

THE KEY
DRAFT 2
02/18/02

BLACK

SUPER APPEARS: EVERY MILLENNIUM A WAR IS FOUGHT BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND. THAT TIME HAS COME AGAIN.

EXT. BRANDI'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

A well kept home in an upper-middle class neighborhood. Unlike the surrounding houses this one is void of Christmas decorations.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Organized. No clutter. Several family photos on the walls. Most show a GIRL and an OLDER WOMAN in various stages of their lives.

Music with a heavy dance beat blasts from the

BATHROOM

Where BRANDI WOODS, 30's, moves her hips to the beat. She's dressed for the clubs. Hair and make-up done to perfection.

She finishes putting her make-up away. Glances at her watch. She turns off the portable CD Player on the counter stopping the music.

She checks her reflection.

BRANDI

African Queen.

(looks down)

Wouldn't you say, Rona?

RONA, a large house cat, looks up at her like she couldn't care less.

Brandi leans down. Scratches Rona behind the ears.

BRANDI

You jealous, honey? You wanna go clubbin' with mommy?

The cat enjoys the scratching but ignores the invitation.

Brandi stands. Glances at the mirror.

Reflected behind her, like the outline of bad television reception, the briefest glimpse of a figure.

Brandi spins on her heel.

Nothing there.

She looks at the mirror.

Nothing.

BEEP. BEEP.

Brandi jumps. Startled by the sound of the car horn outside.

She shrugs. Shakes her head slightly.

BRANDI

Sorry to leave you home alone, hon.
But mommy really needs this night
out.

EXT./INT. JUNE'S CAR -- NIGHT

A two-seater sports car sits by the curb outside of Brandi's house.

JUNE TAYLOR, late 20's, is behind the wheel. She is also dressed for the clubs.

She has her eyes on Brandi's front door. She waits for a moment. Then taps the horn again.

The front door opens. Brandi comes out. She locks the door behind her. Heads over. Climbs in

JUNE'S CAR

June gives her a look. Pulls away from the curb.

BRANDI

What, girl?

JUNE

Took you long enough.

BRANDI

Consider yourself lucky I'm gracing
your raggedy ass with my presence.

June grins.

BRANDI

Where we headed?

JUNE

We're gonna meet Jeff and one of his friends at The Avelon.

Brandi gives her a look.

BRANDI

Male friend?

June doesn't answer.

BRANDI

Damn, June. I told you I didn't want you setting me up.

JUNE

Please just try and have a good time..Hell, I'm not saying ya gotta take him home.

BRANDI

Once he sets eyes on my incredible beauty, I'll have to fight him off with a stick.

They exchange humored glances.

JUNE

Maybe you shouldn't use the stick.

BRANDI

We've been through this before. I'm so close to a partnership I can taste it.. I don't have time for somebody else right now.

JUNE

Ya ain't got ta marry him. But it would do you some good to get those cobwebs outta yer cootchie.

Brandi hits her friend's thigh playfully.

BRANDI

Shut it, bizsnatch.

JUNE

You know I'm right.

BRANDI

I'll be nice to your husband's friend,
but right now gettin' that partnership
is priority number one.

June shakes her head. Turns the car onto the freeway.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

A low rent high rise in a bad part of town.

Movement is seen through the window of a dimly lit third
floor apartment.

CRASH.

The sound of dishes breaking.

INT. APARTMENT -- NIGHT

This place is trashed. Furniture is overturned. A TV set
lays smashed on the floor.

CRASH.

More dishes shatter in the

KITCHEN

Where a leather clad Satanist in her early twenties, throws
a glass against the wall.

We will call her NIRRITI, for soon that is who she shall be.

Most of the cabinets are open. Shards that were once dishes
litter the counters and floor.

A black pentagram of spray paint is on the floor. Nirriti
stumbles over to it. She collapses to her knees. She seems
oblivious to the glass which digs into her flesh.

NIRRITI

Why? Why have I been forsaken?

She cries. Lays against the glass strewn tile as the grief
comes in waves.

She eyes a pile of utensils which lays among the debris.
She sifts through the pile. Finds a large carving knife.

She pushes herself into a seated position. Stares at the knife's blade. She wipes away tears with the heel of her hand.

Makes up her mind.

She takes a two handed grip on the knife. Plunges it into her chest.

LIVING ROOM

Darkness moves within darkness. A fog of shadow separates from the light-less corner near the window.

The shadow fog moves at floor level to the

KITCHEN

Where it moves toward the now dead Nirriti.

The fog finds its way inside her through her eyes, nose, and mouth.

BANG. BANG. BANG.

Someone pounds on the door.

Nirriti sits up. Looks around.

LANDLADY (O.S.)

What the hell's going on in there?

Nirriti pulls the knife from her chest. The wound heals the moment the blade is removed. She climbs to her feet. Heads for the door.

INT. HALL -- NIGHT

The LANDLADY, 50's, stands outside Nirriti's door. She looks pissed off in her robe and hair curlers.

She pounds on the door again.

LANDLADY

I heard you in there.

BAM.

She kicks the door.

LANDLADY

You mess up my place, I'll evict
your ass so fast you'll be in the
street by sun up.

The door flies open. Nirriti reaches out. She grabs Landlady by the robe. Yanks her inside the apartment. Slams the door.

Landlady's scream splinters the night.

EXT. THE AVELON -- NIGHT

This place is jumping. A line of PARTY PEOPLE extends from the door to the corner of the building.

Brandi and June walk to the head of the line where a BOUNCER, who looks like he could arm wrestle The Hulk and win, stands behind a velvet rope. He nods at June as they reach him.

BOUNCER

Hey, June.

JUNE

What's up, Steve?

BOUNCER

Countin' heads and tossin' drunks.

JUNE

This is my girl, Brandi.

Brandi gives Bouncer a million dollar smile.

JUNE

Jeff and Adam are already here.
Could we join them?

Bouncer unhooks the rope. He steps aside to let them through.

BOUNCER

Have fun, ladies.

Brandi and June walk past.

BRANDI

Thanks, Hun.

Bouncer checks her out as she passes. Shakes his head in appreciation of her fine form.

INT. THE AVELON -- NIGHT

Tables and booths surround a huge dance floor. DANCERS gyrate to the music in a near orgy of incredibly close proximity.

Other PEOPLE pack the tables and booths.

Brandi and June enter. They stop just inside the door. Look through the atmosphere of strobe and multicolored lights.

A man stands by a booth near the dance floor. Waves at them. He is JEFF TAYLOR, early 30's.

Brandi taps June's shoulder. Points at Jeff.

June waves at her husband who then sits back down.

The two women make their way to the table. When they arrive June plops down next to Jeff. With a sideways glance Brandi takes a seat next to ADAM CANE, late 20's.

June gives Brandi a look. Motions at Adam with her eyes.

Brandi reluctantly turns toward Adam. He offers his hand.

ADAM

I'm Adam. Jeff's friend.

Brandi shakes his hand.

BRANDI

I'm Brandi. Celibate workaholic.

Adam doesn't quite know how to respond. With his looks and style he has the air of a man who is used to having the ladies lined up.

Adam quickly recovers.

ADAM

Can I buy you a drink?

BRANDI

You old enough?

June kicks Brandi's leg under the table. They exchange quick "bitch are you crazy?" looks.

Brandi relents.

BRANDI

Sure. Screwdriver.

Adam turns. Waves down a WAITRESS.

Jeff leans over. Whispers in June's ear. A look of seductive anticipation crosses June's face. She pushes Jeff away playfully.

JUNE

Not now, boy.

The song changes. June starts grooving in her seat.

JUNE

First we dance.

She grabs Jeff's hand. They get up. Head for the dance floor.

June grins back at Brandi before they disappear into the crowd on the floor.

Brandi looks around at the crowd.

Adam leans forward. Rests his arms against the top of the table.

ADAM

If you'd rather not be here, I can take you home.

BRANDI

You'd like that, huh?

ADAM

Look I got better things to do with my time.

He stands.

Brandi puts a hand on his arm. He sits back down.

BRANDI

I've let nothing but work into my life for the better part of two years. Just give me a chance to shake off the corporate-bitch-syndrome.

He meets her eyes for a moment.

ADAM

Jeff said you were trying for a partnership. Can only imagine how hard that must be for a female in Corporate America.

BRANDI

Even harder for a black female.

Adam gestures at the dance floor.

ADAM

What do you say we go see if we can groove our way through that glass ceiling?

Brandi smiles. She starts to relax. Lets the music move her.

BRANDI

Let's go.

She follows him onto the dance floor. They find what room they can. Get into the beat.

JUNE spots them through the crowd. She leans close to Jeff. Says something. He looks over at their friends. Gives his wife a broad smile.

BRANDI is feeling the music. She dances like there's no tomorrow.

The music fades. Sounds like it's coming from a distant source.

She stops dancing. Looks around. Looks at Adam. No one else seems to have noticed this change.

With a boom much like thunder Acid Rock blares from the speakers. The sound is so loud that Brandi covers her ears.

All around her the Dancers move with such speed that they are only blurs.

Brandi turns in a slow circle. Unable to believe her eyes.

She turns back toward Adam.

Adam lunges at her.

Screaming Brandi stumbles back from him. She bumps against a gyrating body. The force of the Dancer's motion knocks her to the floor.

The Demon closes on her.

Brandi squeezes her eyes shut. She screams as hands grab her shoulders. Shake her.

JUNE (O.S.)

Brandi. Girl, what's wrong?

Brandi opens her eyes. She sees June crouched over her. A crowd circles them. The music has stopped.

JUNE

You OK?

BRANDI

What happened?

JUNE

You just freaked out. Started screaming.

A man steps up next to them. He wears a brown blazer with "MANAGER" embroidered on the left breast.

MANAGER

Paramedics are on their way.

Brandi looks at him. Then back at June.

BRANDI

No paramedics. I just want to go home.

Brandi tries to get up. With June's help she makes it to her feet.

MANAGER

I can't let you do that. Our liability insurance requires that you--

BRANDI

Shove your insurance.
(to June)
Take me home.

JUNE

Come on.

With Brandi leaning on June for support they make their way through the crowd.

EXT. CITY STREET -- NIGHT

An older area of the city but still well kept. Lots of neon. An assortment of bars, restaurants, and shops. Signs and symbols of Christmas decorate windows and light poles

A SOLDIER, 20's, weaves a drunken path down the sidewalk. Wearing his Dress Green Uniform, black beret, and boots he looks very much out of place among the civilian populace.

We will call him PATRONUS, for soon that is who he shall be.

Patronus nears the mouth of an alley. He takes a blurry eyed look around. Then he ducks into the

ALLEY

He stumble-walks into the shadows. He whips it out and lets loose a stream of beer induced piss.

A trio of FIGURES moves up behind him. Light from the street partially illuminates their faces. The Street Punks eye him as they wait for him to notice their presence

Patronus' bladder seems to have the capacity of the storm clouds which hounded Noah.

The Punks loose their patients.

PUNK 1

Hey.

Patronus shakes the last few drops free. Zips up. Then turns around.

PATRONUS

(slurred)

What's up guys?

PUNK 1

Hand over your cash.

PATRONUS

Look...I got stuck here on a lay over..Haven't been on leave in two years. I just want to get home without any trouble.

Punk 1 pops out a switch blade.

PUNK 1

Just hand it over.

Adrenaline cuts through the alcohol. But not enough to return his judgment. He makes a move for the Punk's knife hand.

The other two Punks grab him. Slam him back against the wall.

Punk 1 opts to get up close and personal. He lands punches to Patronus' gut and face.

Patronus goes limp.

The Punks slam him onto the ground. They search him. Find his wallet.

Then Punk 1 stabs the knife into his throat. The unconscious man's last breath comes in a gurgle as the blade is yanked free.

The Punks run into the darkness at the far end of the alley.

A small orb of white light appears over the dead man. It moves down and enters through the wound in his throat. The light disappears leaving no trace of the wound in its wake.

Patronus sits up. He looks around as if getting his bearings.

His eyes snap shut.

INSERT - VISION

Brandi stands screaming in a pit of fire.

RETURN TO SCENE

Patronus opens his eyes. He gets up and heads back toward the street.

EXT. HOSPITAL-- DAY

The building itself is new. The clothing and vehicle styles of the PEOPLE tell us that this is in the 1980's.

A GIRL, 10, runs across the parking lot. She ignores the blare of car horns as she charges toward the building.

INT. HOSPITAL-- DAY

The Girl bursts through the doors into the lobby. Tears stream from her eyes.

