

Twisted Dreams
Episode 1: "Pilot"

written by

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EXT. JESSICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Open on a small house in a small but populated neighborhood. It's a chilly mid-August night. We then enter the house.

CUT TO:

INT. JESSICA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jeremy goes into his room to set down his phone and wallet then walks back out of the room and down to the hallway. The end of the hall has two doors. One on the left and one straight ahead. The door on the left is closed. He goes towards the door on the left and opens it. He walks in.

INT. JESSICA'S ROOM - NIGHT

A bunk bed is on the left and the room is decorated in pretty pink designs with posters covering the walls and stuffed animals lining the shelves. A t.v. sits across from the bed on a dresser. Jeremy approaches the bed. A woman is lying in it, his girlfriend JESSICA.

JESSICA

Hey baby.

JEREMY

Hello love. Long day?

JESSICA

Yeah. I'm exhausted. I'm just happy you finally get to move into your dorm tomorrow. I have to worry about helping you pack anymore.

Jessica playfully nudges Jeremy.

JEREMY

(Sighs)

Yeah, I'm sure. How about we both get some sleep okay?

JESSICA

Okay. I'll try. Are you all packed up and ready to move in tomorrow?

JEREMY

Yeah, I think so. I'm just nervous, ya know? College is a big step for me.

JESSICA

I know, but you'll be okay, I promise. Are you going to do any more writing before you leave?

JEREMY

I'll finish tomorrow when I'm done the unpacking. Now, you and I both really need to rest. Okay? School has been a killer and my job sucks, but hopefully, after a good night's slumber, we can wake up tomorrow and feel refreshed!

Jeremy motions for a high five. She hits it hard.

JESSICA

Okay babe. Go to bed.

JEREMY

Goodnight love. Sweet dreams!

JESSICA

Goodnight baby. Sweet dreams!

Jeremy leaves and goes back to his room.

INT. JEREMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

He slowly climbs into bed and checks his phone. It shows one missed message from an unknown number. Jeremy unlocks his phone and looks at the message. The message is an image of a single unfamiliar symbol.

JEREMY

What the hell. Is that a pentagram?

He looks into the symbol and then passes out. This is where his journey begins.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. DARK PRISON - NIGHT

Jeremy wakes up in a small cell. He looks around and he sees the symbol drawn all over the walls of the cell with a single table. The outside of the cell is pitch black.

JEREMY

What the... Where am I?

He stands up and goes towards the left wall. He touches the symbol and gets a brief flash of THE PLAGUE.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 AH! What the hell was that?! Screw
 this!

Jeremy quickly gets up and runs towards the cell door. He peaks out and sees nothing. It's pitch black. He turns around and sees a flashlight on the table. He runs to pick it up and then has another vision. It shows his girlfriend, Jessica smiling with blood covering her face.

ENTER FLASHBACK:

Jeremy and Jessica are on a Ferris wheel. They are holding hands and taking in the view of their surroundings. Jessica turns to Jeremy.

JESSICA
 I love you.

Jeremy turns to Jessica.

JEREMY
 What?

Jessica takes a breath.

JESSICA
 I said I love you.

JEREMY
 I love you too.

Jessica and Jeremy lean in and kiss.

END FLASHBACK

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 AH! FUCK! What the hell is going
 on?!

Jeremy runs back to the cell door.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Hello...Hello...HELLO! Is anybody
 there?! Can anybody hear me?!

Silence. Jeremy goes and sits in the right corner. He begins to cry and panic. After a few seconds, he takes a couple breaths and wipes his face.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Okay, Jeremy, you can do this.

He takes a deep breath. He looks over to the door and sees the lock.

JEREMY'S POV - THE KEYHOLE IN THE LOCK

He looks around the room and sees a tiny hole in the mattress.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Ah-ha!

Jeremy rushes towards the bed and digs inside the hole. He reaches the key and yanks it out. Jeremy notices that the key has the same shape as the symbols on the wall. This causes him a lot of discomfort and it's highly visible on his face. He begins shaking and he drops the key.

Suddenly the door opens. Jeremy jumps and backs away. He takes a deep breath and counts backward from eight. He then picks the key up, puts it in his pocket, and walks towards the opening.

Jeremy begins to walk towards the cell door. Before he reaches the dark abyss, a figure appears suddenly. The figure is dressed as a Victorian-era doctor and carries a lantern.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Who...who are you??

THE PLAGUE
 Follow me.

Jeremy stares at the figure with sheer terror in his eyes. The Plague stares back briefly but then slowly turns left and begins walking. Jeremy cautiously follows him. Darkness is all around them. The only light coming from The Plague's lantern and Jeremy's flashlight.

JEREMY
 Where am I?

The Plague is silent.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 What am I doing here?

The Plague turns to Jeremy and motions for him to be quiet. Jeremy and The Plague continue walking down the pitch-black corridor until they hear a loud scream. They both quickly turn around. Lights begin to turn on behind them. A figure appears several feet in front of them.

A very large and bloodied MAN wielding an ax. The Man begins to walk towards the two of them: he goes faster, and faster, and faster.

THE PLAGUE

Run.

They both sprint down the corridor with The Man following them. Jeremy turns around and sees him approaching quickly. Then, he turns back around and The Plague is gone. A blink of light appears ahead of him. It grows wider and wider. Jeremy runs faster and faster. The Man throws his ax and hits Jeremy. The blade slices his shoulder. He falls and screams in pain. The Man approaches, picks up the ax, and swings at Jeremy who's on the ground. Jeremy rolls out of the way and springs to his feet. He sprints towards the light and The Man follows. Jeremy runs towards the light.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. JEREMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy awakens back in his room. The alarm clock on his table is off. He goes to check his phone but it's off as well. He gets up to go to the restroom. He heads towards his door. SHUFFLING occurs outside the door. He stops.

