

VERVE

DON'T GO IN THE WATER

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. LAKE-NIGHT

We glide over the surface of a vast lake, surrounded on all sides by thick pines--

The water is still, empty. Lit only by a waning moon.

As we approach the shore, a small FIRE comes into view.

And then 2 people. A MAN and WOMAN. They are backpackers camped for the night.

Their small tent is no more than 10 feet from the water's edge. And behind it--nothing but thick, black forest.

INT. TENT-CONT.

The woman unzips the opening and crawls into the tent...

With her flashlight, she searches...for something...

FINALLY

She finds what she's looking for. Holds it up.

CU PLASTIC BAG

Inside: A fat joint.

SHE SMILES

She crawls back out of the tent

INTO:

EXT. CAMPSITE-CONT.

She steps out of the tent, stands up--

MAN
DON'T MOVE

She turns to look at her husband--

He stands there. FROZEN. Pale as a sheet. His eyes focused intently on something--behind her.

SHE TURNS

To see: A LARGE GREY WOLF

Teeth bared. Hungry.

PETRIFIED

The woman takes a slow step back towards the water.

THE WOLF'S DEAD EYES

Follow her intently.

THE MAN

Slowly removes a HUNTING KNIFE from his pocket...

THE WOMAN

Takes another small step back...

She is at the water's edge--

CU HUNTING KNIFE

The man flicks it open. Their only defense...

CU WOMAN'S FOOT

Another cautious step--

THE GROUND IS UNEVEN

She loses her footing--

SHE FALLS--

MAN (CONT'D)

NO!

--INTO THE DARK WATER

The sound *muffled* as she hits the rocky lake bed

She's only under a few inches of shallow water. She pushes herself back up--

AS

THE WOLF LUNGES--

POV WOMAN

The wolf already on top of her--

She can see straight down the wolf's throat past rows of canine teeth--

She throws up her arm to protect herself. Is she going to be eaten or just drown?

THE WOLF

BITES into her arm like a steak--

THE MAN

Runs at the wolf, ready to stab it--

CU WOMAN

Her pupils are pinpricks

THE WOLF

Releases her arm

OPENS ITS JAW WIDE

Goes straight for the throat--

THE WOMAN

Closes her eyes

THIS IS THE END

...

AND THEN

--The wolf is RIPPED off her, out of the water completely--

By an unseen...something.

CU WOMAN

She opens her eyes

She pulls herself out of the water--gasping for air...

POV WOMAN

The wolf is pulled STRAIGHT UP off the ground

With terrifying force

30...40...50 feet

THE MAN

Runs into the water to his wife--

WOMAN

(confused to be alive)

What happened?

The man just points UP--

The wolf has disappeared into the dark but we can still HEAR it. The wolf makes a new sound: no longer growls, instead PURE FEAR. Like a beaten puppy.

THE WOMAN

Looks at her husband, hunched over her, still holding the knife...

THEY BOTH LOOK STRAIGHT UP

At the black sky that the wolf vanished into...

JUST AS SUDDENLY

The wolf's YELPS are abruptly cut short--

SILENCE

AND THEN

The SOUND of a soft rain...

Hitting the water...

And our young couple--

AND THEY REALIZE

It's not rain...but the wolf's still warm blood.

They're drenched in it.

A SPLASH FROM THE LAKE

CU MAN

He turns to look--

THE WOMAN

Looks at him. He can't articulate what he just saw. But he's newly terrified...

WOMAN (CONT'D)
What is it?

ON CUE:

The man is RIPPED under the water with impossible force--

WOMAN (CONT'D)
KEVIN!

She splashes desperately, searching for him. But he's gone. Like he was never there...

THEN

He re-surfaces 20 feet away. Just long enough to get out one word:

MAN
RUN!

AND SHE IS RUNNING

TOWARDS THE DARK WOODS

BEHIND HER

A sound like the SNAP of a wet rubber band.

AND THEN HER HUSBAND'S SCREAMS

Not fear. PAIN.

She stops, turns back.

CU WOMAN

She looks UP. She sees SOMETHING. Her eyes are filled with terror but also pure AWE--

And then she SCREAMS. Bloody murder--

BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. CLOUDFALL RECOVERY CENTER-DAY

Birds chirp outside an ornate adobe building surrounded by a tranquil garden.

Rehab.

Our hero HENRY WABASH, 30's, walks out into the sunlight for the first time in a month. The duffel bag he checked in with slung over his shoulder.

He walks down brick steps towards

THE STREET

Where a Subaru is parked.

His sister, ATHENA stands beside it. Waiting for him.

INT. ATHENA'S CAR-DAY

Athena driving. Henry in the passenger's seat.

ATHENA
You look good. How do you feel?

HENRY
Like I need a drink.

She glares at him...

HENRY (CONT'D)
...That's a joke.

Not amused...

ATHENA
It's funny.

Henry looks away. He's the perpetual fuck up. Just another thing he can't get right.

HENRY
How's Mom?

ATHENA
She's...good.

HENRY
...Good.

ATHENA
I know what you're asking--and the answer's not yet. But I'm working on it.

Henry nods...

HENRY
Just tell her I'm sorry.

Athena says nothing.

Changing the subject to something less painful...

HENRY (CONT'D)
So what'd I miss on the outside?

ATHENA
(shrugs)
Not too much.
(then)
...Well. *Actually*. Uncle Pat.

Henry looks at her--

ATHENA (CONT'D)
He's "officially" dead.

Beat. Henry isn't upset by this, just confused.

HENRY
He was always dead.

ATHENA
Well, not *always*.

HENRY
He's been missing for two years.

ATHENA
Exactly.

HENRY
(surprised)
They found his body?

ATHENA
No, but it's been long enough that
they--legally...you know.

HENRY
...Shit.

ATHENA
I guess I was holding out hope he
was just off in the woods, you
know? Completely off the grid this
time.

HENRY
(nods)
He never was a people person.

ATHENA
Well, he liked us. Guess who he
left his "hermitage" to?

He looks at her.

HENRY
(shocked)
No way.

Athena smiles, points between them...

HENRY (CONT'D)
What are we going to do with it?

ATHENA
Sell it.

HENRY
To who? The Unabomber?

INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT-AFTERNOON

Henry and Athena inside his small depressing apartment.

He stands by the window as she pours the contents of his
liquor cabinet into the sink.

HENRY
You know you don't have to quit
drinking. It's good stuff--take it
with you.

She looks back at him, pointedly.

ATHENA
..."Good stuff"?

HENRY
(sheepish)
...To someone who's not me.
Obviously.

She just looks at him--exhausted...

ATHENA
(sighs)
You've quit before.

HENRY
Christ, Athena. It's 18-year old
scotch. I just thought you might
appreciate...

She looks at him. There is concern in her eyes...

ATHENA
Maybe...maybe you should stay with
me. It might be a good idea.

It doesn't seem like she thinks it's a good idea...

ATHENA (CONT'D)
Maybe this is all too much for you
at once.

Henry looks at her--

HENRY
(pointed)
I'll be fine.

CUT TO:

INT. HENRY'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

He sits on his dingy sofa, drinking seltzer from the bottle,
watching TCM.

He's lonely. Bored. He absent-mindedly turns his iPhone in
his hands...

Finally, he unlocks his phone

CU IPHONE

He goes to CONTACTS then FAVORITES.

There's only one name: MARIA

HIS THUMB

Hovers over her name...Working up the courage to call--

FUCK IT. He does.

RING...

CU IPHONE

An image of Henry and a pretty young woman. MARIA. Happier
days.

HENRY GRIMACES

We can see the nervousness on his face, in his shoulders...

RING--

--He cancels the call.

Lowers his head. Defeated.

BEAT

Henry HURLS the phone at the wall--

WHAP!

The phone lands screen up--

It starts to VIBRATE

CU IPHONE

MARIA is calling him back.

HENRY

Grabs his jacket and walks out...

Leaving the phone still buzzing...

EXT. CITY STREET-NIGHT

Henry just walking. Aimlessly. Feeling sorry for himself

WE HEAR

Music. PEOPLE enjoying themselves

RACK FOCUS

Across the street: the lights from a BAR

HENRY

Attempting to block it all out.

...

FINALLY

HE GIVES IN

Walks across the street, into the bar--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL-HOURS LATER

Henry sits in the DRUNK TANK, a large jail cell, with assorted other FUCK UPS in for the night.

He has a black eye. He looks terrible. Not completely sober but already hungover.

OFFICER

Wabash?

Henry looks up.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

You're posted.

INT. WAITING ROOM, THE TOMBS-EARLY MORNING

The officer leads Henry out past the bulletproof glass to where Athena is waiting for him.

Instantly, Henry looks ashamed

INT. ATHENA'S CAR-EARLY MORNING

Henry gets in the passenger seat of Athena's Subaru. Again.

Athena gets in the driver's seat. Just looks at him.

HENRY

Just. Don't.

ATHENA

"I'll be fine."

HENRY

What can I say--I'm back on the wagon.

ATHENA

You mean you fell off the wagon.

HENRY

Whichever one means I'm a fucking drunk.

ATHENA

You almost made it a full day. *Wow.*

Henry looks away, ashamed--

ATHENA (CONT'D)

You're not even trying.

HENRY

Try. For what? And don't say I'm throwing my life away. It's already gone. My job. My marriage.

ATHENA

(over)

Yes, because my life is so amazing. And yet somehow I'm still here to always fix your shit.

HENRY

There's nothing you can say that can make me feel worse about myself--

ATHENA

(over)

--You know who you sound like?

HENRY

--so can we just fight later?

He closes his eyes and leans on the glass window...

BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. ATHENA'S CAR-DAY

Slowly, Henry awakes. His head still against the window. Still in Athena's car. Athena is driving.

HE LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW

No longer in the city. Instead, a narrow road in the wilderness--

HENRY

Where are we?

Athena ignores him. Just keeps driving.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Athena, where are we going?

ATHENA
Somewhere you can get your shit
together.

Henry realizes...

HENRY
...No, no, no--

ATHENA
Uncle Pat's needs work. You're
handy. Fix it up so we can sell it.
It'll be good for you to have a
project. And I know you need the
money.

HENRY
Turn the car around.

She ignores him...

ATHENA
And as a bonus--you won't be able
to drink.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD-HELICOPTER SHOT

Athena's Subaru drives ever deeper into the wilderness...

I/E. ATHENA'S CAR-CONT.

Henry in the passenger's seat while his sister chauffeurs
him...

EXT. COUNTRY ROADS-ASSORTED

A series of shots as the Subaru drives deeper

...and deeper

...the roads get narrower

...and narrower

They are the only car on the road.

EXT. MAIN STREET, MILL TOWN-EVENING

The Subaru pulls into what's left of a small downtown.

Half the buildings are boarded up. The few PEOPLE around appear to be over 70. A mill town without a mill.

The car stops in front of a small mom-and-pop grocery store.

INT. GROCERY STORE

Athena and Henry at the checkout. They are the only people in the store besides the CASHIER.

The counter is littered with supplies. Athena is buying everything in the store. Steaks and orange juice and camping supplies...

Henry looks miserable. He looks over at a freezer full of beer--

Rows of six packs behind refrigerated glass. They seem to stare back at him.

The CASHIER looks very pleased...

CASHIER

(grins)

I think I'll close up early today.
You guys prepping for the
apocalypse?

ATHENA

(smiles)

No.

HENRY

(pissed)

Yes.

Athena stares at Henry...

BEHIND THE CASHIER

We can see a MISSING poster. It shows the two BACKPACKERS from the first scene...

CUT TO:

I/E. WOODED ROAD-DAY

Athena drives her Subaru down an endless, narrow dirt road...

On either side of the road is miles of thick pine forest. The sun dapples through the tree branches.

HENRY
I forgot what the *actual* middle of
nowhere looks like.

The road seems to go on forever

...

FINALLY

The road ends--

It terminates at a VAST LAKE. Completely surrounded by pine forest. Pristine. No houses. No development of any kind.

There is a DOCK and what's left of a small MARINA. A few rusted BOATS that do not seem sea-worthy...

When Athena turns the car off, it is completely SILENT--

She HONKS the horn...

After a moment, an older grizzled fisherman--MAURICE--steps out of a small shed. Comes over to the car...

MAURICE
You lost?

ATHENA
No, sir.
(points to the lake)
Can you take us out?

MAURICE
I'm afraid there's no fish worth catching anymore. Red tide got everything except jellyfish.

ATHENA
My brother needs to get out to Wabash Island.

Maurice's eyes go wide...

MAURICE
Why?

ATHENA
...We own it.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-UNDERWATER SHOT

We look straight up through the clear water at the surface of the lake...

As the motor boat cuts its wake across it--

I/E. MOTOR BOAT-CONT.

Maurice drives the boat...

CU HENRY

Standing next to Athena. Looking out at the lake...

REVERSE SHOT

Maurice picks up the radio receiver and speaks into it. Henry can't hear what he is saying...

RACK FOCUS

Past Maurice to the water--

The boat steers around a bend...

A SMALL ISLAND

becomes visible...

As they get closer...

A SMALL RUSTIC CABIN

On the island. Surrounded by a few pine trees...

They get closer still and it becomes clear that the house has seen better days. Paint peeling. Sagging beams.

This is their late Uncle Pat's house.

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-DAY

Henry steps from the motorboat into the shallow water and then onto the beach.

Athena and Maurice follow behind.

HENRY WALKS

...by a tree stump with an AXE buried in it. Split logs tossed randomly around it...

...by an old overturned CANOE...

TO THE FRONT DOOR

Of the half-crumbling house. The whole thing has an eerie feel. Like his uncle just disappeared into thin air.

Henry opens the door. It is unlocked. And steps into:

INT. UNCLE PAT'S HOUSE-CONT.

The inside of the house is worse. A layer of dust covers everything. There's graffiti on the walls. And there's a decent size HOLE in the roof--you can see straight up to the sky...

Athena enters behind him--

ATHENA

...Wow.

Maurice enters...

MAURICE

Nature comes back fast.

HENRY

(to ATHENA)

Worse than you thought?

ATHENA

Nothing you can't handle.

She doesn't sound convinced...

There is an old turntable, some classic LPs...Athena tries to spin the situation as best she can.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Good vinyl collection.

Henry ignores this small olive branch, points to graffiti on the wall...

MAURICE

Kids come out here sometimes. They used to say your uncle had treasure buried somewhere on the island.

(then)

By the way, my condolences--I guess. Some people don't think he's really gone.

Henry wipes dust away from a picture frame on the wall.

A photo inside: HENRY and ATHENA as kids. Next to an older man--UNCLE PAT. Together they hold a large fish. All smiling. Behind them, the same small house--but in mint condition. Better times.

Henry can't help but smile slightly.

HENRY

I wish that were true.

MAURICE

(shrugs)

Pair of hunters swear they saw him
walking the woods last spring.

Henry looks at Athena...

HENRY

That'd be about right. Maybe this
place wasn't rustic enough for him
anymore.

(smiles)

Maybe he abandoned it to go live in
a tree.

MAURICE

Here's hoping. He kept to himself,
but he was alright.

Henry gestures to a gun rack mounted to the wall. Without a gun.

HENRY

These treasure hunters--they took
the gun?

Maurice shrugs.

MAURICE

Truth be told, not many kids around
anymore. Whole town's on its way
out. I'm sure you noticed.

Henry and Athena look at each other. They *did*.

ATHENA

(polite)

Is that right?

INT. BATHROOM, UNCLE PAT'S HOUSE-CONT.

Henry enters. Turns on the faucet--

The PIPES shake violently...

PUTRID BROWN WATER sputters from the faucet like diarrhea--

Henry's face sinks...

He looks at his PHONE:

NO SERVICE

Henry rolls his eyes...

FINALLY

Clear lake water comes out of the faucet...

INT. LIVING ROOM, UNCLE PAT'S HOUSE-CONT.

While Henry is preoccupied, Athena talks to Maurice...

ATHENA

Could I trouble you to check up on him--maybe once a week? I'd pay you obviously.

MAURICE

Sure. I can bring him groceries if you want.

ATHENA

That'd be great.

MAURICE

Does he like anything special?
Favorite type of beer?

ATHENA

(too quick)
No beer.

Maurice nods, understanding.

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-DAY

Athena and Henry stand at the water's edge. She is ready to head back to the mainland.

Maurice is already back on his boat with the motor running, he steps back onto dry land...

MAURICE

Here.

He hands Henry something...

MAURICE (CONT'D)

If there's a problem, send it up.
We'll see it.

Henry look at what he is holding: A FLARE

HENRY

(not pleased)
...*Thank you.*

Maurice gets back on the boat...

HENRY (CONT'D)

This is a terrible idea.

Athena isn't sure he's wrong. But she's resolved.

ATHENA

Henry, we've got nothing but good memories of this place. You used to never want to leave.

HENRY

That's cause we were away from Dad.
Not because I was a prisoner on an island.

Athena gestures to the canoe--

ATHENA

You can canoe out of here anytime.

HENRY

It's got to be a mile back to the landing. Plus another ten through the woods back to town.

Athena shrugs...

ATHENA

I sometimes think--what if we'd grown up here, instead of at home.
How our lives would be different.

HENRY
(nods)
Better.

ATHENA
So think of this as a second
chance.

He wants to believe that but...

HENRY
It's too late to start over.

She stops sugarcoating it--

ATHENA
Then think of it as a last chance.
I'll come back in six weeks. You're
all I got in this world, Henry, but
this is the final time I'm going to
save you or pick you up or bail you
out. Use this. Please. Get your
shit together.

She grabs him in a hug...

CUT TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-MOMENTS LATER

Henry watches the boat speed back towards the mainland.

THE BOAT

Goes around the bend and disappears.

HENRY
Well, shit.

HENRY

Turns and walks back to the house.

He stops at the tree stump. Wrenches the axe from the wood
and places a piece of firewood vertically on top of the
stump...

He raises the axe and buries it in the firewood--but it only
goes halfway in. Annoyed, he smashes the firewood against the
stump until it SPLITS.

FADE TO:

INT. BEDROOM, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-MORNING

Looking out the window, at the pristine lake outside.

Henry awakes, sits up in front of the window. He's grown a full beard. He looks healthier. Sober. The black eye has disappeared. Time has passed.

It's no longer frigid early spring but the beginnings of summer.

INT. DEN, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-MORNING

Henry puts a record on the turntable. Maybe Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*...

*If I ventured in the slipstream
Between the viaducts of your dreams-*

And the music carries us over into the next scenes...

INT. SHED, WABASH ISLAND-DAY

Henry planes a board of wood...

EXT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-DAY

Henry on top of the house, patching the hole in the roof.

He's already made significant progress...

The lake is silent except for the sound of his HAMMER

EXT. LAKE-SUNSET

Henry canoes out into the middle of the lake...

He is at peace.

He stops paddling. Removes his iPhone.

CU IPHONE

NO SERVICE. He opens the camera app.

WIDE SHOT:

Henry in his canoe. Silhouetted against a breathtaking sunset...

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-NIGHT

Henry sears a T-bone on a flaming charcoal grill.

The night is warm, beautiful.

INT. DEN, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-DIFFERENT NIGHT

Henry eats a steak at the table.

He drinks water.

Behind him, the graffiti has been covered up with fresh paint.

The whole house has been fixed up though there is still a shitty old rug on the floor...

The record is still spinning--

*...Lay me down
In silence easy
To be born again--*

--The ELECTRICITY gives out. The lights and music disappear...

Henry sighs...

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-NIGHT

Henry feeds gasoline into the GENERATOR outside the house...

INT. DEN, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-NIGHT

Henry puts the record back on. The song begins again...

The cycle repeats--

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Henry reads a book by a single light...

EXT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-NEXT DAY

Henry fixing the roof...

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-DUSK

Henry comes down from the roof. Sweating. Exhausted.
 He stops at the tree stump. The AXE BLADE buried in it.
 He places a piece of wood on the stump...
 Raises the axe...
 Splits the wood perfectly.
 He grins.

FADE TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-NIGHT-WIDE SHOT

The cabin dark.
 The lake silent except for cicadas...

CUT TO:

UNKNOWN POV

We are underwater. Gliding through the shallows towards the beach of Wabash Island...

We hit the shore and rise out of the water

ONTO THE BEACH

We CRAWL low across the sand...

Then STAND up--a little unsteady...

AND WALK

TOWARDS THE CABIN

The front door is unlocked...

WE ENTER THE HOUSE

Empty. Dark.

We walk across the old shitty rug...

TO THE BEDROOM

...CREAK--

We gently PUSH the door open...

Henry is in bed. ASLEEP.

We scan the room...

...

HENRY JOLTS AWAKE

HE LAYS THERE

Something is wrong...but he can't put his finger on it.

HIS EYES

Dart toward the door--

REVERSE SHOT

There is nothing there.

But the bedroom door SWAYS...

THEN

He realizes...through the open window, he can HEAR the lapping of waves. Against the shore--

BACK TO:

UNKNOWN POV

We watch from the shadows as Henry exits the bedroom

And walks out the front door...

We wait in silence...

THEN MOVE

To the WINDOW. To see:

HENRY

At the water's edge with his flashlight.

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-CONT

Henry shines his flashlight towards the water's edge and sure enough:

WAVES

Not huge. Maybe two feet high. They gently crash into the sand...

One...

After...

Another...

WHAT THE FUCK

He's transfixed. Because it's not possible.

BACK TO:

UNKNOWN POV

We move away from the window

INTO THE KITCHEN

The sink is steadily dripping...

