



LOVECRAFT COUNTRY



AMERICA'S
DEMONS
EXPOSED!

EPISODE #102
"WHITEY'S ON THE MOON"

WRITTEN BY
MISHA GREEN

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
MATT RUFF

DIRECTED BY
DAN SACKHEIM

PRODUCTION DRAFT 04/25/19
BLUE REVISION 06/27/19
PINK REVISION 07/02/19
YELLOW REVISION 07/15/19

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CAST LIST

ATTICUS FREEMAN

GEORGE FREEMAN

LETI LEWIS

DORA FREEMAN

MONTROSE FREEMAN

HANNA

CHRISTINA BRAITHWHITE

SAMUEL BRAITHWHITE

DELL

MEEH JI-AH

WILLIAM LOWE

RICH OLD WHITE MAN

ADAMITE STABLE BOY

ADAMITE MIDWIFE

ADAMITE VET

BUTLER

OLD MAN IN ORNATE ROBES

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SET LIST

INTERIORS

Ardham Lodge
George’s Suite
George’s Bathroom
Leti’s Suite
Atticus’s Suite
East Wing
Library
Samuel’s Lab
Viewing Room
West Wing
Entrance Hallway
North Wing
Stairway
Stone Silo
Dungeon

EXTERIORS

Ardham Village
Bridge
Stone Silo
Barn
Ardham Lodge
Veranda
Woods Surrounding Ardham

VEHICLES

Christina’s Bentley
Woody the Packard
Limousine(s)
Horse

The iconic jingle of Negro upward mobility, the THEME SONG from **THE JEFFERSONS (1975)**, plays over a MONTAGE of Our Heroes cleaning up in an OPULENT lodge --

"Well we're movin' on up, to the east side..."

1 **OMITTED**

THRU

3

1

THRU

3

4 **INT. "GEORGE'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

4

"To a deluxe apartment in the sky..."

GEORGE, fresh from a shower, wearing a LUXURIOUS ROBE, practically dances his way over to a massive BOOKCASE.

He browses the spines, delighted by every title. It's all LOVECRAFT COUNTRY -- *Blackwood, Hodgson, Smith.*

As he picks out EVERYTHING because he can't choose just one...

5 **INT. "LETI'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

5

"Movin' on up, to the east side..."

Leti, wrapped in a towel, dances her way over to a titanic WARDROBE. She throws it open. Lets out a little SCREAM of joy at the rows and rows of FANCY CLOTHES.

As she picks out EVERYTHING cause she can't choose just one...

6 **INT. "ATTICUS'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

6

"We finally got a piece of the pie..."

Atticus, barely cleaned up, ignoring both the wardrobe and bookcase, stalks his way over to the window. Unlike his companions, the events of the night before still weigh heavy in his eyes. He scans the grounds below like a soldier in enemy territory. Eyes DARKER. Determined --

SMASH TO TITLES:

L O V E C R A F T C O U N T R Y

7 **INT. WEST WING - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

7

A bell RINGS as Atticus steps into a hallway the size of George's entire apartment. And speaking of George --

GEORGE (O.S.)
That an alarm?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

He steps out of his suite as Atticus looks up and down the starkly EMPTY hallway lined in closed doors.

ATTICUS
Nobody seems alarmed.

GEORGE
You get your own library too? They've got Blackwood, Hodgson, Clark Ashton Smith. I could stay in there reading all day...

That's odd. Atticus's brow creases with concern --

ATTICUS
I wonder if that's the point --

GEORGE
Good Lord Letitia...

Leti steps out of her suite across the hall in an EQUESTRIAN ENSEMBLE worthy of a Gordon Parks fashion shoot. She spins --

LETI
You like? Found it and a lot more in the wardrobe. Tried on a few before settling on this.

ATTICUS
And they all fit?

LETI
Like a glove.

Also odd. Leti is unfazed as she runs a RIDING GLOVED hand down her hip with a devilish smile. Atticus doesn't share her giddiness. *How can she be so cavalier after last night's horrors?* A polite THROAT CLEARING startles them all --

WILLIAM has appeared right behind Atticus. *Where did he come from, and how long has he been standing there?*

WILLIAM
Mister Freeman. The elder Mister Freeman. Ms. Lewis. I'm glad you all were able to freshen up before the chime of the lunch bell.

Atticus sizes William up. Suspicious of this white man's honey smile and liquid demeanor...

8 **INT. NORTH WING - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

8

Our Heroes follow William as he twists and turns through the grand hallways. George and Leti take in the RUSTIC LUXURY. Dramatic NATURE SCENES -- white folks HUNTING, RIDING horses, or simply standing LOOKING AWED at landscapes -- are carved and painted onto every surface.

Atticus hasn't even noticed the decor. He's zeroed in on their tour guide --

ATTICUS
William, is it?

WILLIAM
That's correct, Mister Freeman. I wasn't sure you'd remember. You were a bit out of sorts when you arrived this morning.

Atticus brushes past William's faux-concern --

ATTICUS
When is my father expected to return from Boston?

WILLIAM
I'm afraid I've already told you everything I've been made privy to. When he left to see the lawyer with Ms. Braithwhite two nights ago, she gave no instruction on when they would return --

GEORGE
But we were expected?

WILLIAM
She made it very clear, I was to look out for all of you and treat you like family while you wait.

Atticus and George catch eyes. They did not miss William's extra emphasis on the word "family"...

9 **INT. STAIRWAY - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

9

William leads Our Heroes down a GRAND STAIRCASE --

LETI
What hotel are they staying at? We should call and check in.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

WILLIAM

Unfortunately, that's going to be impossible. Upon inheriting the land Samuel Braithwhite decided to use it for his summer home and never installed telephone lines so as not to be disturbed by the business that hounds him most of the year.

And again, odd. Our Heroes exchange glances. They don't believe anything this white man is selling them.

ATTICUS

And what business does he have with my father?

WILLIAM

I don't know. And it wouldn't be my place to say...

They pass an EXPANSIVE PORTRAIT towering over the foyer below -- a WHITE MAN in ORNATE ROBES stands in an ALCHEMIST'S LABORATORY.

GEORGE

That the Samuel Braithwhite you've been speaking of?

William pauses to look upon the portrait with REVERENCE --

WILLIAM

That, is a distant cousin of Samuel's, Ardham's founder, and the original owner of the lodge, Titus Braithwhite. He was quite an extraordinary man.

Atticus takes note of the SIGNET RING engraved with a HALF-SUN SYMBOL on Titus's ring finger.

GEORGE

He must have been to build himself such a impressive home. How did he come about his fortune?

WILLIAM

Shipping.

LETI

That's code for slaves.

William continues on with a POLITE LAUGH --

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

WILLIAM

Titus was known to be notoriously kind to those who worked for him. Many mourned after the great fire...

Recognition flits across George's face. Memories flickering --

GEORGE

There was a fire?

WILLIAM

Yes, what we're standing in is a replica of the original lodge which burned down during the autumnal equinox of 1833. It was an unfortunate accident that killed Titus and everyone inside.

(then:)

Well, almost everyone...

George's REACTION to William's coy correction is subtle. It slows him just a bit. He's heard this story before...

10 **EXT. VERANDA - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

10

A lavish 10 COURSE LUNCH waits on a dining table. But everyone's focus is on the SPECTACULAR VIEW. All of Ardham laid out before them. Sparkling in the summer sun.

Atticus doesn't marvel. The size of Ardham is daunting to a man searching for his missing father --

ATTICUS

After lunch we'd like to take a walk around the village. That won't be a problem will it?

WILLIAM

Of course not. The Adamites are good natured folk...

