



**KENNETH BRANAGH**

# **THE HERETIC**

**BY ADAM SCOTT**

**PART THREE CROSSROAD**

**WITH**

**RIZ AHMED**

**TOM HIDDLESTON**

**EDDIE MARSAN**

**CAREY MULLIGAN**

**ANNABEL SCHOLEY**

**LESLEY SHARP**

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FADE IN:

INT. NIX'S FLAT -- NIGHT

STEPHEN 'NIX' NIXON sits in his armchair by the window, getting drunk quietly. His face is still a mess after the beating he took in the previous episode.

A knock on the door.

Nix puts down the glass and heads for the door. He makes sure the chain is on before he opens the door a crack.

NIX

Who is it--?

SMASH! The door is SMASHED INWARDS, the chain flying off. Nix is thrown to the ground by the impact. He looks up in horror to see

LARRY COVINGTON

striding into the flat, his face drawn and deadly.

And a CRICKET BAT in hand.

NIX (CONT'D)

Larry, listen, I never--

SMASH! The bat descends. BLOOD SPLATTERS in all directions and Nix HOWLS in pain.

HOLD on Larry's face as he sets into Nix, the cricket bat descending again, again, again. Nix's howls and screams come from OS, though we never see him.

BLOOD SPLATTERS across Larry's face and arms.

The bat descends again -- Nix SCREAMS in pain and we

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTRE -- NIGHT

JACK ARMITAGE gets out of his car, moves towards the entrance to the flats. A couple of POLICE CARS and an AMBULANCE are already on the scene, along with a few GAWPING PEDESTRIANS trying to figure out what's going on.

Jack buttonholes the nearest UNIFORMED OFFICER.

JACK

Get a cordon set up, keep these people back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

UNIFORM 1

Guv.

As they get on with it, Jack makes his way toward the flat.

INT. NIX'S FLAT -- NIGHT

Jack enters to find UNIFORMED OFFICERS and SOCOs working through the scene. His eye is immediately drawn to a misshapen lump on the ground--

JACK

Oh God...

He raises his hand to his mouth but is able to keep himself under control with some effort.

REVERSE ANGLE

to reveal he's looking at the bloody pulp that is Nix's body. It's a mess, lying in a pool of blood, limbs twisted at impossible angles, skull partly crushed in. Eyes swollen shut. TEETH knocked out and lying obscenely on the ground.

DR GATES (O.S.)

Told you God hates me, didn't I  
Jack?

Jack looks up as the the medical examiner, DR GATES, gets to his feet.

DR GATES (CONT'D)

Well, I can definitely confirm  
life is extinct. Good old fashioned  
blunt-force trauma done with  
something heavy, a baseball bat  
or similar.

CUT TO:

EXT. KINGBY BACK STREETS -- NIGHT

Larry rushes into frame before stopping, breathing hard, bending over to counter a stitch.

The bloody cricket bat still clutched in his hands.

A wild, terrified look in his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. NIX'S FLAT -- NIGHT

As before. Jack gives the body another careful look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK  
Time of death?

DR GATES  
(shrugs)  
Less than an hour.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTRE -- NIGHT

The flashing blue lights and commotion continue from OS -- we're round the corner from the entrance to the flat.

TOBIAS BLACKWOOD stands with his back to a wall, looking out of shot with a horrified expression.

REVERSE ANGLE

to reveal he's facing PATRICK KENDREW.

HOLD on Tobias for a long moment as he takes this in. His eye is drawn to something; the CALL CENTRE SECURITY PASS around Patrick's neck.

Patrick smiles that terrible smile again, before turning and walking away.

HOLD on Tobias' face for several long moments, as he struggles to deal with what's just happened.

Knowing damn well he's just seen The Dark Man.

Then he pulls himself together. His face suddenly going grim and determined.

TOBIAS  
Wait!

He charges up the road, following Patrick--

TOBIAS (CONT'D)  
I said wait--!

He stops -- he's rounded the corner, back to the site of the commotion, but there's no sign of Patrick. He's vanished into the darkness.