She runs toward the elevators.

The doors open. An OLDER WOMAN steps out. She looks shocked at the sight of the Girl.

OLDER WOMAN

Brandi, honey. How'd you get here?

The Girl almost runs into the Woman. She slides to a stop at the last moment.

GIRL

I gotta see Momma..I can help her.

The Woman's face goes slack at this. Tears well in her eyes.

OLDER WOMAN

Hon...There's no easy way to tell you this.

The Girl tries to push past her. The Woman takes a gentle grip on her shoulder. Keeps her from the elevator.

OLDER WOMAN

You're Momma's gone.

A sound of pitiful sorrow wells from the Girl. She struggles to get to the elevator.

The Woman stoops down. Picks up the Girl. Holds her against her chest.

The Girl's struggles increase. Her tears come in greater waves.

GIRL

No. I can save her. Let me see her.

The Woman carries her to a row of chairs. Sits with the Girl on her lap. Holds her even tighter.

OLDER WOMAN

No one can help her. She's with God now.

She rocks the Girl who has stopped her struggles as grief overwhelms her.

INT. BRANDI'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Brandi wakes with a start.

She looks around. She sees Rona staring at her from the foot of the bed.

She looks at the clock.

8:25.

BRANDI

Shit.

Brandi throws off the blankets and jumps out of bed.

EXT. WRIGHT DESIGNS -- DAY

A modern high rise with lots of tinted windows.

On the street a red compact turns down a ramp which leads beneath the building.

INT. PARKING GARAGE -- DAY

The compact slides into a slot.

After a moment, Brandi climbs out. She carries a briefcase and several cardboard tubes. She heads for the elevators.

INT. WRIGHT DESIGNS -- DAY

The elevator doors open. Brandi comes out. She strides across the polished tile. The RECEPTIONIST, 20's, gives her a "you're busted" look as she passes.

Brandi heads into the

OFFICE AREA

Where the Christmas sprit is very evident. Cubicles and offices alike are decked for the holiday.

Brandi runs a gauntlet of OFFICE WORKERS on her way through the cubicles.

She is met on the far side by June. She looks relieved to see Brandi.

JUNE

Girl, where the hell have you been?
Meeting started half hour ago.

She falls in beside Brandi as they continue into a

HALLWAY

BRANDI

How pissed is he?

JUNE

It's Donaldson.

BRANDI

He's pissed.

INT. MEETING ROOM -- DAY

Very well decorated. A bank of tinted windows. Art on the walls.

A group of SUITS sits around a large table. SAM DONALDSON, 50's, is at the head of the table. He looks toward the door as Brandi and June enter.

DONALDSON

Nice of you to join us, Miss Woods.

Brandi looks like the kid who never studies getting handed a pop quiz. She slinks over to an empty chair and takes a seat.

DONALDSON

As I was saying, the Fugicom deadline has been pushed up.

He eyes Brandi.

DONALDSON

Miss Woods has just volunteered to take on this assignment.

BRANDI
When is the prelim due?

DONALDSON
Noon tomorrow.

Brandi gives him a look.

BRANDI
They'll be available to receive it
on Christmas day?

DONALDSON
Fugicom doesn't take holidays.
(stands)
Meeting adjourned.

Everyone starts to leave. Brandi stays seated. Stares out
the window. June stops next to her.

JUNE
Brandi, honey, you know you can count
on me.

BRANDI
Go home to Jeff. I'll take care of
this.

June hesitates for a moment. Then she nods her agreement.

EXT. SARGE'S SURPLUS AND GUNS -- DAY

A white washed brick structure. Bars on the windows.

Patronus strolls to the door.

INT. SARGE'S SURPLUS AND GUNS -- CONTINUOUS

Patronus enters. A bell rings above the door as he does.

Racks and shelves of surplus take up most of the area. Every
type of military equipment and clothing under the sun is
represented. The gun shop is at the back. Racks of rifles
and shotguns on the wall. Glass cases of handguns.

Patronus looks at a rack of old camouflaged uniforms.

SARGE (O.S.)
Can I help you, Corporal?

Patronus looks toward the sound of the voice. He sees SARGE, 40's, plodding toward him. The man has the look of a retired Marine.

PATRONUS

I need a uniform, a .357, and ammunition.

SARGE

Tall order. You got the cash?

Patronus turns toward him. Sarge's eyes go wide when he sees the blood on the front of Patronus' shirt.

PATRONUS

I won't be able to pay.

Sarge has seen some shit in his life. He recovers his composure fast.

SARGE

Time for you to leave.

PATRONUS

I can't.

WHACK.

The blow comes out of no where. Sarge's fist slams into Patronus' face. The punch has little effect, so Sarge goes for another.

Patronus catches his fist in the air. Squeezes. Sarge drops to his knees with the pain.

PATRONUS

I am truly sorry.

WHAM.

Patronus knocks him out.

Patronus grabs a uniform off the rack. Then he takes a black t-shirt and a pair of jungle boots.

Next is the gun shop.

Patronus scans the weapons in the case. His eyes find a Desert Eagle .357 automatic pistol.

He smashes the glass with his bare hand. The glass cuts into his flesh. Seconds later a white light which comes from within him coats the wounds. Heals them.

He grabs the pistol and stuffs it into a shopping bag along with the uniform and boots. He looks around. Finds several extra magazines and ammunition for the pistol. These too go into the bag.

Patronus jots a note on a pad. He leaves the note on the gun case. It reads: WHEN YOU SEE HER, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

INT. BRANDI'S OFFICE -- DAY

Unlike the rest of the office this room is devoid of Christmas decorations. Instead there are a few black and white landscape photos and several architectural drawings on the walls.

Brandi sits behind the desk pouring over paperwork.

June enters carrying two cups from a coffee house. She sits one cup on the desk. Then she takes a seat across from Brandi.

JUNE

Drink up.

Brandi looks at the cup.

BRANDI

I'll be needing a lot of this before the night's over.

She picks up the cup and takes off the plastic lid. She takes a deep whiff of the hot black coffee.

JUNE

You won't be here that long. I'm staying to help you.

BRANDI

No. It's Christmas Eve. You've got kids and a husband.

JUNE

They'll be there when I get home.

BRANDI

Which will be by six o'clock tonight.

JUNE

Girlfriend, you can't do this alone.

BRANDI

You need to be with your family.

JUNE

You are so damn hard headed.

BRANDI

Gets me through.

June stands. She spreads her arms. Offers her friend a hug.

JUNE

If you change your mind, I'll be here until five.

BRANDI

Thanks.

Brandi stands. She starts to move around the desk. She bumps her coffee cup as she does. The cup tumbles to the floor. Splashes her suit pants with coffee.

BRANDI

Shit.

June rushes over.

JUNE

You alright?

BRANDI

Yeah..Screwed up my pants though.

JUNE

Get to the ladies' room. That might come out.

INT. LADIES' ROOM -- LATER

The room is empty.

Brandi enters.

She heads for the row of sinks. She grabs some paper towels and wets them down with cold water. Then she goes to work on the coffee stain.

FEMALE (O.S.)
(whisper)
She is near.

Brandi jumps. She looks around. Sees no one.

BRANDI
What?

Silence.

Brandi crouches down. She looks under the stalls. Sees no sign of anyone. She stands.

FEMALE (O.S.)
(whisper)
Beware the dark figure.

BRANDI
This isn't funny.

She storms toward the stall at the end of the row. Pushes the door open hard.

No one.

A look crosses her face.

She moves down the row of stalls. Opens each as she goes. Finds no one.

She comes to the last stall.

BRANDI
Now it's your ass.

She pushes the stall open.

Empty.

The door to the hall flies open. Brandi nearly jumps out of her skin. Turns to the door.

A FEMALE OFFICE WORKER, 20's, rushes inside. She heads for a stall and slams the door to it behind her.

BRANDI
(soft)
Girl...You got issues.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA -- DAY

Nirriti stalks down a cracked sidewalk. She looks at each house as she passes.

She stops. A smirk coats her face. A bumper sticker is pasted to the back window of an old pick-up truck. It reads: INSURED BY COLT. A drawing of a hand gripping a large pistol is next to the words.

She goes up to the house. Rings the bell.

No one answers.

She holds the button down.

A moment then a MAN in his underwear opens the door. He eyes Nirriti with sleep still on his face.

MAN

This better be good.

Nirriti looks past him. Inside she sees rifles in gun racks flanking an NRA poster.

NIRRITI

It is.

In a blinding fast move she punches him in the chest.

Though more than twice her size the Man is knocked airborne. He flies across the room. Slams against the wall. He rips through the poster and the sheet-rock wall behind it. Comes to rest stuck in the wall itself.

Nirriti glances around. Sees no one.

She steps

INSIDE

And closes the door behind her.

She moves over. Studies the weapons on the wall. She takes a high powered rifle with a scope from a rack.

INT. DEN -- DAY

This room is a hunter's wet dream. Animal trophies on the walls. More weapons on display. A large gun safe in one corner.

There is a hand held Police Scanner on top of the safe.

Nirriti enters. She leans the rifle next to the door and heads to the safe. She takes a two handed grip on the safe's handle. With little effort she twists the handle and rips the door open.

INSIDE THE SAFE is a huge collection of handguns and ammunition.

She grins.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Nirriti strides in from the hall. The rifle is in one hand. A duffel bag which shows its weight hangs by a strap over one shoulder.

Still out cold the Man moans from his place in the wall.

Nirriti walks over to him. She reaches for his chest. He screams as her hand passes through his flesh as if through paper.

EXT. WRIGHT DESIGNS -- NIGHT

A few lights shine on various floors.

INT. BRANDI'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Brandi is at her desk. She stares at a computer monitor. She makes several marks on a laser pad on the desk. Lines are added to the blue print on her monitor.

She sets the pen down. Rubs her weary eyes.

The voice comes again. This time from right outside her door.

FEMALE (O.S.)

She is near.

Brandi looks toward the door. She stands. Steps around to the front of her desk. She stares at the darkness beyond the door.

BRANDI

Whoever you are, I'm sick of this game.

Silence.

Brandi strides into the

HALLWAY

Where she sees a FIGURE in the shadows.

The Figure moves toward her. Brandi takes a step back. The Figure comes closer. Light from Brandi's office finds the Figure's face. Exposes a SECURITY GUARD, 60's.

Brandi releases a sigh of relief.

SECURITY GUARD

Sorry, Miss Woods. Hope I didn't scare you too bad.

BRANDI

(glances around)

No..No..Did you see anyone else out here?

SECURITY GUARD

Nope. Think you and Mister Donaldson are the only ones on this floor.

BRANDI

Could'a swore I --

BLAM.

Security Guard stumbles forward. Hits the ground in a heap. Blood blossoms across the back of his shirt.

With the sound of the gunshot still banging in her ears, Brandi looks down the hall. She sees Nirriti stalking toward her.

Nirriti takes aim with a large handgun. She fires a shot that rages against the door frame near Brandi's head.

Enjoying the game Nirriti puts two more rounds into the frame.

Brandi runs toward the far end of the hall.

Nirriti stops by Security Guard. She glances down. Then looks around. She sees a light purple glow move through the ceiling and disappear.

She gives a look like the kid who just dropped her ice cream cone in a pile of dog shit. She returns her attention to Brandi who rounds the corner into the next hall.

Slowly, almost methodically, Nirriti pursues.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Brandi rounds the corner at top speed. She sees light from an office near the end of the hall. She heads for it.

INT. DONALDSON'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Brandi runs in.

Behind the desk a high backed chair faces the window. The top of a man's head can just be seen over the back of the chair.

BRANDI

Mister Donaldson..Call 911.

She heads around the desk without slowing. Too late she realizes how fast she is going. She slams into the chair. Tumbles with it to the floor. She hits hard. Looses her wind.

She gasps air. Opens her eyes. She finds herself staring into Donaldson's dead eyes. A jagged smile gapes from his throat. Blood stains his shirt a deep red.

Brandi jumps to her feet. With her eyes still locked on her dead boss she backs away from the corpse.

Movement in the doorway.

Brandi rips her eyes from Donaldson.

Nirriti stands just outside the office. She holds Brandi's eyes from a moment. Then she takes careful aim.

BLAM.

Nirriti flies sideways as if hit by an invisible linebacker.

Patronus rushes through the door wearing the camo uniform and boots. He heads for Brandi.

Brandi's had enough. She grabs a paper weight off the desk. Slams it against Patronus' face. It opens a gash on his forehead.

