caution...

Beat.

She opens her eyes and turns to him--

GRANDMA  
 Pappi...

Her voice is much lower, hoarse and throaty.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
 Water...

Eli nods and runs into the kitchen.

She collects her photographs and places them back on her bedside drawer.

Eli rushes back in with the glass.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
(taking a seat)  
I feel so tired, something's not  
right--

She throws back some pills and chugs water as Eli watches her finish the entire glass.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
Everything hurts--

She lights up a cigarette, taking a look at Vincent's bed.

ELI  
Please tell me.

GRANDMA  
Like I'm getting a fever something,  
ay Dios mio...

ELI  
Was there ever a young girl that  
died in this house?--

GRANDMA  
Again with this girl-- I don't know  
what you talking about.

ELI  
She must've been 6 or 7--

Fear drapes over Eli's face.

GRANDMA  
Pappi, please--

Grandma has a coughing fit.

ELI  
Don't lie to me--

GRANDMA  
(fed up)  
There were many girls that lived  
here that are now dead. I was one  
of them.

BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli can't sleep, turning from side to side.

Grandma is out cold, snoring her head off.

Her TV is on mute.

He finally shuts his eyes and attempts to fall asleep.

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Eli wakes up and finds himself standing in the hallway, looking at the front door which is wide open; he was sleep walking.

He glances down at his feet-- Petrified, blood draining from his face, he sees the Ouija board he trashed, now rests on the welcome mat in front of him.

He bends down to pick it up. Looks down the hallway for any sign of life.

Nothing.

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT - DAY

An early storm is closing in, slowly packing the sky.

A sharp, yawning darkness covers the 14-story tower, presenting a sinister prospect.

BEDROOM -

Eli's on his laptop, he's typed in Google "how to get rid of a ouija board?"

He finds a comment thread from people who've purchased it before.

"It's not real, it's fake!"

"People are so dumb it's hilarious"

"The only way to save yourself is through body and blood of Jesus Christ."

ELI

Shit...



VINCENT  
I didn't take anything--

GRANDMA  
(hitting him)  
It's always you. There's no one  
else!

Vincent dodges her hits, getting up off the couch, taking the pillow off with him, when Eli looks down and notices money falling on the floor from under the pillow--

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
(in awe)  
You--

Grandma wide-eyed, seizes the money.

VINCENT  
(surprised himself)  
It wasn't me--

GRANDMA  
Everything I done for you--

VINCENT  
I didn't take anything, bro tell  
her! I just got here--

GRANDMA  
(pointing at Eli)  
I know it wasn't him.

Eli doesn't know how to respond, also shocked himself.

VINCENT  
So you just gonna blame it on me?!

GRANDMA  
I want you out.

Vincent gives Grandma a grim look as he grabs his jacket.

VINCENT  
Go ahead then.  
(grills Eli)  
Blame it on me.

GRANDMA  
Keys.

Vincent takes the keys out and chucks them towards his brother.

Grandma escorts him to the front door.

HALLWAY -

The door swings open, Vincent makes his way out without looking back.

Eli watches him go, unable and unwilling to help.

GRANDMA

As if I haven't given enough-- Unbelievable.

Eli glances at the money in her hand, disappointed.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

(to Eli, dead serious)

Don't you even think about opening this door for him.

EXT. WHITE TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Eli approaches a 2-story house situated in the middle of a side street.

There are no signs of any kind. The windows all have closed wooden blinds, giving no glimpse to the inside of the house.

He opens the front-porch gate, making his way up the steps and to the door.

The mailbox hanging on the wall next to the door has no name or number.

Eli lifts his hand to press the buzzer--

The door opens, taking him by surprise.

ONDINA

Who are you?

Eli sees ONDINA, A West-Indian Woman with a voice of confidence. Her age is none of our business. She's comfortable in her robe; she's got red slippers on, her hair tied up in rollers.

ELI

I saw your ad, to help with bad--  
Umm, are you Ondina?

She opens the door more for him.

ONDINA  
Yes I am. You have money?

ELI  
Not much, I think--  
(checking his pockets)  
Like, 20 bucks right now--

ONDINA  
You need more, 50 at least, boy.

ELI  
I can get it--

ONDINA  
(examines him)  
Come back when you have it.

She shuts the door on him. He turns around and proceeds down the block.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sleepless, Eli glances at Grandma who's out cold with the TV on, which emanates a blue light around her.

A cigarette still burns in her ashtray.

HEAVY BANGING on the front door ECHOES THROUGHOUT the small apartment.

Startled, Eli looks over towards the hallway--

More BANGING coming from the front door.

He gets up, glances at Grandma again, she's still out cold.

HALLWAY -

Vincent POUNDS on the door again as Eli approaches quietly.

VINCENT  
Eli!

Shaken up, Eli knows he can't open the door. He looks into the peep-hole and sees Vincent standing there with his arms against the door, desperate, with blood covering the entirety of his face.

He carefully reaches his hand for the door knob...

Beat.

BEDROOM -

Eli slips back into bed with a look of guilt as he pulls the covers up to his face.

Vincent proceeds BANGING on the door as Eli shuts his eyes.

INT. STAIRCASE - DAY

Eli wakes up, alarmed to find himself standing in the staircase.

He sees a door about 10 steps in front of him labeled CAUTION! ROOFTOP ACCESS PROHIBITED.

ELI  
(in disbelief)  
Shit.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Eli finishes pouring a glass of cold water from the faucet and chugs it.

He glances over at the fridge and sees a note on the door.

"Where R U?! At hospital! Vincent accident FML"

INT. ICU ROOM - DAY

A hear-rate monitor BEEPS steady.

Eli is focused on Vincent who is in a coma, hooked up with tubes. His face is swollen, wrapped up in gauze. Heavy bruising can be seen on bits of skin that is visible, like around his eyes.

Grandma sits beside him, devastated, crying her eyes out.

A FEMALE DOCTOR makes notes in her clipboard, monitoring Vincent.

DOCTOR  
We really can't tell you for sure  
at this moment, further tests need  
to be done.

GRANDMA  
(to Eli)  
I called Jay. He should be here.

ELI  
You told Uncle Jay?

GRANDMA  
I had to, I didn't know where you  
were, pappi-- I can't do this  
alone.

UNCLE JAY, 40s, busts in the door. Hard-headed, more brawn  
than brain. He's Grandma's only son, and Uncle to the boys.

UNCLE JAY  
Nephew!?

He rushes up to Vincent.

UNCLE JAY (cont'd)  
(gets down beside Vincent,  
taking his hand)  
What's wrong with him?!

DOCTOR  
(pointing to X-rays)  
His spine was fractured in four  
places. Even if he recovers, he's  
sustained neuromuscular damage--

UNCLE JAY  
No no no--

DOCTOR  
His mobility could be severely  
limited.

UNCLE JAY  
(looks at Eli)  
Where was you?

Eli still traumatized from his own event, can't seem to  
muster up a response.

GRANDMA  
It was me, I took his keys.

Eli glances back at Vincent as a rush of fear grabs him.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits in the living room while Grandma and Uncle Jay are  
in the kitchen. He listens in on the conversation while on  
his laptop.

UNCLE JAY (O.S.)  
 It's the money they worried about.  
 You think they not when they are?

Eli looks over at the Ouija board, *terror in his eyes*.

GRANDMA (O.S.)  
 I should've never let him go-- so  
 stupid, I should've never--

KITCHEN -

Uncle Jay scarfs down some food while Grandma stands by the counter, she's got her reading glasses on and some papers in front of her.

UNCLE JAY  
 How you gonna blame this on  
 yourself?

GRANDMA  
 How could you have an appetite  
 right now?

UNCLE JAY  
 Up to 22 Million. I'm telling you,  
 accident cases like these--

GRANDMA  
 (putting down her glasses)  
 My God...

UNCLE JAY  
 You know what that could do for  
 him? And us?

GRANDMA  
 I need to lay down.

She heads into the bedroom.

UNCLE JAY  
 Don't blame yourself, Ma--

Eli walks in.

UNCLE JAY (cont'd)  
 Eli. Come here, you all quiet.

He takes a seat across from Uncle Jay.

ELI  
 She hasn't been feeling well.

UNCLE JAY

What about you-- You got a girl friend? That's why you was too busy to look after your brother?

ELI

It ain't like that...

UNCLE JAY

Oh yeah, what's it like then? I'm all ears.

Eli doesn't even know where to begin.

BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli uses his teeth to tie a knot around his wrist. The other end of the rope is tied to the foot of the bed.

He lays under the covers, only eyes peeking out. Headphones around his head.

ELI

(reciting)

Don't wake up on the roof, don't  
wake up on the roof, don't wake up  
on the roof...