He puts his ear to the door. He hears a loud bang. He jumps back.

JEREMY

What the hell was that?

The shuffling gets louder and louder until it approaches his door.

The noise stops. An object strikes the door causing Jeremy to fall back onto the ground. He falls flat on his back. He looks at the ceiling. He sees a red long-haired WOMAN crawling on the ceiling. She drops down on top of him. She has piercing red eyes and long sharp teeth. She snarls at him and sniffs him. Jeremy is paralyzed with fear. He puts his hands over his face and counts backward from eight. She looks at him.

WOMAN

I smell your sorrow. Your sadness is sweet. I will take from you all feelings of warmth and comfort. You will only feel pure depression. You will be mine. Darkness will envelop your entire being and I will feast on your soul.

She begins to suck any feelings of euphoria out of Jeremy.

She points her finger to Jeremy's heart. A little white light appears. Small various hologram pictures like Jeremy with his family, Jeremy, and Jessica, etc. start to flow from his heart into her finger. Her finger starts to tremble. She pulls it back. The white light and the pictures get bigger.

He struggles and reaches for the flashlight and strikes her with it. She screams and roars as she collapses to the ground. Jeremy sprints to the door. He shuts it behind him and locks it. He turns quickly and sees a dark corridor once again. He walks down the corridor with his flashlight in hand.

JEREMY

What the hell?!

The Plague appears from the shadows.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Why is this happening?

Jeremy clinches his fists in anger. His eyes, however, show a hidden sense of fear.

THE PLAGUE

You must learn.

JEREMY

Learn? How? What am I supposed to learn?

The Plague stands still. He stares at Jeremy. His stance is stern and confident.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

All I have is a fucking flashlight and keys! How am I supposed to get out of here?

THE PLAGUE

You will find the tools along the way. For now, follow the path forward.

Jeremy takes a few steps and stops. His senses are on full alert. He hears nothing. It's silent. He feels nothing. There is no wind or breeze, He smells nothing for there are no scents. He feels nothing.

Suddenly, the floors morphs into a smoother, darker surface.

The ceiling morphs into a patchy ceiling with lines of rusty pipes and falling water droplets. Three walls rise up and hook onto the ceiling while one morphs around the door, making themselves secure.

There are three tall rectangles of rust on both opposing walls. They erode away, creating holes. The holes are followed by rapidly falling metal rails with rust on them. The corridor begins to morph into a run down and decrepit prison. He shines his light through one of the cells. A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE emerges from the dark, illuminated by Jeremy's light.

INT. DARK PRISON - NIGHT

JEREMY

Hello?

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

You shouldn't be here. Go. Away.

JEREMY

I am just trying to get home. Can you please help me?

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

LEAVE NOW!

Jeremy shines his light onto the being and catches a glimpse of its face and feels a sense of familiarity. The mysterious figure lunges at Jeremy and frightens him. He sprints down the corridor until he hits a dead end. He turns around and sees nothing but a solid white wall. He turns back around and The Plague is standing behind.

THE PLAGUE

Hello, Jeremy. It's time for your first test.

JEREMY

What are you talking about? What test?

THE PLAGUE

In this test, you will face a horrifying creature in an unfamiliar place. If you defeat this monster then you will receive a gift.

JEREMY

How do I defeat it? What is the creature?

THE PLAGUE

Your question will be answered when the test begins. I can not say anything. I can not help you.

The Plague stares out into the darkness.

THE PLAGUE (CONT'D)

This is YOUR test and I am merely a guide on this journey into the dark abyss that is your mind.

JEREMY

What do I need to do?

THE PLAGUE

It's simple. Walk the path. Ignore everything you see or hear. Stay on the path.

The Plague fades away into the darkness as two white lines appear in the ground to form a path. Jeremy stares into the pitch-black darkness.

JEREMY

(Jeremy Sighs) Okay. I can do this. Jeremy takes his first step forward. Whispers are heard from the abyss. It is unclear what they are saying. They grow with each step he takes and become more intense. The voices stop and a figure appears to the right of Jeremy. It's Jessica.

JESSICA

Jeremy, it's me! I'm right here!
It's me!

Jessica's clothes are torn, her body is scarred, and her face is bloodied.

JESSICA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

How could you do this to me?! I'm in so much pain. Please stop!

Jeremy reaches out his hand and then stops. He remembers what was said to him by The Plague and is fighting hard to not move any farther.

JEREMY

DAMN IT! What the hell is going on!

He continues down the path. The voices start again but this time they can be understood. One voice spoke while the others echoed.

VOICE

Jeremy. You're so close to the end. Are you really willing to leave her behind? After you hurt her so much? You have caused her so much pain and yet she still loves you so much.

(MORE)

VOICE (CONT'D)

She won't love you for much longer. She won't love you once she sees what you've become.

JEREMY

What are you talking about? Who are you?!

VOICE

I am you, Jeremy. I am what you will become. I am the vilest parts of your mind.

JEREMY

No. No. I would NEVER do that to her! No!

Jeremy collapses. A panic attack.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Please. Please. Let me go home.
Please. Please. Please. Please.

The Plague approaches Jeremy from behind and puts his hands on his head.

INT. JEREMY'S ROOM - MORNING

He wakes up the following morning. His body is tense, he's covered in sweat and is breathing heavily. Jessica enters his room.

JEREMY

AH! NO!

JESSICA

Oh my god! Are you okay?!