Next to the sink

A *LARGE KNIFE*

...

OUR HAND REACHES OUT

Fingers around the knife handle...

BUT the hand SHAKES, palsied. The fingers contorting--*like they've never gripped anything before.*

THE KNIFE

Spasms out of our hand...

Bouncing off the sink...

Onto the floor--

CLANG!

SMASH CUT TO:

HENRY

WHIPS around. He heard the noise.

There's someone in the house.

He RUSHES to the tree stump--

RIPS the axe out--

STEALTHILY

He walks

TO THE CABIN

PUSHES THE FRONT DOOR OPEN

INSIDE:

Everything is the same as before

The faucet DRIPS...DRIPS

He raises the axe over his shoulder--

Scared shitless but trying to seem tough--

HENRY
I've got an axe! I'll
fucking...chop you.

He winces...

Silence.

He lowers his axe. Embarrassed. There's no one here.

HENRY (CONT'D)
(sighs)
You get paranoid when you're sober.

HENRY STOPS

REVERSE SHOT

Embedded in the wooden floor: THE KNIFE. The handle sticks straight up like the sword in the stone...

He moves to:

THE BEDROOM

PUSHES the door open...

It is empty...

CRASH!

Henry WHIPS around

Moves toward the SOUND in:

THE BATHROOM

He enters...

Gripping the axe, his fingers *shaking*...

THE WINDOW

Is open...

CU HENRY

Did he leave it like that?

THE SHOWER

Behind him. The curtain closed.

HENRY

Realizing...

SLOWLY

He turns around, moves toward the shower...

CLUTCHING

The axe in one hand...

HE RIPS back the shower curtain--

SWINGING THE AXE--

At *nothing*.

HE LOOKS DOWN

Into the tub: Something reflects the light...

Something translucent, gelatinous...Like a jellyfish that's been washed ashore...

He pokes at it with the axe handle...

He lifts one end up to his face...

It's a piece of translucent, otherworldly fabric. Maybe a snake skin...for a giant fucking snake.

He lets the bizarre substance fall back into the tub...

A few tiny RED SPORES, floating on a thin film of water, circle the drain

CU HENRY

He watches, puzzled as

THE SPORES

Disappear down the pipes--

FADE TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-MORNING

Henry steps out into the morning light. Looks around.

The air is thick with humidity. It's hot.

He walks to the water's edge.

THE LAKE IS COMPLETELY STILL

Henry is dumbfounded.

CU HENRY

He is truly puzzled--

REVERSE SHOT

Half a mile out into the lake. A large splotch--maybe 50 yards wide--of DARK RED. Like someone planted a cranberry bog overnight.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-DAY

Henry paddles the canoe out to the RED SPLOTCH...

Millions of tiny RED SPORES--just like the ones in the tub--float on the top of the water.

The spores stick to Henry's paddle as the canoe glides through them...

--BUZZ

Startled, Henry reaches into his pocket and pulls out his iPhone.

CU IPHONE

He has 200 new emails. More importantly, he has service. Just one bar but still.

HENRY SIGHS

Then...impulsively...he dials Maria again. Now or never.

RING...

RING...

RING...

MARIA

Henry?

HENRY

Maria! Yeah. It's me. Don't hang up.

MARIA

I know it's you, Henry...there's been caller ID for about 20 years.

Henry doesn't know what to say now that he's got a hold of her...

MARIA (CONT'D)

So...

HENRY

...Uhhhh...

MARIA

Are you...are you doing ok?

HENRY

Yes. Yeah. Thanks for asking.

MARIA

Where are you? The service isn't very good.

HENRY

That's the thing. I'm in the middle of a lake.

MARIA

What?

HENRY

I've been sober--five weeks. All I had to do was...

(laughs)

Remove myself completely from civilization.

MARIA

...That's really good, Henry.

HENRY

Yeah. Thanks. I'm not really calling for the credit...maybe I am. But what I really want to say is: I'm sorry.

(beat)

And not in a--I know it's over. And it's a disease and maybe I can learn to forgive myself for that part. But you deserved better. You deserve better.

Beat.

No response.

He looks at his phone: NO SERVICE. She's no longer there.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Of course.

AND THEN

The sound of wings FLAPPING

Henry looks up as a FLOCK OF GEESE rise from the water and BUZZ right past him like he's Tippi Hedren--

THE CANOE

Rocks dangerously as he swats them away...

AND THEN

The birds are gone...

And then he sees what they were fleeing from...

There's SOMETHING rising out of the water.

MOVING TOWARDS HIM--

It's closer now and he can see that it's a WAVE--on the otherwise still water.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

He can see now that the wave is at least 15 feet high. No crest but it'll roll him--

He paddles furiously, turning the canoe 90 degrees so he'll be perpendicular to the wave and won't flip...

He paddles straight at the wave--

The canoe rides up the wave like a one-man Perfect Storm--But he doesn't crest it--

And the wave is longer than the canoe--

THE CANOE FLIPS

End over end--

Henry smashes into the water

UNDERWATER

Flailing as the wave rolls over him...

He can see his iPhone sink below him. He grabs for it. Fails. Watching it sink to the floor, 40 feet below...

CU HENRY

His eyes go wide

REVERSE SHOT

There is something on the lake floor:

A WRECK

It is covered in sand and seaweed. But it is unmistakably:

A PROPELLER PLANE. On the side: "US Army Chemical Corps"

The plane is ripped open in the middle. INSIDE:

Rusting cannisters marked HAZARDOUS--

AND THEN

A LARGE JELLYFISH

Floats past him--light purple in the underwater light. It's TENTACLES are 3 feet long--

Henry tries to push back to the surface before it can sting him. But it's too late--

EXT. LAKE-CONT.

Henry emerges to the surface, cringing in pain from the jellyfish sting.

He grabs onto the underside of the flipped over canoe and just floats there for a second.

The water is completely calm again.

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-DAY

Henry paddles back to shore..

INT. UNCLE PAT'S HOUSE-DAY

Henry enters, clearly in pain.

His entire right arm is purple and puffy from the jellyfish sting.

He grabs a glass from the kitchen table and goes into the bathroom--

We can hear him PISSING into the glass--

INT. BATHROOM-CONT.

He holds the glass full of his own urine.

He hesitates before he pours it on his arm--

EXT. UNCLE PAT'S HOUSE-CONT.

We hear him scream in pain. It echoes across the empty lake.

IN THE DISTANCE

A storm is rolling in...

FADE TO:

INT. KITCHEN, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-NIGHT

It is RAINING HARD. It is deafening against the roof.

THUNDER rolls in the distance

HENRY LOOKS UP

At where the hole in the roof once was--now fully patched.

BUT

After a moment, water starts to leak through the new wood.

HENRY

Shit.

He grabs a pot from the stove and places it to collect the rainwater...

New leaks emerge--water coming down in several places at once...

THE WATER

Runs along the wooden floor...

And POOLS at the center of the room: THE OLD SHITTY RUG

Henry goes over and starts to roll up the rug--

HE STOPS

CU HENRY

A look of true surprise...

REVERSE SHOT

Beneath the rug:

A TRAPDOOR

...

CREAK!

Henry pulls open the hatch

REVEALING:

A small crawlspace.

HE LEANS INSIDE

It is empty. Except for an old duffel bag...

He UNZIPS it...

CU HENRY

Again...true surprise--

REVERSE SHOT

The bag is filled with wrapped stacks of \$100 bills.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Uncle Pat, Jesus Christ. You really
did have buried treasure.

(then, realizing)

Why would you leave this behind?

HE LOOKS

Out of the crawlspace--to the empty gun rack on the wall...

HENRY

Realizes something--

HE DIGS

Through the bag...

More stacks of cash...

AND THEN

HENRY (CONT'D)

FUCK.

He recoils as if from a snake--

REVERSE SHOT

An ancient bottle of SCOTCH. It reflects the light
beautifully...

HENRY

Clenches his eyes shut as if he'd been punched--

QUICKLY

He pulls himself out--

SLAMS the hatch shut.

It is STILL raining...

EXT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-NEXT DAY

Henry on top of the cabin. Re-fixing the roof...

It is even hotter and muggier today.

WE PAN

The lake around him...

REVEALING:

The patch of RED ALGAE has GROWN. Twice the area it was yesterday.

WE KEEP PANNING...

TO REVEAL:

Maurice's motorboat approaching...

HENRY

Looks up to see it...

INT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-MINUTES LATER

Henry and Maurice enter, hauling supplies...

MAURICE
Place looks good.

HENRY
Thanks, man. I'm trying.

There are several kitchen pots on the floor--filled with rainwater. Henry point to one--

HENRY (CONT'D)
Watch your step. I've had a few leaks.

Maurice puts the supplies down, wipes sweat from his brow.

MAURICE
Never used to get this hot up here.

Henry carries one of the pots of rainwater over and places it on the stovetop.

HENRY
(shrugs)
Global warming's a bitch.

Maurice smiles politely...

MAURICE
...If you don't mind my saying--it,
uh, smells like piss in here.

HENRY
Oh yeah. Sorry. *Jellyfish*.

Maurice realizes...

MAURICE
That doesn't actually work.

HENRY
I know that now.

Changing the subject--

HENRY (CONT'D)
What's the deal with the, uh...the
plane at the bottom of the lake?

Maurice is surprised he knows about this--

MAURICE
Oh wow. Yeah, it was a military
transport. Went down in...'83?

HENRY
Just crashed?

MAURICE
Yeah. Kids used to say it was
carrying something from Area 51 or
whatever. *Escaped*. Ate the pilot,
you know?

He laughs...Henry doesn't.

HENRY
Why would they say that?

MAURICE
(confused)
Because they're dumb kids. It was
just a malfunction. Crew got out
fine.

HENRY
(embarrassed)
...Right.

MAURICE
What were you, scuba diving? How'd
you even find that?

HENRY
...I saw it when I got knocked out
of my boat. That's how I got stung.

MAURICE
Knocked?

HENRY
Yeah. There was this, uh...rogue
wave. I could've surfed it.

MAURICE
(gently)
This is a lake. There's no tides.

HENRY
I know.

Maurice doesn't say anything...

HENRY (CONT'D)
Forget it. Alcoholic falls out of a
boat, what else is new, right?

Maurice looks at Henry, concerned...

MAURICE
You alright, out here?

HENRY
...I'm not alright anywhere. Can't
cut it in the real world. I swore I
wouldn't end up like my father. And
yet here I am: a drunk. So this
spot's as good as any. At least I
can't hurt anyone.

Maurice looks around...

MAURICE
Seems like the real world to me.

HENRY

If you remove yourself from everything that makes a life a life. Just to survive. I mean, what's the point?

MAURICE

Your uncle had a life here.

HENRY

Oh, come on man--

He points to the empty gun rack on the wall--

HENRY (CONT'D)

Kids didn't steal that shotgun. Pat went out in the woods and blew his head off.

Maurice is silent. Henry realizes something has upset him.

Finally...

MAURICE

I had a daughter.

(then)

Heroin. Opiates. Same old shit.

He looks away. Too many painful memories.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

A life's a life. Surviving--that's all there is. Far as I can tell, that's the whole point.

Henry looks away ashamed. Maurice is angry at him.

MAURICE (CONT'D)

You take care of yourself.

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-LATE AFTERNOON

HENRY WATCHES

Maurice's boat zoom away...

The sun is already low in the sky...

BLACK

CREAK!

Henry OPENS the hatch of the trapdoor--

INT. KITCHEN, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-DAY

Henry sits at the table, staring--

REVERSE SHOT

The bottle of SCOTCH, sitting on the table. Unopened. Staring back at him.

BEAT

Every muscle in Henry's body is tensed. All his willpower holding him back. He wants to give in.

FINALLY

He gets up from the table and walks out of the house--

Leaving the bottle behind...

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-LATE AFTERNOON

Henry puts the CANOE in the water--

--and starts PADDLING. Fast.

No destination.

He just needs to get away.

The sun is nearing the horizon.

EXT. LAKE-TIME ELAPSE

Henry ROWS out to the same spot where he capsized yesterday.

HE LOOKS

Straight down into the water--

He can see, dimly:

THE PLANE

At the bottom of the lake

THE CANOE

Drifts on

POV HENRY

He stays fixed on the plane

THEN LOOKS UP

To see: AN OLD MAN

Standing knee deep in the water. Just off the mainland shore--

CU HENRY

His eyes POP. He almost drops his paddle.

The old man is far away but he recognizes him--

HENRY

Uncle Pat?

REVERSE SHOT

UNCLE PAT stares back at him.

QUICKLY

Henry turns the boat around--

Briefly losing sight of the shore--

POV HENRY

He looks at the shore.

UNCLE PAT IS GONE

HENRY

Paddles quickly

TO THE SHORE

Jumps out of the canoe.

HENRY (CONT'D)

PAT!

He's walking into the woods--

The sun is setting. Long shadows everywhere.

FURTHER INTO THE WOODS

No sign of the old man...

HENRY (CONT'D)
It's official. You've lost your
mind.

THROUGH THE BREEZE

He HEARS the FLAPPING of plastic

CU HENRY

He looks up into the trees...does a double take.

REVERSE SHOT

In the top branches of a pine tree: A GREEN TENT

Perfectly set-up. As if someone just picked the top of a tree
for a campsite.

HENRY (CONT'D)
*"Abandoned it to go live in a
tree".*

He yells up--

HENRY (CONT'D)
PAT?

No response.

AFTER A MOMENT

Henry starts climbing the tree

TOWARDS THE MYSTERIOUS TENT

Cautiously--

Branch...

Over...

Branch...

POV HENRY

Looking down...he's further up then he realized

CU HENRY

A little vertigo...

He collects himself...

Continues on...

REACHES THE TENT

It's a little battered but still together. The poles are upright. You could go in and sleep there right now.

The opening is zipped shut.

Henry unzips it--

--**A CORPSE**

Falls out on top of him--

HENRY **SCREAMS**

IT IS THE FEMALE BACKPACKER

She's been dead a long time--decomposing--

The body is smothering him--right against his face--

He can't shake it off without losing his footing--

HE SCREAMS AGAIN

As a large SPIDER crawls out of her eye socket--

He loses his grip on the branch

AND FALLS

Backwards--

Hitting branch...

After branch...

He lands HARD on the forest floor.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-NIGHT

The sun has already set.

HENRY

Paddles the canoe FURIOUSLY

BACK TO WABASH ISLAND

He's out as soon as the boat hits the sand

AND RUNNING

INTO THE CABIN

He throws open a cabinet. Removing the FLARE that Maurice gave him.

CUT TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-WIDE SHOT

A BRILLIANT white flare ROCKETS into the night sky...

Illuminating the water and the island...

FADE TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-NIGHT

Maurice's boat pulls up to the island...

HENRY

Is already waiting outside with his bags packed...

MAURICE

Gets out of the boat--

A DEPUTY in uniform gets out behind him...

MAURICE

(to HENRY)

You look fine. What happened?

HENRY

I'm fine.

MAURICE

This is our Deputy Gorham. I thought--just in case.

(to GORHAM)

Looks like a false alarm.

Henry shakes Gorham's hand...

HENRY
No, you're just the guy I need to
see. I found a body.

GORHAM
A *human* body?

Henry just looks at him--

HENRY
Yeah, man.

GORHAM
Where?

HENRY
Thirty feet up in a fucking pine
tree. Explain that.

Gorham and Maurice look at each other, wary.

HENRY (CONT'D)
And I think I saw my uncle.

Now Maurice looks at Henry with real concern.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Then again it could just be
withdrawal.

Gorham looks at the bottle of scotch on the table. Still
unopened.

GORHAM
(suspicious)
What you been up to out here?

Henry, realizing...

HENRY
I just need to get off this island.

EXT. LAKE-NIGHT

Maurice's boat zooms out into the dark lake, illuminated by a
single light at the stern...

I/E. MOTOR BOAT-CONT.

Maurice steers. Deputy Gorham stands next to him.

HENRY

stands at the rear.

CU HENRY

Looking back...

REVERSE SHOT

UNCLE PAT'S HOUSE

Slowly receding away...

MAURICE (O.C.)
Jesus Christ.

Henry turns to see:

ANOTHER ROGUE WAVE

Rolling towards the boat.

MAURICE (CONT'D)
...That's not possible.

GORHAM
Steer into it!

HENRY
No, it'll flip us.

MAURICE
(not convincing)
No, we'll be fine.

Maurice cuts it 45 degrees, then guns it straight for the wave...

HENRY
Goddamnit. We'll flip!

Maurice ignores him--

The wave is only 15 feet away...

MOMENT OF TRUTH

CU HENRY

He closes his eyes as he grabs onto the side of the boat...

THE WAVE

Sinks into the lake and disappears...

Like it never existed.

MAURICE

Cuts the engine. He is totally spooked.

THE BOAT

Just sits there in the dark water.

HENRY

Looks at Gorham and Maurice. They are all dumbfounded.

The water is completely still.

HENRY (CONT'D)
(to MAURICE)
You believe me now?

WHAM!

Something smashes into the boat from underneath--

The front end of the boat POPS into the air--and then smashes into the water again, knocking all the men over...

GORHAM
(scared)
What the--?

UNDERWATER SHOT-CONT.

We are looking at the underside of the boat from the POV of...something.

It RUSHES straight at the boat--

I/E. MOTOR BOAT-CONT.

Henry goes flying as the boat is again smashed from below--

The boat spins from the force--

HENRY
Let's get out of here!

Maurice nods, starts the engine again--

WHAM!

The boat is hit again--

Maurice goes over the side of the boat--

HENRY (CONT'D)
Maurice!

WHAM!

THE WOOD FLOOR

Splinters. Water shoots up from below.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Oh my god.

WHAM!

The wood floor CRACKS

AND THEN

A GIANT TRANSLUCENT TENTACLE

STABS straight through the boat...

CU HENRY

He looks helplessly in terror--but also sheer awe--

WHAM!

ANOTHER TRANSLUCENT TENTACLE

Smashes through the boat--

Each tentacle is at least 30 feet long--

AND THEN

The tentacles SNAP in divergent directions--

RIPPING THE BOAT IN TWO

The half that Henry is on FLIPS

INTO THE WATER

...

HENRY

Swims to the surface. Treading water.

He can see:

GORHAM

Clings to what's left of the other side of the boat. The OUTBOARD MOTOR is attached, it's blades still SPINNING--

Maurice is nowhere to be seen.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Maurice! Maurice!

No response.

HENRY

Still treading water. He looks around the lake.

The closest land is still WABASH ISLAND.

He turns back to Gorham--

HENRY (CONT'D)
We need to go. Now.

Gorham is barely there. Totally traumatized. He just clings to the boat. Bobbing up and down in the water.

AND THEN

Gorham SCREAMS. Pain mixed with sheer terror.

Something has latched onto him from below and is PULLING his bottom half--

He holds onto what's left of the boat for dear life--

But the *something* is too strong--

GORHAM

Is pulled across the fiberglass

INTO THE SPINNING BLADES OF THE MOTOR

His left arm FLIES into the air--

--and SPLASHES down *inches* from Henry. He is too scared to even scream--

THE BLADES CATCH

On his torso--the blades SCREECH to a halt.

THE MOTOR

Vibrates dangerously against what's left of Gorham--

HENRY

Realizes what's going to happen next--

He DIVES underwater AS

THE MOTOR EXPLODES

The FIREBALL shoots over Henry, illuminating the water that engulfs him--

BELOW HIM

He can see the shadow-y outlines of the MULTI-TENTACLED LOVECRAFTIAN NIGHTMARE that attacked them.

IT flails away, startled by the explosion.

HENRY

Realizes he has a chance while the *thing* is distracted...

He rises to the surface and starts SWIMMING for his life--

BACK TOWARD WABASH ISLAND

Swimming...

Desperately.

Swimming...

Swimming...

NOT LOOKING BACK

The flaming debris behind him--

Swimming...

Swimming...

...

HE REACHES THE BEACH

Back where he started:

WABASH ISLAND

He takes a few steps on the beach and then collapses, exhausted, next to the TREE STUMP. The axe still in it.

He just lies there...

Taking in all the impossible shit he just saw...

THEN--

HE SEES IT A SPLIT SECOND TOO LATE

A translucent tentacle DARTS out of the water--

And LATCHES onto his leg--

It pulls him towards the water with astonishing force--

Right past the tree stump--He GRABS the axe.

HE SCREAMS

As he's RIPPED

INTO THE AIR

20...30 feet--

HE'S GOING TO DIE

NOW OR NEVER

He swings the axe into the tentacle--

It SLICES surprisingly easily--

NEW PROBLEM

He's falling straight down through mid-air

He SMASHES into a large pine tree next to the house. The branches break his fall--

...

He's stuck in the tree about 20 feet up.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(sighs)

Back in a tree.

ON CUE:

The tree SNAPS--

The trunk swivels and Henry careens onto:

THE ROOF

Of the house--

And he's rolling onto:

The spot on the roof where the hole once was. You can tell because of the newer WOOD--which gives under his weight--

HE COLLAPSES

Into the KITCHEN--

BACK IN THE HOUSE-CONT.

In pain, Henry slowly sits up. He looks at his leg:

What's left of the tentacle is still attached--and wrapped tight--

He grabs the tentacle and instantly recoils, in pain--

He looks at his hand. It is already red. The tentacle clearly secretes some kind of venom. Like a jellyfish.

QUICKLY

He grabs the tentacle again and rips it off--

Then TOSSES the disgusting gelatinous thing across the room.

He looks at his leg--it is PURPLE and SWOLLEN and THROBBING...

BEAT.

HENRY

Ok. Pull it together. There's a monster in the lake.

(matter-of-fact)

There's a monster in the lake.

Realizing...

HENRY (CONT'D)

You're in the *middle* of the lake.

Thinking...

HENRY (CONT'D)

Maurice told somebody. Somebody knows he came out here.

Realizing...

HENRY (CONT'D)
And they'll get fucking killed too.
Come on, Henry. Think.

A new question:

HENRY (CONT'D)
Why did nobody know this was here?
(then)
Because everyone who's seen it is
dead.

HE FREEZES

...

Realizing something--

He looks over where he tossed the severed tentacle--

IT ISN'T THERE

...

A shiver runs down his spine

POV HENRY

He looks around--

THE SEVERED TENTACLE ISN'T IN THE ROOM AT ALL

CU HENRY

He's frozen. What the hell is going on?

HE RUSHES

To the kitchen drawer

PULLS OUT

A LARGE KNIFE

POV HENRY

He looks around again. We can see his hand CLUTCHING the
knife.

DRIP...

DRIP...

Henry turns towards the leaky faucet, slowly dripping into the sink--

POV HENRY

Frozen. From this angle, he can't see into the sink itself...

--He...moves...towards it

DRIP...

He takes another cautious step...

DRIP...

Clutching the knife tighter...

He raises the knife--prepared to STAB straight down...

DRIP...

Peering over the lip of the sink--

THWAP!

The amputated tentacle LUNGES from the sink--

IT wraps around Henry's throat before he knows what is happening--

He'd scream except it is already strangling him--

CU TENTACLE

The veins in Henry's neck BULGE out as it tightens around his throat like a noose--

HENRY

Desperately tries to pull it off as he CHOKES--

THE TENTACLE

Only tightens its death grip

HENRY'S EYES

Are popping out. His face red--

He's dying.

Losing consciousness, he stumbles to the kitchen stove. Throws on the BURNER full blast--

He grabs the loose end of the tentacle and holds it directly into the flames--

THE TENTACLE

Makes an otherworldly sound as it's reflexes kick in, receding from the flame--

And loosening its grip--

HENRY

WRENCHES away the momentarily confused THING--

And SLAMS it

Into the POT of rainwater on the stove.

Desperately, he grabs the LID

THE TENTACLE

Slithers up--about to pop back out

AS

Henry SMASHES the lid down onto the pot

Trapping the thing inside.

...

THE POT

Vibrates with tremendous force

HENRY

Throws all his weight on top to hold the lid on--

THE BURNER

Is still going...

HENRY

Slides the pot over onto the FLAMES--

THE TENTACLE

Emits the same otherworldly SHRIEK--

THE POT

Shakes with doubly violent force--

HENRY

Holds the lid down with all the strength he's got.

HENRY (CONT'D)
You're cooked, fucker.

THE METAL

Of the pot DENTS outward. So desperate is the thing to escape.

THE VIBRATIONS

Of the pot begin to slowwwwww....

AND THEN

...

STOP.

...

CU HENRY

He relaxes slightly. Breathing heavy.

HE LOOKS

At the LID--

Still unwilling to open it...

...

THWAP!

THE TENTACLE

BUSTS THROUGH

The lid--AND HENRY--go flying.

HENRY

Hits the floor AS

IT RISES triumphantly from the pot--extending itself like a KING COBRA

CU HENRY

He looks up in horror but also...AWE--

THE TENTACLE

Is TWICE the size it was before. Somehow--it grew.

It doesn't have a "head". No eyes. But nonetheless seems to stare back at

HENRY

He's completely frozen--

They're locked in a standoff.

AND THEN

The skin of the tentacle. The *biofilm*. It RIPS open and then-- begins to re-form--

--into something NEW

THE TOP OF THE TENTACLE

SPLITS open--like a mouth.

And *out of nowhere*, it GROWS razor sharp canine teeth. *Like a wolf's*.

A GIANT NIGHTMARE WORM

CU HENRY'S EYES

Glimpsing the KNIFE he dropped--

THE TENTACLE

LUNGES

As:

HENRY ROLLS TOWARD THE KNIFE

The tentacle SLAPS into the floor where Henry was AS:

HENRY STABS IT--

Impaling it against the floor.

THE NIGHTMARE WORM

LUNGES at

HENRY

But he rolls away

THE NIGHTMARE WORM

Catches on the blade like a dog on a leash...

IT SQUIRMS violently against the blade...

But it is STUCK.

AND THEN

The SOUND of it struggling grows louder--like rough sandpaper...

Its SKIN loses its shine, grows opaque...

And begins to CRACK

IT IS DRYING OUT

HENRY CAN ONLY WATCH

As the nightmare worm's movements begin to slowwww. Sputter out.

FINALLY

It seizes up. Contracting...and then ceases all movement.

THE BIOFILM

CRACKS open...and RED SPORES tumble out--losing their scarlet luster as they hit the open air

--The collapsed biofilm, once empty of the spores looks identical to the "snake skin" Henry found in the bathtub.

HENRY

Lets out a giant sigh of relief.

Then COLLAPSES into himself--

PASSES OUT

BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. LAKE-NEXT DAY

The sun already beating down.

The vast field of RED ALGAE from far away...

WE ZOOM IN

On the individual spores..

CU SINGLE RED SPORE

The spore SPLITS like an embryonic cell--creating a perfect copy.

These two cells split again...

And again...

Accelerating in the heat--

CUT TO:

INT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-DAY

Henry wakes up on the kitchen floor--

THE CRACKED DEAD TENTACLE

Is still there too.

HENRY

Tries to stand--

--Immediately COLLAPSES in HOWLING pain--

HE LOOKS AT

His right leg. It is impossibly swollen and purple...

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-DAY

Henry HOBbles slowly into the sunlight. Every step he takes is a dagger...

It is already HOT.

POV HENRY

Scanning the lake. Even more RED SPORES then yesterday.

SCANNING...

There is something floating in the water...

HENRY SQUINTS

He can make out that the something is the other half of Maurice's boat. It's low in the water but still floating...

CU HENRY

He's thinking--

FLASH TO:

I/E. MAURICE'S BOAT-WEEKS EARLIER

Maurice drives his boat towards Wabash Island.

He picks up the RECEIVER on his radio.

Speaks into it.

BACK TO:

HENRY-PRESENT DAY

HENRY
If it still works.

Then...

HENRY (CONT'D)
If you stay here, you'll die.

CUT TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-MOMENTS LATER

Henry ties a ROPE to the back of the canoe

CAUTIOUSLY

He pushes the canoe to the water's edge...

HE LOOKS AT THE WATER

Terrified.

The water is perfectly still. No sign of IT.

HE SHOVES

The canoe fully into the water. It floats away, *unmanned--*

INSTANTLY

Henry furiously backpedals from the water, not wanting to spend a second more there--

He has one hand on the rope connected to the canoe, letting it slide through his fingers.

EXT. LAKE-UNDERWATER SHOT

The canoe floats undisturbed past the camera...

CUT TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-TIME ELAPSE

Henry leans against the house. As far from the shore as possible. He still holds the end of the rope...

REVERSE SHOT

The canoe has drifted out a third of the way into the lake.

It's stopped now. Bobbing slightly.

But nothing's attacked it. *No sign of a monster.*

HENRY
(shrugs)
Maybe it's nocturnal.

BEYOND THE CANOE

The mainland and its vast woods. They now seem tantalizingly close--

SLOWLY...

Henry pulls the canoe--back to shore...

THE WATER

Is perfectly still. Not a ripple.

...

THE CANOE

Hits the shore again...

HENRY

Moves toward the canoe holding the paddle--

QUICKLY

He tosses the rope into the boat--

NOW OR NEVER

He jumps into the canoe and pushes himself into the lake--

--

THE CANOE

Drifts out into the water. Riding lower because of Henry's weight...

AFTER A MOMENT

Henry gently dips the paddle into the water--

EXT. LAKE-UNDERWATER SHOT-CONT.

Looking up at the underside of the canoe as the paddle cuts through the water--creating a little counter-clockwise whirlpool...

The SOUND of the paddle against the water is amplified 10x. Vibrating through the empty water.

EXT. HENRY'S CANOE-CONT.

Henry SPEEDS up his paddling. The closest point of the mainland still very far.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE LAKE-CONT.

A thick splotch of the RED SPORES. 50 yards wide.

WE ZOOM IN

Silence.

We can see the individual spores condensing, moving closer together at a central point...

THEY GATHER

Faster...

And faster...

AND THEN

The center of the swarm is PULLED below the surface of the water--

FROM ABOVE

We see the entire swarm of red spores pulled towards a single central point--and then disappear below the surface. Like a black hole.

The last spores disappear with a POP, releasing a small shock wave

WE TILT UP

To follow the gentle wave as it ripples towards Henry in the distance--

CUT TO:

HENRY

Arrives at the half-sunk half of a boat

He ties the canoe to the wreck, then

CAREFULLY

He steps from the canoe onto the wreckage. It bobs wildly against his weight.

HE FREEZES

Until the boat stabilizes

THEN ENTERS

What's left of the BOAT'S INTERIOR

The whole thing is tilted 15 degrees on it's side. The water is knee deep--

HENRY STOPS.

REVERSE SHOT

MAURICE

Propped up against the wall. His legs in the water.

He's dead.

HENRY

Shit.

HE TURNS

To see the RADIO. Hanging on the wall. Miraculously dry.

HE GRABS THE RECEIVER

Clicks it. Nothing happens.

HE LOOKS DOWN

at the radio CONSOLE. A bunch of knobs and dials he doesn't understand.

He turns one of the DIALS--

IT EMITS A DEAFENING FEEDBACK SCREECH--

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-CONT.

The SCREECH echoes across the water--

BACK TO:

INT. BOAT-CONT.

Henry turns the dial back until the SCREECH subsides...

HENRY

("you idiot")

At least we know it works.

He hits the receiver.

HENRY (CONT'D)

SOS. SOS. Please respond.

He waits. No response.

He changes frequencies--

HENRY (CONT'D)
SOS. SOS. Please respond.

No response.

HENRY

Looks down at the console. Changes frequencies again. CLICKS the receiver--

A HAND

Grabs Henry's wrist!

HENRY JUMPS BACK

TO SEE:

The hand is connected to MAURICE. Apparently NOT dead.

MAURICE
(whispers)
Shut. The fuck. Up.

ON CUE:

THE BOAT

Is ROCKED violently from below--

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-FROM ABOVE-CONT.

We can see the massive SHADOW of the thing in the water beneath the wrecked boat.

BACK TO:

INT. BOAT-CONT.

Henry and Maurice frozen in place. Terrified.

MAURICE
(whispers)
It hears better than it sees.

A TENTACLE

Emerges from the water. It blindly slides across the roof of the boat.

The boat rocks precipitously--the creature's strength is enormous--

SILENTLY

Maurice opens a cabinet beneath the radio...

Slowly...he removes his final FLARE

THE TENTACLE

Still probing the wreck

MAURICE

Holds the flare next to Henry's head, pointing it out towards the lake...

HENRY

Is practically hyperventilating...

...

MAURICE FIRES

THE FLARE

Shoots out horizontally like a bullet--

50, 100 yards before it succumbs to gravity--

EXT. LAKE-UNDERWATER SHOT-CONT.

The FLARE hits the surface of the open water causing cascading RIPPLES in every direction--

CUT TO:

LAKE--FROM ABOVE-CONT.

The giant SHADOW darts--with amazing agility--from underneath the boat. Towards the vibrations from the flare--

CUT TO:

INT. BOAT-CONT.

Henry and Maurice HEAR the searching tentacle pulled away with the rest of the monster.

MAURICE

...NOW.

DESPERATELY

They make the few steps to Henry's canoe.

They jump in.

Henry grabs the paddle as Maurice fumbles
to...untie..the...rope--

HENRY

Hurry up!

--The rope is free--

And Henry is paddling for his life--back towards Wabash
Island.

MAURICE

Don't. Look. Back.

BEHIND MAURICE

Out of focus: the monster rises from the water at the spot
the flare hit. Tentacles flailing, trying in vain to
slaughter its absent prey--

CUT TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-NIGHT

The canoe tipped over at the water's edge

MAURICE (O.S.)

That thing was not that big last
night.

INT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-CONT.

HENRY

I've been here for weeks. That
thing wasn't a thing until a few
days ago.

MAURICE

That's not possible.

HENRY

Don't you get it? It's those
spores, the algae.

(MORE)

HENRY (CONT'D)
The heat make it grow. I saw
it...*mutate*. It can change its form-

MAURICE
--Into what?

HENRY
(shrugs)
Whatever serves its purpose: keep
growing, keep mutating. And you
said yourself--it never used to get
this hot.

Maurice takes this all in...

MAURICE
Ok, we just wait until the weather
cools down. Maybe it'll...

HENRY
(skeptical)
Shrink?

MAURICE
Ok, what's your better idea?

HENRY
...It doesn't like fire.

MAURICE
(confused)
You just said heat makes it--

HENRY
I know but there's a difference
between being in warm water and,
you know--*in flames*.

As he says this he realizes...

HENRY (CONT'D)
It's the water that's important.

He points to the dried up tentacle skin still on the floor...

HENRY (CONT'D)
It stayed out of the water too
long. It dried up.

MAURICE
Ok, that's...something.

HENRY
(still thinking)
...We know distractions work.
There's two of us. We go out in
different directions. One of us'll
make it back to the mainland.

Maurice looks at him, wary--

MAURICE
The other's bait?

HENRY
(shrugs)
It's fifty-fifty odds. I don't
think we're going to get better.

MAURICE
Oh yeah? Who do you think it's
going to go for--you or the old
guy? No offense--I think I'll wait
it out. There's food here. Like you
say: it's got to stay in the water.
So I don't know: Don't go in the
fucking water! It's not like it can
reach through the windows--

SMASH!

Henry jumps back AS:

A TENTACLE

Crashes through the window pane behind Maurice--

It is larger and fatter than before--

Blindly, it searches the cabin.

MAURICE

Frozen--

He looks at Henry as:

THE TENTACLE

Finds his left ankle--

INSTANTLY

Maurice's feet are pulled from behind him--his breath knocked
out of him before he can scream--

HENRY

Looks on in horror as

MAURICE

Is yanked into the air like a rag doll--

SMASH!

ANOTHER TENTACLE

Crashes through another window on the opposite side of the small cabin--

INSTANTLY

It LATCHES onto Maurice's arm.

AND NOW HE DOES SCREAM

Suspended in the air, his body pulled in two directions at once, like a medieval rack.

CRUNCH!

We HEAR his joints POP and then bones CRACK

HENRY

Looks away--helpless

AND THEN

SNAP

Maurice's arm is RIPPED away from the rest of his body like a chicken wing. Muscle and skin go with it--

AND THEN the room is filled with arterial spray--

What's left of Maurice pulled through the window. Blood still SPRAYING.

THE OTHER TENTACLE

Retreats with Maurice's arm.

SILENCE

Henry just stands there, covered in Maurice's blood...

BEAT

Henry in total shock. His body shaking. He's been spared. But for how long?

SMASH!

A TENTACLE

Crashes through another window

AND THEN ANOTHER TENTACLE

Still blindly searching--it knows he's there somewhere.

A THIRD TENTACLE

Comes down through the hole in the roof...

CUT TO:

EXT. WABASH ISLAND--WIDE SHOT--CONT.

Massive tentacles reach out from the watery abyss into the cabin.

The monster has grown--it seems to surround the entire island.

BACK TO:

INT. UNCLE PAT'S CABIN--CONT.

The tentacles *slither* across every surface in the house...

...The counter...

...The floor...

HENRY

Sits against the wall. Helpless. Trying to calm his *shaking* body before it gives him away...

A TENTACLE

Slides across the top of the KITCHEN TABLE...

Onto a CHAIR--

CU HENRY

His eyes spot something--

REVERSE SHOT

THE HATCH

Will it work? Does he have a choice?

THE KITCHEN CHAIR

Is top heavy against the tentacle. It FALLS OVER

BANG!

INSTANTLY

All three tentacles are on the chair--

TEARING IT TO SPLINTERS

HENRY

Sees his chance. Makes a break for the hatch--

CRAWLING

Cautiously, silently

THE TENTACLES

Start to calm down, realizing the chair isn't worth the effort...

HENRY

Reaches the hatch...

HE PULLS

The trapdoor up.

SLOWLY...

Mercifully, it doesn't creak...

HE ROLLS

Into the small crawlspace--

--Landing with a THUD

INSTANTLY

A TENTACLE

Shoots toward

HENRY

Reaching up to grab

THE TRAPDOOR--

He YANKS it and it falls DOWNWARD...

THE TENTACLE

Slides in at the last millisecond--

Preventing the trapdoor from fully closing...

...

HENRY

Lies on the floor of the crawlspace. Staring straight up.

TRAPPED

ANOTHER TENTACLE

Latches onto the trap door, pulls it back open

AS

THE FIRST TENTACLE

Slides down into the crawlspace

SEARCHING

Inches from Henry--

THIS IS IT

...

HENRY

Turns to his right. TO SEE:

THE DUFFEL BAG

THE TENTACLE

Is seconds from discovering Henry--

HENRY

Grabs the duffel bag. Sits up. HURLS it out.

SMACK!

Like clockwork

THE TENTACLES POUNCE

Ripping the bag apart--

Money goes flying--

The tentacle holding the trapdoor releases its grip--

THE TRAPDOOR

Falls back down

SMASHING

Henry in the back of the head--

He collapses into the hole--

BLACK

SMASH IN:

INT. DORMITORY BEDROOM-MORNING

Henry AWAKES with a jolt--

IN A STRANGE ROOM

Confused...he feels his face--he is clean shaven...

GETTING HIS BEARINGS

Morning light streams in from the windows...

He is in a twin bed...there is another empty twin bed across from him...

INT. REC ROOM, REHAB-MORNING

Henry walks in, dazed.

A GROUP MEETING is already in session. A semi-circle of about 12 people with VIOLA--the group leader--at the center...

Viola sees Henry come in--

VIOLA
Henry, what did we say about being late?

HENRY
Yeah. I know. I'm sorry...

Viola look at him for an explanation...

HENRY (CONT'D)
(finally)
...I just had the craziest fucking dream.

There is one empty seat. Henry sits in it...

VIOLA
You want to tell us about it?

HENRY
...Not really.

VIOLA
It clearly affected you.

Henry sighs...

HENRY
Alright...Oh. Hi. My name is Henry.
And I'm an alcoholic

ALL
Hi Henry.

HENRY
Ok. I was...I was in this cabin on an island...

He looks around. The whole group is looking back at him, expectantly...

HENRY (CONT'D)
In a lake. I went there to, you know, dry out. And, well, to make a long story short: there was *something* in the lake.

VIOLA
Something?

HENRY
(shrugs)
A monster.

VIOLA
What kind?

HENRY
(laughs to himself)
I'm not really sure. A bad one.

VIOLA
It was trying to hurt you?

HENRY
Kill me. Yeah.

VIOLA
What did you do about that?

HENRY
Not a whole hell of a lot.

VIOLA
You didn't kill it?

Henry shakes his head...

HENRY
I don't think it was killable.

VIOLA
What do you think that means?

HENRY
I think...I think you want me to
say it's an obvious metaphor for my
addiction.

Viola smiles...

HENRY (CONT'D)
It's like you always say: You can't
beat it. You can only survive.

VIOLA
Very good, Henry.

Henry nods...

VIOLA (CONT'D)
But no.

HENRY
...What?

VIOLA
You didn't really think it was
going to be that easy?

Henry looks down at his leg--

It is PURPLE and SWOLLEN and THROBBING--

VIOLA (CONT'D)
The monster doesn't mean anything.
It's just a monster.

She starts to laugh.

VIOLA (CONT'D)
And you're going to fucking die.

The whole GROUP starts to LAUGH at him--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CRAWLSPACE

HENRY JOLTS AWAKE

SCREAMING

Then realizes where he is--ceases his screams *immediately*--

Covers his mouth. Terrified--

Nothing happens.

The crawlspace is like being in a coffin...

A miniscule amount of LIGHT comes through the cracks between
the floorboards...

Henry looks THROUGH one of the cracks...

POV HENRY

No movement in the cabin above. No tentacles...

IT IS SILENT

INT. DEN, UNCLE PAT'S CABIN-MORNING

Henry slowly PUSHES the lid up...

HE PEEKS OUT

No sign of IT.

It is morning.

CAUTIOUSLY

He pulls himself out of the crawlspace...

Henry sits at the kitchen table

ACROSS FROM HIM

The bottle of SCOTCH.

CU HENRY

Defeated. He's going to die here.

Might as well have a drink--

FINALLY

He gives in. Breaks the seal on the bottle. Removes the cork.

He grabs a rocks glass

AND STARTS POURING

...

He doesn't stop.

Pours the liquid right to the top of the glass...

It overflows before he stops.

He puts the bottle down...

He INHALES the sweet aroma...

THEN pushes the glass away...

He grabs another rocks glass--

REPEATS

Filling it to the brim--

Pushing it away--

Grabs another glass--

REPEATS

Filling--

Not drinking it.

There is still a small amount of alcohol left in the bottle.

HENRY

Winces...

Then pours what's left straight into the sink.

CU EMPTY BOTTLE

Sitting on the kitchen counter...

REFLECTED IN THE BOTTLE

We see Henry exit the kitchen...

...

Then re-enter lugging the gas canister and a long rope.

He removes the gas cap...and POURS gasoline into the empty bottle...

HENRY

Takes a dishrag and soaks it in one of the glasses of whiskey.

He shoves the rag into the mouth of the bottle: MOLOTOV COCKTAIL

NEXT

He takes the ROPE and douses it with the remaining alcohol--

THEN

He puts one end of the alcohol-soaked ropes into the gas canister...

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-DAY

Henry hobbles outside. Holding his improvised grenade in one hand, running the rope along the ground as he

CAUTIOUSLY

approaches the CANOE at the water's edge

THE LAKE

Is still. Quiet. Covered in red algae.

The sun beats down.

CUT TO:

UNKNOWN POV

We rise out of the shallow water--

At the shore of WABASH ISLAND

We can see Henry running the rope from the gas canister to the canoe--

But we're BEHIND HIM--he doesn't see us...

CUT TO:

HENRY

Gently places the molotov cocktail in the canoe, next to the paddle...

HE LOOKS OUT

Across the water, at the nearest point of the mainland

Relatively close but so, so far

HENRY

Well. Never thought I'd die sober.

He takes out the box of waterproof STORM MATCHES...

Lights a match, then lights the other end of the rope--now a slow burning FUSE running along the sand, back towards the house and the gas canister--

HENRY (CONT'D)

This better be a big enough distraction.

He gets in the canoe and

PUSHES OFF

Into the lake.

THE FUSE

Slowly burns towards the house

HENRY

Doesn't dare paddle yet...

Just drifting...

Waiting...

THE FUSE

Burns right up to the house...

Past the front door...

HENRY

Covers his ears as

The flame enters the house and disappears from sight...

...

Henry waits...

...

Henry still waits...

...

Nothing happens.

CU HENRY

Shit.

He paddles the short distance back

TO THE ISLAND

He jumps out of the canoe

Hobbles across the beach

INTO THE HOUSE

He looks around the house--wrecked, covered in Maurice's dried blood.

THE FUSE

Is not in the gas canister. It lays beside it on the floor. Black and burnt out.

He goes and picks up the rope as if this will offer him some explanation...

HE STOPS

The hairs on his neck stand up--

He WHIPS around

CU HENRY

His face drops. Surprise. But also--sadness

REVERSE SHOT

UNCLE PAT STANDS IN THE KITCHEN

Looking back at Henry with a vacant stare...

HENRY LOOKS

At Uncle Pat's hand

HE HOLDS THE LARGE KNIFE

HENRY (CONT'D)

Pat. Uncle Pat. What are you doing?

Uncle Pat APPROACHES. Steady but with an awkward gait. His skin is wet, clammy, unnatural. His face blank.

HENRY

Steps backwards towards the door--

BEHIND HIM

Out of the shadows steps **MAURICE**. With the same dead-eyed blank expression, the same wet unnatural skin--

HE GRABS HENRY FROM BEHIND. Immobilizing him.

Henry in shock. *He saw Maurice slaughtered with his own eyes. And now he's back--with both arms.*

HENRY (CONT'D)

(pleading)

Maurice?

Maurice doesn't respond. Instead he starts to squeeze the air from Henry's lungs--

Henry tries to struggle free but Maurice is unnaturally strong. Holding him in place as Pat approaches with the knife...

HENRY WATCHES AS:

UNCLE PAT STOPS

At the spot where the sun shines brightly through the hole in the roof.

Instead of going through the sunlight, he deliberately goes around it.

HENRY (CONT'D)
Pat. *Please*.

Uncle Pat is now only feet away.

THE KNIFE

Gleaming and sharp.

NOW OR NEVER

Henry RUNS towards the spot where the sun shines through, DRAGGING Maurice on his back--

--Maurice emits a pained growl as he's pulled

INTO THE SUNLIGHT

Maurice's skin begins to dry and CRACK and he LOOSENS his grip...

HENRY PUSHES HIM OFF--

HE TURNS

To see: PAT over him. His face never changes as he SWIPES the blade at Henry--

HENRY ROLLS AWAY

To the gas canister. He GRABS it.

DESPERATELY

He SMASHES the canister into Uncle Pat's leg--

PAT'S KNEE

Snaps unnaturally--

UNCLE PAT

Drops the knife as he stumbles to the ground--never making a sound...

He turns his head toward Henry, expression blank AS:

HENRY SMASHES

The canister into his skull--

UNCLE PAT'S HEAD

SNAPS off like a mannequin. It hangs there off his shoulder by a flap of skin--

No blood. Instead out of the neck cavity pours the RED SPORES--

HENRY

Watches in horror as:

"UNCLE PAT"

Stand back up! With his head hanging off

DESPERATELY

Henry unscrews the gas canister, then DOUSES "Uncle Pat" in gasoline--

HE DROPS THE CANISTER

To pull out a waterproof match--

BUT BEFORE HE CAN LIGHT IT

MAURICE

Slides the KNIFE into the meat behind Henry's left shoulder blade. Maurice's face never changes...

HENRY SCREAMS. Collapses to the ground. He looks up to see:

"Uncle Pat" standing over him. He pushes his own head back onto his neck. The skin re-seals itself. As if there never was an injury--

Maurice starts to PULL the knife back out.

HENRY (CONT'D)

NO!

The knife comes out with a SPURT of blood. Maurice is ready to stab him again.

Henry still holds the match. He flicks it with his thumbnail. It LIGHTS.

He HURLS the small flame at

"UNCLE PAT"

It makes an otherworldly noise as it is ENGULFED in a FIREBALL--

MAURICE

Emits the same otherworldly noise as if he was on fire too--

He SEIZES up. Clearly in immense pain. And drops the knife--

HENRY

Grabs the knife and STABS Maurice--

As with Pat, no blood comes out. Just red spores...

Henry looks back to see

"Uncle Pat" shrivel...and then DIE in the flames.

NEW PROBLEM

The whole kitchen is on FIRE--

And SPREADING--

The wood floor ABLAZE around the gas canister...

CU HENRY

He realizes with dread what is going to happen--

AND HE IS RUNNING--

For his life--

OUT THE DOOR--

ONTO THE BEACH--

--THE CANISTER EXPLODES

--The front of the house is blown off

--HENRY is knocked from his feet

EXT. LAKE-UNDERWATER SHOT-CONT.

The shockwave CASCADES through the water--

And the SHARDS of debris CRASH down, piercing the surface--

EXT. WABASH ISLAND-CONT.

Henry lifts his face from the sand--

BEHIND HIM

The cabin is still standing but on fire--

CU HENRY

He looks out at the lake...

REVERSE SHOT

In the distance, the massive creature BREACHES the surface of the lake--giving us our first real view of what it looks like:

A LOVECRAFTIAN NIGHTMARE

IT crashes back down into the water.

Creating a small TSUNAMI

Heading straight for Henry

CU HENRY

Oh shit.

AND HE IS RUNNING

BACK into--

THE BURNING CABIN

--THROUGH THE FLAMES

--JUMPING UP ON THE COUNTER

--REACHING THROUGH THE HOLE IN THE ROOF

--PULLING HIMSELF UP THROUGH THE HOLE

TO THE ROOF

As:

THE WAVE HITS THE HOUSE

Henry looks down

THROUGH THE HOLE

The water RUSHES straight through the house and back out the already smashed windows--

PINE TREES

SNAP around him

There is no island anymore. Just lake.

CRUNCH!

The CABIN comes loose of its foundation--

AND SLIDES OUT with the RUSHING water

Henry holds on for dear life as what's left of the cabin becomes a raft--

HENRY WATCHES

As the wave ROLLS across the entire lake and HITS the shore of the mainland. Trees SNAP.

AND THEN

THE LAKE IS CALM AGAIN

CU HENRY

Helpless. Waiting.

WE ZOOM OUT

He's trapped on the roof

THE CABIN

Is slowly sinking into the water that surrounds it on all sides...

And drifting around the bend in the lake--the DOCK is now visible. Towards what's left of Maurice's boat.

HENRY

Just...drifts there...

...

Waiting for the inevitable...

HE LOOKS OVER

To see: His CANOE drift by. 20 yards away.

The paddle and molotov cocktail still in it.

CU HENRY

He could swim for the canoe if he left...right...now--

CRASH!

THE CREATURE SURFACES

Not 10 feet from the sinking cabin--

The top of IT is gelatinous--shiny and smooth like the bulb of a jellyfish--

UNTIL its gelatinous form PULLS open--revelaing a cavernous Sarlacc pit of sharp teeth--

Countless tentacles spring up around it--

Reaching towards the cabin--

HENRY

Shuts his eyes--this is how it ends...

...

HONK!

The sound of a CAR HORN drifts over the lake. It is distant but crystal clear--

Repeated: HONK! HONK! HONK!

HENRY

Opens his eyes--

THE CREATURE

Disappears below the surface, pulls its tentacles down with it.

HENRY TURNS

Towards the sound

WE ZOOM

in on a distant part of the mainland:

THE DOCK

Athena's Subaru. Inside: Athena. Pumping her horn, expecting Maurice to appear like last time...

BACK TO:

HENRY

His eyes go wide

HENRY

NO!

INT. ATHENA'S CAR-CONT.

Henry's screams cannot be heard

THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

The fog on the lake rolls away. Revealing: The sinking cabin with Henry on top, waving his arms frantically--

ATHENA

What the--?

CUT TO:

POV CREATURE

Zooming towards the mainland, towards Athena--

The HONKS *distorted* through the water--

CUT TO:

HENRY-CONT.

He jumps into the water--

--and starts swimming for the wrecked boat--

CUT TO:

POV CREATURE

Approaching the shore...

...

WE CRASH

Out of the water--mere feet from the DOCK and ATHENA'S CAR

ATHENA

Looks UP through the windshield, in awed terror as the massive CREATURE rises out of the water--

SHE SCREAMS

As a TENTACLE SMASHES into the windshield. The glass CRACKS into a huge spiderweb--but doesn't break...

CU ATHENA

FROZEN in terror--

She can't see out of the windshield.

Beat.

Nothing happens.

Then **SMASH!**

The tentacles PIERCES through the windshield--like the tip of a spear.

ATHENA

Scrambles into the backseat of the car AS:

TWO MORE TENTACLES

PIERCE through the windshield, grabbing blindly at the seats--

PULLING the entire car towards the water--

ATHENA

Rolls over the backseat--

Into the TRUNK--

She can *reach* the HATCHBACK DOOR--

THE ENTIRE BACK END OF THE CAR
SHOOTS straight up 90 degrees--

ATHENA

Falls backwards AS:

THE CREATURE

Pulls the entire car over the edge of the dock--

THE CAR

SMASHES into the lake--

And IMMEDIATELY begins to fill with water--

CUT TO:

HENRY

Reaches the wrecked boat--

Pulls himself inside--

THE RADIO RECEIVER

Still hanging there

HE GRABS IT.

Switches on the volume full blast--

As before: A DEAFENING SCREECH

But this time Henry doesn't stop it--it just keeps going like
nails on a chalkboard--

CUT TO

EXT. LAKE-WIDE SHOT-CONT.

The SCREECH echoes across the lake

CUT TO:

INT. ATHENA'S CAR-CONT.

Athena trapped inside as her car FILLS with water--

THE SCREECH can be heard over the RUSHING water

THE TENTACLES

Retract. Disappearing out of the car...

CU ATHENA

Confused. But she's got bigger problems--

CUT TO:

POV CREATURE

Shooting through the water. BACK towards Henry. Towards the SCREECH--

CUT TO:

HENRY

DIVES from the boat--back into the lake...

He is swimming to the CANOE--

CUT TO:

POV CREATURE

Approaching the wrecked boat--

CUT TO:

HENRY

Reaches

THE CANOE

He pulls himself in--

AS BEHIND HIM:

The creature RISES from the water--

And RIPS Maurice's boat into sawdust--

POV HENRY

On the floor of the canoe: The molotov cocktail and the waterproof matches

DESPERATELY

Henry GRABS the molotov cocktail. The rag falls from the bottle--GASOLINE spills into the canoe--

Henry re-inserts the rag in the bottle as:

THE SCREECH STOPS

HENRY TURNS

To see: The CREATURE has finished destroying Maurice's boat.

HENRY

Holds the molotov cocktail and a match, triumphant.

HENRY

Come on, you piece of shit.

THE CREATURE

Turns towards him--its massive nightmare jaws open wide

CU HENRY'S HAND

He flicks his thumbnail against the head of the match--IT IGNITES

THE CREATURE

Is very close--

BEHIND HENRY

A TENTACLE silently rises from the water--

IT GRABS HENRY BEFORE HE EVEN KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING--

Before he can light the molotov cocktail--

He's RIPPED from the canoe, all his breath KNOCKED from him--

He DROPS the lit match into the canoe--the spilled gasoline IGNITES--

--but he HOLDS onto the unlit molotov cocktail--

As he is PULLED into the air

ANOTHER TENTACLE

Darts out of the water--and LATCHES onto Henry--

And then ANOTHER--

And ANOTHER--

AND NOW: Just like Maurice, Henry is being RACKED apart like William Wallace.

CU CANOE

Engulfed in flames...

HENRY

SCREAMS as his joints begin to POP--

The venom in the tentacles SEARS his skin--

THEN DIRECTLY BELOW HIM

The CREATURE rises from the water--

Its massive JAWS open wide--ready to swallow him whole.

HENRY CAN SEE:

The jaws are so large they encircle the now flaming canoe without even noticing...

CU HENRY

He realizes he has one last chance. It's either going to work or it isn't. Resigned to his fate.

HENRY (CONT'D)

DRINK UP.

He DROPS the unlit bottle--

It FALLS...

FALLS...

FALLS...

Past the razor sharp teeth...

...

It hits the flaming canoe--

BOOM!

--The CANOE explodes

--Right into the creature's upper jaw, RIPPING a hole in the creature's body

THE TENTACLES

Release

HENRY

Falling through open air--

POV HENRY

Upside down. He can see what's left of the creature--*blown to shit*--

Chunks of gelatinous viscera FLY in every direction--

HE HITS THE WATER. HARD.

BLACK

SMASH IN:

HENRY AWAKES

Underwater.

He gains his bearings and SWIMS

TO THE SURFACE

It is only moments later--

PIECES OF THE CREATURE

Are everywhere. Some of them are on fire.

POV HENRY

He can see: He is near the DOCK...but Athena's car is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. ATHENA'S CAR-CONT.

The car is almost completely filled with water--

A few *inches* of air left...

Athena manages to keep her nose and mouth above water for one final breath--

Before she is SUBMERGED.

She is drowning.

...

The car is a coffin.

...

She can see: SUNLIGHT through the back windshield. She is only a few feet underwater. The shallows of the lake. But it makes no difference.

...

THE HATCHBACK DOOR

Is PULLED open!

Henry is there. He grabs her.

And pulls her to the surface...

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE LAKE-CONT.

A CHUNK of the creature FLOATS on the surface...

We watch as the RED SPORES empty out. *They are very much alive.*

WE TILT UP

To see: The other CHUNKS. Emptying out in the same way...

FROM ABOVE

We can see the spores gathering together--

Then condensing...moving closer together at a single point...

THEY GATHER

Faster...

And faster...

AND THEN

As before: the center of the swarm is PULLED below the surface of the water--

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK-CONT.

Henry and Athena collapsed at the water's edge. Soaked. Exhausted. But back on dry land.

ATHENA
You saved me.

HENRY
(shrugs)
You've done it enough times.
Thought I'd return the favor.

She looks at him, overwhelmed, shell-shocked--what is there to even say?

ATHENA
...Beard looks good.

HENRY
Thanks.
(then)
So good news--I fixed up the house.
Bad news--I had to blow it up.
Seemed like a good idea at the time.

ATHENA
(shrugs)
A kraken ate my car.

HENRY
Yeah.

HE FREEZES

As a small WAVE crashes into the shore...

Athena looks at him--

HENRY (CONT'D)
RUN!

He PULLS her to her feet

They HOBBLE past the treeline--

AS: BEHIND THEM

WITHOUT WARNING--the CREATURE PIERCES the surface of the water. Right at the shore.

It has reconstituted itself. Even BIGGER. And now REALLY pissed off--

TENTACLES

Reach INTO THE FOREST--grasping for Henry--

--but he is *just...* out of reach--

INSTEAD

THE TENTACLES grasp the TRUNKS of pine trees

HENRY AND ATHENA

Keeps hobbling as several TREES are ripped from the soil, roots and all--

CU HENRY

He looks back. A new kind of fear on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKESHORE-WIDESHOT-CONT.

The hideous CREATURE pulls itself onto the land. Desperate to get Henry.

A mass of tentacles--*out of its element*--but still very dangerous--

IT CRASHES into the treeline like they are bowling pins--

CUT TO:

HENRY AND ATHENA RUNNING

Behind them: Splinters FLY everywhere

FROM ABOVE

All we can see are the green tops of mighty pines--COLLAPSING into the forest floor--

HENRY

Looks back to see:

A PINE TREE

Falling straight at them.

HE PULLS ATHENA LEFT

To avoid it--*successfully*--

They smash into the dirt AS:

THE CREATURE

Careens PAST THEM. The SOUND of falling trees infinitely louder than any human being--

HENRY AND ATHENA

Crawl through the dirt, towards a still STANDING TREE

They hide behind it...

HENRY

looks back to see:

THE CREATURE searching for him...

It STOPS moving. Frustrated.

BEAT.

After a moment, the VIBRATIONS of falling trees cease.

SILENCE.

HENRY

Waiting. *All they can do.*

THE CREATURE

Is still searching...

CU HENRY

Looking out into the forest...

POV HENRY

In the distance, he can see: A CLEARING--no trees. Sunlight streaming through.

CU HENRY

He has an idea. But wishes he hadn't.

He steels himself...and RISES TO HIS FEET

ATHENA
(whispers)
What are you doing?

HENRY
Just stay here.

ATHENA
(realizing)
...No, no, no.

HENRY
It's alright. I'm going to lead it away. Once I do, you get out of here.

ATHENA
No. You'll die.

Henry shrugs: "Yeah".

HENRY
Please. Let me do something right for once.

AND WITH THAT

Henry hobbles into the forest...

Once he is away from Athena--

HENRY (CONT'D)
HEY! OVER HERE!

THE CREATURE

Turns--

INSTANTLY is after him--

HENRY

Hobbling

BEHIND HIM

The CREATURE crashes through the trees--

POV HENRY

Ahead of him, he can see: THE CLEARING.

He SPRINTS for it--

Every step--

A dagger through his leg--

He BREAKS through the treeline into:

THE CLEARING

Blinding sunlight. The screen goes

PURE WHITE

HENRY'S EYES

Adjust just enough from the darkness--

He keeps running--into the open field.

HE TURNS

To see: TENTACLES reach out from behind the tree--

--but he is just outside their grasp. The tentacles flop into the grass. Useless.

HENRY

Can see the tentacles have lost their translucence from being outside the water. And they are starting to CRACK in the sunlight.

HENRY (CONT'D)
COME ON! COME AND GET ME YOU UGLY
FUCK!

He takes a step back as the massive creature CRAWLS into the clearing.

It has lost its speed. It seems diminished. And in PAIN.

HENRY (CONT'D)
COME ON!

IT raises its tentacles to strike--

AND THEN

A moment that seems to go on forever...

Henry locked in a standoff with a massive eldritch god

The sun is BEATING down...

The biofilm of the creature is dying, CRACKING in the sunlight...

...FINALLY

The creature lowers its tentacles...

RETREATS

Back into the darkness of the woods.

CU HENRY

He can't believe it.

...

HENRY (CONT'D)
You can't beat it. You can only
survive.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE-WIDE SHOT

We see the creature emerge from the woods...

...and re-enter the LAKE.

It dissolves back into RED SPORES. They float on top of the water.

BLACK

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODED ROAD-EVENING

Athena and Henry, walk down the same narrow dirt road that she and Henry drove in on...

The sun is setting...

FADE TO:

EXT. INTERSECTION-NIGHT

Henry and Athena emerge from the woods. Where the dirt road meets a real paved one.

There is a small roadhouse with a sign that simply reads BAR...

INT. BAR-NIGHT

Henry and Athena enter...

The place is a real dive. Mostly empty.

The BARTENDER looks at them: they look pretty bad. He's beat up and limping. She just looks stoned.

They sit at the bar--

HENRY

Two shots. Wild Turkey.

Athena looks at him, a little disappointed...

The bartender pours the two shots--

Henry hands both shot glasses to his sister

HENRY (CONT'D)

And a club soda.

Athena knocks back both shots, without hesitation. This seems to calm her nerves--

IN THE DISTANCE

A CLAP of thunder--

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW

It begins to RAIN...

The bartender hands Henry his club soda.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Thank you. Could you call us a taxi?

EXT. BAR PARKING LOT-NIGHT

It is pouring rain now.

Henry and Athena exit the bar.

A TAXI is waiting

HENRY

Steps in a puddle as he walks to the car--

WE HOLD

On the puddle as Henry moves on...

ZOOM IN

Tighter...

And tighter...

UNTIL WE CAN SEE

A single RED SPORE. Floating on the surface of the puddle...

THEN

The SPORE splits--like an embryonic cell. A perfect copy.

And then each of the 2 cells splits again.

THE PUDDLE OVERFLOWS

And the spores are flowing...

...down a small rivulet of water

...across the asphalt street

--and washed down a sewer grate--

BLACK.