Tobias' eyes flash around the scene, desperately, but there's nothing.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)  
Damn...

He catches sight of someone else; Jack, stood behind the cordon, his eyes on Tobias.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A significant look passes between the two of them.

EXT. SIDE STREET -- NIGHT

Patrick gets into his car, slings his bag onto the passenger seat.

Pause.

Then a small smile of victory from Patrick.

He starts the car and drives away.

EXT. BACK ALLEY -- NIGHT

Where Tobias stands with Jack. Jack is agitated in the extreme, pacing up and down, eyes wild.

JACK  
Jesus Christ, I mean ... Katie,  
Ronnie and now this--

TOBIAS  
Easy, Jack, just calm down--

JACK  
How am I supposed to calm down  
after...?

A beat while he forces himself to calm down.

JACK (CONT'D)  
It's Larry Covington, it's got to  
be--

TOBIAS  
You don't know that.

JACK  
You saw the way he was acting at  
the funeral--

TOBIAS  
Yes I did. And we both know  
there's a lot more going on here  
than just that.

The tone in his voice catches Jack's attention. He stops pacing, looks at Tobias with suspicion.

JACK  
What do you mean?

TOBIAS  
I've just seen him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK  
Him? Him who, Larry?

TOBIAS  
Him.

Jack looks up with surprise. Understanding.

JACK  
The ... Dark Man?

TOBIAS  
(with absolute  
certainty)  
The Dark Man. I've just seen  
him.  
(beat)  
And I know who he is.

A dark look passes between the two of them. And Jack looks even more freaked out than he did before.

JACK  
Do you ... do you still think  
this is all about Danni?

Tobias looks at him, that same absolute certainty in his face.

TOBIAS  
I know it for a fact.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER BANK -- NIGHT

The moonlight reflects off the water.

Larry stands on the shore -- a place we recognise as the exact spot where Katie's body was found. His face and clothes are covered in blood, and he's still holding the cricket bat clutched in his hands.

His eyes are fixed on the dark waters.

SLOWLY PUSH IN on his face as we see the tears rolling from his eyes. His whole body shaking slightly as he reflects on what he's done.

He looks down at the bat in his hand. The thing is stained with blood, the red still visible in the moonlight.

With an angry, INARTICULATE YELL Larry HURLS the bat away as hard as it can. It splashes down into the dark water of the river, sinking without a trace into the depths.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Larry staggers away from the shore line. There's a PARK BENCH nearby -- Larry makes for it but he misses when he tries to sit down, collapsing into a heap onto the ground.

He buries his face in his hands.

And starts crying. Bawling his eyes out. Genuine grief and anger coming out in great, body-rattling sobs.

SLOWLY PULL BACK FROM him as he sits alone on the rocky ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN STREETS -- NIGHT

As Patrick's mini cruises through the darkened streets.

INT. PATRICK'S CAR -- NIGHT

Patrick drives, eyes on the road.

Looking incredibly pleased with himself.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVER BANK -- NIGHT

Larry wipes the tears from his eyes with his hands, pulling himself together with what looks to be a considerable effort.

He notices the blood on his hands and face for the first time. Scrambles to his feet, moves to the water of the river.

He squats down at the water's edge, dips his hands in and washes his face with the cold water. He lets water trickle off his fingers back into the river...

...And when the ripples stop, there's someone stood behind him! The silhouetted, hooded visage of THE DARK MAN!

And Larry freezes in terror--

THE DARK MAN

*You know what you have to do.*

Larry whirls -- but the Dark Man is gone, no sign of him whatsoever. Larry's even more frightened than he was before.

He gets to his feet and runs off down the banks of the river, vanishing into the night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

From OS: a KNOCKING on a door. And we

CUT TO:

EXT. SMITH HOUSE -- NIGHT

DANNI SMITH opens the door, surprise in her face:

DANNI

Jack?

Jack stands on the doorstep, his expression drawn and serious.

DANNI (CONT'D)

You look like you've seen a ghost,  
what's--

JACK

(quiet)

Stephen Nixon is dead.