3:00 A.M.

Eyes wide open.

Loud static BUZZES into his hearing.

Laying stiff on his back, Eli is experiencing sleep paralysis again. Body numb and unable to move, his jaw is locked.

He gasps for air as immense pressure mounts his chest, almost suffocating him when a cold, wholly evil voice speaks out.

SHADOW MAN (O.S.)

Elias...

He darts his eyes left and right, scanning the room.

He looks to the hallway and sees the **darkness** creeping in...

SHADOW MAN (O.S.) (cont'd)

You did this.

Terrified, Eli shuts his eyes, attempting to pray--

ELI  
P-pleeas-se... G-god-d...

SHADOW MAN (O.S.)  
(brooding)

--

ELI  
Prot-ect m-me.

SHADOW MAN (O.S.)  
You killed us.

Static continues to PULSATE through his ears, getting LOUDER and LOUDER.

Unable to move he watches the room's **shadows** overtake the entire atmosphere, creating a terrible **darkness**.

SHADOW MAN (cont'd)  
All your fault.

Frantic, Eli scans the room and sees her.

Solice standing right beside him.

SOLICE  
My name is Solice.

She gazes right into his fearful eyes.

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

One end of the rope is still tied to his wrist, the other end drags on the floor.

Eli opens his eyes, sees Manhattan in the distance, horrified to find himself on the rooftop only a step away from falling over--

He takes a step back to safety, centering himself and regaining balance.

Face white like a sheet.

ELI  
Solice...

LIVING ROOM -

Back in the living room, Eli tries again with the board.

He places his hands on the planchette.

ELI

Solice?

(beat)

If you can hear me, please make  
this stop.

(beat)

I'm done playing-- Goodbye.

The planchette slides diagonally...

ELI (cont'd)

(reading)

No...more...secrets...

(beat, desperate)

What secrets?

The planchette is now still.

ELI (cont'd)

Solice?

Eli confused as to what this all means.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Eli paces back n' forth while Acacia sits by a standing angel  
headstone smoking a cigarette.

ELI

I think she wants to fucking kill  
me--

ACACIA

You're making me anxious.

ELI

I know Grandma's lying to me. I can  
feel it--

ACACIA

I can't help you if I'm anxious.

ELI

So this where you go when you say  
you got plans?

ACACIA

Listen I-- I just don't usually  
like getting too close, you know?

He nods.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
It never ends well.

ELI  
Every-time can't be the same  
though.

ACACIA  
I don't want to get into it, it's  
something personal.

ELI  
Like, you seeing someone?

ACACIA  
No, It's not that. I just don't  
feel anything. I tried-- It's not  
you, or anyone else, I just-- It's  
me. I feel dead.

ELI  
Like this cemetery.

Beat.

ACACIA  
I'm gonna do it.

ELI  
Do what?

ACACIA  
Finish the game.

ELI  
Game?

Eli is stuck. A fear has overcome him after noticing a  
STRANGER with a wide-brimmed hat standing in the distance  
next to other MOURNERS.

ACACIA  
It's called a SARCO pod.  
(beat)  
Yeah-- you're actually like the  
first person I told...

The Stranger turns back and glances at Eli.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Eli sits by Vincent who's still in a deep coma.

Vincent's female NURSE steps in to check on him.

NURSE  
You should go home and get some  
rest...

He looks over at Vincent, unable to leave his sight.

NURSE (cont'd)  
Don't worry, we'll call you as soon  
as anything changes...

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits on his laptop, Google searching for Sarco Pods when he realizes it's a state of the art, painless, assisted suicide service "Dying with Dignity" written over a picturesque sky.

He shuts his laptop--

EXT. ACACIA'S HOME - NIGHT

Eli knocks on Acacia's door.

She opens it, surprised to see him, looking like she just woke up.

ELI  
(out of breath)  
Hey!--

ACACIA  
Hey, what are you doing?--

ELI  
Listen, I'm not here to convince  
you to not do it, OK? I get it--

ACACIA  
Do what?

ELI  
So like you might want to "game  
over" yourself-- and that's totally  
fine, everyone deserves the right  
to choice right?

ACACIA  
Yeah right-- listen I don't want to  
get into it--

ELI  
But I don't want to die.

ACACIA  
So don't.

ELI  
It's kind of getting harder to do.

EXT. OVERPASS - NIGHT

Under the BQE and next to a bunch of abandoned cars covered in bird excrement, Eli tosses the Ouija board into a metal garbage bin.

Acacia squirts lighter fluid all over it.

ELI  
It was at my front door after I  
trashed it.

ACACIA  
Say goodbye.

Acacia STRIKES A MATCH.

Eli shakes his head, not convinced.

She tosses the lit match onto the Ouija board, it ignites into a large flame, spurred on by the fluid.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
Burn.

Eli watches as the flames grow.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
Told you so.

The large flame is interrupted by a blue one, combusting and vanishing all together, leaving the Ouija board unharmed.

Eli gives a worrisome glance over at Acacia, who is dumbfounded.

ELI  
Told me nothing.

ACACIA  
That's impossible...

ELI  
(furious)  
Only through the blood and body of  
Jesus Christ, remember?!

ACACIA  
(bewitched)  
Body and blood...

ELI  
(losing it)  
I need to get some hand-cuffs.

ACACIA  
(still absorbed)  
...of Jesus Christ...

ELI  
So I don't wake up on the pavement.

ACACIA  
You think that will help?

ELI  
Well this ain't helping either.

ACACIA  
You're telling me this board is  
actually for real?

ELI  
Nobody will be believe me.

ACACIA  
(uneasy)  
I believe you.

Eli gives her bleak look.

ELI  
I don't want to game over.

She responds with one in kind.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eli steps into the apartment. It's dark and quiet. He takes  
off his backpack.

KITCHEN -

Eli turns on the light and finds Grandma sitting there by herself in the dark, surrounded by her photographs, smoking a cigarette, coughing her lungs out--

He jumps back.

ELI  
Grandma?!

GRANDMA  
This must my punishment.  
(beat)  
This is what I get, pappi.

He takes a seat next to her.

ELI  
It's not. It's not your fault,  
Grandma--

GRANDMA  
You remind me so much of her.

She places her hand on Eli's head, running her fingers through his dark hair.

ELI  
I think it's mine, It's all mine--  
I really screwed up--

GRANDMA  
No pappi, I asked for forgiveness,  
it's the only way, we have to  
forgive--

ELI  
(flush with fear)  
Bad things, really bad things  
happened ever since I-- I'm sorry.  
I don't know how to stop it.

Unable to contain himself any longer, he grabs her-- hugging her tight.

GRANDMA  
I know, I know. But you can't blame  
yourself-- You always gonna be my  
hope...and he my pain...

INT. ICU ROOM - DAY

Eli sits next to Vincent who's still in a deep coma.

He listens to his STEADY VITALS.

He looks over into the hallway and sees Uncle Jay with Grandma talking.

HOSPITAL, HALLWAY -

Uncle Jay sits alongside Grandma in the hall.

UNCLE JAY

What if he doesn't wake up?

GRANDMA

We're keeping him connected to the machine, Jay--

UNCLE JAY

What if it's 6 months? A year?  
Insurance covers only 3, he's gonna  
take us all with him--

GRANDMA

(irked)  
Jay.

UNCLE JAY

(foiled)  
And then if you go? I'm stuck with  
a 100 thousand dollar medical bill.  
You think I ain't when I am?

GRANDMA

I swear to God Jay, I'll relieve  
you of your debt myself.

Beat.

UNCLE JAY

You still don't think they should  
know?

GRANDMA

Know what?

Jay gives her a look.

UNCLE JAY

For some reason this all reminds me  
of that day.

GRANDMA

Eli's been asking about her.

UNCLE JAY

How did he find out?

GRANDMA

I don't know-- on the computer probably.

UNCLE JAY

They deserve to know.

GRANDMA

They're hurt enough. It would devastate them.

She glances over at Eli sitting beside Vincent.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits in the living room with Acacia, they have the Ouija board set up in front of them.

ACACIA

I guess it's a good thing it didn't burn.

Eli places his hands on the planchette.

ELI

Let's just get this over with.

ACACIA

I'm not a Ouija pro, but that's what it says, you need to close the channel and move the planchette to goodbye.

Acacia places her hands on the planchette as well.

ACACIA (cont'd)

Can't believe I'm doing this.

ELI

Hello?

Acacia looks on anxiously, Eli is determined.

ELI (cont'd)

Solice?

(beat)

Are you here?

The planchette jolts to NO, then--

ELI (cont'd)  
 (reading the board)  
 Hello...Acacia?