A strand of white light stretches from one end of the wound to the other. Heals it.

Brandi drops her weapon. Stares in shock.

PATRONUS

This body has its limitations. Don't
do that again.

He takes her by the arm. Leads her toward the door. She
tries to protest, but her mouth moves soundlessly.

HALLWAY

Patronus glances out of the office. He sees Nirriti laying
in the shadows.

He leads Brandi out. They head away from the motionless
satanist.

Brandi plants her heels. Tries to stop. When that fails,
she punches Patronus in the back several times.

BRANDI

Get off me freak.

She kicks him in the leg.

He shows no effect from any of the blows. He tugs her arm.
Makes her follow.

PATRONUS

All will be explained, but now is
not the time.

He looks back at her. Past her.

In a quick move he sweeps her aside. Pivots to face back
down the hall.

BLAM. BLAM.

Two bullets hit him high in the chest. The white light rushes
out. Coats the wounds.

Brandi bangs against the wall. She looks toward the sound
of the shots. Fear. Shock.

Nirriti is back on her feet. A thick black substance, like
slime mixed with motor oil, coats most of her head. The goo
bubbles as her skull reshapes beneath it.

Nirriti takes aim at Brandi.

Patronus pops off two quick shots on his way to covering Brandi with his body. The first round bounces off the black goo. The second slams its way through Nirriti's throat. Knocks her to the floor.

Brandi looks from Nirriti to Patronus.

BRANDI

What in the--

Patronus grabs her arm. Leads her away from Nirriti.

PATRONUS

Later.

They head toward the elevators at the far end of the hall.

The elevator doors slide open.

Patronus takes Brandi out a door marked: STAIRS.

A pair of SECURITY GUARDS step out of the elevator. Both have their weapons drawn. The thirty-ish guy in the lead looks gung-ho. Fear shows on the face of his younger partner.

YOUNG GUARD

The cops said to wait downstairs.

GUNG-HO GUARD

By the time they get here it'll be over.

Gung-ho Guard moves slowly down the hall. His partner hesitates before he follows.

YOUNG GUARD

You ever think there's a reason you didn't pass the Academy?

GUNG-HO GUARD

Shut up and stay alert.

Gung-ho spots Nirriti still laid out on the floor. He moves over. Kneels beside her and checks her vitals. He yanks his hand back as it comes in contact with the black goo.

GUNG-HO GUARD

What the hell?

(to partner)

Call it in. We've got--

The move is too fast to allow him to react. Nirriti grabs him by the throat with a grip like a vise. She reaches for his chest with her other hand.

As Young Guard looks on in horror, Nirriti's hand passes through Gung-ho's chest as if it belonged to a ghost. She pulls back. Removes a glow of purple energy from him.

Gung-ho slumps in her grasp. She tosses the dead man aside like a rag doll.

She raises the purple energy to her face. Inhales it. The black goo sucks back into her head. Her skull reshapes completely. Flesh closes over the wound in her throat.

Young Guard rips through his fear. He hauls ass back toward the elevator. He slides to a stop in front of the doors. Punches the call button like mad.

He looks back. Nirriti stalks toward him.

He keeps punching the button even after the elevator arrives. It takes him a moment to realize that the doors are open. When he does, he practically jumps into the

ELEVATOR

Where the button for the Lobby takes its turn under his thumb.

He sees that Nirriti is almost to him.

With a sound much like a sigh of relief the doors start to close.

Too late.

Nirriti slams a hand between the doors. Forces them open. Steps through.

The Guard backs up. He finds himself against the back of the elevator. He looks around but there's no where to run.

The doors slide closed on his scream of primal fear.

INT. PARKING GARAGE -- NIGHT

Patronus and Brandi come out of the stairwell. Brandi stops. This time Patronus doesn't force her to follow. He turns to her instead.

PATRONUS

We don't have time.

He points toward the elevator. The lights above the door mark the car's progression toward their level.

BRANDI

But...But you shot her.

PATRONUS

She shot me.

He watches his words sink in.

Brandi glances between him and the elevator.

PATRONUS

Where's your car?

BRANDI

Keys're upstairs.

PATRONUS

Didn't ask about keys.

Brandi's face shows that she can't tell if she should pass out or throw up. She points at the car.

Patronus glances at the elevator. The lights show three floors to go.

He takes her hand. Together they run to her car.

He smashes the driver's side window with his pistol. Yanks up the lock and pulls the door open.

PATRONUS

Get in and slide over.

INT. ELEVATOR -- NIGHT

The Young Guard lays dead on the floor.

Nirriti stands motionless. She holds her weapon at shoulder level like a soldier frozen in time.

The elevator doors open. She springs out into the

PARKING GARAGE

Just in time to see Brandi's car screech out onto the street.

She charges toward her pick-up.

EXT. WRIGHT DESIGNS -- NIGHT

Traffic slides to a screaming halt as Patronus flings the car onto the street without slowing.

A pair of cars are involved in a fender bender. They come to a stop blocking the ramp down to the parking garage.

INT. /EXT. PICK-UP -- NIGHT

Nirriti sees the cars blocking her way. She hits the brakes.

The two DRIVERS get out of their cars. They engage in a heated argument.

Nirriti leans on the horn.

Driver 1 flips her the bird then continues the argument.

Nirriti climbs out of the truck. She strides over to them. Pushes through a small crowd of GAWKERS.

NIRRITI

Move.

DRIVER 1

Screw you, bitch. I ain't moving
'til the cops get here.

Nirriti grabs him by the neck. She slings him through the air. He smashes against the windshield of his car.

The Gawkers flee in a panicked stampede.

Nirriti turns her attention to Driver 2.

NIRRITI

Move.

The man falls all over himself in his haste to get to his car.

Seconds later his tires squeal as he slams the car into reverse and guns the engine. He smacks into a parked car near the curb. Still he keeps the accelerator to the floor.

Nirriti squeezes the truck onto the street. Leaves the sounds of approaching sirens behind.

EXT. /INT. BRANDI'S CAR -- NIGHT

Patronus screeches the car through a tight turn. Heads down a side street.

Brandi sits in the passenger seat looking like the weight of the world is on her shoulders. She speaks without taking her eyes from the view out her window.

BRANDI

Am I crazy?

PATRONUS

Far from it.

BRANDI

Then what the hell?

PATRONUS

I can't tell you much.

BRANDI

Why not?

PATRONUS

You have to discover your destiny for yourself.

BRANDI

Great.

(looks at him)

Who is she?

PATRONUS

Nirriti.

BRANDI

Nirriti?

PATRONUS

A goddess. She runs disease and decay for Pluto.

BRANDI

The cartoon dog?

PATRONUS

Romans named him that. You'd know him better as Satan.

He turns down an alley.

BRANDI

So you're the one who's crazy.

PATRONUS

No. You're just far more important than you believe.

BRANDI

I'll tell you what I don't believe. I don't believe there's some horned bastard living in a pit of fire and some bearded old man watching from on high.

PATRONUS

You'd be right. He doesn't have horns and she doesn't have a beard.

BRANDI

She? That's it. Let me out of this damn car.

They reach the end of the alley. He weaves the car back onto the street.

BRANDI

Did you hear me?

He doesn't respond.

She pounds on his shoulder with her fist.

He slides the car to a stop near the curb. Slams the gear to Park. Grabs her fist before she can strike again.

PATRONUS

You're not getting out of my sight. Right now I'm the only thing that stands between you and her.

BRANDI

Who are you?

PATRONUS

I am Patronus.

She gives him a look.

BRANDI

I've heard that before.

PATRONUS

Yes you have...Remember where and
you'll begin your journey.

He lets her hand go. She slumps back in her seat.

PATRONUS

First thing we need to do is get a
different car.

He looks around. Spots an old Dodge down the block.

PATRONUS

Come on.

INT. PICK-UP -- NIGHT

Nirriti guides the truck down a side street.

Her pistol is on the seat next to her. The duffel bag is on
the passenger side floor board.

Keeping her eyes on the road she grabs the bag and puts it
on to the seat. She fishes inside. Pulls out the Police
Scanner.

She puts an ear piece in her ear. Then turns on the scanner.

Her eyes scour the night as she turns into a residential
area.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Patronus holds Brandi's wrist in a loose grip. They walk
toward the old Dodge at a casual pace. Stop by the car.

He looks around. Sees no witness.

He tries the door. It opens. He motions for Brandi to get
in and slide over. Then he follows her.

IN THE CAR

Patronus goes to work on hot wiring the car.

An OLD WOMAN watches from behind the window of a darkened
room. She raises a phone to her ear.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA -- NIGHT

Nirriti drives the truck slowly down the narrow street.

INT. PICK-UP -- NIGHT

She hears a Police Dispatcher through her ear piece.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

I have a one-zero-eight-five-one,
auto theft, in progress. Male and
female suspects. Location is Thirteen
Zero Five Cheryl Avenue.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA -- NIGHT

Nirriti floors the gas. She pops the truck over the curb.
Smashes through a picket fence. Rips tire tracks in the
lawn before heading back the way she came.

EXT. /INT. DODGE -- NIGHT

Patronus peels the car away from the curb. Heads down the
street.

BRANDI

Why'd you wait so long?

PATRONUS

For what?

BRANDI

To step in. That leather bound psycho
almost killed me.

PATRONUS

Nirriti could have come here as
anyone. I wanted to be sure before
I started shooting.

BRANDI

You've got the gun, so 'til I wake
up screaming I'll go where you take
me. But let's drop all this gods
and monsters crap, OK?

PATRONUS

We need cash.

BRANDI

You're some kind of angel or
something. Can't you just wave your
magic wand and get us what we need?

He gives her a look.

PATRONUS

This guy doesn't have much of a wand to wave. Besides it doesn't work like that.

BRANDI

How does it work?

PATRONUS

When we cross over we leave most of what we were behind. That's why we have to use mortal bodies. Our plains of existence are too different for a straight transfer.

BRANDI

So you took some poor bastard's body? That's sick.

PATRONUS

He was already dead.

BRANDI

That's supposed to be less sick?

Patronus rounds a corner. He sees a bank up ahead.

He pulls into the parking lot. Parks next to the building by an ATM.

PATRONUS

Money's in there?

BRANDI

Doesn't work like that. You need an ATM card.

PATRONUS

You have one?

BRANDI

In my purse.

He holds out his hand.

BRANDI

Which is in my office.

He looks at her for a moment. Then turns his attention to the machine.

PATRONUS

No matter...Come on.

He opens his door. She reaches for hers.

PATRONUS

This side.

BRANDI

I'm not going to run.

PATRONUS

Arm's reach.

BRANDI

Whatever.

He climbs out. She slides across the seat and follows him.

EXT. BANK -- NIGHT

They walk over the ATM.

Patronus studies the machine.

BRANDI

Charm won't work.

He ignores her. Continues to check out the ATM.

MOVEMENT behind them. Reflected on the machine's screen.

Patronus spins on his heel. His hand shoots out. He grabs a BOOKISH MAN by the front of his trench coat. Lifts him off of the ground.

The guy stares into Patronus' rock hard eyes with his fear filled own. He shakes a deposit envelop which he holds in his hand.

BOOKISH MAN

Take it. Just don't hurt me.

Patronus stands motionless. Stares into the man's eyes.

Brandi steps up. She puts a hand on Patronus' arm.

BRANDI

He's harmless.

Patronus contemplates this for a moment. Then he sits the guy back down. Lets him go.

The guy takes off like a bat out of hell. He fumbles a cell phone out of his pocket as he goes.

Brandi watches him for a moment. Then looks at Patronus.

BRANDI
What was that about?

PATRONUS
I'm...edgy.

BRANDI
Emotions. That's a strange response
for a guardian angel.

Patronus turns back toward the ATM.

PATRONUS
Side effect of a mortal body.

BRANDI
He'll call the cops.

PATRONUS
We'll be gone by then.

He takes a grip on the top edge of the machine. Pulls.

Nothing.

He puts one foot against the wall. Pushes with his leg and pulls at the same time.

With a scream of twisting metal the front comes off the ATM.

Patronus stumbles back with the force of his actions. He gets his feet back under him. Tosses the ATM's face aside.

Brandi looks from him to the machine rapidly. Finally decides on him.

She points back at the machine with a look of disbelief on her face.

He just shrugs.

INT. PICK-UP -- NIGHT

Nirriti's eyes scour the night.

The scanner crackles to life.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

We have a two eleven at First
National. Elm and Fifth. Be advised
male and female suspects assaulted a
caller before the alarm sounded.

EXT. PICK-UP -- NIGHT

Nirriti whips the wheel. She cuts across on coming traffic.
Runs a red light while narrowly avoiding an accident.

EXT. BANK -- NIGHT

Patronus stuffs a wad of twenties into his pocket.

PATRONUS

Let's go.

Brandi follows him back to the car.

Sirens grow close.

Brandi gets in the car on her own this time.

Patronus jumps behind the wheel. He backs the car out onto
the street.

EXT. /INT. NIRRITI'S TRUCK -- NIGHT

Nirriti steers the truck around the corner. She sees several
Police Cars parked by the damaged ATM. There is no sign of
Patronus or Brandi.

She bangs the steering wheel in frustration.

EXT. CIRCLE MOTEL -- NIGHT

It is a back road stop. Well off the beaten path. No signs
of civilization within eye shot. Just a small, one level
building with the neon sign: CIRCLE MOTEL.

Patronus pulls the car into the parking lot. Stops under an
arch marked: OFFICE.

INT. DODGE -- NIGHT

Patronus opens his door. Brandi grabs his arm.

BRANDI

Let me do the talking. OK?

He looks at her for a moment. Then nods.

INT. MOTEL OFFICE -- NIGHT

The carpet saw better days in times long past. The walls would need several coats of paint to reach decent. A SCRAWNY GUY in ragged clothing sits behind an equally ragged Check-In Counter. A TV sits on the counter top facing him.

Patronus and Brandi enter. They head to the counter. The Scrawny Guy ignores them. Continues to read a porn magazine.

Brandi slaps her hand down on the counter. Scrawny Guy looks up. His face brightens as he sets eyes on her.

SCRAWNY GUY

Off the page and into my life.

BRANDI

We need a room.

He points at doorway behind him.

SCRAWNY GUY

Naw...We can go right back here.

Brandi thumb gestures at herself and Patronus.

BRANDI

This we.

Scrawny Guy reaches under the counter.

SCRAWNY GUY

Your loss.

He pulls out a registration book. Tosses it on the counter top. Holds out a pen.

SCRAWNY GUY

Sign in.

Brandi grabs the pen. Flips open the book.

EXT. CIRCLE MOTEL -- NIGHT

A storm brews. Trash is swept across the parking lot by a swirling wind.

Patronus grabs a gym bag from the back seat of the car. Hands it to Brandi.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

It looks like every other cheap motel room in America.

Patronus and Brandi enter. Their hair and clothes are wind blown. Brandi casts a glance behind them. Then closes the door. Patronus engages the dead bolt.

Brandi plops on the bed.

Patronus moves a chair to the far corner of the room. Sits so that he faces the door.

Brandi picks up a remote from the nightstand. Clicks on the TV.

BRANDI

Want to see what the news says.

The sounds of sex from the TV.

Brandi changes channels several times. Each click of the button ends with the same result. She turns it off. Tosses the remote onto the bed.

BRANDI

Great.

She gets up.

BRANDI

I'm going to take a shower.

Patronus stands. He holds out the gym bag. Brandi takes it. Motions toward the chair.

BRANDI

I'll be safe in there.

He stares at her for a moment. Then sits back down.

INT. BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Brandi enters the cramped space. She tosses the bag on the floor. Closes the door.

She moves over to the tub. Pulls aside the curtain. She sees that the shower head resembles a large penis attached to a hose.

BRANDI

That's the last damn straw.

She turns on the water. Then she moves over to the window. Slides it open.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Patronus hears the water running. He squeezes his eyes shut.

EXT. MEADOW -- DAY

An incredible sight. Pristine. Pure.

Patronus enters by a footpath. He takes in the beauty. Breathes deep of the crisp air.

ACROSS THE MEADOW

The air shimmers. A woman on a gold throne materializes. She is ALAY, Goddess of Life and Light.

She motions Patronus over.

PATRONUS

Why am I here?

ALAY

A question I've often heard but never answered.

PATRONUS

She's not safe alone.

ALAY

That she is not, but I needed to speak with you. Pluto has found a loop hole in our pact. He plans to pull you through Hell's Circles...Watch for his tricks.

EXT. CIRCLE MOTEL -- NIGHT

The wind has increased in strength. Dark clouds swirl in the sky.

Brandi slips out the bathroom window. Drops to the ground. She finds herself facing a stand of thick woods.

She folds her arms against the wind. Heads for the trees.

EXT. WASTELAND -- DAY

Nuclear winter and clear cutting combined couldn't make this place any worse.

PLUTO stands at the edge of a large pit. He is an imposing figure in a black robe.

He looks down at PEOPLE who writhe in flames at the bottom of the pit.

A burst of black energy beside him. Nirriti emerges from it. She bows her head.

NIRRITI

Yes, My Lord?

PATRONUS

Alay has informed Mars of my plan,
but the woman already approaches the
Second Circle.

Nirriti nods her understanding. She disappears in a flash of black.

EXT. WOODS -- NIGHT

Brandi stumbles her way through the trees. The wind whips branches at her face. She holds her arms in front of her face. Presses on.

The trees thin the farther she travels. She spies a clearing ahead. She picks up her pace.

Her foot snags on a root. She falls face first into the clearing. Lands hard. Cries out.

After a moment she looks up. The clearing is the polar opposite of Patronus' meadow. Nothing but barren dirt.

She climbs to her feet. Moves out into the clearing.

The ground rolls like a hundred mice beneath a dirt carpet. Waist up human shapes form in the dirt. MEN and WOMEN they appear to be engaged in an orgy except that the sounds which come from their mouths are moans of pain instead of pleasure.

Brandi screams.

The dirt people turn their attention to her. Their eyes glow blue as they move THROUGH the ground toward her.

EXT. MEADOW -- DAY

Patronus hears Brandi's distant scream. The meadow disappears as if pulling back through a long and narrow tunnel.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Patronus is on his feet in the time it takes his eyes to open. He bounds over the bed. Rushes through the bathroom door.

EXT. CLEARING -- NIGHT

Brandi is surrounded by the dirt people. They moan her name in a horrific chorus. Reach for her.

She tries to run. She only gets one step before her legs are grabbed. She falls.

The dirt people flock to her. They paw at her skin. Rip at her clothes.

Nirriti appears on the far side of the clearing. She charges toward Brandi.

A hand reaches down. Grabs her arm. Pulls her up into the

BATHROOM

Patronus sits on the floor. He cradles Brandi in his arms.

Her eyes are rolled back. Her eye lids flutter wildly.

Rapidly, trance-like she repeats.

BRANDI

Swirled forever in a dark stormy
wind.

EXT. CIRCLE MOTEL -- MORNING

The storm clouds are gone. The sun peeks over the horizon.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- MORNING

Brandi sits bolt up in the bed. She looks around. She sees Patronus sitting in the chair beside the bed. He looks as if he hasn't moved since the time she entered the bathroom the night before.

BRANDI

What the hell's going on?

PATRONUS

I--

BRANDI

Can't tell me. Right?

He nods.

She pulls back the covers. Sees that she is wearing only a T-Shirt and underwear. She gives him a look.

PATRONUS

You looked uncomfortable.

She gets up. Heads for the bathroom. Stops after only a few steps. Looks back at him.

PATRONUS

I heard you scream. Found you laying on the floor.

She questions him with a look.

BRANDI

I went out the window.

PATRONUS

Then stay inside this time.

She hesitates. Then she heads through the bathroom door.

INT. MOTEL OFFICE -- MORNING

Patronus and Brandi enter.

The office is deserted. They look around. Confused. Head toward the counter.

BRANDI

Hello?

The TV is gone. All that remains is a dust covered porno magazine which lays on the counter.

BRANDI

Great.

Patronus takes her by the arm.

PATRONUS

Time to go.

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER -- DAY

One of those places that's on life support now that the two lane black top it neighbors is no longer the Interstate. There are a few cars parked near the building. The Dodge is one of them.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER -- DAY

Several CUSTOMERS pepper the tables. Patronus and Brandi occupy a back booth. They are seated so that he faces the door.

A WAITRESS who looks as old as the building itself comes over.

WAITRESS

You two ready?

Brandi looks up from her menu.

BRANDI

I'll have the number One with coffee.

The Waitress writes it down. Looks at Patronus.

PATRONUS

Nothing.

BRANDI

No food or sleep. How are you supposed to keep me alive?

The Waitress gives her a look.

BRANDI

Just do mine twice.

The Waitress makes a quick mark on her pad. Then she heads off. Gives them another look over her shoulder.

Patronus studies their surroundings. Ever diligent.

BRANDI

I'm not going to say I even begin to understand what's going on. At the same time I'd hate to think that the education Grandma Welda worked so hard to pay for went to waste.

She reaches across and puts a hand on his arm. He turns his attention to her.

BRANDI

I believe what I can see and touch. Right now that tells me I'm either crazy or in serious trouble. I won't try and run again.

PATRONUS

Thank you.

BRANDI

You're not used to being human, so I'll handle that part.

(tugs at her clothes)

Once we leave here we need to find me some fresh clothes.

PATRONUS

First stop.

The Waitress brings their food. Several hundred cholesterol points on each plate. Brandi digs in. Patronus simply stares at his.

BRANDI

Just try it.

EXT. MEADOW -- DAY

Patronus and Brandi are seen as a reflection in a small pond. He tries a fork full of food. His face lights up. He digs in.

ALAY stands beside the pond. A man is next to her. He is MIN God of the Traveler.

ALAY

We should use Pluto's loophole against him. I want you to meet them before the Third Circle. I can hold back Pluto's powers long enough for you to drop her a hint.

MIN

Why not just let Mars tell her?

ALAY

If we break the rules, we are no better than him.

MIN

I will do as you wish, Alay.

EXT. /INT DODGE -- DAY

They travel down a two lane back road. Brandi stares out the window. Just trees and hills. She reaches over. Clicks on the radio. A newscast plays. The Announcer speaks in the voice of Pluto.

PLUTO (V.O.)

Repeating our top story. One woman is dead and another missing after a brutal murder in Fresno, California. The victim, identified as June Taylor, was found in the home of Fresno resident Brandi Woods.

Brandi stares at the radio. Horrified.

PLUTO (V.O.)

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Brandi Woods is asked to contact the Fresno City Police Department immediately.

Patronus switches off the radio.

Brandi looks at him.

BRANDI

We have to go back.

PLUTO

Our answers lay ahead.

BRANDI

I don't give a shit. She's my best friend.

She hits him. Square in the jaw. His head barely moves.

BRANDI

You fucking heartless bastard.

She flails him with her fists. Pounds his arm and shoulder. At the same time she shouts.

BRANDI

Bastard. Turn the fucking car around.

He slams on the brakes. Sends the car skidding to a halt on the shoulder of the road.

He jams the gear into park. Grabs her by the arms. Pushes her against the passenger door.

PLUTO

Calm down. It's a trick.

She struggles against him, but he holds her with no visible effort.

PATRONUS

Pluto wants you scared and confused. You're friend is fine.

He releases her. Sits back upright. So does she. She stares out the windshield. Silent tears course down her cheeks.

BRANDI

I just want my life back.

PATRONUS

I'm truly sorry you have to go through this.

BRANDI

Fuck you.

He puts the car in gear. Pulls back onto the road.

EXT. SMALL TOWN -- DUSK

Storm clouds fill the sky. Snow and hail, both brown with dirt, fall in a torrent.

INT./ EXT. DODGE -- DUSK

Patronus maneuvers the car down a muddy, unpaved street.

PATRONUS

We won't get far in this.

Out the windows the town looks deserted. Lights show from only one building. It has a neon sign in the window which names it: THE TREASURE HUNTER.

Patronus parks by the curb. The sound of hail against the roof grows louder.

Brandi looks out the window.

BRANDI

We better get inside. I've never seen anything like this before.

They jump out of the car. Run toward the building.

INT. THE TREASURE HUNTER -- DUSK

The place is very upscale for its location. A large dance floor. Live band on stage. All manner of food and drink cover the tables.

Patronus and Brandi make their way through the Crowd until they reach the bar.

Patronus flags down the BARTENDER who resembles a garden gnome. He plods his way to them across several raised wooden planks which put his head just above bar level.

BARTENDER

'Bout time you got here.

BRANDI

We're expected?

The Bartender slaps the top of the bar.

BARTENDER

Yep. Mister Min'll see you in his office.

He points toward the far wall where a doorway leads to darkness.

INT. HALLWAY

The duo steps through the doorway. At the far end a door marked "OFFICE" is just visible through the gloom.

They head toward it.

Something moves forward. Blocks their path. Growls.

Patronus puts himself between the thing and Brandi.

He looks down. Sees a large German Shepherd glaring from the gloom. Their eyes meet. The dog's growl softens to a whimper. It slides up to him. Nuzzles his hand. He scratches it behind the ears.

INT. OFFICE

More of a closet really. A desk with two chairs near the door. Min is behind the desk. He wears a suit with a matching fedora. Patronus and Brandi enter. Min cracks a huge smile. He stands.

MIN

Welcome. Please..sit.

Brandi hesitates. She takes a seat after Patronus and Min shake hands.

PATRONUS

Good to see a friendly face.

MIN

Too bad it's not under better circumstances.

Patronus nods his agreement. Then he takes a seat next to Brandi.

BRANDI

Who are you?

MIN

Please forgive me. I am Min.

BRANDI

That explains a lot.

MIN

Who I am is not important. You need only know that I am an ally.

BRANDI

Then let's cut to the chase. What the hell's going on?

Min leans back in his chair. Steeples his hands.

MIN

Alay has decided to make use of the loophole.

Brandi looks a question at Min.

MIN

(to Patronus)

You haven't told her?

PATRONUS

She's under enough pressure as it is.

Min shrugs this off. Turns back to Brandi.

MIN

Out time is short. You must find the book.

BRANDI

What book?

MIN

THE book. That's all the rules allow me to say.

Min shimmers like heat waves on the horizon.

MIN

Sorry, but my time here is up. Stick to the familiar and find the book.

Min disappears. The office door swings open.

BRANDI

What are you keeping from me?

PATRONUS

Nothing you need to worry about.

Brandi gets to her feet. She grabs her chair. Slings it against the wall.

BRANDI

That's bullshit. I have to worry about all of this. Crazy...Sane...Either way all of this affects me.

Patronus looks from her chair to her face.

PATRONUS

The rules are simple. One entity from each side is allowed to pass through to the mortal world, but Pluto found a loophole. He can pull you, at least partially, into his realm.

BRANDI

That really clears things up.

PATRONUS

My hands are tied. I have to follow the rules or the battle is forfeit.

Brandi kicks the door. Storms out.

Patronus jumps to his feet. Rushes after her.

INT. THE TREASURE HUNTER -- MOMENTS LATER

Patronus and Brandi step through the doorway.

PATRONUS

That's quite an attitude you're devel...

Chaos has destroyed order. Dirty snow falls from the ceiling. The floor is thick mud.

Small creatures, like spider monkeys with deformed human heads, attack the Crowd. They cram food into their victim's mouths. Pour seemingly bottomless drinks on their faces.

From the hallway, a trio of deep growls.

Patronus turns. He is face to faces with a three headed version of the German Shepherd. No longer friendly it bares its teeth which are face level with Patronus.

PATRONUS

Head for the door. Slow. Don't look back.

Brandi does as asked. She moves slowly but catches the dog's eyes regardless. It lunges.

Patronus pistons the heel of his hand under the jaw of the dog's center head. It yelps. The other two heads snap at him.

He dodges. Barely.

The center head recovers and the creature closes on him.

Brandi sees him engaged with the dog. She reaches for the closest object. Grabs a barstool by the legs. One of the monkey-creatures leaps onto the stool. Gives her a "raspberry". Paws at her.

She slings the barstool and the creature across the room.

At Patronus.

The creature leaps off the stool moments before the object slams into Patronus. He shows no pain but the collision causes him to look back.

The dog clamps a set of jaws on his arm. It slings him across the room. Then gallops toward Brandi who leaps over the bar.

Patronus hits hard. He skids through the mud. Slams against the wall. He is on his feet in a flash. Before he can take a step the ceiling above him collapses. Nirriti follows the debris. She lands on his back. Knocks him to the floor.

Brandi hides under the bar. The dog is too large to follow. It leans its heads over. Snaps at her.

She grabs a bottle from a shelf. Smashes it into the creature's center jaws.

It yelps. Pulls back. With its powerful front paws it digs into the bar's surface.

NIRRITI sits on Patronus who is face down in the mud. She pounds relentlessly on the back of his head.

With great effort Patronus pushes up. He gains enough leverage to roll onto his back. Tosses Nirriti aside in the process. He shakes mud from his face as he leaps to his feet.

He draws his pistol. Pulls the trigger.

Click.

NIRRITI
Won't work in the Circles.

Nirriti kicks it from his hand. Attacks.

THE DOG has torn a hole in the top of the bar. It stuffs the jaws of one of its smaller side heads through the gap. Its teeth snap closed less than an inch above Brandi's head.

Brandi stabs its snout with the remains of the broken bottle. The glass digs deep. Draws a stream of thick green blood. The dog pulls back.

Brandi seizes the moment. She slides out from under the bar. On hands and knees she heads for the far end.

PATRONUS body slams Nirriti through a table. He hazards a glance across the room. He sees the dog shaking its bleeding face as several of the monkey-creatures leap onto the bar.

Nirriti thrusts both feet up into Patronus' gut. Knocks him flying. Patronus smashes through a glass partition. Crashes through several tables.

Nirriti bounds toward the bar.

BRANDI has almost reached the end of the bar. The monkey-creatures attack her. They jump off the bar. Land on and around her. They slap at her. Pull her hair.

She screams in terror. She punches at the creatures. Knocks a couple silly. She rolls to her feet sending the creatures tumbling to the floor.

She turns. Sees the dog closing from the right. Nirriti closes from the front. The monkey-creatures rush her legs. She grabs one. Slings it at the dog which snatches it out of the air and munches it down.

Nirriti leaps onto the bar. Lunges for Brandi.

Patronus is there.

He snatches Nirriti off the bar. With a grunt of effort he throws her at the dog. Nirriti smashes into the dog's center head. The dog latches on with all three mouths. The two battle for life and limb.

Brandi kicks at the monkey-creatures. Patronus grabs her. He lifts her over the bar. They slop their way through the mud and toward the door.

EXT. MEADOW -- DAY

An incredible sunrise paints the sky.

Alay stands next to the pond. Two men with horses flank her. They are ASHVINS, twin benevolent gods of the sun.

ALAY

I can't allow him to continue bending the rules. He came too close this time. Ride the boarder between the realms. Keep her shielded.

The Ashvins mount their horses simultaneously. They ride away. Dematerialize.

Alay returns her attention to the pond. Nirriti has defeated the dog. Alay passes her hand over the pond. The image disappears.

EXT. THE TREASURE HUNTER -- NIGHT

It looks like the storm never happened. The town is a bustle of everyday life.

Nirriti rushes out of the bar. Patronus and Brandi are gone.

EXT. /INT. DODGE -- NIGHT

Patronus heads for the edge of town. The buildings thin the closer they get to the open road.

BRANDI

Where we going?

PATRONUS

As far away from here as we can get.

They tear past a sign with an arrow pointing up and the words: I40 EAST.

EXT. REST STOP -- NIGHT

Traffic blows by on the Interstate.

Several long haul trucks sit like sleeping giants in the parking area. The Dodge is between two of them.

INT. VENDING AREA -- NIGHT

A small room with tiled floor and white washed walls. Two doors "MEN" and "WOMEN". A bank of vending machines near a set of exterior doors.

Patronus and Brandi are at the machines. She watches a candy bar lean out of its slot and get stuck before it can fall. She bangs a fist against the machine.

BRANDI

Damn.

Patronus looks at the machine. Draws back a fist. Brandi holds up her hands.

BRANDI

Settle down big boy. It's just a piece of candy.

Brandi turns back to the machine. She pounds on it. Kicks it. Talks with each blow.

BRANDI

What..the..fuck..is..going..on?

The candy bar falls into the service slot. She stares at it for a moment. Then she turns. She sees a WOMAN standing just inside the main doors. Their eyes meet. The Woman high tails it back out.

BRANDI

Great.

Patronus leans against the machine.

PATRONUS

Any thoughts on the book?

BRANDI

Nothing.

INT. WOMAN'S CAR -- NIGHT

The Woman sits behind the wheel with a cell phone to her ear. She watches Patronus drive back toward the Interstate.

WOMAN

Yes I'm sure it's her. She's been all over the news since those murders. I was two feet from her.

She watches Patronus merge into traffic.

WOMAN

They're east bound on I40 south of
Bakersfield.

INT. NIRRITI'S TRUCK -- NIGHT

Nirriti puts one hand on the Police Scanner's ear piece as if listening. She reaches the sign for I40. Follows the arrow.

EXT. INTERSTATE -- NIGHT

The Dodge makes its way through the sparse traffic.

A Highway Patrol car comes up behind them with its lights and siren blazing.

THE CHASE

Patronus punches the accelerator. The Dodge is old, but they don't make 'em like they used to. The engine roars. The car shoots down the Interstate.

The lighter patrol car gains speed faster. In moments the cops are right on their ass.

Patronus sequels through several lane changes. The cops stay right on them.

Another patrol car joins from the opposite direction. It bumps across the median from the West bound side. The driver hits the brakes. Cocks the car across the lane in front of the Dodge.

Patronus cranks the wheel.

The Dodge trades a punch with the patrol car's front bumper. Speed and the solid frame of the older vehicle play hell on the weaker materials of the patrol car. Its front end is twisted as the Dodge crunches past.

The other chase car slows to slip past its wreaked brethren. Then its engine screams as it races to catch up.

Ahead two patrol cars block the road. A pair of COPS jumps out of each car. They take up positions behind their vehicles. Aim their weapons at the Dodge.

Patronus looks around. A concrete divider in the between the East and West bound sides coupled with a metal guard rail on the right side leave room for him to maneuver around the cops.

He slams on the breaks. Slides to a stop.

The chase car stops behind them. Two COPS leap out. Aim from behind their doors.

Traffic backs up as Drivers slam on their brakes. Many put their cars into reverse. Pull back from the scene.

Patronus grabs his pistol. Reaches for his door handle.

BRANDI

Don't. They'll start shooting.

PATRONUS

I'll be OK.

BRANDI

Not you I'm worried about.

He agrees by staying put.

COP (O.S.)

Driver..turn off you engine and step slowly from the vehicle with your hands above your head.

Patronus kills the engine. He pushes the door open and climbs out.

COP (O.S.)

Keeping your hands above your head take four steps to your left.

Patronus gets two steps. Then tires scream from behind the chase car.

Headlights sweep over the Cop by the driver's door. He spins around. Too late he tries to get out of the way of

NIRRITI

Who slams him with the truck's grill. The unfortunate officer is smashed between the truck and his car's door. Nirriti doesn't even slow down. Rips the door off the car and keeps going.

Patronus whips his pistol from his waist band. He fires a trio of shots that eat through the truck's windshield.

The Cops by the roadblock open fire.

Patronus dives back into the Dodge. He throws himself over Brandi as a bullet pierces the windshield. It hits him in the back level with Brandi's head.

The Cops riddle Nirriti's truck with bullets. Both front tires blow. The truck slides out of control. Slams into the concrete median.

A pair of Cops from the roadblock head for the truck. The other two stay put and cover them.

The last Cop from the chase car runs up to the Dodge. He trains his weapon on Patronus from the passenger side.

COP

Get your hands where I can see them.

BRRAACK.

Sounds of automatic weapons fire from the truck.

Cop's eyes pop toward the sound. The sounds of pistols answer the machine gun.

Brandi shoulders the car door open. Knocks Cop on his ass. She jumps out of the car followed closely by Patronus.

Still on his ass Cop brings his gun around. Patronus kicks his wrist. Knocks the gun away. Then trains his own weapon on Cop.

BRANDI

You better bring your ass on.

PATRONUS

You see me go down..You run.

She touches his arm. Then she heads toward the guard rail.

Patronus looks at the Cop as the gunfire in the background grows harder.

PATRONUS

You're smart you'll leave.

Patronus springs onto the Dodge's hood. Heads for the fray.

NIRRITI has taken down two of the Cops. She looks over. Catches sight of Brandi as she ducks behind the guard rail.

She swings her weapon around.

PATRONUS fires a shot that hits Nirriti's weapon. She keeps her grip on the machine gun, but the bullet's impact damages the barrel.

The road block Cops keep firing. Their bullets hit the truck.

THE THIRD COP is back up. He takes aim at Patronus' back.

Brandi flies into frame. She slams shoulder first into the Cop's back.

She's not a large woman, but she has the element of surprise. Her blow knocks Cop forward. He bangs against the Dodge. His head smacks into the top of the door frame. Knocks him cold.

NIRRITI tosses aside the damaged weapon. She draws a pistol from the back of her waistband. Takes a round from Patronus.

With the black goo seeping from her chest she returns fire.

PATRONUS dives to the side. Fires as he goes. He avoids most of his enemy's rounds. One takes him in the shoulder. It is followed by a flash of white light.

Another patrol car skids up next to the road block.

Yet another blocks the Interstate behind the chase car. Four new COPS join the others.

BRANDI grabs the unconscious Cop's gun. She takes a shot at Nirriti. Her inexperience with firearms shows. She's clumsy with the weapon. Her shot goes so wide there's no telling where it ends up.

A Cop from the road block runs around behind her. He comes up on her. Puts his gun to the back of her head.

COP2

Hands up.

PATRONUS rolls back to his feet. He takes several shots from the Cops. His attention remains on..

NIRRITI whose body crawls with the black goo. She fires a round at him while taking several others from the Cops.

Her slide locks back on an empty chamber. She drops the gun. Heads back for the truck.

PATRONUS runs after her. He takes several rounds. They slow him. The white light comes with less intensity.

The Cop's shots begin to taper off. The realization is setting in that their rounds have been finding their targets.

BRANDI is on the ground. Her hands are cuffed behind her.

The Cop pulls her to her feet. Forces her up. Takes her toward a patrol car.

Holding his head Brandi's victim follows.

PATRONUS catches Nirriti as she reaches the truck. He spins her by her shoulder. Sees that her wounds have already healed.

Nirriti lands a solid punch to his chest. Knocks him airborne.

Patronus flies back. He slams against the side of the Dodge. Crumples the driver's door.

The Cops have stopped shooting all together. They stare in wide eyed awe at the spectacle before them.

NIRRITI bounds as if on the moon. She lands next to Patronus in a single leap. Delivers three kicks in the blink of an eye.

He takes the blows hard. Weakened by the wounds which the light still works to heal.

BRANDI is stuffed toward the back of a patrol car. She struggles against her captor. Plants a knee in his groin. Another Cop grabs her. Gut punches her. Pushes her into the car.

PATRONUS sees this as Nirriti body slams him. His eyes go hard.

He grabs Nirriti's foot as she moves to stomp his head. He twists her foot and kicks her base leg out from under her.

Nirriti goes down, but she's far from out. She's back on her feet in the blink of an eye.

Patronus lunges up at her. He grabs her around the waist and lifts her off the ground. Then he flings her toward the truck.

She slams against the top edge of the tail gate. Flips over it and bangs into the truck bed.

PATRONUS scopes up his gun. He fires at the underside of the truck near the ruptured gas tank.

A COP opens fire in response to his shots.

The bullets drive Patronus to his knees. The white light is even weaker this time.

Patronus fires again. His bullet sparks against the truck's frame. Ignites the gasoline.

Cops run for cover as flames engulf the truck.

A Cop jumps behind the wheel of the car with Brandi in the back. He punches the pedal. Pulls away.

NIRRITI pops to her feet. She eyes the flames. Turns her attention to Patronus who bounds onto the roof of a road block car. She moves to follow.

BOOM.

The truck explodes in a ball of fire.

PATRONUS hits the ground running. He heads for the moving patrol car.

The driver skids to a stop. Jumps out.

Patronus hits him with an open field tackle. Bounces the Cop against the car door. Stunned the Cop crumples to the ground.

Patronus steals the Cop's gun. Jumps behind the wheel. Slams the door shut.

INT. PATROL CAR -- NIGHT

Patronus puts the car in gear. Peels out.

Brandi sits up in the back seat. She glances out the back window. Then looks at Patronus.

BRANDI

What kept you?

Patronus glances at her in the rear-view.

PATRONUS

I wanted to see how many times she'd
have to hit me before my ribs broke.

BRANDI

How many?

PATRONUS

Lost count.

BRANDI

The world may never know.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Confusion as the truck continues to burn. The heat and flames go to work on the ammunition filled duffel bag. The ammo starts going off like The Fourth of July in hell.

NIRRITI strides from the wreckage. She is covered from head to toe by the black goo. Once she is clear of the flames the substance disappears.

She heads for the nearest patrol car.

A Cop stands frozen near the car. He stares at her as if she were a nightmare come to life.

A bullet fires off in the flames. The projectile hits the Cop square in the face. Kills him instantly.

Nirriti reaches out. She grabs the cloud of purple energy as it leaves the man's body. Again she inhales her catch.

She takes the dead man's gun and extra magazines. Then she climbs behind the wheel of the patrol car.

INT. PATROL CAR -- NIGHT

She finds the keys in the ignition.

She starts the engine. Heads away from the carnage.

Patronus and Brandi are no where to be seen.

EXT. WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

The place is in ill repair. Looks to have been abandoned for years. Trash strewn parking lot. Most of the windows are broken.

INT. WAREHOUSE OFFICE -- NIGHT

Patronus and Brandi sit on the empty room's floor.

Brandi rubs her wrists. They sport red marks from the handcuffs.

Patronus has a shotgun beside him. He stuffs a handful of extra shells into the cargo pocket of his uniform pants. Then he unzips a black bag with the yellow letters "L.A.P.D." embroidered on it. Sifts through the contents.

PATRONUS

We can't stay here long. Once they find the car they'll be all over.

BRANDI

We have time.

He looks at her. Then returns his attention to the bag.

PATRONUS

You have to --

BRANDI

Discover my own destiny. I know. That doesn't mean you can't explain some things.

PATRONUS

Like what?

BRANDI

Your light. Her...goo.

PATRONUS

We came to your plain as manifestations of our normal realms. Light and darkness.

BRANDI

Why haven't you healed this time?

She gestures at several of his bullet wounds. They are only partially closed.

PATRONUS

She must have taken souls to increase her power..Heal faster..My powers are limited to that which crossed with me. I'll heal, but it'll take time.

BRANDI

Souls.

She gets to her feet. Walks to a window. Stares out at the night.

BRANDI

I kept trying to convince myself that this was all a bad dream...Too much time spent pushing for a partnership. Figured I was laying on the floor in my office screaming at things only I could see.

She turns. Leans her back against the wall.

BRANDI

So where the fuck was she when I was ten?

PATRONUS

She was there.

BRANDI

Then she's a stone cold bitch. My mother was a good woman. Never hesitated to help someone in need. She didn't deserve to die like that...Eaten alive by her own fucking cells.

Brandi slams the bottom of her foot back against the wall.

BRANDI

I'll never worship anything that could stand by and watch that happen. That would let me..That wouldn't let me help her.

PATRONUS

She's not perfect.

BRANDI

That's the word around here.

PATRONUS

How could perfection create
imperfection?

BRANDI

What?

PATRONUS

Think about it. She created you
(gestures around)
All of this. Yet mankind is
imperfect.

BRANDI

Never thought of it that way before.

PATRONUS

Nobody does. People have been trained
not to think that way..By other
people.

BRANDI

One should never question God's will.
That's what all the priests used to
tell me after mom died.

PATRONUS

Why else would you have been given
free will if not to take control of
life when things take a turn for the
worse?

BRANDI

So it is written.

He gives her a look. She notices.

BRANDI

Something my Grandma used to say.
It just popped into my head...Got me
thinking.

Patronus finishes his inventory of the bag's contents. He
puts several pairs of flexi-cuffs and some first aid supplies
back into the bag. Leaves report forms and writing utensils
on the floor.

BRANDI

She had this book she was always
reading...I remember it because I
(MORE)

BRANDI (CONT'D)

loved the deep red color of the cover when I was little. She'd never let me see it. Said I had to wait 'til I was older.

She walks over to him.

BRANDI

One day I slipped into her room and took a peek. She caught me before I could read much...But I remember one thing now..clear as the day I read it...Don't know why I didn't think of this before.

He looks up. Meets her gaze with a poker face.

BRANDI

Patronus...The Protector.

A brief look of approval crosses his face. Bag in hand he climbs to his feet.

PATRONUS

You know where we can find it?

BRANDI

I had her house closed up after she died. Couldn't think of having anyone else live there..couldn't stand the memories myself...All her stuff's still there.

PATRONUS

Then we need to get moving.

He heads for the door.

EXT. BACK ROAD -- NIGHT

An old van pulls off the blacktop onto a dirt road. It bounces along the rut infested trail. Disappears under a canopy of thick trees as its headlights go out.

EXT./INT. VAN -- NIGHT

The trees grow thin. A dilapidated barn can be seen in a clearing ahead.

The van pulls off the trail. Finds concealment among the trees.

Nirriti studies the barn through the windshield. Several cars are parked near the large swinging doors. A bonfire burns in a pit several yards away from the barn.

A group of about a dozen SATANISTS are gathered around the fire. They stare at a FIGURE who stands on a platform on the barn side of the fire. The Figure's face as well as gender are concealed beneath a thick robe and cowl.

Wild hand gestures suggest the Figure is in the process of preaching to its followers.

Nirriti climbs out of the van. Heads toward the fire.

EXT. BARN -- NIGHT

The Figure's hand gestures increase in intensity.

FIGURE

We shall be delivered from the light
and embraced by the Darkness.

SATANISTS

(unison)

So says He. So says The Dark Lord.

NIRRITI (O.S.)

Even darkness has false prophets.

The group looks toward the sound of her voice. They see only the night beyond the fire's orange-red fingers.

Several of them draw weapons which range from handguns to knives.

FIGURE

Show yourself.

NIRRITI strolls into the light. She faces the armed gathering with her hands in her pockets. Just another fucking day at the office.

The Figure pushes back its hood. Reveals the face of a man hardly out of his teens.

FIGURE

You.

Nirriti walks up to the closest Satanist. Looks past him to lock eyes with the man-child on the platform.

FIGURE

Despite your banishment I offer you
a chance to leave with your life.
The Dark Lord does not favor the
weak.

NIRRITI

Then tell me...Why is it you stand
as leader of this sect?

Rage over takes Figure's calm.

FIGURE

Kill her.

The close Satanist makes a move on Nirriti with a wicked curved dagger.

Nirriti doesn't even try to stop the attack. Let's the blade slide deep into her gut.

Black goo creeps from the wound. It coats what little of the dagger's blade remains exposed. Makes its way toward the Satanist's hand.

He lets the dagger go. Yanks his hand back.

All is silent save for the crackle of the fire.

Nirriti slides the blade out. It comes free with a wet sucking sound.

The group backs away as a whole. Several get dangerously close to the fire. Seem not to notice the heat.

THE FIGURE stands frozen on his platform. Slack jawed. Wide eyed.

NIRRITI tosses the dagger into the air. Catches it by the blade.

NIRRITI

You have seen the true power of
Darkness. Who would you follow?

One of the Satanists falls to her knees. Others follow. Soon all but the Figure bow before Nirriti.

She looks on. Pleased.

Figure steps to the front of the platform. His lust for power burns through his fear.

FIGURE

Don't...Don't lister to her. She
has been sent here to confuse you.

NIRRITI throws the dagger. Firelight glints off the blade as it passes through the flames.

THE KNIFE finds its target. Sinks deep into Figure's thigh.

He screams. Collapses in pain.

NIRRITI looks to her groveling minions.

NIRRITI

String him over the flames.

Almost as one they rise. Head toward the platform.

NIRRITI grabs a Female Satanist by the arm. Turns her around. Looks into her eyes.

NIRRITI

You will serve as my second in
command, Lia.

In the background Figure's screams rip from his lungs.

NIRRITI

When they are finished, gather as
many weapons as you can by dawn.

The Lia nods her understanding.

INT. STOLEN CAR -- NIGHT

Rain slaps against the windshield.

Patronus guides the car down an empty back road.

Brandi sleeps with her head against the passenger door.

Close on Brandi.

EXT. FIELD -- DAY

This was once farm land. Now it is nothing but weeds and dirt.

A sign near the two lane blacktop reads: FUTURE SITE OF SKYLAND HOMES.

The Girl runs behind a Golden Retriever. The dog stops to sniff the ground at various intervals but stays well ahead of her.

GIRL

Hold on boy.

She stoops to tie her shoe.

The dog spots a rabbit. Gives chase.

The Girl hears the dog's barks. She looks up. Sees that the dog is running balls out toward the road.

A car approaches at high speed.

The Girl jumps to her feet. Runs after the dog.

GIRL

Stop Benny.

The dog runs into the road.

Tires screech.

The Girl picks up speed. Too late.

A sick thunk is heard.

The Girl screams.

She reaches the road. Practically collapses next to the dog which lays motionless on the asphalt. Its back legs are twisted at an impossible angle.

A MAN climbs out of the car. Runs back to her.

MAN

Oh God...Oh my God.

He kneels next to her. Strokes the dog.

It whines. Tries to get up. Fails to raise more than its head.

The Girl puts both hands on the dog. She closes her tear filled eyes.

A hum, like power lines in the rain, floats on the air.

The dog's legs slip back into place. Its bones crackle. Return to their original form.

Still weak the dog stands.

The Man stares in shocked amazement.

The Girl's eyes pop open. She looks at the dog for a moment. Then turns her head to look down the road.

GIRL

(soft)

Gotta get to Mamma.

She jumps to her feet. Ignores the Man's questions as she runs down the road.

INT. STOLEN CAR -- MORNING

Brandi awakens with a start. She looks around as if unsure of where she is. After a moment she settles back into her seat.

She looks out the window. Sees that they are in the foothills.

BRANDI

We're almost there. How long have I been out?

PATRONUS

Not very long.

Brandi looks from their surroundings to his face.

BRANDI

You knew...Didn't you? You never went far.

PATRONUS

No.

EXT. STOLEN CAR -- MORNING

Patronus turns the car onto a narrow dirt trail.

Nothing can be seen for miles except trees and hills.

INT. / EXT. STOLEN CAR -- MORNING

The trail hasn't been used in quite some time. Even at little more than a crawl the car and its occupants are rocked by bumps and ruts.

Through the windshield Patronus sees the trees give way to a large clearing.

A two-story house sits in the middle of the clearing. Its windows and doors are covered with a combination of boards and plywood.

The clearing itself is overgrown with weeds and several foot tall grass.

BRANDI

Slow down.

Patronus taps the brakes.

BRANDI

There's an irrigation ditch that runs around the property. Gotta make sure we hit the driveway or we'll nose dive about five feet.

Patronus looks carefully. The driveway is just visible. A slight difference in texture and tone discern it from the irrigation ditch. He guides the car across.

EXT. HOUSE -- MORNING

Patronus and Brandi walk up the steps to the porch.

PATRONUS

Do you have a key?

Brandi walks to the far end of the porch. She slides a horizontal piece from the railing. Removes a key from the hollow cylinder.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Brandi and Patronus enter.

This was once a nice place and would be again if the years of dust were cleaned away. The furniture is covered with age yellowed sheets.

Brandi steps out into the room. Looks through the gloom. Sadness mixes with nostalgia.

Patronus leaves the door open to allow light in. He stands to the side of the door. Watches the surrounding woods.

Brandi moves to the fireplace. Runs her hand lightly across the mantel. Speaks as if to herself.

BRANDI

We used to sit in front of the fire on winter evenings. She'd read me stories.

She turns back toward the door. Patronus is gone.

BRANDI

Pat?

She takes a few slow steps toward the door.

PATRONUS steps back inside. He carries a large suitcase and a gym bag.

BRANDI

Don't do that again.

Patronus puts the suitcase on the couch. He opens it exposing weapons and other equipment.

BRANDI

I still can't believe you stole all that stuff...Aren't you the good guy?

Patronus takes a pair of flashlights out of the suitcase.

PATRONUS

They're just material possessions...Nothing compared to other things. Besides the time to travel light is over.

He hands one of the flashlights to her.

PATRONUS

Where do we start?

BRANDI

Most of her personal stuff's in the
attic.

Patronus pushes the door shut plunging the room into deep
shadow. Some light peppers between the boards.

He clicks on his flashlight. Brandi follows suit.

PATRONUS

Lead the way.

INT. ATTIC -- DAY

Dust and boxes rule this area.

A door in the floor opens. Brandi leads Patronus through.

He looks around. Shakes his head slowly.

PATRONUS

Pick an end. We'll meet at the
middle.

INT. BARN -- DAY

Seven Satanists work on loading various weapons under
Nirriti's stern gaze.

She looks at her watch. Anger and impatience on her face.

OUTSIDE

A car approaches at high speed. Skids to a stop in front of
the barn.

Two SATANISTS jump out of the front. Satanist 1 runs around
to join his passenger.

Satanist 2 opens the back door. Together they pull a GUNSHOT
SATANIST from the back seat. They carry him into the

BARN

Where Nirriti meets them at the door.

NIRRITI

What happened?

SATANIST 1

We hit a little Mom N Pop place a couple towns over..Fuckin' guy actually lives in the back. Shot at us when we were leaving.

SATANIST 2

He's lost a lot of blood.

The carry him over to a table. Lay him on his back. Blood soaks his shirt.

SATANIST 1

Can you help him?

NIRRITI

He's nothing more now than a warmer for my next meal..Finish the preparations. As soon as the book is opened I'll know where they are.

Satanist 1 and 2 head back out.

Nirriti reaches for the wounded man's chest.

INT. ATTIC -- DAY

Patronus and Brandi stand near the middle of the room. The contents of the boxes is piled about.

PATRONUS

Where else?

BRANDI

Her room would be my guess.

Brandi turns back toward the opening in the floor. She catches a glint out of the corner of her eye. She swings her light back. She sees a hinge on the wall.

She walks over. Patronus joins her.

He wipes away dust. Exposes a keyhole.

BRANDI

Great.

PATRONUS

Don't give up on me now.

BRANDI

Could spend a year looking for this
damn key.

She flicks the keyhole with her finger.

CLICK.

The sound of a lock disengaging.

Brandi's jaw drops. She takes a step back.

PATRONUS

Open it.

She shakes her head.

PATRONUS

It's your destiny.

She looks at him.

BRANDI

Maybe I don't want my destiny.

PATRONUS

All this for nothing?

She holds his eyes for a moment. Then she turns back to the wall.

BRANDI

There's no handle.

She touches the wall near the keyhole. A small section of the wall swings down on the single hinge. Exposes a hollow space in the wall.

THE BOOK rests in this space. Its deep red cover is completely dust free.

Brandi looks like she expects it to attack her. She reaches for it. Pulls her hand back. Reaches out again.

Patronus grabs her hand.

PATRONUS

Once you open it nothing will ever
be the same...Your eyes are about to
be yanked open.

Brandi takes a deep breath. Patronus releases her. She reaches out. Takes the book from its resting place.

PATRONUS

Light's better down stairs.

Brandi walks zombie-like toward the opening in the floor.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Dust clouds when Brandi plops on the couch.

Patronus opens the front door letting in natural light.

PATRONUS

I won't be far.

He walks out.

Brandi opens the book.

INT. BARN -- DAY

A look of triumph crosses Nirriti's face. She marches among her sleeping minions. Kicks a few.

NIRRITI

On your feet. It's time.

The Satanists jump to their feet. They grab various weapons. Rush through the door.

OUTSIDE

They pile into vehicles.

Nirriti stalks to her van. She climbs into the passenger seat. Lia waits for her behind the wheel.

NIRRITI

Go.

The van tears away. The other vehicles follow.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Brandi has read through several pages. Her face shows horror and disbelief. She turns the page with a shaking hand.

EXT. HOUSE -- DAY

Patronus carries the boards he removed from the door and the gym bag. At intervals he stops and places one of the boards near the ditch nails up.

Next he stops at the driveway. He pulls a set of spike strips from the gym bag. He rolls them out. Uses the tall grass to conceal them.

He turns back toward the house. He sees Brandi heading for the woods at an all out sprint.

PATRONUS

Damn.

He drops the gym bag and pursues.

EXT. ROAD -- DAY

The van and other vehicles are parked by the shoulder of the road.

Nirriti stands behind the van. She has a high powered rifle over one shoulder. She wears a military issue equipment belt which holds extra ammo, a holstered side arm, and a large survival knife.

Eleven Satanists, all similarly armed, are gathered around her.

NIRRITI

We'll hide the vehicles in the trees.

(points Lia)

She will lead her team around behind the house. The rest of you will follow me in a frontal assault. I want the book and the woman...both in one piece.

She meets their eyes for the briefest of moment.

NIRRITI

Move out.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Brandi runs as fast as she can across the uneven ground. She charges blindly. Stumbles several times.

Tears streak down her face. Her clothes are torn at by tree limbs and bushes but she doesn't slow.

The trees thin. She slides to a stop at the edge of a steep drop. She looks down. Fifty feet below large rocks stare up at her.

She hears footsteps behind her. She speaks without turning.

BRANDI

Don't touch.

PATRONUS stops several feet away.

PATRONUS

It can't end like this.

BRANDI

And I can't do what's expected of me.

PATRONUS

I know how you feel--

BRANDI

How the hell would you know how I feel? You're not even human.

PATRONUS

I once was...Before recorded history
I rode the waters as a Viking Warrior.
But I enjoyed the violence too much.
My fate upon my death was to become
Mars..The God of War..For uncountable
centuries I was forced to watch the
horrors man brings upon himself and
to feel the pain of the innocent.

She faces him but remains near the edge.

BRANDI

That's not the same...How can I be expected to save the world?

PATRONUS

Not save so much as enlighten. Humans are imperfect. So every thousand years Alay sends the blood of her blood in a mortal body as a reminder of her existence.

BRANDI

Why wait so long? Why not let the
bloodline continue?

PATRONUS

While no single religion has the
history correct, each has something
right..There was a war in my realm.
Both sides took heavy losses.
Eventually there was a stalemate.
Each side made concessions to the
other. One human lifetime every
thousand years was one of those
concessions.

BRANDI

I read that none of this was to come
to pass until near the end of my
thirty-second year. Yet I was teased
by healing my dog while having to
watch my Mother die...I had pushed
those memories so deep I'd almost
convinced myself that he had never
been hit by that car.

PATRONUS

That was an error. You were never
meant to have even a hint of what
you could do at such a young age.

BRANDI

This whole thing's a fucking mistake.
I'd rather die now than spend the
rest of my life running.

She turns back toward the drop.

PATRONUS

You won't. Pluto only gets one shot
at you..Another of the concessions..But
if you die before Nirriti has been
sent back, he wins. Hell will reign
Earth for the next thousand years.

He moves slowly toward her.

PATRONUS

Make a stand with me. Here. Now.
And I promise you I'll send that
bitch straight back to hell.

He holds out his hand. Waits.

After a moment she turns. Takes his hand.

EXT. HOUSE -- LATER

Patronus and Brandi emerge from the woods behind the house. They move fast. Stay low.

SIC spots them from her place in the wood line. She uses a two-way radio.

SIC
We've got them in sight.

NIRRITI
(through two-way)
Aim for the man. Anyone hits the woman they answer to me.

PATRONUS AND BRANDI are half way to the house.

BLAM.

A shot rings out.

Patronus is hit in the back. He flies forward. Hits the ground hard.

Another round hits him while he's down. His inner light is incredibly weak.

Brandi runs to him. Tries to help him up.

He shakes her hands off of him.

PATRONUS
Get inside. Hide.

Another shot rings out. The round tears up dirt and grass near Patronus' head.

PATRONUS
Move.

Brandi runs for the house.

Patronus lays still.

A SATANIST emerges from the woods. Leaps across the ditch.

WHUNK.

She screams. Looks down. Sees that her feet are impaled on a nail infested board.

PATRONUS rolls onto his back. Pulls a pistol from his waist band.

He fires two quick shots.

THE ROUNDS smash the Satanist in the chest. The force throws her back where she falls into the ditch.

BRANDI yanks on the plywood which covers the back door. It won't budge. She kicks it with the bottom of her foot. The wood cracks but remains in place.

SIC uses her two-way.

SIC

We've lost one team member. Do you want us to move in?

EXT. FRONT OF THE HOUSE -- DAY

Nirriti and her band watch the house from the trees.

NIRRITI

(in two-way)

Negative. Let them get in the house. We'll trap them there.

BACK

Patronus manages to get to his feet. He runs toward the house. The damage to his body shows in his movements.

He reached Brandi who is in hiding beside the stairs. He gives her a look.

PATRONUS

You're supposed to be inside.

BRANDI

I never do anything half asses. Couldn't get the boards off the door.

Patronus grabs the edge of the plywood. Rips it free. Kicks the door open.

PATRONUS
Wasn't too hard.

Brandi comes out of hiding. Heads for the door.

BRANDI
What can I say. I'm almost human.

They run inside.

FRONT

Nirriti looks at the graying sky then back at the house.

NIRRITI
(in two-way)
Hold positions until nightfall. I
will contact you when it's time to
move in.

SIC
(from two-way)
Copy.

INSIDE

Brandi and Patronus are in the living room. He is busy assembling a rifle while she looks on.

BRANDI
I wish we'd had time for you to show
me how to use these things.

PATRONUS
We've got until the sun sets. They've
got us where they want us. They can
wait.

BRANDI
How can you be sure?

PATRONUS
It's what I'd do.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- Patronus shows Brandi how to load an automatic hand gun.
- He shows her how to load a shotgun.
- He shows her how to hold and aim the weapons.

EXT. HOUSE -- NIGHT

A crescent of moon shines from the cloudy sky.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Patronus is at the front window. He peers out between two of the boards. He has the rifle in his hands. Brandi is not present.

PATRONUS

(soft)

Alay, I have learned my lesson well,
but I also believe you chose me for
a reason. Please forgive what I
must do..What I must be...My old
ways are all that may save her.

KITCHEN

Brandi watches out the back door. She sees movement at the wood line.

BRANDI

They're coming.

PATRONUS (O.S.)

Go upstairs.

BRANDI

No. I ain't runnin' anymore.

PATRONUS looks back at her.

PATRONUS

Then you better close one eye.

OUTSIDE

SIC leads her two team members toward the ditch.

They stop at the edge. A CHUNKY SATANIST uses a small tree branch to probe the ditch.

Nothing.

He tosses the branch aside. Draws a pistol. Climbs down into the ditch.

HIS FOOT hits a trip wire.

WHOOSH.

A flare fires off. It streaks into the man's face. Explodes in flame.

Screaming the man flails uselessly at the flames which engulf his hair and face.

BLAM. BLAM.

Two shots ring out. One hits SIC in the shoulder. The other smashes through her last Team Member's face.

INSIDE

Patronus and Brandi have switched places. The shots were from his rifle.

Bullets tear into the front of the house.

Brandi hits the ground as the rounds find their way into the room.

Patronus runs to the living room. He slides down to the floor but not before taking a round to the upper chest.

There is no light this time. The bloodless wound remains open.

He crawls over to the window.

The fire continues, but the rounds are hitting high.

Patronus shatters the window with the butt of the rifle. He knocks out a board near the bottom of the window. Looks out. He sees several muzzle flashes but no solid targets.

The gun fire dies off.

OUTSIDE

Nirriti tosses her two-way aside. She points to her left.

NIRRITI

You three go around the back. Fuck taking her alive. Wait five minutes then burn the house.

The three move out.

INSIDE

Patronus keeps watch at the front window.

He sees a Satanist rush from the woods. Patronus takes aim but his target drops into the ditch before he can fire.

BRANDI sees movement out the back door. Three Satanists run up to the edge of the ditch. They light moletov cocktails.

Brandi fires the shotgun but the range is too great. The pellets spread. Miss the target.

Patronus runs up behind her. He is just in time to see the cocktails hit. One falls well short of the house. The other two shatter near the back steps. The burning liquids splash against the house.

SMASH. WHOOSH.

They look toward the sound. Flames can be seen between the boards of the living room window.

Shots ring out. Bullets tear through the front and back of the house.

Patronus pulls Brandi to the ground.

The flames are spreading. They threaten to engulf the house.

PATRONUS

Follow me.

They crawl through the living room as bullets continue to riddle the walls.

They reach the

HALLWAY

Where the interior walls keep the bullets from penetrating.

They get to their feet. Run toward the end of the hall.

Behind them the gun fire dies off.

LIVING ROOM

The front door bursts inward. Nirriti follows it in.

She scans the room with her pistol at the ready. She hears a sound down the hall. Heads toward it.

BEDROOM

Patronus breaks the last board off of the window. He motions for Brandi to climb out.

Running footsteps can be heard from the hall.

PATRONUS

Run and don't look back.

Shotgun in hand Brandi heads out the window. She casts a quick look back. Then she runs for the woods.

NIRRITI runs in. She charges Patronus.

They exchange gunfire.

Patronus takes the rounds hard.

Nirriti continues to heal quickly.

The force of the rounds slam Patronus back against the wall. Several bullets rip into his arm. Knock his weapon away.

Nirriti keeps coming. She slams full force into him.

OUTSIDE

They crash through the wall. Slam to the ground along with the debris.

BRANDI has reached the wood line. She turns at the sound of the wall shattering. She starts to head back.

Movement to her right. She swings the shotgun around. Faces a Satanist who charges her from the woods. The Satanist's eyes go wide when he sees the shotgun.

Brandi pulls the trigger. The blast takes the man in the chest. Throws him back into the trees.

Brandi chambers another round.

Two more Satanist rush her from behind.

NIRRITI kicks Patronus in the chest. He bounces off the wall. Falls to his knees.

Nirriti aims a pistol at his head.

The last three Satanists run around the corner from the front of the house.

Nirriti turns her eyes to them.

NIRRITI

She went into the woods.

The Satanists head that way.

Patronus grabs Nirriti's gun hand. Twists it. The weapon goes off. Shoots one of the Satanists in the back.

Nirriti backhands Patronus. Knocks him flat on his face. She unloads the pistol into his back as quickly as she can pull the trigger.

The bullets rip into Patronus. He lays motionless.

Nirriti leaves him there. Heads for the woods.

BRANDI turns on her two attackers. She fires at one. The shot goes wide. Most of the buckshot misses. Enough of the pellets find the target's leg to knock him to the ground.

The other man closes in before she can chamber another round. She swings the weapon. Cracks the guy in the jaw with the butt of the weapon. He goes down.

Brandi looks back toward the house. She sees Nirriti leading two men toward her at a full sprint.

She fires a wild shot in their direction.

The men dive to the ground. Nirriti keeps coming.

BRANDI pumps the shotgun ejecting the used cartridge. She aims at Nirriti. Pulls the trigger.

CLICK.

EMPTY.

BRANDI

Shit.

She drops the weapon. Runs into the woods.

PATRONUS stirs. He raises his head with a visible effort. He sees the wounded Satanist laying near by.

Patronus tries to push himself up but can't. Slowly, like a man too drunk to stand, he drags himself over to the wounded man.

The Satanist lays face down. A bullet hole stares from his lower back. Blood runs freely from the wound.

SATANIST

(weak)

I can't feel my legs.

Patronus plops down next to him.

SATANIST

God..I don't want to die...Help me.

PATRONUS

I can only help your soul...Offer yourself to the light.

SATANIST

Redemption.

Patronus reaches for him.

NIRRITI and her group are on the far side of the ditch.

The Satanist Brandi hit with the shotgun is helped to his feet. Blood runs from a gash in his face.

Nirriti stands over the shot Satanist. She looks at his wounded leg. A stream of bright red blood runs from his crotch.

NIRRITI

(to the others)

Spread out and find her.

They split off. Head into the woods.

Nirriti returns her attention to the dying man.

NIRRITI

Looks like she hit an artery. Gives you a few more moments.

She leans down.

WOODS

Brandi runs for her life. Branches whip at her face.

Her foot catches on a root. She goes down hard. She lays on the ground for a moment. Rolls over on her back.

She hears movement close by. She looks around. Sees nothing.

She gets up quietly. Moves over by a tree. She holds still. Listens. Only the sound of her own breath is heard.

SOMEONE grabs her from behind.

SATANIST

I've got her.

Brandi swings her head back. Her skull smashes against the man's nose with a crack like a board breaking.

He lets her go. Clamps both hands over his ruined face.

Brandi kicks him square in the groin. He doubles over. She kicks him in the side. Knocks him over.

He lands on a fallen tree. A broken branch stabs into his chest.

She hears the sound of running footsteps. More than one person.

She takes off. Runs as hard as she can.

Two Satanists pursue her.

She zigs and zags among the trees. Her pursuers stay on her.

Brandi realizes where she is. She tries to stop. Her momentum sends her sliding. She falls. Rolls. Stops right at the edge of the drop.

Breathing hard she stares down into the darkness. A moment. Then she climbs to her feet.

She finds herself facing the last two Satanists.

Satanist#1 raises a pistol. Aims at her knee.

SATANIST

You're gonna pay for my face, bitch.

A FOOT hits his gun hand. Knocks it to the side. The shot goes wide. Digs into the dirt.

PATRONUS lands a left to the guy's temple. Sends him down and out.

Satanist#2 rushes him.

Brandi charges into frame. She smashes a rock against the side of his head. The blow opens a large gash. Puts him out cold.

Brandi turns to Patronus.

BRANDI

Thought you were gone for good.

PATRONUS

Pretty close..We have to keep moving.
I lost track of Nirriti.

BLAM. BLAM. BLAM.

Patronus takes three rounds. Two to the body. One to the head. He drops like a stone.

SIC lowers her pistol. Blood soaks her shirt from the bullet wound in her shoulder. She looks like she's holding on to consciousness by a thread.

Brandi stares down at Patronus. An orb of white light rises from his body. The orb floats over to Brandi. It hovers in front of her face for a moment. Then it disappears.

Tears well up in Brandi's eyes. Spill down her cheeks. She turns a rock hard gaze on SIC. Screams. Charges.

SIC pistol whips her across the face. Knocks her on her ass.

NIRRITI steps up next to SIC.

SIC

She is yours.

NIRRITI

You have served me well.

A weak smile crosses SIC's face.

NIRRITI

But your usefulness is at an end.

Nirriti grabs SIC's head. Snaps her neck. Tosses her body aside.

She turns on Brandi.

NIRRITI

Your turn.

She charges toward her.

Brandi crawls backward. She rolls over. Tries to get to her feet.

Nirriti grabs her. Yanks her up.

NIRRITI

Miserable bitch.

Nirriti throws her. Brandi flies several feet through the air. Smacks the ground.

Nirriti stalks toward her.

NIRRITI

I'm gonna rip you into pieces.

Nirriti reaches down for her. Brandi thrust up. Punches her in the gut. The blow has no affect.

Nirriti wraps both hands around Brandi's throat. Yanks her off the ground. Brandi gasps for air.

Nirriti carries her toward the drop. Brandi kicks her feet. Inches off the ground.

She bangs on Nirriti's arms to no avail. She grows weak. Claws at Nirriti's chest.

Brandi's hands cut a bloodless gap in Nirriti from her chest to her waist.

Nirriti releases her. Stumbles back.

Brandi hits the ground in a heap. Gulps air.

A purple glow emits from within Nirriti. She screams. The souls of her victims rush from her. Dissipate like clouds of steam.

Nirriti locks eyes with Brandi. She stumbles toward her. She is obviously weakened.

Brandi climbs to her feet. Meets her head on.

Nirriti tries to grab her. Brandi knocks her hands away.
Throws several hard punches to her face.

Brandi grabs her by the front of her coat.

BRANDI

These bodies have their limitations.

Brandi runs toward the drop pulling Nirriti behind her.
With a grunt of effort she whips her around. Throws her
over the edge.

NIRRITI plummets. Smashes against the rock.

The black fog slips from her body. Slides into the ground.

EXT. WASTELAND -- DAY

Pluto stands near the edge of the fire pit.

The black fog, in a vague human shape, bows before him.

PLUTO

I always said your arrogance would
be your downfall. You should have
killed her when you had the chance.

With a wave of his hand he casts her screaming into the pit.

EXT. HOUSE -- DAY

SHERIFF DEPUTIES are everywhere. Several ambulances are
parked in the yard along with M.E. station wagons, and a
Fire Engine.

In the B.G. FIREMEN work on dousing the remains of the house.

Brandi leans against the front of an unmarked sedan. A
DETECTIVE stands in front of her.

DETECTIVE

You've got to admit this story's
more than a little hard to swallow.

BRANDI

Every word is true.

DETECTIVE

M.E. says that guy's been dead for
at least a couple days.

He points toward a body bag being loaded into an M.E.'s wagon.

BRANDI

He's right.

The Detective's getting sick of this game.

DETECTIVE

You either come with some straight
answers, or I'll lock your ass away.

Brandi looks past him. A pair of EMT's carry Satanist # on
a stretcher.

BRANDI

Your eyes are about to be yanked
wide open.

She stands. Brushes past the confused Detective. She walks
over to an ambulance with him close behind her.

The EMT's have reached the ambulance.

Brandi steps up.

BRANDI

Hold on.

The EMT's look at the Detective. He nods. They stop.

Brandi places her hands on the wounded man's bandaged head.
Closes her eyes.

An electric hum fills the air.

The man's eyes flutter open. The blood which had soaked his
bandages disappears.

The Detective and EMT's stare. Amazed. Frightened.

BRANDI

Nothing will ever be the same again.

FADE OUT.