And Danni stops in her tracks. Her expression contorting in horror.

INT. SMITH HOUSE - DANNI'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Danni and Jack sit on the bed, talking in hushed tones.

JACK

It was vicious, Danni. I mean  
I've seen some stuff in my time,  
but this, it was...

(looks away, can't  
meet her eyes)

He'd been battered to death.

DANNI

...God...

JACK

We're still trying to find out  
what happened.

DANNI

Do you know...?

JACK

There's only one person I can  
think of who'd do this.

(looks her in the  
eye)

Larry.

A moment while Danni takes this in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI

Because of what happened at the funeral?

JACK

Because of what happened at the funeral, exactly. He's the only person in the frame for this.

Long pause.

DANNI

There was only one person in the frame for what happened to Katie too, remember that?

JACK

I know, believe me I know but ... when Larry went off at Nix in the funeral, I saw something in his eyes. I've only seen it a few times, but when it's there ... I recognise it. And I know it when I see it.

DANNI

Recognise what?

JACK

A need to kill.

A beat while that sinks in.

JACK (CONT'D)

I think he'd have killed Nix there and then if we hadn't pulled him back.

Danni looks away, remembering.

DANNI

I think I know what you mean.  
(looks back at him)  
Why did you come here?

JACK

(surprised)  
I ... wanted to make sure you heard the full story, not some garbled version.

DANNI

That's it?

Jack's pause is just long enough for Danni to notice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Yeah, of course, why wouldn't it be?

(beat)

Danni, I know you're friends with Larry--

DANNI

Here it comes.

JACK

If he gets in touch with you--

DANNI

You want me to be the bait again?

JACK

I want you to stay the hell away from him. If I'm right he's dangerous and liable to snap at any moment. If he comes near you, call me day or night, got it.

DANNI

Jack--

JACK

Please.

That gets Danni's attention.

DANNI

Okay.

JACK

Thanks.

(beat)

I'd best get back.

He gets to his feet, heading for the door.

DANNI

Jack?

He turns back to see Danni looking at him, a deep sadness in her eyes.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Where is it going to end?

Pause.

Then, with a frustrated sincerity:

JACK

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Silence for a moment. Then Jack turns and walks out, leaving a shellshocked-looking Danni behind.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALL NIGHT CAFE -- NIGHT

The light is on in the window of the flat over the still busy cafe.

INT. FLAT OVER CAFE -- NIGHT

Tobias sits on his bed, hands clasped in front of him -- not praying, just staring into space.

Thinking.

PUSH IN SLOWLY on his face as we start to see--

*INSERT: Patrick's face, seen from across the road.*

Closer in on Tobias' face...

*INSERT: Patrick's face FLASHES, for just a second, becoming the familiar visage of the Dark Man.*

Closer in still...

*INSERT: Patrick smiles, seemingly in triumph, before he very deliberately turns his back on Tobias and walks away.*

Tobias jumps to his feet and begins to pace, unable to sit still any longer.

Trying to piece it together in his mind.

CATHERINE (prelap)  
I can't believe it.

CUT TO:

INT. SMITH HOUSE - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Danni sits at the kitchen table, still looking numb, as CATHERINE makes tea in the background.

CATHERINE  
And he thinks it was Larry?

DANNI  
You didn't see the way he went  
off on one with Nix at the funeral  
today. He was just...

And she stops mid-sentence, tears welling up in her eyes. Catherine sees, puts the teapot down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CATHERINE

Hey...

She moves over to sit beside her daughter, draws her in for a log hug.

Danni pulls herself together with what looks like an effort. Wipes her eyes on her sleeve.

DANNI

Sorry ... I shouldn't...

CATHERINE

Yes you should.

(beat)

It's natural. I had to make you cry after your grandad died, you can't bottle that kind of thing up. It'll hurt more in the long run.

(beat)

Besides, you know what Jack's like when he's got something in his head, remember that time he was determined to go and see R.E.M.?

DANNI

(laughs)

God, yes.