She runs over to Jeremy. He is panicking and delirious. He's mumbling under his breath. His hands are shaking and he begins to stutter.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Hey, talk to me! What can I do?

JEREMY

Nothing, I'm okay. I just need a second. I'll be down soon.

JESSICA

Okay. I'm here for you if you need me.

JEREMY

Thank you.

JESSICA

My pleasure.

Jeremy gets up to take a shower and get dressed. Jessica goes downstairs to see her parents. SERIES OF SHOTS

- 1) JEREMY TURNING ON THE WATER AND TAKING A SHOWER
 - 2) JESSICA WALKING DOWNSTAIRS AND TO THE KITCHEN,
 - 3) JEREMY GETTING DRESSED AND BRUSHING HIS HAIR IN THE MIRROR
- END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. DOWNSTAIRS KITCHEN - MORNING

JESSICA'S DAD is getting ready to leave for work when Jessica appears from behind and hugs him.

JESSICA'S DAD

Hey. Where's Jeremy? Is he all ready for his big day?

JESSICA

Yeah, he's packed and getting cleaned up now. He must've had a pretty bad nightmare last night because when I came in, he was freaking out and he looked as pale as a ghost.

JESSICA'S DAD

I'm sure it was just nerves and anxiety. He'll be okay once he gets settled in.

JESSICA

Okay. I hope so.

JESSICA'S DAD

Okay sweetie, I'm heading back out to work for the week.

JESSICA

Where are you headed this time?

JESSICA'S DAD

I'm heading to Oklahoma. I'm going to make sure their equipment is up to par and they are treating their employees okay.

JESSICA

Okay! Good luck!

Jessica goes to make breakfast for herself and Jeremy.

JESSICA'S DAD

Honey! I'm leaving!

JESSICA'S MOM

I'm coming!

JESSICA'S MOM (CONT'D)

comes downstairs to say goodbye to her husband.

JESSICA'S MOM (CONT'D)

Okay, please be safe and work hard!

JESSICA'S DAD

I will, I promise and you be safe too. Don't forget to go to that doctor's appointment! We need to figure out what's wrong with your back.

JESSICA'S MOM

I will go! Now leave! You're going to be late!

The parents kiss and he leaves. Jessica's Mom heads to the kitchen to see Jessica.

JESSICA

Morning!

JESSICA'S MOM

Morning! What time is your friend Josh going to be here?

JESSICA

He'll be here soon! He's helping Jeremy move in with me after he and I see a movie.

JESSICA'S MOM

Is Jeremy okay with that?

JESSICA

Yes, I already asked him and he said, and I quote, "Why wouldn't I let you hang out with your best friend?"

JESSICA'S MOM

Okay, just making sure.

Jeremy finally arrives downstairs. He is clean, dressed, and looks much better than when he first woke up.

JESSICA

Hey baby!

JEREMY

Hey babe!

They exchange a kiss.

JESSICA'S MOM

Good morning, Jeremy.

JEREMY

Good morning Mrs. Case.

JESSICA

How are you feeling?

JEREMY

I feel so much better. I'm ready to go when you guys are. Are you guys following me up or are you coming after orientation?

Jessica's Mom and Jessica exchange a look.

JESSICA

So, plans changed. Mom has a doctor's appointment and so Josh is coming to help instead.

JEREMY

Your ex, Josh?

JESSICA

Yes, but we are best friends remember, and I told you yesterday he and I are seeing a movie together.

JEREMY

Yeah, I remember. You guys will meet me up there after the movie then?

JESSICA

Yes, absolutely. I promise we will be there.

JEREMY

I'm trusting you. Don't let me down.

JESSICA

I won't.

JESSICA'S MOM

Okay, it's about time, Jeremy gather everything you have left and we'll help you pack it up.

Jeremy, Jessica, and Jessica's Mom begin loading his belongings into his car. Once they finish, they all gather by Jeremy's car.

EXT. JEREMY'S CAR - MORNING

Jeremy is terrified and has high anxiety. He begins to count backward from eight. He feels unprepared but he stays strong for Jessica's Mom and Jessica.

JEREMY

Well, I guess this is it. I'm off to college.

JESSICA'S MOM

We are so proud of you.

JESSICA

I can't wait to see what kind of amazing man you'll be one day.

Jessica hugs Jeremy and whispers into his ear.

JESSICA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

And amazing husband.

They exchange a passionate kiss and then Jeremy gets into his car and prepares to leave. He waves bye to Jessica, Jessica's

Mom, and to the house. He gets in his car and is about to leave when looks at the upstairs window and sees a familiar figure, The Plague. Jeremy, now shaken, looks away.

JEREMY

It's not real. It's not real.

He looks back and The Plague is gone. He takes a deep breath, starts his car and drives away.

EXT. MILLER STATE UNIVERSITY - MID-DAY

He arrives at his destination, Miller State University. He parks and walks to his orientation.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHNSON AUDITORIUM

He arrives and finds an empty seat in the front row. MICHAEL then comes and sits next to him.

MICHAEL

Hi! I'm Michael! Who are you?

JEREMY

Oh, I'm Jeremy. You know it's a completely empty room with seats everywhere, so why sit by me?

MICHAEL

Because, my new best friend, that would be awkward and not very fun. Why sit all alone and play on my phone when I could be sitting with people and be social?

JEREMY

Because it's weird.

MICHAEL

Hey, that's your opinion and I'll respect it, but now we have already met and we are talking so why not keep it going?

JEREMY

Yeah, I guess.

Jeremy gets out a pen and paper while Michael sits back in his chair and scrolls through Instagram.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

So you like be talking to people huh?

MICHAEL

Yup.

