

MISERY SINGS

"Born Again"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Northern beach. Cliffs, forest trees, grey skies. The beach is littered with CHEAP COFFINS for miles. A dirty, disfigured WHITE CAT cleans its ears, sitting atop a coffin. This is ANGEL. The voice of a spectral poet declares:

ANGEL (V.O)
Centuries of darkness. Monsters hide,
humans reign.

A CARGO SHIP HORN sounds.

OCEAN SHORE - CONTINUOUS

A single, rusted CARGO SHIP emerges from the dark ocean. Painted on the side is "PRISON TRANSPORT - CORPSE DISPOSAL".

ANGEL (V.O) (CONT.)
In perfect human fashion, they
destroyed themselves with war. Now it
is they who hide from us. Islands
their safe haven. The mainland our
kingdom.

BEACH - MINUTES LATER

The CARGO SHIP stays out from shore. Handcuffed PRISONERS in ORANGE JUMPSUITS walk from the water onto land. Each pair carries a CHEAP COFFIN.

ANGEL (V.O) (CONT.)
Threats of resurrection, bring us
their dead. Unwilling undertakers flea
as their undead enter our vein.

One prisoner is ISAAC (34), striking face, angry eyes. With the help of an OLD PRISONER (60s), he carries a COFFIN onto shore. Angel weaves through Isaac's legs.

ANGEL (V.O) (CONT.)
A soul in exile, a shell of man.
(beat) Home has come for you.

Isaac nudges Angel away with his foot. They lower the coffin onto the sand. The Old Prisoner retreats to the ship. Isaac hesitates, then treads deeper into the MAINLAND FOREST.

EXT. BEACH - HOURS LATER

Angel approaches a COFFIN. It shakes, rattles. Angel unlocks the WEAK LATCH with its nose.

ANGEL (V.O)
Souls of god retreat. Chosen souls
return.

A WOMAN'S ARM pushes the lid open. EVA (30s) sits up. Deathly pallor. SLEEPING GOWN. Angel hops in her lap. They lock eyes.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - DAY

SICADA (36), wiry woman, walks on rocky terrain. DOCTOR'S BAG. Trench coat. Unkempt hair. Angel trots out the trees.

SICADA
Hey, sweet creature!

Angel goes to her, receiving pets.

ANGEL (V.O)
The specter's voice, unheard by living
ears. Her heart listens all the same.

Eva emerges from the trees, following Angel. She locks eyes with Sicada, shocked. Sicada smiles.

SICADA
Are you lost?

Eva nods.

EXT. AMPITHEATER - MINUTES LATER

UNDEAD peacefully gather around the AMPITHEATER STAGE. Greenish flesh. Missing limbs and eyes. They watch an ACCORDIANIST on stage, blissful.

Eva approaches the crowd gently, stopping the show. The undead rise to welcome her. Warm smiles. Open arms.

ANGEL (V.O)
A life swallowed by want. A death
drowning in time. Peace has come for
you.

Sicada and Angel watch from a distance. They return to the woods, satisfied.

EXT. HILLSIDE CEMETARY

Sicada and Angel walk through a decrepit cemetery. Sicada waves to GHOSTLY APPARITIONS resting on CRUMBLING TOMBSTONES.

ANGEL (V.O)

Atrophy lies. Empathy breaths. Nobody
dies. Misery sings.

The sun shines stronger. The apparitions grow faint.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. MAINLAND FOREST - MORNING

Tall trees for miles. Isaac walks carefully still in HANDCUFFS, eyes low. He freezes, transfixed on a patch of PINK WILDFLOWERS. He kneels, caresses them gently.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. THE BOX

Solitary confinement. No windows. No color. No sound. Two CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS throw a battered Isaac to the back wall. The officers exit. A BLADE OF GRASS left behind from their boots. The DOOR slams shut. Isaac lunges for the grass, brushes it gently, tries to calm down.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. MAINLAND FOREST - MORNING

Isaac shakes away the memory. At the flower patch's center, a HOLLOW TREE STUMP. He steps towards it, careful not to crush any flowers. He climbs inside the tree, pulls his knees to his chest, and focuses on breathing.

EXT. CAMP - ENTRANCE - MORNING

Sicada and Angel arrive at a camp of pastoral nomads. A collection of TENTS connected by CLOTHES LINES. People, young and old, tend to CAMPIRES and LIVESTOCK. PETRA (40s), a tall, sturdy woman, approaches the travelers.

SICADA

I hope my services aren't needed?

PETRA

I needed you here hours ago. Come with me.

Sicada follows Petra towards a tent. Angel trots away.

PETRA (CONT.)

You're usually here before I am. What happened?

SICADA

Ah. Just ran into a lost undead.

PETRA

If you ever lead one of those zombies
here, I'll strangle you.

They duck into...

ELGIN'S TENT

Sicada sees, ELGIN (16), with a bloodied, bandaged arm.

PETRA

Sicada, this is Elgin.

Sicada crouches by him, removing the bandage. CLAW MARKS.

PETRA

The runt tried to take on a cougar
last night.

SICADA

Did you win?

Elgin just glares at her.

SICADA (CONT.)

Right. Well, you know this song and
dance. I'll stitch you up. It's going
to hurt but its going to help.

ELGIN

I know, I know.

Sicada pulls SUTURE and a NEEDLE from her DOCTOR'S BAG. She
goes to work stitching Elgin's arm. He can't hide the pain.

PETRA

(to: Elgin)

We can't protect you if you won't let
us. Lone wolves don't last long.

ELGIN

Okay! Petra, I get it! I'll stay with
the group next time!

PETRA

You're lucky if you get a next time.

Petra exits.

SICADA

They're only angry 'cause they (MORE)

hate seeing you hurt. They care about you. (beat) Know what that means?

ELGIN
(annoyed)
What.

SICADA
You don't have anything to prove.

ELGIN
You don't know what you're talking about, human.

SICADA
Maybe.

Sicada ties the stitches, opting for silence.

EXT. CAMP - GRASSY AREA - MINUTES LATER

Illia (10) dry heaves over grass. Sicada rushes over, kneeling next to her. She gathers Illia's LONG HAIR, tucks it into her SHIRT COLLAR.

SICADA
Hey, you're okay. Your body's just getting used to transforming every night.

ILLIA
This sucks. (gags) I'm just gonna not transform.

SICADA
(laughs) I don't think that's an option.

EXT. CAMP - GRASSY AREA - MINUTES LATER

Sicada sits. Illia lays on the ground, eyes closed.

ILLIA
I'm sick of changing every night. I wanna be a person all the time like you.

SICADA
Hush! Are you trying to get me kicked out.

ILLIA
I'm sick of being sick!

SICADA
Alright. Listen. I'm going to give you
some ginger powder. Mix it in your
last meal before moonrise and it'll
help with the nausea.

Illia puts her palm in the air. Sicada drops a POUCH.

EXT. CAMP - CANOPY - MINUTES LATER

Sicada examines a rash on OLAV (80s). BRANDT (40s)
accompanies him.

SICADA
Sir, I think you got into poison oak.

Olav huffs. She reaches into her bag, retrieving a VIAL.

SICADA (CONT.)
Here. Some witch hazel should help
with the itching.

She offers the vial to Olav. He refuses.

BRANDT
Dad? C'mon, she's trying to help you.

OLAV
(to: Sicada)
You got the cure for everything, don't
you?

SICADA
Well, of course not.

BRANDT
Dad.

OLAV
We've done just fine without you. I
don't need an arrogant girl telling me
what to do!

BRANDT
Okay, that's enough.

Brandt takes the vial. He pulls Olav up.

BRANDT
Sorry about this.

He escorts a belligerent Olav away.

OLAV
Don't look down on me, human!

SICADA
Try not to scratch it, sir!

Sicada sighs. Hilde (40s) approaches gently.

HILDE
Excuse me, Sicada. Could you keep a
look out for my daughter, Dagny? She
never came back this morning.

SICADA
I'll keep my eye out.

Sicada smiles at Hilde.

EXT. CAVE - MORNING

Sunlight shines into the cave opening on DAGNY (15). She
completes her metamorphosis from WOLF to HUMAN. Oversized
CLOTHES, torn, bloodied. She's disoriented, unwell.

Her eyes scan the cave floor, littered with ANIMAL CARCESSES.
Each one violently ripped to shreds. She struggles to her
feet and dashes out of the cave.

EXT. CAMP - CENTER - HOURS LATER

Sicada watches as Petra stuffs a couple JACK RABBIT CARCESSES
into a SACK. Angel brushes against Sicada's leg.

SICADA
Can I get something for Angel?

PETRA
Sure.

Petra throws a FISH in too, stops when she sees NOA (40s),
large and in charge.

PETRA (CONT.)
You better head out. I'll distract
him.

SICADA
Thanks Petra.

Sicada takes the sack, then scurries away with Angel.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Sicada and Angel tread through the woods. She hears a crack, whips her head around. Nothing. They move faster. CRACK! She stops, looks behind.

SICADA
Who's there?

Dagny emerges from the trees, trembling and sick.

DAGNY
I'm sorry. I couldn't let them see me.

SICADA
Dagny? What are you doing out here?
Your mom is looking for you.

DAGNY
I just- I just don't know what to do.

SICADA
Okay, okay. Come here.

Sicada leads Dagny to sit on a FALLEN TREE. Angel follows.

SICADA (CONT.)
Tell me what happened.

Dagny lifts her pants' leg to reveal an ANIMAL BITE.

DAGNY
Last night, I...got separated from the
hunt. And a coyote attacked me.

SICADA
It attacked without reinforcements?

DAGNY
It was crazed....and it just kept
biting until I...killed it.

Sicada retrieves BANDAGES from her bag, wrapping her wound.

SICADA
Okay, then what?

DAGNY

I don't know. I was- I was so mad. It felt like I was possessed. I killed all these animals for no reason. (beat) And I don't feel good.

Sicada places a comforting hand on Dagny's shoulder.

SICADA

Here's what we'll do. I'll walk you home, then I can see-

DAGNY

No! I can't go back!

Dagny stands and backs away. Tears form in her eyes.

SICADA

Whatever happened, I sure your mother will-

DAGNY

I'm sick! And when they see that they'll have to kill me!

SICADA

Okay, okay.

DAGNY

And I can't go home, but I thought that you- (beat) I don't know.

Dagny sinks to the ground.

DAGNY (CONT.)

I just knew you wouldn't hurt me.

Sicada approaches Dagny, gently crouching by her.

SICADA

Come stay with me and Angel tonight. I won't tell the pack. I promise. (beat) And we'll figure something out.

DAGNY

No. When I transform...I'll hurt you.

SICADA

You let me worry about that.

Sicada pulls Dagny to her feet. Angel brushes Dagny's leg.

SICADA (CONT.)

Come on.

DAGNY

Sicada, I don't-

SICADA

We're losing daylight.

EXT. MAINLAND FOREST - DAY

Isaac rests in the HOLLOW TREE STUMP, still HANDCUFFED. A BLACK BEAK picks through his hair. He shifts awake. A RAVEN SKELETON walks before him, hopping through PINK WILDFLOWERS.

ISAAC

What the?

The skeleton bird SCREECHES and flies off. Isaac shudders. He climbs out the tree and treads deeper into the FOREST.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - DAY

Angel, Sicada, and Dagny approach a dilapidated, overgrown STONE HOUSE, surrounded by TREES.

DAGNY

(re: house)

You live there? It's a million years old.

SICADA

She's still got some life in her.

DAGNY

You can't lock me in there. I'll bring the place down on myself.

SICADA

Well, it comes with an interesting amenity.

INT. FALLOUT SHELTER - MINUTES LATER

Darkness. A GENERATOR whirs, the lights flicker on. A cylindrical fallout shelter, BUNK BEDS, CANNED FOOD. Dagny and Sicada take it all in. CHAINS attached to the wall.

SICADA

Now, I won't make you-

DAGNY
This is good. This is really good.
(beat) This way I can't hurt anyone.

Dagny approaches the CHAINS, tests their strength.

DAGNY (CONT.)
Was anyone else missing from the pack
this morning?

SICADA
If you had killed one of them last
night, I would know about it, okay?

DAGNY
But would you tell me?

Sicada heaves a sigh.

DAGNY (CONT.)
Can you just make sure tomorrow?

SICADA
Alright.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - HOURS LATER

Late afternoon. Sicada cooks a SKINNED JACK RABBIT over a
CAMPFIRE. Dagny watches the fire as Angel sleeps.

SICADA
You must be hungry.

Sicada smiles. Dagny doesn't.

SICADA (CONT.)
I've been providing your pack with
medical treatment for over a year and
I've never heard of this disease.

Sicada sits next to Dagny.

SICADA (CONT.)
No one's ever talked about it.

DAGNY
Because it's too horrible.(beat) When
my mom was little, her uncle got
infected. One night, he killed an
elder. And the next morning, his own
pack put a spear through his heart.

SICADA
That...that is awful.

DAGNY
He didn't mean to, it just...

SICADA
What's it called?

DAGNY
Lyssa. (beat) No one survives it.

SICADA
Well, not yet.

Dagny glares at Sicada.

SICADA (CONT.)
Hey, you came to me.(beat) I want to believe it's survivable. And you want to believe it too.

Dagny nods.

INT. FALLOUT SHELTER - HOURS LATER

Dagny rests against the farthest wall with a PILLOW and BLANKET. Sicada tucks her in.

DAGNY
Are you sure you're human?

SICADA
Pretty sure.

DAGNY
Well, you're nothing like the stories.

SICADA
Oh yeah?

DAGNY
Yeah. When humans ruled, they treated werewolves like...animals.

SICADA
That's not me. (beat) Your pack is the best thing that's happened to me in a long time.

DAGNY

Really?

SICADA

I mean, I know most of them hate me,
but it feels so nice to have a
community again.

DAGNY

I thought you just helped us for the
food.

SICADA

Food, I can find. Friendly faces?
That's the scarcity.

DAGNY

And we aren't scary to you?

SICADA

Not as scary as being alone again.

DAGNY

But if they find out you helped me,
they'll-

SICADA

Don't worry about me. You're more
important. (beat) Okay?

Dagney nods. Sicada sits against the wall.

DAGNY

There's something I've always wanted
to ask.

SICADA

What's that?

DAGNY

Why do humans come back from the dead
sometimes?

SICADA

That...is a contested subject. What
did the elders tell you?

DAGNY

That it's humanity's punishment for
the war.

Sicada laughs.

DAGNY (CONT.)
(embarrassed)
Well, what do you think?

SICADA
I don't know what I think. While I'm
not all that spiritual, I've never met
an unkind undead. Maybe some...higher
power sends back the nice ones.

Dagny doesn't respond, her breath quickens. Sicada notices
and goes to her side.

DAGNY
Sicada...somethings wrong.

Sicada frantically CHAINS her hands and ankles to the wall.

SICADA
(stands)
I'll be back as soon as I see the sun.

Dagny grips her wrist, panicked.

SICADA (CONT.)
It's gonna be okay!

CLAWS protrude from Dagny's hand, piercing Sicada's wrist.
Dagny lets go, doubling over in pain.

DAGNY
Get out! Hurry!

Sicada backs away in horror. She dashes up the ladder.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Sicada pulls herself out of a hole in the ground, where Angel
awaits. She replaces the METAL HOLE COVER and falls onto the
grass. BAM! Sicada and Angel jump. Silence. A horrible noise
escapes the fallout shelter. Dagny's pained screams morph
from human to wolf, landing on a symphony of rage.

ACT TWO

EXT. MAINLAND FOREST - MORNING

Isaac trudges through the trees. A bird's MORNING SONG echoes. He approaches a clearing leading to a...

MOUNTAIN LAKE

The SUNRISE hits Isaac's face. He goes to his knees by the lake's edge. He stares at his face in the water. It looks off. A giant SERPENT HEAD looks back. He leans closer.

SNAP! Isaac falls back as one of the SCYLLA'S SERPENT HEADS snaps out of the water. He scrambles to his feet and runs from the lake.

EXT. SICADA'S HOUSE - MORNING

Early sunrise. Angel and Sicada sit by the METAL HOLE COVER. Her wrist has a BLOODIED BANDAGE.

SICADA

Well, you have experience with
transforming. Has it been long enough?

Angel meows. Sicada removes the cover.

SICADA (CONT.)

Dagny?

Silence. Sicada lowers herself into the...

FALLOUT SHELTER

Sicada hits the floor. Dim light. Dents in the metal wall.

SICADA

Dagny...are you okay?

DAGNY

Mom?

She crouches by a HUMAN Dagny, cradling her head.

SICADA

How do you feel?

The CHAINS left her wrists and ankles bloodied and bruised. Sicada pulls out a KEY, quickly unlocking them. The PILLOW and BLANKET are shredded.

SICADA (CONT.)
I...I'm so sorry.

DAGNY
Did I get out?

SICADA
No. You didn't hurt anybody. You
just...are you alright?

Dagny's face contorts in fear.

DAGNY
I can't...do this anymore.

Sicada pulls her close.

SICADA
I'm so sorry.

EXT. FIELD OF GRASS - MORNING

A RAVEN SKELETON flies across the sunrise, a COMPASS in it's
mouth. It lands on a SCARECROW in a field of TALL GRASS.
DANDER (50s) pops up. UNDEAD and dapper man.

DANDER
Of all the missteps you've made, this
certainly takes the biscuit. Only a
fool would lose our precious pointer.

RUST (50s) pops up by him. UNDEAD man. HIKING BACKPACK.

RUST
Fool?! Whose idea was it to sleep in
the mile-high grass?

DANDER
I suppose I am the fool for allowing
you two imbeciles on my expedition.

WEB (50s) pops up behind them. UNDEAD man. The most decayed.

WEB
What did I do?

He is ignored. Dander hugs the scarecrow dramatically.

DANDER
Is this afterlife so unkind? My noble
journey ends before it's even begun.

WEB
Take it easy.

DANDER
What were my transgressions in life
that I am denied distinction in death?

He looks up, dramatic. There's the raven with the compass.

DANDER (CONT.)
Eureka! Our pointer!

He snatches the compass, presenting it proudly.

RUST
(re: bird)
Aha! He stole it!

DANDER
No, he found it! You should thank him.

RUST
He's a thief!

WEB
Does it matter? We have the pointer.

The bird hops to Web's shoulder.

DANDER
(to: Rust)
You dare defame this kind animal?

WEB
Quiet. (beat) He's trying to tell me
something.

Web shuts his eyes, listening. The bird takes off.

WEB (CONT.)
Our friend needs help. (beat) The
scientist.

Dander and Rust stare each other down.

RUST
(resigned)
Lead the way.

DANDER
With pleasure.

They follow Dander, who follows a worthless, BROKEN COMPASS. They wander aimlessly, following Dander's whims.

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - MORNING

Dark laboratory. Natural light through GREEN GLASS. Sicada looks through a MICROSCOPE. She pedals to give it power. Angel jumps onto the TABLE, meows. She leans back.

SICADA

It's a sample of her saliva. It appears infected, but I'll need to get a clean sample for comparison.

She leans into the microscope.

SICADA (CONT.)

I thought I asked you to keep an eye on her.

INT. SICADA'S KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Greenery invades Sicada's dingy kitchen. She soaks her hands in HOMEMADE DISENFECTANT and pours WATER over her hands, placing them in LONG BLACK GLOVES.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - MINUTES LATER

Dagny sits in a daze by the CAMPFIRE, BANDAGED WRISTS and ANKLES. Angel sleeps in her lap. Sicada busts out the house, still pulling on her BOOTS.

SICADA

I'll be back in a few hours. If you hear anyone other than me, go into the shelter. If there's an emergency, Angel's in charge.

Dagny gives Angel a skeptical look. Sicada frantically stuffs JOURNALS and VIALS into her DOCTOR'S BAG.

SICADA (CONT.)

I'm going to find out everything I can. All you need to do is rest.

DAGNY

Hey.

SICADA

Yes?

DAGNY

Thank you for helping me.

Sicada smiles awkwardly before darting into the WOODS.

EXT. CAMP - HOURS LATER - DAY

Sicada steps into the werewolves' camp. She hears an argument from a TENT, creeps closer and listens in.

INT. PETRA'S TENT - CONTINUOUS

Petra sits on the floor at a SHORT DESK, examining a LIST of STOCK, a LATERN for light. Hilde stands behind her.

HILDE

Please. I'm awfully worried about her.

PETRA

He's made up his mind. If she's still missing by tomorrow morning, then we'll organize a search beyond the mountain.

HILDE

Must we wait?

PETRA

You should take any concerns you have to him.

HILDE

He's *your* husband. If you talk to him-

PETRA

Noa's word is final. And we don't tolerate dissent.

HILDE

Why are you giving up on Dagny?

Petra stands and faces Hilde.

PETRA

Who's giving up on who?

HILDE

I just meant that-

PETRA

I did everything I could to make her

apart of this pack. I convinced Noa to take you two into his care. Dagny's disappearance is just her latest act of rebellion. I can't protect her if she won't let me.

Hilde wants to retort, but holds her tongue.

HILDE

I know. I'm sorry.

Petra returns to her work.

HILDE (CONT.)

I'll find her. Today.

Hilde dashes out of the tent, stepping out into...

CAMP

Hilde locks eyes with Sicada. Sicada smiles, Hilde frowns.

HILDE

Sicada. Have you seen Dagny?

SICADA

I haven't, but I'm sure she'll be home soon. Has anyone else gone missing?

HILDE

No. Just her. I don't understand why-

Petra emerges from the tent, glares at Sicada.

PETRA

You're supposed to wait for me.

SICADA

Of course! But I just wanted to check on Elgin and see-

PETRA

I'll take you.

INT. ELGIN'S TENT - MINUTES LATER

Sicada observes Elgin's arm STITCHES. Three other CHILDREN sleep on the floor.

SICADA

Everything normal? No fever?

ELGIN

No fever.

Sicada replaces the BANDAGE on his arm.

SICADA

Do you know anything about lyssa?

He glances at her.

ELGIN

You got nothing to worry about. Humans
can't get it.

SICADA

Oh, really?

ELGIN

That's how I've always been told.

She gets lost in thought.

ELGIN

Why? Are you scared I'm gonna go rabid
and eat you?

Elgin laughs. Sicada smiles nervously.

INT. BRANDT'S TENT - MINUTES LATER

Sicada treats a LITTLE GIRL'S bug bite. Infected. A BABY sits
nearby, sucking a SMALL ANIMAL BONE. BRANDT watches.

BRANDT

It's not poisonous, right? Well, it is
poisonous, but not lethal.

SICADA

You have nothing to fear. It should
heal on it's own in a week. If you can
keep her from scratching it, it'll
heal even faster.

BRANDT

Good.

A commotion outside the tent.

BRANDT (CONT.)

Excuse me.

He exits. Sicada carefully takes the animal bone from the baby's mouth, sealing it in a JAR. The baby protests. She makes baby faces. The little girl gawks at her.

EXT. MOUNTAIN LAKE - DAY

Dander, Rust, and Web stand at the lake's edge.

WEB
Hello darling!

The giant SCYLLA lets her feminine face come above water.

WEB (CONT.)
Is now a good time?

She stares, her face blank, then sinks back underwater.

WEB (CONT.)
Much obliged.

Web tosses a FISH. One of her six SERPENT HEADS snaps it out of the air. The three undead take turns tossing fish to the sea monster. She lets her eyes come above water, gets closer to the edge where Web stands.

WEB
(to: Scylla, sincere)
You mustn't stare at me with those lovely eyes. I'll go weak in the knees.

As she watches Web, Rust and Dander fill a TIN JUG with LAKE WATER. Then she notices them in her lake and begins to GROWL. Rust and Dander back away quickly. Web gets her attention.

WEB (CONT.)
We'll leave you to swim in peace.
Until next time, darling.

The Scylla just stares, then sinks out of sight.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

Illia holds Sicada's hand, leading her through the camp.

ILLIA
Last night went so good! I didn't get sick at all!

SICADA

That's great.

ILLIA

I found deer prints! I used my nose
and I found 'em. Let me show you!

SICADA

I'd love to see it later, but right
now-

NOA (O.S)

Sicada!

Illia immediately lets go of her hand. Sicada turns to see
Noa approaching angrily.

ILLIA

Bye.

Illia scuttles away. Sicada puts on a polite smile.

SICADA

Noa, is there something-

NOA

Why are you asking around about lyssa?

SICADA

Well...I'm responsible for the health
of your pack and I need to know about
this disease so I-

NOA

No. You don't need to know. Who told
you about it?

SICADA

Oh I- (beat) I've heard this and that
from different werewolves.

NOA

Tell me who.

Sicada's eyes darken.

SICADA

Must be a pretty awful disease if your
only defense is killing the infected.

NOA

Fortunately, I haven't had to, but I'm willing to do what's necessary to protect my pack.

SICADA

Killing them to protect them? It's the sacrifice of innocents.

Noa gets closer, towering over her.

NOA

You know nothing of sacrifice. (beat) Lyssa will consume an entire pack within a week. One werewolf gets it. They kill one and infect another. And the cycle continues until your family devolves into a manic bloodbath.

SICADA

Well... it could be different. If we could contain the infected then we could learn what-

NOA

My father thought the same thing. He was too weak to eliminate the infected. And now, I'm the only survivor of his pack.

Sicada searches for a retort.

NOA (CONT.)

If by fate's cruel hand we encounter that damn disease, I'll handle it. (beat) Understood?

SICADA

Understood.

Noa stares her down, before brushing past her.

ACT THREE

INT. SICADA'S KITCHEN - HOURS LATER

Dagny sleeps. Angel sleeps by her head on the TABLE. Sicada busts through the front door. They jump.

SICADA

(frustrated)

I'm sorry, but werewolves are too stubborn for their own good.

DAGNY

(waking up)

Tell me about it.

SICADA

No matter what I say, Noa insists on customs. Haven't I earned his trust?

DAGNY

You've definitely earned mine.

SICADA

(vindicated)

Thank you.

Sicada sits by her.

SICADA

I made certain that no other pack members were missing. And Angel scoped out the spirit plane. You haven't hurt anybody. Only animals.

Dagny nods. Sicada unpacks her DOCTOR'S BAG. She slams a SMALL JAR down with a grin.

SICADA (CONT.)

I'll need another saliva sample.
(beat) If you please.

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - MINUTES LATER

Sicada at her MICROSCOPE. Dagny looks over her shoulder.

DAGNY

Did you invent the uh...

SICADA

Microscope? I'm flattered but (MORE)

I'm not *that* intelligent.

Sicada collects a sample from the baby's ANIMAL BONE, placing it on a microscope slide. She looks through the microscope.

SICADA (CONT.)

I found it in an old hospital and repaired it.

DAGNY

(worried)

You shouldn't be going in buildings.
One of them is gonna fall in on you.

QUICK FLASH: View through microscope. Clean sample.

SICADA

You sound just like your mother.

She replaces the SLIDE.

DAGNY

Did you see her today?

QUICK FLASH: View through microscope. BULLET-SHAPED PARTICLES.

SICADA

I did. I hated lying to her.

DAGNY

I'm glad you did.

Sicada notes in her JOURNAL, replaces the SLIDE, looks in.

SICADA

It seems the virus hasn't proliferated since last night, which means your immune system is doing it's job.

DAGNY

My what?

SICADA

Your body is fighting the disease.

DAGNY

So I'm healed.

Sicada leans back, looks at her.

SICADA
Well, you're fighting back. You need
rest. We need time.

DAGNY
(relief)
I can fight this.

SICADA
I just have to keep you hidden. Then
you can heal in peace.

They hear VOICES outside. They lock eyes.

SICADA (CONT.)
Stay here.

Sicada exits.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - DAY - MINUTES LATER

Sicada steps out the house. Dander, Rust, and Web approach.

DANDER
Hello madame!

SICADA
Hello? What's all this?

WEB
Heard you needed help.

She notices Angel brushing against their legs. Rust presents
the TIN JUG of GREEN LAKE WATER.

RUST
We know the living go through drinking
water fast.

SICADA
Where did you get that?

RUST
The scylla's lake.

SICADA
(grossed out)
Lake water. Okay. You know I have a
well, right?

Rust looks to his comrades, trying to pass the blame.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - HOURS LATER

Late afternoon. Sicada cooks on the CAMPFIRE. The undead trio sit around as Dagny eyes them nervously.

DANDER

What a treat! I've never had the pleasure of speaking to a werewolf.

RUST

They avoid us like lepers. Most unfriendly.

DAGNY

Well, we avoid everybody.

Awkward silence.

SICADA

(to: Dagny)

You should be honored. They halted their expedition to come here.

DAGNY

Expedition?

SICADA

(sarcastic)

Oh, you haven't heard of it?

DANDER

Then allow me to enlighten you.

He stands proudly, gathering MAPS from his bag.

DANDER (CONT.)

We are pursuing what no man, living or dead, has ever accomplished. Creating a comprehensive map of the mainland!

DAGNY

Don't we...have maps?

DANDER

Ah yes! Pre-war maps. When humans ruled. We want to map out monster society!

DAGNY

(enchanted)

Wow.

DANDER

I'm Dander, the chief cartographer.

RUST

I'm the official carrier, Rust.

WEB

I'm Web. No title.

DANDER

Although this location is insignificant, I would be willing to mark it. A sign of our partnership.

DAGNY

(excited)

Really?

He unrolls a DRAWN MAP.

DANDER

Now, what is our current location?

SICADA

My house?

He scans the map. It's juvenile nonsense. "SICADA'S HOUSE" scribbled next to a HOUSE DOODLE.

DANDER

That's odd. It seems to have been marked.

SICADA

You were here last week.

He looks to his comrades to pass the blame. The three begin to argue. Sicada moves by Dagny to whisper.

SICADA (CONT.)

They've been going in circles for a year. Haven't gone anywhere.

DAGNY

No way.

SICADA

Yep. The undead are blissfully ignorant. Emphasis on ignorant.

They laugh.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - MINUTES LATER

Sicada draws water at a WELL. By the CAMPFIRE, Dander explains his maps to Dagny. Web approaches Sicada.

WEB

What's the trouble Angel spoke of?

SICADA

(feigned confidence)

Nothing I can't handle. I'm sure that little rat exaggerated the story.

WEB

(not buying it)

Does it have something to do with your new house guest?

SICADA

(hesitant)

She's caught this god awful virus. It makes her pretty lethal at moonrise, so you can't stay here tonight.

WEB

What about you?

SICADA

I can contain her, it's just...you won't want to be here. Hearing her in pain...it's gut-wrenching.

WEB

Then we'll stay to keep you company.

SICADA

No. You'll only make her more nervous. Go, but not too far. I might need you.

He nods.

INT. FALLOUT SHELTER - MINUTES LATER

Dagny mentally prepares herself for the night ahead. Sicada hangs BLANKETS on the metal walls to soften the blows.

DAGNY

How many nights will it take to get better?

SICADA
(sugar coating)
Not too many, I hope.

DAGNY
Me too. I don't know how many of these
tantrums I can take.

Sicada looks at her, concerned.

DAGNY
It's okay. I'll get better. We'll show
them I can live.

SICADA
Right. Try and get some rest before
moonrise. I won't go 'till you're
asleep.

Sicada sits next to her on the wall, hooking arms.

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - NIGHT

A lantern lights Sicada's desk: A BEAKER of WATER. SILVER COIN. She connect a CABLE to a small CARBON ROD and PEDAL POWER MACHINE. She drops the rod and coin in the beaker. She begins to pedal, the water bubbles. SILVER POWDER forms through electrochemistry.

She takes the silver powder solution and pours it into a SYRINGE when suddenly...BAM. A commotion from outdoors. She shoots up. BAM. MUFFLED GROWLS. She dashes out to...

THE KITCHEN

Muffled growling. Sicada creeps up to the WINDOW, seeing Dagny outside. Rabid WOLF FORM. Foaming mouth. Twice her usual size. BROKEN CHAINS hang from her arms.

She catches Sicada's scent, stalks towards the window, snarling. Sicada gasps, dropping to the ground.

EXT. SICADA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Dagny approaches the window. Angel steps in. Tail puffed. Back arched. They hiss, scratch her leg. She roars and chases the cat. Angel leads her away from the house into the woods.

BACK IN THE KITCHEN

Sicada shakes, tries to stand.

EXT. FOREST - HOURS LATER

Early sunrise. Sicada shakes as she treads through the woods. She spots ANGEL'S CARCASS, rushing to it. The cat is half eaten. Soaked in blood. She brushes their face. She **doesn't** stop to mourn, but follows a TRAIL OF BLOOD.

EXT. WILDFLOWER FIELD - MINUTES LATER

Sicada hears sobbing from a clearing of WILDFLOWERS. She breaks through the trees. Halts at the scene. Dagny in her HUMAN FORM. BROKEN CHAINS hang from her wrists. She weeps over ISAAC'S CORPSE. Slashed face. Severed limbs. Blood everywhere. Sicada yelps. Dagny whips around, wild eyes.

DAGNY

(panicked babble)

Sicada! You have to help him! Please.
Help him!

SICADA

Dagny.

DAGNY

Hurry! He's dying. Save him. Please!

Sicada rips her away from the body. Grips her shoulders, forcing her face-to-face.

SICADA

I can't help him!

DAGNY

(angry)

Yes you can! Please!

SICADA

No! We're leaving.

DAGNY

Oh god. I'm a killer.

Dagny collapses from exhaustion. Sicada catches her. She eyes the body below, noticing his PRISON UNIFORM.

ACT FOUR

EXT. FOREST NEAR CAMP - MORNING

A WEREWOLF in WOLF FORM gallops towards camp. He trips and rolls. Without stopping, he gets to his feet, becoming HUMAN. It's ELGIN. OVERSIZED CLOTHES. He runs to...

THE CAMP'S ENTRANCE

Elgin runs into camp, spotting Illia, HUMAN FORM.

ELGIN
(breathless)
Is Noa back?

ILLIA
(bratty)
How should I know?

He huffs and goes further in.

EXT. CAMP - TREE - MINUTES LATER

A dozen HUNTERS (human form)(male/female) rest under a LARGE TREE. Some hang DEER CARCASSES on branches for dressing. Elgin runs in, spotting NOA among them.

ELGIN
(breathless)
Noa! I think I saw a rabid werewolf.

The group gasps, exchanging glances. Noa scowls. He grabs Elgin by the scruff, leading him away.

INT. PETRA'S TENT - MINUTES LATER

Noa shoves Elgin into the empty tent.

NOA
Are you trying to start a panic?

ELGIN
I'm sorry, but I really did see one last night!

NOA
I'm sure it was just an agitated grizzly.

ELGIN

I swear it was a werewolf. It was growling and foaming.

NOA

Who did it smell like?

ELGIN

I- I don't know. I got out of there-

NOA

Was it near camp?

ELGIN

No. I was...I was exploring over the mountains.

NOA

You should not be that far from camp.

ELGIN

I know. I'm sorry. But you have to trust me. (beat) Please.

Petra enters, approaching Noa.

PETRA

(hushed)

Word is traveling fast. What should I tell them?

He eyes Elgin, gears turning.

NOA

Tell them no one is to leave camp. Each matriarch is to report to you as soon as her entire family returns.

Petra nods and exits.

NOA

(to: Elgin)

You and I are going to investigate.

ELGIN

Yes sir.

INT. SICADA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Sicada cleans blood off of a trembling Dagny. She wrings the RAG over a BUCKET OF BLOODIED WATER, then soaks it in a

BUCKET OF CLEAN WATER.

DAGNY

I'm...so sorry...about Angel.

SICADA

Don't worry about Angel.

DAGNY

They were so kind to me and I hurt-

SICADA

Don't get yourself worked up.

Sicada takes her hand, cleaning her bloodied fingernails.

DAGNY

(dazed)

I'm too dangerous to live.

SICADA

Stop.

DAGNY

I can't be contained anymore.

SICADA

I have a plan. You won't escape tonight. I promise.

DAGNY

(rips her hand away)

Stop making promises you can't keep!

SICADA

You're right. I failed you. It's my fault you escaped last night. (beat)
You did nothing wrong, understood?

DAGNY

I don't know.

SICADA

You're my patient, my responsibility.
So whose fault is it?

DAGNY

(defeated)

Yours.

SICADA
That's right. So you don't deserve to
die.

Dagny gives her hand back to Sicada.

DAGNY
Do you think the prisoner might come
back? Like Dander and his friends?

SICADA
(lying)
I think it's very possible.

BAM. A commotion from the LAB.

SICADA (CONT.)
Oh! Don't worry. It's nothing.

She jumps up towards the lab.

DAGNY
What is that?

SICADA
Forgot to let the cat out.

Dagny follows, curious. They walk down the hall into...

SICADA'S LABORATORY

Dagny absorbs the LAB. Sicada approaches a rattling DRAWER in
a LARGE DRESSER. She slides it open. An ORANGE CAT jumps out.

SICADA
There's my Angel.

Angel thumps their tail angrily. Dagny stares, confused.

SICADA (CONT.)
(to: cat)
Sorry, I was a little busy.

Dagny looks into the DRAWER. CAT CARCASSES.

SICADA (CONT.)
Oh. I keep around spares for Angel in
case they die.

DAGNY
Huh?

SICADA

Angel's an Inheritor, a ghost that can possess bodies.

DAGNY

That cat can possess people?!

SICADA

(don't make me laugh)

No, no, no. Dead, vacant bodies. I would never keep a larcenist around the house.

DAGNY

So that's really Angel?

SICADA

Can't you recognize the arrogance?

DAGNY

(teary eyed)

Oh, thank god.

Dagny kneels by the cat. She waits for permission before hoisting them over her shoulder for a hug.

DAGNY (CONT.)

(fur-baby talk)

I'm sorry, sweetheart. I bet that was really scary. Wasn't it? You're okay.

Sicada smiles.

INT. SICADA'S KITCHEN - HOURS LATER

Dagny rests on the COUCH, very sick. Rust tends to her. Dander distracts her with stories, pointing to a hand scar.

DANDER

(proud)

Ah this! My battle with a Chupacabra.

RUST

(mocking)

A *baby* Chupacabra, you fibber.

DANDER

Fibber?! When did I ever imply-

WEB (O.S.)

Can I trust you two not to (MORE)

squabble while we're out?

Web comes from the lab, Angel in tow. Rust rolls his eyes as Dander huffs. Sicada follows, hangs a BAG on Web's shoulders.

SICADA

Let's move.

As they exit, Angel slips out before Web slams the door shut.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Elgin leads Noa through the forest.

NOA

We better be close, kid. I don't have time for you to waste.

ELGIN

It was here. I swear. See!

Something catches Elgin's eye. He rushes to ANGEL'S CARCASS.

NOA

Hey! Don't touch it.

Elgin freezes. Noa approaches slowly, examining the area.

ELGIN

I *told* you. Tell me this wasn't a werewolf. And who would kill their prey like that? Especially when-

NOA

Shut it.

Noa sees the TRAIL OF BLOOD. He follows it to the...

WILDFLOWER FIELD

Noa enters the clearing, Elgin close behind. The scene of a murder. Blood stains. But NO BODY. Elgin searches the surrounding area. Noa stays transfixed on the spot.

ELGIN

It must've got injured and kept going.

NOA

Not with this much blood. Something died here. (beat) And someone is cleaning up behind them.

Noa thinks for a moment. Then frowns.

NOA (CONT.)

And I know who. Come on.

Noa goes back the way they came. Elgin runs to his side.

ELGIN

Who?

NOA

Think, boy. Who showed a sudden
interest in lyssa yesterday?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Sicada and Web carry ISAAC'S WRAPPED BODY on an ANTIQUE
STRETCHER. Sicada leads. Angel walks by them.

WEB

(out of breath)

Can we rest for a moment?

SICADA

Just a little farther.

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - MINUTES LATER

Web collapses into a chair, exhausted. Sicada straps the
WRAPPED BODY onto the operation table.

SICADA

(to: self)

This is crazy.

WEB

(out of breath)

What's that, dear?

SICADA

I said this is crazy! I don't even
know this guy.

WEB

Angel seems to vouch for him.

Angel jumps onto the operating table, sniffing the body.

SICADA

(to: cat)

You just can't help yourself (MORE)

around stray people.

She shoos the cat away.

SICADA (CONT.)

Alright, clear the room.

Web stands and trudges out of the lab. Angel follows.

INT. PETRA'S TENT - HOURS LATER

Petra and Noa duck inside, stand close. Hushed voices.