CATHERINE

Heaven help you if you get in the way of that boy when he's on one of his quests. He'll find Larry and he'll sort it out, you know he will.

DANNI

I know.

(beat)

Jack and I ... well, I kind of kissed him earlier on...

Catherine's eyes light up in surprise.

CATHERINE

When?

DANNI

After the funeral. God, that sounds pathetic.

CATHERINE

I'd say it sounds like it was about bloody time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI  
(head comes up)  
What does that mean?

Catherine smiles as she gets up to get back to making the tea.

CATHERINE  
Just an observation.  
(beat)  
With the words "about bloody time"  
attached to it.

Danni laughs and throws a wadded-up paper napkin at Catherine. She laughs too.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMITH HOUSE - BACK GARDEN -- NIGHT

SUBJECTIVE P.O.V., crouched in the bushes behind the house. Watching intently.

In the window we see Danni moving about in the kitchen.

INT. SMITH HOUSE - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Danni is drying the dishes, replacing plates in a cupboard.

A BUZZ-BUZZ-BUZZ from OS gets her attention -- her phone is vibrating on the counter. She picks it up; a text from Jack.

*Are you okay?*

Pause. Then Danni types in:

*I will be. Give me time.*

She sends it. Puts the phone back. Has barely picked up the tea towel again when the phone BUZZES. She checks the message, which reads:

*OK.*

Danni smiles slightly; what a goof. She puts the phone back down again.

A SMASH OF GLASS comes from outside. Danni moves to the window, looks out into the garden; no sign of anything.

A frown from Danni. Odd.

EXT. SMITH HOUSE - BACK GARDEN -- NIGHT

Danni emerges, armed with a torch. She moves down the path toward the garden shed.

The torchlight catches something on the ground; a SMASHED MILK BOTTLE, the source of the smashing glass. Danni looks down at it in surprise -- how the hell...

LARRY (O.S.)

Danni.

Danni whirls -- Larry is stood right there! She brings the torch up but Larry recoils, bringing up his hands--

LARRY (CONT'D)

Easy, easy, it's only me--

DANNI

Jesus, Larry--

LARRY

Sorry--

DANNI

What the hell are you doing here?

LARRY

I needed to speak to someone -- I think I'm going mad...

DANNI

Larry, you're not making any sense.

LARRY

I know. I'm sorry. I'm just...

He backs off, runs his hands through his hair. Danni is uneasy; there's a genuine confused lunacy in his face.

LARRY (CONT'D)

God in heaven, Danni, I...

(horrible pause)

I think I've just killed Nix.

Danni stops dead in her tracks, not quite able to comprehend that he's just said it. Larry turns to face her, madness in his eyes--

LARRY (CONT'D)

And I don't even know why I did it!

(beat)

I mean one moment I was talking to Stan in the Crown, I ... no, I remember, I went into the toilets,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY (CONT'D)  
 yeah, yeah, that's right and ...  
 and then it just sort of goes black.  
 And...

(long beat)  
 And next thing I'm stood there  
 and I'm holding this ... and he's  
 ... oh God...

DANNI  
 Larry, you need to talk to Jack--

LARRY  
 (turning away)  
 I mean, it's not like he didn't  
 have it coming, not after what he  
 did to Katie--

DANNI  
 For God's sake, we both know Nix  
 didn't kill her!

The shout really catches Larry's attention. He whirls to face her again.

LARRY  
 You think I'm a monster.

DANNI  
 You need to talk to Jack.

LARRY  
 (not understanding)  
 Jack?

DANNI  
 The police are out there looking  
 for you right now, and you're not  
 doing yourself any favours by  
 being on the run like this.

LARRY  
 On the run?

DANNI  
 Look, just...

She takes a beat to compose herself before she looks him in the eye.

DANNI (CONT'D)  
 Look, let's go down to meet Jack,  
 okay? I'll come with you. You  
 can tell him what happened and  
 he'll--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY  
 (shakes his head)  
 No no no no no ... if I turn myself  
 in I'm a dead man.