JEREMY

So why are you on your phone?

Michael gives Jeremy a look and smiles.

MICHAEL

Good one, Jerry Bean.

JEREMY

Jerry Bean? Really?

Michael smiles and then he hears a familiar voice enter the room. It's his best friend MAKAYLA. She is on the phone with her Mom.

MICHAEL

No. Fucking. Way.

MAKAYLA

Mom! It's fine! I made it! I'm okay! I have to go. Orientation is about to start. Bye!

MICHAEL

MAKAYLA!

MAKAYLA

Oh. No.

MICHAEL

Hey! Come join us!

Makayla reluctantly walks over and sits next to Michael. He gives her a big hug and a kiss on the cheek.

MAKAYLA

Gross, Michael! I told you to pretend you didn't know me!

MICHAEL

I know but you know how I get when I see you, sis!

JEREMY
That's your sister?

MICHAEL
Yeah why?

JEREMY
Nothing, I didn't mean anything by that.

MAKAYLA
Yes, he did. He was saying that you're too ugly to be related to me.

MICHAEL
No! You look like a drag queen's worst nightmare!

JEREMY
Damn, dude.

MAKAYLA
At least Mom let me keep the car.

MICHAEL
Okay, you got me there.

MAKAYLA
So who are you?

MICHAEL
This is my new best friend Jeremy! He is a little antisocial, but he is really cool and really nice.

MAKAYLA
Unlike you.

DEVONTE
walks up to the group and sits next to Makayla.

DEVONTE (CONT'D)
Oh, you got jokes, huh?

MAKAYLA
Hey, D!

DEVONTE
What's up, girl!

MICHAEL
Hey! How ya doing, buddy??

JEREMY

How do you all know each other?

MICHAEL

We've been friends since we were little and we all have the same major.

JEREMY

What's that?

MAKAYLA

Theater.

DEVONTE

Hell yeah!

JEREMY

Oh cool. I'm a film major myself.

MICHAEL

Go liberal arts!

They all laugh while more people enter the room. The orientation begins with intense music building. A PROFESSOR enters and begins speaking.

PROFESSOR

Hello, ladies and gentlemen. I am

Dr. Kenning and I am a professor of English here at Miller State and I will be your speaker for this brief orientation. Afterward, students are free to move into their dorms, pick up textbooks, and do whatever else needs to be done to prepare them for the most strenuous but fun times of their lives.

While the Professor continues talking, the group discusses plans for the day and the upcoming weekend.

MICHAEL

Oh my God, this guy is so monotone. I'm so BORED. What are you guys doing today after orientation?

MAKAYLA

Devonte and I are going to the diner after this to get dinner. What about you guys?

MICHAEL

Well I'm unpacking and shit.

JEREMY

I'm doing the same thing.

DEVONTE

You guys are totally free to join us if you want.

MICHAEL

Hell yeah! I'll be there after I finish. You should come, Jeremy,

MAKAYLA

Yeah! Come with us!

JEREMY

I don't know. I have a lot to unpack. Also, my girlfriend and her best friend are coming to help me unpack. So...

MAKAYLA

What are their names? They can come too!

JEREMY

Her name is Jessica and his name is Josh.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry. Did you say HIS? Bro. They're doing it.

MAKAYLA

Michael!

She hits Michael on the head.

MICHAEL

Ow! What?! It's true! Girls and guys can't be best friends without at least having one intimate moment.

MAKAYLA

That's such bullshit! I'm best friends with Devonte!

MICHAEL

Yeah but Devonte likes dudes.

DEVONTE

Hey! Keep that shit on the down-low man!

JEREMY
I'm bisexual.

DEVONTE
Hell yeah!

Devonte and Jeremy fist bump.

MICHAEL
Which do you like more?

MAKAYLA
Michael!

MICHAEL
It's a damn just a question. Relax.

She hits Michael again. Jeremy laughs.

JEREMY
No matter how many times I see that
it always makes me laugh.

MICHAEL
We accept you, dude. We're all
special in our own ways.

MAKAYLA
Or just fucked up.

JEREMY
You guys have no idea.

MICHAEL
Well, I'm sure I speak for all of
us when I say that I'm glad you are
opening up to us. I would like to
formally invite you to our friend
group. Will you accept?

JEREMY
You know what? I will accept.

Makayla, Michael, AND Devonte Hell yeah!

MAKAYLA
Hey, how about we all meet up at
the diner after we are all done
unpacking?

DEVONTE
I'm down.

MICHAEL

Me too!

All eyes are on Jeremy. Jeremy becomes anxious and plays with his pencil.

JEREMY

Yes?

MAKAYLA

Yay! It'll be so much fun!

Jeremy finally feels comfortable with a group of people. He's involved in the conversation; he is, for the first time in a long time, actually happy. The Professor finally finishes his lecture and dismisses everyone. The group each go off their own way with Jeremy going back to his car. Once he arrives, he sees JOSH and Jessica standing by his car.

CUT TO:

EXT. JEREMY'S CAR - MID-DAY

JEREMY

Hey guys! You made it!

Jessica kisses Jeremy then Josh shakes Jeremy's hand.

JOSH

What's up dude? How was the orientation?

JEREMY

It was great! I made some friends and we are all going to The Diner later!

JESSICA

I'm so happy and proud of you for branching out and making friends.

JEREMY

Thanks, guys. Are you ready to unpack

JOSH

Let's do it.

Jessica, Jeremy, and Josh begin unloading Jeremy's belongings and heading to the dorms.

CUT TO:

INT. JEREMY'S DOOR - MID-DAY

Jeremy inserts the key and opens the door. His dorm is large.