Leti and George exchange a look. *The hell is an Adamite?* William pulls a seat out at the table for Leti --

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Now, if you need anything else, anything at all, just ring the bell, and the butler will come running.

LETI

I thought you were the butler.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

WILLIAM

No. Just a close personal friend of
Christina Braithwhite.

He sends Leti a SUGGESTIVE SMILE that does not sit well with --

ATTICUS

Does that silver Bentley out front
belong to Ms. Braithwhite?

WILLIAM

Yes. But she owns many cars.

And with an easy answer for everything, William disappears
as quickly as he appeared. Once they're alone, Atticus jumps
straight into high gear --

ATTICUS

When have you ever showed up at a
white man's house uninvited and they
haven't tried to get you out in 2.5
seconds?

GEORGE

They want to keep us here.

ATTICUS

And I don't want to find out why. I
know Pop's around here somewhere.

GEORGE

He's definitely not in Boston --

DING! DING! DING! Leti's ringing the BUTLER'S BELL.
Atticus throws her a wild look. *What the hell?*

LETI

What? I need salt. You know white
folks don't be seasoning their food.

ATTICUS

What's wrong with you? First you
parading around like you're on the
cover of Hue. And now...

Atticus trails off as a staid BUTLER comes out with SALT and
PEPPER on a tray. Once he's gone --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

How can you even eat after what
happened last night?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

Leti opens her mouth to retort, but...nothing comes out.
Jumbled memories cycle through her head --

LETI
Because I...don't remember what
happened --

ATTICUS
You serious? We were attacked.

LETI
By the sheriff...?

ATTICUS
By monsters.

His conviction is met with SHOCK and DISBELIEF --

LETI
What monsters...?

ATTICUS
The pale, eight foot tall beasts
with razor sharp teeth that can bite
a man's head off. You're telling me
you don't remember them?

And odd doesn't even begin to describe it anymore. Leti's
CONFUSION and UNEASINESS is mirrored in George's expression --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Uncle George?

GEORGE
The last thing I remember is cleaning
up in the lodge this morning --

ATTICUS
No. You got knocked out in the fight,
but you have to remember the monsters
attacking the cabin --

GEORGE
What cabin?

ATTICUS
The cabin in the woods that was
surrounded. Then there was this
high pitched whistle that called
them off --

LETI
Like a dog whistle?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

ATTICUS

No. These weren't dogs. Don't you remember crashing Woody? After I shot the sheriff --

Whooooooaaaa. Hold up. Leti's heart drops out of her chest --

LETI

You shot the sheriff.

Atticus reads the ALARM in both Leti and George's eyes now --

ATTICUS

I had to. He got bit by those things. They're like vampires. Uncle George you quoted Dracula --

George is barely listening to his nephew, because --

GEORGE

We're being watched.

That's a party-stopper. Atticus and Leti's eyes follow George's to -- a SHADOWY FIGURE looming in a lodge window!

A quick, unspoken decision. Our Heroes pick up their silverware and "eat lunch". Keeping their voices low --

ATTICUS

Take Leti and search the lodge for Pop, I'll check down in the village --

LETI

No. We shouldn't split up --

GEORGE

She's right. We stay together, and we be discreet. They're treating us real nice right now, we don't want to give them a reason to do otherwise.

Atticus can't dispute that logic. He settles in...as best he can. Eyes George and Leti as he shoves food around his plate. *Why the fuck don't they remember last night?*

11 **EXT. FRONT DRIVE - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

11

Our Heroes move with purpose past a DOZEN PARKING STALLS. Barely glancing at the EXPENSIVE CARS inside.

But as they come upon the last stall, they stop in their tracks, FLOORED by the sight of -- a PRISTINE WOODY parked inside of it!

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

GEORGE

You said it was crashed...

Atticus can't believe it. There's not one dent. Not one.

ATTICUS

It was. This can't be Woody.

Leti peers through the passenger window --

LETI

My camera's in the front seat.

GEORGE

And the back window's busted out.

George and Leti catch worried eyes. If they weren't doubting Atticus's monster claims before, they definitely are now.

WILLIAM (O.S.)

The elder Mister Freeman, your keys.

He's somehow appeared behind George. Hands him the KEYS to the Packard. Atticus is still not ready to accept the evidence right in his face, and growing more AGITATED --

ATTICUS

How did this get here?

WILLIAM

I found it parked on the other side of the bridge leading into the village --

ATTICUS

That's not possible. It was crashed --

WILLIAM

I assure you, I drove it up just like I found it...

He trails off. Like he's just remembered something else he doesn't want to say. Atticus jumps on it --

ATTICUS

What? What aren't you telling us?

William throws a glance George and Leti's way before venturing --

WILLIAM

There was quite a bit of blood in the front seat. I had the butler wash it out. I assume that was the trouble you ran into on the road?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2) 11

He's fishing for details on last night, but Atticus isn't going to take the bait. He moves past George and Leti --

ATTICUS

Let's go.

Leti shoots George a wary look. He shrugs. *What are they gonna do but follow?* As she grabs her CAMERA out of Woody...

12 **EXT. ARDHAM - DAY** 12

Atticus scans the open windows of Cottages they pass. Paranoid. Determined. A soldier in enemy territory.

Leti and George trail behind him. She takes a few SNAPS of the ADAMITES quietly going about their chores without so much as a glance Our Heroes way. Creepy.

George picks up a METAL LATCH discarded on the ground. Pockets it. Off Leti's look --

GEORGE

Could be a good nose for the robot Dee's building.

A beat. Leti's eyes drift to Atticus. She lowers her voice --

LETI

Can I ask you something? Did Atticus kill a lot of people in the war?

George is immediately on his nephew's defense --

GEORGE

Anything he did was in service of our country --

LETI

I know. But Woody wasn't crashed like he said it was, it was covered in blood.

GEORGE

None of this makes any sense. Why can't either of us remember anything that happened?

LETI

I'm trying to. But this monster business...

George sighs. He knows. It's crazy.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

LETI (CONT'D)

A lot of soldiers came back from the war with shell shock. Maybe whatever Atticus did to the sheriff was so horrible none of us wanted to remember --

ATTICUS

This isn't shell shock. I know what I saw last night...

George and Leti exchange a look. Shit. They thought they were being discreet. George steps toward his nephew --

GEORGE

Hold up now, we're just worried about you, that's all. What you said happened just doesn't make any sense --

ATTICUS

You know what else doesn't? A book case full of your favorite books and a wardrobe full of clothes in Leti's exact size. Can you explain any of --

A FAMILIAR HIGH PITCH WHISTLE pierces the air. Atticus's ADRENALINE spikes --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

That's the whistle that called off the monsters...

13 **EXT. STONE SILO - ARDHAM - DAY**

13

A pack of GERMAN SHEPHERDS jump on a WHITE WOMAN (DELL, 30's) with a DOG WHISTLE. She's not dressed in the simple clothes of the Adamites, she looks more like a grounds keeper.

She doesn't see Atticus approaching until he's in her face --

ATTICUS

Were you in the woods last night?

WILD. COMBATIVE. The German Shepherds respond in kind, baring their teeth and BARKING FEROCIOUSLY at Atticus.

DELL

Who the hell are you?

ATTICUS

What's that whistle really for?

Leti arrives. Grabs Atticus by the arm. Dragging him away --

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

LETTI
Tic, stop. Back off --

George steps into the growing space between his nephew and Dell & her Dogs --

GEORGE
I'm sorry for my nephew, ma'am. He hasn't been right since the war. Please call your dogs off --

DELL
My dogs aren't the ones that need to be on a leash --

GEORGE
We're guests of Mr. Braithwhite.

Dell waves her German Shepherd's off. They simmer into LOW GROWLS. Scrutinizing George along with their master.

DELL
You don't look like the type to be Braithwhite's guests.

George looks to the stone edifice they're in the shadow of. It looks out of place among the provincial wooden cottages.

GEORGE
Are you the sheriff?

DELL
What makes you think that?

GEORGE
This is a jail, right?

Dell LAUGHS. The sound of which makes her German Shepherds BARK in unison. As if they're one mind. Also, creepy.

DELL
We get animals coming into the village. Raccoons, foxes, bears now and then. They can break into the cottages, but not in here.

She drags open the front door. Gestures for George to take a look. He peeks in -- a variety of bloody animal CARCASSES dangle from THICK CHAINS hanging from the ceiling.

GEORGE
We heard about the grizzlies in the surrounding woods.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

DELL
No grizzlies, just black bears. But
the blacks are bad enough.

The German Shepherds crowd through the door and GROWL and
fight over a BLOODY DEER LEG on the stone floor.

DELL (CONT'D)
They're smart. Not smart smart,
they're beasts, but clever enough to
cause mischief. And they're
persistent. Always sticking their
noses where they don't belong.

George locks eyes with Dell. *Is she still just talking about
bears, or...?*

DELL (CONT'D)
I suggest you all head back up to
the lodge before the sun goes down.

She disappears into the Silo as George takes it in... *

14 **OMITTED**

14

15 **EXT. WOODS SURROUNDING - ARDHAM - DAY**

15

The SUN dips below the horizon as FOG creeps through the
trees. Our Heroes move with purpose, on a shortcut back
towards the lodge -- *

GEORGE
The inside of that silo has a stone
foundation, which means a dungeon-
like basement. *

Leti runs with George's ball -- *

LETI
And all that barking, you wouldn't
be able to hear someone if they were
screaming for help... *

Atticus nods. Puts a fine point on it -- *

ATTICUS
Once we spring pop we have to make a
quick getaway. Be gone before they
start burning crosses. *

George slows. Something about the woods beyond the river
troubles him. *Is he remembering the monster attack?* *

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

LETTI
We need something faster than Woody.

ATTICUS
And we're going to have to steal it.

Atticus notices George has fallen behind --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Uncle George, what is it?

George hesitates. Chooses his words carefully --

GEORGE
A recollection. Something your mother
told me a long time ago about her
ancestors.

ATTICUS
Wait, what? She never told Pop or
me anything about her people, but
she told you?

A flash of GUILT flits across George's features. *His secret history with Atticus's mother.* But he plays it cool --

GEORGE
I think she was just ashamed of it.
She told me her great-ancestor was a
slave named Hanna. And that she
escaped her master's house after a
fire.

That bomb lands. It can't just be a coincidence with the
lodge fire. Atticus is putting the pieces together --

ATTICUS
The secret birthright Pop wrote
about...

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

GEORGE

Titus Braithwhite was known for being notoriously "kind" to his slaves.

Leti looks to the darkening woods --

LETI

If Hanna ran through these woods pregnant, she must have been a brave woman.

SUDDENLY -- there's a TREMBLING in the trees. The dirt BUBBLES UP. Something's underneath the ground. And that something is coming right for them!

LETI (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

The realization hits Atticus. *They're like vampires.* He looks to the sun. It's disappeared almost completely.

*
*

ATTICUS

RUN!

They turn to do just that, but -- something in the opposite direction BURROWS fast towards them as well, and -- TWO "SHOGGOTHS" BURST through the dirt, TRAPPING them!

A FAMILIAR HIGH PITCH WHISTLE has the "Shoggoths" FREEZING, inches from tearing Our Heroes heads off. They turn to see

CHRISTINA BRAITHWHITE

on HORSEBACK. BONE WHISTLE between her lips. She blows it again. The "Shoggoths" RETREAT back into the ground. She's controlling them.

Which means she's the one that saved Our Heroes when they were surrounded last night. But that means little to Atticus as he glares at her. And even less to George and Leti as they continue to FREAK THE FUCK OUT. Monsters are real.

Dell arrives with her German Shepards in tow, but Christina doesn't take her liquid gaze off Atticus --

CHRISTINA

Escort the younger Mr. Freeman to my father's lab...

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3) 15

As she turns on a dime, riding off with a privilege born of never having to command twice --

GEORGE
Why are we covered in dirt...?

CONFUSION on George and Leti's faces as they search their memories. Then a sudden, sobering fear grips them both --

LETI
It happened again, didn't it?

And it's about this time Atticus realizes -- they don't remember anything that happened with the "Shoggoths" AGAIN!

DELL
Shut it and let's move...

16 **OMITTED** 16
AND AND
17 17

18 **INT. SAMUEL'S LAB - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT** 18

HORRIFIC SCREAMS echo off the GLASS DOMED CEILING as Dell ushers Atticus into what looks like FRANKENSTEIN'S LABORATORY.

Moonlight illuminates a WHITE MAN splayed open on an examination table being BUTCHERED by an OLD MAN wearing ORNATE ROBES like the ones Titus wore in his portrait.

It's a MACABRE sight.

But you wouldn't know that if you just saw Christina preparing herself a martini at the BAR. She's wildly bored.

Atticus blinks back REVULSION as the Robed Man removes a piece of the Screaming Man's LIVER...

19 **INT. "GEORGE'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT** 19

George quickly throws on some CLEAN CLOTHES as a BOOK on the bookcase catches his eye -- ***THE HOUSE ON THE BORDERLANDS*** by ***WILLIAM HOPE HODGSON***. Nothing strange about that, except -- the GOLD HALF-SUN embossed on its spine.

He pulls the Book out, and -- the bookcase SPLITS, REVEALING -- a SECRET PASSAGEWAY!

20 **INT. LIBRARY - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT** 20

A BOOKCASE splits, and -- George steps from the dark passageway.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

His jaw dropping as he takes in the endless STACKS. *Where to even begin?*

He moves to a WEATHERED RED BOOK laid out on a table --

BY-LAWS & PRECEPTS OF THE ORDER OF THE ANCIENT DAWN.

His expression runs the gamut -- CONFUSION to QUIET AWE to DELIGHT -- as his eyes hopscotch over the words...

21 **INT. SAMUEL'S LAB - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

21

The Robed Man puts the last stitch into the no longer Screaming Man's side, then turns to Atticus right where we left him. Liver on ice in hand. Atticus straightens. Ready for Samuel Braithwhite to finally address him, but --

The Robed Man walks right past Atticus and out the door without a glance his way. Atticus is confused as hell, until --

SAMUEL (O.S.)

He's darker than I expected.

The Man on the table -- the one who was just screaming his head off is SAMUEL BRAITHWHITE (50's)!

Atticus swallows his surprise as Samuel rises. A hand clutched at his stitched side.

CHRISTINA

Let me help you --

He waves her off like a buzzing fly --

SAMUEL

You've already helped me enough.

Atticus notes the tension between these two as Samuel uses the table for support to shuffle around to a PAINTING on the wall. He orates to no one in particular --

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

This here is one of my favorite paintings. The artist, Josef Tannhauser, entitled it, "Genesis 2:19". Are either of you familiar with the verse?

Christina looks to Atticus. He shrugs. She ruefully recites --

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

CHRISTINA

"And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof."

Atticus clocks TEN NAMES -- TITUS BRAITHWHITE, HORATIO WINTHROP, JOSEF TANNHAUSER, etc. -- carved into the frame around the painting. *Who are all these men?*

SAMUEL

In Tannhauser's conception, this act of naming is more than a simple matter of picking labels. Adam is sharing in creation, assigning each creature its final form and its station in the hierarchy of nature. What does that mean, Christina? What did Adam do?

Christina takes a slow sip of her martini. Silently defiant.

ATTICUS

He put everything in its place.

Samuel doesn't acknowledge him. Stares at the painting like it holds all the answers --

SAMUEL

At the dawn of time just for a moment, everything was where and as it should be, from God, to man, to woman down to the lowliest wriggling creature. It was Nirvana --

CHRISTINA

And then that stupid, meddling, troublemaking bitch Eve brought entropy and death. Paradise is lost. Babel. The Flood. What was an elegant hierarchy became a mess of tribes and nations. Of course, it didn't really happen that way.

Samuel shoots her a withering look as she continues --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Biblical literalism is for the simple. But I'm sure everyone in this room is aware of that.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

SAMUEL

It's still a useful parable for both
of you --

ATTICUS

Let me guess, you're God in this
useful parable.

Samuel's focus shifts to Atticus now. His eyes boring into
him for what seems like an eternity, then --

SAMUEL

I'm Adam. And I've worked a very
long time to return to paradise. My
daughter seems to believe you can
help in my aims. But as you can
see, there's little we agree on.

ATTICUS

Then show me where I can find my
father and I'll leave you and the
rest of your followers to your
religious fanaticism.

A lethal beat. Samuel darkens noticeably as he sizes Atticus
up. Finally he turns to his daughter --

SAMUEL

I don't want to see him again until
the ceremony at dawn...

22 **OMITTED**

22

23 **INT. WEST WING - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

23

The TENSE SILENCE between Atticus and Christina grows as she
escorts him. Finally she can't contain her curiosity --

CHRISTINA

Way to buck the stereotype. That
all Negro men are loud. Aggressive.
Monster-like...

She watches that last part play across Atticus's features.
Expecting some reaction. But Atticus gives her nothing.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

You must have so many questions...

ATTICUS

Why bother? None of the ones I've
already asked have been answered.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Not by your father, or what is the other guy -- your boyfriend...

CHRISTINA

William. And yes he's a boy. And a friend. Sometimes.

Christina smiles to herself. An inside joke. Then --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Your father is safe down in the village. And he'll remain that way as long as you don't do anything else to anger mine...

RELIEF floods Atticus as they pass a group of RICH OLD WHITE MEN (50+). Christina sends them a slight, pasted on smile --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Gentlemen...

Atticus clocks the sneers the Old White Men send Christina. There's no love for her here either. As they continue on --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

My father may have looked feeble upstairs, but he, along with the rest of the lodge members arriving, can be very dangerous enemies. You should think about making some friends. Not all us white folks are out to get you...

They cross the closed doors to George and Leti's suites --

ATTICUS

I have enough friends.

CHRISTINA

Are you sure about that? Your uncle and Leti seem to think you lost your marbles in the war.

ATTICUS

That's because you all did something. To make them forget.

CHRISTINA

"Did something?" How vague.

Atticus crosses the threshold into his suite. Turns back to face Christina. And he knows it's wild, but --

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

ATTICUS

It's a spell. Seems the KKK isn't just calling themselves grand wizards anymore.

CHRISTINA

My father and his associates would never fraternize with the Klan. They're too poor. And the spell wasn't specifically for your companions, rather for anyone that encounters our little guard dogs and lives to tell about it...

She corrects herself much in the way William did --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Well, actually, that's the point, that they don't tell about it. Discretion is key in these matters.

Atticus narrows his eyes at Christina. *Why is she being so forthcoming with answers?*

ATTICUS

You want to be friends? Fine. That's going to take actions not promises.

CHRISTINA

And getting you out of trouble in Simonsville as well as last night wasn't enough --

ATTICUS

We're in trouble now --

CHRISTINA

I can't take you to your father --

ATTICUS

Then remove the spell on my uncle and Leti.

CHRISTINA

Done.

SUDDENLY -- a BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM from Leti's room. The trauma of a flood of disturbing memories coming back at once!

Atticus instinctually moves to help Leti, but -- he SLAMS up against an INVISIBLE WALL when he tries to cross the threshold of his room. *What the fuck?* He looks to the door frame -- STRANGE SYMBOLS are carved into it.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (3)

23

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
He didn't trust me to keep you out
of trouble...

As the door SLAMS in Atticus's face, an ADAMITE STABLE BOY
runs down the hall, breathless --

ADAMITE STABLE BOY
Ms. Braithwhite, it's time...

Christina explodes into purpose. On a DEAD RUN --

24 **OMITTED**

24

25 **EXT. SIDE OF A - BARN - NIGHT**

25

Moonlight falls on Christina as she runs through a field
towards a group of ADAMITES circling a -- COW IN LABOR.

ADAMITE VET
You wanted us to tell you when there
was a breach --

Christina rolls up the sleeves of her expensive dress --

CHRISTINA
What do I do?

ADAMITE VET
You have to reach in and pull the
calf out or both will die.

Christina does this how she does everything -- with INTENSITY
and HONESTY. She gets between the Cow's legs. Digs in --

ADAMITE MIDWIFE
Pull! Pull! Harder!

It's a STRUGGLE. Bloody viscous everywhere. Finally --
Christina wrenches the BABY CALF from its mother's womb.
Holds it in her arms as it GASPS its first breath, and --

She cries TEARS of pure joy.

She holds the Calf like a newborn baby. Flushed. Smiling.
This was a personal triumph for her.

ADAMITE VET
Have you done this before?

There's a devilish SPARK in her eyes --

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

CHRISTINA
No. It's my first time...

26 **OMITTED** 26

27 **INT. "LETI'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT** 27

Leti's got her SWITCHBLADE out. Attempting to pick the lock. FRUSTRATION mounting. It's not working. SUDDENLY -- the handle JIGGLES from the other side. Someone's coming in.

Leti hides beside the massive wardrobe. Switchblade in a death grip. Her heart in her throat as someone enters the room. As she jumps out to get the drop on them, REVEAL -- it's Atticus! Leti goes weak with RELIEF. Embraces him --

LETI
I'm sorry. I remember now. I should have believed you...

She's SHAKING with adrenaline. All the fear she was keeping tamped down surfacing --

LETI (CONT'D)
The door's locked. I was trying to get to you and George --

ATTICUS
I know. I know. It's okay. Let's just sit down for a second.

He leads her to sit on the bed. The door closing behind him --

LETI
No. We need to get out of here --

ATTICUS
They've got us trapped, but I'm going to figure a way out. I promise.

Leti drinks that in. And more than anything else, she BELIEVES it. She folds into him. Head to chest. They stay like that. Soaking comfort from each other.

Her eyes drift to the STAINED GLASS WINDOW. A chill runs down her spine as she takes in the bizarrely LURID depiction -- Adam and Eve fuck beneath a half-pink rising sun of ancient dawn. No fig leaves. And Adam's penis is a SERPENT.

LETI
The bible is full of demons. And monsters. But they're just stories. They have to be, because...

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Monsters are real. The FEAR takes her breath away.

ATTICUS

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me...

Leti REACTS like she's just been slapped in the face, the details slowly coming back to her --

LETI

I said that last night...

ATTICUS

Before doing one of the bravest things I've ever seen to save us.

LETI

I can't believe I even remember that verse. The last time I said it I was a kid and...

She stills. Memories flickering. "Going there."

ATTICUS

And what?

LETI

Terrified. My momma would leave me by myself all the time. Say she was going to church but even then I knew that was a lie. But she always came home. Usually with some new man hanging on her arm. Until one day she didn't. And a week went by.

The anger softens now --

LETI (CONT'D)

I was scared she wasn't going to come back. And I was so little, I didn't know how to take care of myself. Ruby had already run away by then...

She swallows the emotion threatening, then --

LETI (CONT'D)

I sat in the window of that boarding house everyday and said that verse like a prayer for her to come back. It was the only one I could remember from Sunday school.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

ATTICUS

I'm never going to abandon you.

It's soft, but urgent. And it lands, wobbling them both. Atticus lightly kisses her forehead. Then her cheek. Down her neck. As they share their FIRST KISS...

28 **INT. "ATTICUS'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

28

TAP! TAP! TAP! DRIFT ACROSS the empty room to the sound of RHYTHMIC THUMPING...to find -- Atticus TAPPING against the adjoining wall to George's room.

Let that sink in -- Atticus is NOT in Leti's room!

TAPTAPTAP! SLAP! A palm to the wall signals an end, and at this point we realize -- Atticus is communicating through the wall using MORSE CODE. As he considers his next sentence --

SCRRCH! SCRRCH! A SCRATCHING from the wardrobe. As Atticus cautiously moves towards it -- *CLICK!* From inside. He's in COMBAT MODE in an instant. Dives out of the way as --

BLAMBLAMBLAMBLAM! Bullet holes pierce the wardrobe as a gun fires from inside. The bullet riddled doors burst open, and -- JI-AH comes out in U.S. ARMY FATIGUES with GUNS blazing!

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

Atticus DUCKS, DIVES, and SCRAMBLES as she fires everything she's got at him. Finally her guns click EMPTY, and -- he comes right at her. Disarms her in two moves, pinning her arms behind her back in a bear hug, faces inches apart --

ATTICUS

Ji-ah, stop --

She screams at him in the LANGUAGE OF ADAM --

JI-AH

Die.

SMASH! She head butts him. Stunned, he lets her go, and -- she pulls a SERRATED ARMY KNIFE!

As they go at each other, locked in mortal combat...

29 **INT. "GEORGE'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

29

George has PEN and NOTE PAD in hand. Ear to the wall. Waiting to transcribe Atticus's next message --

BANG! George recoils. That was more than a Morse Code tap. It sounded like Atticus's entire body slamming against the wall. Before George can puzzle over that --

A BRIGHT LIGHT falls through the window. He shades his eyes to see a HALOED FIGURE. She steps forward, REVEALING -- it's Atticus's mother DORA!

Glowing just like in the picture George has secreted in his wallet. He goes to her. Breathless. In wonder. It's all he can do. He reaches to caress her face, but stops short --

GEORGE

This isn't real.

Dora touches his chest, gives him a wane smile --

DORA

Dance with me anyway.

He puts his arms around her. And the atmosphere is charged. A dancing heat between them that electrifies the air...

30 **INT. "LETI'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

30

Leti's kiss with "Not Atticus" grows deeper. SUDDENLY -- he pulls away. Stands in front of her. Takes off his shirt --

LETI

Tic, wait...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

But he doesn't. He goes to unzip his pants. Leti TENSES up. Sensing now that something has changed in Atticus --

LETI (CONT'D)

Stop. What are you doing --

But he doesn't stop. He pulls down his pants, REVEALING --
HE'S GOT A SERPENT WHERE HIS PENIS SHOULD BE!

Just like the depiction in the stained glass window. Leti recoils -- HORRIFIED. As she scrambles away, the Serpent snapping at her...

31 **INT. "ATTICUS'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE NIGHT**

31

Atticus and Ji-ah are still in a KNOCK DOWN, DRAG OUT FIGHT. He's slashed up from the knife, but it's hand to hand combat now. Moves and counter moves. Bloody Palms and fists.

ATTICUS

I don't want to hurt you --

Ji-ah is a rush of unfiltered hatred, hissing at him in the Language of Adam --

JI-AH

Diediediediediedie...

Atticus gets Ji-ah pinned on the bed. STRANGLES her. CHOKING the life out of her. And it's BRUTAL hard work.

ATTICUS

I'm not...going...to die.

Fierce now. No mercy. There's something scary in his eyes. A window into the kind of soldier Atticus was in the war...

32 **INT. "GEORGE'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

32

There's no violence here as George and Dora DANCE. Slow and deliberate. His hand on the small of her back. Her head on on his shoulder. Lost in each other.

DORA

What are you thinking about?

GEORGE

"The House on the Borderlands."

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Dora laughs. Soft and delicate --

DORA

You do love your stories. What's this one about?

GEORGE

A man who finds a mysterious home in the "plain of silence" where he fights humanoid piglike creatures before he goes to the "sea of sleep" where he reunites with his long lost love.

She nods. *Ahhhhh, there's the similarity.*

DORA

Do the lovers stay together forever?

GEORGE

Yes. But only because the house collapses on them.

She draws closer to George. A sense of yearning. A sense of a fiery and complex history.

DORA

I was thinking about you. And Montrose. Tulsa. How we used to drink soda pop on your porch and play that "what if" game. What if you could go anywhere in the world? What if you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life? What if magic were real?

George is transported to the past just by her words. He's consumed by memory. A flicker of deep shame in his eyes --

GEORGE

Montrose wanted super strength...

DORA

And you wanted to fly. That could all be possible now. You could actually fly with your children...

Your children. *Is George more than just an uncle to Atticus?* Tears well in George's eyes as she leans in to kiss him, but he stops her. Places a gentle kiss on her forehead instead --

GEORGE

You're not real...

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2) 32

As he turns his back on "Not Dora", DRIFT towards a PORTRAIT on the far wall, and THROUGH it...

33 **INT. VIEWING ROOM - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT** 33

...to find a **DOZEN RICH WHITE MEN (50+)** eating HORS D'OEUVRES and drinking COCKTAILS. Taking a perverse pleasure in what they've just witnessed as they watch Our Heroes through ONE-WAY MIRRORS --

1) Christina is the only one at George's window as he zeros in on the portrait. Has he figured out they're watching?
Dora is gone.

2) A few of Samuel's Guests are at Atticus's window as he breathes heavily from exertion, a rabid animal, staring wild-eyed at his murderous hands. Ji-ah is gone.

3) The bulk of Samuel's Guests are at Leti's window as she presses into a corner, brandishing her Switchblade with a shaky hand. "Not Atticus" is gone.

As the dinner bell RINGS out, dragging us to...

34 **INT. WEST WING - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT** 34

The doors to Our Heroes suites OPEN. A beat. Another. George appears. Then Atticus. And finally Leti. They can't meet each other's eye. Shamed by what they experienced.

WILLIAM (O.S.)

Dinner will be served in fifteen minutes...

Once again, he's popped up out of no where. His cheeriness in stark contrast to our cowed Heroes --

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Attire is black tie only, and unfortunately Ms. Lewis, it is also men only. However, it's a beautiful night to dine on the veranda.

Atticus's concerned eyes turn to Leti, but she shies away from his look.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

I will return shortly to provide escort.

And once again, William disappears as quickly as he appeared. Atticus looks to his uncle. Nerves shredded. George is on the same wavelength --

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

GEORGE

You okay?

No. Not really. But Atticus covers as best as he can --

ATTICUS

Who did they make you see?

George hesitates. Considers telling the truth, then --

GEORGE

It doesn't matter. They're just trying to get in our heads.

He's trying to convince himself as much as Atticus and Leti. It's a failing effort. Atticus looks at his murderous hands --

ATTICUS

Something happened, during the war. Something bad...

George looks between his nephew and Leti. They're drowning in the moment. He steels himself. Grabs Atticus's hands. Getting eye contact --

GEORGE

Don't. You know who you are. You were a good boy, and you're an even better man. Don't you ever let them make you question yourself.