DANNI  
 You want to find out what happened,  
 then--

LARRY  
 They won't care about finding out  
 what happened, they'll just want  
 to stitch me up for--

DANNI  
 A man's dead, Larry!

Too far. Larry glares at Danni, righteous anger in his face.

LARRY  
And so is my sister.

Danni knows he's gone over the edge. She backs off slowly, holding up her torch like a weapon.

DANNI  
 Larry...

Larry reaches down, grabbing a heavy stone off the ground. Looks at Danni with those murderous eyes.

DANNI (CONT'D)  
 (yelling, terrified)  
Mum!

She turns to run--

CLONK! Larry WHACKS her about the back of the head with the stone. Danni goes down hard, hitting the ground -- still alive but unconscious.

The insanity vanishes from Larry's eyes -- he's now moving with a single-minded intent. He grabs Danni's torch, switches it off and shoves it into his pocket. Then he picks Danni up, slings her over his shoulder in a fireman's lift and very deliberately walks away with her.

BLACK OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. KINGBY (AERIAL) -- DAY

Sweeping slowly across the small town the following morning.

INT. FLAT OVER CAFE -- DAY

Tobias shaves in front of the small mirror. He cuts himself with one stroke, hisses in pain. Places a small piece of toilet paper over the cut.

INT. SAME -- LATER

Tobias is getting ready. His suitcase is open on the bed. As he pulls a jumper from the case he catches sight of something in the bottom of the case.

His PRIEST'S TUNIC.

His eyes are drawn to it for a long moment. We see, for a small beat, a look approaching longing in his eyes.

Then he covers the tunic up with other clothes before closing the case and shoving it back out of sight.

He pulls on his jumper, glances at his own reflection in the mirror for a moment.

There's a look of determination in his eye.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

Jack's car pulls to a halt and he gets out. He's just about made it to the front door when:

CARSTAIRS (O.S.)

Armitage!

Jack looks up to see the window of a Jaguar winding down to reveal DCS CARSTAIRS glaring out from the driver's seat. And he doesn't look happy.

JACK

(sotto)

Nuts.

INT. POLICE STATION - CID -- DAY

Jack and Carstairs face each other across the empty room. Carstairs looks apoplectic with rage.

CARSTAIRS

This was supposed to be an open-and-shut case! Idiot proof!

JACK

With respect, sir...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARSTAIRS

You had one job, Armitage, arrest  
Stephen Nixon--

JACK

Which we did.

CARSTAIRS

You weren't supposed to let him  
go again!

JACK

He didn't do it.

CARSTAIRS

They all say that--

JACK

He had an alibi!

Carstairs recoils as if slapped. Jack looks as though he regrets shouting, but he presses on.

JACK (CONT'D)

A girl was raped and murdered  
here, sir, someone I knew! And  
I'm not prepared to have a  
whitewash of an investigation, I  
I have to know why she died! And  
about the one thing that I know  
for certain in this whole  
godforsaken mess is that Stephen  
Nixon had nothing to do with that!

CARSTAIRS

Well that's as maybe--

JACK

That's the truth!

CARSTAIRS

The truth is that Nixon was beaten  
to death less than forty-eight  
hours after he left your custody.  
Mob justice at works, it seems.

JACK

You call that justice?

Carstairs stares at Jack for several long moments. Then he approaches Jack, gets right in his face and lowers his voice to a terrifying hiss.

CARSTAIRS

You are on very thin ice here,  
Jack.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARSTAIRS (CONT'D)

Sort this mess out, and quickly --  
or I'll have to conclude that I've  
put my faith in the wrong man.

JACK

Meaning what?

CARSTAIRS

Meaning that there's a good half-  
a-dozen young sergeants who would  
kill to have been given the  
opportunity you've been given.  
I'm sure one of them would be  
able to wrap this up when all's  
said and done. Chin chin.

With that he turns and stalks out.

HOLD on Jack for a long moment as he deals with this.  
Looking angry as hell.

EXT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

Jack stalks out the front door, lighting up a cigarette.  
He spots someone stood by the police telephone box.