It comes with two beds across the room from each other, two closets side by side, two desks, and one air conditioning unit by the window. A window is opposite the door.

JEREMY

Yeah just put that box under my bed with the others and then we can start on my clothes. We should be done after that. I'm going to go to the restroom.

JESSICA

Okay babe!

Jeremy leaves.

JOSH

Are we actually almost done or is he just saying that?

JESSICA

We aren't close to being done, but Jeremy and I are.

JOSH

What?! Why?

JESSICA

I need a more mature man in my life and I've been looking after him because he can't look after himself. I'm done. Plus I know he cheated on me.

JOSH

Oh shit.

JESSICA

Yeah. I still love him. But lately, he has just been so different. I constantly feel like he is keeping secrets from me. I'm always just waiting for something to happen.

JOSH

Are you talking to any guys?

JESSICA

No. Not yet.

INT. BOY'S BATHROOM - MID-DAY

Jeremy flushes the toilet and walks out of the stall and heads towards the mirror. He washes his hands and hears a voice.

THE PLAGUE'S VOICE
I'm coming, Jeremy. I'm almost inside.

Jeremy panics and looks around.

JEREMY
Hello? Who's there?

A STUDENT speaks from one of the stalls.

STUDENT
Hey dude, can you shut up? I'm trying to take a dump in peace!

JEREMY
Sorry.

Jeremy looks back at the mirror and sees The Plague standing behind him.

THE PLAGUE
It's almost time for trial two, Jeremy.

The Plague goes to place a hand on Jeremy. Just before his hand reaches him Jeremy turns around and The Plague is gone. The Plague is now in the mirror staring at Jeremy. Jeremy is too panicked to notice and rushes out of the restroom. The Plague watching every move he makes.

INT. JEREMY'S DORM - EVENING

Jeremy enters the room and Jessica and Josh are sitting down talking. Jeremy goes to his bed and rests his head on the pillows.

JESSICA
Hey baby, Josh and I are gonna head home since we have school tomorrow okay?

JEREMY
Yeah that's fine.

Jessica strokes his hair and kisses his forehead. Jeremy is trying to contain himself so he doesn't scare Jessica and Josh.

JOSH

Get some rest, dude. You'll have a busy day tomorrow.

JEREMY

I will after my trip to The Diner. I'm just gonna relax, play some games, and watch T.V. until I fall asleep.

JESSICA

Okay. Text me if you need ANYTHING okay?

JEREMY

I will.

Jessica pauses.

JESSICA

Wait. Who are you going to The Diner with?

JEREMY

Just some friends I made at the orientation.

JESSICA

Okay. Well, don't do anything stupid,
(voice trembles) okay?

Jessica is on high alert. Her anxiety is through the roof.

Her palms are sweaty and her hands are shaking.

JOSH

Okay, we should probably go. See you later bro!

JESSICA

I love you! Until!

JEREMY

Until!

Jeremy and Jessica kiss. Jeremy walks them out. Jessica and Josh leaves.

Jeremy enters his dorm room. Jeremy heads back to his bed. He jumps up and lays down to rest.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You're okay, Jeremy. You're okay.

A knock is heard from the door. Jeremy is frozen with fear. He mutes the television and it is complete silence. There is more knocking but this time it's louder.

Jeremy notices a shadow under the door. The shadow moves to the left and disappears. Jeremy slowly begins to get out of his bed. He grabs a small pocket knife that was lying on the table beside his laptop and hides it behind his back.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Michael? Is that you?

Jeremy walks towards the door. Every step he takes he grows more and more anxious. His feet begin to aggressively shake. His eyes are looking around the room. He is examining every nook and cranny.

He arrives at the door and goes to open the door. His hand reaches out for the handle and his eyes are focused on it. A figure moves through the right side wall behind Jeremy.

THE PLAGUE
(whisper) Jeremy.

Darkness slowly begins to take over the room. Chips of paint begin to flake off the walls and objects begin to fade away.

JEREMY
No. Please no.

Jeremy screams and turns around, but nothing is there.

THE PLAGUE
I'm almost inside, Jeremy.

JEREMY
No. No. I won't let you!

Jeremy frantically swings his knife around.

THE PLAGUE
You can't hurt me, Jeremy. You can't hurt what's already a part of you.

JEREMY

What are you saying? What are you talking about!?

The darkness fades away and the room returns to its normal form. There is a knock at the door. Jeremy once again slowly walks to the door with the knife hidden behind his back.

He opens the door. It's Michael in a short sleeve red flannel and jeans.

MICHAEL

Hey dude, you all ready to leave?

Michael can see that Jeremy is shaken and shows a worried look on his face.

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

JEREMY

Yeah, yeah. I just have to get dressed.

MICHAEL

Okay then, well hurry up! It's time to party!

JEREMY

Just give me a second and I'll be out shortly.

Michael barges in and makes himself at home.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Oh yeah or just come in.

MICHAEL

Oh sorry, dude. I thought it was mi casa es su casa kind of thing.

JEREMY

Well, I guess it is now.

Jeremy begins to get dressed. Michael gives him a look of confusion and concern.

MICHAEL

Ummm, what the hell are you wearing?

JEREMY

It's my going-out outfit.

MICHAEL

It's a raggedy-ass hoody, torn jeans, and worn-to-the-t shoes.

JEREMY

We are going to the diner, not a wedding.

MICHAEL

No, no, no. You're not going out dressed like that.

JEREMY

What's wrong with this?

MICHAEL

You look like a homeless person: butt ass ugly.

Michael walks up to Jeremy's closet and opens the door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

What in the hell?

JEREMY

What?