He reaches out and takes Leti's hand as well --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

That's how they win. They make us feel crazy. Terrorize us. Keep us scared. But Letitia fucking Lewis doesn't get scared, does she?

Atticus and Leti absorb George's words, their RESOLVE returning --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

That's right. Now I've come across something that just might get us out of here...

35 **INT. SAMUEL'S LAB - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

35

CANDLELIGHT dances off the shadows. The laboratory has been cleared. Small TABLES surround a massive DINING TABLE. SAMUEL'S GUESTS chat and sip cocktails in their respective seats. Those not at the main table eye it enviously.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

SILENCE viruses through the room as William leads Atticus and George in. They look dapper in their TUXEDOS, but that's the last thing on their minds as the rich white men openly stare. Even the ones trying not to stare are staring.

Atticus clocks they're all wearing the same SIGNET RING Titus Braithwhite wore in his portrait. As William sits them at the only empty table in a corner --

WILLIAM

Don't mind the others. Just because they don't want you here, doesn't mean you're not supposed to be.

Atticus and George absorb that. Confirmation of a sinking suspicion. The candle light FLICKERS as Samuel enters in ceremonial robes. The living embodiment of Titus in his portrait. He moves with casual menace --

SAMUEL

We all know the true meaning of sacrifice. Every man in this room has made an offering to push the world forward. A lost and wayward world we have dedicated our lives to righting.

William disappears into the shadows as Samuel looks around the room. His eyes pause for just a second on Atticus and George, but if their presence bothers him, he makes no sign --

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Our founder, Titus Braithwhite, was a son of a son, and we all follow in his image as he followed in the first son's. As Adam gave of his rib to create Eve, so did Titus give of himself to empower the founding members of the order. Tonight, on the precipice of great progress, I honor him, by giving of myself.

BUTLERS enter with plates of a raw, burgundy MEAT on a bed of lettuce. SAMUEL TARTAR. Atticus whispers to George as plates are set in front of them --

ATTICUS

Don't eat that.

As the Sons of Adam partake, a few GAGGING, and one even VOMITING on his plate and re-eating it --

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

SAMUEL

Tomorrow will truly be the dawn of a new era. Thank you all for coming to witness --

George's chair scrapes against the floor as he stands --

GEORGE

No need to thank us. We didn't want to be here.

Samuel looks at him. A lethal moment. Atticus steels himself as his uncle continues --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I understand you all belong to a club called the Order of Ancient Dawn. I happened across your by-laws earlier this evening.

SURPRISE floods the room as George continues --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Now I've got some experience with fraternal societies being apart of the Prince Hall Freemasons myself. Anyone know who Prince Hall was?

He looks around. Nothing but BLANK STARES. He goes on, commanding the room much in the way Samuel did --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

He was an abolitionist who joined the Massachusetts militia to fight for independence. And he wanted to join the local Freemasons, but Tic, remind me why he wasn't allowed in?

ATTICUS

Because he was a colored man.

GEORGE

I was not surprised to learn from your by-laws that your order wouldn't have admitted Prince Hall either. But then I kept reading, and I found there's a loophole. Men who are direct descendants of Titus are automatically members.

A DISRUPTIVE MURMUR rises, but George presses on --

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (3)

35

GEORGE (CONT'D)

In fact, they're not just any old members, they're what's called Sons among Sons. And as you all know, they can give orders to other regular ole' members.

Atticus soaks in the NERVOUSNESS permeating the room --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

And seeing as I believe my nephew might just be the last blood heir of Titus Braithwhite...

The Sons of Adam are in an UPROAR as Atticus stands --

ATTICUS

I want everyone except Samuel to get up, and get the fuck out.

Nobody moves. You can hear a pin drop in the room. A beat. Another. It seems George has made a grave mistake, then --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, that's an order.

One by one, the Sons of Adam rise from their seats. And all begrudgingly exit. Just Atticus, George, and a very pissed off Samuel left. Atticus levels him with a satisfied glare --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I order you to turn my father over to me.

Samuel removes his robe. His attire looks like an inventor in the Edison mold. Not a grand wizard of any sort.

SAMUEL

I'm not a zealot, Mister Freeman. The limits of my belief in tradition and ceremony stop at the fact that the others believe it.

As he hangs the robe --

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Titus used the Book of Names to spell his body to be more powerful and you're a reservoir of that power. Diluted no doubt, and also tainted somewhat, but still useful for the work I have to do. Do not confuse useful with indispensable.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (4) 35

And with that, he leaves. A beat of TRIUMPH between Atticus and George, then --

ATTICUS

What now?

GEORGE

We get Letitia, let them think we're holed up in my suite, and we use the secret passageway behind the bookcase to escape...

36 **OMITTED** 36

A37 **INT. STONE SILO - ARDHAM - NIGHT** A37

Atticus BUSTS down the door with George in tow. Fuck being discreet. They move for the stairs down to the...

37 **INT. DUNGEON - STONE SILO - NIGHT** 37

...only to find it EMPTY. Just a cot. Mice eating at a plate of molded food. And a bucket of piss. No Montrose. George picks up a scratched up FLASK --

GEORGE

This is his...

DELL (O.S.)

Just like I thought...

She steps out of the shadows at the top of the stairs, SHOTGUN aimed right at them --

DELL (CONT'D)

A bunch of dumb animals who don't know enough to stop fighting when they're already snared.

Dell's focus is all on Atticus and George. She doesn't notice -- Leti sneaking through the door with a SHOVEL in hand.

DELL (CONT'D)

My dogs will get a nice treat tonight...

Her finger curls around the trigger, but -- Leti KNOCKS her the fuck out with the shovel! As she tumbles down the stairs to land in a heap at Atticus and George's feet --

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

LETTI
Where's Montrose?

ATTICUS
They must have moved him to the lodge.
Or he's...

The word Atticus can't bring himself to say is "dead." While his nephew is semi-spiraling, George's mind is turning --

GEORGE
The Count of Monte Cristo.

ATTICUS
Pop's favorite book...?

What does that have to do with anything? George moves to the stone wall. Feels around it until he finds some loose stones. He pulls them away to REVEAL --

A TUNNEL just like the one Dantes and The Mad Priest dug in Dumas's most famous novel!

38 **EXT. STONE SILO - ARDHAM - NIGHT**

38

A TRIUMPHANT SCORE dominates as a BLACK HAND pushes up through the dirt. Reaching for freedom. There's CHAINS around the wrist, that are currently being used to break through the dirt to the surface, and --

MONTROSE FREEMAN (40's) drags himself free of the tunnel he's painstakingly dug to escape!

He rises like it's the first time he's stood in his fucking life. And damn if this black man -- dirt covered, chains and all -- doesn't have SWAGGER.

GEORGE (O.S.)
Hey Montrose.

He whips around. SURPRISED to see Our Heroes waiting for him. For a moment his heart soars at the sight of his brother and son. But only for a moment --

MONTROSE
What the fuck are y'all doing here?

Atticus and George are not at all surprised by the sour greeting. They're used to Montrose's caustic demeanor --

GEORGE
We're here to save you.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

MONTROSE
I saved my damn self. I didn't need
y'all coming for me.

ATTICUS
You wrote for me to come.

Montrose's glare sears through his son --

MONTROSE
We haven't spoken in five goddamn
years boy, obviously I didn't think
you were stupid enough to show up
here cause I wrote a letter under
duress.

Atticus shrinks two inches under the weight of his father's words. The vibrant, take-charge man we know dimming in the presence of his father.

GEORGE
You don't have to talk to him like
that --

MONTROSE
I'll talk to my son however the hell
I want --

Leti steps between the Freeman men --

LETI
Can we please get the fuck out of
here?

39 INT. CHRISTINA'S BENTLEY - NIGHT

39

Atticus drives like a bat out of hell. Leti attempts to remove Montrose's chains with her switchblade as George keeps watch out the back window --

GEORGE
They have lodges all over the country.
This one's called the "Sons of Adam".
And it was founded by Titus
Braithwhite after he discovered what
they call the Book of Names --

*
*
*
*

MONTROSE
The Necronomicon?

LETI
Hold still --

*
*

GEORGE
No. That's the book of dead names.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

GEORGE (CONT'D)
This is the book of life. They're
obsessed with figuring out a spell
for immorality...

CLICK! Leti smiles triumphantly as she slides Montrose's
chains off.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
A failed attempt is what burned the
original lodge, killing everyone
inside --

WHAM! An awesome COLLISION in SLOW-MO -- the Bentley CRASHES
into an INVISIBLE BARRIER!

Glass SHATTERS. Steel and metal SCREAM. Atticus is slammed
forward. Leti flies across the back. Montrose flies over
the front seat and slams with George into the dash...

40 **EXT. BRIDGE OUT OF - ARDHAM - NIGHT**

40

The entire front of the Bentley is accordioned in on itself.
It sits idly in the middle of the bridge. A GRIM MOMENT.

A Limo drives down the cobblestone road and comes to a stop
a few feet away. Samuel and Christina casually climb out.

The driver side door of the Bentley opens -- a dazed Atticus
tumbles out. As the rest of Our Heroes follow, he clocks
the STRANGE SYMBOLS carved across the bridge. The same ones
on the door frames of their suites. It's the same spell.

Without hesitation or remorse, Samuel raises a PISTOL, and --

BLAM! Leti staggers back. Sucking in air. Sits down hard
against the Bentley. Legs splayed. She looks at her gut.

There's a HOLE gushing blood in it!

It was shocking. And violent. And so sudden that for a
moment, nobody understands what's happened, then --

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

LETI
Help me...help...

Atticus springs into action. Puts pressure on her wound.
Her blood pouring through his fingers --

ATTICUS
It's okay. I got you. You're going
to be okay. Uncle George --

George and Montrose move to help, but -- BANG! BANG! Samuel
fires two shots at their feet. So close we cringe. Atticus
looks to Christina for help. Eyes pleading --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Please, help us...

But she's giving him nothing but a cold stare.

LETI
Tic...

Her eyes flutter close. The life's draining out of her.

ATTICUS
No no no no no. Leti you have to
stay awake. Stay awake for me okay...

Leti takes her last, blood filled breath. Then she's gone.

A momentary, disbelieving lull, then RAGE. Atticus gets up.
Fire in his eyes. Samuel points the pistol between them --

SAMUEL
Since you are a son among sons, I
will give you a choice of who else
survives your error in judgement.

Atticus's desperate eyes dart to George on instinct, then
back to Samuel, immediately realizing his mistake...

ATTICUS
Wait, no --

...that he has inadvertently chosen by showing he cares about
George more. Samuel aims at Atticus's uncle, and -- BANG!

41 **INT. VIEWING ROOM - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

41

Atticus stands naked like the Vitruvian Man as ADAMITES wash
the grime from his body. Anguish lines his features.
Christina slips into the room. Watches the Adamites work.
Atticus is not hard to look at. At all.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

ATTICUS

What's going to happen in this ceremony?

CHRISTINA

My father intends to open a door to the Garden of Eden. To a time when man was immortal. He believes he'll step through it into eternal life.

ATTICUS

Those ambitions didn't go so well for Titus.

The Adamites wrap him in CEREMONIAL ROBES as a bit of vulnerability creeps into Christina's eyes --

CHRISTINA

It might not go well for my father either. Challenging entropy is perilous work, and the Language of Adam is a tricky thing to get right. Many men have suffered greatly trying to wield it.

She forces a smile to dispel her own doubts and fears --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

But the spelled blood of the man who wielded it best might just give my father's spell the advantage it needs.

ATTICUS

So that's why you brought me here. To help a father who clearly doesn't give two shits about you. After all it's not called the Daughters of Adam, is it?

Christina takes a step towards him. And something shifts in her. Something stirring beneath the calm exterior --

CHRISTINA

The things they've done. It's unforgivable. But we still come running when they need help. It's pathetic. And we call it family to make it seem okay.

Her words resonate. A flicker of real connection. Atticus looks away. Through the one-way mirror into GEORGE'S SUITE --

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

Leti's body is laid out on the sofa. George is laid out in the bed. Montrose is applying pressure to his brother's BLEEDING GUT WOUND.

Atticus fights the EMOTION welling. His family close. But so far away.

ATTICUS

You didn't have to bring them into it. You should have just dragged me here and did what you needed to do.

CHRISTINA

I didn't bring two of them.

As the GUILT of Leti and George being shot lands on Atticus --

A SCREAM claws its way out of Leti as she BOLTS upright. WIDE-EYED. CONFUSED. As are we. *How the fuck is she alive?*

But Atticus isn't confused. This was confirmation for him. As Christina watches the RESIGNATION wash over him --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

For what it's worth, my father is a gentleman of his word. He will heal your uncle as well --

ATTICUS

Once I've willingly participated in his ceremony. So let's get on with it.

The Adamites step away. Christina pulls out a SIGNET RING. Regards it --

CHRISTINA

I could never earn one of these, no matter how hard I tried, and you get one for doing nothing other than being born a man.

ATTICUS

Not even a white man at that.

Christina smiles as she slides the Ring onto his finger --

CHRISTINA

What I know is our destinies aren't decided by our fathers, grandfathers, or in your case, your great great great great grandfather.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (3)

41

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
The smallest inconsequential thing
can take you on a new course, you
just have to see it and seize it.

Atticus sees something in Christina's eyes. Sadness? Fear?
Guilt? She holds his gaze for a moment, then --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
It's a nice fit.

42 **INT. BATHROOM IN - "GEORGE'S SUITE" - NIGHT**

42

Leti enters. Moves to the sink. Washes her own dried blood
from her hands. Pulls off her blood soaked shirt to REVEAL --
her completely HEALED wound!

Not even a scar. The only evidence it was ever even there
is the bullet hole in her blood soaked shirt. Which she
begins to wash. But there's no avoiding it -- the TEARS
come hard and fast.

She stuffs a TOWEL in her mouth to muffle the SOBS racking
her terrorized body. There's no one to put on a brave face
for in this moment, and she couldn't even if she tried...

43 **INT. "GEORGE'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - NIGHT**

43

Montrose is at the window with a glass of WHISKEY. Staring
out like his son did at the start of this horrific day.
George has his eyes closed on the bed. Resting. But that
doesn't mean his mind's at rest --

GEORGE
You should try breaking that window --

MONTROSE
We're not leaving without you --

GEORGE
You could at least get the girl out
of here --

MONTROSE
She doesn't seem like the type to
tell what to do. Reminds me of Dee.

The brothers talk over each other. As if they've been having
the same version of this conversation their entire lives.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

GEORGE

How come you never drew with her?
You used draw all the time --

MONTROSE

No I didn't. You getting senile in
your old age --

GEORGE

Every summer you'd draw those big
colorful welcome signs. Go down to
the bus station and cheer on all the
Negro league players who rode in for
training camp. Why did you stop?

MONTROSE

Cause of Daddy's right hook. He
caught me down at the station that
summer before high school. Beat the
black off my ass.

George opens his eyes. Looks at his younger brother. Really
looks at him. His heart breaking --

GEORGE

I didn't know that.

MONTROSE

Yeah, well, now you do.

Montrose licks his lips. But his glass is empty. He moves
to the BAR. Pours himself another.

GEORGE

You were brimming with love as a
boy. Despite being afforded so
little. If I ever made you feel...

(then:)

There's nothing wrong with loving
that much...

He pauses. Offering his brother a chance to say something
that's been left unspoken. There's a certain hunger in his
expression. But whatever it is, Montrose can't face it --

MONTROSE

Would you shut up and rest.

GEORGE

That's the problem. I've been
shutting up for far too long. And
it's hurt those I love. You.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: (2)

43

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Hippolyta. Tic. I want you to show him more of that love I know is in you. Before it's too late.

MONTROSE

How many times I got to tell you I don't need your advice when it comes to raising my son --

GEORGE

He might not be yours.

Let that sink in -- confirmation of George and Dora's affair!
Montrose sears his older brother with a look --

MONTROSE

I don't care if you got a bullet in your gut, we settled that a long time ago, so shut your fucking mouth.

And let that sink in now -- the question of Atticus's paternity has a been a secret between brothers for years!

GEORGE

I know we agreed we wouldn't speak of it, but I have to now, because you might be all Tic has left.

A meaningful silence. This could be goodbye. And neither are ready to confront that. Montrose downs his whiskey. Pours two more glasses. Moves to his brother's bedside.

MONTROSE

It should have been me --

GEORGE

Hell yeah it should have been you.

They share a weighted smile. Montrose loses his first --

MONTROSE

The boy thought so too...

As he helps his older brother drink his whiskey, **WHITEY ON THE MOON** by **GIL SCOTT HERON** fills the track. The poet's awkward intro mirrors the awkward affection between brothers --

"We have a poem here. It's called 'Whitey's on the Moon'. And um, it was inspired, it was inspired by whitey's on the the moon. So I want to give credit where credit is due. And uh, that's it..."

44 **INT. SAMUEL'S LAB - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

44

The BONGO DRUM BEAT from **WHITEY'S ON THE MOON** drops as Atticus is led in by BUTLERS. A FREESTANDING DOOR made of timber stands before him. Those STRANGE SYMBOLS are carved into it. THREE METAL ORBS are positioned to the north, east, and west of the door.

An INTRICATE DIAGRAM drawn on the floor with CHALK connects the door to the orbs. The robed Sons of Adam encircle it.

"A rat done bit my sister Nell (with Whitey on the moon) Her face and arms began to swell. (And Whitey's on the moon)..."

The pink light of DAWN crests the horizon as Samuel begins to CHANT in the LANGUAGE OF ADAM --

SAMUEL

*In flood water he shall be reprieved
from death // And in battle from the
authority of the spear // His power
like the looming day, shall not die
// His spirit like the cloaking night,
shall not die // Surround this man
with a favored orb of protection...*

SUDDENLY -- all the rays of the sun shoot through the glass dome into Atticus and out of him into the freestanding door!

It's as if he's a prism. His entire body GLOWS and CONTORTS as the power of the dawn flows through him.

*"I can't pay no doctor bill. (but Whitey's on the moon)
Ten years from now I'll be payin' still. (while Whitey's on the moon)..."*

The light fills the freestanding doorway. VINES begin to grow out of the walls. GRASS begins to sprout through the floorboards. The entire room is TRANSFORMING into the Garden of Eden before the Sons of Adam's astonished eyes.

"The man jus' upped my rent las' night. ('cause Whitey's on the moon) No hot water, no toilets, no lights. (but Whitey's on the moon)"

Samuel continues CHANTING. Screaming with awesome power. Spit flying. Eyes shining with terrifying conviction --

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

*...Ward this man from all dangers //
Seen and unseen // Gird him in
strength to quash the nets of his
(MORE)*

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

SAMUEL (CONT'D)
*destroyers // May his bodily reign
stand untroubled // Skirted in a
reliance upon nature's limitless
dominion...*

*"Was all that money I made las' year (for Whitey on the moon?)
How come there ain't no money here? (Hm! Whitey's on the
moon)..."*

Atticus grits his teeth in agony. His body RIGID with pain. Every inch blazing with light...except for the Signet Ring on his finger. He remembers Christina's words -- *The smallest inconsequential thing can take you on a new course...*

He brings his hand up. Using it as a shield against the light in the doorway. Through his spread fingers he sees -- a SHADOWY FIGURE stands just beyond the doorway. The figure comes into focus, REVEALING -- a YOUNG PREGNANT SLAVE GIRL.

Atticus is seeing a vision of his ancestor HANNA (15)!

"Y'know I jus' 'bout had my fill (of Whitey on the moon) I think I'll sen' these doctor bills, Airmail special (to Whitey on the moon)..."

SUDDENLY -- the entire lodge SHAKES at its foundations as the Shadow from the Signet Ring spreads over Atticus...

45 **INT. "GEORGE'S SUITE" - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

45

Books SLAM to the ground as the room VIBRATES. Montrose attempts to keep George secure as Leti stumbles to the door --

LETI

It's open.

MONTROSE

We move him, he could bleed out --

GEORGE

If we don't get out of here before this whole place crumbles, we're all gonna die.

He grits through the pain to sit up --

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Letitia get Woody, we'll be right behind you.

Leti jets out the door as Montrose helps his brother to his feet, moving to follow, but --

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Wait a second...

He reaches for his jacket. Pulls out **THE ORDER OF THE ANCIENT DAWN BY-LAWS**. Shoves it into Montrose's hands --

GEORGE (CONT'D)
Take this...

MONTROSE
Why?

GEORGE
Give it to Tic to protect our family...

Montrose takes this in. Possibly his older brother's dying wish. He can't accept that. Throws George's arm over his shoulder to help support him --

MONTROSE
Come on...

46 **INT. SAMUEL'S LAB - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

46

The Vines and Grass WITHER as Atticus is engulfed by the Shadow, his eyes still locked on his ancestor Hanna beyond the doorway, and -- the light of dawn is refracted off him, exploding out like a SUPERNOVA!

Samuel and the Sons of Adam SCREAM as the light of dawn pierces them. Burning them from the inside --

CRASH! The domed ceiling breaks apart. Glass shards rain as the Sons of Adam crumble to ash. Atticus is oblivious. He watches as Hanna runs out. And he's COMPELLED to follow...

47 **OMITTED**

47

48 **INT. EAST WING - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

48

The lodge caves in around Atticus as he runs after Hanna. Staying just ahead of death as the walls FLICKER BACK AND FORTH -- from being consumed by violent FLAMES just like the night Hanna escaped, to CRUMBLING like they are now...

A49 **INT. ENTRANCE HALLWAY - ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

A49

Hanna turns back at the grand entry way. We may or may not clock the ORNATE BOOK clutched in her arms as she SMILES at her descendent running full tilt towards her because -- she's led Atticus to safety!

49 **EXT. ARDHAM LODGE - DAY**

49

Atticus bursts out as -- the last of the once great lodge crumbles to ruins!

He looks at the destruction blankly for a moment, in SHOCK --

LETI (O.S.)

Tic!

She's running up the drive. He meets her halfway. They EMBRACE like it's the last hug they'll ever share.

He pulls back. Sees she's covered in FRESH BLOOD. That can't be. Samuel healed her. The look in Leti's tear-filled, bombed out eyes says it all. The blood's not hers.

Atticus's eyes well. His heart shredded. He looks past Leti to Woody parked at the end of the drive.

He doesn't run this time. He walks. Holding on tight to Leti's hand. DREAD consuming every step bringing him closer to a new devastating reality --

Montrose is in the back of the Packard. Cradling his lifeless brother in his arms. George is dead.

SMASH TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED...