



LOVECRAFT COUNTRY



AMERICA'S
DEMONS
EXPOSED!

EPISODE #103
"HOLY GHOST"

WRITTEN BY
MISHA GREEN

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
MATT RUFF

DIRECTED BY
DAN SACKHEIM

PRODUCTION DRAFT 04/26/19
BLUE REVISION 05/24/19
PINK REVISION 06/05/19
YELLOW REVISION 06/23/19

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SCRIPT REVISION HISTORY

<u>REVISION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REVISED PAGES</u>
Studio/Network Draft	10/19/18	Full Draft
Rev. Studio/Network Draft	12/06/18	pp. 1-15, 19-53
2 nd Rev.Studio/Network Draft	02/26/19	Full Draft
Production Draft	04/26/19	Full Draft
Blue Revision	05/24/19	Full Draft
Pink Revision	06/05/19	Full Draft
Yellow Revision	06/23/19	pp. 9, 9A, 9B, 9C-11 and 12

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CAST LIST

LETI LEWIS

ATTICUS FREEMAN

RUBY BAPTISTE

MONTROSE FREEMAN

HIPPOLYTA FREEMAN

CHRISTINA BRAITHWHITE

DIANA “DEE” FREEMAN

CAPTAIN SEAMUS LANCASTER

BURKE

CRANE

HIRAM EPSTEIN

JEROME J. JACKSON

TREE

BAILEY

CARMEN

FLOYD

JAMES

CHAD

TERRY

LEO

JONAH

BOBO

GIL

LUCY

KISSING MAN

MARTINE

ACTIVIST MAN #1

ACTIVIST MAN #2

ACTIVIST WOMAN #3

CHURCH LADY #1

CHURCH LADY #2

REPORTER

RUBY'S BAND

GHOSTS

ANARCHA

FANNIE

GROVER

JASPER

LUCY

OLIVIA

PHILLIP

RUFUS

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SET LIST

INTERIORS

Winthrop House
Basement
Dark Room (Trap Door Room)
Elevator
First Floor
Bathroom
Foyer
Back Parlor
Second Floor
Carmen's Room
Leti's Room
Leti's Bathroom
Ruby's Room
Housewarming Room (Activists)
Hallway (2nd FL)
Third Floor
Atticus's Room
Orrery Room (Locked Room)
Hallway (3rd FL)
Apartment above Safe Negro Travel
Kitchen
George and Hippolyta's Bedroom
Montrose's Apartment
*(Bedroom - OMIT)
Living Room
Neighbor's Home
Neighbor's House
Realtist Office
Union Baptist Church

EXTERIORS

Northside Chicago
Elm Street
Winthrop House
Porch
Southside Chicago
Realtist Office
Safe Negro Travel

VEHICLES

Silver Bentley
Woody the Packard
White Punks' Cars (4)
Police Car
Paddy Wagons (4)

The AUDIO from **LEIOMY MALDONADO'S VOGUE NIKE COMMERCIAL** fills the track. Princess Mami Precious's trill ushers us in --

"Hey Lei, what did you do? To make a mark on this world..."

1 **INT. UNION BAPTIST - DAY**

1

A BODY moves in SLOOOOW MOTION and REWIND. ARMS, LEGS, and HIPS contorting with the preternatural grace of an angel...

"What mountains did you climb? Which Angel's gave you their wings..."

A hectic ballet with the spirit of a tribal dance. FLUID and CHAOTIC at the same time. Something ancient and true in every erratic ethereal movement...

"Which skies have you flown? When you reached the heavens, who was there to catch you when you fell..."

REVERSE and FAST FORWARD to the speed of real life as the movements become familiar now. The body in motion is -- a CHURCH LADY in the throws of the HOLY SPIRIT.

"And did they tell you that you saved them too. Like you saved me..."

The Church Lady moves. Rapture in her expression as she channels the divine. Her singular energy radiates through the straining veins in the singing CHOIR'S throats, propelling the PRAYER CIRCLE around her and the CONGREGATION in praise...

"That they are mending your wings and holding them up to the sun. Just to step back and watch you fly..."

LETI sits in a pew. Watches the Church Lady dance with God with MIXED EMOTIONS -- AWE. SKEPTICISM. ENVY. But most of all NEED. A deep need to feel some of that heavenly energy. But she's fighting it. *She's fine. Everything's fine...*

"So go ahead Lei, fly..."

SMASH TO TITLES:

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

2 **INT. REALTIST OFFICE - DAY**

2

Leti adjusts her Church Hat as she sits across the desk from JEROME J. JACKSON (40's). He lays out a THIN PHOTO BOOK --

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

JEROME J. JACKSON

Now you might be aware the housing situation is a little dismal on the South side, but I can assure you, I have the best listings out there.

LETI

I'm looking for something with lots of rooms I can rent out to help pay the installment contract...

JEROME J. JACKSON

That's great business savvy.

LETI

And lots of light for my artist friends when they visit...

JEROME J. JACKSON

I just think it's wonderful when young ladies are so cultured.

LETI

And is on the North side.

Jerome has nothing complimentary to say about that. He stares at Leti for a beat. *Is she serious?* As a heart attack.

JEROME J. JACKSON

Nobody's going to sell you their house on the North side --

LETI

But they will sell to Eli Blum, my jewish, but german enough to look Lutheran front man --

JEROME J. JACKSON

Pioneering is dangerous --

LETI

God gave me an unexpected blessing with this money, and I mean to do something important with it. Something that will help push the race forward --

JEROME J. JACKSON

Did you happen to read the sign outside? Says "realist" not "realtor". And yes, I'd like to be able to join the

(MORE)

*
*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

JEROME J. JACKSON (CONT'D)
national association my white
counterparts belong to, but sometimes
you just have to face that you got
to crawl before you walk, young lady.

Leti pulls several PHOTOS from her purse. Spreads them out
on the desk. They're impressionistic shots of an EMPTY POOL.

LETI
This is a pool that was drained in
Mississippi. Three colored girls
decided to do what any teenage girl
would on a blistering hot summer day --
they went for a swim. They were
dragged out of the water by police
and handcuffed while white families
looked on and applauded --

JEROME J. JACKSON
I don't see what this has to do with
selling you a house --

LETI
-- and while I know the importance
of taking these photos, that's all I
did. Witnessed. It's not enough
for me anymore...

HEARTACHE and TERROR flood anew in her veins. She was shot.
Died. Magic brought her back to life. She chokes down the
EMOTION. *She's fine. Everything is fine...*

LETI (CONT'D)
So pardon me, but fuck caution. I
want to jump into the deep end like
those brave girls did. And I came
to you first because the bank
recommended you, but if you can't
help me, I'll find someone who will.

She rises with conviction, gathering her Photos, but --

JEROME J. JACKSON
Hold on. There is one house I know
of on the North side. On Elm street.
It's been empty for a long time...

3 **INT. NEIGHBOR'S HOME - ELM STREET - DAY**

3

A pair of veiny WHITE HANDS peel back a curtain as the Owner
spies on Leti and RUBY walking down the block...

4 **EXT. ELM STREET - NORTH SIDE - DAY**

4

Leti, CAMERA in hand, practically skips with excitement. Ruby is less enthusiastic as she eyes the windows of the homes they're passing. She can feel white eyes on them --

RUBY
What the hell are we doing in this neighborhood?

LETI
I told you I've got a surprise --

RUBY
And I told you I promised Hippolyta I'd be over to watch Dee at two --

LETI
Bail is usually forty dollars, which means I owe you about five-hundred for that. Then there's that money you wired to me in Kentucky last Christmas when I broke my camera --

RUBY
You said that was for your light bill --

LETI
That's right. You've paid more than a few of my bills over the years too. In total, I think I owe you around fifteen-hundred dollars --

RUBY
You're kidding, right? The bail fund is fifteen-hundred at least --

LETI
The point I'm trying to make, is that you've been there for me when I needed money, and I want to return the favor. How would you like to never have to pay rent again?

RUBY
What does that mean?

They arrive at the end of the block as Leti exclaims --

LETI
I bought a house.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

She motions to the CRUMBLING HOUSE before them. It's surrounded on both sides by empty lots covered in dead grass. The fact that it's huge is about all it has going for it.

SNAP! Leti takes a picture of her sister's SURPRISE --

RUBY

What game are you playing at?

LETI

This isn't a game. We are now proud home owners.

RUBY

There is no way in hell you could afford this house...

5 **INT. FIRST FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

5 *

The foyer is epic, soaring ceilings, grand staircase...or one can imagine it was in better days. Now it's filled with COBWEBS and dusty OLD FURNITURE. Haunted house chic.

RUBY

Nevermind, now I see why you can.

LETI

It doesn't look like much now. But when we're done fixing it up --

RUBY

Where did you get the money to buy yourself a house?

LETI

Our house, Ruby...