Jeremy's closet is filled to the brim with hand-me-downs, old clothes, and superhero memorabilia. Michael begins tossing clothes out left and right. Jeremy's floor becomes littered with shirts and pants.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

MICHAEL

I'm trying to find a suitable outfit for you.

JEREMY

You said we were in a hurry.

MICHAEL

Well, now we are in a fashion crisis.

JEREMY

Okay, Mr. Fashionista. Whatever you say. Just hurry up. I want to get out of here.

MICHAEL

Yeah, give me a sec.

Michael continues to frantically search until he finds a blue t-shirt and a red short sleeve, unbuttoned flannel. He also finds a nice pair of dark blue jeans and a black belt.

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
This is perfect.

JEREMY
Oh no, really? Those?

MICHAEL
Yes. These. Now hurry up and change!

JEREMY
Okay, okay.

Jeremy quickly gets dressed and stands in front of a mirror attached to the door of his closet. He admires the outfit and gives a small, brief smile. He then retrieves a necklace from a box on his desk and puts it on.

MICHAEL
Damn dude. If I were gay, I would totally bang you.

JEREMY
Ummm what?

MICHAEL
What?

A brief awkward silence.

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
What's that necklace?

JEREMY
It was given to me by my grandmother before she died.

MICHAEL
What does the engraving say?

JEREMY
I'm not sure.

Jeremy brings the necklace closer to Michael.

MICHAEL
Yeah, I'm not too sure about what that says either, but maybe Makayla or Devonte will know.

JEREMY

Yeah. Maybe.

MICHAEL

Are you ready?

JEREMY

Yes. I think I'm ready.

MICHAEL

Alright, let's go!

Michael and Jeremy head for the door. Jeremy stops and turns around. He looks out of the corner of his eye.

He sees The Plague staring at them both with his arms crossed. The Plague is waiting and watching for the right time to make his move. Jeremy gets into Michael's car and they leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE DINER - NIGHT

Michael and Jeremy arrive. They see the others inside waiting for each other. Jeremy clinches his necklace and counts backward from eight.

MICHAEL

Come on, dude! Let's get our food on!

INT. THE DINER - NIGHT

Jeremy and Michael enter the small-scale breakfast restaurant. Most of the tables are empty and those that are occupied, are occupied by fellow college students celebrating their successful move in.

MAKAYLA

Jeremy!

JEREMY

Hey!

Makayla is dressed in a beautiful, short, red dress with flower designs on the front and back. Devonte is in a grey V-neck with jeans.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Wow. You look great!

Makayla blushes and giggles.

MAKAYLA

Thank you. So do you.

Michael struts up to the group and interrupts the conversation.

MICHAEL

I helped him out! You should've seen what he was wearing before! He looked like a hobo.

DEVONTE

So you can fix his outfit, but not yours?

The group gasps and bursts out in laughter.

MICHAEL

Oh you got jokes, huh?

The group then takes a seat in a booth directly by the bathrooms. Michael and Jeremy face away from the bathrooms while Devonte and Makayla sit facing the bathrooms. Jeremy and Devonte are in by the wall while Michael and Makayla are on the outside. They settle in and are silent while they look at the menu. A WAITRESS then approaches them.

WAITRESS

What can I get y'all to drink?

MICHAEL

I'll have water.

MAKAYLA

I'll have an orange juice.

DEVONTE

I'll have water.

JEREMY

I'll have chocolate milk.

The Waitress finishes writing down all of the orders.

WAITRESS

I'll have it out to you in just a sec.

The Waitress leaves and the group is left alone.

JEREMY

Wow. We're actually in college now.

MICHAEL

Dude. It's insane. I'm so nervous to start classes.

MAKAYLA

Me too. But, I should be fine. I got straight A's in high school.

DEVONTE

Bitch, this is COLLEGE. This is our future here.

Makayla gives Devonte a playful nudge. Jeremy and Michael laugh.

MICHAEL

What does everyone want to be when they grow up?

JEREMY

I want to make kick-ass war movies.

MAKAYLA

I want to be a journalist.

DEVONTE

I want to be on Broadway.

Michael does not respond for a second.

MICHAEL

(Yelling) Lame!
They all stare Michael down.

MAKAYLA

What do you want to be, smart-ass?

Michael sits up in his seat, pretends to adjust his collar, and takes a deep breath.

MICHAEL

You guys are looking at the next President of the United States!

Jeremy, Makayla, and Devonte stare at Michael. They try to hold in their laughs but their straight faces soon turn into smiles. They then once again burst out in laughter.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What?

MAKAYLA

You? As the President?

MICHAEL

Yeah, I'm a political science major who's gonna kick ass and change the world.

JEREMY

I think you can do it. I mean nothing is impossible right?

DEVONTE

I'm actually curious to see how this works out.

Michael looks at Makayla. He has an idea.

MICHAEL

Let's make a bet.

MAKAYLA

Oh yeah?

Michael takes her hand and pulls her in close. Devonte and Jeremy look on with curiosity and anticipation. They lean in.

MICHAEL

I am going to run for student government president. If I win then you all have to go swimming naked in the pool on campus. If I lose then I'll do it.

Makayla looks at Devonte and Jeremy. They both give her looks of approval and nod their heads. Makayla looks Michael in the eyes intensely.

MAKAYLA

Deal.

The Waitress then arrives with the drinks and hands them all out one by one.

WAITRESS

Everyone has what they ordered?

ALL

Yes.

WAITRESS

Okay, are y'all ready to order food?

Makayla looks around the table. All are eager to eat.

MAKAYLA
Yes, I believe so.

The Waitress gets her pen and notepad ready to write down orders. As the group is ordering, Jeremy feels the need to go to the bathroom. He leans towards Michael.

JEREMY
I'm gonna go to the restroom.

MICHAEL
What do you want to eat?

JEREMY
Surprise me.

MICHAEL
Okay buddy, I'll order something special for you!

JEREMY
Thanks, man.

Michael gets up and Jeremy heads towards the restroom.

INT. THE DINER MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy goes to enter the men's room but is instead taken to his dorm room.

JEREMY
Oh no. Please no. Not now!

Jeremy begins to panic. He grabs his necklace and counts backward from eight. He takes a few steps forward. He is being very cautious and is looking around his entire dorm for any signs of movement. The Plague then appears behind him.

THE PLAGUE
Hello Jeremy.

Jeremy slowly turns around. He sees The Plague standing there and fear consumes his body.

THE PLAGUE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Jeremy. I'm here to help you. I only want what's best for you.

The Plague slowly walks closer to Jeremy. The room begins to fade away once again. Jeremy takes a swing at The Plague but he disappears and reappears behind him.

THE PLAGUE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Why do you want to hurt me, Jeremy?

The Plague takes Jeremy and picks him up by the throat.

THE PLAGUE (CONT'D)
 (Angrily)
 I already told you that you can't
 hurt me, Jeremy. I am a part of you
 and soon I will BE you!

JEREMY
 No! I won't let you!

The Plague shushes Jeremy.

THE PLAGUE
 It's going to be over soon Jeremy.
 By tomorrow morning I will be in
 control.

Jeremy is paralyzed with fear. His hands are shaking, his
 knees are locked, and his breathing is heavy.

JEREMY
 No... NO!

Jeremy passes out.

FADE TO BLACK

Jeremy wakes up on the bathroom floor. He is sweaty and still
 breathing heavily. He sits up and looks around. He then hears
 knocking on the door.

MICHAEL
 Hey, Jeremy! Are you okay?

JEREMY
 Yeah. Yeah, I'm fine.

Jeremy slowly gets up and looks in the mirror. He looks
 different. He is pale and weak. He can barely stand. Michael
 opens the door.

MICHAEL
 Bro, it's been like ten minutes.

JEREMY
 Yeah, I just haven't felt well.
 Give me a minute.

MICHAEL
 Okay dude. I'm here to help.

Jeremy splashes some water in his face and tries to regain his composure. Meanwhile, Michael goes back to the table and sits with the group.

MAKAYLA
Hey, is Jeremy okay?

MICHAEL
He just said he isn't feeling well.

DEVONTE
It's probably just nerves.

MICHAEL
No. He didn't look right. He was pale and looked sick. He should be out soon.

Jeremy comes out of the bathroom. He walks to the table and notices a shadowy figure standing behind the counter they are sitting by. Jeremy stares at the figure in complete shock and can't move any part of his body.

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Jeremy?

Devonte goes to grab his hand. Jeremy sees the shadow figure charge at him causing him to scream out loud. The entire diner is looking at him. He collapses on the ground screaming. Devonte and Michael bend down to check on him.

MAKAYLA
Oh my God! Someone do something!

No one does anything because everyone is too scared. Michael and Devonte stand him up. Jeremy is mumbling incoherent words that they can't understand.

DEVONTE
We have to get him out of here.
Now.

MICHAEL
Yup sounds good.

The group leaves the diner and heads to Michael's car. They put Jeremy in the backseat and Michael heads to the driver's side.

MAKAYLA
Just meet us back at Williams Hall.

MICHAEL
Okay, I'll see you guys there.

They all drive back to Miller State. Michael parks next to Makayla. Devonte and Michael get Jeremy out of the backseat and they begin to walk back to Williams. Jeremy is still mumbling.

MAKAYLA

What the hell is wrong with him?

MICHAEL

I don't know.

They finally arrive at Jeremy's dorm. Devonte takes the key and opens the door. They escort Jeremy to the bed and lay him down. Makayla takes his hand.

MAKAYLA

Jeremy! Jeremy! What can we do?

Jeremy mumbles something.

MAKAYLA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

What?

JEREMY

(mumbled) Get the rosary from my desk.

Devonte goes to the desk and grabs the rosary. He places it in Jeremy's hands and Jeremy begins to pray.

MICHAEL

What the hell is going on?

DEVONTE

Is he possessed?

MICHAEL

You know I don't believe in that shit! Maybe it's just a really bad panic attack. He isn't the most stable person. I mean, we knew he was shy and weird when we met him.

DEVONTE

Shut up! You're not helping!

MAKAYLA

Someone do something!

Jeremy grabs Makayla by the hand. His eyes are wide and his face is white.

JEREMY

You guys need to leave.

Makayla is terrified and rips her hand away. She and Jeremy stare into each other's eyes.

JEREMY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Leave.

MICHAEL

Dude, we are NOT leaving you like this.

Jeremy then goes silent. He looks towards the door. The others look back as well. A shadow figure walks through the door. The group looks at the shadow figure in shock. The figure then collapses into the group and disappears.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(terrified) What the hell was that?
DEVONTE I don't know but we need to leave.

Now.

MAKAYLA

Let's grab Jeremy and leave.

Makayla and Devonte go to grab Jeremy, but the shadow figure is now standing over him in his bed. The shadowy figure then materializes into The Plague.

THE PLAGUE

You're all mine now!

Makayla, Devonte, and Michael all scream and run towards the door.

MICHAEL

Come on! Open the fucking door!

DEVONTE

I can't!

The Plague takes off his mask revealing a hideous, demonic face. He puts a hand on Jeremy's face and leaves a mark which absorbs into his skin. He then begins to walk towards the other three at the door. He goes to mark each one of them and then they wake up. Michael in his bed and the rest of the group in their bedrooms. Makayla wakes up second. Their rooms are on the same floor and on the same side.

INT. MAKAYLA'S ROOM - NOON MAKAYLA AWAKENS IN A PANIC. SHE IS SWEATING AND SHAKING.

MAKAYLA

Oh my god. Was that all a dream?

Makayla hears knocking on her door. She slowly walks towards it and opens the door.

MICHAEL

Hey.

MAKAYLA

Hey, I had the weirdest dream.

MICHAEL

Yeah me too. I don't even remember going to bed.

MAKAYLA

What was yours about?

MICHAEL

Some weird doctor dude, the diner, and...

MAKAYLA

Jeremy.

MICHAEL

Yeah.

They both give each other a concerned look.

MAKAYLA

We should go check on Jeremy.

MICHAEL

We need to get Devonte first.

MAKAYLA

Okay, I'll go check on Jeremy and you go check on Devonte!

They split up and go to opposite ends of the hall. Makayla to the west, Michael to the south.

EXT. DEVONTE'S DORM - AFTERNOON

Michael arrives at Devonte's dorm. People are walking to and from their dorms to prepare for the day. He knocks on the door and doesn't get a response.

MICHAEL

(Yelling) Devonte! Devonte! Are you okay?

Devonte then opens the door. He is shirtless. His body covered in scratches and bites. He is bleeding from his lips and left nostril.

MICHAEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Oh my god. What the hell happened to you?!

DEVONTE

We need to go see Jeremy. Now.

Michael and Devonte head over to Jeremy's dorm.

EXT. JEREMY'S DORM - EVENING

Makayla arrives at Jeremy's dorm. It is quiet. No one is around and no noises are being made. Makayla knocks on the door. Nothing. She pounds harder this time. Nothing. She hears what sounds like faint whispers coming from the room. She puts her head against the door to hear more clearly. The whispers continue and then stop.

THE PLAGUE

You shouldn't have done that.

The Plague's hand phases through the door and grabs Makayla by the neck.

THE PLAGUE (CONT'D)

You're mine!

He continues to choke her. He lifts her up and walks through the door. She is dangling helplessly in the air. She is just about to pass out when a mysterious figure approaches beside The Plague and sprays him with what appears to be water. The Plague screams in agony. He turns to face the figure.

THE PLAGUE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

You!

The Plague fades into the floor and disappears. Makayla collapses to the ground.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

She's unconscious, but she'll live.

Jeremy comes out of the room. He is barely able to stand. He is covered in blood and breathing heavily. His knees are buckling under his own weight.

MYSTERIOUS FIGURE

Oh God. Not both of you.

JEREMY

You're the one I saw in my dream
two nights ago.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

You saw me?

JEREMY

Yes.

Jeremy finally collapses against the wall. His legs sprawled out. Michael and Devonte arrive and immediately rush over to Makayla. The MYSTERIOUS FIGURE now looms over Jeremy.

KYLE

My name is Kyle. I am affected by
The Plague as well. You aren't
alone Jeremy.

JEREMY

What are you talking about?

KYLE

You have to fight Jeremy. You can't
let him win. Trust me. I know how
hard it is.

Kyle helps Jeremy up and they head into Kyle's room, four doors down. Devonte and Michael carry Makayla to his room.

INT. KYLE'S ROOM - NIGHT

MICHAEL

Where the hell are all of the other
students?!

KYLE

We were in an illusion created by
The Plague.

DEVONTE

The who?

JEREMY

The Plague.

Michael lays Makayla on the far side of the bed while Kyle puts Jeremy in the chair by the desk against the wall.

Devonte sits against the door--paranoid someone might come.

Michael and Devonte look at each other confused and afraid. They then look at Makayla and Jeremy. Time slows down. All that is heard is their heartbeats.

Kyle continues to speak and after about thirty seconds, notices they aren't paying attention.

KYLE

Hey!

Michael and Devonte snap out of it.

KYLE (CONT'D)

You two need to listen to me if you want to help them!

MICHAEL

Yeah, I got it.

DEVONTE

Okay. What can we do?

Kyle looks around the room to gauge the situation.

KYLE

Michael.

MICHAEL

Yeah?

Kyle walks over to him and places a hand on his shoulder.

KYLE

Tonight, you have a very important job. You have to watch over Jeremy while he rests. Make sure NOTHING happens to him. He is very special.

Kyle walks towards Devonte.

MICHAEL

Special?

Kyle approaches Devonte. Kyle grabs his hands.

KYLE

Devonte, I need you to watch over Makayla.

DEVONTE

You got it.

Kyle moves toward the center of the room.

KYLE

You are all sleeping in here tonight. It's almost nightfall.

KYLE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

No one is leaving here until the morning. We'll take shifts. I'll set two alarms for you guys. First one is for Michael and the last one is for Devonte.

Michael and Devonte nod collectively. They each take their spots. Devonte sits on the bed by Makayla beside the door and Michael sits by Jeremy on the bed against the opposite side of the room. Kyle sits on a chair at the desk in the middle of the room with his feet resting on top of the chair.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Try to get some sleep, guys. I'll wake up the next watch in three hours.

Everyone falls asleep except for Kyle. He attentively scans the room, searching for any potential threat.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. DARK PRISON - NIGHT

Michael, Devonte, and Makayla awaken in the dark cell. They scan the room and fear consumes them. Their faces show this fear. They are shaking and quivering. Jeremy is standing at the door shouting muffled words. He hears noises behind him and turns around.

JEREMY

Oh no. You're not supposed to be here.