

THE AWAKENING

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - NIGHT

SUPER: "Cairngorms National Park, Scotland, 2010"

Pitch dark, almost no ambient light -- cold, unforgiving woodlands -- perfect for nighttime sky viewing.

The superbly clear night sky teems with celestial objects of The Milky Way.

A MAN, THE STARGAZER, 30, Black and Caucasian, stands shrouded in the darkness, scans the cosmos through the lens of an eight inch telescope -- his warm breath erupts almost volcanically in the cold air.

THE STARGAZER

Barry... I cannae believe the sheer majesty of it all...

Moonlight is the only light that illuminates The Stargazer -- he sports a rucksack, rugged, dark-colored clothing.

The natural light hits The Stargazer's form, his face -- reveals rugged features, but youthful.

A loch to the left of his position shimmers in the low light, the water is still like a sheet of ice.

He moves his head from the telescope's viewing lens, looks up at the sky with his naked eyes.

Small insects fly all around The Stargazer's head and torso, he swats at them occasionally, irritated.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

Damn ye Midges! Sod off!

The Stargazer looks up at the sky when the stars, other objects, swirl in an unnatural manner as if manipulated by an unseen cosmic vortex.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

What in the actual fack?...

The sky continues to dance strangely, along with the swirling parts of it the air itself pulses as well.

The Stargazer stumbles back, he continues to look skyward, bewildered by the trippy celestial event.

From somewhere behind him in the woodlands a BOOMING sound emanates -- like a an old longhorn being blown combined with shrill cacophony that comes from an Apprehension Engine.

The Stargazer spins quickly towards the sound of the audible emanations from the woods with eyes wide open, his cap falls off of his head as he does so.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 Oh shite, oh shite! Away and boil
 yer heed, what the bollocks was
 that?! The blasted Ghillie Du!

The Stargazer turns back to start packing up his telescope and some random kit he has on the ground near it.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 Not today ye dannae!

He gathers his belongings, whips his head back towards the woods every few seconds.

The Stargazer glances back once more, stops dead in his tracks when he sees two, large eyes appear, burning green, in the darkness of the woodland.

The Stargazer squints his eyes at the sight, drops all of his belongings. He gawks disbelievingly.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 Nae, nae...

The horn sound ceases, but the loud howling of a wolf fills the air AWOOOOOOOOOO.

The smoldering green eyes move from the woods, they shrink and slowly merge towards the center of a shape now seemingly aggregating from particles of darkness.

THE HIGHLAND VAMPIRE, 35, Caucasian, slim, tall, wears all black clothing.

At the Highland Vampire's side stands a large wolf-like creature that walks on its hind legs like a man, THE WULVER stands even taller than The Highland Vampire when stood up completely.

The Stargazer freezes where he stands.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 A-a-ah...

He turns as if to run, sees a woman's nude form slowly emerge from the loch, THE SELKIE, 35, is Caucasian, very pale and thin, but curvaceous with long, dark hair.

The Selkie sees The Stargazer, pauses, beckons him towards her with her hands, almost seductively.

He leaves his gear on the ground, launches into a full-out run after seeing the Selkie's beckon -- he heads in a direction east of the Selkie, leaves the forest to his back.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
Mar sin leibh! (Bye!)

A blaring sound of bagpipes comes from somewhere up the dark glen to the right of The Stargazer's position.

In the direction of the sound of the bagpipes an apparition in the darkness appears -- THE GHOST PIPER, 55, sports a short beard, dresses in a kilt, wears a Scottish Tammy hat -- The Ghost Piper grins widely as he plays the pipes.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 This...this cannae be real... Wake
 up you dunderheaded man!

Stargazer smacks his forehead.

He looks around for another avenue to escape, before he can move a muscle multiple figures emerge from seemingly out of a point north of his position and west of the glen where The Ghost Piper stands.

The Stargazer eyes four man-shaped entities, THE BLUE MEN OF MINCH, all appear Caucasian and in their mid-forties. The Blue Men all have long beards, are shirtless with dark trousers, and are also illuminated in bright blue light.

As The Stargazer seeks a path to abscond from the living nightmares around him a brilliant flash of white light dominates the area.

The Stargazer falls slowly to his knees -- then BLACKNESS.

FLASHBACK

EXT. THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - DAY

SUPER: "Cairngorms National Park, Scotland, 1990"

YOUNG STARGAZER, 10, attempts to skim rocks on the surface of a loch.

His GRANDFATHER, 70, Caucasian, wispy, gray hair covers his head, along with a hat. He smokes a wooden pipe, watches Young Stargazer bemusedly.

Grandfather beckons Young Stargazer to him.

GRANDFATHER

Lad, come here for a wee minute.

Young Stargazer drops a few skimming stones from his left hand, walks a few meters over to his Grandfather.

Grandfather places his right hand on Young Stargazer's left shoulder.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Now listen here for a wee moment.

Grandfather takes a long draw from his pipe.

Young Stargazer is staring up at his Grandfather admiringly. Grandfather wipes away a dirt smudge on his face with his thumb after spitting on it.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Now lad...our clan has always been a wee special... Ye do know what "special" means?

YOUNG STARGAZER

(squirming around
somewhat)

Aye Grand Da.

GRANDFATHER

Right, smart lad ye be. Our clan do have a long history in the Highlands. Our kin have been breathing in this noble air since we came from Ireland and before the English interlopers came to our lands. When they tried to keep us from wearing the Tartan, and from playing the pipes! Since before James VI tried to destroy the clans.

Young Stargazer focuses more intently on his Grandfather.

YOUNG STARGAZER

Grand Da, why did he want to destroy the clans?

GRANDFATHER

Men always want to control other men lad. Tis the nature of the beast. For it's a wee bit of power that they do be desiring. When the elephants fight, it be the grass that suffers.

The Grandfather leans in a little closer to Young Stargazer, places his pipe down.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Our folk...our kin of old... They wur nae...regular like...

YOUNG STARGAZER

Special, right Grand Da?

Grandfather tussles Young Stargazer's hair, smiles.

GRANDFATHER

Aye, lad, aye! Special enough that we can, even Th'day, talk to the wee ghosts of our ancestors...

Young Stargazer stumbles a bit, taken aback.

YOUNG STARGAZER

Ghosts are scary Grand Da!

GRANDFATHER

Nae lad, Nae. Just our former sistern and brethren moved on from this world.

YOUNG STARGAZER

Mukkers...friends!

GRANDFATHER

Aye, and if you do be meeting them in the future like...remember...they be our kinsman...

Grandfather grins, his eyes go wide, light shoots out from them like wildfire.

GRANDFATHER (CONT'D)

Now wake lad!

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

The Stargazer snaps out of his flashback in a wink, the bright, white light quickly dissipates -- he flings his head back, gasps for air.

He regains his composure, measures his breathing.

THE STARGAZER

Not scary...Mukkers...friends...

The Stargazer remains on his knees, his breathing returns to normal.

The Selkie walks towards him, she seems to glide on air rather than use bipedal motion.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

Het, naked lassie ghost is not something I had on the books for this wee excursion...

The Selkie gets within a meter of The Stargazer, smiles, tilts her head in an unassuming, non-threatening manner.

Stargazer backs up somewhat, trepidatiously at first, but ceases his movement.

The Selkie places her hand on the Stargazer's head, she whispers something in his ear, inaudible.

His eyes widen.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

I...

BEGIN MENTAL IMAGERY SEQUENCE

Then in a flash a flood of images of faces race across Stargazer's mind's eye.

THE STARGAZER (V.O.)

(taken aback)

Oh...oh...

The montage of visuals slows and stops at one point in the movement.

FLASHBACK - The Selkie

EXT. THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - NIGHT

On a Scottish beach in the dark of night the moonlight reveals a figure, it emerges from the dark waters of a loch.

The creature exits the water, makes its way up the beach -- appears humanoid, but also looks like a seal.

The being removes an outer dermis layer, reveals a nude, woman's form, The Selkie.

The Selkie raises her arms, extends her neck to raise her head towards the night sky. As she lowers her arms she dances lithely. Her body moves almost magically in the moonlight against the sounds of the waves.

As The Selkie dances a MAN appears on the road facing the beach she is on, THE ENGLISHMAN, 28, Caucasian, wears bright red, fanciful dress -- he staggers as if from the drink.

The Selkie doesn't notice The Englishman as he makes his way down the beach to her position.

He stumbles the rest of the way down to where she still dances, violently grabs her arm.

The Englishman drags The Selkie, against her will, back up the beach, he falls down once as he does.

The Selkie looks horrified as he drags her off, extends her free arm back towards her seal skin, and the sea.

She turns once more, her face etches in a snarling rictus.

END MENTAL IMAGERY SEQUENCE

EXT. THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - CONTINUOUS

QUICK FLASH

In another flash of light across The Stargazer's vision The Selkie's image projections cease.

BACK TO SCENE

The Stargazer's head snaps back, he gasps, clenches his fists in anger.

THE STARGAZER

That wee bastard! I would smash him
masell!

The Selkie smiles, points at herself, points at the other apparitions.

The Highland Vampire, The Ghost Piper, The Blue Men of Minch, and The Wulver stand by a superbly attractive female -- THE BAOBHAN SITH, 30, Caucasian, who smiles seductively.

Next to The Baobhan Sith stands a short, but stocky grizzled looking older man, THE BODACH, 60, Caucasian, who has a long, flowing, white beard, wears a large hat, and a fur covering around his shoulders.

The Bodach flashes a wide, toothy grin.

The group of apparitions gather together fifty feet from The Stargazer and The Selkie.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 What...What dae you lot waant fae
 me?...

The Selkie beckons to the other ghosts to come closer to where she and The Stargazer stand.

The group of poltergeists gather several meters from where The Selkie and The Stargazer are.

The Selkie walks, glides on air really, over to the group, she looks back at The Stargazer briefly before she merges with the others in a flash into a large sphere of white light.

The Stargazer's mouth drops wide open in awe.

The light sphere floats up into the air twenty feet, starts to move at a brief pace, but one that The Stargazer easily keeps up with.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
 Follaein ye then, git it.

The Stargazer follows the sphere,

He looks up and the sky does the mystical swirling thing again, seemingly driven by the apparition globe moving in the night sky.

The sphere moves up the land to the right of the large loch The Stargazer had been near with his telescope.

The Stargazer tracks the sphere for at least a half of a kilometer up range from his former position.

EXT. THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - CONTINUOUS

The glowing sphere stops, it descends back to the ground and the form of The Selkie replaces the orb.

Sounds of nocturnal wildlife emit from the woodland.

THE STARGAZER

Right then. Ghosts...and normal wee
night creatures.

The Stargazer somewhat nervously scans the area around him,
looks up at the sky.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

Lovely. At least th' waither is
haudin'...

The Selkie, now a few meters away from The Stargazer, points
to castle ruins.

The Stargazer looks perplexed.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

The Ruthven Barracks?...

The Selkie nods, makes her way towards the ruins.

The Stargazer looks around again, suspiciously, follows The
Selkie up to the castle ruins.

EXT. THE RUTHVEN BARRACKS RUINS - MOMENTS LATER

Old, ruinous, centuries of history abounds from mere sight of
the remnants of the barracks.

The Selkie enters the castle ruins, The Stargazer follows
suit.

THE STARGAZER

Nae creepy at all, nae...

Rains starts to fall, moisture descends unchecked upon The
Stargazer absent roofs on the remaining barracks structures.

He covers his head with his hands.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

Shite.

Absent structural cover from the rain The Stargazer pulls the
hood up on his jumper from under his thin outer jacket.

The Selkie looks at him, laughs softly with a hand over her
mouth.

The Stargazer looks up, sees her laugh at him.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)

That's richt. Roar it up.

The Selkie walks over to where The Stargazer is, places her hand on his head again.

A flash of bright light envelops the area and The Stargazer's vision.

BEGIN MENTAL IMAGERY SEQUENCE

INT. THE RUTHVEN BARRACKS PRISON - EVENING

SUPER: "The Ruthven Barracks, 1715"

The Barracks stand untouched by time, unlike the ruins The Stargazer sees in the present day. They are cold, unfriendly.

A JAILER, late 30s, Caucasian, sits on a stool at his post outside the prison cells, nods in an out of sleep.

ANOTHER JAILER, late 20s, Caucasian beats a MAN, a PRISONER, with a cudgel.

The Prisoner weeps, cries out for his mother.

The Jailer #2 continues to beat The Prisoner, smiles as he does.

The Prisoner's body goes limp.

Jailer #2 wipes his bloody cudgel off on The Prisoner's trousers, spits on his corpse, walks away.

A CLEANING WOMAN, 20s, Caucasian, walks in, makes her way to The Prisoner's body.

Jailer #1 wakes from his slumber, looks up at her briefly, eyes her up and down, returns to his nap.

The woman attends to The Prisoner, glances over at the sleeping guard -- she grins.

The Cleaning Woman kisses the forehead of The Prisoner, stands up and walks over to Jailer #1.

Her form glows slightly.

She pulls a short-bladed knife from her stockings, moves closer to Jailer #1.

She quickly cups one hand over his mouth and with the other drives the blade into his trachea.

Jailer #1's eyes pop open in shock, he struggles briefly before he breathes his final breath.

The Cleaning Woman spits on his face.

Jailer #2 returns, sees what has transpired, seizes the woman.

She drops the knife, smiles.

Jailer #2 smacks her face, hard, knees her in the abdomen.

She looks up, laughs.

Her face changes, morphs -- she wears the face of The Selkie.

She embraces Jailer #2 in a bear hug, his eyes go wide with disbelief.

Her form glows brightly and the light envelops Jailer #2's form, he wails in terror.

The two wink out of existence in another flash of light.

END OF MENTAL IMAGERY SEQUENCE

EXT. THE RUTHVEN BARRACKS RUINS - CONTINUOUS

QUICK FLASH

A bright, white light zooms across The Stargazer's vision.

In the hypnagogic-like vision The Stargazer's Grandfather appears, nods and winks at his grandson.

The Stargazer tears up, smiles at his Grandfather.

THE STARGAZER

Grand Da...

GRANDFATHER

Mukkers lad, mukkers.

Another flash of light.

BACK TO SCENE

THE STARGAZER

I...I see!

The Stargazer weeps, uncontrollably.

The Selkie moves to him, embraces him as a mother does an infant in swaddling.

The other apparitions appear together, smile collectively.

The Stargazer looks up at the group and nods, tears stream down his face still.

THE STARGAZER (CONT'D)
Muk-mukkers...

FADE OUT.