Eli looks over at her, both of them shocked.

He shakes his head *Don't Answer!*

ACACIA  
 Who are you?

The planchette fires to L...A...Y...

ELI  
 (reading)  
 Layla?

Acacia gasps in fear as she hears the name.

ELI (cont'd)  
 (demanding)  
 No-- I need to speak to Solice.

The planchette jolts to more letters.

ELI (cont'd)  
 (following planchette)  
 Room...for...you...here...

Acacia is full of tears, she gets up, grabs her bag, and storms out.

ELI (cont'd)  
 Casha?!

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT - NIGHT

Acacia rushes out, Eli tries to catch up to her.

ELI  
 Hey! Hold on a second--!

She turns around to face him, her sobbing is convulsing her body.

ACACIA  
 I'm sorry, I can't.

Acacia gives him a look of despair as she makes her way home.

Eli watches her pick up the pace, not turning back around.

He turns himself and heads back inside.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Eli comes back into the kitchen, turns on the light.

He opens the fridge, grabs a box of orange juice out, and snags a cup from the cupboard.

He pours himself a cup, accidentally knocking it over.

He watches as the cup falls-- SHATTERING.

KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A cup falls and SHATTERS. Eli's Father, ANGEL slaps his Mother, SOPHIA, across the face as Vincent, 7, tries to stop him.

VINCENT  
(consumed)  
Don't hit her!

ANGEL  
(to Sophia)  
You want me to trust you?!

SOPHIA  
Please!--

Angel grabs Sophia by the hair, slams her head against the wooden kitchen cabinets in a savage blow.

VINCENT  
(hitting Angel on the back  
to no avail)  
Stop!!--

ANGEL  
(he brings his menacing  
face close to hers)  
You did this.

SOPHIA  
No!--

Eli is just 6 years-old, watching from the hallway as his mother's blood splatters on the cabinet doors.

ANGEL  
This was all your fault.

SOPHIA  
 (devastated)  
 There was nothing I could do--

Angel has his hand around Sophia's neck, choking her--

ANGEL  
 You killed us.

Vincent attempts to stop his father, hitting him best he could and grabbing on to him--

VINCENT  
 You're hurting her!--

Angel is unstoppable, he turns around and backhands Vincent across the face, sending him to the floor.

ANGEL  
 You!

Angel grabs Vincent by the neck, lifts him off the ground and slams him on the kitchen table, choking him.

Vincent fights for his dear life, GASPING for air when Sophia seizes a knife from the drawer and stabs Angel in the back, saving Vincent's life.

Angel lets go of Vincent, shocked to feel a sharp pain in his back--

He reaches behind and manages to pull the knife out--

SOPHIA  
 Angel, don't do this--

He grips the knife tight, *killer intent*, looking up right into her desperate eyes.

SOPHIA (cont'd)  
 I'm sorry.

He rams the blade into her chest.

Eli watches from a distance as Sophia freezes, then slides down to the floor, GULPING for air.

Vincent crawls up to her.

VINCENT  
 Mom?! Mom!?! Mom!!

Angel stands over them, still holding the blood-covered knife, panting.

VINCENT (cont'd)

Mom!!!

Sophia's eyes go empty. Vincent becomes hysterical.

Angel notices Eli standing in the hallway watching him as he holds the knife, fighting the revulsion he feels.

ANGEL

I'm sorry too.

He looks him right in the eyes before lifting the knife up to himself...

And slicing his own throat.

Frozen, Eli watches blood pour out of his father's neck, SPILLING out all over the tiled-floor.

KITCHEN - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Grandma slaps Eli across the face, waking him up.

GRANDMA

Pappi?! Wake up! What's the matter with you?!

He starts coming back to it, Grandma's voice is muffled.

GRANDMA (cont'd)

You was all shaking, you so white--

Eli can't muster up a single response, still shell-shocked from his memory.

She wipes his sweaty face with a damp cloth.

ELI

He blamed her-- Mom...

Grandma takes a moment.

GRANDMA

Your mother was a good woman--

ELI

He said she killed us...

(beat)

That's why he did it...

Beat.

GRANDMA

They were never the same, pappi--

Eli's on *edge*, eyes wide open.

Grandma turns away, hesitates to continue.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Uncle Jay sits across from a female LAWYER as he glances over photographs.

The first one is of Vincent standing at an intersection, waiting to cross.

LAWYER

My concern is what the video shows us.

(beat)

Traffic light is green-- crosswalk red, Vincent waits...

The second one has cars in motion, and Vincent crossing the street.

LAWYER (cont'd)

Car approaches, he decides to cross, right into--

UNCLE JAY

What's he gonna do now? His life is over.

LAWYER

It's a miracle he survived.

Uncle Jay flips to the last picture: Vincent stands calm in the middle of the road. Moments before he is hit.

LAWYER (cont'd)

Have you thought about the possibility that this could be true?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - DAY

Eli stands across from Grandma, who's surprised and frightened by Eli's wild-eyed distress.

ELI

Tell me.  
 (beat)  
 Who is she?

Grandma shuffles in her seat, turns away from him.

ELI (cont'd)

Who is Solice?

She finally gives in.

GRANDMA

She was-- She was your mother's  
 first.

Eli shows a mixture of shock and horror.

ELI

She was my sister?

GRANDMA

How did you find out about her?--

ELI

You lied to me...

GRANDMA

Before she had Vincent and you, she--  
 -she...

(beat)

She had Solice.

ELI

I can't believe I-- I had a sister--  
 You been lying to us this whole  
 time.

GRANDMA

I just wanted you to have a chance  
 at a normal life-- you gonna blame  
 me?

Eli doesn't know how to digest this, Grandma too, is  
 distraught.

ELI

What happened to her?

GRANDMA

She crawled out of that window--  
 when she was only 6.

Eli glances over at the kitchen window, he's *destroyed*.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
 It was a horrible accident-- a  
 tragedy, that's what it was.

Grandma pours herself and Eli a glass of water.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
 Your mother was here when it  
 happened.  
 (beat)  
 He always blamed her for it.

ELI  
 How did she just disappear? I can't  
 find her...

GRANDMA  
 Solice was her middle name.  
 Your father always preferred that  
 over Gabriella.  
 (beat)  
 Gabriella Reyes.

Frustrated, Eli jolts up, not being able to sit still.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
 (agitated)  
 He was a drunk! He murdered her--  
 It could've happened to anyone!  
 (defeated)  
 How could she have known? She was  
 in the other room--

He gazes at the window Solice jumped from.

ELI  
 No more secrets...

GRANDMA  
 I don't regret anything. I did it  
 to protect you.

ELI  
 I spoke to her.

GRANDMA  
 You what?

Eli gives her a grim look before storming out of the room.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
 What do you mean you spoke to her?

EXT. TACO TUESDAY'S - NIGHT

Acacia smokes a cigarette when Eli comes running up to her.

ACACIA  
Hey I'm sorry about the other day.

ELI  
She was my sister.

ACACIA  
Solice?

He nods, out of breath. His eyes are tired, skin paler.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
You look like shit--

ELI  
They just hid it.

Acacia shakes her head, almost not even surprised.

ELI (cont'd)  
Like it never happened.

ACACIA  
Hey, look...

Acacia takes out a picture from her pocket, showing it to him.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
My dad, me, my mom.

ELI  
Is that-- Layla?

Acacia nods.

ELI (cont'd)  
You know that wasn't her in my  
room, right?

ACACIA  
I know.

ELI  
She's probably in heaven.

ACACIA  
It doesn't exist.

ELI  
There has to be.

ACACIA  
Why?

ELI  
'Cause there's a hell.

He's *dead serious*.

INT. ICU ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits by Vincent, who hasn't shown any signs of recovery, still in a coma.

Acacia stands by as well, glancing over at them.

ACACIA  
You think the board did this?

ELI  
I should have never messed with it,  
I should've let him in.

ACACIA  
But then you wouldn't have found  
out about Solice.

Eli thinks about it, bothered by the idea.

ELI  
He thought I hated him.

ACACIA  
Did you?

Eli shakes his head.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
Why did he think that?

ELI  
We never agreed on some things.

EXT. ACACIA'S HOME - NIGHT

Eli and Acacia sit on her porch steps.

ACACIA  
I just sat there-- sat there and  
cried.

(MORE)

ACACIA (cont'd)

(beat)

I thought she would wake up.  
I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat...

(beat)

Surrounded by her prescription  
meds... She finished-- She finished  
the game.

ELI

You did what you could...

ACACIA

Did I?

(beat)

I did nothing.

ELI

You were there for her.

He tries his best to be supportive, but it's hard for her  
regardless.

ELI (cont'd)

I need you.

Eli grabs her hand, she turns back to him.

ACACIA

Nobody needs me--

ELI

I do.

ACACIA

Why?

ELI

Everyone needs a friend...

If they were to ever kiss, it would probably be here, but Eli  
interrupts the moment.

ELI (cont'd)

I gotta go. I can't leave her alone  
too long.

Acacia nods in agreement, watches as Eli leaves.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Eli walks home when up ahead he sees the Corner Deli, and  
most importantly Chip hanging outside looking for a bite.

Eli tries to stay unnoticed, crossing the street but Chip got his eagle-eye already on him.

Eli picks up the pace.

Chip crosses the street, catching up to him.

CHIP

Yo E!--

Eli makes a run for it, sprinting as fast as he can, turning a corner and running down a side street.

Chip jets after him-- Eli attempts to cross the street but almost gets hit by a car-- HONK! HONK!--Chip catches up to him and takes Eli down.

CHIP (cont'd)

You think you're fast?!

Chip hauls off, clips Eli in the button as he brings his hands up to protect his face.

CHIP (cont'd)

He took my chain!

Chip continues, full swing.

ELI

What do you want?!

CHIP

My fuckin' chain!

Eli is helpless, pinned to the ground.

INT. WHITE TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Her kitchen window giving her front-row tickets, Ondina witnesses the altercation between the teens.

Chip's mounted on Eli, swinging as if he was in the UFC.

She's seen enough, turning away.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Eli is on the floor, Chip standing over him.

CHIP

Where's he at now?! Huh?! Call him!

Chip kicks him in the gut.

CHIP (cont'd)

Pussy.

He checks Eli's pockets and finds only a few dollars.

CHIP (cont'd)

Takin' your bitch ass 3 dollars.  
Either you or him, money--

He pockets the singles.

ONDINA (O.S.)

Hey you!

He kicks Eli in the gut again--

ONDINA (cont'd)

Go before I call the police!

Eli squirms in pain, watching Chip run in the other direction.

He tries to regain his composure, when Ondina approaches him. She takes one good look at him as he lays there defeated.

ONDINA (cont'd)

You again.

Weirded out by her, Eli gets back up on his feet and starts walking.

ONDINA (cont'd)

I can see it now.

Eli continues limping down the street.

ONDINA (cont'd)

The curse.

He stops. Turns around to get a better look at her and sees the White Townhouse behind her, realizing who she is.

ONDINA (cont'd)

I was waiting for you.

She's still in her red slippers, but her make-up is quite well put on, a contrast from the first time Eli saw her.

INT. WHITE TOWNHOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Eli sits at a small wooden table in her modest kitchen, holding a ziplock bag with ice up to his face.

Glancing around he notices most things are red; the cupboards, cooking utensils, plates.

Ondina brings him hot tea in a red cup.

A BABY can be heard crying in the background.

ONDINA  
 Dangerous game for a stupid boy.  
 (yells to her Husband)  
 Quiet her please!

Her HUSBAND in the living room yells back.

HUSBAND (O.S.)  
 What do you think I'm trying to do?! You want to come here and help?!

The baby CRIES some more.

ELI  
 I should go--

He stands up but she sits him right back down.

ONDINA  
 Who else lives with you?

ELI  
 My grandma, my brother...

ONDINA  
 I am sure they are doing not too good yes?

Eli shakes his head.

ONDINA (cont'd)  
 Why did you decide on the Ouija board?

Eli shrugs his shoulders.

ONDINA (cont'd)  
 You could not choose a different device?

ELI  
Device? I-- I didn't think it would  
work, I just--

ONDINA  
Shh. Have some tea. Don't worry, I  
won't charge.

He grabs the cup.

ONDINA (cont'd)  
They have no power over you.

She goes into a small black box...

ONDINA (cont'd)  
You lived your life of no  
importance to anyone or anything.  
But you couldn't help yourself.  
(beat)  
You wanted to know the truth.

She recovers an apple sized Obsidian stone and places it  
before him on the table.

ONDINA (cont'd)  
The truth always brings trouble.

Eli looks over its volcanic glass crystal and sharp edges.

ELI  
A rock?

ONDINA  
Obsidian crystal.  
(beat)  
But you don't have enough money--

She grabs the crystal back.

ELI  
I can pay you, next time I see you.

Ondina thinks about it.

INT. ICU ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits next to Vincent, he's in stable condition, but still  
no sign of consciousness.

He places the crystal he received from Ondina into Vincent's  
hand and closes it.

ELI  
 (reading from a prayer  
 card)  
 Channels of the universe, cleanse  
 him from his soul to his feet...

Eli can't bear to continue, it's too painful.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli's sitting on the couch, reading from his laptop. He's on an old article, "Young girl, Gabriella Reyes, 6, dies after jumping from 14th floor..." Eli glances over at the old picture of Solice--

ELI  
 (blue)  
 Solice...

BEDROOM -

Grandma is in bed, not doing too well. She's all wrapped up in blankets, shivering. Lost more color and spark. She wheezes and has trouble speaking to Uncle Jay who sits beside her.

GRANDMA  
 I can't do that to them.

Uncle Jay holds her hand tight.

UNCLE JAY  
 They said there's a fifty percent  
 chance-- You taking that chance.

GRANDMA  
 I thought you were worried about  
 the money.

UNCLE JAY  
 Forget the money.

Jay digs his face into Grandma's bosom, crying his eyes out.

LIVING ROOM -

ELI  
 (praying)  
 ...Her mind. Her body. Her soul.  
 Her spirit. I believe.

KITCHEN - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli walks in on Uncle Jay sitting by himself grasping onto a cup of coffee.

UNCLE JAY  
We don't cry, we just move on,  
right?

Eli doesn't know how to respond when Uncle Jay breaks down, sobbing. He takes a seat next to him.

Beat.

UNCLE JAY (cont'd)  
She wasn't this bad a week ago.  
Those pills-- and now it's just--  
took over her.

Uncle Jay wipes his tears away.

ELI  
Did you know about her?

UNCLE JAY  
Who?

ELI  
Solice.

Uncle Jay takes a moment before nodding with a truckload of guilt.

ELI (cont'd)  
And you didn't think it was worth  
telling me or Vincent?

UNCLE JAY  
Nephew, it wasn't up to me-- that  
was their decision.  
(beat)  
Forgive me. I always pushed for you  
to know.

ELI  
You didn't push hard enough.

UNCLE JAY  
I know. I didn't.

BEDROOM -

Eli checks up on Grandma who's asleep.

Her TV is on. He sees her remote on her bedside table and goes to grab it--

She catches his hand instead.

GRANDMA

Pappi...

ELI

Gr-randma? I thought you were--

GRANDMA

C-cig-garett-s...

ELI

I don't think--

GRANDMA

Just one.

ELI

I don't think you should.

GRANDMA

Nobody gonna know...

ELI

Come on, don't make me do this.

GRANDMA

Let me enjoy... My last...  
Please...

Eli hesitates, looking into her desperate eyes.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Eli runs down the street and gets to the Corner Deli.

INT. CORNER DELI - CONTINUOUS

Typical NYC bodega. You got your lotto, spicy chips, sour-sweets, chopped cheese hero's, coffee and cigarettes.

The CLERK, 20s, Arabic descent, slams a pack of smokes down on the counter.

ELI

Thanks--

Eli looks to his right and sees a MAN in a fedora looking through the fridges.

INT. HOUSING PROJECT, ELEVATOR - NIGHT

SCRAAAAPE--

Eli watches as the old doors to his elevator close, revealing a familiar etching: WELCOME HOME.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Grandma lights up a cigarette, coughing her lungs out as Eli brings her a glass of water.

ELI

I'm not getting them for you  
anymore.

Grandma chugs the water, handing him back the glass.

GRANDMA

Don't worry, I'm gonna quit.

He leaves the room.

LIVING ROOM -

Eli sits on the floor with the Ouija in front of him. He places his hand on the planchette.

ELI

Solice? I just wanna say I know. I  
know you're my sister... They all  
lied. They all lied to me.

Beat.

ELI (cont'd)

I'm sorry about what happened to  
you...

...

Eli waits for a response but gets none.

He takes a seat on the couch, scanning his surroundings, all quiet, he checks his watch, it's 12:47 AM...

He dozes off...

Clock hits 3:00 A.M.

A rush of static PULSES THROUGH HIS EARS waking him up.

He looks towards the hallway and sees The Shadow Man watching him.

Eli is frozen, unable to move. Petrified, he watches him step into the room, his shape becoming ever so clearer.

The NOISE in his ears is deafening.

He scans his surroundings for the crystal but cannot find it.