Tobias.

His eyes on Jack.

EXT. TOWN STREETS -- DAY

As Jack's car cruises through the streets.

JACK (prelap)

I swear I'm going mad.

INT. JACK'S CAR -- DAY

Jack glances sideways at Tobias before returning his eyes  
to the road.

JACK

I've got murders on one side, the  
supernatural on the other, people  
screaming at me for answers in  
all directions--

TOBIAS

And now you don't know which way  
to turn?

(beat)

This is the way they work.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

This is precisely what the Dark Man wants, he's spreading fear and confusion, trying to make you doubt yourself. Don't let him.

A pause while Jack considers. Tobias turns his eyes back to the road.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

If you give into the despair, then he's already won.

JACK

Two murders and a guy on the run, I dunno about you, mate, but it looks like he's doing a bang-up job so far.

TOBIAS

Everything happens for a reason. Which means that if you're investigating this, it means you are the right person to be investigating it. I know that and so do you.

(beat)

Have some confidence in your own abilities, Jack. You'll do fine.

That seems to help; Jack looks a touch more reassured.

JACK

So ... so what do you want at the Call Centre?

TOBIAS

When I saw him last night, the ... the Dark Man was wearing one of those access pass things.

JACK

The agent of the devil works at a call centre, wonderful. Explains why BT are so useless, like.

TOBIAS

Don't even joke about that.

(beat)

We need to find out who he is. You want a way to end this, help me find the Dark Man. That will do it.

Jack doesn't look convinced, but:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Okay.

He indicates and turns off. Moving the car toward the call centre.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

A FUZZY BLUR OF IMAGES, which slowly regains focus and resolves itself into

DANNI

coming back to consciousness slowly, finding herself sprawled on the cold concrete ground.

With some effort, she struggles into a sitting position, shaking her head to try and bring everything into focus.

It's then she realises her hands are bound behind her back with strong ropes, knotted to the pipes of an ancient RADIATOR.

She struggles for a long moment, pulling at the ropes -- no give whatsoever. Finally she's forced to admit defeat.

She looks around, trying to get her bearings. The place is dark and dingy, but we recognise it as the basement of the call centre that Danni got trapped in during Part 1.

Unbidden, her eyes fall onto a certain spot in the distance as--

*INSERT: From Part 1 -- the Dark Man steps out of the shadows, and Danni is rooted to the spot in fear--*

BACK TO SCENE

as Danni struggles against the ropes with renewed vigour.

DANNI

Help! Can anyone hear me! I'm down here! Help! Can anyone--?

LARRY (O.S.)

Nobody can hear you.

The voice makes Danni jump and let out a small shriek of surprise.

She looks across to see Larry, sitting on a packing case across from her, his face hidden in the darkness.

DANNI

...Larry?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI (CONT'D)

(beat)

Larry, are you okay?

No answer. Larry doesn't move.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Look, it's okay, just untie me  
and we'll--

She breaks off when she notices something. Larry's  
shoulders are shaking, his breath coming in ragged gasps.

DANNI (CONT'D)

...Larry?

He drops his face into his hands, light catching his face  
for the first time. And Danni looks amazed; Larry is  
crying, sobbing uncontrollably, tears running down his  
face.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Larry, it's okay, we can--

LARRY

How can it possibly be okay?

He looks her in the eye. His eyes are bloodshot.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I can see her, you know?

DANNI

See who?

LARRY

Katie!

Danni recoils sharply from the shout. Larry looks her in  
the eye:

LARRY (CONT'D)

I can see her. I can see it  
happening, over and over again.

Understanding dawns for Danni.

DANNI

You've seen it too?

LARRY

I see it all the time.

PUSH IN HARD on Larry's face as:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

*INSERT: The familiar shot of KATIE COVINGTON drowning, bound with heavy chains, struggling with all her might, her face utterly terrified...*

BACK TO SCENE

as Larry looks away, utterly wretched.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Every time I'm alone ... I see  
her like that. Every time I close  
my eyes...