RUBY

Where did you get the money, Leti?

LETI

...that has three floors not including the basement. And thirteen rooms.

It's clear Leti is trying to distract Ruby from asking too many questions about the money as she continues --

LETI (CONT'D)

I want to turn it into a boarding house. Make it a safe haven for colored folks in need.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

RUBY
Safe? Just last year there was almost
a riot cross town cause a negro couple
moved into an all white building --

LETI
There's strength in numbers --

RUBY
No. I don't need any distractions
right now. I'm about to apply to
Marshall Field's again, and I need
to concentrate on perfecting my resume --

LETI
I'll help you. And I could even
mend one of your dresses so you won't
have to buy a new one.

RUBY
I don't know, Leti...

LETI
Look, I know you think I've used our
relationship to get over on you
through the years, but this can be
our chance to really bond as sisters.

Leti is so sincere. Ruby considers. Finally thaws a little --

RUBY
I'm taking the biggest room.

Leti beams. Embraces her sister. Squeezing tight --

LETI
I haven't even shown you the best
part. There's an elevator.

She drags Ruby over to a door. Hits the call button next to
it -- *DING!* She open it to -- EMPTY AIR. *That's strange...*

LETI (CONT'D)
It was working before...

She pokes her head into the elevator shaft, and --

SHHHHCK! Ruby yanks her sister back just as the elevator
CRASHES past nearly taking Leti's head off!

Holy shit. The sisters catch their breaths. That was close.
Too close. As Leti nervously LAUGHS it off...

6 **INT. BEDROOM - APARTMENT ABOVE SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY** 6

HIPPOLYTA'S at her vanity applying mascara. She finishes. Takes in her reflection. She's radiant in the morning light, but that glow isn't reaching her eyes. *It's been a month since her husband's death, and life goes on, until it doesn't.*

There's a KNOCK at the door --

DIANA (O.S.)
Momma, Tic is done burning
breakfast...

ATTICUS (O.S.)
I heard that.

Hippolyta heads for the door, but -- pauses with her hand on the knob. She can't open it. Not yet.

She moves to her nightstand, and pulls out -- a PAPERBACK of **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA**. Runs her hands over the worn cover. Coveting it even as a look of SHAME clouds her eyes.

She considers putting it back, but opens it instead, and -- violently RIPS several pages out!

This is ritualistic. Half of the pages have already been torn out. She exhales. Grief kept at bay. For now...

7 **INT. APARTMENT ABOVE - SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY** 7

"**SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL**" by JOE TURNER warbles out of a RADIO. ATTICUS WASHES dishes to the beat. DIANA HUMS along with the radio as she sets the table. But trails off when she realizes -- she's set a FOURTH PLACE SETTING for her father.

Old habit. *It's been a month since her father's death, and life goes on, until it doesn't.*

ATTICUS
You okay, Dee?

She quickly strikes the setting, forcing a smile --

DIANA
Everything's jake.

She takes a seat at the table as Hippolyta enters, giving her daughter a shoulder squeeze --

HIPPOLYTA
Good morning.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

DIANA

Morning.

Hippolyta grabs the COFFEE POT. Notices the CUPS PLACED UP in the dish rack. She BRISTLES. *Why do cups up bother her?*

ATTICUS

I made you some eggs.

Hippolyta responds to him fussing over her by just taking a sip of her coffee. He treads lightly as he plates the eggs --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

The printer called again. About the new entries for the guide --

HIPPOLYTA

Damnit. I keep forgetting about the deadline.

ATTICUS

He understands. Considering...

George's death. A beat for the grief to pass, then --

HIPPOLYTA

I'll go do it now.

ATTICUS

I already took care of it last night. Hope that's okay. I know you didn't want to miss putting the guide out.

It's not okay. But Hippolyta swallows her annoyance --

HIPPOLYTA

I just hadn't proofed them yet.

ATTICUS

They looked good to me.

HIPPOLYTA

Okay. Thanks.

There's a tangible vibe between these two, but it goes unnoticed by Diana. She takes the last bite of her toast --

DIANA

We should try the scrapyard for robot parts tonight. There's gotta be something good there.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

ATTICUS
I'm not staying over tonight.

Atticus subtly clocks Hippolyta's reaction. HOPE springs into his aunt's eyes. Confirmation of a sinking suspicion -- he's worn out his welcome. But not with his cousin --

DIANA
Why?

ATTICUS
I've got some things I have to take care of.

As Hippolyta turns to the window, breathing a sigh of relief masked as cooling off her hot coffee...

8 **INT. MONTROSE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

8

DING DONG! A RECORD SPINNING on the Frankenstein Victrola is the only answer. A key's inserted into the lock, and Atticus lets himself in, his DUFFEL slung over his shoulder --

ATTICUS
Pop...?

No reply. But Atticus sees something in the living room that has a familiar DISAPPOINTMENT washing over him. *

He crosses to the Victrola. Takes the needle off. Notices the first edition of **COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO** he left on his father's nightstand in 101 is now prominently on display next to the record player. Like a prized possession. *

That elicits MIXED EMOTIONS. There's love between father and son, but they can't ever seem to express it to each other. A slurred mumble cuts through the silence -- *

MONTROSE (O.S.)
They had us pinned up, and...and --
BAM! *

Atticus heads into the kitchen, stepping over what he noticed earlier, REVEAL -- MONTROSE passed out on the floor, an empty WHISKEY BOTTLE by his side! *

As Atticus fills a GLASS at the sink and grabs a DISH TOWEL --

MONTROSE (CONT'D)
Then he said...he said... *

ATTICUS
"I got ya kid." *

8 CONTINUED:

8

He tosses the glass of COLD WATER in his father's face.
Montrose STARTLES awake --

MONTROSE
Son of a bitch. Goddamnit, boy...

Atticus ignores his father's rage. Tosses the towel at him.
It's clear this scene has played out numerous times. As
Montrose gains his bearings, Atticus sits at the table --

ATTICUS
That was Uncle George's favorite
story to tell. Heard it so much I'm
even dreaming about it like I was
there with y'all when the riot broke
out. Those white boys had you
surrounded. Then a mysterious
stranger came out of nowhere swinging
a bat like Jackie Robinson. Hit
home runs on their heads saving you
both. And all he said before
disappearing was --

MONTROSE
I got ya kid.

He stares off. Haunted by memories. So is his son --

ATTICUS
We could have used that stranger up
in Ardham...

Montrose moves to the Victrola now. Trying to distract
himself from what he lost in both Tulsa and Ardham. As he
removes the record --

MONTROSE
How's Hippolyta and Dee doing?

ATTICUS
As good as can be expected. Been
trying to help Dee with her swing.
She could use your eye.

Montrose shuffles through his RECORD COLLECTION in response.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
I've worn out my welcome over there.
Was hoping to stay here a few nights.

Montrose considers long and hard as he shuffles records,
finally --

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

MONTROSE

Yeah. Okay. Don't move none of my
shit --

ATTICUS

I know.

MONTROSE

And you replace whatever you eat.

He puts "**STÄNDCHEN (NO. 4)**" sang by **MARIAN ANDERSON** on. A
MELODY of grief fills the apartment. He rejoins his son.
They listen. This is the closest they're going to get to
sharing their grief over George's death.

ATTICUS

It was strange. Staying over there
without them knowing what happened
to Uncle George.

MONTROSE

They know what happened. He got
shot by a hotheaded sheriff.
Hippolyta saw the body. We had a
funeral. End of story.

They kept magic a secret. And it's eating Atticus up inside --

ATTICUS

I know that's what we agreed on, it
just doesn't feel right --

MONTROSE

So what? You want to tell them that
wizards exist? That the white folks
got magic on their side too?

ATTICUS

Maybe we just tell Aunt Hippolyta --

Montrose gets incredibly sad, but it comes out the way it
always does as anger --

MONTROSE

There ain't shit she can do about
it. Hell, there ain't shit we can
either. Best to let it all die with
the bodies buried under that lodge.

ATTICUS

Feels like if Uncle George was here --

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

MONTROSE
He ain't here --

*
*

ATTICUS
If he was, he'd be saying we need to
find out all we can about the Order
of Ancient Dawn and magic --

*
*

BAM! Montrose SLAMS his clenched fist on the table. Atticus
pops up. Backing up. A hint of fear in his eyes. But that's
the boy in him. The man is in COMBAT MODE. Coiled to explode
on his father if he steps to him with those fists.

*

A long tense stare down. Father and Son mirrors of barely
suppressed rage, then -- Atticus grabs his Duffel. Slams
the door behind him as he goes...

*

*

9
THRU
11

OMITTED

9 *
THRU
11

A12 **EXT. WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

A12*

A TRUCK packed with FURNITURE is parked in the drive.
SOUTHSIDERS are moving in...

12 **INT. SECOND FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

12

In a SINGLE FAST PACED, HIGH ENERGY TRACKING SHOT Leti documents MOVE IN DAY --

SNAP! She sidesteps a PIANO being pulled up the THIRD FLOOR STAIRS by two winded MUSICIAN BOARDERS (JONAH & FLOYD) --

FLOYD

We need to get that elevator fixed.

LETI

I'm working on it, but colored
elevator repairmen are hard to find.

BAILEY YELLS down from the third floor --

BAILEY (O.S.)

Leti, you know there's a locked door
up here?

LETI

So pick it.

12 CONTINUED:

12

She comes across a WRITER BOARDER (JAMES) and his DOG (BALDWIN). She stops to pet Baldwin --

LETI (CONT'D)
What's his name?

JAMES
Baldwin.

She gives him a sly smile. *How cheeky.* They're in front of the open door to RUBY'S ROOM. She pecks away at a TYPEWRITER.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Hey, you a novelist too? I'm James --

Ruby responds by getting up, and SHUTTING the door in his face. Leti shakes her head --

LETI
I apologize for my sister's rude behavior. She gets it from her father.

She peels off past a DANCER BOARDER (CARMEN) stretching in the doorway of her room --

CARMEN
You planning to move all that junk out of the basement, it'd be a great space for a dance studio.

Leti SNAPS Carmen before heading down the GRAND STAIRCASE...

LETI
Sorry. No "significant alterations" to the house until the installment contract's paid off. All that junk's gotta stay put.

A13 **INT. FIRST FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

A13*

It's looking better than the last time we saw it. Cobwebs gone. Furniture dusted and polished. Walls painted. Just as Leti SNAPS a photo --

*

ATTICUS

steps through the open front door. And the whirlwind momentum comes to a screeching halt. They just stare at each other.

ATTICUS
Hi.

(CONTINUED)

A13 CONTINUED:

A13

She realizes she's still looking at him through her viewfinder. Brings her camera down. The moment awkward.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I went over to Ruby's old place looking for you. Her neighbor said you'd hit the numbers and moved to the North side. I didn't believe it at first. But here you are, with your own house. It's nice.

LETI

It's not really, not yet, but it will be.

Atticus has to move out of the doorway for BOARDERS bringing furniture in. He's closer to Leti now. The energy PALPABLE.

ATTICUS

It's smart. Moving in on Sunday while the rest of the neighborhood's at church and can't try and stop you --

LETI

Why did you go by Ruby's looking for me?

ATTICUS

I wanted to check in on you.

LETI

You haven't checked in since George's funeral. Three weeks ago.

Atticus shamefully admits --

ATTICUS

I wanted to check in before hitting the road.

Leti tries hard to hide her disappointment --

LETI

You're going back to Florida?

ATTICUS

It's time. Hippolyta and Dee are doing better. And I got to get back to work at the garage.

Whatever's blossoming between them, they both feel it. But Atticus is attempting to stifle it.

(CONTINUED)

A13 CONTINUED: (2)

A13

LETI

You're going to miss one hell of a housewarming. Everybody on the south side's gonna be here.

ATTICUS

That'll be fun for the neighbors...

LETI

I have a room that hasn't been rented yet. You should at least stay for the party.

ATTICUS

I told my boss I'd only be gone a few days a month ago.

Leti hides the sting of rejection with a forced smile. Pulls him into a HUG. And they both linger in each others arms. A world of things unsaid. Soaking in this goodbye, until --

HOONNK!!! A blaring HORN sounds from outside...

13 **EXT. WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

13

THREE CARS line the curb. HORNS BLARING. BRICKS have been tied to the steering wheels. WHITE PUNKS (LEO, CHAD, TERRY) sit on a car's hood. Itching for a fight. WHITE NEIGHBORS returning from church glare openly from their driveways.

*
*

Leti, Atticus, Ruby, and other Boarders crowd out the door --

RUBY

Here we go. Told you it was gonna be Trumbull Park all over again.

A POLICE CRUISER rolls down the street. Doesn't even stop. The COPS (BURKE & CRANE) inside join the other white eyes aimed at Our Heroes in hatred. The message is clear --

They are not welcome here.

Atticus's stone cold glare bounces between the Neighbors, the Car Punks, and the Cops --

ATTICUS

Maybe I will stick around for a little longer...

14 **EXT. ELM STREET - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

14

SIGNS are prominently displayed on every lawn but the Winthrop House -- "WE ARE A WHITE COMMUNITY. UNDESIRABLES MUST GO."

15 **INT. LETI'S ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

15

Leti sleeps fitfully. Drenched in SWEAT. Very slowly...the sheet SLIDES down her body as if pulled by some unseen force. A long, lurid beat as more and more of Leti's body is exposed unbeknownst to her, then --

She turns over, unconsciously pulling the sheet with her, REVEALING -- a WIDE-EYED GHOST (OLIVIA) peers over the foot of the bed. The Ghost rises REVEALING -- the entire bottom half of her face has been TORN OFF!

*

SUDDENLY -- the sheet is RIPPED away. Leti springs up. Grabs the SHOTGUN next to her bed. On high alert. *What the fuck was that?* Her eyes scan the room. It's empty.

She relaxes. Wipes the sweat from her forehead. It's hot as fuck. She stumbles to the window. Throws it open, but --

She's bombarded by the still blaring HORNS. She slams the window shut. Looks to the STEAMING RADIATOR. It's about to blow its top just like she is --

LETI
Motherfuckers...

16 **INT. BASEMENT - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

16

Dark. Dank. Filled with WATERLOGGED CLUTTER. Light slashes in from a few HALF-WINDOWS at ground level to the outside.

BANG-CLANK! BANG-CLANK! Leti is at the BOILER. It SHAKES. STEAM pouring from it. She's using a WRENCH to work the BROKEN RELEASE VALVE. It's been TAMPERED with.

She's beyond frustrated as she struggles to turn what's left of the valve, and -- she finally gets it. A moment of triumph as the Boiler SETTLES, then --

BANG! Leti nearly jumps out of her skin. It came from somewhere hidden behind the mass of clutter. Her ears strain --

BANG! BANG! Leti wields the Wrench like a weapon --

SILENCE. She eases in the direction the sound came from. Coiled. On edge. Pushing through the maze-like clutter. Swiping away COBWEBS. Bare feet coming uncomfortably close to SHARP RUSTED OBJECTS.

BANG! BANG! It came from below a stack of BOXES. Leti pushes them out of the way, surprised to find -- a TRAP DOOR!

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 16

She stares. Oddly drawn to it. Inches towards it. As she cracks it open --

A WHISPER on the wind. Low. Insistent. HUNGRY. What we'll later realize is an amalgamation of names bleeding into one --

WHISPER ON THE WIND
Seldon-Fannie-Betsey-Phillip...

It sounds TERRIFYING. Leti turns tail and runs...

17 **OMITTED** 17 *

18 **INT. ROOM BELOW THE - BASEMENT - DAY** 18 *

DARKNESS. SUDDENLY -- the trap door is flung open spilling light on a set of STAIRS. A beat. Atticus warily peeks in --

ATTICUS
I don't see anything...

He descends as Leti follows with a BAT. She pulls the single LIGHT BULB to REVEAL -- an empty room with no windows. Confusion washes over her --

LETI
There was something banging on that door to get out...

Atticus points to the PIPE HOLES for ventilation in the walls --

ATTICUS
Could have been a draft.

LETI
It wasn't just the wind. I heard voices...

She looks to Atticus. Self-conscious. She knows how it sounds. But there's no judgement in his expression --

ATTICUS
I believe you. What we went through... The stress of it...

By the way he lightly dances around the subject, it's clear they haven't really talked about their experience in Ardham.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
Plus the neighbors know what they're doing. I wouldn't be surprised if the assholes with the cars are vets.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

LETI

I know they're the ones breaking in
and tampering with the boiler too.

ATTICUS

Excessive heat and noise are the
same tactics we used in Korea.

LETI

For what?

Atticus looks off shamefully. Leti answers her own question
in her head. *Torture.* An uncomfortable silence, then --

ATTICUS

I'll nail the basement windows down
and keep watch a couple nights --

LETI

You don't have to do that --

ATTICUS

But I will.

She takes that in. He's protecting her. She touches his
arm lightly. Getting eye contact --

LETI

Thanks.

The intimacy of the moment seizes them both. Which is why
Atticus diverts his eyes. Taking in the space. Still
attempting to stifle this thing between them --

ATTICUS

You know, this is the perfect place
to put a dark room.

Leti's bruised by Atticus's coldness, but she's not about to
let him see that fact...

19 **INT. RUBY'S ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

19

Balled up attempts at RÉSUMÉS line the desk as Ruby pecks
away at the Typewriter. She's been at this for awhile.

Leti enters without knocking, and is surprised to find Floyd
asleep NAKED on the bed. She clears her throat waking him --

LETI

Floyd, you mind if I talk to my sister
for a moment?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

He sheepishly gathers his clothes and slips out as Leti tries her hardest to keep her eyes off his private parts.

LETI (CONT'D)
How long has that been going on?

RUBY
It's not going on. But I will say the piano isn't the only thing he can play well with those fingers.

Before Leti can ask anymore question about her sex life --

RUBY (CONT'D)
Did you happen to come in here to start mending the dress for my interview? Needle's in the top drawer and it's hanging right in the closet.

Leti takes the hint and retrieves the DRESS and NEEDLE. But she's too worried by her thoughts to begin in earnest --

LETI
When Momma used to do her seances for the white folks. Talking to their dead relatives. You ever think any of that was real?

Ruby ignores Leti. And Leti ignores the ignoring as she sits on the edge of the desk. Doesn't even realize her proximity is keeping Ruby from resetting the Typewriter.

LETI (CONT'D)
I mean, one time, I remember our neighbor on Holloway, what was her name again?

An annoyed Ruby slides her Typewriter over to continue working --

RUBY
I don't know. I had moved out by then.

LETI
Right, well, Momma was channeling her son, doing the deeper baritone she did when it was supposed to be a male ghost. And the light bulb exploded, and I remember wondering what if --

*
*

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

RUBY

That was really that boy's ghost?
Those seances were just one of Momma's
many hustles. I'm sure you were
outside the room flicking the lights,
or underneath the table shaking it
at just the right moments because
that's exactly what I was doing at
your age. Momma used us to dupe
grieving family members searching
and grasping for closure they were
never going to get. That's all.

Done with this nonsense Ruby attempts to change the subject --

RUBY (CONT'D)

Now do you think "domestic organizer"
sounds better than "maid"?

LETI

Just because Momma was a fraud,
doesn't mean ghosts don't exist. I
can't shake the feeling I'm always
being watched in this house --

*

Ruby sighs. Exasperated. Rips the résumé out of the
Typewriter and crumples it up --

RUBY

That's because you are. By the white
neighbors who don't want your colored
ass here. And right now I'm feeling
more of a kinship to them than you...

*

*

20 **OMITTED**

AND

21

20

AND

21

A22 **INT. HALLWAY - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

A22

Ruby ushers Leti out and slams the door behind her. Leti
came to her sister in an attempt to ease her fears, but she
can't quite let it go. *Has she moved into a haunted house?*

She hits the elevator call button. Waits. Troubled. *DING!*
Carmen exits the elevator with a STRANGE EXPRESSION --

CARMEN

The room that was locked upstairs.
Did someone move into it?

(CONTINUED)

A22 CONTINUED:

A22

LETI

No. I haven't been able to get in touch with the Realtist for the key.

CARMEN

That's strange. I just found the door open, but when I tried to go inside, it slammed in my face. This heat has me hallucinating...

Leti absorbs that. More evidence her house is haunted...

Bb22 **OMITTED**

Bb22*

B22 **EXT. REALTIST OFFICE - DAY**

B22*

Leti stalks up on a mission to get some answers but there's a "closed" sign in the window. As she peeks in -- a JUNKY CAR pulls up. Jerome climbs out. Loses his smile at the sight of her. Turns tail, but --

LETI

Hey!

JEROME J. JACKSON

Miss Lewis, is something wrong --

Leti gets right in his face --

LETI

You goddamn right something's wrong. You sold me a haunted house.

JEROME J. JACKSON

What? That's absurd --

LETI

Cut the bullshit. I want to know everything you know about that house. Who owned it before me --

JEROME J. JACKSON

I told you, the seller wants to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal for crossing the color lines --

LETI

You're required by law to provide me with a history of the house you sold me. So start talking before I go --

(CONTINUED)

B22 CONTINUED:

B22

JEROME J. JACKSON

To the police? Do that, and I'll tell them about the shell game you used to commit fraud.

LETI

You sonofabitch --

JEROME J. JACKSON

I warned you not to go pioneering, but you were so dead set on it you moved into the Winthrop House without asking any questions --

LETI

Winthrop? Is that who used to live there?

Jerome's eyes WIDEN. He's said too much. He quickly unlocks his car door...

JEROME J. JACKSON

I'll pray for you.

...and slips inside, slamming it behind him --

22 **INT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

22

A WIFE and her HUSBAND peek through their curtains at all the BLACK FOLKS invading the block for Leti's housewarming.

The word "BLACK" has been chalked on the street with an ARROW pointing to Leti's house...

23 **INT. FIRST FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

23 *

In a SINGLE FAST PACED, HIGH ENERGY TRACKING SHOT -- Leti, pitcher of ALCOHOL in hand, is the consummate hostess of the HOUSEWARMING to end all HOUSEWARMING'S.

"**BOOGIE AT MIDNIGHT**" SHAKES the walls as she dances her way down the stairs into the JAM-PACKED front hallway, passing Floyd making out with a YOUNG LADY by the ELEVATOR. He breaks their lip lock --

FLOYD

I think the elevator's broken again...

Leti fills their cups...

LETI

That should quench your thirst after taking the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

...and ducks into the FRONT PARLOR to refill the cups of a group of ACTIVISTS in the midst of a spirited conversation --

ACTIVIST MAN #1

You've heard about this newcomer preacher that's supposed to jump start the movement, right?

ACTIVIST MAN #2

Michael King?

ACTIVIST MAN #1

He's going by Martin now.

ACTIVIST WOMAN #3

I heard he was engaged to a white woman.

ACTIVIST MAN #1

Naw, they made him marry a colored one last year.

LETI

Loving a white woman doesn't mean he can't stand up for colored folks... I guess.

LAUGHS as Leti keeps it moving, looping back out into the hallway as we DRIFT away from her into the

LIVING ROOM

where a MESS of folks CUT A RUG as Ruby SINGS "**BOOGIE AT MIDNIGHT**" backed by her BAND. They play FAST, HARD and earth shatteringly LOUD, drowning out the CAR HORNS outside. DRIFT past TWO CHURCH LADIES gossiping...

CHURCH LADY #1

I bet she got all that money from a rich old white man. You know she gets around just like her mother.

CHURCH LADY #2

Could be her father. Eloise always claimed he was redboned, but we know that's a lie...

...to find Leti again. She heard the old biddies, but she's not letting anything bring her down tonight as she pushes into the...

24 **INT. BACK PARLOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

24 *

...where a BUFFET is set out. She swaps her empty pitcher for a full one as Hippolyta enters with more REHEATED FOOD --

LETI

Did you know there's a pull-down ladder to the roof?

*

HIPPOLYTA

Is there? I've never stargazed from the Northside. I guess I can let these grown folks feed themselves.

As Leti pours her a drink --

*

LETI

Thank you for bringing all this...

HIPPOLYTA

I should be thanking you. My icebox is overflowing with food folks bring when they check in on us. Can't eat all of it if we tried, even with Tic eating more than his share...

Leti heard the edge in that --

LETI

He said he was helping out...

HIPPOLYTA

He was. Cooking, playing with Dee, looking after the Travel Guide, and leaving cups upright to dry after washing them.

Hippolyta catches Leti's look, knows she sounds crazy, but --

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)

George always put the cups down. When he did the dishes, which was almost never...

LETI

Is that it? Tic reminds you of George?

HIPPOLYTA

Maybe. A little bit. He's got his eyes, that's for sure.

For a moment EMOTION blocks further words, then --

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)
I know he's just being helpful.
That he's grieving too, but...

Hippolyta trails off. Coming to a REALIZATION. The real reason Atticus's help has been bothering her so much.

LETI
But what...?

Whatever Hippolyta's realized, it's TROUBLING, and she can't bring herself to express it --

HIPPOLYTA
Nothing. I'm being foolish. You seen Dee and her friends?

25 **INT. BASEMENT - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

25

The music's just an afterthought down here. Diana digs through the WATERLOGGED JUNK as her friend GIL (12) hangs at the foot of the stairs eyeing the shadows warily. She pulls an ANTIQUE WHISK from a box --

DIANA
Jackpot. This definitely looks like a robot hand. Catch --

She tosses it to Gil. He wasn't ready. Drops it.

GIL
I don't think we should be down here --

LUCY (O.S.)
Hey, look what Bobo found.

LUCY (13) and BOBO (14) emerge from the shadows with an OUIJA BOARD. Gil's eyes widen in fear. Diana's in delight --

DIANA
We have to play.

GIL
No. No way. My momma calls those thing's the devil's board.

BOBO
Come on. It's just a game.

They all fall on the ground together surrounding the Board, except Gil who remains wary at the foot of the stairs. His friends place their hands on the PLANCHETTE --

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

DIANA
Is Gil a scaredy-cat?

The Planchette slides to YES. LAUGHS at Gil's expense.

GIL
No I'm not.

He ruefully joins the game. Lucy asks the next question --

LUCY
Who's the coolest in our group?

They all jostle to spell their names. More LAUGHTER.

BOBO
My turn. Will I have a good time on
my trip?

The Planchette doesn't move for a beat, then -- it JERKS to NO. An unsettling beat. The Group trades looks. They all feel it. Something in the air has changed.

DIANA
Gil, it's your turn.

Gil swallows. Nervous. Finally --

GIL
Who are we talking to?

The Planchette creeps to **G**. Then **E**. Building in speed and urgency as it hits **O-R-G-E**. Diana recoils in shock as the Planchette continues to spell out -- **I-S D-E-A-D!**

DIANA
That's not funny jerk.

She shoves Gil. Enraged.

GIL
I didn't do it.

She shoots a glare at Bobo and Lucy --

BOBO
Me either.

LUCY
It moved by itself.

Diana jumps up. TEARS welling in her eyes --

DIANA
You're all assholes.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2) 25

She KICKS the board out of the way as she storms off...

26 **INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 26

Hippolyta pulls down the ROOF STAIRS, but -- the DOOR at the end of the hall CLICKS OPEN. She hesitates --

HIPPOLYTA

Hello...?

The only answer is the door creeping open wider. An invitation. Hippolyta investigates. Pushes the cracked door wider to discover the...

27 **INT. MYSTERIOUSLY LOCKED ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 27

...a small, windowless, plain room...except for the ORNATE ORRERY sitting on a table at its center.

Hippolyta's eyes light up at the sight of it...

28 **INT. LIVING ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 28 *

Ruby's warbling out "**IS YOU IS OR IS YOU AIN'T MY BABY**" and it's getting sexy as fuck on the dance floor. Writhing bodies and sweaty abandon. Atticus, wearing his ARMY UNIFORM, slips in looking for -- *

LETI

slow dances with a tall, dark, and HANDSOME MAN. And the way she's pressing against him has Atticus doing a slow burn. He doesn't notice TREE sidle up to him. Half in the bag --

TREE

Man, I been lookin' for you. Where you been?

ATTICUS

On the porch. Keepin' watch.

Atticus TENSES as Tree brushes lint off his uniform --

TREE

Thought it might be a good to let the neighbor's see a soldier lives here. You was always real smart.

Atticus moves to the makeshift BAR set up. Trying to get away from Tree, but he follows --

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

TREE (CONT'D)

Hold on man, I wanted to ask you
about Letitia...

Leti's name in Tree's mouth sets Atticus even more on edge,
but he plays it cool, pours himself a WHISKEY --

ATTICUS

What about her?

TREE

Me and her used to tussle back in
high school, if you know what I'm
saying. And I'm feeling nostalgic
tonight. But I heard you been staying
here rent free...

ATTICUS

And...

A tense beat. Tree just stares at Atticus. Then LAUGHS --

TREE

Alright man, alright. But if that's
yours, you might want to tell her.

He moves off as Atticus turns his gaze back to Leti grinding
with Handsome Man. She can feel his scorching glare. They
lock eyes, an entire conversation passing between them in a
look, and -- she starts grinding HARDER.

She's daring the man that's been stifling the heat between
them to do something about it. The moment hangs, the
attraction and anger going both ways TANGIBLE, finally --

Leti's had enough. As she pushes through the dancing bodies,
away from Handsome Man and Atticus...

29 **INT. BATHROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

29

Leti bursts in. Barely closing the door behind her. Moves
to the sink. Splashes WATER on her face. Trying to cool
down. She reaches for a TOWEL with her eyes closed, doesn't
see in the mirror's reflection --

A mangled GHOST (RUFUS) punctured with nails all over his
body standing this close to her!

A dread beat as she wipes her face. Oblivious. Finally she
looks into the reflection, her expression turning as her
eyes land on --

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Atticus is in the doorway. The ghost is gone. But there's something just as dangerous in Atticus's expression. The heat in his eyes takes Leti's breath away. *

She barely turns around, before -- his lips are on hers. And she kisses him back. And there's a hunger in her kiss, something close to violence in her desire. *

And they don't stop there. Atticus lifts her back onto the sink as she wraps her legs around him. She goes for his belt buckle, then hesitates. Atticus pulls back --

ATTICUS

What...?

Leti shakes it off. *She's fine. Everything is fine...*

LETI

Take off your pants.

He does just that. She's happy to see he doesn't have a Serpent where his penis should be like in the spell in 102. He hikes her dress, pulls her panties to the side, and enters her. She GASPS. *In pain or ecstasy?* It's hard to tell. *

They assault each other with a passion that's desperate. She arches into him, and he thrusts into her, and it's not long before they both shudder from the power of the orgasm.

They catch their breaths. Wrapped in each others arms. Linger in this stolen moment. Atticus finally pulls back. Notices something strange. He touches his crotch.

His fingers come back BLOODY.

Leti looks down at her own crotch. Surprised. Embarrassed. She pushes Atticus away, closing her legs --

LETI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I hadn't realized I started my monthly --

ATTICUS

It's okay. It's not a big deal.

He turns away from her. Uses a TOWEL to wipe himself off. Can't shake the nagging feeling that this is a big deal. And without his eyes on her, Leti's facade crumbles.

She's not fine.

Atticus wants to say something, he turns around, about to say something, but --

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

LETI
I'll see you back out there...

He nods. Goes. Leti sits on the closed toilet seat. Head in her hands...

30 **INT. LIVING ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 30 *

The Band plays "**WANDERING TATTLER**" as Leti rejoins the party. *
She avoids Atticus pouring himself another whiskey. Makes
her way to Ruby playing POKER with a group of ARTISTS. Her
sister reshuffles and deals like an old pro --

RUBY
If I told you how many times I've
applied to Marshall Field's over the
last two years --

Leti sits on the arm of Ruby's chair. They exchange a glance. *
Ruby senses something's wrong, but Leti smiles through it.
She's fine. Everything is fine...

JAMES
You think maybe they haven't hired
you because you're colored?

RUBY *
Of course I know that. But I'm
exceptional and willing to work harder
than anyone else if that's what it's
going to take. If more colored folks
thought like me, the race would be a
lot further...

Her expression SOURS as she notices something in the dark *
beyond a window. Leti follows her sister's eye line as an *
ORANGE GLOW lights their faces -- *

A 12 foot CROSS goes up in FLAMES on their front lawn as *
Chad disappears into the night! *

The music tapers off as a sudden silence viruses through the *
party. FLAMES dance in the eyes of everyone -- Atticus, *
Hippolyta, Dee, Bobo -- turning their attention out the front *
windows. Just those never-ending CAR HORNS to underscore *
the sobering moment. *

Leti touches eyes with Atticus. A mix of ANGER, FRUSTRATION, *
and DETERMINATION passes between them. Two seconds later *
she's beelining for the front door. Grabbing the BASEBALL *
BAT on her way. Atticus is up in SOLDIER MODE... *

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

ATTICUS *

Aunt Hippolyta get Dee and the kids
out of here. James, grab the shotguns
from the closet. Ruby get keys to
Floyd's car. Tree... *

...as Leti flings the front door open, the BLARING CAR HORNS
greeting her... *

31 **EXT. WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 31

...the sound of RUSHING WATER overpowers the track as she
stalks down the walkway, Bat in hand, a woman possessed.
The beat drops in, and we recognize it's the "**HOLD UP**" **AUDIO**
from **BEYONCE'S LEMONADE** and it's all that we hear as -- *

Leti, haloed by the BURNING CROSS, moves from one horn blaring
car to the next -- BUSTING OUT the windows and headlights! *

The lights of the neighbors' homes flicker on as Atticus,
Tree, and James, SHOTGUNS in hand, make a parameter around
Leti and her destruction to ensure that none of the whites-
only neighbors decide to escalate. *

The music FADES as Leti knocks the BRICKS off the car horns
through the shattered windows. Without the noise, approaching
POLICE SIRENS reach everyone's ears now. *

And immediately everyone goes into POLICE NEUTRALIZATION
MODE -- Ruby pulls FLOYD'S CAR up. Atticus tosses the
SHOTGUNS into the trunk. She drives off as Carmen runs from
the house with a COAT for Leti. *

White Neighbors watch as Leti kneels on the front lawn with
Atticus, Tree, and James. Hands over their heads. Eyes
fixed and fierce as FOUR PADDY WAGONS screech to a halt before
them. Burke and Crane lead the charge -- *

BURKE *

Cuff 'em all.

32 **INT. BACK OF - PADDY WAGON - NIGHT** 32

Burke and Crane careen through the streets as a cuffed Leti
sits behind the cage across from CAPTAIN SEAMUS LANCASTER

(40's), a street thug that's worked his way to the head of
organized crime by bashing heads. He refers to her FILE --

LANCASTER

Letitia Lewis. You've got quite a
record here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

What group are you with? Universal Nigger Improvement Association? The Monkey Urban League? Oh, wait, I know, The National Association for the Advancement of Cockroaches?

Leti CHUCKLES. That last one was actually kind of funny. Lancaster narrows his eyes at her --

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

I've gotten a lot of complaints from your neighbors about you...

LETI

Have you gotten the twenty-one reports I've filed about harassment from those same neighbors?

LANCASTER

Burke. Crane. Have we received any complaints?

CRANE

Not that we can recall, Captain.

Leti's jaw tightens as Lancaster shrugs nonchalantly --

LANCASTER

Your reports must have gone missing. That happens from time to time. Mostly with niggers, but sometimes with reports too.

(then:)

Anything strange happening in your new house?

Leti's interest is piqued, but she defiantly exercises her right to remain silent.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

Okay, how 'bout this. Did someone tell you to buy the Winthrop house?

Leti once again, remains silent. Lancaster nods. *Fine, they'll do it the hard way.* He slips his hand around a STRAP hanging from the ceiling as he taps the roof of the van, and --

Burke SWERVES violently. Lancaster is secured, but -- Leti's cuffed and she's SLAMMED into the cage! As they take her on a ROUGH RIDE like the one that killed FREDDIE GRAY --

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

A gal like you couldn't afford that mortgage. Not even renting out rooms. Tell me who helped you buy the Winthrop House and this ends.

Leti grits her teeth as she's slammed from one side of the van to the other. But she remains silent. Finally, the Paddy Wagon pulls to a stop. She's BRUISED and BLOODY.

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

You really don't know anything about the house you moved into, do you? I'll tell you something. We found the body parts of eight niggers buried in the room below the basement.

As the SHOCK of that lands on Leti --

LANCASTER (CONT'D)

If history is any indication, you won't last in that house very long at all...

33 **INT. DARK ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

33

CLICK! 60 watts of reddish glow illuminate -- a DOZEN DEVELOPED MOVE IN DAY PHOTOS hanging from clothes lines to dry. PHOTO DEVELOPING ESSENTIALS fill the space now.

Leti looking like hell -- disheveled, sleep deprived, tense -- takes in the space with new eyes. *Were colored folks really murdered here, or were the police just threatening her?*

She's distracted by something she spots in one of the photos. There's a WHITE BLUR in the corner. She clicks on the fluorescents. Looks to the other photos. Finds similar white blurs on them.

*
*

She lays the photos out on the floor like a large jig-saw puzzle. Shuffles them around, piecing them all together, and -- the blurs POOL together like drops of mercury at the center of the pile, and --

A PHANTOM of a WHITE MAN pushes out of the photo like a skeleton emerging from a web made of taffy!

As a GUST OF WIND knocks Leti into the stairs --

PHANTOM

GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!

34 **INT. FIRST FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

34 *

Leti snatches a FRAMED PHOTO off the wall. Inspects it. And whatever she sees -- is solidifying a troubling revelation!

She adds the Frame she just took off the wall to the other SEVEN FRAMES laid out on the dining room table as Ruby and Carmen come down the stairs. Carmen's got her BAGS packed. She throws Leti a guilty look as she heads out --

CARMEN

Sorry this whole thing didn't work out...

Leti grunts in acknowledgement as she pulls the PHOTOS out of the frames --

RUBY

We've got a big problem. None of the boarders like that you put a bigger target on our backs by busting up those white boy's cars. They're considering moving out too.

LETI

That'll be safer for them --

She heads for the door, Photos in hand, on a mission, but Ruby blocks her --

RUBY

Who cares about them? We have an installment contract to pay off we can't afford. Did you even read the fine print when you signed it?

Leti is in the middle of a ghost hunt, and doesn't have time to talk about mortgages --

LETI

Fuck, Ruby, it'll be fine. I still have some of the money Momma left...

She realizes what she said a beat too late not to say it. And that's a record scratch for Ruby --

RUBY

All that money came from Momma...

Leti has no choice but to own up to it now --

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

LETI

I was just as surprised as you are when I got the call from someone at the bank. They said she had left me an inheritance...

RUBY

Momma didn't have any money --

LETI

I guess she did --

RUBY

And she just left all of it to you? You didn't even come to her funeral. Hell, you don't even go by her last name...

LETI

I know it doesn't make any sense. But to be honest, I'm sick of trying to figure out her crazy motivations. Momma never did anything for any reason other than herself. And I didn't tell you because I knew it was gonna hurt you --

And that fucking hits a nerve. Ruby cuts Leti with a look --

RUBY

Thank you, for looking out for me...

LETI

Ruby...

RUBY

Don't. You look down on Momma, but you're worse...

LETI

What's that supposed to mean?

RUBY

At least she didn't pretend she was anything but selfish. You say you bought this house cause you wanted to help our people, but it looks to me all you've done is move in your artist friends. And if you were half the sister you claim you want to be, you would have split that money between me and Marvin, regardless of momma's wishes.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

That lands on Leti. There's truth in all of it. And this is the part that hurts Ruby the most. The personal betrayal --

RUBY (CONT'D)

But you didn't, instead you lied to me. Then begged me to move in here cause you wanted us to really be sisters for once. But that was just more bullshit. Just you burying your guilt for doing what you always do, which is look out for Leti first.

Leti tries to protest but Ruby's not hearing it --

RUBY (CONT'D)

And I'm the fool, cause here I was thinking all these years I was helping you out and sending you money you were just a fuck up, but really, you're just fucked up.

Saying it out loud breaks both their hearts. Ruby storms off. Leaving Leti in the aftermath...

A35 **OMITTED**

A35*

35 **EXT. SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY**

35 *

Montrose sits on the curb with an 1000 yard stare. Takes a swig from his FLASK as Woody pulls up. Hippolyta climbs out --

HIPPOLYTA

Montrose. What are you doing here?

MONTROSE

I thought I might hit a few balls with Dee. Help her with her swing.

He rises as Hippolyta pops Woody's trunk. Doesn't pay any mind to the COVERED ORRERY SHAPED OBJECT behind the SHOPPING BAGS as he helps her carry them into...

36 **INT. SAFE NEGRO TRAVEL - DAY**

36

...and Hippolyta points to her desk --

HIPPOLYTA

You can put them over there --

Montrose does just that. One bag balancing precariously on the edge, and -- a PAPERBACK drops out. Hippolyta's eyes widen in alarm as Montrose reaches to pick it up --

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)

I got it --

But she's too late to stop him from discovering -- it's a new copy of **BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA**. Montrose's heart sinks --

MONTROSE

George's favorite...

Hippolyta hesitates for a second before --

HIPPOLYTA

I spilled coffee on his copy...

It feels like Montrose knows Hippolyta is lying. But he just walks over to the shelf and places George's favorite book back in its place. Hippolyta runs her fingers across one of the MAPS laid out on her husband's design table --

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)

Every time he left to go on the road, I felt two things, a bit of jealousy he got to go on adventures, and terror he'd never come home. And when that call finally came, I never thought I'd feel relief...

She struggles with the words to explain it. Montrose waits.

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)

The most painful kind of relief, but still. The worst I could imagine finally happened, and there's nothing to do but to deal with it. And I've been trying. I saw his body, the bullet hole where that sheriff shot him, and I know you and Tic took care of that vile man, and I don't want to know the details of that, but...what you told me happened, it doesn't feel right.

Hippolyta finally articulates the realization she had with Leti at the housewarming --

HIPPOLYTA (CONT'D)

Tic's been staying here for a month, and every day of it I've had this nagging feeling he's not telling me something about my husband's death.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

Montrose takes a beat. He told his son to suck it up, but here, in the face of Hippolyta's grief, he's not finding it easy to keep the lie going either. He musters --

MONTROSE

I'm not sure what you want me to say. What else you think happened?

HIPPOLYTA

I don't know. But something. And I don't know if it's too horrible to speak of, or something George did wrong, but please, I have to know, I need to know...Because this feeling...I just...Please...

Montrose responds to his sister-in-law's heart wrenching plea with SILENCE. And it's taking everything in him to keep it as a devastated Hippolyta leaves...

37 **INT. DENMARK VESEY'S - EVENING**

37

Atticus enters to find Leti at a booth in the back. Her PHOTOS and some NEWS CLIPPINGS laid out before her. She downs COFFEE as she pours over them. WIRED.

ATTICUS

What's all this?

LETI

Have you noticed anything strange going on at my house?

ATTICUS

Strange like what?

LETI

Like an elevator that never works unless it's trying to take your head off, loud banging noises in the basement, mysteriously locked doors that open mysteriously then slam shut, or phantoms that come out of photos and attack you.

(then:)

The house is haunted. I believe by nine ghosts.

Atticus takes a moment. Absorbs that. Troubled by it.

ATTICUS

Walk me through it.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

He puts his GLASSES on as she gets the Clippings in order --

LETI

Okay, the realist was cagey about the previous owners, but called it the "Winthrop" House...

Atticus REACTS. That name strikes a deep chord in him, but Leti doesn't notice as she continues --

LETI (CONT'D)

I couldn't dig up anything on the name "Winthrop" but I did find out that the last owner of the house was a man named Hiram Epstein.

She shows him a Clipping -- "FAMED ASTROPHYSICS PROFESSOR FIRED FROM UNIVERSITY". There's a photo of HIRAM EPSTEIN in a cluttered lab. He's the phantom from Leti's photos!

LETI (CONT'D)

He was a scientist at the University of Chicago until he was fired for unethical experimental practices.

ATTICUS

What kind of experiments?

LETI

The article doesn't say, but I think he was experimenting on humans. And he took his work home when the university fired him. Eight bodies were found in my basement.

ATTICUS

When?

LETI

I'm not sure. But remember the night of the housewarming? When we were arrested? The police captain is the one who told me about the bodies. And he was asking all these questions about the house. Like he had some connection to it.

More Clippings -- "COP SURVIVES MOB HIT -- FOUR GUNSHOTS AT POINT BLANK RANGE." "COP WITH NINE LIVES APPOINTED HEAD OF MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON ORGANIZED CRIME." A younger LANCASTER holds up a key to the city...

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

LETI (CONT'D)

That's him. And look who's standing behind him.

...in front of a row of PROMINENT WHITE MEN, one of which is HIRAM EPSTEIN with his RIGHT ARM MISSING --

ATTICUS

Hiram Epstein. They knew each other.

Another Clipping -- "RASH OF MISSING NEGROS ON SOUTH SIDE".

LETI

And Lancaster's name pops up in a string of articles as the lead detective in a number of missing persons reports from the Southside.

ATTICUS

You think he was supplying this Epstein guy with test subjects.

*
*

Leti nods. That's exactly what she thinks.

LETI

Now there's no obituary for Hiram, but I'm pretty sure he's dead. He was the phantom that came out of my photos and attacked me. And look at these...

*

She lays out the Photos she pulled off her wall. Atticus leans in. Looking carefully. Finally notices what Leti noticed when she was pulling them off the wall earlier -- GHOSTLY FACES are superimposed over Leti's friend's faces!

ATTICUS

Eight plus Hiram equals nine.

She spreads out EIGHT MISSING PERSON'S ARTICLES --

LETI

The body parts found in what's now my dark room were never identified. It took a while, but I found all eight of the faces.

ATTICUS

Colored folks who disappeared on the South side.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (3)

37

LETI

Now restless souls trapped in my house with their killer. They want out, I know it.

They sit for a beat. Sitting in the sadness of it. Then --

ATTICUS

So, magic in Ardham. Ghosts in Chicago. Is the Loch Ness Monster in Lake Michigan?

They share a NERVOUS LAUGH. But it only dispels the tension for a moment. Atticus sighs --

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Shit. I think it's time to move out. Your boarders are gone, the neighbors are probably planning more retaliation, and if Uncle George was here, he'd reference a haunted house story that proves these ghosts aren't going to stop until you join them on the other side.

Leti gives that some serious thought, before --

LETI

At the housewarming...that was my first time.

ATTICUS

Your first time what...

Atticus trails off. Realizing. The bleeding. It felt like a big deal because -- it was Leti's first time having sex.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, if I...

LETI

I don't regret it. I needed it. To feel something. You know, we never even really talked about all the crazy shit that happened in Ardham.

ATTICUS

The monsters. The spells. Uncle George's death...

LETI

And I died too.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (4)

37

LETI (CONT'D)

And the truth is since I been back
I've felt like a ghost, like
something's missing, and I've been
grasping at everything around me to
avoid it. Pioneering, the church,
my sister, you.

We see Leti take it in. She makes up her mind. Knows what
she has to do. It washes over her --

LETI (CONT'D)

I thought the world was one way, and
found out it isn't. And that
terrifies me. Just like my house
being haunted does. But I've got to
face this new world head on, and
stake my claim in it...

38 **INT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

38

Leo watches as a CONJURE WOMAN (MARTINE) smoking a CIGAR
leads a GOAT covered in PALM OIL down the block...

*
*

39 **EXT. PORCH - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

39

Leti and Atticus stand by as Martine takes a SWIG from a RUM
BOTTLE and spits the liquor to the East, West, North and
South. Then she pulls an ORNATE DAGGER, and -- swiftly slits
the Goat's throat!

*
*
*
*

ATTICUS

Where did you find her, again?

LETI

My momma couldn't really commune
with the dead, but she was a hustler
that believed in doing her research.

Martine dips her hands in the pooling GOAT'S BLOOD --

MARTINE

If the spirits are as malevolent as
you claim, chile, we'll need a seal
of protection to keep us safe while
we purge the house.

*

It's right around this time we realize -- Leti intends to
perform an EXORCISM!

Martine draws an "X" on all their foreheads in blood. Then
MARKS both sides of the door frame as she enters the house --

*

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 39

MARTINE (CONT'D)
I'll reach out for the spirit's energy
until I find it...

40 **OMITTED** 40

41 **INT. BASEMENT - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 41

It's grimly quiet. Atticus and Leti follow Martine as she INTUITS her way through the clutter with her eyes closed.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The Trap Door violently shakes as they near. A cacophony of CREEPY WHISPERS SWELL.

Martine is unbothered. Nods to Atticus to open the Trap Door. He WRESTLES with it for a beat, finally gets it open, and they descend into...

A42 **DARK ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE** A42

...the RED GLOW of the single light bulb. SUDDENLY -- the trap door SLAMS shut behind them, and -- the light bulb SHATTERS! Leti screams as they're plunged into DARKNESS...

42 **INT. FIRST FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 42 *

SMASH! A window SHATTERS, and -- the Car Punks climb in. Chad carries a makeshift PIPE BOMB -- *

CHAD
I'll put this in the basement.

Leo and Terry have BATS --

LEO
We'll find that bitch and bash her
head in like she did your dad's car...

A43 **DARK ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE** A43

PITCH BLACK. All sounds have ceased. Martine's voice reaches out of the darkness --

MARTINE
Take my hands. Form a circle. And
don't let go, no matter what.

Atticus and Leti fumble for each others, then Martine's hands. Once their circle is complete, Martine CHANTS --

(CONTINUED)

A43 CONTINUED:

A43

MARTINE (CONT'D)

Mama Oya, I, your dutiful servant,
call upon you to use me as a vessel.
So together we may cleanse this space
of these tormented sprits.

The fluorescents begin to STROBE on and off. Atticus and Leti tighten their grip on each other as Martine CHANTS in CREOLE --

MARTINE (CONT'D)

*Wicked spirits. No longer of this
world. Scatter to the four winds.
You are cast out...*

The walls SHAKE as a VOLATILE WIND sweeps the room. Atticus and Leti's eyes widen in fear as every object in the photo developing space rises as if poised to strike...

43 **INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

43

Leo checks rooms on the hunt for Our Heroes. He gets to the mysteriously locked door. It's once again locked.

LEO

I found 'em, Terry!

Terry exits a room stuffing JEWELRY into his pocket as Leo attempts to break down the door. BANG! BANG --

Suddenly -- the door SWINGS open. Leo's thrown off balance as he stumbles in...

44 **INT. MYSTERIOUSLY LOCKED ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT**

44

...and Terry's right behind him, bat raised, ready to take some heads off, but -- there's nobody in here and the Orrery is gone!

BANG! They jump out of their skins as the door slams shut behind them. Terry tries to open it, but --

TERRY

It's locked again...

He trails off. Because this is something they both sense before seeing it -- there's someone here now.

They slowly turn to find -- a 7 FOOT TALL BABY-HEADED GHOST (GROVER)!

HISSSS! The RADIATOR kicks on full blast as Leo and Terry back towards it.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: 44

Screams caught in their throats as Baby-Head staggers towards them -- RIGHT THROUGH the table!

The pressure gauge on the Radiator blows off, and -- SMASHES Terry in the eye, then -- a jet of STEAM shoots out -- BROILING Leo and Terry, their skin blistering and melting as they're cooked to death!

Aa45 **INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** Aa45

MANGLED SCREAMS echo through the door. A beat, then --

BANG! BANG! BANG! The sounds of Leo and Terry trying desperately to get out, then -- SILENCE. A long, grim beat. *

DING! The arriving elevator echoes... *

A45 **DARK ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE** A45*

PANDEMONIUM. The Trap Door slams open and closed. A white noise of WHISPERS fills the air. Every object in the photo developing space WHIRLS around the room. But Martine remains calm as she breaks her CHANT -- *

MARTINE

It's working. Chant with me now...

Atticus and Leti join Martine as the malevolent vibe in the room grows more intense as they CHANT in CREOLE -- *

MARTINE (CONT'D)

You are cast out. You are cast out. You cast out...

ATTICUS/LETI

You are cast out. You are cast out. You cast out... *

SUDDENLY -- all the objects hit the floor, and -- a pipe BURSTS, spraying WATER everywhere. Leti's eyes widen as she stares at Atticus's forehead -- *

LETI

Our marks... *

The water is washing away their Protection Marks! They unclasp their hands. Shielding their heads from the spray as they attempt to escape, but -- the trap door won't budge... *

45 **INT. BASEMENT - WINTHROP HOUSE - NIGHT** 45

Chad scans for the best place to put the Pipe Bomb for maximum impact. Decides on the BOILER. Then --

He hears MURMURS. Coming from the Elevator. He moves to it as it scrapes open to EMPTY air.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

He peers in, and -- the elevator CRASHES UP taking off his head!

DING! IN THE ELEVATOR -- a CHILD GHOST (JASPER) with MAN ARMS cranks the lever. He disappears, REVEALING -- Leo and Terry's BROILED BODIES line the floor!

*
*
*

A46 **DARK ROOM - WINTHROP HOUSE**

A46*

Atticus slams his shoulder into the trap door with abandon. Once. Twice. Harder as the last of Martine's Protection Mark washes away. A GUST OF VIOLENT WIND has her tumbling back down the stairs, and another gust SNATCHES her up, and -- CRUNCHES her head into the ceiling, knocking her out!

Leti moves to aid Martine, but before she even realizes what's happening, the Conjure Woman SPRINGS on her, and -- FLINGS her across the room!

*

ATTICUS

Leti --

Martine's attention snaps to him. Her eyes CLOUDY. Movements like a rabid animal. She's possessed by Hiram's ghost!

*

Atticus CHARGES her, but -- she easily PINS him against the wall by his throat. As Martine CHOKES the life out of him, Leti struggles to get up --

*

LETI

Betsey. Phillip. Lucy. Jasper.
Anarcha. Rufus. Grover. Olivia.

*
*

As she evokes each of their names, the ghosts MATERIALIZE in a circle, and -- Martine COLLAPSES like a rag doll, but -- Atticus lands confidently on his feet, his now cloudy eyes locking on Leti --

*

ATTICUS

*Getoutofmyhousebitchgetoutofmyhouse
bitchgetoutofmyhousebitch....*

*
*
*

An erratic death croak repeated over and over. The stuff nightmares are made of. Hiram has jumped into Atticus!

Leti steels herself. Squares off with possessed Atticus. Looks to the mangled black faces surrounding them --

*
*

LETI

You're not dead yet. You can still fight. Help me. Help me cast him out.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

A46 CONTINUED: A46

She starts Martine's CREOLE CHANT as the 8 Ghost clasps hands with her and each other, forming an exorcism prayer circle -- *

LETI (CONT'D)	GHOSTS	
<i>You are cast out. You</i>	<i>You are cast out. You are</i>	*
<i>are cast out. You</i>	<i>cast out. You cast out...</i>	*
<i>cast out...</i>		*

PHOTOGRAPHS whirl around them as if they are in the protective eye of a spiritual hurricane as Possessed Atticus CONTORTS in pain, then DROPS, and -- the DISFIGURED GHOST of Hiram Epstein appears! *

He's missing one arm and the lower half of his body. But exposed like this, he's not scary, he just looks like what he really is -- a frail decrepit white man.

There's FEAR in his eyes as he cowers from the Ghosts who now look like the innocent victims they were in life. VENGEANCE in their eyes as they CHANT with fervor led by Leti -- *

LETI	GHOSTS	
<i>You are cast out. You</i>	<i>You are cast out. You are</i>	*
<i>are cast out. You</i>	<i>cast out. You cast out...</i>	*
<i>cast out...</i>		*

Hiram looks to Leti as he CONTORTS in pain, DEMATERIALIZING --

LETI
GET THE FUCK OUT OF MY HOUSE!

B46 **EXT. WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY** B46*

A BRIGHT and SUNNY NEW DAY. The Winthrop House has come a long way since the first time we laid eyes on it... *

46 **INT. SECOND FLOOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY** 46

Leti's photos line the walls in new frames, the elevator's working, and NEW BOARDERS are moving in. The artists and activists are gone. Replaced by SINGLE MOTHERS with their CHILDREN, MAIDS, and former TENEMENT RESIDENTS. *

Leti walks a REPORTER through the house doing an interview --

REPORTER
It's remarkable you're even standing here today considering the opposition you were up against.

Leti smiles knowingly. *If only she knew the truth...* *

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

REPORTER (CONT'D)

And you didn't just do it for yourself. To really be providing a sanctuary for those in the community most in need of cheap housing. That's what makes this story newsworthy.

LETI

Well, it was my sister who really inspired it all.

She glances into Ruby's room as they pass -- a new FAMILY is unpacking their things. Ruby's moved out.

That dampens Leti's enthusiasm as they continue onto the...

47 **INT. ELEVATOR - WINTHROP HOUSE - DAY**

47

...and close the gate. As they descend --

REPORTER

I have one last question. Off the record. Do you know anything about the disappearance of three of your white neighbors?

DING! as SURPRISE washes over Leti --

LETI

I hadn't heard anyone was missing...

The grate slides closed behind them as they exit. And -- the elevator lurches down, stopping briefly at the BASEMENT LEVEL, before -- continuing down! *What the hell!?!*

The elevator goes down what feels like two floors, and just when we're really wondering what the fuck is going on --

DING! The doors open, REVEALING -- a long, dark TUNNEL.

The BODIES of Leo, Chad and Terry are just outside the door, along with the SKELETAL REMAINS of at least a DOZEN VICTIMS!

*

As we're left to wonder when Our Heroes will discover this...

48 **EXT. REALTIST OFFICE - DAY**

48

Atticus spies from the shadows of a CANDY STORE across the street. His army issued DUFFEL slung over one shoulder.

The Realtist loads BOXES into his EXPENSIVE CAR. He's clearing out in a hurry. He disappears back into the office as -- a Bentley zips up, and out climbs CHRISTINA BRAITHWHITE!

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: 48

Atticus's heart throbs in his ears at the sight of her...

49 **INT. REALTIST OFFICE - DAY** 49

The bell above the door JINGLES as Atticus stalks in. The Realtist pales when he sees the FURY in his eyes, but Christina has nothing but a slow smile for Atticus --

CHRISTINA

JJ, I think you should probably grab that last box and go.

He doesn't need to be told twice. He takes the last box in his now EMPTY office, and scrambles out. A tense beat, then --

ATTICUS

Leti's inheritance didn't come from her mother it came from you.

CHRISTINA

How did you figure it out?

ATTICUS

"Winthrop". I saw the name carved on the frame of your father's favorite painting.

Let that sit for a moment -- Leti's haunted house is connected to the Sons of Adam!

CHRISTINA

Horatio Winthrop was a founding member of the Sons of Adam, but he was banished after stealing pages from the Book of Names. He was sick of Titus having the only cipher to read the Language of Adam and tried to develop his own from the stolen pages. Hiram Epstein was a follower of his --

ATTICUS

I didn't come here for a history lesson --

CHRISTINA

Then why did you come here?

ATTICUS

To make sure you stay the fuck away from my family.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

He pulls a GUN from his duffel, points it right between Christina's eyes, intending to blow her brains out, but --
HE CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER!

Literally. No matter how hard he tries. And he fucking tries. As he strains, hand shaking, Christina stares down the barrel. Eyes glistening. No fear what so ever --

CHRISTINA

Shall I continue the lesson? The Language of Adam is a hard thing to wield. Most of the order never create their own spells. They don't have the discipline or talent. Those who do, usually get one spell in their lifetime. My father's claim to fame was invulnerability.

Atticus's hand CRAMPS as he continues to strain --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

He thought if you couldn't be harmed, you'd live forever. He had to remove it when he attempted to open the door to the Garden of Eden.

A hint of SADNESS in her eyes. But she shakes it off. She had to do what she had to do. She moves closer to Atticus --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

It's extraordinary really if you think about it. Every spell the Sons have created, has come from just one deciphered chapter of The Book of Names orally passed down by Titus. The book is gone, and Titus locked his pages in a booby-trapped vault only he could access, but imagine the possibilities if Horatio Winthrop's stolen pages were to be found. The Language of Adam could finally be decoded in its entirety.

Christina's planting seeds and Atticus is already watering them in his mind. She pulls a CARD. Jams it into his pocket --

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Call me when you're ready to learn more about our family legacy.

She leans in close. Whispers in his ear --

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2)

49

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
And Tic, really, you have to be
smarter than this. You know you
can't just go around killing white
women.

SMASH TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Misha Green