

The Demon Deep in Oklahoma

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INT. CHURCH - DAY

LEWIS HEATON (30's), slim, dark eyes, full beard and wearing a cheap suit and tie, sits on a wooden bench positioned on the pulpit of a small church in the middle of nowhere OKLAHOMA. His head is bowed and his eyes stare at the floor. He takes a deep breath and slowly exhales as he looks up scanning the gathered crowd. His eyes land on...

VIRGINIA HEATON (30's), pale skin, no make-up, hair pulled back in a tight bun and wearing a simple floral print dress. She sits emotionless beside their two children...

WES HEATON (8) and KATIE HEATON (6). Virginia has her arm around Katie, who fidgets with the buttons on her mom's dress, while Wes and Virginia both stare directly at Lewis.

MARTY DANFORD, (20's), strapping and well built, stands at the podium of the pulpit speaking to the congregation.

MARTY

I'm askin' for your help. For both of us. We need forgiveness and we need prayers. I can't speak for the Pastor, but I know I don't wanna be this way. I believe the Lord can change me. I ain't tryin' to get the Pastor in trouble, I just needed to tell the truth for me. I needed to bring this into the light and ask my church family to help me.

Marty timidly shifts his eyes to his Mother, SARAH DANFORD(40's), sitting in the congregation.

MARTY

I'm sorry, Mama.

Sarah, staring down at her folded hands in her lap, wipes a tear from her cheek, looks up to meet her son's gaze and tenderly smiles through her pain. She looks past Marty at Lewis and her smile fades.

The entire church is silent. Finally, HUGH DENTON (70's) slowly stands.

HUGH

Pastor Heaton?

Lewis keeps his head bowed.

HUGH

I want you to look at me.

Lewis reluctantly raises his head to look at Hugh.

HUGH

I'm the Deacon that brought you into this church and we've worked closely together over the last couple of years, so please answer my question honestly. What Marty just said about you and him...is it true?

Virginia, Sarah, Marty, Hugh and the rest of the congregation wait in silence for Lewis to respond.

LEWIS

Yes.

A collective groan is heard from the congregation.

MARTY

Mrs. Heaton knew about it too.

Virginia doesn't even flinch at the comment. She looks at Marty with her head held high.

Sarah turns and glares at Virginia from across the church.

MARTY

She told us we had to stop seein' each other. She said for us not to say nothin', cause if this got out it wouldn't be good for nobody.

Marty looks directly at Virginia.

MARTY

I'm sorry, Mrs. Heaton. I couldn't do it. I had to say somethin'. It's the right thing to do.

Virginia calmly stands to her feet, takes the hands of her children and begins to walk down an aisle of the church as the members watch her.

Sarah stands.

SARAH

Where are you goin', Virginia?

VIRGINIA

I'm takin' takin' my children home.

SARAH

Well, certainly don't leave him
behind.

Sarah points to Lewis.

SARAH

We don't want him. Ain't that right,
church?

The church members respond with muddled sounds of agreement.

HUGH

(To Lewis)

Sister Danford is right. You need to
leave.

Virginia, whose back is to the pulpit, calmly looks over her
shoulder to Lewis.

VIRGINIA

You heard 'em, Lewis. Let's go.

Virginia then exits the church with her children.

Lewis is sitting paralyzed in shock. He timidly stands and
steps off the pulpit. He keeps it together as the
disapproving eyes of the church members stare at him while he
walks down the aisle. He arrives at the doors of the church,
opens them and is consumed by the bright light of the sun.
The doors slam shut behind him.

EXT. HEATON HOME - WHEAT FIELD - DAY

Katie and Wes run in and out of a vivid green wheat field on
a beautiful day with white, fluffy clouds in a bright blue
sky. The kids chase one another, laughing loudly and clearly
having a joyful time. The wind blows the wheat along with the
kids hair and clothes. Beautiful.

Next to the wheat field, we see their family home. A modest,
white, two story farm house in need of a paint touch up, with
shutters, a welcoming porch and surrounded by nothing but
land for as far as the eye can see. Total isolation.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia sits on the edge of the bed in a sparsely yet

quaintly decorated bedroom staring out of the window watching the kids play.

INT. HEATON HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

A well used BIBLE sits open on the dining room table. Different colors highlight the scriptures, while notes written in pencil fill the limited white spaces on the pages. This book is studied.

Lewis enters with a CUP OF COFFEE, sits and stares at the Bible, but doesn't read it. He closes it and turns to look at the staircase leading to the second floor.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia is still sitting on the bed staring out the window, when Lewis walks in and leans on the door frame.

LEWIS

Do you want to talk about what happened yesterday?

VIRGINIA

You need to find a job.

LEWIS

I know.

Lewis lingers before turning to leave.

VIRGINIA

Lewis...my children are gonna grow up knowin' the Lord, lovin' Him and worshipin' Him the way they're supposed to. I will do whatever it takes to see to it that they survive what you've done.

Tears fill her eyes, but she refuses to let them fall. She wipes her eyes breaking her stare on the kids, stands up, straightens out her dress and begins to walk out of the room. As she exits...

VIRGINIA

You hungry?

Lewis doesn't answer fast enough. Virginia is already half-way down the hall before he realizes he was supposed to respond.

LEWIS

No.

Lewis watches the kids play outside.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lewis sits in a chair in the dimly lit living room. He looks lost as he stares off into space. You can hear the faint sound of singing coming from another part of the house.

INT. HEATON HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Virginia, Wes and Katie are washing and drying DISHES as they sing old hymns. Katie is sitting on the counter singing as she watches her Mom.

Virginia is washing a PAN.

Wes stands beside Virginia with a drying TOWEL in his hand. He plays with the towel as he sings along.

Virginia finishes washing the pan and hands it to Wes, who begins to dry it.

Virginia scoops Katie up in her arms and holds her close as she sings and dances in a slow circle.

Wes hurries to dry the pan and then puts it in the cabinet. He rushes to his mom and wraps his arms around her waist and dances with her and Katie. VIRGINIA DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE HIM.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lewis is still lost in this thoughts when Virginia walks in with Katie and Wes, who is holding Lewis' Bible in his hands.

VIRGINIA

It's time to read, Lewis.

No response.

Virginia looks down at Wes.

VIRGINIA

Go hand Daddy the Bible.

Wes hurries over to Lewis and holds the Bible out to him.

WES

Daddy...

Lewis looks at Wes and takes the Bible. Virginia sits on the floor in front of the chair. Wes and Katie join her.

Virginia shoots Lewis a look. He opens the Bible.

LEWIS

We're gonna read outta the Book of
Matthew tonight.

Lewis fumbles through the pages.

VIRGINIA

I think we should start with prayer.
Don't you?

LEWIS

Yeah, let's do that. Bow your heads.

Virginia, Wes and Katie bow their heads.

Lewis watches them.

Wes places his hands together in the prayer position as he waits for his dad to start.

Lewis feels the tears filling up in his eyes as he watches his family.

Wes then decides to switch his position to be on his knees, but never opens his eyes or takes his hands out of the prayer position. He's ready.

Virginia lifts her head to see Lewis in tears watching them.

VIRGINIA

Pray.

LEWIS

Our Father which art in Heaven.
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done on earth as it
is in Heaven...

A BRICK comes crashing through one of the living room windows, startling all of them.

Katie and Wes scream.

From outside the window you can hear Sarah Danford shouting...

SARAH
LEAVE TOWN! WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE!

Virginia gets up and walks to the broken window. She locks eyes with Sarah.

SARAH
Is he in there? Is your sicko husband
in there?

Virginia calmly turns to her kids.

VIRGINIA
Wes, take Katie upstairs.

Wes instantly grabs Katie's hand and hurries upstairs with her.

SARAH
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, YOU PERVERT!
YOU GET OUT OF THIS TOWN! WE DON'T
WANT PEOPLE LIKE YOU HERE!(beat) DO
YOU HEAR ME?(beat) CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Lewis looks down at the floor as he listens to Sarah screaming from outside. Virginia storms out the front door.

LEWIS
Virginia, where you goin'?

Lewis follows her out on the porch.

EXT. HEATON HOME - NIGHT

Virginia flings the front door open and grabs an AXE that's on the porch. She starts briskly walking towards Sarah with the axe in her hand.

Sarah notices the axe and takes off running.

Virginia chases her.

Lewis is shocked.

LEWIS
Virginia! What are you doin'? Put that
axe down!

Sarah continues to run with Virginia in hot pursuit. Lewis starts chasing after them as well.

SARAH
Are you crazy? Stop! I'm leavin'!

LEWIS
Virginia, stop!

Virginia ignores their pleas and continues chasing Sarah.

Sarah trips and hits the ground hard. She tries to get back up, but Virginia tackles her.

SARAH
Virginia stop, please! I'm sorry!

The two women struggle.

VIRGINIA
BE STILL!

Sarah stops struggling. She is flat on her back, with Virginia hovering over her.

Lewis runs up and watches, unsure of what he should do.

The women stare at one another. Virginia slaps Sarah across the face. Sarah screams in pain.

LEWIS
Virginia!

Virginia puts the axe to Sarah's neck.

Sarah screams and cries.

VIRGINIA
Be quiet.

SARAH
Virginia, please.

VIRGINIA
I said be quiet.

Sarah keeps quiet.

VIRGINIA
I have two small children that I'm gonna protect from all this.

SARAH
What about my son?

VIRGINIA

I don't care about him. He's an adult and he made a choice, just like my husband did. My children did *not* make a choice. Now, you listen to me...if I ever see you around my home and more importantly, if I ever see you around my children ever again, I will use this axe.

Virginia leans down to whisper into Sarah's ear.

VIRGINIA

(whisper)

I have nothing left to lose.

Sarah stares at Virginia in fear.

Lewis grabs Virginia and pulls her off of Sarah.

Virginia quickly jerks away from his touch and shoves him.

VIRGINIA

DON'T! DON'T YOU EVER TOUCH ME AGAIN!
EVER!

Lewis is taken aback at her rage.

Silence.

LEWIS

Go home, Sarah.

Sarah stands up and dusts herself off. She shoots Lewis a look.

SARAH

I hate you.

Sarah begins to walk away.

VIRGINIA

Sarah.

Sarah stops and turns to Virginia.

VIRGINIA

I understand you're hurt. Trust me, I get it...but all I'm thinking about right now is keeping my kids safe from all of this.

SARAH

You wanna keep your kids safe? You
might wanna think 'bout gettin' rid of
him.

Sarah looks at Lewis again. Tears fill her eyes as she shakes
her head in disgust. She walks off leaving Lewis and Virginia
alone.

LEWIS

Are you alright?

VIRGINIA

Go to hell.

Virginia walks back towards the house dragging the axe behind
her. She looks up and notices that Wes and Katie watched the
entire altercation from an upstairs window. Virginia locks
eyes with her children and then resumes dragging the axe back
towards the house.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia sits at her SEWING MACHINE, extremely focused on
sewing BURLAP FABRIC.

Lewis walks in and stands in the door way.

LEWIS

I got a job.

Virginia doesn't take her attention off the sewing machine.

VIRGINIA

Where?

LEWIS

The tire shop.

VIRGINIA

Good.

She continues to sew.

LEWIS

What are you sewin'?

She doesn't answer him. He waits a moment before walking off.

Virginia stops sewing to look up at a CROSS hanging on the wall. The look lingers. She returns to her project.

EXT. HEATON HOME - DAY

Katie and Wes are chasing each other around the yard. Katie falls to the ground, lies on her back and looks at the sky. Wes runs over to her and looks down at her.

WES
Whatcha doin'?

KATIE
I'm thirsty.

WES
Want somethin' to drink?

Katie nods her head yes.

WES
Okay. Be right back

Wes takes off running toward the house.

INT. HEATON HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Wes runs into the kitchen and stops dead in his tracks and stares. All of the drawers and cabinets are open. The refrigerator door, wide open.

Virginia walks in and startles Wes. Virginia looks at the kitchen.

VIRGINIA
What's this?

Wes shrugs his shoulders.

VIRGINIA
Did you do this?

Wes shakes his head no.

WES
It was like this when I walked in here.

Virginia stares at Wes.

WES

We were thirsty, so I came in here to get us a drink.

VIRGINIA

Go get a drink.

Wes looks at Virginia as if he is a little scared to go to the fridge.

VIRGINIA

Oh for goodness sakes, Wes, it's just some open drawers and cabinets. Go get your drink.

Wes slowly walks over to the fridge, quickly grabs two juice boxes and hurries back to his mom's side.

VIRGINIA

Go back outside and play.

Wes leaves. Virginia stands there a moment looking at the kitchen before she starts shutting the cabinets and closing the drawers.

EXT. HEATON HOME - EVENING

Lewis, covered in grease and dirt, sits on the porch staring off into the distance. A truck comes down the drive way toward the house. He watches it.

The truck pulls up and DOUG RAMSEY, (50's) gets out. He is wearing worn jeans, boots, a white dingy t-shirt and a baseball cap. He shuts the door to the truck, walks to the front of it and leans against it.

LEWIS

I didn't know you were comin' for a visit, Doug.

DOUG

Well, it's been a while, so I thought I better stop in and see how things are goin'. How're you doin'?

No response.

DOUG

Where's my daughter?

LEWIS

She's inside with the kids. They're cleanin' up the kitchen.

DOUG

I reckon I better go in and say hi.

LEWIS

You need help with your bags?

Doug reaches in the back of the truck bed and lifts out a BAG.

DOUG

No sir. I pack light.

Doug comes up the stairs and opens the door.

DOUG

You comin' in?

Lewis shakes his head no. Doug goes inside and shuts the door. Lewis resumes staring off into the distance.

INT. HEATON HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Virginia, Wes and Katie are finishing cleaning the kitchen. They are singing an old hymn. Doug walks in and joins in singing with them.

WES & KATIE

Papa!

Both of the kids run and jump in his arms. He gives them big hugs.

DOUG

I've missed you two so much. Y'all are gettin' so big.

Doug cuddles them, kissing them on the tops of their heads.

Virginia watches. Doug notices.

DOUG

Hi, Doodle Bug.

VIRGINIA

Hi, Daddy.

He gets up and kisses Virginia on the cheek. She doesn't appear to be happy to see him. He notices that, too.

DOUG
You look good.

VIRGINIA
Thank you. So do you.

DOUG
Been watchin' what I eat.

He pats his flat stomach.

DOUG
Lost some weight.

VIRGINIA
Kids, go tell your Dad it's time to read the Word of God.

They hug their granddad.

DOUG
Go on and get your Dad. I'm gonna be stayin' here a few days so we'll have plenty of time for fun.

Wes and Katie both look happy at the news. They run out of the kitchen to go get their dad.

VIRGINIA
So you're plannin' on stayin' for a few days?

DOUG
I hope that's alright.

VIRGINIA
Of course, it's fine.

Doug stares at Virginia.

VIRGINIA
What?

DOUG
You know, good gossip goes faster'en hotcakes around these parts. I don't like hearin' about personal family matters second hand.

VIRGINIA

Well, it's a private situation, Daddy.

DOUG

It happened in the middle of a church service, sweetie. There ain't nothin' private about that. You and me both know there's only one thing church folk love more 'an Jesus and that's a good scandal.

VIRGINIA

Is that why you're here?

DOUG

Of course it is.

VIRGINIA

Well, everything's fine. You wasted a trip.

DOUG

I'm spendin' the next few days with my grandkids. Trust me, this trip is anything but wasted. Besides, I saw Lewis on the way in. He didn't look like fine to me. He needs your support right now.

Virginia looks shocked.

VIRGINIA

I'm beginnin' to wonder if you heard the right gossip.

DOUG

What happened doesn't change the fact that he's your husband, Virginia.

VIRGINIA

What happened was vile and sick.

DOUG

In sickness and in health, till death do you part...weren't those the vows you took?

Silence.

VIRGINIA

It's time for the Word of God.

Virginia walks past him to exit. Doug gently touches her. She instantly jerks away.

DOUG

Don't let this ruin your family.

VIRGINIA

There isn't any need for you to stay.

DOUG

Well, I am.

Virginia glares at him before walking out.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Lewis is sitting in his chair. Wes and Katie are sitting in his lap. He holds his kids tight. The Bible rests in his lap. Virginia walks in and watches them. Doug walks in behind her.

VIRGINIA

It's time to read, Lewis.

Virginia walks over to the kids and picks up Katie and sits on the floor, putting Katie in her lap. Wes gets out of the chair. He struggles a little to do so, but he finally does and gets on the floor with his mom and sister. Lewis looks at Doug. Doug nods. Lewis bows his head and begins to pray.

LEWIS

Our Father which art in Heaven.
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done on earth as it
is in Heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors...

Doug looks concerned as he watches on.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Katie is asleep in her bed. The sun spills in through the window and shines across Katie's face. She opens her eyes and all of a sudden she is scared. She sits up in her bed and looks around the room.

The closet door is wide open. All the drawers to her dresser are open. All of her CLOTHES that were in those drawers are in a pile in the middle of the floor. There is a chair in her room that is turned upside down.

Katie trembles while looking at everything. She jumps out of her bed and runs out of her room and down the hall.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia is in her room sewing the burlap fabric when she notices Katie run out of her room. She stops sewing, gets up and walks out to see what is going on.

EXT. HEATON HOME - PORCH - DAY

Lewis is sitting on the porch of the house sipping on a CUP of coffee. Katie runs out the front door, jumps in his lap and wraps her arms around his neck.

LEWIS

Katie? What's wrong, baby?

KATIE

Somethin's in my room.

LEWIS

Somethin's in your room?

Katie nods.

LEWIS

What is it?

Katie shrugs.

LEWIS

You want Daddy to go see what it is?

Katie nods.

Lewis gets up and carries Katie back in the house with him.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia is standing in Katie's room looking at the mess when Lewis and Katie enter.

VIRGINIA

What is this, Katie?

KATIE

I don't know.

VIRGINIA

What do you mean, you don't know?

KATIE
I woke up and it was like this.

VIRGINIA
Please don't lie to Mama.

KATIE
I'm not lyin'.

Virginia storms out of the room.

LEWIS
Where are you goin'?

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S ROOM - DAY

Wes is in his bed. Virginia enters, walks over to him and shakes Wes, waking him up.

VIRGINIA
Get up.

Wes is trying to wake up.

WES
Mama?

VIRGINIA
Get up, Wes. Now.

Wes gets out of bed. Virginia forcefully grabs him and drags him out of his room.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lewis and Katie are still standing in her room looking at the mess when Virginia enters the room dragging Wes with her.

VIRGINIA
(To Wes)
When did you do this and why?

LEWIS
What are you doin'?

VIRGINIA
I'm askin' my son a question. Why did you do this, Wes?

WES
I didn't do it, Mama.

VIRGINIA
Don't you lie to me.

Wes looks scared.

WES
I'm not.

Doug enters the room.

DOUG
What's goin' on in here?

VIRGINIA
Stay outta this, Daddy.

Virginia turns her attention back to Wes.

VIRGINIA
I want the truth. Why did you do this?

LEWIS
Wes done told you he didn't do it,
Virginia.

VIRGINIA
He's lyin'. (to Wes) You look at your
sister. Look how scared she is.

LEWIS
You need to calm down.

VIRGINIA
Did you just tell me to calm down?

LEWIS
Wes wouldn't do this to his sister.

Lewis calmly bends down and looks in Wes' eyes.

LEWIS
Come here little buddy.

Wes walks to his dad.

LEWIS
You're not in trouble. It's okay. Did
you maybe do this as a joke to play
with Katie?

WES

No, Daddy. I promise. I didn't do it.

VIRGINIA

Come here, Wes.

Wes reluctantly walks over to his Mom. Virginia slaps him across the face.

DOUG

Virginia!

Lewis jumps to his feet and gets in Virginia's face. He is furious.

LEWIS

Don't you ever hit that boy like that again. You hear me?

VIRGINIA

Or what?

LEWIS

Do it again and you'll damn well find out, lady.

They lock eyes. Virginia breaks the stare, walks over to Katie, picks her up and carries her out of the room. Lewis goes to Wes.

LEWIS

Come here.

Lewis helps his son up.

LEWIS

Let Daddy see.

Lewis looks at Wes' face.

LEWIS

You're okay, big boy. You're okay.

Lewis pulls Wes in for a hug and holds him. Doug watches them and then exits.

EXT. HEATON HOME - PORCH - DAY

Virginia and Katie are outside on the porch. Virginia is sitting in a chair and Katie is in her lap.

VIRGINIA

What do you remember about last night?

Katie stares at Virginia.

VIRGINIA

You didn't see anything or hear anything?

KATIE

No.

VIRGINIA

Nothin'?

Katie shakes her head no. Virginia holds Katie in her arms. Doug walks out on the porch. Virginia ignores him.

DOUG

Your husband's upstairs cleanin' up that room. You might wanna go help him. Me and Katie can hang out here together.

Doug bends down and opens his arms.

DOUG

Come here to Papa, sweetie pie.

Katie looks to her mother for instruction. Virginia nods for her to go ahead. Katie runs to Doug's arms. He picks her up. Virginia takes a moment before getting up and heading inside. Doug stops her.

DOUG

Wes is in his room. You might wanna clean up that mess first.

Virginia doesn't look at him. She walks inside and slams the door.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S ROOM - DAY

Wes is lying on his bed facing away from the door. Virginia opens the door. He rolls over to see his mom.

VIRGINIA

Are you okay?

Wes nods his head yes.

VIRGINIA

I don't like to be lied to and more importantly God doesn't like it.

WES

I'm not lyin', Mama.

Virginia doesn't believe him. She walks out and shuts the door. He rolls back over.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lewis is in Katie's room cleaning up the mess. Virginia walks in and begins helping him. Neither say a word, they just clean.

INT. HEATON HOME - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Lewis, Virginia, Wes, Katie and Doug all sit at the table eating...in silence.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Virginia is in her bed reading the Bible. Doug walks in. She doesn't look up. He walks over to the bed and sits down.

DOUG

Is that the first time somethin' like that has happened in this house?

VIRGINIA

What are you talkin' about, Daddy?

DOUG

I'm talkin' bout what happened in Katie's room. Is that the first time somethin' like that's happened?

VIRGINIA

No.

DOUG

It's not?

VIRGINIA

It happened in the kitchen too. I walked in to see all the cabinets and drawers open. Refrigerator door was open too. Take a guess at who was in there when I walked in and found it like that? Wes.

Doug thinks. Virginia closes the Bible and places it on the night. She reaches up and turns off the lamp. She turns away from her dad.

VIRGINIA

Good night, Daddy.

DOUG

Virginia, we worship an all mighty God, but I hope I don't need to remind you how real the devil is. He can creep in and attack when our defenses are down and you and Lewis ain't gotta home church right now. You're lettin' negative thoughts and feelin's live in your heart. You need to forgive your husband. Your family comes first...ahead of your anger, ahead of your pain.

No response.

DOUG

Goodnight, Dooble Bug.

Doug walks out and shuts the door. Virginia lies there thinking.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lewis lies on the couch trying to sleep. Doug walks in and sits in the chair.

DOUG

I feel bad that I've kicked you outta the guest room.

LEWIS

It's alright. I actually don't mind sleepin' on the couch. It's pretty comfortable.

DOUG

I bet it ain't as comfortable as your own bed.

LEWIS

At the moment, it's a lot more comfortable.

DOUG

I wish Virginia was bein' more
supportive of you right now.

LEWIS

Well, neither of us have been doin' a
real good of job supportin' the other.

DOUG

Why'd you do it, Lewis?

LEWIS

Do you even have to ask that?

Doug stares at him, waiting.

LEWIS

I was stupid.

DOUG

That's not a good enough.

LEWIS

Well, it's all I got.

DOUG

There was no guarantee that guy was
gonna keep his mouth shut. You put
your entire family at risk, Lewis.
Your career, your ministry, all of it,
you put it at risk.

LEWIS

I don't know what you want me to say,
Doug.

DOUG

I don't want you to say anything. I
want you to listen and I want you to
learn. I know right now you're tellin'
yourself that you're gonna change and
that you'll never do it again, but
those tendencies are eventually gonna
start itchin' again and you'll scratch
'em. When you do, you play safe,
Lewis...with someone who has just as
much to lose as you do.

Lewis lets what Doug said sink in.

DOUG

(quiet)

I know I've been outta the loop for a good long while. Sick wife, funeral, grief, sellin' a house, you know what I've been through this last year...but I'm here now. I'm available...and I've certainly got a lot to lose.

Beat.

LEWIS

We agreed that were not doin' that again. There's no need to talk about this.

Doug nods in agreement.

DOUG

I like knowin' you're married to my daughter and that you're the father of my grandchildren. That keeps you in my life. Just be smarter next time.

Doug stares at Lewis.

Silence.

DOUG

You want me to go to bed or...do you want me to stay down here with you a little longer...and be real quiet?

Doug waits for an answer.

LEWIS

Go to bed, Doug.

DOUG

You sure?

Lewis thinks.

LEWIS

Go to bed.

Doug nods.

DOUG

I'm here if you need me.

Doug gets up and exits.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Lewis is asleep on the couch. He begins to wake up, blinking his eyes as he looks at the sun spilling in through the window.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S ROOM - DAY

Lewis peeks in on Wes sleeping in his bed. Lewis smiles.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lewis opens the door to see Katie's room in a mess. All the drawers are open again. Her clothes from those drawers are in a pile on the floor. The closet door is open. The chair is upside down. Katie's bed is empty. Lewis panics.

LEWIS

Katie?

Lewis rushes to the closet. She's not in there. Lewis hears her whisper...

KATIE

Daddy?

Lewis finds Katie curled up in a corner trembling. He scoops her up in his arms and sits on the bed holding her.

LEWIS

Oh thank you God. What happened, baby?

KATIE

I'm scared.

LEWIS

Why? Tell me what happened.

KATIE

Somethin' was in my room.

LEWIS

What was it?

KATIE

I don't know. It scratched me.

Lewis pulls back from holding her so tightly to examine her body. She has scratches on her thigh and is bleeding. Lewis pulls her close to him again and holds her tight. He stands up and walks out of the room.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia is working on her sewing project, when Lewis walks in holding Katie in his arms. Virginia looks up.

VIRGINIA

What's wrong?

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Katie is lying on the couch looking up at the ceiling. Wes is sitting on the couch with her eating a BANANA. He kicks his feet as they dangle off the couch. He looks over at Katie. He then looks up to try to figure out what she is looking at.

WES

What're you lookin' at?

KATIE

The roof.

WES

That's the ceilin'.

He extends the banana toward her.

WES

Wanna bite?

Katie shakes her head no.

WES

Are you sure? You should take a bite.
Bananas make you strong. Feel.

Wes flexes his muscle. Katie sits up on her elbows and feels it. She lies back down.

WES

Pretty strong, huh?

Katie nods her head yes. Wes extends the banana again.

WES

Take a bite.

Katie sits back up on her elbows and takes a bite. She lies back down, chews and swallows. Wes watches her.

WES

Did it make you more strong?

Katie shrugs her shoulders.

WES
Let me feel.

Katie sits up and flexes her muscle. Wes feels.

WES
Wow...I think you're more strong than
me.

Katie smiles and lies back down. Wes continues to eat the
banana.

WES
I'm gonna have to eat a lot of bananas
to catch up with you.

Katie smiles.

INT. HEATON HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY

Doug, Lewis and Virginia sit at the dining room table.
Virginia and Lewis both have their heads down thinking. Lewis
finally looks up and over at Virginia. He then looks over to
Doug.

LEWIS
Am I really understandin' what you're
sayin'? You think a demon attacked my
little girl?

DOUG
What do you think it was, Lewis?

LEWIS
I don't know, but, I mean, it's a
little hard to believe it's a demon.

DOUG
Why? You believe in God, don't you?

LEWIS
Of course I believe in God.

DOUG
Well if you believe in God, why is it
so hard for you to believe in the
devil?

LEWIS

I do believe in the devil, but I don't understand why all of a sudden a demon would start attackin' my daughter.

Virginia lifts her head.

VIRGINIA

You don't?

Silence.

LEWIS

Oh, I see. It's my fault.

DOUG

It's no one's fault. All we can do is turn to God at this point. It's our only option and things gotta get better in this house between the two of you. You're married. You need to start actin' like it.

Virginia and Lewis glare at one another.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie is watching Lewis make a pallet on the floor beside her bed. Virginia walks in.

VIRGINIA

What are you doin'?

LEWIS

What does it look like I'm doin'?

VIRGINIA

I don't like this.

LEWIS

I don't care. If there's somthin' botherin' my little girl, it's gonna have to get through me first.

Wes runs in.

WES

Daddy, can I sleep in here with you tonight?

VIRGINIA

No.

LEWIS

Yes.

Virginia is shocked that he went against her again. Lewis picks Wes up and sets him down on Katie's bed. He kneels so he is eye level with the kids.

LEWIS

Now you guys listen up. We have absolutely nothin' to be afraid of. You wanna know why? We serve God. You can't ever forget that. No matter what. Your whole life, remember that. We're always protected, 'cause nothin' is more powerful than God. Nothin'. Now, we're gonna have a slumber party in here tonight, but it ain't cause we're scared. It's cause we just wanna have fun, right?

WES

Right.

Katie nods her head yes. Virginia walks out of the room.

LEWIS

Okay. Well, before any slumberin' can get done, we gotta pray. On the front line, troops.

Wes and Katie climb down off the bed and get on their knees next to their dad and get ready to pray.

INT. HEATON HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Virginia is in the kitchen making breakfast. Lewis walks in. He grabs a cup from the cabinet and pours some coffee.

VIRGINIA

Anything happen last night?

LEWIS

Nope.

VIRGINIA

I don't like you sleepin' with the kids.

LEWIS
Get over it.

Lewis goes to walk out.

VIRGINIA
Lewis, stop. I don't feel like I'm
gettin' a say in my own home. I want
my children to be dependent on God. I
want them to know that it's God who
protects them, not you.

LEWIS
I agree with you, Virginia. Does that
surprise you? I want OUR kids to
depend on God and they will, but
they're also gonna know their daddy
here on earth loves 'em. I don't see
any problem with that. If you do...

Lewis shrugs.

LEWIS
...nothin' I can do 'bout that.

Lewis exits.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Virginia is sitting in a chair reading the Bible. Wes and
Katie come running down stairs and head for the front door.

VIRGINIA
Where you two headed?

WES
Outside to play.

VIRGINIA
Do you think that's a good idea?

The kids don't know how to answer Virginia's question.

VIRGINIA
Did anything happen to you last night,
Katie?

Katie shakes her head no.

VIRGINIA
Why do you think that is?

WES

Cause Daddy was in there with us.

Virginia snaps her fingers and then points at Wes.

VIRGINIA

I wasn't speakin' to you. (beat)
Katie...why do you think nothin'
happened to you last night?

Katie is nervous to answer her question.

VIRGINIA

It's okay, sweetheart. You can answer
me honestly. Was it because Daddy
stayed in the room with you?

Katie nods her head yes.

VIRGINIA

I see. Did you pray at all?

Katie nods her head yes.

VIRGINIA

Well, if you prayed, why don't you
think it was God who protected you?

Katie shrugs her shoulders.

VIRGINIA

Come here.

Katie walks over to her mom. Virginia picks her up and puts
her in her lap.

Virginia looks at Wes.

VIRGINIA

You can go outside and play.

WES

Can Katie come?

VIRGINIA

Not right now. We need to pray.

WES

Can I pray with you?

VIRGINIA

No. This is somethin' Katie needs to do on her own.

WES

Okay.

VIRGINIA

Go play.

Wes kisses Katie on the head.

WES

Love you.

KATIE

Love you too.

Wes walks outside.

VIRGINIA

What do you think happened to you the other night? What scratched you?

KATIE

A monster.

VIRGINIA

Monsters aren't real.

KATIE

This one is.

VIRGINIA

You remember Daddy preachin' about demons?

Katie nods her head yes.

VIRGINIA

Well, that's what we think attacked you. Sometimes God lets the devil test the faith of very special Christians. Like Job, for instance. You remember the story of Job?

Katie shakes her head no.

VIRGINIA

Yes you do, sweetheart. Remember, he was the man who had great faith in God and the devil wanted to test that faith. So God allowed it. Remember?

Katie nods her head yes as she fidgets with her dress.

VIRGINIA

I think that's what God's doin' now, because has a great plan for your life. He's preparin' you for that. See, I think God wants to spend more time with you, sweetheart. I think that's why He let the devil send the demon. He wants you to pray. Prayer is the foundation you're gonna need to stand on to fight against the evils of this world. Prayer is what kept that demon away from you last night. I truly believe that. I also believe that's what's gonna keep that demon away forever. You have to pray hard, though. Luke 22:44 says "And being in agony Jesus prayed more earnestly; and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Jesus knew what was to come and knew the only way He was going to be able to bear that cross was through the strength of being in one on one prayer with God. That's what God wants of you. (beat) Now listen, you can go outside and play with your brother or you can stay inside and pray. I'm gonna pray, because I don't ever want that demon to come back, but this is your choice to make. So what do you wanna do? Play or pray?

Katie looks up at her mom.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia and Katie are on their knees praying silently. Wes walks to the doorway and see's them. He quietly creeps in and kneels down beside his sister. He places a hand on her back and begins praying. Virginia looks over at him and then resumes praying.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lewis is tucking Katie into her bed.

LEWIS
Are you sure, baby?

Katie nods her head yes.

LEWIS
You don't have to be brave for nobody.
You won't get in trouble if you say
you're scared. I promise. You want
Daddy to sleep in here on the floor
tonight?

Katie nods her head no.

KATIE
I prayed.

LEWIS
Okay. If you get scared or need me for
anything at all, you come get me.
Okay?

KATIE
Okay.

Lewis brushes the hair out of her face. He bends over and
kisses her on the forehead. He turns off her lamp and walks
out of the room.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Virginia is picking her Bible up off the side table. Lewis
walks in.

LEWIS
I see you got your way.

VIRGINIA
I don't know what you're talkin'
about.

LEWIS
Katie's sleepin' all by herself
tonight. Congratulations.

VIRGINIA
So?

LEWIS

She's bein' brave for you.

VIRGINIA

No. She's buildin' her house on the rock like the scripture teaches us too. I'm not gonna leave her alone, Lewis. I'm gonna be sittin' in a chair outside that girls room and prayin' over her all night long.

LEWIS

Really? Hmm. Sounds to me like you don't even have the faith you're tryin' to force on our little girl.

They lock eyes.

LEWIS

I tell you what, Virginia, I'll do it. I'll sit in the chair.

VIRGINIA

Oh no, you won't. You already got to play the big hero. Why don't you let God have the glory tonight? Take the bed if you want it.

Virginia walks out.

EXT. HEATON HOME - NIGHT

The moon hangs high and bright in the clear sky.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S ROOM - NIGHT

Wes sleeps peacefully in his bed.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Katie sleeps peacefully in her bed.

INT. HEATON HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Virginia appears to have dozed off in the chair. Her head leans back against the wall and her eyes closed.

Doug quietly opens the guest bedroom door and notices Virginia is resting.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Doug quietly creeps down the stairs heading for the kitchen. He notices Lewis sitting on the sofa awake. The moonlight shines on his face.

DOUG

Lewis?

LEWIS

Everything ok with Katie?

DOUG

Everything's fine. I just checked in on her. She's sleepin' peacefully. Are you okay?

LEWIS

Where's Virginia?

DOUG

She's asleep in the chair.

LEWIS

Then I need to go up there.

DOUG

I just told you I checked on her. She's perfectly fine. If anything happens, Virginia will hear it and wake up.

LEWIS

What are you doin' up?

DOUG

I was thirsty. Came to a get a glass of water and I see you sittin' here in the dark. What's on your mind?

No response.

DOUG

Lewis, I understand what you're goin' through better 'an anyone else in your life. Let it out.

BEAT.

LEWIS

I'm thinkin' 'bout Willie.

Doug looks at him confused.

LEWIS
You mighta met him at mine and
Virginia's weddin'.

DOUG
Your friend from school?

Lewis gives Doug a knowing look.

DOUG
Oh. I take it he was more than a
friend?

Lewis nods his head.

DOUG
Ok. Why're you thinkin' about him?

LEWIS
I think about him all the time.

DOUG
Is that right?

LEWIS
Mmhm.

Lewis thinks before speaking.

LEWIS
He begged me not to marry Virginia. I
told him I had to. I told him I wanted
to be a preacher and have kids. I
wanted a normal life. He told me if I
ever changed my mind, he'd be there.
That's the last thing he ever said to
me. I ain't seen him since.

DOUG
You love him?

LEWIS
With all my heart...but I also love
God. I love Jesus Christ. I've loved
tellin' people about the gospels and
how Jesus died for our sins. I've
loved every minute of it, Doug. I just
wished I could've done it with him by

my side. I know my church family thinks I'm goin' to hell. I know everybody thinks I'm bein' punished for what I did and maybe I am, but maybe and I'm just sayin' maybe...maybe The Lord ain't punishin' me for lovin' another man. Maybe He's punishin' me for not lovin' myself...for not bein' who He created me to be. Maybe. That could be a possibility.

Silence.

LEWIS

Has there ever been anyone special in your life? I mean, besides Virginia's mom?

DOUG

You mean a man?

LEWIS

Yeah.

DOUG

Oh yeah.

LEWIS

You can talk about him if you want.

Doug looks directly into Lewis' eyes.

DOUG

I don't think he'd like it if I did.

Awkward silence.

LEWIS

I love Virginia.

DOUG

You don't have to explain.

LEWIS

It's just not in the way I'm supposed to.

DOUG

I know all too well how you feel.

Both men are lost in their thoughts.

LEWIS

You should go to bed, Doug.

Doug doesn't want the moment to end.

DOUG

You sure you're okay?

LEWIS

Yeah, I'm fine.

DOUG

It was good talkin' to you.

LEWIS

Yeah, it was nice. Thanks for listenin'.

DOUG

Anytime. Goodnight, Lewis.

LEWIS

Goodnight.

Doug walks back up stairs.

INT. HEATON HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Doug creeps back up the stairs. He notices the chair Virginia was sitting in is empty. He wonders where she is. He's nervous. He walks towards the door to Katie's room. He's about to open it when...

VIRGINIA

What are you doin', Daddy?

This startles Doug. He turns to see Virginia standing at the top of the staircase holding a GLASS of water.

DOUG

Doodle Bug, you scared me.

VIRGINIA

What's got you so antsy?

DOUG

Antsy? Nothin'. Just havin' a little trouble sleepin'. That's all. I'm goin' back to bed, unless you want me to sit up with Katie?

Virginia shakes her head no.

VIRGINIA

No, that's ok. I wanna do it. I just needed to go get me a glass of water.

Virginia takes a sip. It's refreshing.

DOUG

You alright?

VIRGINIA

Of course. Why wouldn't I be?

Doug wonders if she heard any of his conversation with Lewis.

DOUG

Alright. Well, good night.

VIRGINIA

Goodnight, Daddy. Sleep tight.

Doug walks back into the guest room. She smiles at him as he closes the door.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Lewis lies on the couch wide awake. The sun begins to rise. Virginia comes down stairs.

LEWIS

I take it there were no problems last night?

VIRGINIA

(softer)

None. She prayed and God heard her prayers.

LEWIS

Thank God.

VIRGINIA

You don't look like you got much sleep at all.

LEWIS

I was up all night.

VIRGINIA

Thank you for lettin' her depend on God. I know that wasn't easy for you to do.

Virginia starts to exit.

LEWIS

Virginia...I spent most of the night prayin' for Katie, but the Lord laid some other things on my heart. There's a lot I need to work through, we need to work through and I know this won't help much, but...I'm sorry for what I've done to you. I humiliated you and our family and I want you to know...I am sorry.

Virginia tenderly smiles.

VIRGINIA

That helps more than you know. Would you like me to make you some breakfast before you head out to work?

Lewis is a little surprised.

LEWIS

I'd love that.

Virginia exits to the kitchen. Lewis takes in what just happened. He smiles and then gets up and goes upstairs.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

SLOW MOTION: Katie is lying in bed sleeping peacefully. Lewis bends down and kisses her on the forehead.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S BEDROOM - MORNING

SLOW MOTION: Wes is sleeping in his bed. Lewis bends down and kisses Wes on the forehead.

INT. HEATON HOME - BATHROOM - MORNING

SLOW MOTION: Lewis is taking a shower. He has his head bowed as the water hits his head. He lifts his head and the water beats down on his face. He smiles.

INT. HEATON HOME - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Lewis enters the dining room to find a plate of breakfast waiting on him. Doug is already sitting at the table eating.

LEWIS

Good mornin'.

DOUG
Mornin'.

Lewis sits down and begins to eat.

LEWIS
Did Virginia tell you that Katie slept
through the night?

DOUG
She did.

LEWIS
Praise God, right?

Doug's mind is elsewhere.

DOUG
Lewis, when I went back upstairs last
night after our conversation, Virginia
wasn't sittin' outside of Katie's
room.

LEWIS
Where was she?

DOUG
Comin' up the stairs behind me. She'd
been in the kitchen gettin' a glass of
water.

Lewis freezes.

DOUG
I don't know if she heard anything or
not.

They eat in silence, both wondering what Virginia may have
heard.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Virginia is sitting in the chair reading the Bible. Doug
comes down stairs and see's his bag all packed at the bottom
of the stair case.

DOUG
What's this, Virginia?

VIRGINIA

It's your bag...all packed and ready
for you to take it home.

DOUG

I didn't know I was headed home?

VIRGINIA

I think it's time, Daddy. I'd say
you've had a good visit. Wouldn't you?

DOUG

I have had a great visit. I don't
think it's a good idea for me to leave
just yet, though.

VIRGINIA

Why is that?

DOUG

What do you mean? There's somethin'
very wrong goin' on in this house.

Virginia closes her Bible and sets it on the table beside the
chair.

VIRGINIA

There is. You're right about that and
I'm glad you brought it up. You know,
I thought I understood why that demon
was in my house. In my human error I
thought I had God all figured out. The
flesh side of us likes to think it
understands what's goin' on with the
spiritual side, doesn't it? I was
sittin' in that chair last night
prayin' and readin' the Bible and just
bein' in the presence of the Lord. He
brought a lot of scriptures to my mind
that I've paid absolutely no attention
to in the past. I'm not sure why, but
the scriptures just never spoke to
me...they do now. Can I share 'em with
you?

DOUG

Sure.

VIRGINIA

"The Lord is long sufferin', and of great mercy, forgivin' iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visitin' the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation." Numbers chapter 14 verse 18. "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visitin' the iniquity of the fathers upon the children." Exodus Chapter 20 verse 5.

DOUG

I understand what you're sayin',
Virginia.

VIRGINIA

You do?

DOUG

Yeah, but I'm tellin' you, you'll never be able to fix your marriage as long as you blame everything that's happenin' to Katie on what Lewis did.

VIRGINIA

Not *just* what Lewis did.

Virginia looks at her father with a cold stare.

VIRGINIA

You and this demon seemed to show up at the exact same time. That's interestin' to me, but the Lord does work in mysterious ways. "For there is nothin' covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known." Matthew chapter 10 verse 26.

Virginia's stare cuts right through Doug.

VIRGINIA

Katie is goin' through somethin' no child should have to go through, because she's been let down by people who were supposed to protect her.

Doug stands in shock.

VIRGINIA
You're goin' home, Daddy.

DOUG
Virginia, listen...

VIRGINIA
Did Mama know?

Beat.

DOUG
Yes. It's somethin' we tried to work through our entire marriage. It was awful...for both of us...and it's a guilt I'll carry with me for the rest of my life.

VIRGINIA
I certainly hope you're not expectin' sympathy from me.

DOUG
I'm not.

VIRGINIA
(calmly)
Good. Get out.

DOUG
Can I please say bye to the kids?

VIRGINIA
No.

DOUG
Now, Virginia, that don't seem fair.

VIRGINIA
That's not a card you wanna play with me, Daddy.

Doug slowly bends down and picks up his bag. He takes a moment before walking to the front door.

VIRGINIA
I don't think it'd be a good idea for you to stop at the tire shop to talk to Lewis. There's no need for him to know about this conversation.

Hopefully I'm not askin' too much of you to keep your distance from my husband. I'm puttin' my family back together. It's what's best for the kids and I think we all want that, don't we?

Doug stands at the door frozen.

VIRGINIA

You can go now.

DOUG

I'm sorry.

Virginia stares at her father and the look on her face tells Doug all the damage is done. He walks out the door. Virginia resumes reading her Bible.

INT. HEATON HOME - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Virginia, Wes and Katie are setting the table for dinner. They hear the door open.

VIRGINIA

Daddy's home. Go get him.

Katie and Wes take off to go greet their dad. Virginia continues to set the table. Lewis walks in the dining room carrying Katie in his arms and holding Wes' hand.

LEWIS

I got attacked by two little munchkins.

VIRGINIA

You don't look too disappointed by it.

LEWIS

Smells good.

VIRGINIA

You ready to eat?

LEWIS

Starvin'.

VIRGINIA

Come sit down kids. Let's eat dinner.

Lewis sets Katie down. She and Wes run and get in their chairs at the table. Virginia begins to make their plates. Lewis sits.

LEWIS
Where's Doug?

VIRGINIA
He went home.

Lewis is surprised, but hides it

LEWIS
Oh, okay. How was your day?

VIRGINIA
It was really good. Thank you for askin'. How was yours?

LEWIS
It was good.

Virginia continues to put food on the kids plates. Lewis watches and smiles.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Virginia is sitting in the chair in the living room. Lewis comes down stairs. He picks up the covers he uses to make his bed.

VIRGINIA
Lewis?

Virginia startles him.

LEWIS
You scared me to death.

VIRGINIA
I'm sorry. I thought you knew I was sittin' here.

LEWIS
I do now.

VIRGINIA
How was Katie?

LEWIS

Peaceful. I was gonna make a pallet outside her room tonight since you stayed up with her last night.

VIRGINIA

I honestly don't think that's gonna be necessary. I think God's watchin' over her.

Virginia gets up from the chair and walks closer to Lewis. She reaches out and touches his face. She slowly leans in and tenderly kisses his lips.

They sweetly stare into one another's eyes.

VIRGINIA

(tenderly)

Lewis...are you a homosexual?

Lewis' eyes begin to fill with tears.

LEWIS

I don't wanna be.

She gives an understanding smile.

VIRGINIA

I believe God brought us together for a reason. He gave us our kids. Are you grateful for them?

LEWIS

Yes. Absolutely. I wouldn't change that for anything.

VIRGINIA

Then that means you wouldn't change marryin' me.

Lewis's eyes shift to the floor.

VIRGINIA

Look at me.

Lewis looks at Virginia.

Virginia unties her robe and slips it off. She stands in front of him completely nude, vulnerable. She takes his hand and places it on her breast.

VIRGINIA

That feels good, doesn't it? It does to me.

Lewis closes his eyes.

VIRGINIA

Open your eyes.

Lewis opens his eyes.

VIRGINIA

I believe that 'what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder', Mark chapter 10, verse 9. Lewis, will you try and let me be the one to fulfill you, to please you? For our marriage? For our family? Will you try?

Lewis nods his head yes. Virginia wipes the tears from his face and then begins taking off all of Lewis' clothes. It's tender and sweet how she undresses him. They stand completely nude in front of each other. She wraps her arms around him and presses her body to his. She looks up to him and they begin to kiss, tenderly at first and then it grows passionate.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Virginia is changing the sheets on the bed. She hears Wes come out of his room and begin to run down the hallway. She calls out for him.

VIRGINIA

Wes...

Wes stops and goes to his mom's bedroom. He appears in the door way.

WES

Did you call me, Mama?

VIRGINIA

I did.

Virginia sits on the bed.

VIRGINIA

Come sit with me a minute.

Wes hops up on the bed.

VIRGINIA

Where were you runnin' off to?

WES

I was gonna go outside with my sister.

VIRGINIA

She's prayin'.

WES

I know.

VIRGINIA

I don't think you understand what's happenin' to your sister.

WES

Yes I do. That's why I pray with her. The Bible says that when two people or more than two people are gathered prayin', God is there with them. It's in the book of Matthew.

Virginia is surprised at Wes's knowledge of the Word.

VIRGINIA

You're growin' up so fast.

Wes smiles.

VIRGINIA

That scares me.

Wes's smile fades.

WES

Why?

VIRGINIA

Because right now you're an innocent little boy. I wish you could stay that way forever, but you're gonna grow up to be a man, just like your father.

Wes is confused.

VIRGINIA

Your body is gonna start to change, Wes. You're gonna have these urges that you *will* give into and you'll

hurt everyone who loves you when you do. So I'm beggin' you, please leave your sister alone.

Wes stares down at the floor.

VIRGINIA

Go play and have fun. That's what you really wanna do anyway. Right, little man?

WES

(whispers)

I'm a boy.

VIRGINIA

For now.

Virginia smiles at him.

VIRGINIA

Mama needs to get back to her chores.

Virginia gets up and resumes changing the sheets.

As Wes exits the room, he stops in the doorway and turns to Virginia.

WES

Mama.

Virginia looks at Wes.

WES

I love you.

Virginia smiles sweetly at Wes.

VIRGINIA

I know you do, sweetheart.

Virginia turns her attention back to her chores.

Wes walks out.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S ROOM - DAY

Wes walks into his room and closes the door. He rests his forehead against the door, staring down at the floor.

WES
(whispers)
I'm a boy.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lewis is on top of Virginia making love to her. She just stares at the ceiling. Lewis eventually stops.

LEWIS
I'm sorry...I'm just tired, I think.

VIRGINIA
It's okay. Let's just get some sleep.

LEWIS
I can try again.

VIRGINIA
It's okay, Lewis.

Lewis rolls off of Virginia.

LEWIS
(whispers)
I'm sorry.

Silence.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie kneels on her bed with her arms, hands wide open, extended towards the heavens.

Wes is standing with his hands extended out touching a corner of the room.

WES
Lord, I pray that you watch over this
room. I pray that you bless this
corner and this corner...

Wes walks to every corner of the room, sliding his hand along the walls as he does.

WES
and this corner and this corner.
Please put an angel in all the corners
so that they can watch over my sister
and keep her safe.

KATIE

And put an angel in the closet too.

WES

And under the bed.

Wes walks to the bed and places his hands on one of Katie's extended arms.

WES

Lord, we are praying for this together. We believe in you and we ask you to not let anything ever hurt my sister again. In Jesus name we pray.

WES AND KATIE

Amen.

They stare into one another's eyes. Wes extends and opens his arms towards Katie, inviting her in for a hug. She snuggles into her brother's embrace. He squeezes her tight.

INT. HEATON HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Wes leaves Katie's room, quietly closing the door. He is startled to see Virginia sitting at the top of the staircase facing down the stairs.

WES

Mama?

Virginia turns to see Wes standing outside of Katie's room.

VIRGINIA

What were you doin' in Katie's room?

WES

We were prayin' so she would be safe tonight. I'm sorry.

Wes bows his head to the floor waiting for Virginia's anger, but instead she turns back around facing away from Wes. Wes cautiously walks to his bedroom.

VIRGINIA

Wes.

Wes stops and faces Virginia.

VIRGINIA

I don't believe God loves me.

Virginia turns to look directly at Wes.

VIRGINIA

I don't believe I'm worthy to be loved. However, I do believe I can serve His will, His cause...by raisin' a Godly daughter that He can use to advance his kingdom. I will prepare her for His will by showing her that He is the only one to trust and by arming her with the ability to protect herself from whatever or whoever harms her.

Virginia turns to stare back down the stairs.

Wes walks over and wraps his arms around his mom's neck and hugs her.

Virginia is caught off guard by his embrace.

Wes hugs her tight.

WES

God loves you, Mama. God loves everybody.

Virginia closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

Wes tenderly kisses Virginia on the head and then walks in his room and closes the door.

Virginia gasps for air, as if she is shocked at the tears that are filling her eyes and quickly covers her face with her hands. She holds her breath to fight back against the emotion. She moves her hands to the sides of her forehead as she takes breaths to calm herself.

INT. TIRE SHOP - LOBBY - DAY

ERIC (20's), thin, cute with dark hair, waits in the lobby.

Lewis walks in from the garage area.

LEWIS

Eric?

ERIC

Yeah?

LEWIS

Your car's all ready to roll.

ERIC

Cool. Thanks. That didn't take very long.

LEWIS

Naw, it was a pretty easy fix.

ERIC

Are you sure I don't owe you anything?

LEWIS

Nope. Like I said, it took me no time at all to fix. It's on us today.

ERIC

Us? It looks like you're the only one here.

LEWIS

Yeah, well...then it's on me today.

ERIC

Thank you.

Lewis nods and extends the KEYS to Eric. Eric takes them.

LEWIS

You have a good day.

ERIC

You too.

Eric begins to walk towards the exit. His jeans fit nice. Lewis can't help but notice.

Eric stops and turns back to Lewis.

ERIC

Did you used to be the pastor of that church off of Meadow Lane?

Lewis is uncomfortable.

LEWIS

Yes, I did.

ERIC

I thought so. Um...

Eric slowly reaches down and adjusts himself in a way that is sexually suggestive.

ERIC

...is there a bathroom I can use?

They lock eyes.

LEWIS

Yeah. It's right down the hall.

Lewis nods with his head.

ERIC

Thanks.

Eric walks down the hall towards the bathroom. He stops at the door and gives Lewis a knowing look and smile before going inside.

Lewis is rattled.

LEWIS

(to himself)

Don't do this, Lewis. Don't do this.

Lewis stands there thinking over his choices. He's struggling. He looks over at the bathroom. He walks down the hall and stops in front of the bathroom door. He takes a deep breath and then walks inside.

EXT. HEATON HOME - DAY

Katie is in a swing and Wes is pushing her. They are laughing and having a great time enjoying the day. Virginia sits on the porch and watches. She gets up and walks towards them.

Virginia stands next to Wes and Katie and stares at them. The swinging stops.

VIRGINIA

You've had some good nights, Katie and I think that's somethin' we should be givin' thanks for. I don't want that demon to come back.

KATIE

Then don't let it.

Virginia is taken aback.

VIRGINIA
(shaken)
How can I prevent it?

Katie stares at Virginia before turning back to Wes.

KATIE
Push me.

Wes resumes pushing Katie on the swing.

Virginia watches them in shock. She turns and storms off towards the house, walking fast and steady. She stops in her tracks and turns back to watch the children playing. She takes a deep breath to gather her composure before walking calmly back to the house.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katie is asleep in her bed. Out of the silence of the night, there is a scratching on the closet door from the inside. The sound grows a louder. Katie wakes up and looks toward the closet. Katie closes her eyes and starts whispering prayers. The scratching stops. Katie stops praying, opens her eyes and looks at the closet.

Silence.

All of a sudden the door knob twists and the closet door cracks open. Katie watches on frozen in terror.

Silence.

Katie pulls the covers over her head. She resumes whispering prayers. There are noises in the room as she prays. The noises stop. Katie listens.

Silence.

She slowly pulls the covers down to see the room. The closet door is wide open. The drawers of her dresser are open. Her clothes are in a pile on the floor. She looks around the room. She doesn't see anything or hear anything. Until...

The chair in the corner starts slowly moving towards Katie's bed as if something is behind it pushing it. She jumps off her bed and crawls to the corner beside her bed. She puts her knees up and wraps her arms around them and buries her face.

Silence.

She slowly looks up and notices movement underneath her bed. She whimpers in fear. Stillness. All of a sudden something grabs her and pulls her towards the bed.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES'S ROOM - NIGHT

Wes jolts awake in his bed as if he had a nightmare. He looks at his door.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wes quietly opens the door to Katie's room and creeps inside. He see's the room is a mess.

WES
(whispers)
Katie?

Silence.

WES
Katie, where are you?

Behind Wes, Katie emerges from the darkness of her closet and stands in the doorway.

KATIE
Wes.

Katie startles Wes. He quickly spins around to see her standing there.

WES
Are you okay?

Katie stares at her brother and nods her head no.

INT. HEATON HOME - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Lewis, Virginia, Wes and Katie sit at the dining room table eating breakfast. They sit in silence. Lewis isn't eating. He stares at Katie while she pushes her food around on her plate. He looks at the cuts and scratches on her body.

LEWIS
What are we gonna do?

VIRGINIA
We're gonna continue to pray. That's all we can do.

LEWIS

Well, that's not workin'. We need to get some of the elders of the church to come and pray over her or somethin'.

Virginia looks at Lewis like he has to be kidding.

LEWIS

What's that look supposed to mean?

Virginia doesn't respond.

LEWIS

Say what you're thinkin', Virginia.

VIRGINIA

This is not the time.

LEWIS

It damn sure is.

VIRGINIA

Don't use that language in front of the kids.

LEWIS

Say it.

No response.

LEWIS

SAY IT!

VIRGINIA

(angry)

What holy Christian would ever, EVER, step foot in this den of iniquity, Lewis? None of them would! So no, goin' to the elders is *not* an option! Now shut-up and eat your food!

Virginia stops her rant and resumes eating.

Silence.

Wes and Katie are being very still and looking down. They are afraid to make a noise or make eye contact with their parents.

Tears fill Lewis' eyes as he watches them. Lewis speaks again, but does so meekly. He doesn't want to rile Virginia again for the kids sake.

LEWIS

We could sell the house and move.

VIRGINIA

Do you think demons are easily
confused by maps?

LEWIS

I'm done.

Lewis stands and tosses his napkin on top of his plate. He walks over to Wes and kisses him on the head.

LEWIS

I love you, big guy.

WES

Love you, Daddy.

Lewis goes to Katie. He kneels down beside her.

LEWIS

Look at me, baby.

Katie looks in Lewis' eyes.

LEWIS

I'm gonna figure somethin' out, okay?

Katie nods her head yes.

LEWIS

I promise you that.

VIRGINIA

(calmly)

No he won't.

Lewis looks at Virginia who doesn't take her eyes off of her plate of food.

Lewis turns back to Katie.

LEWIS

I love you.

KATIE
I love you too.

Lewis walks out. Virginia notices the kids aren't eating.

VIRGINIA
Eat your breakfast.

Wes keeps his head down. Katie, on the other hand, stares directly at her Mom. Virginia feels her looking at her, so she shifts her eyes to meet Katie's stare.

KATIE
(whispers)
I hate you.

Wes looks at Katie shocked that she said that. Wes then looks at his Mom. Virginia shows no emotion. She goes back to eating her breakfast. Wes looks back down at his plate. Katie doesn't take her eyes off of Virginia.

EXT. CHURCH - EVENING

Hugh stands in front of the Church.

Lewis' truck pulls up. He gets out and walks to Hugh.

LEWIS
Thank you for meetin' with me, Brother
Denton.

HUGH
What can I do for you, Lewis?

LEWIS
How is everybody here at the church?
Everybody doin' okay?

Hugh isn't interested in small talk.

HUGH
What can I do for you, Lewis?

LEWIS
Right...um. Well, I have a problem at
home and it's serious and I don't
really know where else to go.

HUGH
I'm listenin'?

Beat.

LEWIS

We think there might be a demon
attackin' my little girl in her room
at night.

HUGH

A demon?

LEWIS

Yes, sir. We've prayed and it keeps
comin' back. I thought maybe, you and
some of the other elders of the church
could come pray over her. Over our
home.

HUGH

I don't think that's gonna work,
Lewis.

LEWIS

Why not?

HUGH

That demon ain't there to hurt Katie.

LEWIS

I understand what you're gettin' at,
okay, but it is hurtin' her. We gotta
be able to do somethin', right? I
mean, we serve God, don't we?

HUGH

Yes we do.

LEWIS

Then what's your suggestion?

HUGH

You need to leave.

LEWIS

What?

HUGH

You need to divorce Virginia and leave
your kids.

LEWIS

That ain't an option.

HUGH

Then there ain't anything we can do to help. They need to be cleansed and they can't be as long as you're there with them.

Lewis is hurt.

HUGH

What you've done is an abomination. You've angered God. Who's to say you won't give into this sin over and over and over again? Deep down, you know I'm right.

Lewis lowers his head in shame.

HUGH

You're in a bad place right now and I truly believe that as long as you're under that roof, your little girl is gonna continue to get attacked.

Awkward silence lingers between the two of them.

INT. LEWIS' TRUCK - DAY

Lewis is sitting in his truck, which is parked in front of a body of water such as a large pond or a small lake. The window is down allowing the breeze to blow in. He stares blankly at the water. He starts the truck, rolls up the window and shifts the gear to drive.

LEWIS

God...I failed you, not them. Please don't punish my kids for what I've done. Watch over them, protect them and keep them safe. In Jesus holy and precious name I pray. Amen.

Lewis slams his foot down on the gas pedal.

INT. HEATON HOME - KITCHEN - EVENING

Virginia is cleaning the counters when the phone rings. She answers it.

VIRGINIA

Hello? Yes, this is she. Okay. (beat)
How did that happen? Okay. What do I

need to do? Uh-huh. Okay. Okay. Thank
you for callin'.

She hangs up the phone without showing any emotion.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

People are scattering from a funeral. The casket is being
lowered into the ground.

Virginia stands dressed in all black.

Wes stands with his arm around Katie. She wraps her arms
around her brothers waist and buries her face in his side. He
holds her as they cry.

Hugh walks up to Virginia.

HUGH

I'm sorry for your loss.

VIRGINIA

Thank you.

HUGH

We'll be by tonight to pray for Katie.
If you need anythin' before then, you
let me know. God bless you.

Hugh walks away leaving Virginia alone with the kids.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hugh and other church elders are gathered around Katie, who
is in her bed. They are passionately praying over her.

Virginia is sitting in the chair in the corner of the room
with her head bowed.

Wes stands in the door way watching. Virginia looks up and
sees Wes. She quietly gets up, walks over to him and shuts
the door in his face.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

There is a loud knock on the front door. Virginia opens the
door to see Doug standing there.

VIRGINIA

I don't wanna see you, Daddy.

Doug stops her from closing the door.

DOUG

I had a right to know about Lewis. You hear me? I had a right to know he passed.

VIRGINIA

You did?

DOUG

Yes I did! You not tellin' me and me not gettin' to be at the funeral, that was a mean thing to do, Virginia. It was hurtful.

Virginia flies into a rage. She shoves Doug as hard as she can, causing him to stumble back a few steps. She gets right in his face.

VIRGINIA

You don't get to lecture me about what's hurtful! Not after what you've done! You should be dead in the dirt with Lewis! Now you get off my property and don't you ever come back here again or I'll call the police!

Virginia storms back inside, slamming the door and locking it.

Doug doesn't back down.

DOUG

I wanna see the kids, Virginia!

No response.

DOUG

I have a right to see the kids!

No response. Doug beats on the door.

DOUG

Virginia!

Doug rests his head against the door.

DOUG

I know I've hurt you. I live with the regret of how I treated your mother. I have made a mess of my life. A

selfish, destructive mess and I've wreaked havoc on those I love the most. I promise you, Virginia, never once were the actions that I took in my life ever meant to be malicious or intentionally hurtful. I tried. I tried to change. I tried to not want what I wanted. I tried to resist it all my life. It would've been better for your Mama if I had walked away and it would have been better for you if Lewis had never married you.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Virginia, listening on the other side of the door, begins to sob.

EXT. HEATON HOME - PORCH - DAY

Doug waits. No response.

DOUG

I have a right to see those kids,
Virginia and I'm not gonna stop until
you let me see them.

He walks off.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Virginia leans against the door breathing to calm herself down. She hears Doug SLAM his truck door and then drive off. She looks to the top of the stairs to see Katie staring down at her. Katie walks off.

INT. HEATON HOME - WES' BEDROOM - DAY

Wes is lying in his bed with his back to the door.

Katie opens the door and walks in. .

Wes looks over his shoulder to see who is in his room. His face is wet with tears. He see's it's Katie.

WES

Did I hear Papa?

Katie nods her head yes.

WES
Did Mama make him leave?

KATIE
Yes.

He lays his head back down on the pillow facing away from her.

Katie walks over to her brother and lays her head on his shoulder. She whispers...

KATIE
I miss Daddy.

WES
Me too.

Virginia peaks her head in the room.

VIRGINIA
Katie.

Katie doesn't look at her mother.

VIRGINIA
Let's leave your brother be, okay?
Come on.

Katie doesn't budge.

WES
(defeated)
Go Katie.

Katie reluctantly leaves, walking past Virginia and then out of the room.

VIRGINIA
Wes, can I get you anything?

Wes doesn't respond. Virginia walks out and closes the door.

INT. DINER - DAY

Doug sits in a booth drinking some tea. He is anxiously waiting for someone.

WILLIE SULLIVAN (30's) walks in.

Doug see's him. He waves to get Willie's attention.

Willie walks over to the booth.

Doug stands.

WILLIE

Doug?

DOUG

Yes. Willie?

WILLIE

Yes sir.

DOUG

Come on now, don't make me feel even older.

WILLIE

Sorry.

DOUG

Naw, don't worry about it. I'm just teasin' you. Here, come on, sit down.

They both sit.

DOUG

Thank you for meetin' me.

WILLIE

No problem at all. How'd you find me, by the way?

DOUG

Called every Willie Sullivan and just plain ol' Sullivan I could find in the phone book. Got ahold of a cousin of yours. They gave me your number.

A waitress walks up.

WAITRESS

Hi there.

WILLIE

Hello.

WAITRESS

What can I get you to drink?

WILLIE

Tea'll be great. Thank you.

WAITRESS

My pleasure. You gentlemen know what you want to eat?

DOUG

Not quite yet, young lady. We may need a few minutes.

WAITRESS

No problem, guys. I'll go get that tea for ya. Be right back.

DOUG

Thank you.

The waitress leaves to get the tea.

WILLIE

I remember meetin' you at Lewis and Virginia's weddin'.

DOUG

Yeah. I remember talkin' with you for a little bit.

WILLIE

Yeah.

DOUG

Yeah.

Awkward pause.

WILLIE

So...you said you had some news for me?

DOUG

I do. Yeah. Um...it isn't easy to tell you, but I thought it would be better in person rather than on the phone.

WILLIE

Lewis is dead, isn't he?

DOUG

He is. Did you already know?

WILLIE

No. Just assumed that's what this was about. I couldn't think of any other news you'd be givin' me.

DOUG

It was a surprise to all of us.

WILLIE

Yeah, I bet. So how'd it um...how'd it...

Willie starts to break down. He is embarrassed.

WILLIE

I'm sorry.

DOUG

No, now there's no need to say you're sorry.

WILLIE

It's a little hard to hear, that's all.

The waitress walks back with the tea. Willie quickly wipes his eyes and tries to mask his emotion from the waitress.

WAITRESS

Hear ya go.

She sets the tea on the table in front of Willie.

WILLIE

Thank you.

WAITRESS

You're welcome, sweetie. Did you gentlemen decide what you'll be havin'?

DOUG

We're gonna need some time. You mind givin' us a minute?

WAITRESS

Not at all. You take as much time as you need.

DOUG

Thank you.

WAITRESS

You're welcome.

The waitress exits.

WILLIE

How'd it happen?

DOUG

Car accident. It was just him. No other vehicle involved.

Willie starts to cry again.

WILLIE

I'm sorry. This news is hittin' me pretty hard.

DOUG

I understand. Here.

Doug hands Willie a napkin.

WILLIE

Thank you. This is embarrassin'.

DOUG

Nothin' at all to be embarrassed about. So, listen...I had a conversation with Lewis pretty recently. A conversation I'm thankful I got to share with him. He told me about the two of you.

Willie looks shocked.

DOUG

He told me about the last conversation you two shared.

WILLIE

I don't know what to say...

DOUG

He told me he thought about that conversation everyday. He said his biggest regret was lettin' you go.

Willie feels his emotions start to overtake him again. He allows the tears to flow freely. Doug is also emotional.

DOUG

He said he loved you, Willie, with all
of his heart.

Willie breaks down, again. Doug reaches across the table and places his hand on his arm. Willie quickly jerks away and looks to make sure no one is staring at them. Willie did that without even thinking.

WILLIE

I'm sorry.

DOUG

It's alright. We gotta be careful. I understand. I'm not tellin' you this to upset you. I just know this is somethin' Lewis would've wanted you to know.

WILLIE

Thank you...for tellin' me. You don't know how much it means to hear it.

DOUG

Oh I think I do.

They sit a moment collecting themselves.

DOUG

May I buy you lunch?

WILLIE

You don't have to do that.

DOUG

I know, but I'd like to.

WILLIE

Okay. Yeah. That'd be nice. Thank you.

Doug grabs his MENU and pushes one toward Willie. He picks it up.

DOUG

Now, let's take a look at these menus.

EXT. HEATON HOME - PORCH - EVENING

Virginia and Sarah stand on the porch. Virginia holds a casserole.

VIRGINIA

Thank you for the casserole. You didn't have to do that.

SARAH

I wanted to. I don't mind cookin'. I enjoy it, actually. It's one of the few things I can control in my life. What ingredients I use, how long I wanna spend in the kitchen, if I want pancakes for dinner...all up to me.

Virginia smiles.

VIRGINIA

I can relate.

SARAH

I imagine you can.

Beat.

SARAH

I've missed seein' you in church.

This is the best thing Sarah could have possibly said to Virginia.

VIRGINIA

You have?

Sarah nods her head yes.

SARAH

We all have.

VIRGINIA

That brings me comfort to know.

BEAT.

SARAH

How are the kids doin'?

VIRGINIA

They're missin' their Dad.

The mention of Lewis hardens Sarah's face just a little.

SARAH

God is good. They'll be just fine. I take it the prayers from the elders have helped Katie?

VIRGINIA

They have. I think the demon's gone away.

SARAH

Oh, I think it has too. Praise God.

VIRGINIA

Would you like to stay and visit a while? We could have some coffee or some delicious casserole?

Virginia extends the casserole playfully and smiles.

SARAH

That'd be nice. I'll take a cup of coffee.

VIRGINIA

Well, come on in. I just made a fresh pot.

SARAH

Would it be okay if I stayed out here?

Virginia can tell Sarah is avoiding coming inside. Why? Is she afraid of the demon? Does she think Virginia's house is unholy?

SARAH

It's a lovely evenin'. Let's enjoy our coffee on the porch.

Virginia nods her head in agreement, hiding her racing mind and thoughts. She smiles.

VIRGINIA

That's a wonderful idea. I'll be right back with our coffee.

Virginia goes inside.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Katie and Wes look out the window to spy Sarah leaving. She

spots them and waves goodbye. They wave back. They watch their mom smile as she see's Sarah off and then they see her smile fade.

Virginia walks inside holding the CUPS from the coffee and DISHES from the casserole. She is quiet and lost in deep thought. She places the dishes down on a side table by the front door and just stands there with her back to the kids.

WES

Mom?

SILENCE.

Virginia begins to growl a guttural scream at the top of her lungs and then takes off running up the stairs.

Wes is frozen in shock. Katie just watches. They hear a door SLAM and then silence.

Wes turns to Katie confused.

KATIE

I know where she went.

INT. HEATON HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Wes follows Katie up the stairs and down the hallway to her bedroom. They stand right outside her bedroom door.

WES

She's in your room?

Katie nods her head yes and then slowly reaches out and turns the door knob. The bedroom door slowly opens.

INT. HEATON HOME - KATIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is dark. Katie flips a switch that turns on the bedside lamp.

The room is a mess. All the drawers are open on the dresser and the clothes in a pile on the floor. The chair is turned upside down.

Katie steps into the room.

WES

Katie, don't go in there.

Katie ignores him and continues to cautiously walk into the room.

KATIE

Mom?

SILENCE.

Wes begins to slowly follow his sisters lead.

KATIE

Mom...

Katie slowly walks toward the closet door. She reaches out for the door knob.

WES

Katie...

Katie begins to turn the door knob. The latch clicks. Katie slowly opens the closet door. Complete darkness.

SILENCE.

KATIE

Mom...

That same guttural scream roars from within the closet and Virginia comes charging out of the darkness wearing just a white night gown and a BURLAP GLOVE WITH BLADES as finger nails. She looks crazed as she claws at Katie, scratching her across her shoulder and arm. Katie screams in pain as she falls to the ground.

Virginia, in her rage, stands over Katie and begins to scratch and claw at her.

WES

STOP IT!

Wes charges at Virginia and shoves her as hard as he can. She stops attacking Katie and slowly turns her attention to Wes. He looks horrified to see the look in his mother's eyes. She's unrecognizable to him.

WES

Mom...

Virginia charges at him, grabbing him by his neck and slamming him against the wall.

She shouts in a growl...

VIRGINIA
GET! OUT! OF! THIS! ROOOOOOOOM!

Virginia, still holding him by his throat with her burlap claw, peels him off the wall and shoves him backwards out of the room, sending him crashing to the floor in the hallway.

INT. HEATON HOME - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Wes looks at his Mom standing in the door way staring at him. He then looks down at Katie on the ground in the room.

WES
KATIE!

Virginia slams the door shut.

CLICK. It's locked.

Wes runs to the door and tries to open it, but can't. He hears Katie screaming at the top of her lungs.

He also hears Virginia.

VIRGINIA
Please stop! Please stop hurtin' my
daughter! I'm beggin' you God, please
stop this! Please protect us! In Jesus
name, I beg you!

Wes listens as his mom and sister scream. He is beating on the door trying to open it.

WES
Katie! Katie! Leave her alone!

All of a sudden it goes quiet. Wes listens, but hears nothing. He beats on the door again.

WES
Katie? Katie, are you in there?

The door flies open and Virginia runs out with Katie in her arms. She grabs Wes by his arm and runs down the stairs.

EXT. HEATON HOME - NIGHT

Virginia and the kids run into the yard. Virginia is out of

breath. She stands looking at the house still holding her kids.

Wes stares at his Mom.

Katie, scratched and bleeding, stares at her mom.

Virginia notices.

VIRGINIA

Are y'all okay?

The kids say nothing. They just stare.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wes and Katie sit on the couch. Virginia is on the phone.

VIRGINIA

I thank you, Brother Denton. What time should I expect you here? 6? Okay, that'll be great. Thank you. God bless you too, Brother. Bye bye.

Virginia hangs up the phone.

VIRGINIA

The elders will be here this evenin' to pray with you, Katie.

Silence.

VIRGINIA

(gentle)

It's been hard around here lately, hasn't it? I'm hopin' it'll all calm down now. I pray I haven't been too hard on you. Have I?

KATIE

No, Mommy.

Virginia gets emotional.

VIRGINIA

Good. I'm tired. I'm gonna take a nap. Y'all stay inside. I don't want you outside while I'm asleep. Okay?

The kids nod their heads yes.

Virginia smiles and then walks upstairs.

Katie and Wes look at one another.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Katie and Wes are sitting on the couch. They've changed clothes.

There is a knock at the door.

Wes gets up and answers it.

It is Hugh and a handful of other elders.

HUGH

Hello there, Wes. Is your Mama home?

Wes nods his head yes and lets them come in.

HUGH

Hi Katie.

KATIE

Hi.

HUGH

Your Mama tells me you had a rough night last night. You okay?

Katie nods her head yes.

Hugh goes to Katie and takes a look at the scratches on her arms and legs. He shakes his head.

HUGH

We're gonna make this stop. You hear me?

Katie nods her head yes.

HUGH

Okay. Where's your Mama?

KATIE

Upstairs.

HUGH

Virginia!

No response.

HUGH

Do you think she'd mind if I went up
to get her?

Wes shakes his head no. Hugh starts up the stairs.

INT. HEATON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Hugh knocks on the door.

HUGH

Virginia? You in there? Virginia?

Hugh knocks again.

HUGH

Virginia, I'm openin' the door, okay?

He cautiously opens the door.

HUGH

Virginia?

The door fully opens and Hugh gasps as he steps back and
braces himself against the door frame.

HUGH

Oh my Lord...

Virginia lies in her bed soaked in blood. Deep cuts all over
her body. It's grisly.

INT. HEATON HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Wes and Katie sit on the couch. Wes's head is bowed and his
hands, folded in his lap, slowly fidget. Katie sits right
next to her brother with her head resting on his shoulder.
She watches his hands.

Hugh comes down the stairs. He whispers to one of the elders.
The elder hurries off, presumably calling the police.

Hugh walks to the couch and kneels down in front of Wes and
Katie.

HUGH

Kids...what happened to your mother?

Katie keeps her head rested on Wes's shoulder with her gaze
still on his fidgeting hands.

HUGH

You can tell me. You don't have to be
scared. What happened?

Katie, shifting just her eyes, glances at Hugh.

KATIE

(matter-of-factly)
The demon got her.

Hugh is taken aback at what he has just heard. He stares at
Katie horrified, shocked, confused.

Katie shifts her eyes back to Wes's fidgeting hands. She
places her tiny hand on his to calm him.

The screen slowly fades to black.

THE END.