Eli can only watch as The Shadow Man approaches, bringing **darkness** with him.

ELI (cont'd)  
 (closing his eyes,  
 reciting prayer)  
 Cha-a-n-nels of th-h-e u-nn-niverse--  
 - I b-b-believe--

His hand extends like a shadow tentacle...

SHADOW MAN  
 You want me...

Creeping up to Eli's neck, deliberately **covering** his face.

SHADOW MAN (cont'd)  
 ...to trust you?

Eli panics, still searching for the crystal when he realizes he can't breathe, starts gasping for air--

SHADOW MAN (cont'd)  
 You killed us.

He glances back and sees an appalling, rotten skeleton face staring back at him from under his wide-brimmed hat--

SHADOW MAN (cont'd)  
 You did this.

Eli struggles to speak, being choked by a vise-like grip.

ELI  
 (choking)  
 N-n-oo!

He notices something glimmer out of the corner of his eye. It's the crystal, and--

Solice has it.

She watches as Eli has his life slowly drained from of him.

ELI (cont'd)  
H-elp... M-me... P-p-l-eas-s-e...

She watches him gravely until he gives her his *LAST*...

*DYING*...

*BREATH*...

ELI (cont'd)  
S-sister...

SOLICE  
(merciful)  
Brother.

The mounting pressure is lifted, Eli gulps a giant breath as the Shadow Man and his **darkness** recede, taking shape as a real shadow in the apartment.

He feels something in his hand, looks down-- it's the crystal.

He looks back up but Solice is nowhere to be seen--

The front door UNLOCKS.

Eli hears it, gets up, slowly taking a peek into the foyer...

It's Grandma walking down the hallway.

ELI  
Grandma?

She's unresponsive, walking further down.

He follows after her into the

HALLWAY -

ELI  
Grandma...

Grandma is unresponsive, deadpan as she turns and heads up the stairs that lead up to the roof.

ELI (cont'd)  
Wait!

He runs, following her up the stairs and out onto the

ROOFTOP -

Grandma approaches the edge of the building, still turned away from Eli.

ELI  
Grandma!

She lifts her leg, stepping up on the ledge--

ELI (cont'd)  
No!

Eli sprints as fast as he can to try and save her--

Grandma takes another step, now into thin air...

Eli now only inches away-- reaches his hand out, attempting to grab her--

ACACIA (O.S.)  
Eli!? No!!!--

Eli wakes up.

One foot hanging off the ledge--

He looks to his left and sees the street over 10 stories below.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
Finally!

To his right, Acacia hanging on to his arm, preventing him from falling over the edge of the building.

She pulls him back in.

ELI  
(absorbed)  
Grandma-- She--

ACACIA  
I got you!-- I got you!

Chalk full of relief, he looks at her, surprised she's even there.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
You were so close! You don't even fucking know!--

ELI  
How did you?--

She stares back at him, eyes of worry and compassion.

ACACIA  
I had to come-- I needed to know  
you're OK.

He hugs her, holding her tight.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
It's OK, It's OK--

ELI  
(desperate)  
I'm gonna be a ghost, just like  
Solice--

ACACIA  
No you won't.  
(pulls away)  
I won't let you.

He wipes his tears away, skeptical.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

Eli runs into the bedroom and finds Grandma there attempting to get out of bed.

ELI  
Grandma?

GRANDMA  
Pappi, where was you again?-- The  
hospital just called.

He helps her up.

ELI  
What they say?

GRANDMA  
It's Vincent-- He woke up.

Eli's troubled eyes show a glimmer of hope.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
Call Jay.

INT. UNCLE JAY'S CAR - DAY (MOVING)

Uncle Jay drives his SUV beater with Eli in the passenger still with the crystal in his hand and Vincent in the backseat, looking out the window, quiet.

Eli rubs his neck, revealing bruising.

UNCLE JAY  
What is that?

ELI  
Obsidian...

UNCLE JAY  
It's worth anything?

Eli looks back at Vincent who's staring out the window.

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT - DAY

Uncle Jay and Eli lift Vincent out of the car and place him in his wheelchair.

UNCLE JAY  
One, two, and--

Vincent shows no enthusiasm.

UNCLE JAY (cont'd)  
(to Eli)  
He'll be OK, probably still feeling  
the meds.

Eli grips the wheelchair, pushing Vincent to the house.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

Uncle Jay attempts to force feed Vincent who does his best to reject it.

Grandma lays in her bed, Eli sits in the living room, listening in.

UNCLE JAY  
You gonna eat something. You think  
I'm playing with you--

GRANDMA  
Pappi, please, you gotta eat.

VINCENT  
 Why couldn't you just let me go?  
 Why?!

LIVING ROOM - MEANWHILE

Eli looks downcast as he hears his brother's desperate cries.

BACK IN BEDROOM -

Uncle Jay puts the spoon of apple sauce back down on the tray.

UNCLE JAY  
 You know how you sounding right  
 now? Ungrateful--

VINCENT  
 Fuck you!

Vincent flails his arms around in a fuss, knocking the plate and sauce all over on the floor.

GRANDMA  
 Ay Dios mio...

LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli sits on the couch, crystal in his hand, Vincent has his eyes closed sitting in his wheel chair.

Eli looks over, tries to get his attention.

Vincent doesn't react in any way.

ELI  
 It's good to have you back.

Vincent opens his eyes, turns to Eli.

VINCENT  
 You left me out there.

ELI  
 I didn't know what to do--

VINCENT  
 Look at me.

Vincent can't even raise a hand as he is severely limited to head movement.

VINCENT (cont'd)

I'm...

Eli glances at his bent out of shape hands that no longer work.

VINCENT (cont'd)

Where's my gun?

ELI

No--

Vincent has trouble moving, Eli sees him struggling.

VINCENT

My gun.

(beat)

Where is it?

ELI

I'm not telling you.

VINCENT

(menacing)

Give it to me-- I'll do it myself.

ELI

I threw it in the river.

VINCENT

What?!

Vincent uses all of his strength to get closer and grab his arm-- Eli jolts up, easily escaping him.

ELI

I'm sorry.

(beat)

I should've been there for you.

VINCENT

(turns away)

You're dead to me.

ELI

I'm dead regardless.

Eli leaves, Vincent turns back, watches him go.

BEDROOM - MEANWHILE

Uncle Jay sits beside Grandma, they're whispering to each other.

GRANDMA

I don't want to believe that.

UNCLE JAY

I'm just telling you what I saw.

GRANDMA

Don't bring it up again.

UNCLE JAY

I ain't lying for you no more.

GRANDMA

You really think he tried to...  
kill himself?

Regretful, but assured, Uncle Jay nods.

Grandma looks away, tormented.

INT. WHITE TOWNHOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Eli sits in Ondina's kitchen. Her BABY sits across from him in a baby chair, wearing a bib and staring at him as if he was an alien, when Ondina walks in--

ONDINA

What are you staring at?

(to Eli)

Don't mind her, she's a tough  
judge.

(she cleans some food off  
around her baby's mouth)

My baby needs a bugaboo. You still  
owe me money.

ELI

My grandmother, though-- she's not  
well.

ONDINA

Your grandmother.

(beat)

I want to show you something.

She walks out of the kitchen, he follows her --

BASEMENT -

Down a pitch-dark staircase. Ondina turns on the light, revealing a room with numerous paintings she's completed which are stacked against the walls, and a freshly finished one on an easel stand.

All of them have the same subject: The Shadow Man.

Eli is left awestruck and uneasy as he makes his way closer, glancing at them all.

The one on the easel in particular, her latest work.

ONDINA

He targets your weakness. Whatever they may be.

ELI

He knows what I'm scared of, that's why he wants me on the roof.

Eli sees a mixture of reds and dark blues to convey the rooms' sinister tone, with the prominent Shadow Man standing in the middle.

ELI (cont'd)

What's his name?

ONDINA

He has many names. Some call him the hat man. Some call him the shadow man. But he is all the same.

Eli's transfixed.

ONDINA (cont'd)

Once you use the device, you welcome him in.

ELI

The ouija board...

Eli comes up closer to the painting, sees the Shadow Man staring back at him.

ELI (cont'd)

I can't move...

(beat)

Whenever he's there...

ONDINA

What do you want?

ELI  
To get rid of him like you did.

ONDINA  
Who says I got rid of him?

Eli turns back to her, eyes of shock, seeing for the first time her torment.

ONDINA (cont'd)  
Your sister favors you, otherwise  
you'd already be dead. Just like  
someone that once favored me.  
(beat)  
You must set her free.

ELI  
What was your weakness?

ONDINA  
My secret.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Eli walks back home from Ondina's--

A figure steps into his path. He approaches Eli closer, making himself visible when walking under a street lamp: It's Chip.

Startled, Eli turns back, but sees Chip's HOMIE, 19, another thug-life friend of his ready to pounce.

CHIP  
(to Homie)  
Hold him.

Homie grabs Eli as Chip stuffs his hands into Eli's pockets--

ELI  
Come on, I'll get it!

Chip pulls out the obsidian.

HOMIE  
(looking over the crystal)  
Found something?-- a rock?

CHIP  
What the hell is this shit?

Homie has himself a LAUGH.

CHIP (cont'd)  
You collecting rocks now?

HOMIE  
Maybe it's a diamond, a black  
diamond--

Chip punches Eli in the gut numerous times. Lightning and thunder occur in random sequence, paralleling their skirmish.

Broken and now on the ground, Eli sees the crystal in Chip's hand.

ELI  
Please, don't. I'll give you  
anything,

CHIP  
I don't want anything. I want  
what's mine.

Chips swings his hand back--

ELI  
NO!!!

He slams the crystal against the pavement, shattering it into smaller pieces.

Crushed, Eli sees the crystal broken to bits.

Chip places his foot on Eli's throat, pushing down on him.

CHIP  
I heard what happened to your bro.  
Guess everybody gets what they  
deserve.  
(he spits in Eli's face)  
You know how much that chain cost?

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Eli storms in, crouches beside his bed, pulls out his shoebox and grabs Vincent's gun--

VINCENT  
What you need that for?

Surprised Vincent is awake, Eli looks him *dead in the eye*.

ELI  
Chip.

VINCENT  
I wouldn't if I were you.

ELI  
I have to--

After a few tries, he's able to take the magazine out and sees live rounds waiting to be used.

VINCENT  
That's not you.  
(beat)  
You not like that.

ELI  
Oh yeah? What am I like?

Eli's not in the mood for talk, rushes out.

Vincent looks on with concern.

EXT. CORNER DELI - NIGHT

Eli approaches the corner deli in a hoodie.

He sees Chip there chilling, talking to his Homie. Chip slaps his Homie in the face, demanding, menacing, when he glances to his right and notices Eli approaching.

CHIP  
Look who it is.

Eli walks right up to him and pulls out the pistol, bringing it up to Chip's throat.

CHIP (cont'd)  
(seeing the gun, raising  
his hands)  
Yo, yo, E? Chill!!--

ELI  
You think I'm scared of you?

CHIP  
(backs into a wall)  
Scared?! Nah! E, come on?! Nobody  
scared!

Homie doesn't know what to do and runs off.

ELI  
Your homie scared.

Eli presses the pistol into Chip's throat.

CHIP

Look-- You good, we good! Nobody  
gotta die bro--

ELI

Why? You afraid to go?--

CHIP

Yo E my bad! Look, you don't owe me  
anything! OK? Your bro too! On my  
moms!

ELI

On your moms--

CHIP

Forget the chain, it wasn't even  
real-- Ya'll good, we good!----

ELI

Everyone gets what they deserve,  
right?

Chip looks down at his crotch, starts crying.

CHIP

Yo come on, look what you made me  
do.

Eli looks down and realizes Chip pissed his pants.

Feeling merciful, he lowers the gun, letting a tearful Chip  
flee.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Vincent sits in his wheelchair, looking out the window while  
Eli attempts to glue some of the bigger pieces of the crystal  
together.

VINCENT

We all make our choices, bro.

Eli places two pieces of the crystal together, holding it,  
letting the glue solidify.

VINCENT (cont'd)

I did it because I wanted to do it.  
I wanted to end it.

Eli stops what he's doing, looks at his brother.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
 I'm no different-- He hurt people.  
 I hurt people.  
 (beat)  
 I'd rather be dead than be like  
 him.

ELI  
 You nothing like him Vincent--

VINCENT  
 We just like him--

ELI  
 No we not--

VINCENT  
 It's in our genes to be like him--

ELI  
 There's probably something else in  
 your jeans by now.

Vincent looks over himself, gloomy. He's not the self  
 sustainable man he once was.

ELI (cont'd)  
 I think I should wash you.

Eli grabs the handles to his chair and pushes him into the

BATHROOM -

Eli grabs a hold of him, lifting him with all his strength,  
 placing Vincent onto a plastic chair in the tub.

VINCENT  
 Thank you.

Eli turns on the shower faucet, running his hand underneath  
 to feel the temperature.

ELI  
 Dad did what he did because he  
 blamed mom for it...

Eli soaks a small towel and brushes it across Vincent's face,  
 clearing his tears and sweat.

VINCENT  
 Blamed her for what?

ELI  
She was the only one in the house  
when it happened.

VINCENT  
When what happened?

ELI  
We had a sister.

VINCENT  
A sister? Wha-- How!? When?

GRANDMA (O.S.)  
Eli...

Eli jolts up when hears his name and rushes over into the  
bedroom.

VINCENT  
Yo! You just gonna leave me here?!

BEDROOM -

Eli kneels down beside Grandma.

ELI  
You OK?

GRANDMA  
Pappi...

She reaches into her bedside drawer...

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
I need to give you something.

...pulling out a gold necklace with a puffed locket heart.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
It was hers.

She hands it to him.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
Your sisters.

Eli takes the necklace, opens the heart to reveal a small  
picture of a newborn Solice.

GRANDMA (cont'd)  
Then your mother wore it.

Eli flips it around and sees an inscription on the back.

ELI  
(reading)  
My sunshine...

GRANDMA  
(closing her eyes)  
As long as she could.

He seizes Grandma's hand, squeezing it tight.

LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Eli sits across from Acacia, the Ouija board is between them, Vincent huddled next to them on his wheelchair.

VINCENT  
Ya'll is crazy, I got--

ELI  
(to Acacia)  
I needed you here.

Eli places his hands on the planchette.

ACACIA  
Just fucking close it.

Acacia places her hands on it as well, joining Eli.

VINCENT  
I got a bad feeling about this--

ELI  
Solice? Can you hear me?  
(beat)  
I wanted to show you something.

The planchette jolts to life, taking them by surprise--

Eli and Acacia follow it as it moves across the board.

ELI (cont'd)  
(reading)  
Brother...

Vincent and Acacia both turn their heads to Eli.

ACACIA  
(reading the rest)  
Look...in...

Vincent is left uneasy when--

The planchette stands up on its own.

The gang all look at each other in disbelief.

ACACIA (cont'd)

Shit--

VINCENT

What's happening?!

The planchette begins to rise into the air, taking everyone by surprise.

They watch as it continues rising to about 5 feet into thin air.

ACACIA

(frightened)

Eli...

Eli stands up, approaches the floating planchette and takes a look through its glass.

BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Solice hides in the bathroom, she's got WATER rushing out of the faucet overflowing the tub, muffling her CRYING as Sophia KNOCKS on the door.

SOPHIA (O.S.)

Solice. You're gonna flood the whole apartment! Open the door, now.

SOLICE

No!

SOPHIA (O.S.)

If you could just admit it, this would all be over already.

SOLICE

But I didn't do it!

SOPHIA (O.S.)

But no, you still insist on making mommy very angry.

Solice slowly opens the door when Sofia rushes in and closes the faucet--

SOPHIA (cont'd)  
Look at this mess!

Sofia unplugs the tub, draining the water.

SOLICE  
(in tears)  
Please believe me, mommy.

Sophia pulls out a handful of cash and waves it in her face.

SOPHIA  
You're a liar.

SOLICE  
It wasn't me...

SOPHIA  
Who else am I supposed to blame?

Solice makes her way out, Sophia following her.

MOVING INTO KITCHEN -

SOPHIA  
It wasn't your father, and I know  
it wasn't me. So who did it?--

Solice is exhausted, frustrated as she heads to the front door.

SOPHIA (cont'd)  
Show me who?

SOLICE  
Mommy I swear--

SOPHIA  
I hate you, Solice.

Solice is defeated, she can only cry, experiencing one of the worst days of her life, she tries to open the door but can't get the lock to open.

SOPHIA (cont'd)  
I'm calling your father, that's it--

Solice jumps onto one of the dining chairs in the kitchen, throwing a fit.

SOLICE  
No! Please!

Sophia heads into the bedroom ignoring her pleas.

SOLICE (cont'd)  
 (terrified)  
 No, mommy please!

Solice sees the open kitchen window, curtains whisked about by the slight breeze.

She notices a quarter laying on the window sill.

Excited to find it, she reaches for it.

SOPHIA (O.S.)  
 I'm gonna tell him everything, you hear me?

SOLICE  
 Mommy! Look! I found one!

Sophia steps back into the kitchen.

SOPHIA  
 Found wha-- Solice?! No!!

Solice finally grabs a hold of the quarter but loses balance and falls over, plummeting thirteen stories below.

SOPHIA (cont'd)  
 SOLICE !!?!

Her face shows the throes of the strongest emotion in existence.

Her agonizing SCREAM pierces through Eli's hearing--

BACK TO PRESENT -

Eli lets go of the planchette, letting it fall back on the board.

ACACIA  
 Well?

VINCENT  
 What you see?

ELI  
 (mesmerized)  
 The money-- That's what she blamed her for.  
 (he looks over to the kitchen)  
 ...and she...there-- she, she...

Eli can't find the right words.

ACACIA  
What money?

VINCENT  
The money, like me! I didn't take  
it, you know I didn't, not that  
time!--

Eli's head is full of thought, trying to digest it all.

The planchette races to a letter...

ACACIA  
(reading)  
Do...you...believe...me.

VINCENT  
Yes! I believe you!

ELI  
It wasn't her-- The shadow man. It  
was him. He finds the weakness.  
But... how could he be there?!

ACACIA  
Nobody believed her...

Acacia takes a look at Eli, she's deciphering it all in her head.

ACACIA (cont'd)  
(to Eli)  
This is a very important question.  
(beat)  
Did you see another board anywhere?

VINCENT  
Another board?

Eli shakes his head, NO--

Grandma's dreadful CHOKING sounds are heard from the bedroom.

ELI  
Grandma--

Eli strides over to check on her.

HALLWAY -

Grandma's door shuts in Eli's face as he races to it.

He turns the doorknob but it doesn't budge-- tries pushing his way in but still to no avail; it's locked tight.

Grandma SCREAMS from terror--

Eli BANGS on the door with all his might.

BEDROOM -

Grandma sees Solice for the first time in all her terrifying presence. She engulfs the room in darkness, suffocating Grandma. All that's visible from her is the small shining light in her eyes to let us know she's still alive.

GRANDMA  
El Diablo!...Dios santo...

SOLICE  
No. Not the devil. And not God.

Solice approaches her, now standing only inches away from Grandma's panic stricken face.

SOLICE (cont'd)  
Just me.

GRANDMA  
Solice...

SOLICE  
Grandma?

GRANDMA  
No, it's not true.

SOLICE  
Why don't you talk about me?

GRANDMA  
(choking)  
--

SOLICE  
Silence is something you're used to.  
(she hears BANGING coming from the front door)  
You're gonna die now.

Reaching for a breath, Grandma is at *death's door*, literally.

HALLWAY - MEANWHILE

Eli and Acacia both try to push their way into the bedroom but still to no avail--

ACACIA  
Who's she talking to?

ELI  
She finally sees her--

Vincent yells from the kitchen.

VINCENT (O.S.)  
Water! Water running!

KITCHEN -

Eli rushes in, pushes the faucet lever down to shut it, but the water continues to run at high pressure...

ELI  
Shit.

BATHROOM -

Acacia tries the bathroom sink and tub, but the water continues to overflow the bathroom.

ACACIA  
It's not working!

HALLWAY -

Eli runs over to the front door and attempts to open it, but it's shut tight--

ELI  
Damn!

VINCENT  
Any bright ideas now?

LIVING ROOM -

Eli heads back into the living room when all the windows of the house start opening with full force.

ACACIA  
What's happening?

VINCENT  
The windows--

A strong draft enters the apartment from all sides as the trio stand there contemplating their fate.

ELI  
She wants us to jump.

VINCENT  
Jump?

ACACIA  
I'm not fucking dying here, Eli--  
Water continues to gradually flood the apartment.

ELI  
Like she did...

Acacia has a look of terror flash before eyes.

VINCENT  
You're kidding me.

ELI  
(to Acacia)  
We gotta get this door--  
(to Vincent)  
I need to borrow your wheelchair.

A flash of doubt runs across Vincent's face.

BEDROOM -

Solice slowly kills Grandma, draining her breath...

GRANDMA  
Solice...I always remembered...

SOLICE  
I couldn't tell.

GRANDMA  
Take me...

SOLICE  
I don't need you.

GRANDMA  
No more secrets--

SOLICE  
It's too late, Grandma.

Grandma takes another strained look at Solice, terrified.

KITCHEN -

Vincent sits on the kitchen table, huddled by the wall. The sink full of dishes is overflowing, when the toaster suddenly sparks and catches fire--

VINCENT  
(taking cover)  
Shit!

The fire from the toaster quickly spreads to the wooden cabinets above, also sending off the smoke ALARM.

Vincent looks over at the wide-open kitchen window. The curtains are whisked about, catching fire as well.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
(hollering)  
Hurry up!

HALLWAY -

Eli sits in Vincent's wheelchair, putting on the heart locket necklace around himself, Acacia grabs the handles--

ACACIA  
Ready?

ELI  
(determined)  
Go.

Acacia pushes him down the hallway with all her strength, Eli raises his feet-- SMASHING through the door.

BEDROOM -

Acacia and Eli both stop and freeze when they see the room is pitch black.

Eli stands up, takes a step further into the **abyss**.

GRANDMA  
Pappi...

He swivels his head towards Grandma's bed and sees her eyes are reflective, staring back at him.

ELI  
Grandma?

Terrified, Acacia takes a few steps back, cautioning Eli but he continues anyway when--

The door SLAMS shut on him--

Acacia tries to open the door, but Eli is locked in for good.

ACACIA (O.S.)  
(muffled)  
Shit! Hang on!

Eli can see nothing in the darkness but Grandma's eyes.

GRANDMA  
Show her... It's the only way.

ELI  
No-- Grandma?

GRANDMA  
(under hear breath)  
I love you.

Her eyes dim, no longer visible.

SOLICE  
Don't worry, it will be peaceful.

Eli looks back and sees Solice standing before him with the brooding Shadow Man emerging from behind her.

ELI  
What did you do?

SOLICE  
She's dead brother. Blame me.

ELI  
No-- I don't want to--

Eli has a sudden loss of breath.

SOLICE  
(threatening)  
Why? Because you're scared?

ELI  
I know it wasn't you--

*She's slowly killing him.*

ELI (cont'd)  
 (eyes turning reflective)  
 Wasn't your fault--

The Shadow Man's voice reverberates.

SHADOW MAN  
 Kill him.

Eli points at the Shadow Man.

ELI  
 It was him.

SOLICE  
 Your words mean nothing.

*Eli's every breath is labored.*

ELI  
 Mom...  
 (beat)  
 Loved you.

SOLICE  
 (anger resurfacing)  
 Mom? She never did.

Her voice echoes, as if coming from the Shadow Man aswell.

CHOKING, Eli lifts his hands with the last bit of strength he has and opens the necklace for her to see.

ELI  
 She never...

Solice sees it-- It changes something inside of her.

SOLICE  
 I--

A streak of light pierces through the darkness, coming in from the open window.

Eli takes off the locket, extending his hand out for Solice to take it...

ELI  
 She never stopped.

And she does.

SHADOW MAN

All lies!

The light becomes richer, a morning ray lands right on Solice, but the Shadow Man's pale white ghoulish face enlarges by about ten times, expanding in the small room--

SHADOW MAN (cont'd)

Kill him!

Eli is being choked by a vice like grip as Solice looks over the locket, examining it, she sees the inscription on the back.

SOLICE

Her sunshine...

Eli has only a few breathless moments left in him--

SHADOW MAN

They hate you.

An overwrought Solice turns to him, raising her small hand, rejecting his force with all her might.

SHADOW MAN (cont'd)

Do it!

SOLICE

No!!!

The dawn sun further illuminates the bedroom, penetrating through the Shadow Man, forcing him to recede.

Eli watches his darkness violently overtaken by light, turning the vile spirit into a mere shadow on the wall.

He can finally breathe again, taking a big gulp of air.

He turns to Solice, the slight breeze from the open window going through her hair, he sees her reflective eyes start to change, gently reverting back to their natural color--

SOLICE (cont'd)

I miss her.

ELI

Me too.

Solice is in full light for the first time, her bright blues staring back at him.

Neither no longer in darkness.

SOLICE  
Thank you brother.

Eli is left breathless.

SOLICE (cont'd)  
We can be friends.

He cracks a smile of relief.

The light begins to overtake Solice as well, her image rapidly vanishing...

SOLICE (cont'd)  
But there's something else that  
belongs to me-- and he has it.

ELI  
Who?

A sudden ray of light hits Eli's vision, blinding him--

SOLICE  
Dad.

...but before he can look back, Solice is no longer visible.

Only the heart locket on the floor where she stood.

