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Fallmore

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FINAL THESIS

TELEVISION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Student Name: Emanuella Bettarello de Oliveira

Thesis Logline: After having a nightmare where her best friend Rylee is killed by a terrifying creature, Leona wakes up to find that not only is he missing in real life, but no one in the perfect town of Fallmore seems to remember he ever existed...

Fallmore

Title

A teleplay written and produced and presented to the faculty of
the Writing and Producing for Television MFA Program in the
School of Film & Television at Loyola Marymount University of
Los Angeles, California

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

Master of Fine Arts

Writing and Producing for Television

By

Emanuella Bettarello de Oliveira

Student Name



Emanuella Bettarello de Oliveira (May 5, 2021 20:43 PDT)

Student Signature

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE TO CANDIDACY

The following student has met all the criteria to advance to candidacy for an M.F.A. in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Writing and Producing for Television:

Emanuella Bettarello de Oliveira

Student Name



SCWR 680 Fall 2020 Instructor Signature



SCWR 681 Spring 2021 Instructor Signature



Patricia Meyer (May 6, 2021 11:16 PDT)

Graduate Director Signature

Date: May 4, 2021

FALLMORE

Written by

Ella Bettarello

TEASER

EXT. FALLMORE - NIGHT

A starry night above a peaceful forest. Crickets chirp, the wind blows orange leaves scattered on the ground. We hear faint music filling the cold air.

A bunny pokes its head out from a hole and ventures outside. It hops around cautiously until it finds dinner - a pile of cranberries. It starts eating immediately.

It reaches for another one when... SHRIEK. A deformed claw snatches the bunny away as it cries out. A splurt of blood stains the auburn ground; it morphs into...

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

...A splash of cranberry sauce on a messy plate. ARTHUR BELLATOR (30s) takes a big bite out of the pie in front of him. The red liquid dripping out of his mouth.

SUPER: FALLMORE, 1870s

A celebration. Live classical music fills the festive area. Candles light up a grass field packed with tables and TOWNSFOLK with their most fancy attires. Flower arrangements and high-quality tablecloths decorate the surroundings.

Different types of food placed on each table - most, if not all, red. People walk around with a mountain of food on their plates.

In the center of the area, the longest table, separated from six Founding Families: The BELLATORS, The PRINCEPS, The FIDELIS, The CORDATUS, The LIBERALIS, and The VERUS.

Behind them, the beautiful clock tower almost hits midnight.

Like thin air, GEORGE FALLMORE (50s) takes the empty seat right next to Arthur. A subtle smile creeps through his gray mustache as he taps Arthur's shoulder.

GEORGE FALLMORE

Mr. Mayor. Hope everything is to your liking.

Arthur's face turns pale.

ARTHUR BELLATOR

George. What are you- We thought you were...

George pretends he has no clue of what he's talking about. He smiles at the other Founding Families, who now share the same panicked look. Arthur leans in.

ARTHUR BELLATOR (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Dead.

GEORGE FALLMORE
I sure don't look dead. Time for
the toast, isn't it?

Arthur stares at George. His presence clearly taking a toll on him. George's eyes tell him that was not just a request. Arthur composes himself, stands up, and clicks his glass to get everyone's attention.

ARTHUR BELLATOR
Kind folks! It's my pleasure to
have y'all here for our very first
day as a new town. Tonight, we
celebrate Fallmore! I'm honored
that you chose to follow our
guidance as we grow into greatness.

Everyone pays attention to every word. Arthur turns to George.

ARTHUR BELLATOR (CONT'D)
And, of course, none of this
would've been possible without the
outstanding and only Mr. George
Fallmore.

George stands up to get the praise.

GEORGE FALLMORE
I can only hope the name can fit
such a bright and lovely town. I
dedicate this toast to this
blessing day and these five
magnificent families that you have
as your founders, your blessed
families.

The Founding families eye each other, a little uneasy.
Everybody claps in excitement. George picks up his glass.

GEORGE FALLMORE (CONT'D)
And, most importantly, to Fallmore.

Everyone raises their glasses and drink. As they all sit back and return to enjoy the event, George turns to Arthur.

GEORGE FALLMORE (CONT'D)
Oh Arthur, now we have some matters
to take care of, don't we?

Arthur tenses again and looks at George, who doesn't blink.

GEORGE FALLMORE (CONT'D)
Your bogs were blooming with the
tastiest cranberries you've ever
had this morning. I held my end.
You broke our deal.

ARTHUR BELLATOR
George, listen we-

GEORGE FALLMORE
Time for negotiation is over. You
can keep your profitable
cranberries and perfect little town
at a higher cost.

Arthur stares at everyone happily unaware of the tension
between the two of them.

ARTHUR BELLATOR
Fine. How much money do you want?

George laughs.

GEORGE FALLMORE
It's always about money with you,
Bellator. And that's why I will
take what you hold most dear.

George turns his gaze to HENRY BELLATOR (11), who plays with
others in the crowd. Arthur follows his stare.

GEORGE FALLMORE (CONT'D)
I warned you not to cross me.

Arthur processes his words. Dread starting to sink in.

ARTHUR BELLATOR
You out of your damn mind?

BOOOONG. The clock hits midnight. Arthur gets startled by the
sudden noise. He turns back to George, but he's gone. Arthur
gets up in a jolt and scans the crowd.

ARTHUR BELLATOR (CONT'D)
Ruth, get Henry! We need to go home
now.

RUTH BELLATOR (30s, his wife) looks up at him, confused.

A fiery noise surges around them. The crowd starts to notice it, and when they realize, they are trapped inside a ring of fire.

People start to panic and yell as they run through the old cobble streets. A very loud thud echoes through the air - a screech fills the space.

Ruth pushes past the frantic crowd, her eyes scanning the streets. Arthur right behind her. She repeatedly calls for her son until she finally spots Henry, running around lost and terrified.

RUTH BELLATOR

Henry!

Henry sees them. He dashes towards his parents when a hollow shriek pierces through their ears.

A massive creature steps between them. Its bony and angular limbs are glazed with a glossy dark substance that drips all over the streets as it moves. Ruth and Arthur look at it, petrified.

RUTH BELLATOR (CONT'D)

Run!

Henry turns the opposite way as the creature crawls its way to him. Its mouth drags open as it reaches for the boy, sharp teeth just inches from him.

Ruth screams, but it's too late. The creature takes a bite and swallows half of him. Its teeth sunk in Henry's waist as it gulps down the rest of him. He's gone.

Ruth cries are lost in the night as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT I**EXT. FALLMORE - MORNING**

We dig fast into the thick woods until we emerge into a small town in the middle of nowhere.

SUPER: FALLMORE, VERMONT PRESENT-DAY

Despite some modern touches, the town has preserved its essence. We go through the perfect streets, not a thing out of place. RESIDENTS walk around with their dogs as they play with some auburn fallen leaves.

EXT. BELLATORS' HOUSE - MORNING

A gorgeous English house. Green foliage and flowers decorate the outer walls and the front yard. Like it's just come out of a creepy fairytale.

INT. BELLATORS' HOUSE - LEONA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A charming and organized room, nothing out of place. LEONA BELLATOR (17, white, a curious mind who doesn't take shit home) wears her perfect maroon uniform as she checks herself in the mirror.

LEONA
(to her reflection)
Today is your day.

She grabs onto her gold delicate necklace around her neck—a circular metal pendant with a moonstone in its center.

LEONA (CONT'D)
Please, let it be me.

She turns around, grabs her backpack, and heads out.

INT. BELLATORS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

A "model family" cliché.

Leona's mom, JENNA BELLATOR (late 30s, white, a comforting exterior that masks her sternness), makes breakfast while CHARLES BELLATOR (late 30s, white, jokester, likes to think he's a cool dad) sits on the stool checking his laptop.

JENNA
(shouting)
Leona! Breakfast on the table!

LEONA (O.S.)
I'm here!

Leona comes down the stairs, and they both perk up. Charles puts his laptop aside and makes a trumpet sound.

CHARLES
Here comes Miss Fallmore!

LEONA
Cut it, Dad.

JENNA
Let me fix your hair.

Jenna commands, and Leona doesn't oppose. She's used to it. She takes in Leona and frowns.

JENNA (CONT'D)
This isn't the look I picked out
for you.

Leona rolls her eyes.

JENNA (CONT'D)
It's Founders' Day, Leona, for
God's sake. Would it kill you to
wear some accessories?

LEONA
That won't make any difference on
who gets picked, Mom.

Leona walks over to the counter and sits next to her father, who smiles at her.

CHARLES
Looking stunning as always, sweet
pea.

Leona smiles back while Jenna sighs and puts her hands up.

JENNA
I don't know why I even try.

Leona eyes the newspaper next to her. A news headline across the front page "Happy Blessing Day! The Fallmore Festival's finally here!" Pictures from past years' festivals scattered on the black and white pages.

CHARLES
You know the drill, kiddo. Be home
at 2 pm the latest.

Leona's phone beeps.

LEONA
Gotta go. Rylee's here.

JENNA
Don't be late tonight!

But Leona's already out the door. Charles and Jenna glare at each other.

CHARLES
Last year of worrying.

Jenna nods pensively. Charles comes to her and puts his hands on her shoulder.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
She's a teenager. She'll come
around when it's time.

JENNA
She has no choice.

They share a worried look.

EXT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - MORNING

Leona walks up to RYLEE FIDELIS (17, hispanic, a loyal sweetheart with an investigative brain), who waits by the mailbox with his brother, CORY FIDELIS (12, hispanic, sunshine nerdy gamer).

They look as flawless as she does in the same maroon uniform, except they wear Fallmore ties and pins all over, the models for Fallmore spirit. Rylee smiles as she approaches.

RYLEE
Are you ready for the majestic, the
ultimate, the honorable Fallmore
festival?

He bows down playfully as they start walking to school.

EXT. FALLMORE STREETS - CONTINUOUS

They wave at NEIGHBORS taking care of their gardens. Banners for the Fallmore Festival hang everywhere.

LEONA

Don't you mean the day we finally
get one step closer to getting the
hell out of here?

CORY

You better be taking me with you.

Leona shuffles Cory's hair. She reaches inside her bag and
pulls out a Nintendo Switch game. Cory does the same - they
exchange games.

CORY (CONT'D)

Watch out for level 20. The big
boss keeps resetting your
abilities.

Leona stares at the chilling video game case. "One by one."
Cory grabs his Nintendo switch and starts playing Leona's
game as he walks a bit ahead of them.

She looks at Rylee, who looks a bit distraught.

LEONA

You alright?

Rylee comes out of his trance. He nods. Seems like he's about
to say something when...

LEONA (CONT'D)

"Stop. I know you have a secret,
and I'm sick of it"

Rylee looks nervous for a second, but she starts laughing.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Last night's episode of "Cursed"?

RYLEE

Oh. I didn't get a chance to watch
it.

Leona stares at him as if he's a stranger.

LEONA

Who are you, and what have you done
to my best friend?

RYLEE

I got caught up reading this-

She starts walking backwards to face him.

LEONA
Let me guess, old historical
journals?

RYLEE
Yeah, but actually-

She continues to walk backwards when she BUMPS into... CRAZY STACY (30s, white, her craziness a mix of "Here comes Johnny" with a hint of Hamlet). She grabs on tight to Leona's arms, nails digging in.

CRAZY STACY
(hysterically)
You must leave now!

Leona looks at her, terrified, as she tries to break free.

CRAZY STACY (CONT'D)
Leave before it's too late.

Leona pulls herself away from her grip. Rylee immediately holds on to her and pulls her away.

RYLEE
You okay?

Rylee inspects Leona, who still looks a bit in shock.

LEONA
Yeah. I'm fine.

They look back and stare at Crazy Stacy's house, the grass covers almost half of it, and the cracked front windows are drowned in dust.

RYLEE
Crazy Stacy always gets even
crazier on Founders' Day.

They watch as Crazy Stacy now yells at a group of KIDS nervously passing by her.

CRAZY STACY
Stay in your homes tonight!

Leona catches her breath, adjusts her outfit. They continue on their way to school.

EXT. FALLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The high school is flowing with TEENAGERS. Signs and decorations for the festival are everywhere.

Some people dressed in 1800s outfits, some like it's school spirit's week, and some with several Fallmore accessories.

In front of the entrance, different booths advertise the unique activities they'll offer tonight. The STUDENT COMMITTEE stands by the door, giving out more Fallmore pins for the people who need it.

They start heading to the doors when HEATHER PRINCEPS (17, the equivalent of a modern princess) stops them.

HEATHER
Happy Founders' Day, guys.

Leona takes her in. She's dressed head-to-toe in the town's colors, maroon and green, glittery makeup, and a tiara on her head as she carries a platter of Fallmore-decorated cupcakes.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
Want some? Just trying to put
everyone in the spirit for tonight.

LEONA
Yeah, cuz that's definitely what
this town's missing.

She laughs but notices that Heather doesn't seem amused. Rylee grabs a cupcake to break the awkwardness.

RYLEE
I can feel the spirit already.

Leona forces a smile and walks away. Rylee follows her.

LEONA
(to Heather)
I'll see you later.

HEATHER
Yes, you will. I'll be the one with
the crown!

Heather points to her tiara.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
See you around, Rylee.

Heather winks at him, and Leona rolls her eyes.

INT. FALLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

The hallway's busy with STUDENTS coming from every direction—all super excited. Leona stands in front of her locker, picking up some books. Rylee next to her.

LEONA

This is our last year, Rylee. I
need my name to be called.

Rylee sighs. There's something he's not telling her.

LEONA (CONT'D)

If Heather gets this, I swear...
She doesn't even wanna go! It's all
about feeling "honored."

She slams her locker shut and turns to look around the hallway when ASHTON THORNTON (17, black, the good-looking bad boy straight out of a fanfic) comes down the hallway with their PRINCIPAL SNIDER (50s, everyone's best friend).

Ashton wears the school uniform, but in a messy way that makes him stand from the crowd. Leona stares at him a minute too long.

RYLEE

I think you're drooling a bit.

LEONA

Shut up.

RYLEE

It's okay. Everyone is.

Everyone in the hallway turns to look as they notice him.

LEONA

That's because he's the first new
thing in town ever since that
blockbuster in 96.

Rylee laughs.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Why would anyone want to move to
Fallmore anyway?

RYLEE

We do have the juiciest
cranberries.

Leona rolls her eyes and looks over at them getting closer.

RYLEE (CONT'D)

They're the first family in over twenty years to move here. No one knows what happened to the last one.

LEONA

Crazy Stacy got them for sure.

RYLEE

Yet another great Fallmore landmark.

(pause)

Listen, Leona, I gotta talk to yo-

Rylee's interrupted by the Principal as he approaches them.

PRINCIPAL SNIDER

Hah! My prodigy students.

Leona and Rylee fake a smile.

PRINCIPAL SNIDER (CONT'D)

Rylee, Leona, this is Ashton. He and his family just moved to our lovely town from Boston.

The three students nod at each other.

PRINCIPAL SNIDER (CONT'D)

I want you guys to get him acquainted with all that Fallmore has to offer! Make sure he has the best time tonight at the festival.

They shift, uncomfortable. They're about to protest when the Principal proceeds.

PRINCIPAL SNIDER (CONT'D)

As founding family members, I know it'd be your guys' pleasure.

Principal Snider friendly slaps Ashton on the back.

PRINCIPAL SNIDER (CONT'D)

You're in great hands with these two. I'll leave you guys to it.

He walks away. Leona, Ashton, and Rylee all stare at each other for an awkward minute. Ashton looks at Rylee.

ASHTON

(sarcastically)

Nice tie.

Rylee looks down and frowns just before the bell RINGS. Leona sensing the tension forming, quickly intervenes.

LEONA

We gotta go to class.

Leona and Rylee go their separate ways. Ashton stands there for a second.

ASHTON

No, it's cool. I totally know where I'm going.

INT. FALLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - MORNING

Historical facts about Fallmore are written on the board. MS. MILLER (30s) stands in front of the class while Leona, Rylee, and Ashton sit amongst the other students.

MS. MILLER

Class, we have a new student here with us today, straight from Boston! Ashton Thornton.

The class clap as he waves his hand.

MS. MILLER (CONT'D)

Who would like to explain to Ashton all about the Festival?

Many hands shoot up in the air, but Ms. Miller focuses on Rylee, who purposely has his hand down and tries to avoid eye contact.

MS. MILLER (CONT'D)

Rylee?

Rylee sighs and looks at Ashton. He clearly doesn't vibe with him.

RYLEE

The town throws a festival every year to celebrate the day that our founding father helped the five founding families build this town.

Leona looks out the window - a huge poster with a painting of the founding father - it resembles GEORGE FALLMORE.

MS. MILLER

What else happens at the festival every year?

RYLEE

A type of lottery with all the kids in town where the "founding father spirit" will select the Miss and Mister Fallmore. The two kids chosen are honored all night and sent on a mission out-of-state during summer.

Leona stares at the old man. A creepy smile splattered on his face as he holds up the Fallmore logo.

The door bursts open. Leona jolts back to reality as the SCHOOL'S MASCOT, a black Ram, barges inside with the STUDENT COMMITTEE.

COMMITTEE PRESIDENT

What's up, Rams! Just passing by to remind you all to sign up for an activity tonight. Not only is it part of your grade, but c'mon, it's fun!

Everyone in class cheers. Leona rolls her eyes. Ashton notices her. The bell rings. They leave cheerfully just as they'd come in. The students start gathering their materials.

EXT. FALLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Leona and Riley come out of the doors. Rylee can't hide his frustration.

RYLEE

He's a jerk. I can sense it. Did you see him making fun of my tie?

LEONA

As if I wasn't busy enough tonight, now we have to babysit?

They stop when Ashton pops up in front of them. He smiles.

ASHTON

Leona and... Rylee, right?

They nod, unaware if he just heard them or not.

ASHTON (CONT'D)

I know this is awkward. You don't have to do anything. I can just look stuff up online or something.

RYLEE
You're not gonna find anything
online about this.

Leona, taking pity, gives in.

LEONA
It's no problem. You can hang out
with us. It'll be... fun.

She can feel Rylee's gaze on her and discreetly nudges at him, who reluctantly nods in agreement.

Ashton lights up a bit. He looks at the commotion from the student committee nearby, harassing people to sign up for activities while the mascot dances to the loud music. Its red eyes beam in the sunlight.

ASHTON
Some creepy goat you guys have.

RYLEE
It's a Ram.

ASHTON
Sure. I'll see you at the festival.

Ashton finally leaves. Rylee turns to Leona, gives her a "what the hell" look. She shrugs apologetically.

RYLEE
You owe me one. I need to pick
something up at the Treehouse. You
up to it?

LEONA
Lead the way.

They both walk towards the woods.

EXT. CRANBERRY BOG - DAY

All and only the adults from the SIX FOUNDING FAMILIES, including Leona and Rylee's parents, navigate their way through the bog. Their outfits getting soaking wet.

They all hold hands in a circle around the cranberry bog. In the very middle, MAYOR EDWARD PRINCEPS (50s, intimidating with creepy vibes) does a 360 as he talks to all of them.

MAYOR EDWARD

My people. Happy Founders' Day to
all of us. Let's commence our
ceremony.

He takes a knife out of his pocket, and everyone else does
the same.

MAYOR EDWARD (CONT'D)

May our town continue to prosper as
our savior chooses his blessed
souls.

He takes the knife to his hand and slices it open. He turns
his palm face down, so all the blood comes dripping down onto
the cranberries.

Everyone else does the same, and their blood starts blending
in with the water and turns the bright red cranberries into
dark red.

MAYOR EDWARD (CONT'D)

To Fallmore.

EVERYONE

To Fallmore.

As the blood spills, they all start SCREAMING IN AGONY. Just
like magic, their arms start bleeding as letters are carved
into their skin—a name on each arm.

Once it's done, they look down to read the names. Jenna's
face falls. In one of her arms, her flesh reads "Leona
Bellator."

END OF ACT I

ACT II**EXT. TREEHOUSE - DAY**

A simple wooden house. A bridge connects the ground to the front door. On the tree, a carved "R & L."

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

The inside just as charming. A table with chairs, a cozy carpet, Christmas lights hanging on the ceiling, and some posters around the walls.

Rylee rummages through their things on the table while Leona goes to a calendar on the wall. A big circle on today's date.

LEONA

I have a good feeling about today.

Rylee finds an old notebook and puts it in his backpack.

RYLEE

Found it.

Leona brings a folder to him. "Dream Board" displayed on the cover. She opens it - on each page, a famous place to visit.

LEONA

If one of us gets picked, our plan
will finally be in motion, Rylee.
We'll go to all these places, and
we will find my sister.

Rylee doesn't meet her excitement, but Leona doesn't notice.

RYLEE

Listen, Le. There's something I
need to-

She looks up, but the clock past his head gets her attention.

LEONA

Shit. I'm gonna be late.

EXT. BELLATORS' HOUSE - STREET - DAY

Leona rushes towards her house. She doesn't look to her sides as she crosses the street - BEEEEEP.

A cement mixer truck honks loudly as it comes to a full stop just millimeters from hitting her.

Leona quickly gets out of its way, and the truck doesn't waste a second before it drives off.

She stares at the spot she was almost just killed. On the ground, a red substance that wasn't there before. She inspects it - it's gooey, and it fizzles.

She stares ahead as the truck turns the corner. When she looks back at the red substance, it seems like it's somehow further away from her. What the fuck?

Leona frowns but doesn't think too much of it as she continues to walk to her house.

INT. BELLATORS' HOUSE - LEONA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Leona barges into her room. In front of her closet hangs a beautiful green gown.

JENNA (O.S.)
I steamed it for you.

She jumps as she turns around to find her mother standing by the door.

LEONA
Mom, I know I'm late, and I'm so sorry, but I'll hop in the shower right now and-

JENNA
It's okay, sweetie.

Jenna gets closer to her, smiles, and caresses Leona's cheek.

JENNA (CONT'D)
It doesn't take much to make you look stunning.

Leona's weirded out by her mom's strange behavior.

LEONA
Okay...

JENNA
I know I may come across as strict, but everything I've done was always to protect you. You know that, right? You're my little girl.

LEONA
Mom, what's wrong?

Jenna snaps out of it. Wipes away a few tears that were threatening to come out.

JENNA

Nothing, sweetie. Today just makes me emotional, that's all. I know how bad you want this. To leave Fallmore.

Leona's thrown - she never told her mom that.

LEONA

Mom, it has nothing to do with you guys. I just don't fit in here.

Jenna nods.

JENNA

Guess we'll see what's meant to be tonight.

Jenna leaves. Leona looks remorseful. She takes a deep breath before she goes after her mom.

INT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Leona's about to go into her parents' room but stops herself when she hears them talking.

INT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - JENNA & CHARLES'S ROOM - DAY

Charles sits on the bed, half-dressed in his tux, trying to comfort Jenna.

CHARLES

Honey, it's not our choice.

Jenna shakes her head - tears fall down freely.

JENNA

I wish I could just tell her.

Charles wraps his arms around her.

JENNA (CONT'D)

I won't lose another daughter, Charles. I can't.

She stares at him through the mirror, fear on her face.

CHARLES
We'll make sure we won't remember
this time.

INT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Leona gets pensive and leaves.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

Everyone in town is there. The usually empty green area's filled with stalls and attractions that create a maze of colorful decorations. A stage lies in the center, in front of the beautiful clock tower.

The area buzzes with PEOPLE coming from every direction, enjoying all the activities being provided.

Leona walks down the main corridor, wearing her flawless green dress when she spots Rylee and sneaks upon him.

LEONA
Well, hello, your majesty.

He smiles at her, but Leona senses something's off.

LEONA (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

RYLEE
There's something I need to tell
you, and I've been trying to all
day, but...

Leona grabs his shoulders.

LEONA
It's okay, Rylee. You can tell me
anything.

Before Rylee can answer, Ashton jumps in, unaware of what he just walked in.

ASHTON
Sup.

Leona and Rylee both look serious.

ASHTON (CONT'D)
Okay. Bad timing. I'm gonna go now.

LEONA
It's okay, Rylee was just gonna
tell me something.

RYLEE
No. It's fine. I gotta take care of
something. I'll see you two before
the lottery.

Rylee leaves at once. Leona looks troubled as she watches him
go. Ashton watches her.

ASHTON
Are you good?

LEONA
I don't wanna talk about it.

He nods. She starts to walk, and he follows her in silence
for a minute before...

LEONA (CONT'D)
Rylee and I don't keep secrets from
each other.

ASHTON
So, we are talking about it.

LEONA
This is the first time he's keeping
something from me.

ASHTON
Relationships are hard.

Leona pauses.

LEONA
We're not dating.

Ashton raises his hands in defense.

ASHTON
I just assumed. You guys are always
together.

LEONA
He's my best friend.

ASHTON
Okay.

Awkward silence again. They both avoid looking at each other.

They pass by several booths offering different types of food. There's a theme - they're all red. Ashton takes notice of it.

ASHTON (CONT'D)
You guys like red or something?

LEONA
Fallmore's famous for its
cranberries. You gotta try it.

ASHTON
Uhm, I'm kind of allergic.

LEONA
You moved to the wrong town, dude.

They laugh.

ASHTON
You're telling me. It's like my dad
carefully picked the whitest town
for us to move into.

Through the speakers, a voice fills the space.

SPEAKER (O.S.)
May I have your attention, please.
The Fallmore middle school's play
is about to commence.

Leona points to the stage.

LEONA
You're not gonna wanna miss this
one.

They get closer to the stage.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Leona and Ashton find a place amongst the standing crowd.

ON STAGE: The lights around the space dim. A GROUP OF KIDS
enter, Cory amongst them. They all wear costumes.

Cory, the narrator, stands on the side in front of a
microphone.

CORY

Long, long ago, in 1866, there was a simple town, unable to grow a single cranberry because of a terrible drought until a wise man came into town. His name was George Fallmore.

ON STAGE: A kid dressed as George with a fake horse prop runs around the stage.

CORY (CONT'D)

He approached the six bravest families in the area and shared his vision with them.

ON STAGE: Five pretend families come on stage, one of them SARAH THORNTON (5, black, Ashton's little sister). Ashton waves at Sarah, and she discreetly waves back. Leona smiles.

LEONA

How's she adapting?

ASHTON

She's doing okay. I was worried the moving would hit her hard, but she's tougher than I thought.

ON STAGE: they all meet and pretend to discuss the matter.

CORY

Not only could he fixed their cranberry problem, but he made sure they were the most delicious and juiciest cranberries in the area, so it would bring the town fortune.

LEONA

Sorry about your parents. Divorces suck.

Ashton looks at her, surprised.

ASHTON

News travels fast in this town.

LEONA

That's because nothing new ever travels here.

ON STAGE: they all meet and pretend to discuss the matter.

CORY

In exchange, the families were so over the moon that they decided to not only give a portion of their success to George, but to also name the town after such a generous man.

ON STAGE: The actors all hug each other and shake hands to seal the deal.

CORY (CONT'D)

Every year on that same day, George would come back to Fallmore to collect his blessing, and the town would throw him a festival.

ON STAGE: Each family gives a heart prop to George as red confetti falls from the sky.

In the middle of the audience, Rylee gazes at the play. Something clicked in his head.

RYLEE

(to himself)

A blessing...

CORY

Fallmore grew beautifully into what it is today. That's why the same night every year, we thank and celebrate our love for this town.

The audience claps. The kids bow together on stage.

SPEAKER (O.S.)

Let's hear it for our Fallmore kids! In just a few minutes, we'll announce our so waited Miss and Mister Fallmore! Stay tuned.

More troubled than ever, Rylee hastily turns to leave when he clashes against a MAN standing right behind him.

RYLEE

I'm sorry.

Rylee bends down to pick up the man's belongings and finds a heart prop on the floor. He frowns at it.

When he comes back up to return the prop, we see that the man is... GEORGE FALLMORE. The same exact man from the teaser.

George takes the heart and smiles at Rylee, the same disturbing smile from the teaser. Rylee gets uneasy.

GEORGE FALLMORE
I'd be more careful, young man.

He stares at the man for a second before he leaves.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

Rylee pushes past people until he spots his mother, CAROL FIDELIS (late 30s), talking to a group of people. He walks up to her and pushes her aside.

CAROL
Rylee, what is this? I'm clearly-

RYLEE
You guys are doing way more than
just committee duties on those
meetings, aren't you?

Carol looks around, suddenly alarmed.

CAROL
Please, drop it, Rylee. Not here,
not tonight. There's too much-

RYLEE
Am I in danger? Is Leona?

Carol takes too long to respond.

RYLEE (CONT'D)
What happens if one of us gets
chosen tonight?

CAROL
I promise we can talk about it
after tonight if you promise me you
won't do anything stupid.

He takes a step back from her.

CAROL (CONT'D)
Rylee-

She reaches to stop him, but he's already gone.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - STAGE - NIGHT

The time has come. On stage, The HOST (30s) comes from behind the curtains as everyone cheers.

The CROWD grew much larger than before. Amongst all the people, we see Leona, Ashton, Heather, all the founding parents, and Ashton's family.

HOST
Welcome to Miss and Mister
Fallmore! Two lucky kids will be
celebrated not just tonight but for
the rest of the year.

The audience claps vigorously. On stage, there are two spinning metal crates suspended on the ceiling, a long rope hanging from each.

HOST (CONT'D)
To my right are the boys, and to my
left are the girls. The first paper
that falls on the ground from each
crates are our winners.

The audience cheers on.

HOST (CONT'D)
As usual, ladies first.

The host grabs onto the rope. In the audience, Leona holds her breath.

HOST (CONT'D)
Good luck, ladies. Count down with
me, everyone, 3...2...1.

He pulls the rope, and one tiny piece of paper leaves the crate and falls slowly into the host's hand.

HOST (CONT'D)
Moment of truth.

He unfolds and reads the paper.

HOST (CONT'D)
Please help me bring our Miss
Fallmore... Leona Bellator!

Rylee's face falls. Leona can't believe it. Everyone around her cheers on and pushes her towards the stage.

She climbs on stage, still in disbelief, as the host puts the crown and the Miss Fallmore sash on her.

HOST (CONT'D)
Congratulations, Leona. You not
only get this honorable title but
also the chance to go on a special
mission-

Rylee climbs on stage and grabs the microphone from the host.

RYLEE
This is all bullshit! Honorable
title, my ass! It's all lies!

The cheer stops. Leona exchanges a glance with him - what are you doing? From the audience, the Mayor glances at his parents bitterly.

RYLEE (CONT'D)
It's nothing but a cover-up. We
have to leave this town now! As
fast as you can, before-

Mayor Edwards snatches the microphone away from him. His parents grab him. Leona goes to him.

LEONA
Let him go! Rylee-

She can't get through to him. He looks at her in despair as they drag him off the stage as Leona watches hopelessly. The host laughs uncomfortably.

HOST
Perfect time for intermission, huh?

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MAIN AREA - NIGHT

The area's restricted with barricades. Security lets people in one by one. As they go in, they get their hand stamped.

SPEAKER (O.S.)
Our spectacular blessing rain will
start in just a few minutes.
Please head to the main area.

Leona looks around the crowd, still in crown and sash, searching for Rylee when her mother finds her.

JENNA
Sweetie, congratulations!

She hugs her, and we can see that Jenna is far from happy. Her eyes glossy.

JENNA (CONT'D)

I know this is a big night, but can I ask a huge favor? You know I'm in charge of the blessing rain this year, and I totally forgot the mayor's wine in the town center cellar. Could you run and get it for me while I stall him?

LEONA

Yeah, of course.

JENNA

It's the red bottle on the second shelf right next to the door.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - ISOLATED AREA - NIGHT

Leona walks to the cellar by herself, away from all the crowd. It's a dark night when she hears a CRACK nearby.

She turns to the dark night, searching for the source of the sound but finds nothing. She opens the old wooden doors and heads in.

INT. TOWN CENTER - OLD CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

A dark and dusty room. Shelves with what it looks like cranberries in a glass, old books, drinks, and weird artifacts.

LEONA

Jesus, this place is in need of a makeover.

She looks around the bottles until she spots the red vintage bottle. She goes to reach for it when she hears someone behind her and quickly turns to see Heather.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Heather? My god, you scared the shit out of me.

Heather doesn't look so pleased. She inches closer to Leona.

HEATHER

Always the favorite. Doesn't matter what I do. And you know what the worst part is? You don't even care.

Leona backs away from each step that Heather takes.

LEONA

You're gonna blame me for being
lucky now?

HEATHER

Luck? You were chosen by the
founding father! Why do you always
shit on our traditions?

LEONA

Look, Heather, I don't wanna fight.
You keep doing your thing. I just
came to grab something.

HEATHER

The most annoying part is that you
won't even acknowledge how lucky
you are for having a perfect life.

LEONA

You don't know anything about my
life.

That's it. Heather shoves her. Leona's surprised when she
falls into a big puddle of cranberry sauce on the ground.

HEATHER

This is how mine feels every day.

Leona gets up and pushes her back. It's on. The two go at it,
kicking, shoving, and ripping each other dresses apart.

Ashton comes rushing inside. He immediately tries to separate
the girls, but it's no use.

ASHTON

Hey, easy! Easy!

LEONA

She started! And I'm gonna finish
it.

Cory shows up at the door and looks down at all the fighting.

CORY

Leona, they're looking for you. You
go in five minutes!

They don't budge.

CORY (CONT'D)

Leona!

Leona looks at him and then Heather and shoves her away.

LEONA

Enough! You can hate me all you want. It won't change a thing.

She walks to one of the shelves and grabs the red bottle. As soon as she does, the cellar door closes abruptly, shoving Cory outside. Metal doors come closing on the inside as double protection.

Leona, Ashton, and Heather look at each other in shock.

HEATHER

What the fucking hell? What did you do?

LEONA

I-

ASHTON

Cory, can you hear us? Can you try and open the door?

CORY (O.S.)

It won't budge.

HEATHER

You're dead if you don't open this door right now.

The cellar door won't move.

CORY

Uh... Don't worry. Imma get some help.

Heather snaps at Leona.

HEATHER

This is all your fault.

Leona laughs.

LEONA

Okay, I'd love to hear that.

HEATHER

If you'd stop stealing everything that's mine, we wouldn't be here.

Ashton looks around.

ASHTON

What even is this room?

HEATHER

Now we're gonna miss the biggest
event of the night. Especially
Asher over here.

ASHTON

Ashton.

Outside, they can hear the countdown for the shower begin. 5,
4, 3, 2, 1...

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MAIN AREA - NIGHT

A big explosion of red glittery rain falls down from the
sprinklers above them. People cheer and clap in excitement.

Rylee looks around, not in the slightest excited. He's
concerned.

The speakers then start playing the Fallmore song.

SPEAKERS

To our noble and bright hero, That
built this town from zero.

Mayor Edward and the rest of the founding families all
discreetly put plugs in their ears.

SPEAKERS (CONT'D)

Granted our salvation and fortune
to which came from no extortion.

Crazy Stacy comes in wearing several headphones at once.

CRAZY STACY

(yelling)

Cover your ears! Don't listen to
the music!

SPEAKERS

The dazzling and clever Fallmore,
to whom we flourish and adore.

Crazy Stacy goes around, warning people and even covering
their ears herself.

SPEAKERS (CONT'D)

To which we sing, Oh Fallmore!
You're our heart and core!

She's too late. Like a light switch, everyone abruptly seems
to be consumed by this feverish desire for food.

As if they're all completely bewitched, they dive themselves into the food booths, destroying everything that stands in their way to the cranberry dishes.

Behind them, the clock tower turns midnight.

FIRE starts to blaze all around the streets to trap them in the town center area. A loud shriek fills the air. People start running and screaming.

INT. TOWN CENTER - OLD CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

Leona tries to see through the gaps of the door.

LEONA

Can you guys hear that? What's happening out there?

From a slim opening, Leona sees the fire. She gasps.

LEONA (CONT'D)

We need to get out of here right now.

HEATHER.

No shit.

ASHTON

What happened?

LEONA

There's a fire.

Leona starts rummaging through the shelves, dropping bottle after bottle until she spots a lever underneath the cranberry puddle. She grabs it and tries to pull it, but it's stuck.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Any help over here?

Ashton rushes over and starts pulling it with her. Heather stares at them.

LEONA (CONT'D)

Heather, for god's sake!

Heather joins, and three pull the rusty lever together until it finally flips over. CRASH - the door bursts open with it.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT

The three of them step back in horror as they witness the town falling apart.

HEATHER
What the hell?

Leona stares as people run in completely different directions. She tries to scan the crowd.

Ashton jumps into action and runs towards the chaos.

ASHTON
(shouting)
Sarah!

Leona watches as Ashton looks for Sarah in the crowd when she spots Rylee. She goes to him without thinking twice.

LEONA
Rylee!

Rylee has his back towards her. He doesn't move. Leona yanks him to face her. He looks at her, terrified.

RYLEE
It's coming for us.

LEONA
What?

Before Rylee can answer, a deafening screech comes in. This time, closer. Everyone covers their ears.

Leona looks ahead at a nearby building; an inhuman shadow gets closer.

Several bony arms come forward, moving spider-like. As the head gets more defined in the shadow, its mouth hangs open with something dripping from its razor teeth.

Leona shudders and sucks in her breath. The shadow suddenly snaps its head in their direction. She seizes Rylee's arm and pulls him to her.

LEONA (CONT'D)
Run.

They both run for their lives. Behind them, they can hear the nasty legs racing towards them, destroying everything it passes by. People's screams get louder at the sight of it.

Leona looks to her right - a path leading to the woods. She pulls Rylee to follow her.

EXT. FALLMORE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

They desperately shove branches as they navigate through the darkness.

Leona looks back only to see the trees behind them moving violently. She gets a glimpse of its several vicious eyes. It's getting close.

They turn left and tumble down a small hill. The treehouse stands in front of them. They hurry inside.

INT. TREEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

They slam the door shut as they sit under the window, trying to be quiet as they gasp for air.

LEONA

What the fuck is that thing?
Why is it after us?

A branch creaks. Leona peeks through the window - nothing.

RYLEE

Listen to me. It's gonna take me.
There's nothing you can do.

Leona's eyes water.

LEONA

Stop.

RYLEE

You can't trust anyone.

LEONA

I don't understand.

He takes her hand.

RYLEE

You have to find a way to stop
this. Look for the journals.

She shakes her head, tears stream down her face.

RYLEE (CONT'D)

Leona, look at me.

She does so-his eyes are pleading. Rylee takes off his bracelet and puts it in her hands.

RYLEE (CONT'D)

Find a way to remember.

The wooden wall right next to them BURSTS into pieces as the creature crashes in. Their bodies go flying against the wood. Its piercing sound mixing with their own scream.

They try to get up and move, but the gray-looking creature is faster as it CLAWS its sharp and heavy nails through Rylee's legs. He looks down and sees the blood oozing from him.

Rylee cries in pain. Leona screams as she sees the creature opens its mouth as it looks at Rylee. Drool drips on him.

She painfully gets up and tries to get him out, but the beast climbs on top of him and swallows half of his body down.

Leona kicks its head, and the creature SCREECHES on her face before smashing one of its arms against her head.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - LEONA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Leona jolts awake, panting, as she takes in her surroundings. Her bedroom looks the same – nothing out of the ordinary.

She moves to the balcony. A peaceful morning. No burned houses, no mess on the streets, nothing.

She rushes to the mirror and checks for any bruises, but she's perfectly fine. A wave of relief washes over her.

INT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Leona finds her parents having their usual morning routine.

Her mom cooks on the stove while her dad sits on the stool, working on his laptop. Jenna gives her a disapproving look.

JENNA

You're still not ready.

Leona looks down at her pajamas but ignores the comment.

LEONA

I had the worst nightmare.

CHARLES

What happened, sweetheart?

Charles doesn't look up from his work. Jenna rushes Leona out of the kitchen.

JENNA

We really don't have time for this.
Leona, go get ready for school.

LEONA

It's good. I still have twenty
minutes till Rylee gets here.

Her parents exchanged a puzzled look.

JENNA

Rylee?

CHARLES

Thought the new kid's name was
Ashton.

LEONA
Har-har, funny.

JENNA
Okay, who are his parents?

Leona rolls her eyes.

LEONA
Just drop it already.

The doorbell rings. Leona frowns.

LEONA (CONT'D)
Why is he here already?

INT/EXT - BELLATORS' FRONT ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Leona opens the door and finds Ashton. He takes in her pajamas and looks.

ASHTON
I- is this a bad time?

LEONA
You're not Rylee.

ASHTON
You said I could walk with you guys to school.

LEONA
Oh, right. You're early.

ASHTON
I can see that.

LEONA
You should go ahead and-

ASHTON
I'll wait here.

He sits down by the porch and cracks a book open. Leona's taken back by him just making himself at home.

LEONA
Sure, whatever.

She closes the door.

INT. BELLATOR'S HOUSE - LEONA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Now dressed in her uniform, Leona peaks outside her balcony at the entrance and sees Ashton sitting there all alone. Why is Rylee still not here?

She grabs her phone and calls him.

PHONE SPEAKER

The number you've reached does not
exist or-

She hangs up.

LEONA

What the fuck?

She turns around to put on her shoes. One pair's missing...

She crouches on the floor to look under the bed - there it is! However, something else catches her attention - a bracelet. Rylee's bracelet. She grabs it.

QUICK FLASH: Rylee giving her his bracelet before he's taken.

Leona stares at it as if it were a ghost.

EXT. FALLMORE STREETS - MORNING

Leona paces herself down the street while Ashton tries to keep up.

ASHTON

What's going on?

LEONA

We're late.

Ashton knows better.

ASHTON

Are you sure you're okay?

LEONA

We just need to get Rylee.

INT/EXT. RYLEE'S HOUSE - MORNING

A doorbell rings. CAROL FIDELIS (40s, always a smile on her face) opens the door and finds Leona and Ashton standing there.

CAROL
Leona, what a surprise!

Carol turns to Ashton.

ASHTON
I'm Ashton. Nice to meet you, Mrs.
Fidelis.

CAROL
Right, the new kid. I hope
Fallmore's treating you rig-

LEONA
Is Rylee home?

Leona tries to peek inside but only sees Cory approaching.
Carol looks at Leona, puzzled.

CAROL
I'm sorry?

LEONA
Your son.

CAROL
Cory's here. He's getting ready for
school.

Leona gets more impatient.

LEONA
Come on, not you too. Can I just
talk to Rylee?

Ashton stares at them, confused. Carol laughs, shaken.

CAROL
I'm not sure I know who you're
talking about.

LEONA
Cory's brother? Rylee. My best
friend since we were in diapers.

Cory pokes his head out, almost dazed.

CORY
A brother?

Carol starts getting agitated, the smile's long gone.

CAROL
I'm sorry, Leona, but I can't help
you.

Carol's about to close the door when Leona opens her mouth to
continue, but sensing trouble, Ashton stops her.

ASHTON
Sorry, Mrs. Fidelis. Just a
misunderstanding. We're leaving.

He turns Leona around, who looks back at Carol - she looks
disconcerted before she closes the door.

EXT. FALLMORE STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Ashton drags Leona a few feet away from the house.

LEONA
Why is she lying?

ASHTON
That woman had no idea who you were
talking about.

LEONA
But you do?

ASHTON
Of course, I do. Your jealous
friend, right?

Leona sits on the sidewalk, defeated.

LEONA
I had a nightmare last night. The
town was... Everything was just in-

ASHTON
Flames.

Ashton sits down next to her, both looking stunned.

LEONA
Something happened to Rylee last
night.

They hear footsteps - Cory stands right next to them with his
backpack in hand. Leona tries to compose herself quickly.

LEONA (CONT'D)
Hey, Cory. I-

CORY (O.S.)
I believe you.

Leona looks at him, surprised.

CORY (CONT'D)
I don't know who Rylee is. But I
feel an emptiness, like something's
missing.

Leona gets up and walks to him.

CORY (CONT'D)
I wanna help.

Leona nods.

INT. PRINCEPS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

An exquisite dining room. Heather eats breakfast, her hair's a mess, and she has tired eyes. Mayor Edwards walks in.

MAYOR EDWARD
Rough night, princess?

HEATHER
Not the best dream.

MAYOR EDWARD
Didn't have too much wine last
night, did ya?

She scoffs.

HEATHER
Didn't have a chance to eat or
drink anything, really.

That catches his attention. He puts his coffee down.

MAYOR EDWARD
That dream of yours, what was it?

HEATHER
Ugh. There was just this huge fire,
and everyone was screaming.

She pinches her nose in frustration, Mayor Edwards tenses.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
And then there was this sound, like
a sharp howl.

A beat. Mayor Edward starts sweating slightly. She looks up when he doesn't say anything.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
Daddy? You okay?

He snaps out of it when his phone rings. "Carol Fidelis" flashes on the screen.

MAYOR EDWARD
Yes. Sorry, sweetie. That sounds awful.

He grabs his phone and gets up - starts to leave the room.

MAYOR EDWARD (CONT'D)
I gotta take care of this. But why don't you skip school today? Stay home and rest, okay?

She nods, not thinking too much of it but seeming a little took back from his agitation.

INT. FALLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

A busy school hallway. Leona rushes towards the lockers. Ashton right behind her.

She tries a combination over and over, but the locker won't budge. She punches it in frustration.

ASHTON
Woah, woah. I'm sure they can give you a new lock.

MELANIE (17, always with a messy bun) approaches. She looks at Leona, weirded out.

MELANIE
Is everything ok with my locker?

Leona watches as she reaches for the same locker and opens it easily. Leona's disconcerted, almost angry.

LEONA
Where did you put all his stuff?

MELANIE
Who's stuff?

LEONA
Rylee. This is his locker.

Melanie looks puzzled. She quickly glances at Ashton for an answer.

MELANIE
Who's Rylee?

LEONA
Oh, cut it, Melanie. You guys have been acting in every play together since kindergarten.

Melanie stares at Leona as if she's gone crazy. She puts a hand on her shoulder.

MELANIE
Are you oka-

LEONA
Shut up.

Leona turns around and leaves. Ashton quickly follows.

ASHTON
(re: Melanie)
Meatloaf day. Not her favorite.

INT. FALLMORE HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - DAY

Leona sits at a desk, flipping the pages of the latest yearbook furiously.

Ashton comes in and sits next to her.

LEONA
No, no, no, no!

He looks at her, searching the pages.

LEONA (CONT'D)
He's not here. His pictures are all gone.

She shoves the yearbook away. Ashton notices the LIBRARIAN (40s) eyeing them and waves at her - everything ok here.

Leona walks to a wall with several family trees embroidered on it. All the five founding families. Ashton observes it.

ASHTON
Wow. This whole founding families thing goes way back, huh?

She gazes at the Fidelis family - only Cory's name descending from Carol and Brandon Fidelis. She touches the empty space next to Cory.

LEONA

He's gone.

Ashton feels for her. He carefully puts a hand on her shoulder.

ASHTON

We're gonna find him.

Leona stares at him, defeated.

LEONA

We don't know what we're dealing with here. I don't even know where to begin.

CORY (O.S.)

I might.

They turn around to see Cory there.

LEONA

How did you get here? You shouldn't be in our building.

The librarian peaks at them again. Ashton notices.

ASHTON

We need to get out of here.

CORY

You both remember what happened last night. What really happened. That's where we start.

LEONA

It's fading away from me. I can't remember details.

CORY

We need to trigger the memories. Go to where you last saw him.

ASHTON

What, now?

Cory starts walking to the door, looks back at Leona.

CORY

Do you wanna find him or not?

INT. PRINCEPS' HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - DAY

Mayor Edward sits behind his desk, his phone pressed against his ear.

MAYOR EDWARD

I don't know what went wrong. Yeah,
Heather's home. We need to find out
who else.

He stands up and starts pacing the room.

MAYOR EDWARD (CONT'D)

We'll fix it. We'll do the
procedure.

He clinches his teeth.

MAYOR EDWARD (CONT'D)

He won't be happy.

The camera pans out and reveals...

EXT. PRINCEPS'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Heather just outside the door. She heard everything.

She walks away before her dad leaves the office and then the house altogether.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Leona, Ashton, and Cory walk through the woods. Ashton looks around, confused.

ASHTON

You guys ran to the woods?

EXT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

The treehouse shows up in front of them.

LEONA

To our place.

She walks to the tree. Rylee's "R" is no longer there.

LEONA (CONT'D)

It was destroyed last night, but
now it's as if it never happened.
Like Rylee never happened...

There's a crash from the inside. She rushes in expectantly. Ashton and Cory follow.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Leona opens the door...

LEONA

Rylee?

Nothing. A broken glass globe on the floor. The wind blows in from an open window. Her hope shatter again.

Ashton and Cory watch as she goes through all their stuff. The planner, artwork, not a trace of Rylee anymore.

She throws everything on the floor, frustrated. Ashton looks at Cory, who looks at Leona, worried. She slides to the floor, crying.

LEONA (CONT'D)

I never said I was sorry. I never said goodbye.

Ashton comes to her.

ASHTON

That doesn't matter. He knows you love him.

Leona looks up. Through tears, she looks at where she's sitting, right under the window. She stares at Ashton and where he's standing.

QUICK FLASH: Rylee standing right where Ashton's standing - before the monster crashes in. It's screech filling her ears.

Leona concentrates as it all comes back to her.

LEONA

We were hiding here.

CORY

From what?

Leona stares at Cory and Ashton, frightened.

LEONA

A monster.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV**EXT. TOWN CENTER - NIGHT**

Festival no more. Now, the open field is as bare as it's always been. The clock tower turns to 6:00 pm. Businesses around it start to close as the sun goes down. People leave. It's dead quiet.

Three flashlights light up the dark area. Leona, Cory, and Ashton walk together.

ASHTON

There's nothing here anymore.

Cory flashes the light at him. Ashton flinches.

CORY

And you came to that conclusion
after the full second you spent
looking.

ASHTON

We don't even know what we're
looking for, Einstein.

CORY

Anything out of the ordinary!

ASHTON

This whole town is out of the
ordinary.

CORY

I don't even know why you're here.
You can leave.

Ashton hesitates. Cory notices.

ASHTON

I wanna help.

CORY

Why?

LEONA

Shhh! I don't think we're alone.

Leona slowly walks around the corner - following the shuffling that leads to a lonely tree.

She sucks in her breath as she walks to the tree and jumps behind it... Nothing.

A bit disappointed, she turns around... Heather stands right behind her. They both SCREAM.

HEATHER
Holy shit, you almost gave me a
heart attack.

Heather wears a chic camouflage outfit, Leona surveys her.

LEONA
What are you doing here?

Cory and Ashton come right behind Leona. Heather stares at them, a bit unsure.

HEATHER
Night walk.

Leona doesn't buy it, but she couldn't care less.

LEONA
Right. We'll get out of your way
then.

She turns to leave.

HEATHER
Wait.

Leona looks back at her.

HEATHER (CONT'D)
I was kinda... looking for you.

LEONA
You followed us here.

Yet again, another shuffling in the background. Cory hears it this time.

CORY
Guys.

HEATHER
I need your help.

LEONA
I'm sorry, you need what now?

ASHTON
Not this again.

Heather rolls her eyes.

HEATHER

I heard my dad saying your name,
okay? I know you saw something last
night too.

CORY

Guys!

HEATHER

What!

LEONA

What!

Cory shakily points to the tree next to them - the same one
Leona was walking towards. On one of its leaves, a red
substance bubbles up, moving.

Leona inches closer with her flashlight. The liquid spread
around the leaf, like magnets, all join one another.

ASHTON

Is that...?

HEATHER

Remaining from the blessing rain.

ASHTON

Right. Is that out of the ordinary
enough for you, Cory?

Cory nods and steps back. Leona's eyes bulge as the substance
morphs into a red blob and jumps from the tree.

They all choke on their breath and give a safe distance as
the blob crawls on the grass - away from them.

Leona follows it, lighting it up as it moves.

ASHTON (CONT'D)

Careful.

LEONA

It's a blob.

ASHTON

A moving ass blob.

She continues to follow, the other three right behind her.
The blob gets to a drain in the sidewalk and quickly drips
between the iron bars.

HEATHER

What. The. Fuck.

Cory analyzes the faint trail it left behind. A wet strip on the sidewalk - if they didn't know any better, it would've looked just like water.

He looks around and sees several other trails, all leading to a drain. He covers his mouth but can't help but throw up.

CORY

You're telling me we've been eating
this shit?

They all look sick as well. Leona turns to look around and notices the town hall - lights are on.

LEONA

What's your dad still doing at his
office?

HEATHER

That's what I needed to tell you.
They're coming for us.

They exchange the same concerned look.

INT. TOWN HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The five founding families all talk over each other. It's a mess - they're upset.

MAYOR EDWARD

Everything is under control. We'll
get it fixed no problem.

CAROL

Easy for you to say. Apparently,
I'm missing a son.

EXT. TOWN HALL - NIGHT

INTERCUT - MAYOR'S OFFICE

Leona, Heather, Cory, and Ashton stop near the closed curtain windows. Loud and angry muffled voices are heard from inside.

LEONA

(whispers)
He's not alone.

Heather finds a peek through one of the windows.

HEATHER

It's all the founding families.

They gather around Heather, all trying to see inside.

JENNA

Quiet! Do you guys hear something?

They go silent for the first time - but there's no noise.

Charles goes to the window and peaks outside. They crouch as close as they can to the ground. Charles looks around but turns around when he sees nothing. He leaves an even bigger gap for them all to watch.

The mayor takes advantage of the silence.

MAYOR EDWARD

Listen, everyone, it's important to remember that we're all on the same team here.

Mayor Edward turns to Carol and her husband.

MAYOR EDWARD (CONT'D)

You've always known the risks. We all did.

CAROL

This wasn't part of the deal! I was never supposed to know what I lost.

Leona looks at Ashton - worry in their eyes.

MAYOR EDWARD

There's an evident issue. We're not questioning that. We don't want any more Crazy Stacys, believe me.

JENNA

I'm sure it's just a delayed reaction. She won't remember a thing tomorrow.

MAYOR EDWARD

You know we can't take that risk, Jenna. We'll handle it like we always do.

JENNA

I won't put Leona through the procedure.

MAYOR EDWARD

Do you think I want to do it to Heather? All involved will go through it.

He walks to the bookshelf and pricks yet again his finger - the secret room opens.

Leona's eyes bulge.

LEONA
(whispers)
What's inside? Do you see it?

The adults start to go in. Leona squints her eyes and sees a fountain with a dark liquid in it. It fizzles just like the red slime.

The wall closes behind their parents. They take a minute.

HEATHER
What the fuck is going on? Why
don't they remember Rylee?

Leona shakes her head.

LEONA
The question is, why do we?

Heather massages her temple.

HEATHER
I don't know what procedure they're
talking about, but I sure as hell
won't be partaking.

LEONA
I know who can help us.

EXT. CRAZY STACY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

All four of them stand in front of the lonely house. Away from all the others, right next to the woods, it looks forgotten.

HEATHER
Now I know they're right, and you
have completely lost your mind.

LEONA
You heard them in there! Whatever
happened to Crazy Stacy is
happening to us.

ASHTON
So, is she actually crazy?

Leona shrugs.

LEONA

Crazy Stacy is nocturnal. I heard people see her wandering around the streets in the middle of the night.

CORY

I heard her family had to dump her on the streets because she said she would kill them.

HEATHER

I also heard she plans on destroying this town. The same way it destroyed her.

ASHTON

Yeah, that's a no for me.

He turns as if to leave.

LEONA

She might be the only one who can help us now.

ASHTON

And if these rumors are all true?

The door flies open. Crazy Stacy, with sloppy hair and clothes that don't match even the slightest, frowns at them.

CRAZY STACY

What took you guys so long? C'mon.

She goes inside. They all stare at each other, frozen in place before they follow her.

INT. CRAZY STACY'S HOUSE - STUDY-ROOM - NIGHT

The place's untidy. Piles of clothes, plates, and science gadgets everywhere. Documents are scattered on the walls.

They stare at the room, taking it all in. A whiteboard stands there with a list of names. Stacy walks to it and points to Rylee's name.

CRAZY STACY

I keep track every year.

Heather's taken aback.

HEATHER

Every year?

Crazy Stacy looks at them, tired.

CRAZY STACY

You still haven't figured it out by now? Jesus. I mean, it took me a day, and I was by myself.

CORY

It's the festival. Founders' day.
It's all connected, isn't it?

Stacy smiles.

CRAZY STACY

Welcome to club crazy.

LEONA

You saw it, too. You saw that creature. But how come we remember?

CRAZY STACY

I'll never forget what I saw.

Crazy Stacy walks to a mini-lab in the corner of the room.

CRAZY STACY (CONT'D)

I've been working on my recipe—a way to bring back all those memories.

She stares at them, dead in the eye.

CRAZY STACY (CONT'D)

But this goes way above any science. We're dealing with something evil.

The four friends eye each other - here comes the crazy.

ASHTON

Evil?

HEATHER

C'mon guys. Are you for real? She's called crazy for a reason.

LEONA

I'm gonna get Rylee back.

CRAZY STACY

The thing that has your friend.
It's far from our reach.

Crazy Stacy studies her.

CRAZY STACY (CONT'D)
There might be a way.

Leona's eyes light up.

LEONA
Anything.

CRAZY STACY
Rylee still got time. He wasn't
what it wanted.

She stares at Leona.

CRAZY STACY (CONT'D)
It'll come back to collect its
chosen one.

LEONA
Me.

CRAZY STACY
And for all of you to have escaped
the spell like this...There'll be
consequences.

LEONA
What do you mean?

INT. TOWN HALL - SECRET ROOM - NIGHT

The same dark pool continues to fizzle until it gets stronger
as the founding families form a circle around it.

CRAZY STACY (V.O.)
It's a balance, you see. And all of
you have disturbed it.

The water starts to move.

CRAZY STACY (V.O.)
It'll need to make it even again.

Through the thick liquid, an inhuman arm explodes out of it.
A loud shriek fills the air.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT