

"COLD ONES"

OPEN ON:

1. EXT. MEAT PACKING PLANT. DAY.

A Bible verse voiceover plays as we see several shots cutting between an industrial meat packing plant and a General Dynamics bomb testing facility. In some shots it's difficult to tell which is which, based on the similar industrial style metal buildings and complicated, oblique machinery.

GAS STATION MAN

...while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

We see various hands working methodically in the meat packing plant along an assembly line, and we follow the meat packing process over the opening credits (NTS combine this with pening sequence- cut between meat sequence and truck sequence?. We focus on the hands of a character we will soon come to know as JUDD, a young white man covered up by PPE. The other worker's hands move deftly and quickly, but his hands are hesitant as he packages the meat. Sweat rolls down his brow.

GAS STATION MAN

Now, so we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

There's a close up shot of gray pipes outside in the waste pretreatment area. There's a foreboding rattling noise in an external pipe, and it bursts. Pink, bloody effluent drips from the seam.

GAS STATION MAN

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

CUT TO:

2. EXT. THE FICTIONAL TOWN OF BARRETT, ARKANSAS. LATE AFTERNOON.

We see images of a small town in the Arkansas Delta, agriculture side by side with wild bayou. The town is sort of a mix of pine monoculture and wetland. Abandoned buildings in tiny towns. It's late fall. A truck passes by various scenery. (NTS- move some of this imagery to later during bubba VH through town sequence.) A billboard promoting a local politician who promises to bring change, blanch white from its age, beside a billboard about loan places that will help with your debt. The truck passes a shop with various flags for sale, a confederate flag beside a gay flag beside a don't tread on me flag and so on all sold at the same place. a trapped moth flapping in the gas station window beside rows of various brands of cigarettes. A sign outside the gas station reads SPECIAL RECIPE MEAT PIES! THEY AIN'T MADE LIKE THIS ANYWHERE ELSE!

Back to the slaughterhouse. We see hands cutting into the meat.

BUBBA (voiceover)
You stink like blood.

The hands are now holding a Bible.

CUT TO:

3. EXT. SCHOOL. LATE AFTERNOON.

JUDD sits outside on a curb. Out of his PPE, he looks tired, a mulleted redneck in his late teens in a ratty shirt and jeans, reading from a pocket bible. He sits beside a young boy, BUBBA, who is wearing a school backpack and an obnoxiously tacky sparkly shirt with a unicorn on it that says *BELIEVE!* The window of the school can be seen behind them, with a poster inside explaining that wetlands are like giant sponges that clean the waters of the Delta. There's a small box garden of pansies by the window. Dandelions grow in the sidewalk cracks.

BUBBA
You oughtta quit.

JUDD
I can't just *quit*. Where else am I gonna work?

BUBBA
You and me can go work on the ranch I built. We can be ranchers.

JUDD gives him a tired, quizzical look. Bubba holds up his game that's on his tablet, and shows Judd the Pegasus ranch he built in his kingdom in the game "Pegasustopia: Beautiful World Expansion Pack." One of the Pegasuses does a little twirl. The game makes an obnoxious noise. There are a stupid amount of Pegasuses in the ranch, to the point where the game is glitching.

BUBBA
Don't worry. I found cheat codes. We can have as many as we want.

Something catches Judds eye. Judd looks into Bubba's backpack. There's a book fair novel with a bearded cowboy with six shooters on the front, with the tagline "THE NAMELESS COWBOY: A DRIFTER FROM THE TOWN OF ANYWHERE." There's a unicorn stuffed animal. Judd pulls out what caught his eye: a behavior report from Barrett elementary. It lists Bubba's offenses. *History of disobedience, inability to relate to his peers...*

BUBBA
Wait, don't-- look at the *ranch*, Judd, focus on the-

Bubba raises the game to try and cover up the paper but is unsuccessful. JUDD reads the behavior report, eyebrows raising higher as his eyes travel across the page.

BUBBA
Don't tell daddy.

JUDD
Suspended for fighting. (Beat.) Did you win at least?

Bubba shakes his head. Bubba lifts his shirt, and there are bruises and even a bite mark on him.

BUBBA

I didn't really fight back. I was trying to run off.

JUDD

What happened?

BUBBA

There was a... a tiger in the hallway and he was coming after me, that's all. You got to believe me.

JUDD taps the rest of the report. *Talking in class, distracted, not paying attention, defiant...* the list goes on and on.

JUDD

You can't keep on doing this. If you just follow the rules, you'll do fine. Like me and daddy- Imagine if we started flinging stuff around and fighting at work. But we don't, and we're making it by just fine alright.

Bubba looks at him doubtfully. He looks down at his too-small pants and worn shoes. At JUDD yawning and rubbing his eyes.

JUDD

In fact, daddy says the manager says there's a promotion down the line.

BUBBA

But you're gonna quit.

JUDD

No. I'm gonna save up all the money I make so we can get ahead someday, have a place for the family. Get us all right again.

JUDD takes an old black and white photo from his wallet, three children and an older, stern man standing in front of a white house with a white picket fence and roses, all smiling. JUDD looks fondly at the photo, the corner worn from how often he looks at it. There's a second photo behind it, of Bubba and Judd with their daddy.

JUDD

Just gotta keep at it.

BUBBA, who zoned out part way through what Judd was saying, is staring at his tablet. He points at the barn by the pegasus stable.

BUBBA

That's where you'll live. I'll feed you hay.

JUDD ruffles Bubba's hair, and the two sit waiting.

The beat up truck from earlier pulls up, crunching in the gravel.

CUT TO:

4. INT. TRUCK. LATE AFTERNOON.

UNCLE DAN, a middle aged chubby, mustached man with a relaxed demeanor, drives the truck. Bubba and Judd sit in the backseat. Bubba is scrolling on social media. Judd is looking out the window. Bubba scoots closer and leans against his brother.

RADIO (ambient)

...Now we as patriots want to defend our nation's borders, defending from the threats from these- these terrorist countries. And now we have attacks coming from all sides. What could be more important than keeping out the threats to our children, and our culture?

Shot of shiny metallic weapons?. Shots of extreme poverty.

RADIO (ambient)

The culture is abandoning the definition of a man, and the church is abandoning that which is divinely revealed regarding the roles of men... pastor James' book on this is available now, if you use the code CHRISTIAN NATION you get \$5 off shippin- ()NTS- VA's riffed- may change line.

Uncle Dan turns off the radio. He hands a couple meat pies to the back seat.

JUDD

Thanks, uncle Dan.

Bubba says nothing, absorbed in his tablet. but he takes a meat pie that's handed to him. The packaging says AIN'T MADE LIKE THIS ANYWHERE ELSE! Bubba finally looks up and starts ravenously eating his meat pie.

They continue to drive past town scenery. They pass a little cafe at the edge of town as they leave toward the more forested outskirts. Judd watches from the window. There's a shot up stop sign. A harvestman crawls across the falling leaves. A plane flies behind a vulture. We see a church overlooking an industrial park.

UNCLE DAN

We seen a big one out there on the cameras. Been coming by nearly every day. It's at least a 10 point. Had a funny scar on its face, like it'd been hit before, but I didn't get a close look. Hopin' to get you on that one.

Bubba scoots even closer to Judd, eyeing his meat pie. Judd rolls his eyes. He hands bubba his meat pie. Uncle Dan lights a cigarette in the car and looks to the backseat again.

UNCLE DAN

Don't tell yer daddy.

The vehicle stops abruptly at a little house. A huge woodpile sits by the house. A redheaded centipede crawls in between the wood. Outside are UNCLE RICKY JOE and COUSIN MONTY, holding their weekend bags and gun cases. Uncle RICKY JOE is a middle aged scrawny and stolid man in a ratty wifebeater, with grass between his lips. Monty is a redheaded teen with wispy facial hair and acne, wearing military style boots and a backwards cap with an american flag on it. RICKY JOE spits, and MONTY spits. MONTY trails after RICKY JOE like an excited puppy, smiling, and he says something we can't hear. RICKY JOE slaps him, dimming MONTY's smile, but he recovers quickly. UNCLE DAN watches with a blank expression. The two get in the truck.

RICKY JOE

Late as ever. I whittled near fifteen sticks before you got here. ()NTS- may cut.

RICKY JOE tosses the sharpened wood onto the seat beside him.

DAN

All worked out in time, though, didn't it.

RICKY JOE looks at Judd in the mirror.

DAN

They let 'im start workin' already, you believe that Ricky? I'm pretty sure you wasn't even born til later tonight. You're still a spring chicken, Judd.

Judd looks out the window at the autumn leaves falling down. The hardwoods are shedding their leaves, but they move toward more monoculture pine farms that are still green.

JUDD

Figured I'd get going soon as it was legal. Manager said it was fine.

RICKY JOE

Good for you, son. Monty's been working for me since he was ten. Back in the day you helped out or you didn't eat, none of this everybody gets a piece crap.

DAN

Our pa would have you pull the plough with your umbilical. (jokingly dramatic)
I hope you remember us once they have you working weekends and you don't have time to spend no more...

JUDD

Well, I can't have fun all the time, I need to get to business. I can buy daddys land back if I start working now.

RICKY JOE nods in approval.

RICKY JOE

Proud'a you.

Judd smiles shyly, and quickly schools his face. Monty looks on jealously.

MONTY

(muttering) he's only worked there a day.

BUBBA

But he's gonna quit.

JUDD

I'm not gonna--

BUBBA

Me and Judd is gonna be cowboys together somewhere else and raise pegasuses.
Gon' be him and me and..

Bubba glances at Monty with hatred.

BUBBA

...And maybe cousin.

MONTY laughs sardonically, looking at Bubba's unicorn shirt.

MONTY

Cowboys? In that getup?

BUBBA

(Annoyed) It's true! Tell em what we talked about! You're gonna quit!

JUDD opens his mouth to say something, and at that moment BUBBA's game chimes.

GAME

(In the fruitiest voice imaginable) You have won 40 pegasus points!

Beat.

JUDD

It's not true. That game ain't real, Bubba.

BUBBA frowns and turns away.

BUBBA

You got no imagination.

We see Judd's hands, the speck of dried blood on them. He flicks it away. Monty turns the radio back on and it plays ambiently as they continue to drive.

RADIO GUY

...Let's put it plain as it is, these people are trying to eliminate the white man. The promises made to us are not being fulfilled. We've got a nation of drug addicts, prostitutes, atheists, degenerates, sodomites... This is not the great nation it once was.

OTHER RADIO GUY

You're absolutely right and it's because people-- they have their idols, they have the things they love *more* than their country, *more* than God Himself--

We see a shot of the cigarette hanging from Uncle Dan's mouth. The blade of grass in Ricky Joe's mouth. We see the American flag on Monty's hat. They drive behind a truck full of chickens. ()NTS- animation- chickens eyes.

CUT TO:

5. EXT. CABIN. EVENING.

A run down little cabin. A rusted mailbox sits outside packed with bills. Power lines and spiderwebs. There are antlers, taxidermy, a gun rack, family photos, that sort of stuff. Jesus is framed over the doorway, smiling. Little biblical figurines sit on the fireplace mantle beside GI Joe action figures.

Bubba drops his backpack unceremoniously on the floor. A Bible school pamphlet sticks out of Bubba's backpack, *IDOLATRY (thumbs down image) What do you love more than God?*, beside a vocabulary worksheet with the words "oxymoron" and "circumstance" peeking out over the zipper.

There's a baby gate in the back hallway and some baby toys shoved back there to the side by the washing machine, remnants of what looks like a blue gender reveal poster. A few tools lean haphazardly in the hall. Pokers sit by the fire. It's cozy but cluttered.

DAN speaks contemplatively.

DAN

A rich taste... little bit grassy profile... bright, fruity. Tangy. Full body. Easy finish, simple yet elegant. Sort of a rustic molasses, if it had marinated in an angel's wing. The richest flavor I've yet experienced. This... is manna.

DAN sets down his Miller High Life.

RICKY JOE

Mm. (In agreement.)

Dan and Ricky sit side by side, one in an armchair, the other in a rocking chair. BUBBA's stomach growls. He eyes the beer. He sips it and sputters.

BUBBA

Save me... I'm...choking...

Dan gets up to give him the heimlich.

RICKY JOE

Don't help him. He's just--

BUBBA laughs and stops "choking."

RICKY JOE

--Tellin stories. If I'd done that, my Pa woulda smack the hell outta me. 'Member that, Dan? Shoot, he'd slap ya just for standin funny.

RICKY JOE looks over at Monty, who is standing funny, and slaps him.

RICKY JOE

These days ain't no good role models for these kids 'cept us...

Dan lights a cigarette inside and flips through many stacks of catalogs for new stuff that is costly and promises to be effective. Stacks of catalogs sit by his chair. Guns and junk food wrappers and cans sit around everywhere.

RICKY JOE

Now Bubba. It's wrong to lie, no if, ands or buts about it.

Beat.

RICKY JOE

BUT. If you want a big deer real bad, wanna get that 15 point we saw on the camera with the big ole scar on its head, you need to harness that duplicitous nature of yours. You gotta sit out there and act like ye dont want it. Tell yerself yer lie is yer truth, 'cos the deer can sense when-- Monty! Stop that fore I get my belt!

Monty stands behind them, ripping the legs off a wasp as it tries to get away. He looks up, caught.

MONTY

But--

RICKY JOE

Don't argue back with me. Makin' a mess on the floor..

MONTY

Yes sir.

DAN

Go easy on him, Ricky. Let's just have a nice weekend.

Judd stands by the wall, looking at the old photos. One old photo is the same as the one he keeps in his wallet - the three children with their father in front of the house with the picket fence. Now that we have seen the uncles, we know that these children are uncle Dan, uncle Ricky Joe, and Earl, Judd and Bubba's daddy, with their Pa. Beside it there are more photos, a baby Dan with a fluffy teddy bear, photos of the uncles at a red barn with animals, photos of them as adults with their wives, though the wives faces are not in the frame.

DAN approaches him.

DAN

Well. Too bad your daddy couldn't be out here this weekend. But he left something here from all of us. I picked it, your daddy paid..

Beat.

RICKY JOE

And I'm standing in the room while you get it.

DAN

Happy birthday.

Dan hands Judd a gift wrapped in brown paper. Judd opens it. It's a rifle with beautiful dark wooden siding. Judd smiles, cradling it in his hands tenderly.

CUT TO:

6. EXT. SHOOTING AREA. LATE AFTERNOON.

Transition with a gunshot sound.

There are several cans and targets set up on a plywood platform in the brambles at the edge of the woods. Judd shoots his new gun. He misses. Monty shoots and hits a can,

knocking it off the platform. Bubba plays with horse dolls in the background, and a little cowboy figurine.

Judd hits the target, but only the edge. He looks at the rifle, annoyed. Monty raises a brow.

JUDD
I'm still sighting it in.

MONTY
We got to get serious about this.

Monty shoots and hits near the center. He smiles smugly.

MONTY
Once we're in the army, these guns? (he flexes his arms) gonna work miracles.

Beat, Judd doesn't respond, shifting awkwardly.

MONTY
It'll be like we always used to talked about. You 'n me in the same squadron...

JUDD
(Smiling) ...Matchin' tattoos of an eagle, eating a razorback thats eatin a shark. (he sobers) But I can't. I already got a job.

MONTY
(whining) But Juddddd, don't you think it'd be more fun to shoot at terrorists? We'll get a ton of medals and kills and stuff and show everybody how strong I-- our country really is.

MONTY looks wistfully to the window, where he can see RICKY JOE talking inside. JUDD spits on the ground and shifts uncomfortably.

JUDD
It's not 'cos of you. I got responsibilities.

MONTY
I don't see why you can't just-

BUBBA comes up suddenly, tugging at JUDD's leg. He's holding a handful of brightly colored horse toys and a cowboy toy.

BUBBA
Come play lone rangers with me.

JUDD
No.

BUBBA
But you love this game.

JUDD blushes and his eyes dart to MONTY, who looks maliciously delighted that JUDD likes BUBBA's girly, childish games.

MONTY

(mocking) Awww, is that true?

JUDD looks between the two, torn, wanting to please his brother but also impress his cousin. He turns away from bubba.

JUDD

He's lying. He always lies.

Monty kicks his horse toys over.

BUBBA

I'm gonna tell daddy you won't let me play with you.

JUDD

...Fine. Let's play a game. Here's the rules. Lift this gun up and shoot. If you hit the center target you can play with us. If you don't, you have to leave us alone for the rest of the day.

BUBBA

I don't like those rules.

JUDD

Too bad. You have to.

BUBBA

(Whiny) No. I. DON'T!

Bubba kicks Judd in the leg. Judd gives him a murderous look.

MONTY

Ought'a slapped him for that.

Bubba continues to kick Judd and scream.

BUBBA

I HATE YOU! SOON COUSIN WILL COME PLAY INSTEAD AND I WON'T EVEN NEED YOU!

MONTY

I ain't gonna play with you.

BUBBA

Not you! You're mean!

MONTY

(To Judd) Don't it annoy you how he keeps trailin' after you? You ain't gonna defend yourself?

JUDD stands there, listening to Monty on one side and Bubba on the other, the noise overlapping and pressure building as his heartbeat quickens.

CUT TO:

7. INT. KITCHEN. EVENING.

DAN cracks open two beers and hands one to RICKY JOE.

RICKY JOE
You got a stain.

Ricky Joe indicates Dan's shirt.

DAN
Won't wash out. I got the cheap detergent this time. Ellen always di- does all the laundry.

RICKY JOE
Mm. (Agreement.) You two... been well? I thought she might come out this weekend.

DAN
Keepin busy. It's just a long break. She needed time to... think about everything.

Ricky Joe looks at the old picture of himself, Dan, and Bubba and Judd's daddy as kids.

RICKY JOE
Guess Earl didn't come cos he don't wanna be on another man's land...

DAN
Don't start on this again. He needed the money. It floods over there, anyhow.

RICKY JOE
Mm. (Skeptical) If he'd let us all just share it. Wouldn't even sell it to family. I offered a good deal.

DAN
The day you got cash to give as good a deal as a government weapons contractor is a day I sure wanna be around for.

RICKY JOE
Mm.

DAN
Hate hearing them bombs go off, though... (Sigh.) I talked to him last week. He said to tell you hey.

RICKY JOE
Mm.

DAN
I'll tell him you said so.

RICKY JOE
He's raising his kids up to all wrong. Bubba won't get off the computer game, that's why he's always actin' up. Judds turning eighteen and never shot a damn buck for god's sake. We need to raise them kids into cornfed men.

DAN
A man can see a splinter in his neighbor's eye.

RICKY JOE

Always on the soapbox. Least I'm trying. I want my boy to be strong, being the littlest won't get you nowhere.

DAN

I'm just *telling* ya.

RICKY JOE

Well, you can talk when you have a teenager.