He rushes to Grandma, sees her eyes are still open, he seizes her hand.

Eli runs his fingers across her face, closing her eyes.

Acacia opens the door and sees Eli hunched beside Grandma. She approaches close, taking his hand.

ACACIA  
I'm sorry.

VINCENT (O.C.)  
(shouting)  
Guys, the water! It stopped!

KITCHEN - MEANWHILE

Vincent dumps a pot of water on the curtains, putting the flames out when-- the faucets close.

HALLWAY -

Acacia rushes to open the door, letting the river of water make it's way out of the apartment.

KITCHEN -

Eli sloshes back in with the wheelchair.

VINCENT  
 (to Eli)  
 It worked-- Whatever you did it worked.

He's absorbed, shook up, his mind is elsewhere.

VINCENT (cont'd)  
 Well?

Acacia strides in--

VINCENT (cont'd)  
 What happened?--

ACACIA  
 Door is open. We should be fine now...

Eli's hearing is muffled.

VINCENT  
 Bro? What she say?

His face hard as mask, he opens his fist, glances over the heart locket necklace...

ACACIA  
 Eli?

Clenching his fist, he can only think of one thing, his father.

INT. METROPOLITAN DETENTION CENTER, BROOKLYN - DAY

A GUARD walks down the hall with a row of cells to his left.

His keys JINGLE as he makes his way to a cell and stops.

He slides open the food slot.

GUARD  
Alvarado, you're not forgotten  
after all.

Guard directs his attention towards ANGEL ALVARADO, 50,  
laying on his cot, his face covered by shadow.

ANGEL  
I ain't waiting for no one.

GUARD  
You sure about that?

Angel moves his head slightly into the light, the scar on his neck now visible.

GUARD (cont'd)  
It's your son.

PRISONER VISITING AREA -

Eli sits in a booth with plexiglass separating him and an empty chair. A telephone hangs to his right.

He watches as a door on the inside opens and his father, Angel steps out, a sleep-deprived man with fractured eyes.

Angel takes his seat, looking over Eli as a stranger and a threat.

Eli is disturbed, this is the man that killed his mother. He sees the giant scar on Angel's neck and is forced to get up, wanting to walk away, but something stops him and he sits back down.

He picks up the phone and watches Angel do the same.

ANGEL  
Even if you were my son.  
(beat)  
There's nothing I have to say to  
you.

Enraged, Eli has a hard time finding a quick response.

His face hardens, a buried fury surfacing.

ELI  
You stabbed her.  
(beat)  
You killed her. You killed my  
mother.

Angel sulks.

ANGEL  
Why did you come?

ELI  
And then you sliced your own...  
(grinds teeth)  
I could kill you.

ANGEL  
There's good reason for it.

Beat.

ELI  
It wasn't my idea to come.

ANGEL  
Who put you up to it? Maria? She  
was never too smart--

ELI  
She's dead.

ANGEL  
I'm sorry--

ELI  
Solice put me up to it.

Angel lifts the phone off his ear, wanting to hang up but reconsiders.

ANGEL  
Solice?

ELI  
(grim)  
She told me to come.

Eli's look is unwavering.

ANGEL  
(changes tone)  
Solice...

ELI  
You not surprised?

ANGEL  
(guard down)  
Eli. I relive that moment every  
day...

Angel shows his face, a familiar terror begins to torment him.

ANGEL (cont'd)

Son, I can never ask you to forgive me--

ELI

I didn't come here to forgive you--

ANGEL

I loved your mother. I loved her very much--

ELI

I came here because--

ANGEL

If they hear me talking about it again, they'll throw me in the bin and you'll never see me.

ELI

Who says I wanna see you again?

Beat.

ANGEL

I saw things too. I saw-- It lied to me-- It blamed her, over and over again-- and I, I believed it, I listened to it. I-- I couldn't stop it.

Eli tries to take it in.

ANGEL (cont'd)

November 2004. Solice was happy. We were all happy. But it was the gift.

(beat)

The board, your mother brought--

ELI

(rattled)

The board. You used it too...

Angel tries his best to contain his anger.

ANGEL

Everything fell apart.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Kitchen is up in smoke, the stove is on fire, Sophia is in distress as Angel runs in with a fire extinguisher. Solice stands by in tears.

Angel opens the oven and hoses the fire down when a single dollar bill, half burnt falls on the floor.

Sophia and Angel are stunned, both glaring over at Solice with conviction.

SOPHIA

She's trying to ruin us, Angel--

ANGEL

Solice...

Solice is distraught.

ANGEL (cont'd)

(to Solice)

I hope you understand how much this hurts not only mom, but me too.

She's now harboring anger.

INT. PRISONER VISITING AREA - PRESENT

Angel gives him a foreboding glance, Eli, wide-eyed, *understanding*.

ANGEL

We were saving up to buy a house, but the money kept disappearing. We blamed her...our little girl. It drove your mother and I crazy.

(beat)

After she...after it happened, we thought to try again. So we had Vincent, and a year later, you.

(beat)

But that...that thing never left me alone. Every night. The shit it said to me...I-- It turned me against her...

ELI

I see him too.

ANGEL

I wasn't strong enough. Maybe you are.

ELI

I can't help but hate you.

Angel places a small red leather diary into the item tray and pushes it to Eli.

ANGEL

I hate me too.

Eli takes the diary, feels the leather binding in his hands.

ANGEL (cont'd)

She liked to write...

He opens the first page and sees 'Solice' written in a child-like handwriting.

ANGEL (cont'd)

Everything is in there...

He looks back up at his father and sees him fighting back more tears.

ELI

(flips through diary)

You had this the whole time?

(gets to last entry)

May 17th 2005.

(epiphany)

51705...

ANGEL

Where did you find it?

(beat)

The board.

ELI

The thrift store.

Eli looks back up at him, his face shows fright.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Angel is ecstatic, holding on to the planchette as it moves across the board with Sophia who is not convinced.

SOPHIA

OK you can stop--

ANGEL

It ain't me--

SOPHIA

Right--

The planchette lands on S...

ANGEL

(spelling out)

Solice...

SOPHIA

That's not funny, Angel.

ANGEL

(continues reading)

Is a big thief.

SOPHIA

(retracts her hand off the  
planchette)

Angel! Come on!

ANGEL

Baby, I swear, why would I?--

Angel takes his hands off the planchette as well.

SOPHIA

I hate this game, I regret ever  
going to that stupid thrift store.

The planchette moves on its own this time, shocked, Sophia and Angel follow the piece.

ANGEL

(reading)

Look...thru...glass...

Angel stares at the circular piece of glass within the planchette.

SOPHIA

Haven't you had enough?

He picks up the planchette and takes a look through the glass.

ANGEL

It's just a game, honey, come on--

Angel sees Sophia is still on the couch, but she is lifeless, covered in blood; Murdered.

SOPHIA

What is it? Come on, what do you see?

Angel is mortified.

EXT. HOUSING PROJECT - NIGHT

The Ouija board burns in a trash can.

Vincent sits in his wheelchair grasping onto Solice's diary. Eli and Acacia stand next to him, staring at the fire with stiff faces, watching the letters and numbers burn away.

VINCENT

(reads diary out loud)

'Mom was mad at me because she lost her money again and thinks I stole it. She said she hates me. I wish she believed me. I just wish she loved me.'

ELI

That's all she wanted...

ACACIA

You saved her.

VINCENT

And the money?

ELI

It finds your weakness, and targets it.

VINCENT

How you know all of this?

ELI

Long story.

VINCENT

Yo everything I said in the past...I'm-- I'm sorry. I'm sorry about all of it.

ELI

I know, It's OK.

VINCENT

How did he look?

ELI

Alive.

VINCENT

Hey at least now we know, right?

(beat)

We not alone.

Eli puts his arm around his brother, they watch the remainder of the fire subside, leaving nothing of the board but ashes.

ACACIA

She's not the only one you saved.

Eli looks over at her, pleasantly surprised, he grasps her hand.

VINCENT

So you two like, going out?

Eli grins along with Acacia, only they would know.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli rolls Vincent into the apartment as--

Uncle Jay SLAMS the last window shut. He cranes his neck, revealing his weary face to the boys.

UNCLE JAY

Did he thank you?

ELI

For what?

UNCLE JAY

Who do you think called the ambulance and saved his useless ass? Vincent?

Vincent looks up at Eli, who realizes it was him.

BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alone in the room, Eli takes a seat on his bed. He glances over at Grandma's empty one, then at the diary in his hands. He opens it up to the last page, only this time there's a new entry: "Thank you for believing me, Eli. Mom says hi."

His eyes bulge, he looks at her words again that almost jump off the page-- Mom says hi.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END