NOA

He wasn't lying. Someone out there has
lyssa.

PETRA

We're only missing Dagny. Either it's
her, or an outsider has entered our
territory.

NOA

(accusatory)

Where's your human?

PETRA

(uneasy)

She never arrived today.

NOA

Do I have to spell it out for you?

PETRA

I know it looks that way, but-

NOA

Just admit defeat. She betrayed us.
What were you thinking trusting her?

PETRA

I was thinking of our people! I
couldn't let your isolationism keep
them from good health.

NOA

Good health? She's trying to contain a
rabid werewolf. She's endangering us
all.

PETRA

I'm just as angry as you are. But I just- With Sicada's help, what if things could be...different?

Noa scoffs.

PETRA (CONT.)

She can't get infected. If she could quarantine her, then we could finally-

NOA

Out of the question. If the clan tracks a lyssa victim back to us, they'll wipe us out.

PETRA

It's not too late to keep this quiet.

NOA

Are you kidding me? It's a miracle we don't already have a scout on our doorstep, spewing veiled threats.

PETRA

Isn't this why we broke away? To have some autonomy?

NOA

We're independent. Not free.

PETRA

(sad)

But...killing her?

He softens his face and tone.

NOA

I lost my first family to that disease. (beat) I won't lose this one.

Petra sees his heartbreak, holds her tongue. Noa turns away.

NOA (CONT.)

(pulling himself together)

Do you know where the human lives?

PETRA

(lying)

I have no clue.

NOA
(annoyed)
Of course.

Noa exits, leaving Petra, conflicted.

INT. FALLOUT SHELTER - HOURS LATER

Sicada lowers herself in. The steel walls padded with all the cloth she could find. She crouches by Dagny, who curls up in a corner, her face blank.

DAGNY
Are you sure about this?

SICADA
Listen. I was a fool to think chains could hold you, but I'm taking the necessary precautions now.

DAGNY
(panic rising)
But is it full-proof? I can't take another life. The guilt...it's crushing me.

SICADA
(pulling her into a hug)
You won't hurt anyone tonight.

DAGNY
Why am I still trying to live?

Dagny buries her face in Sicada's shoulder. Sicada lifts the SYRINGE of SILVER behind Dagny's back.

SICADA
Because you are going to be the first, undeniable evidence that lyssa is survivable.

Sicada plunges the syringe into Dagny's shoulder. Her eyes droop, breathing slows. Sicada catches her as she goes limp.

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - NIGHT

Sicada peels the bandage back from Isaac's face. A laceration stretches diagonally across, splitting his LEFT EYEBALL. She huffs, then takes out a NEEDLE AND SUTURE. She carefully begins to stitch his face. Web enters.

WEB

Now tell me, where did you learn to
stitch a fellow back together?

Sicada ignores him, frowns at her task. She takes a SCALPEL,
removes the split eye. Web watches.

WEB (CONT.)

In any case, I applaud you for giving
the prisoner a chance.

SICADA

I'm giving *Dagny* a chance. If I can
just bring him back, then-

WEB

Bring him back? You don't mean-

SICADA

I *do* mean. Now come here and give me a
gallon of blood.

Web just stares. Sicada cuts the thread, ties it.

WEB

If you will just have some patience,
he will revive naturally. I'm telling
you, his soul wants to return. I can
hear it.

SICADA

I don't have anymore patience. I have
a sweet girl down there, drowning in
guilt. (beat) And a perfectly good
storm I refuse to miss.

Sicada pulls back the wrapping on a Isaacs left arm. Not
enough skin to stitch back together. She sighs and goes to
the LARGE DRESSER, searching.

WEB

Don't you find it cruel to forcefully
resurrect a man, just so he can perish
days later?

SICADA

It *is* cruel, but I don't give care.
He's a criminal. He deserves what's
coming to him.

WEB

Fleeting hope will only distress her more.

SICADA

I'll dump him on some zombie retirement home before she figures it out.

She pulls a SEVERED ARM from the drawer, measures it next to Isaac's. No match. She returns it.

WEB

I won't help you. I won't have his death- or life- whichever on my hands.

SICADA

(facing him)

Even if we can take it off of Dagny's hands? She's a child.

WEB

Still, this isn't-

SICADA

She has her whole life ahead of her, and she's afraid to live it. Have you ever killed a man?

WEB

No. And I realize she's struggling-

SICADA

Then we can't wait for some spiritual, destiny bullshit.

He considers, then huffs and removes his OVERCOAT.

WEB

Just don't tell Dander and Rust.

He watches her collect a SYRINGE and VACUTAINER.

EXT. CAMP - CENTER - SUNSET

An apprehensive evening at camp. Noa addresses the HUNTERS and FAMILIES. MOTHERS gather around Hilde, comforting. Petra stands by Noa, conflicted.

NOA

We always hoped it wouldn't (MORE)

come to this, but the rumors are true.
There is a lyssa victim out there, and
it may be one of our own.

The families murmur, steal glances at Hilde.

NOA (CONT.)

There is no reason to desert your
people. We will settle this entire
ordeal tomorrow.

Hilde's blood runs cold. Olav stands in protest.

OLAV

Do you even know where she is?

NOA

(hesitant)

Sicada is hiding her. Rest assured,
her betrayal won't go unpunished.

People grumble, glare at Petra.

NOA (CONT.)

But tonight, no one leaves. We will
stay on guard, stay safe. (beat)
Hunters. With me.

Noa and the hunters break from the group. The families begin
to talk, nervous. Petra rushes to Hilde.

HILDE

(tearing up)

Please tell Noa that it might not be
her.

PETRA

We'll be careful.

HILDE

She's the last person who loves me.

Petra pulls Hilde into a hug. Hilde cries into her shoulder.

PETRA

You'll always have a place with us.
(beat) We'll take care of you.

ACT FIVE

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - NIGHT

A THUNDERSTORM roars outside. Web sleeps on a COT. Still breathing. A BLOOD BAG on a DROPPER STAND. An IV connects to Isaac's LEFT ARM, which is newly sewed on. Isaac is still wrapped up. Sicada stitches a small gash in his neck.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- She pushes an EYE BALL into the left socket.
- She finishes stitching a HAND to his RIGHT WRIST.
- She stitches FINGERS to his LEFT HAND.
- She wraps COPPER WIRE around Isaac's chest and the operating table.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - MINUTES LATER

Dark night. Pouring rain. Rumbling thunder. Sicada wraps the COPPER WIRE around the LIGHTENING ROD attached to her house, cuts it with PLIERS. She sighs. The deed is done. She gazes at the storm, longing for lightening to strike.

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - NIGHT

The storm toils, trees crash. A WEREWOLF gallops through the woods. LIGHTENING FLASHES. PETRA in WOLF FORM. She comes to a incline, slips on mud, then claws her way up to the...

MOUNTAIN TOP

She stands on her hind legs, surveying the landscape. She locks on a direction, gallops down the slope.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - HOURS LATER

The dark storm settles. Early dawn. Silence fills the air. When lo and behold, LIGHTENING pierces through the clouds, strikes the LIGHTENING ROD. The COPPER WIRE glows.

INT. SICADA'S LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

The wire glows, shocks Isaac. SPARKS FLY. CRACK. The thunder follows. His HEART BEATS, slow. His HAND flinches, eyes flutter. The heart beat stops. He becomes still.

Sicada bursts into the lab. She goes to Isaac, looking for any sign of life. Web follows next. She takes out a STETHOSCOPE and listens to his heart. Nothing. She huffs.

WEB

You did everything you could.

SICADA

The wire was too weak. Maybe tomorrow
I can search the old factory and-

Web puts his hand on her shoulder.

WEB

We should focus on caring for Dagny.
That's the best thing we can do for
her now.

Sicada watches Isaac's face for a moment more, then stands to leave, slamming the door. Web sighs.

EXT. SICADA'S HOME - MINUTES LATER

Petra (wolf form) gallops from the woods, halts at the house. She sniffs around, locks on a direction. She gallops around the corner meeting: SICADA, who aims an ANTIQUE RIFLE.

SICADA

(shaky)

You're not welcome here! Leave!

Petra growls. Sicada flinches. The SUN peers through the clouds. Petra doubles over, groaning as she transforms. Sicada steps back, lowers her weapon.

SICADA (CONT.)

I- I'm warning you! Leave before I-

The werewolf yells as limbs revert to human. Her eyes become human, glaring at Sicada. Fur recedes, revealing: PETRA'S HUMAN FACE, muddy hair, torn clothes. She struggles to her legs, stomps towards Sicada, and rips the rifle away.

PETRA

(furious)

Have you lost your damn mind?

SICADA

No! I wasn't going- It's empty!

Petra checks the cartridge. EMPTY. She scoffs, then pins

Sicada to the house with the butt of the rifle.

PETRA

If this is your plan to protect Dagny,
she hasn't got a prayer.

SICADA

(struggling)

Please. We can talk about this.

PETRA

Now you want to talk? After lying to
me?

SICADA

I'm sorry.

PETRA

Is she contained?

SICADA

Sedated. Asleep.

PETRA

(releasing her)

How?

SICADA

A powdered silver solution.

PETRA

(sarcastic)

Isn't that a little risky?

Petra drops the rifle, buttons her clothes, providing cover.

SICADA

Yes. It can be used as a paralytic,
but if injected in the bloodstream,
its a strong sedative.

PETRA

Fine. Well take her and your solution
and get out of here.

SICADA

What?

PETRA

You need to leave. Noa is coming for
her.

Sicada's face drops. She rushes away. Petra follows.

SICADA
Is he coming alone?

PETRA
I think so.

Sicada reaches the front door. Petra stops her.

PETRA (CONT.)
(commanding)
Dagny is yours now. She can never come
back.

Sicada nods, sad.

INT. SICADA'S KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Dander frantically packs his backpack. Dagny sits as Rust ties her boots. She's groggy. She sees Petra out the window, eyes her nervously. Petra paces, agitated. Sicada searches her DOCTOR'S BAG. Web watches Sicada, unsure.

SICADA
In case I don't find you before
moonrise, you'll have to sedate Dagny.

Sicada shows him a POUCH with a SYRINGE, seals it, passes it.

SICADA (CONT.)
You may need to make a tourniquet to
find a vein.

WEB
We should stay together.

SICADA
She can hide among you three, blend in
with the undead. I'll make more serum
and find you. I promise.

Sicada leaves Web, finds Angel.

SICADA (CONT.)
(to: cat)
Take them to Proper Manor. Do not let
them get lost.

DAGNY
Sicada?

Sicada rushes over to Dagny, looking in her eyes.

SICADA
How do you feel?

DAGNY
I'm okay, but what's-

Sicada hugs her, pulling her to her feet.

SICADA
(forced cheeriness)
You're going to go stay with some
friends of mine. I'll join you soon.

RUST
(taking Dagny)
Feel free to lean on me, dear.

Angel jumps on the window sill, growling. Sicada looks
through the window: NOA approaches. Petra gets in his way.

SICADA
(to: Angel)
Show them the back door. Now.

Angel hops from the window, trotting down the hall. The three
zombies follow with Dagny. Sicada dashes for the lab.

OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

Noa marches to the house. Petra holds his shoulders, trying
to stop him.

PETRA
Just stop! That house is contaminated.

NOA
(accusatory)
Is that why you lied? To protect me
from infection?

PETRA
To protect you from regret!

Noa stops, grabs her hands.

NOA
Regret? If she lives, our people will
suffer. Then we will know regret.

PETRA

(rips her hands away)

I reject that! I reject this ritual!

They stare each other down.

NOA

Then there's no use debating it.

Noa makes a strange WHISTLE. TWO HUNTERS emerge from the woods, approaching quickly. Petra's eyes go wide.

INT. SICADA'S LAB

Sicada packs her DOCTOR'S BAG as quick as possible. She looks at ISAAC, regretful. BANG. A commotion outside. She quickly hides the bag under the DRESSER, and rushes out into...

THE KITCHEN

She locks the LAB DOOR behind her. BANG. The front door. She rushes to it, grabs a BROOM, slides it through the door handle, locking it. BANG. BANG. Noa forces the door open. He glares at Sicada, grabs her arm.

NOA

What have you done with Dagny?

SICADA

I don't have her.

NOA

My patience is wearing thin.

SICADA

You can't blame me for her disappearance. What have I done to break your trust?

NOA

(grips her arm)

Trust?! You've endangered everyone in my care. You think you can just-

He collects himself, releases her.

NOA (CONT.)

This is a diversion. I'll find her myself.

Noa heads for the exit. Sicada chases him.

SICADA

Wait! She- She isn't a threat. I've created a sedative and it works!

NOA

That's a lie. We found the animals she killed yesterday.

SICADA

She escaped once, but I promise-

He grabs her collar, slams her against the wall. She yelps.

NOA

Enough! Tell me where she is!

Sicada's frozen. BAM. A commotion from the LAB. Noa whips his head around. BAM. Her eyes widen. BAM. He grips her wrist and drags her down the hallway, to the LAB DOOR.

SICADA

Wait! Don't go in there!

He draws his KNIFE and kicks the door open, revealing...

ISAAC. ALIVE. Wild eyes show behind a BANDAGED FACE. He spots the knife. In a state of panic, he goes after Noa, pinning his KNIFE HAND to the wall. Noa drops the knife.

ISAAC

(disgusted)

What did you do to me?!

NOA

What?!

Noa drops Sicada's wrist. He twists Isaac's arm behind him, restraining him. Sicada pulls a weapon from her coat.

ISAAC

(panicked)

Why can't I remember!?

Noa throws Isaac into a BOOKCASE. He hits his head, slumps to the floor, buried in books. Sicada stabs a SILVER FORK into Noa's shoulder. He spins, backhands her. She falls on her hands and knees. He grabs a fistful of her hair.

SICADA

I won't let you hurt her!

NOA
A wasted effort.

She kicks her heel in his leg to no avail. He feels his STABBED ARM going limp. He pulls the fork from his arm, tossing it aside.

NOA (CONT.)
(venomous)
Silver? (beat) Damn you.

He drops her and puts his foot on her back, pinning her flat.

NOA (CONT.)
(taunting)
I only came to flush her out. You've sent her into a trap.

SICADA
(strained)
No!

EXT. FOREST - MINUTES LATER

Rust helps Dagny wind through trees. Angel leads with Web and Dander. An odd WHISTLE rings out.

RUST
What was that?

Angel halts, ears flat. An ARROW flies by Dander's head. Web scans the trees, glimpses of HUNTERS. An ARROW hits his shoulder. He grunts, pulls it out with ease.

WEB
Good god, it's an ambush.

DAGNY
Get down!

Dagny pulls the zombies behind a ROCK. The footsteps of 10 HUNTERS approach. Web looks for escape, spots a STEEP DROP.

WEB
When I say go, we crawl for that cliff. (to: Dagny) Stay behind us.

DANDER
Are you insane?

WEB
Just trust me!

Web offers Dagny his hand. She takes it.

WEB (CONT.)
Go!

They crawl as fast they can to the cliff. The zombies provide cover, taking arrows no problem. Angel gallops beside them. They try to ease their way down the slope, but immediately slip on leaves. They slide down, splashing into...

THE MOUNTAIN LAKE

Web gets to his feet. His eyes meet one of the SCYLLA'S SIX SERPENT HEADS, growling. His friends hide behind him.

DAGNY
(frightened whisper)
What is that?

WEB
(to: friends, whispered)
Don't panic.

The Scylla's feminine face emerges from the water, scowling.

WEB (CONT.)
(to: feminine face, nervous)
Hello darling! Don't you look radiant
this morning?

The VOICES of HUNTERS approaching. Another serpent head emerges, barring its teeth.

WEB (CONT.)
(urgent)
No offering today. But I need to pass
through. My friends and I are being
pursued.

Web pleads with his eyes. The feminine face submerges.

WEB (CONT.)
(to: friends)
Come along.

Web takes Dagny's hand as they trudge through the lake. Angel paddles alongside them. The serpent heads hide underwater.

The hunters pursue, sliding skillfully down the hill. The FIRST HUNTER hits the water. A SERPENT HEAD shoots out and wraps around his leg, lifting him, and tossing him into the trees. The rest stop in their tracks, shouting warnings.

An ARROW hits the serpent's eye. The Scylla emerges, fully revealing her gigantic, feminine form. SIX SERPENTS protrude from her waist. She gives a sickening ROAR.

Another strange WHISTLE, signaling RETREAT. The hunters run. Some caught by serpents, another grasped in her human hand. Amidst the chaos, Web and company get to the other side of the lake, running into...

THE WOODS

They run to the trees for cover, stopping to catch their breath. The zombies pull ARROWS from their sides painlessly.

WEB

Did anyone get hit?

RUST

(annoyed)

Yes.

WEB

Anyone living.

DAGNY

(uneasy)

I'm okay.

DANDER

Then we should make haste!

Angel meows and runs on, directing them to a CREEK RAVINE.

INT. SICADA'S KITCHEN

DARKNESS. BANG. EARS RINGING. BANG. EYES flicker open. Isaac shakes to life. He sees SICADA, out cold. BANG. And NOA kicking the LOAD-BEARING POST. BANG. The post CRACKS. The WOOD CEILING shakes. Satisfied, Noa exits, slams the door.

Isaac struggles to his feet. The ceiling shifts. The SUPPORT BEAM threatens to crush Sicada. He lifts under her shoulders, drags her to safety. The beam crashes on the floor.

He shields her from falling wood planks as the dust settles. He watches her face, then looks for an exit: the WINDOW.

EXT. PROPER MANOR - SUNSET

Angel trots toward a DILAPIDATED MANOR, passing a broken "PRIVATE PROPERTY" sign that now reads "PROPER". Dander, Rust Web, and Dagny follow. Dagny looks terrified of the house.

INT. MANOR FOYER - MINUTES LATER

All but Dagny step in. She can't muster the courage to come inside. Dander notices her apprehension.

DANDER

Don't fret. They are the sweetest.

She takes a cautious step inside, seeing APPARITIONS, ghostly figures inhabiting the house. One PUNK GHOST gives her a cool wave. She waves back, eyes wide.

INT. MANOR LIBRARY - MINUTES LATER

Web and Dagny sit on PLUSHY COUCH. He uses a NECK TIE as a TOURNIQUET on her arm. Rust sleeps in a REGAL CHAIR as Dander chats endlessly to GHOSTS on the balcony.

WEB

You'll have to be patient with me. I don't have as much experience as Sicada.

DAGNY

We shouldn't have left her there. Noa can be so ruthless when he's mad.

WEB

She's a tough one, but I'll send her a message as soon as you're taken care of.

Web pulls the SYRINGE from his bag, crouches by the couch. Dagny gets comfortable on her side. GHOSTS watch from the balconies. Web finds a VEIN, and injects the solution.

WEB (CONT.)

I'll see you in the morning.

Her eyes become droopy, she drifts off. He sighs.

EXT. CAMP - SUNSET

The families gather nervously outside of a TENT. They surround PETRA, who kneels, two HUNTERS hold her shoulders.

She spots Hilde in the crowd. they lock eyes. Noa emerges from the tent, with three ELDERS. One is OLAV. Everyone becomes silent. Noa stands before Petra. His eyes show grief.

NOA

Petra. You have given your life to this family. But your interference today has put them at risk.

OLAV

If you hadn't trusted that human, we wouldn't be in this mess. We won't accept a leader who puts her ideals before our welfare.

NOA

How do you defend yourself?

Everyone looks at Petra. She locks eyes with Hilde.

PETRA

(hesitant)

I regret that I lied and betrayed the pack's wishes. (beat) But I won't apologize for warning Dagny. She doesn't deserve to die.

People gasp, whisper. Hilde is shocked. Noa frowns.

OLAV

Of course she doesn't deserve it, but it's a necessary evil!

PETRA

Maybe for you, old timer, but not for me. Your traditions are built on fear.

OLAV

Then you have chosen expulsion!

The people grumble in support. Noa looks down, sad.

NOA

(to: Petra, defeated)

I'm sorry. You have brought this upon yourself. (to: hunters) Take her to the edge of our territory.

Hilde watches the hunters pull Petra to her feet. Hilde's eyes fill with tears. She steps out of the crowd.

HILDE
(to: Noa)
I- I'm going with Petra.

PETRA
Hilde. Wait-

HILDE
(to: Petra, teary eyed)
I can't stay here.

NOA
(to: Hilde, threatening)
If you leave, I can't protect you.

HILDE
(to: Noa)
I know. But I won't renounce her for
protecting my daughter!

OLAV
Then go! We don't need anyone who puts
their wants over our needs.

HILDE
(tearful rage)
You want me to sacrifice my child for
survival...you...you're no better than
animals!

The crowd takes offense to this. Petra watches, eyes wide.

OLAV
How dare you-

HILDE
If it was your daughter, you would
throw out all the safeguards you
preach!

OLAV
You selfish woman! You only-

Olav charges for Hilde. Noa stops him.

NOA
(to: hunters)
Get them out of here.

A HUNTER grabs Hilde's arm, pulls her along with Petra. They
don't resist. The crowd watches them go. A WOMAN steps out.

WOMAN

(to: Noa)

You promised this would be over before moonrise! How are we safe when there is a rabid werewolf out there?

NOA

We are going back for the human. She will tell us exactly where Dagny is fleeing. Then tomorrow we can-

WOMAN

Tomorrow? What about tonight?

The crowd grumbles in agreement. A MAN steps out.

MAN

Then tomorrow, my family is deserting.

Some crowd members agree, some protest.

NOA

Please. We are safer together. I won't rest until this threat is eliminated.
(to: Hunters) We move. Now.

Noa storms away from the crowd, 10 HUNTERS follow. Olav stays behind and tries to calm the crowd.

SERIES OF SHOTS - NIGHT

THE MANOR LIBRARY

GHOSTS read books. Dagny in her RABID WOLF FORM, but sedated. The couch is now crushed under her weight. Web gives a LETTER to his RAVEN SKELETON, sets it free out of a tall WINDOW.

THE FOREST

BRIGHT MOON. DARK NIGHT. The HUNTERS in their WOLF FORMS dash through the trees. They run down a hill coming to:

SICADA'S HOUSE

The STONE WALLS stand, though the second level has collapsed. The WEREWOLVES case the area. NOA (wolf form) jumps through an OPEN WINDOW, investigating the rubble, sniffing. Nothing. The house is empty. He lets out a SHORT HOWL, alerting the others. SHORT HOWLS echo in response.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Isaac trudges through the dark woods. He fireman carries an unconscious SICADA. Isaac is bandaged and barefoot. He hears a distant HOWL, and stiffens, picking up speed.

He comes upon a clearing, spotting an ABANDONED COUNTRY CHURCH, one room, small steeple.

INT. CHURCH - MINUTES LATER

Isaac steps into the church. The floors creak. He carefully lowers Sicada onto a PEW. He crouches by her, brushes the hair from her face, watches for movement. Nothing. He sighs.

He sits by her head, looks for light. The moon shines through a STAINED GLASS WINDOW of a CROSS. He eyes it, gloomy.

He feels the bandages on his face, then carefully begins to unwrap them, wincing. He pulls the last of it off, revealing ISSAC'S NEW FACE, stitched and striking.

He goes to the BAPTISMAL, which overflows with RAIN WATER. He views his new reflection in the water, tracing his stitches. His eyes show misery. He looks to the cross, eyes becoming wet. A CREAK behind him. He whips around, spotting Sicada.

SICADA

(weak)

Who are you? Why did you bring me-

A flash of recognition.

SICADA (CONT.)

(frightened)

Oh my god.

ISAAC

(gentle)

Are you alright?

SICADA

I...I've been better. You got me out of there?

ISAAC

The place was going to fall in on you.

SICADA

(to: self, realizing)

My lab. The serum. (to: Isaac) Did they get away?

ISAAC

Who?

SICADA

(panic strikes)

My friends, did they make it past- Oh God. I have to go. I'm sorry.

Sicada heads for the door. Isaac chases after her.

ISAAC

Wait! I need to know what happened to me.

SICADA

I got to find Dagny. She's in danger.

As she pulls the DOOR, he pushes it, holding it shut. He towers over her, his face close to hers.

ISAAC

(angry)

You are going to tell me *exactly* what happened to me.

She turns slowly, meeting furious eyes.

END OF EPISODE