Beat. Something tense and sad comes between them.

RICKY JOE

I don't mean for it to come out sounding like that.

DAN

It's *okay*. But can we leave it alone and have a little peace and-

There's a piercing scream from outside.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOOTING AREA. EVENING.

Judd has Bubba held down with a gun in his face. The uncles come out and see what's going on. Bubba is crying. Monty is very actively egging Judd on.

MONTY

Get him Judd! Get him!

Ricky Joe smacks Monty and then smacks Judd. He rips the gun away.

RICKY JOE

Have you lost your damn minds?

Judd

But sir, it isn't even loaded--

RICKY JOE

I expect better from y'all. I ought to give Bubba this gun and let him aim it at you. Your weapon is not a toy. It's an extension of you. You have to treat it as if it's loaded at all times.

RICKY JOE raises the gun, aiming at the target at the other end of the field.

RICKY JOE

You never point a weapon somewhere you don't want it to kill.

Uncle RICKY JOE shoots. Hits right on target. It wasn't unloaded. He gives them a deathly look. Monty looks scared, Judd looks guilty.

RICKY JOE

Bout to get evening. Get ready, we'll head out in fifteen.

DAN hands them both a beer.

DAN

...Let's not mention this to your daddy.

Judd looks at Monty, who is sulking, pulling the legs off a harvestman. Monty tosses it aside into a puddle and goes inside to get ready. Judd watches the harvestman drown. He sips his beer and turns away.

CUT TO:

8. EXT. MEAT PACKING PLANT. EVENING.

Blood continues to leak from the burst pipe at the meat packing plant. It runs into a nearby stream, turning the water dark red. Silhouetted figures emerge from the bayou, having followed the scent of blood.

One leans over the creek, and laps at the red water. The others follow. Another, with more intelligent eyes who we will soon know as the HUNTER VAMPAHR, looks up, and sees the lights of a cabin in the distance. The HUNTER VAMPAHR approaches another vampire to show it the light, but it doesn't seem to understand, and simply goes back to drinking from the water. The hunter vampahr fixes its gaze back onto the distant lights, and begins to walk toward them.

CUT TO:

9. EXT. PINE FOREST. EVENING.

Insert shots. 3 french mulberries in different stages of growth. A bag of bones with black flies swarming. The corn feeder throws - a jarring, rattling hiss.

CUT TO:

10. EXT. PINE FOREST. EVENING.

MONTY walks to his deer stand alone. There's a rustle, and he turns and shoots. It's only a grub, and it explodes when hit. Birds fly away. He finishes walking and climbs up into the stand closest to the house, a crisscrossing mess of jerry rigged plywood. A tick crawls on Monty.

CUT TO:

11. EXT. PINE FOREST. EVENING.

DAN goes with BUBBA, carrying Bubba on his shoulders and his gun at his side. They, too, scare off the animals with their movements. Bubba's game is loud and scares off squirrels as they walk. Dan smokes, tossing cigarettes behind him. They reach a stand high in a pine tree with a massive ladder.

CUT TO:

12. EXT. JUDD IN THE FOREST. EVENING.

Judd picks at his acne, carrying a smaller bag of corn that he trails behind him as he walks through the darkening woods. He walks beside RICKY JOE. Unlike the rest, they are silent and undistracted as they move gracefully through the woods. Suddenly, Judd stops.

JUDD

Up there. That's where they'll be.

RICKY JOE

Mm. You got a sixth sense.

Ricky nods in approval. They walk in silence for a minute.

JUDD

Been thinking.

RICKY JOE

Mm.

JUDD indicates his rifle.

JUDD

It's like cheating aint it, sir? Seems like we ought to have to handle things with our own hands.

Beat.

RICKY JOE

Same way a panther is granted teeth and claws, mankind's got brains to make tools. Whoever's the best adapted, that fella's the winner. We all got to eat. We're just top of the food chain- it's all fair play. I remember th-

JUDD

Shh.

JUDD stops, looking at a white oak beside a clearing. Ricky Joe looks angry for a brief moment at the interruption, but he quickly realizes that Judd has seen something and looks around too.

JUDD

Right there.

A doe walks out.

RICKY JOE

Go on.

JUDD

It's just a doe.

RICKY JOE

Still meat. I'll use one of my tags, save yours for the big buck.

Judd hesitates and doesn't shoot. RICKY JOE grows impatient and ends up taking the gun and shooting it himself. Hit, it runs off. RICKY JOE looks at Judd.

RICKY
You had a good shot.

JUDD
...It's illegal for me to use one of your tags, sir.

RICKY JOE
Ever the rule follower. You got to be a free thinker, like me.

JUDD
Yes sir.

RICKY JOE sighs and looks at Judd, unimpressed. RICKY JOE spits on the ground, and starts to walk away. JUDD spits too, and follows.

CUT TO:

13. EXT. PINE FOREST. NIGHT.

Everyone has been rounded up to look for the deer.

DAN
I ain't seen a blood trail. (Playfully to Ricky Joe) I don't know why we brought your colorblind self...

MONTY
There it is!

He points to a drop of blood in the leaves. They start tracking the blood droplets. But then as they follow it toward the bayou they see that it leads to a creek running red with blood. They are baffled. But they can see the deer on the other side, and uncle ricky joe crosses, and the others follow.

They find the doe. It doesn't just have a bullet hole, though-- it's been shredded to bits, eaten by animals. Dan leans down and picks up something from the guts. It's a kernel of corn from its stomach. Flies begin to land on the body. Bubba screams.

DAN
Now, bubba, you seen a dead animal bef-

BUBBA
VAMPAHR!

DAN
This ain't time for telling stor...ies...

And then they see it. An exsanguinated, naked creature with fangs and red eyes. It moves like a starved animal.

MONTY raises his gun.

BUBBA
It's a vampahr, you can't just shoot it, you have to use a stake.

MONTY
Shut up, I-

DAN
The boy's right, creatures not of God have got special rules to how you can kill em.

Monty frowns, his confidence shaken. He still attempts to shoot the VAMPAHR and it has no effect. The VAMPAHR runs forward and strikes at him and he's pinned to the ground. RICKY JOE takes the stick he had been whittling earlier and stabs the VAMPAHR in the back, injuring it, and it runs off.

MONTY
(Out of breath and trying to hide his fright) We... gotta... call the police.

Both the uncles burst out laughing. Dan wipes away a tear.

DAN
Call the *police*!

They finish laughing. Then they ignore him like he said nothing. The kids look freaked out but the uncles are startlingly casual.

DAN
Vampahrs. I'll be damned.

RICKY JOE
The California transplants must've tracked something in from outside. First they come ruin our economy, now they're bringing in spooks too...

JUDD
We got to get somewhere safe, what if there's more? You saw it, they must've followed the blood.

BUBBA
My sources said they can't get inside your door unless you invite em, we got to go home.

RICKY JOE nods in approval. MONTY watches him nodding in approval and butts in.

MONTY
That's dang useless, we're far from there.

Judd looks to the deer stand, contemplating.

CUT TO:

14. INT. MAIN DEER STAND. NIGHT.

JUDD
There's three deer stands between here and the house. 'Bout a mile between each. If we can make it between them, and back to the house, we're safe.

DAN
Could just spend the night out here.

RICKY JOE
Yeah, it'll be like the good ole days.

The uncles start to strip branches off the tree and whittle into stakes.

DAN
We just wait here and pray, and God will send somebody and make it all work.

BUBBA
Y'all really ain't scared?

Dan sits back, reaching for the container of beers.

DAN
Here's a little lesson my Pa told me when I was about your age. Some things just happen. and there's nothin to do for it, nothin to say for it or to make of it. You trust that things'll either pan out, or they won't. And in the meantime, ain't nothin you can do..

Dan opens a beer.

DAN
...but crack a cold one.

Beat.

Dan sips from the beer. Dan wrinkles his nose, checking the label of the beer with distaste.

DAN
(with more emotion and panic than we have heard from him up to this point)
Jesus, Ricky, you got Busch Lite?

CUT TO:

15. EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The voices of the humans can be heard distantly. The HUNTER VAMPAHR listens to the family talk from the edge of the forest.

CUT TO:.

INT. DEER STAND. NIGHT.

RICKY JOE sits whittling stakes.

DAN
Let it sort itself out. It's okay.

MONTY
Okay?! You're okay with these abominations on our land eatin' up our hard won deer? No way. We need to drive 'em off. Fight for our land.

RICKY JOE

That's the spirit. If y'all are so worried about it, go take care of it. They're just animals, they'll get bored and run off eventually.

MONTY

C'mon, let's hunt.

JUDD

We can't get em at this distance, though... gimme your shirt.

Monty takes his shirt that has blood on it from being attacked earlier. He takes off his shirt and Judd holds it out the window of the deer stand. A VAMPAHR comes up close and drinks the blood. Monty kills it.

JUDD looks at the toolshed.

JUDD

Bubba, what all counts as a stake?

BUBBA

Anything sharp, I reckon. And... wooden. Or silver. Or metal. Or if you cut off its head that works too. According to my... sources.

JUDD

Well, shit, that'd get me too. And you're sure you can't get it with a gun?

MONTY

Even if you could, we only have a little ammo. I've got 3 rounds.

JUDD

Mines empty. Didn't think to grab any, I didn't think we'd see anything else.

MONTY

Tsk. No imagination.

CUT TO:

16. EXT. TOOLSHED. NIGHT.

The pair root around in the shed. An Orbweaver sits in the corner, weaving a complex web. Bagworms hang from the window. Mousetraps litter the floor. There's dogwood outside with bare branches. Judd tosses Monty a hammer and some railroad spikes. They jerry rig a device to launch stakes using a gambrel and some tools.

Monty and Judd grin at each other.

CUT TO:

17. INT. MAIN DEER STAND. NIGHT.

Dan and Ricky Joe are being casual about the whole thing. Bubba is playing his game. They're just making small talk in their chairs, watching the vampires roam around, some stalking the deer stand and some losing interest and going back toward the river.

DAN digs through his bag. He has a bunch of items. Branded sweets and packaged sugary pastries claiming to be diet, beer, a survival kit, coupons, beer, a 'Big Buck Hunter'

mag he hands to Ricky Joe to read. He takes out his cigarettes and looks at the carton mourningly.

DAN

Dang. Wish I'd thought to bring more than a carton...

RICKY JOE

Mhm.

RICKY JOE reads the mag. (())NTS- imagery- ads asking for money for a candidate who will defend family sanctity and protect our children, etc.

DAN

Welp. Once the wildlife leaves I s'pose we can head on back. They burn up in the daylight, Bubba said, shouldn't be a problem tomorrow.

RICKY

(Tiredly) That true Bubba? Or just stories?

BUBBA

My sources tell me it's true.

RICKY

Oh, yer *sources*.

CUT TO:

18. INT. TOOLSHED. NIGHT.

Judd

Maybe this is a bad idea. Not much sharp out here. Plus we been followed. They might have a plan to ambush when we get out.

(())NTS, changed dialogue, rerecord

MONTY

They ain't smart enough to do that.

xx

MONTY

C'mon Judd, they're just animals.

Judd watches the VAMPAHRs waiting at the end of the branches. He locks eyes with one at the edge of the forest, lurking back. Its eyes are different from the others, more intelligent as it looks directly at him.

Judd

Yeah. Just animals.

CUT TO:

INT. DEER STAND. NIGHT.

Ricky joe traces old patterns in the woodgrain of the stand. Bubba talks, showing Dan his game.

BUBBA

When can I play with cousin?

DAN

Buddy, you're too young to go play what Monty is playing, I'm not even sure those two sh-

BUBBA

Not *that* cousin.

Beat of tense silence.

BUBBA

You said soon but that was ages ago and Monty and Judd won't let me play, so when's the new one gonna come?

RICKY JOE

Don't ask stupid que-

DAN

It's okay. Should've mentioned it before, uh, your cousin... decided not to come after all. And Aunt Ellie needs a little time away too. She'll... she'll be back real soon, I'm sure.

BUBBA

But-

RICKY JOE

Boy, quit while you're ahead.

Bubba drops it. Dan twists his ring on his finger.

CUT TO:

19. INT. TOOL SHED. NIGHT.

Monty takes a hammer and uses it to lob a stake at the VAMPAHR, killing it. He's having a blast. He and Judd are laughing.

JUDD

You took that thing out. No chance.

MONTY

Give it a try.

JUDD

Naw, you're good at it, I don't want to take all the fun.

Beat. Monty's smile fades as he realizes Judd isn't going to actually kill anything. NTS()- facial expression goes from smiling to disappointed, searching, then to annoyed and angry.

MONTY

You didn't get that doe. It was my dad, wasn't it?

JUDD
I don't take a shot unless I'm sure it's clean.

MONTY
(unconvinced) Mm.

JUDD
You aint supposed to aim somewhere you wouldn't kill. That's the rules.

MONTY
(~~NTS-cut~~? Sheep follow the rules, you're sposed to BE the rules. My army buddies, they said when your lifes in danger, you don't think, you just shoot. In fact, when I got service I'm gonna call them boys up to give us backup out here.

JUDD
You mean your ROTC buddies?

MONTY
(defensive) ROTC is part of the army, dumbass. (Beat.) (~~NTS-cut~~ If you won't use the gambrel maybe you better go on back, let the real men like me and dad protect this place. You can go play dolls with the pansy.

JUDD
He's not-

MONTY
You know it's true. I used to think you and me were alike, but maybe we ain't.

Beat. Judd turns to him, angry now.

JUDD
Sure, maybe not. I'm taller than you, I got a job--

MONTY
It's your *first day*--

Monty throws a stake at the hunter vampahr.

JUDD
--I've got to shave my face in the mornings. You can't afford to, cos you don't know if yours will grow back, ain't that right?

BEAT.

JUDD
And my daddy never needs to hit me. Cos I do what I'm told.

MONTY
(agitated) Shut up.

Monty throws another stake at the HUNTER VAMPAHR using the gambrel, harder this time.

The HUNTER VAMPAHR whimpers and begins limping and crying like it's hurt. HUNTER VAMPAHR leans over. It moves a little further toward the forest, between branches of a

tree that looks vaguely like antlers, where Monty can't get a good aim unless he steps outside the toolshed.

MONTY

Watch and learn.

Monty moves as if to go outside. Judd peers out and sees the stake lying on the ground- it didn't actually hit the vampire. Judd blocks Monty from moving forward.

JUDD

Wait.

MONTY

What? You scared?

JUDD

Listen to me, It's not some bug you can peel the legs off of. I think this thing is smart.

The HUNTER VAMPAHR cries out again.

MontY

I can take it out easy, look at it. It's begging for it.

Monty steps out of the shed and walks toward the VAMPAHR. He shoots at the vampahr, which is out of our sight. His face pales, and he tries to shoot again, and then again. He walks out of sight of Judd.

Judd waits, breathing evenly by the window. The screaming starts. Montys screams and cries are heard, and the wet noises of tearing flesh echo across the space. ()NTS- Ask claire about best way to do SFX for meat noise.

A long moment passes, Judd standing stock still, waiting. ()NTS- blue lighting?

The HUNTER VAMPAHR approaches the door, casting a shadow, and Judd turns.

The two are mirrored, one in the dark, one in the moonlight, separated only by an invitation.

The hunter VAMPAHR holds Monty's bloody shirt. It drops the shirt at the door gently, like an animal bringing a gift. It no longer appears hurt, and does not limp.

JUDD tilts his head, and the VAMPAHR mirrors the action. Judd steps backward, and the hunter VAMPAHR follows, until it has to stop, unable to step past the doorway.

JUDD raises his gun.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

We both know it isn't loaded.

JUDD stops, startled. None of the other vampahrs have talked, and it didn't seem like they were even capable of it. ()NTS- vampires mouths dont move when speaking. Only when eating.

JUDD

How did--

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I've been watching you. You are a *strange* hunter, Judd.

It stalks back and forth by the door animalistically.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

You knew you would see a deer here tonight. You look to where the white oaks are for them to eat, the places they nest, and where the water runs for them to drink, and you lay out corn. You are brilliant at bringing them exactly where you want them to go.

Beat.

HUNTER

But you don't shoot.

JUDD

I knew that doe. I'd seen her out here before. I couldn't.()NTS- cut?

The HUNTER VAMPAHR reaches up a bloody hand.

HUNTER VAMPIRE

Perhaps you would do well with something more personal. I don't kill from a distance. I bite down while the heart still beats, and I feel it the moment it stops forever. Can you imagine it?

Judd

Been told I got no imagination.

HUNTER VAMPAHR stares deeply into JUDD's eyes. It raises a hand to the doorway, smearing Monty's blood over the top and sides, but it is unable to get inside the open door. It considers him.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I could show you.

JUDD takes a step backward.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

Ah. You aren't ready. NTS()-cut?

JUDD glances at the window for only a moment and when he looks back the HUNTER VAMPAHR is gone. He holds his breath, waiting, but it seems it really isn't coming back.

JUDD tentatively steps outside.

Judd

...Monty?

CUT TO:

20. INT. MAIN DEER STAND. NIGHT.

DAN sips the last of his beer. He tosses it on the pile of cans around the bottom of the deer stand.

DAN

We're getting low. I hate to say it but we may have to go back to the house. This whole situation--

Dan sticks a thumb out to indicate the vampahrs surrounding the deer stand,

DAN

Is admissively-- admit-- admittedly getting a little spooky. That one's peering at me. Peering! I'm starting to think we shouldn't have let the boys run off.

RICKY JOE

Aw, we used to run free too. God, 'member when you cut your hand on a pipe so bad that time you almost bled out fore we got home... (Laughs) No, it's good for a growing boy to have a little fun.

JUDD comes up the ladder, a haunted look on his face.

RICKY JOE

Y'all get em? Monty still out there?

JUDD is silent.

RICKY JOE

I asked you a question.

JUDD silently holds out Monty's bloody shirt.

RICKY JOE stands silently, looking at the vampahrs on the ground below. BUBBA plays his game. It makes a loud, repetitive noise as he ignores everyone. Dan continues to drink. No one speaks for a long, tense moment.

RICKY JOE

Did you do anything or did you just watch?

JUDD

I... told him not to go outside. Sir. But he did, and I heard him screaming...

RICKY JOE

Mm.

Ricky Joe is silent, stoic. He finishes his beer.

Abruptly, he throws it at the tree and shatters it, breaking the silence and finally shattering his quiet stoicism. He turns, face red, furious.

RICKY JOE

My own nephew can't even fight a couple errant wildlife!

JUDD

The vampahrs are more dangerous than they seem like--

RICKY JOE

Than they seem like *sir*!

Ricky Joe is spitting every word.

JUDD
Sir.

RICKY JOE
If you weren't man enough to take 'em, why even go out the stand? Why'd you let him?

JUDD sits, silent and guilty. RICKY JOE calms down, visibly repressing his emotions.

RICKY JOE
No. Monty's a strong boy, he wouldn't get took out by something like that.

JUDD
It lured him out, I swear it's the truth--

BUBBAS game makes another annoying noise. RICKY JOE grabs it and throws it.

BUBBA
Hey!

RICKY JOE gives him a hateful look, acting like he's going to slap him, and Bubba shrinks back, frightened for the first time.

RICKY JOE stands and grabs a handful of stakes, stuffing them in his pockets.

RICKY JOE
He ain't dead. Judd didn't see a body.

DAN
He's prolly just lost in the woods.

RICKY JOE shoves past them. Judd tries to come with them but Dan pushes him back down with a sad look.

DAN
We got to pray for the boy and the Lord will keep him safe. It'll be okay.

The two leave, and Judd sits down in the stand. Bubba inches closer to him, hesitant.

BUBBA
Let's go.

JUDD
What?

BUBBA
While they're gone. Come on. We can go off somewhere without vampahrs, and be lone rangers together like we was talking about.

JUDD is silent.

BUBBA

Don't be upset about what uncle Ricky said. He's a liar like the rest of 'em.

JUDD

That's *you*, Bubs.

BUBBA

Really? 'i saw a fish thiiiiis big!' 'I saw a fifty point on the game camera!' the number has went up every time they mention it.

JUDD

That's not--

Bubba

'The kids at school are all gonna like you,' 'Uncle Ricky ain't mad at your daddy, it's just complicated', 'we're gonna be living the high life next thing ya know and you and Judd won't have to sleep on the same mattress no more,' and 'beer tastes REEEAALLLL good.' *Well it don't! It kinda tastes like pee!*

JUDD

You're wrong.

Beat.

NTS()-lighting/colors for this scene

JUDD

The only rule was to stay inside and not invite 'em in... If he had just followed what we were *supposed to do*--

BUBBA

Monty's a idiot. You and me? Is smart.

JUDD

I can't run off. I have responsibilities *here*.

BUBBA

You don't *have to*.

JUDD

(Not really listening, eyes glazed over in his own world) If I just do it right next time... I just have to figure out where I went wrong, **and we won't lose anyone else... NTS() - cut.**

BUBBA makes a fart sound of disapproval and kicks Judd. This jolts Judd out of his haze.

JUDD

Stop being bad!

BUBBA

Please? I don't want to stay here, I want to be cowb--

JUDD

I don't wanna be cowboys. I don't wanna be horses, or pegasus ranchers or anything. Okay? I ain't a cowboy. I'm a...

Judd looks down once again at the smears of blood on his hands from Monty's shirt. He tries wiping them off on his pants, and gets only some of it.()NTS-intense contrast here. Low saturation colors except the red. Light sources are the moon and tablet-bubba in colorful tablet light and judd in stark black and white moonlight.

JUDD

...Something else. So if you wanna be a lone ranger, then it'll have to be alone.

Judd sits, frustrated, with his head in his hands. When he calms himself, he looks up.

Bubba is gone.

Judd starts freaking out a little. He's about to leave the deer stand when a shadow falls over him. Shot of the hunter vampahrs feet at the edge of the door opening. JUDD tries to play it cool so the HUNTER VAMPAHR doesnt know Bubba is gone. NTS()-lighting-maybe vampire stays around the edge of the light until further in the story, not fully revealing itself.

JUDD

There are a million other animals you could drink. There's a river of blood right down the way.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

The *others* are simple animals, drawn only to blood. But you can take more from a person than just blood.

Beat. The HUNTER VAMPAHR moves closer, cajoling. Judd moves backwards, cautious.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

You're the smartest of them. I have met few who appreciated the artistry of drawing out their prey. I can learn from you, son.

Judd smiles his small, shy smile at the praise for a fraction of a second, but his expression quickly returns to wary fear.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

The only smile I've seen on your face tonight was when you talked about hunting. What are your strategies?

JUDD

Nobody ever asks. Why do-

HUNTER VAMPAHR

Only making conversation.

JUDD is silent for a long moment. He glances around, but he's alone here. He taps his fingers. Nothing to do but indulge the conversation.

JUDD

...I just care for their needs. I let the corn go for a while. Just come out every few days and watch from a distance. I know what they want, and give it to

them. Same thing everybody wants, food, place to rest and feel safe. So I just watch.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

But you cannot even give a hint of your presence until the time is right.

JUDD nods, and smiles, getting into the conversation.

JUDD

That's the hard part. Even if they smell a hint of danger, they bolt.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

The challenge is the fun.

JUDD

Yeah, seeing the patterns of movement. You get to know some of the regulars, 'specially the ones that look funny, and have different personalities. My uncles put game cams out, I ain't watched em, I prefer to just come out here. But it takes time. There's all the preparation and *then* the watching... and then...

HUNTER VAMPAHR

The kill.

JUDDs smile dulls.

JUDD

I aint never really got to that part. NTS()- cut?

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I have not, in my many years, found another like me, who I could make my heir. You're special, Judd. You would be my partner, and would have no more burdens.

JUDD

I ain't burdened.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I have watched you; you do not have to pretend. Tell me, what is it that you really want?

Beat.

JUDD

I want to do right by my family. Feed us, pay my uncles debts, buy my daddy's land...

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I asked what you want. Not your family. Where are they anyway? It looks like they've left you behind.

Beat. Judd considers this.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

You don't have to play their game. Come with me and you would be beholden to only yourself and your desires. You would be free.

The corn feeder throws, a rattling, echoing noise in the distance, that overlaps the sound of the hunter VAMPAHRs voice.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

All you have to do is invite me in.

JUDD, tempted by the offer, reaches out a hand to touch the hunter vampahrs hand.

JUDD

You're cold.

Judd realizes what he's doing and jerks back.

JUDD

No... I'm not like you. You killed-

HUNTER VAMPAHR

We did it *together*.

NTS-() blood transfer between hands, implication being that the hunter vampire considers the two of them partners already and holds judd accountable for monty leaving the shed, as he goaded him. NTS VA()Make this more clear in VA re-records of this part.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

None of them are like us.

JUDD

You can't get the rest of them. Uncle Ricky's tough as nails. And Uncle Dan, he's got God on his side, he believes in-

HUNTER VAMPAHR

(condescending, almost fatherly) It's not about what they believe, or want. It's about what we can use those things *for*.

Beat.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

After all, they want what everyone wants.

CUT TO:

21. EXT. TOWN. NIGHT.

Bubba walks through the empty streets of town, carrying only his backpack. He carries a stake in one hand. He looks at street signs, trying to find his way out of town. There are buildings with their foundations rotting.

Bubba stops with a gasp. There is a VAMPAHR in the street eating a man, blood all over its face. The vampahr is the same local politician we saw on the old billboard at the beginning. Bubba watches, terrified.

He wets himself. NTS(Animation note: for the rest of the movie, he has a stain on his pants.) The VAMPAHR turns to bubba, eyes locking on him. A man (who looks a lot like

the dead man) appears behind bubba and kills the VAMPAHR effortlessly. Leaves blow by behind him.

VAMPAHR HUNTER (not to be confused with hunter vampahr)
You should get inside, boy.

BUBBA
I can't. I'm running away from home.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
Hell of a time to run away.

BUBBA
You aren't from here, are you? I ain't seen you at church.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
I'm from anywhere you want.

BUBBA thinks long and hard.

BUBBA
You're from... England?

The vampahr hunter looks at him for a beat. We take in his extremely American appearance. He's cowboyish, in a large brimmed hat and a vest. He also has a country accent.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
(Dryly) How'd you guess?

He turns and more vampires are coming.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
We got to go.

Bubba
But you're a vampire hunter, can't you--

VAMPAHR HUNTER
I can't handle this many at once. We need to get inside.

They duck into a Dollar General. They walk the aisles of crappy frozen meals and snack foods. Bubba looks longingly at the frozen foods, his arms full of snacks. His stomach growls.

BUBBA
You save people from vampahrs?

VAMPAHR HUNTER
Sure. Yeah. Sometimes.

BUBBA
Wow! How'd you get this job? You lost everybody to a vampahr, and vowed revenge?

The VAMPAHR HUNTER is actively shoplifting, not really paying attention to Bubba.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

What? No, I'm with an agency. Pays like shit, but our benefits are actually amazing. I just go where they send me on a hunt.

BUBBA

I'm real glad they sent you here. We need ya!

VAMPAHR HUNTER

Yeah, well, I'm actually--

BUBBA

(immediately distracted) Woah, look, they've got hats!

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD FARM FOREST. NIGHT.

Uncle RICKY JOE wanders the woods with Dan. He walks through the ruins of the old farmhouse, covered in seas of kudzu and old dead vines. They walk past locations we saw earlier in the old photos, but these are the rotted out versions of them.

DAN

Hey, my old teddy bear. I always wondered where I left it.

Dan wipes the old thing but it does nothing for the caked mud and dirt into the once-white fur. Ricky Joe reaches down to touch the red water with a frown.

DAN

Remember that time we sewed the key of the ATV into this thing and lied and said we lost it so we could ride at night?

RICKY JOE

(laughing) Yeah. They found us out so fast. Earl took such a whooping...

DAN

(soberly) He was out of school for a week.

RICKY JOE

Shoot, but I was out all the time sick.

Vampahrs come out and start attacking them. RICKY JOE rips up some wild garlic from the ground and throws it at the vampire, and it's effective, burning them and making them recoil. DAN rips open the old teddy bear and takes the key out.

DAN

You think the old thing still--?

RICKY JOE

Fuels gotta be stale.

DAN

No, it better work.

DAN says a little prayer. A VAMPAHR strikes at RICKY JOE from the dark. He stabs it and it falls. They get on the ATV and it starts. Brief ATV fight scene (might cut this if I can't figure out how to draw an ATV). They're kicking ass.

RICKY JOE

Like old times. You was right, up on that soapbox. I should've had more faith.

Dan glances at his wedding ring and falters. Another vampire comes up.

DAN slashes at one with a stake and it doesn't die.

DAN

(afraid) The hell?

DAN continues trying to stab it, but it keeps coming at him. He stumbles backward and drops his stake. RICKY JOE picks up the same stake and quickly kills it. The two look at each other, baffled.

RICKY JOE

Maybe it's the ergonomics of the thing. Flick your wrist a little.

CUT TO:

22. EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

The two uncles continue wandering, looking for Monty.

RICKY JOE

Anyone could have brought these things here. I suspect it's the Jews or the Blacks, or the Chinese. Somebody always *tracking something in...* the kudzu was enough, now it's...

DAN

Ricky, stop.

RICKY JOE

And you, you never did your part, the boy run off because uncle Dan spoiled him, make him think he can go anywhere he wants... I oughta-

DAN

Ricky, stop.

RICKY JOE, distracted by his rambling, runs straight into a fence. They've hit the property line, and on the other side is the bomb testing facility.

RICKY JOE

Dammit Earl. A fence straight through our fathers farm. My boy's probably on the other side of a fence cos Earl--

DAN

Ricky.

RICKY JOE

--Sold it out of childish spite. For no goddamn reason. I'll kill him, its earls fault, it always was Earls--

DAN
It's pa's fault.

Beat.

RICKY JOE
What are you talking about?

DAN
He sold it cos of pa.

Behind him just before the edge of the property, we see the old house from the photographs, once painted cleanly with a white picket fence, now all rotted out, the paint peeling. The old barn is no longer bright red but almost a greyish purple, overtaken by vines to the point where it looks like a part of the land. The old door is gaped open like a hungry mouth, the windows like eyes of a hairy, viney creature.

RICKY
Why would-

DAN
Maybe you don't remember cos you were just little and sick so he didn't whale on you as much, but it took some kind of toll. I loved him, but his way... it weren't right. and he was on Earl all the time.

RICKY JOE
'Cos a child is s'posed to do as they're told by their father. Earl was always acting up, he had to-

DAN
He only ever wanted Pa to look at him. And the only time pa looked at him was when he was looking down at him. It made him do reckless things.

Beat.

DAN
Things like... like running off in the woods alone.

RICKY JOE
What are you saying?

Beat. Dan doesn't say anything.

DAN
We've gone a long way. I'm gonna go back and check on the boys.

Ricky Joe
It ain't my fault.

DAN
I'm going back.

RICKY JOE

You're going to judge me? You always want to judge *me* and *my* boy. You don't know what it's like to be a--

DAN
A father?

Beat.

DAN
I never even got to hold my son. The bills are still piling from it and I never even touched him, cos- cos I knew he'd be cold, and that's all I'd ever know about him, was that he was *cold*. No, I don't know what it's like.

Beat.

DAN
I've prayed on it. It's preyed on me. ()NTS- cut? Cant decide if this is too on the nose. Listen to VA recording and decide. Delivery might determine this.

DAN looks to the sky tiredly.

DAN
If a father doesn't watch after his children, what good is he? Sometimes I can't stand to look at you.

Beat. A cicada shell sits on a dead log.

DAN
I can't keep looking. If he's out here... I don't wanna see.

RICKY JOE
(startled and vulnerable) You're going back?

Beat.

RICKY JOE
But you're the oldest. You're s'posed to be the strong one.

DAN
I ain't strong enough to lie no more.

RICKY JOE looks at him, betrayed and hurt, and then he steels himself. Dan turns to go.

RICKY JOE
(With resolve) He ain't dead. No, he ain't. *I raised a fighter.*

It sounds more like a confession of guilt than a reassurance. Ricky Joe keeps going into the forest along the property line, past the ruins of the old farm and into the bayou. There's old flood warning signs there.

CUT TO:
EXT. DOLLAR GENERAL. NIGHT.

BUBBA and the VAMPAHR HUNTER leave with buckets full of snacks. They are greeted by vampahrs at the door. The VAMPAHR HUNTER fights them using his two six shooters.

BUBBA

How come your gun kills em? I thought it was just stakes. My cousin tried a gun and it didn't work. hes methodist and yer... What are you?

VAMPAHR HUNTER

Presbyterian.

BUBBA

So how come yours worked and his didn't, since your religion is wrong and mine's right?

They pause the conversation because they have to fight a bunch of vampires. Bubba hides inside at first but then the vampahr hunter gets in a bind, and Bubba quickly looks around at what surrounds him in the Dollar general and smashes a bucket, using a shard from it to stab a vampahr and save the vampahr hunter. The vampahr hunter looks on in bafflement.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

How--?

BUBBA

Well, your gun works, and it ain't a stake.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

It has special sigils; it's a symbol of my faith. You just killed one with a *plastic bucket shard*.

Bubba

I just squeezed my eyes shut and pictured it like it's my hooves and I'm hitting em and hitting em and stomping 'em til they're dead.

Bubba demonstrates this, killing the last vampahr.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

But that doesn't make any *sense*!

They walk and talk. More scenery in the background. A faded sign promoting the new meat processing plant and the new jobs it will bring. Billboard about abortion saying "PROTECT OUR CHILDREN" beside a billboard advertising for the army beside a billboard for X rated videos and burgers and a sign that says HELL IS REAL. Ads everywhere, overwhelmingly, all with their own promises and demands, all asking for one thing: the customers faith.

Next to the abortion billboard put a billboard for asbestos and baby formula. Maybe there should be a line somewhere about how the wetland will cleanse the water no matter how much blood is in it().

BUBBA

...So we can add guns and bucket shards to the list of what kills 'em. Stakes, guns, and bucket shards... Course I suspected there may have been other tools out there, based on my sources.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
Sources?

BUBBA
Cable. I watched a vampahr movie on late night TV.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
You can't get all your information from TV.

BUBBA
Well, that's where everybody else gets it. That movie scared me real bad. My daddy don't let me stay up late on the weekend no more.

Beat.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
Is that why you're running away from home?

Dandelion seeds blow past.

BUBBA
Well, naw, it was just time for me to go be a lone ranger. It's just, people here are mean. I never have clothes that fit right and it always smells bad here. I *really* wanted to run away with Judd- that's my brother- but he wouldn't run away with me, 'cos I'm bad.

VAMPAHR HUNTER
What did you do that was so bad?

BUBBA
Well, where do I start. I... I bit, and stole and fought... I...

We move across several different locations as they walk along, the VAMPAHR HUNTER killing vampires as they go, and BUBBA clutching his stuffed unicorn.

CUT TO:

23. EXT. MAYORS HOUSE. NIGHT.

BUBBA
...Pulled down the mayor's pants because I knew he was wearing ugly drawers and people would laugh...

CUT TO:

24. EXT. DOWNTOWN. NIGHT.

BUBBA
...Killed a man just to watch him die...

CUT TO:

25. EXT. FARMLAND. NIGHT.

BUBBA

...And... I told too many stories.

We get the idea that this was just another elaborate lie.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

That's not so bad. You're just a kid.

BUBBA

I don't wanna be *not so bad*. I want to be a cowboy, like, a *good guy*.

Beat.

BUBBA

I ran off cos... I didn't like it. And I was getting really scared. If you're always scared, I don't think you can really be a good guy.

Beat.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

A good guy, huh?

Beat. The VAMPAHR HUNTER suddenly looks pensieve, and exhausted, his hair in disarray and scrapes on his face from all the fighting.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

A good man is an oxymoron.

CUT TO:

26. EXT. PROPERTY LINE. NIGHT.

Uncle RICKY JOE walks through the woods alone, desperate.

VAMPAHR HUNTER (voiceover)

He has to be knowledgeable enough to see his circumstances are dire, but delusional enough to defy them anyway.

CUT TO:

27. EXT. PINE FOREST. NIGHT.

Uncle Dan walks back toward the stand through the woods. He lights a cigarette.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

He must hate the place he's in enough to want to change it, but must love the place he's in enough to save it.

CUT TO:

28. INT. MAIN DEER STAND. NIGHT.

JUDD in the deer stand alone.

VAMPAHR HUNTER (voiceover)

He should not only have belief, but take action.

CUT TO:

29. EXT. TOWN. NIGHT.

BUBBA and the VAMPAHR HUNTER keep walking.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

Not many people are evil, but it's hard to be a good man. Could be it's just a story.

BUBBA

So good guys ain't real?

VAMPAHR HUNTER

That's not what I'm saying. I have to believe in goodness even if I don't see it, because if I don't, where will it come from?

BUBBA

You're good, though, savin' the town from vampahrs and all.

Beat. VAMPAHR HUNTER gets a sad look on his face. Geese fly past overhead.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

You can't save everybody.

Shots of flood damage. Shots of the town. Circling vultures. Some artistic imagery here.

Liberty gun loan

CUT TO:

30. INT. DEER STAND. NIGHT.

UNCLE DAN returns. He looks at Judd and then frowns, looking around.

DAN

Where's your little brother?

Judd looks behind Dan as if to say, *where's yours?*

Beat.

DAN

God forgive us.

He lights a cigarette.

JUDD

We just wait here and pray, and God will send somebody and make it all work out. It'll be okay, right? Like you said?

Beat.

DAN

No, I don't believe so.

JUDD

You said--

DAN

You want to know the truth? No one out there cares about the people here. City folk don't care. Not the government. Not the troops. Not your daddy. Not God. Your daddy come home every day thanking the plant for his job like they didn't suck the rest of the town dry and kill the farm. They been bleeding this town for years.

Beat.

DAN

You do everything like they said. But it don't work like they said.

JUDD

But... that's not fair.

DAN

(laughs) Not fair.

Beat. He's full on drunkenly rambling now.

DAN

Ain't that the fear () **NTS VA cut line here- may need re-records**. You want somebody to blame, point a finger any direction. Tell yourself whatever helps you get by. It's the fault of them people who ain't like us, send bombs off to get rid of 'em. Blame your neighbor. Your brother. Anybody. But they're no different. We're all just... meat.

He blows out smoke.

DAN

You can fight the *outsiders*, but the problem-

He starts to cough.

DAN

The problem is coming from-- from the-

He can't stop coughing. Judd beats on his back and he gasps for air. Dan finishes coughing, and immediately lights another cigarette. He's getting down to the last couple in the carton. His hands shake. He composes himself.

NTS()-smoke motif needs to get intense in this scene. Smoke clouds thick and swirling hypnotically.

JUDD
What are we supposed to do?

DAN
There's not a thing you can do.

DAN cracks open a beer.

DAN
Being a man means accepting that. So, Judd..

Dan lifts a cigarette to his lips and lights it.

DAN
Are you ready to be a man?

JUDD is silent, contemplating. It starts to gently rain. A tree stump sits in the background of the shot.

CUT TO:

31. INT. GAS STATION. NIGHT

Gas station guy making meat pies and singing a low tune, listening to the church station on the radio. Surrounded by branded products on all sides.

RADIO
And people try to change our definition of faith- Your belief in the one true God is your ticket to heaven, but what does that mean for you here on Earth? I ask, can you love your neighbor more than you love God? No, because to love your neighbor is to love God, and to move in Him. If you aren't moving, you may as well be dea--

The timer on the meat pies dings. GAS STATION MAN pauses his humming.

GAS STATION
Done.

Gas station worker shuts the radio off. He steps outside. A locust hops away from his foot. He sits on a bench outside the gas station. He takes out a banjo and starts to pluck out an eerie, lonely tune, which continues to play as we follow the different characters on their paths.

CUT TO:

32. EXT. MAIN DEER STAND. NIGHT.

Judd looks out into the darkness, contemplative. He picks up his gun and opens the magazine. There aren't any bullets. He looks around but there are none in the deer stand either. Judd straps it onto his back and leaves the deer stand, leaving Dan alone. He walks into the darkness and it seems to swallow him up.

CUT TO:

33. EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

RICKY JOE finds Monty's body. We see a harvestman crawl over his hand. Bugs have already begun eating him. Ricky Joe slaps him across the face to try and wake him up, a sick parody of his earlier slaps.

Now that Ricky Joe has seen confirmation that his son is truly dead, he crumples, tear tracks cutting through the dirt on his face. A group of vampires comes at him and he tries to stab at one with a stake, but the stake no longer damages them, and he dies. Shot of father and son laying together dead side by side, being fed on. ()NTS- how do these vampires feed?

CUT TO:

34. INT. MAIN DEER STAND. NIGHT.

Dan sits in the deer stand and reaches into his carton. It's empty. He has run out of cigarettes. A shadow moves nearby outside and he looks out. On the ground outside, there is a pack lying on the ground outside. He steps out of the ground blind, and we see a shadow behind him, the HUNTER VAMPAHR, ready to strike.

CUT TO:

35. EXT. TOWN. NIGHT.

Bubba and the VAMPAHR HUNTER walk through town.()NTS- more imagery. Pull from top heavy section.

CUT TO:

36. EXT. PINE FOREST. NIGHT

The banjo music ends, and we see Judd wandering the woods alone.

He sees several vampires and climbs up the next deer stand, the tall, jagged one Monty had taken earlier. Fight scene as he climbs up the tall ladder while trying to block the vampires, and finally gets to safety.

CUT TO:

37. EXT. TOWN. NIGHT.

BUBBA and VAMPAHR HUNTER keep going. Bubba narrates his favorite things in town as they walk.

BUBBA

Oh, that's my favorite tree. My uncle helped me get up there but now I'm tall enough I can go on my own. Hey, look at this.

BUBBA shows him his tablet, with a stupid YouTube video pulled up with the Pegasus character and a YouTuber making the stupid youtuber face, you know the one. On the side, all the recommended videos from the algorithm are the Pegasus character promoting increasingly radical ideologies and conspiracy theories. BUBBA becomes distracted again by an alleyway.

BUBBA

That's where I learned to do a somersault.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

(not listening) Uh huh.

The vampahr hunter checks his watch. BUBBA and the VAMPAHR HUNTER walk past people being killed and they don't help, the vampahr hunter seeming to be in a hurry. Bubba watches somebody try to kill a vampahr with a shard of plastic or something like he had done, and they fail and die violently.

BUBBA looks at the bucket shard in his hand.

BUBBA

Cain't be that, then. But then...

BUBBA sees his reflection in a shop window, sees his unicorn shirt, that says BELIEVE! Bubbas face lights up in realization.

BUBBA

Huh.

CUT TO:

38. EXT. BAYOU. NIGHT.

Judd is at the edge of the hardwood forest, turning to bayou. Fishing line hanging from trees. Water oaks and live oaks. Cypress with old trash caught up in the branches and roots. Old childhood toys and stuff. Locust trees with foreboding spikes. Devil's walking stick. Fish float up, dead from the blood effluent. White moths floating in dirty brown water, dead.

JUDD sees some more vampires and ducks into the rotting bayou stand. There's a glimmer outside.

It's another gift from the hunter vampahr: Dan's arm, with the wedding ring still on the finger.

CUT TO:

39. INT. DEER STAND. NIGHT.

JUDD waits in the deer stand silently catching his breath. The HUNTER VAMPAHR approaches again.

JUDD

Why not just turn me when I'm outside, if you're following me?

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I want you to be willing if we are to be family.

JUDD

I already have a family.

HUNTER VAMPAHR lays down RICKY JOEs beer pouch, collected from his dead body. Beside it, a nondescript wallet. Judd looks at it quizzically. The hunter vampahr opens it and it's full of silver coins.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

You can take anything from anyone, when you are like me. I can have all the riches in the world if I choose. You would never go hungry. Your lights and water would never go out. You could have anything.

JUDD

(Muttering to himself softly) My own mattress.

JUDD shakes his head, clearing his thoughts.

JUDD

Mankind believes you don't kick someone down to get ahead. Ain't right to steal, lie, covet... that's what sets us *apart*.

Despite saying this, Judd is still eyeing the wallet.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I learned all I know, not from other vampires, but from men. I am far from the first to hunt your family. We came because we smelled blood in the water.

Beat. ()NTS some imagery here, Idk what yet.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

The only ones who win at this game are the ones who take their advantage where they can. So, you have a choice. You can give up, and remain as prey... or...

The hunter vampahr bares its fangs.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

You can leave it all behind.

JUDD snarls.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

(Amused) And you say you aren't like me.

CUT TO:

40. EXT. EDGE OF TOWN. NIGHT.

They stand at the ridge overlooking the whole town.

BUBBA

Look at that view.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

Views like this are a dime a dozen.

VAMPAHR HUNTER looks down at his back, taking stock.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

Got snacks, got a charger... we should be good to leave this town.

BUBBA

(not listening) Hey, I got service, I can call my dad!

He opens his tablet, and it's on a Facebook page with a post about the blood spill from the plant, as one of their neighbors had seen the blood and complained about the biohazard/environmental contamination such a huge effluent spill is already causing. It's got a lot of traction. Underneath are people commenting. People from other places shitting on national politicians, completely disconnected from the town itself and the actual impact and making it a larger philosophical discussion they use to argue. saying the locals should have evacuated or moved away, should have known it would happen, shouldn't have chosen to live near a meat plant. Someone's already talking about making a podcast about this. Meat eaters say it's worth the price for a good steak, vegans say that's what you get for choosing to live near a murder factory, Northerners say southerners are all stupid rednecks anyway so they don't feel sorry for them getting themselves into this mess. Someone is somehow making it about gun rights or abortion. Just the usual type of comments when there's an emergency event in the south. ()NTS- condense this into something allowing it to be background, not drawing too much attention to itself.

BUBBA pulls up his contacts and is about to call his dad when his battery dies.

BUBBA

Dang. I should have thought about how vampires might be gonna attack later and I would need the tablet for signal before I played so many games today... well, I'll know for next time...

Beat.

BUBBA

Wait. Did you say we're leaving?

VAMPAHR HUNTER

I'm headed to the big city. You're welcome to come along.

BUBBA

But... there's still vampahrs here. You're supposed to save the town.

The vampahr hunter looks conflicted and guilty.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

It's not that I don't want to, it's just a matter of numbers. I just follow the hot spots. This places population is tiny, it's just... not a priority. Truth be told, I was just stopping through here to get some snacks.

BUBBA

Oh.

BUBBA looks back at the town.

VAMPAHR HUNTER

So? You ready, pardner?

Bubba looks at the sign at the edge of the road. SPECIAL RECIPE MEAT PIES! THEY AIN'T MADE LIKE THIS ANYWHERE ELSE!

BUBBA

Just a minute. Just wanna look one more time.

BUBBA stands there and the blood that was on the vampire hunter is now on BUBBA, implying that maybe he was a figment of Bubba's imagination all along. The VAMPAHR hunter disappears, leaving Bubba looking out over the town alone.

CUT TO:

41. EXT. PROPERTY LINE. NIGHT.

The dead doe is being eaten by vampires. They rip off her limbs.

CUT TO:

42. EXT. FOREST. NIGHT.

Bubba walks through the forest.

BUBBA

Judd! Judd?

Bubba is in a patch of huckleberries, when he suddenly finds himself surrounded by a bunch of vampires. He takes out his unicorn toy and tears off the horn, ready to fight. He stabs a vampire with it, yanks it free and stabs another. They close in on him and he keeps fighting.

CUT TO:

43. EXT. BAYOU. NIGHT.

We see shots of various Arkansas plants. Locust tree. Mushrooms on decaying trees. Pine needles hanging from the bushes.

We see what looks like the doe being torn apart, the vampires hunkering over it, but then one vampire moves a little and we see the face. It is Ricky Joe's body, torn up to near unrecognizability.

CUT TO:

44. EXT. FOREST. NIGHT

Judd wanders past trees scarred from woodpecker marks and fire marks, which give way to bayou. He stops, seeing something white in the water.

It's Bubba's stuffed unicorn, horn torn out, hanging on a thorn beside a faun lily. He looks at it and cries. He crouches in the bayou, knees up out of the water like the cypress knees surrounding him.

Judd looks down at where his pocket Bible has fallen into the water, his reflection underneath. He speaks, though it's unclear if it is to his reflection or to the Bible in the puddle.

JUDD
I'm sorry.

He looks at his reflection in a puddle in the bayou as the water flows slowly by. It's a small area that is still its natural green brown color.

JUDD
I just wanted to kill a big buck.

Beat. He shakes his head, realizing the untruth in his words.

JUDD
No. What I wanted...

Beat.

JUDD
It wasn't real.

JUDD scoops a handful of water and it slips through his fingers. Blood slowly seeps into the clear pool, staining his reflection.

Beat. Silence.

JUDD
I did what I was supposed to do. I followed the rules, didn't I? So what more do you want from me? What do you want?

Beat. Only the sounds of the forest.

JUDD
There's nobody even listening, is it?

Beat. The water runs by, burbling softly.

JUDD
Just me.

Beat. An owl hoots in the distance. Judd's voice echoes. Shadows from the trees briefly fall over Judd's face in a way that resembles the mask of the Lone Ranger.

Three holly trees grow from one stump at the waters edge, ivy crawling up them. Yellow passionfruit and faun lily speckle the edge of the water, and lotus in the water.

Judd sets the unicorn down and stands with resolve. He is no longer running, but walking through the bayou with intent. He walks all the way up to the house.

The HUNTER VAMPAHR stands outside. Judd turns around and the two face each other.

HUNTER VAMPAHR
Have you made up your mind?

JUDD meets the hunter VAMPAHRs eyes with resolve. JUDD nods.

HUNTER VAMPAHR
It's the only way forward.

The hunter vampahr gestures to the doors threshold.

The HUNTER VAMPAHR inclines its head, gesturing to Judd to invite him in.

HUNTER
Take what you want.

Judd seems to make a decision. He takes his pocketknife and slices lightly into his own neck. Blood dribbles down and the hunter vampars nostrils flare at the smell.

JUDD
Come in.

HUNTER VAMPAHR creeps slowly inside.

HUNTER VAMPAHR
(To itself) Don't drink too much. This time won't be like the others.

JUDD
You said I was the first.

HUNTER VAMPAHR
It doesn't matter. You will be a success. (It sees Judd's look of doubt.)
You'll be the most powerful creature alive, and you'll answer to no one.

BUBBA
(distant) Judd?

JUDD looks up in surprise.

JUDD
Bubba?

HUNTER VAMPAHR
A final gift. Your first hunt.

BUBBA
Judd!

Bubba is running toward the door, getting closer and closer. The HUNTER VAMPAHR moves to obscure Judds' view out the door.

It comes up to stand beside Judd, the two finally touching. The hunter vampahr leans closer. Judd's breath hitches.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

Don't be afraid. You will come to find that blood is the richest taste.

The hunter vampahr goes to bite Judds neck. Judds heart beats loudly. Judd looks at the deer corn bags by the door. Judd blocks its teeth with his arm, and the HUNTER VAMPAHR looks at him in confusion. JUDD looks into the HUNTER VAMPAHRs eyes.

JUDD

You're lying.

Beat.

JUDD

Blood ain't the best taste to me. Cos... I ain't a vampahr.

Judd opens a beer bottle that he inexplicably had somewhere on his person. The HUNTER VAMPAHR watches in bafflement as JUDD drains the bottle and sighs contentedly.

JUDD

I'm a man.

Judd smashes the bottle over the HUNTER VAMPAHRs head. Judd turns briefly to Bubba, who is approaching the door.

BUBBA still has his unicorn horn and he tosses it to Judd to use as a stake. Judd and the hunter vampahr fight.

JUDD

We got to call daddy.

Shot of the back of the house, where the phone is on the wall.

It's a fight scene, and they trash the house as they move through it. Judd grabs whatever is laying around that he can use to fend it off, a pickaxe, a scythe, an antler, trying to give bubba time to get to the phone. The two knock over a bag of corn and grapple on top of it.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

I thought this was what you wanted.

JUDD

I just want what everyone wants.

HUNTER VAMPAHR

Then you're no smarter than the rest of them. You're nothing but a meal.

Shot from the outside where we see their silhouettes fighting through the window. The vampire bites at Judds ankle and Judd kicks it's head. Outside, a small native evergreen, a yaupon holly, grows from a nurse stump.

Finally Judd and the hunter vampahr are at the back of the house. But their fighting has damaged the phone cord, and the phone is disconnected. Judd yanks Bubba through the baby gate and closes it.

The hunter vampahr is trapped on the other side, but is beating at it and will quickly be through it.

Judd looks up at the slightly open window and down at his own sprained ankle, assessing. He looks at Bubba, who is not as injured. Judd reaches for the rifle he had been given for his birthday.

JUDD

Bubba, listen here. This towns infested with these things and worse, there's no reason to stay here. Hop out the window and run fast as you can.

BUBBA

(whiny) No.

JUDD

You have to.

BUBBA

No I DON'T!

JUDD

Quit!

BUBBA

I can't just quit! Where am I supposed to go?

HUNTER VAMPAHR gnashes its teeth, rattling the walls as it tries to break through. Bubba stubbornly stays.

JUDD

(with despair) We ain't ever leaving this town.

BUBBA

(determined) Never.

Judd keeps the HUNTER VAMPAHR in his sights. The HUNTER VAMPAHR starts actually physically splintering the gate, so we know he's going to be through in a matter of seconds. Pitch of Bubba and Judd is more frantic.

BUBBA

I saw a vampahr hunter use guns on it and it worked!

JUDD

Even if that was true, it... it isn't even loaded.

Judd falters. Bubba frowns, but then realization lights up his face.

BUBBA

Yes it is.

JUDD

Don't tell stories right now. It's empty, I checked. That don't even make sense.

The hunter VAMPAHR is almost through.

BUBBA

Imagine it don't have to. Forget the rules, Judd, I figured it out earlier...

The baby gate breaks and the hunter vampahr lunges at Bubba. Bubba turns, panicked.

BUBBA

Believe me.

The hunter VAMPAHR bites down and drinks from Bubba's neck. Bubba's face is rapidly going pale from blood loss. Bubba mimes a gun shooting with his fingers, and as he begins to pass out, morphs from a gun to just his pointer finger, pointing at Judd.

Judd raises the gun and steels himself. His finger sits on the trigger.

He pulls it and the gun goes off loudly, hitting the HUNTER VAMPAHR in the stomach. It falls backward, half dead. Using what strength it has left, it crawls toward them again, reaching for Bubba's leg.

The hunter vampahr whimpers, the same pathetic whimper of pain that it let out to lure Monty in.

Judd loses it. He goes feral on the vampire, beating its teeth from its mouth with his fists. His hands are sliced up by the shards but he doesn't stop. He punches through the bullet hole in its stomach and blood spatters everywhere. Judd keeps beating the vampire, and we hear his heartbeat pumping louder and louder as he goes.

Bubba places a hand on his shoulder and finally Judd stops, breathing heavily. The vampire is dead. Judd is spattered head to toe in blood this time. He looks at his hands as he has before, covered in red, but this time there's no remorse.

Judd takes his gun and opens the chamber. No shell falls out. Puzzled, he opens the magazine. There's also nothing in the magazine. There was never a bullet in the gun.

After all the carnage, it's silent.

The two brothers stay there for a moment, looking like hell, and unsure what to do now. Silently, bubba walks out of frame. Judd sits down in a chair, expression blank.

The sun is just starting to come up. Bubba returns with two beers, and Judd silently takes one. Bubba sits beside him. covered in blood and surrounded by wreckage, the two brothers sit watching the sun rise, in a position that mirrors the way the two uncles sat in their respective chairs before.

They crack a couple of cold ones.

CUT TO:

45. EXT. EDGE OF TOWN. MORNING.

A peaceful scene from a game camera. A scrawny 3 point buck wanders along a ridge, eating grass between the pools of blood in the bayou as the water begins to clear. Soft nature sounds. The buck has a t-shaped scar on its head. It looks directly at the game camera/the audience, and its ear twitches.

END.