Danni surreptitiously begins pulling at the ropes again, trying to find any slack that might be there.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
It's all for her, you know?  
Everything I've done even ...  
even what happened with ... it's  
all because of her.

DANNI  
Larry, listen to yourself, listen  
to what you're saying. Katie  
wouldn't have wanted any of this,  
she wouldn't want--

LARRY  
Katie's dead!

And he leaps to his feet, angrier than we've ever seen him before.

DANNI  
Larry, I'm sorry, I didn't mean--

LARRY  
I knew you wouldn't understand.

DANNI  
I do understand, Larry I do - she  
was my best friend, I knew her as  
well as anyone--

LARRY  
But she wasn't your sister.

DANNI  
She was like my sister!

LARRY  
But she wasn't! She was my sister!  
Mine! Not yours! And now I'll  
never be able to forgive myself  
and you don't understand!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY (CONT'D)  
 You'll never understand! You're  
 just like all the others, you'll  
 never know--

DANNI  
 For what?

The quiet tone catches Larry by surprise. He looks at  
 Danni, uncomprehending.

DANNI (CONT'D)  
 You just said "I'll never be able  
 to forgive myself". For what?  
 (long beat)  
 Larry, what won't you ever be  
 able to forgive yourself for?

Pause.

And suddenly Larry's expression looks trapped.

CUT TO:

EXT. CALL CENTRE -- DAY

A quick shot of the massive building. Just to establish.

JACK (prelap)  
 Do you even know what you're  
 looking for?

INT. CALL CENTRE SECURITY OFFICE -- DAY

Tobias and Larry sit at a desk in the office. A SECURITY  
 GUARD stands in the corner, arms folded, watching  
 suspiciously.

Tobias is going through a book of photos -- call centre  
 employees, the photos taken for their security passes.

JACK  
 Tobias?

TOBIAS  
 He's in here somewhere. He has  
 to be.

He turns over a page, begins looking through the fresh  
 batch of photos.

JACK  
 Do you have any idea how many  
 people work in this centre--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS

I'll find him.

(beat)

I'll know him when I see him.

Jack can't argue with that. Tobias turns another page, scans through the next batch of photos.

JACK

Have you ... do you know what you're going to do when you find him?

No answer.

JACK (CONT'D)

I mean it's not like we can go up to him and arrest him for being--

He breaks off, glances at the security guard -- he's keeping schtum but looking irritated.

JACK (CONT'D)

Tobias, do you realise how insane...?

But he breaks off; Tobias has stopped dead. His eyes are fixed on something. Jack gets it. He glances at the security guard.

JACK (CONT'D)

Can you give us a minute?

The guard nods and steps out, looking relieved.

Jack crosses around the table just as Tobias jabs a finger at one of the pictures.

TOBIAS

That's him.

(beat)

That's the man I saw.

Jack looks at the photo -- and his eyes go wide in surprise. It's a photograph of Patrick Kendrew.

JACK

Are you sure?

TOBIAS

I'm positive. I saw him and--

JACK

And how do you know he's the Dark Man?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS

I just know.

JACK

You just know? That's going to play really well in a court of law, now isn't it?

TOBIAS

Jack, I know what I saw--

JACK

I know him!

Tobias looks at him in surprise.

TOBIAS

What?

JACK

I said I know him, his name's Patrick Kendrew, I used to go to school with him back in the day, and I know he's a bit nerdy and a bit strange, but despite what some people used to call him at school I'm damn sure he isn't the spawn of the devil.

TOBIAS

That might have been true, then--

JACK

But now what? He's sick?

TOBIAS

In a very real sense, yes. That's how these things work, they use good people to act as their carriers and do their dirty work--

JACK

So you think this is our man?

He taps the photograph again.

JACK (CONT'D)

You think Patrick Kendrew is responsible for everything that's gone on in this town since Katie died?

TOBIAS

I'm certain.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(beat)

This is a trial, Jack, for both of us, it's something that has been sent to test us.

JACK

Sent by who?

TOBIAS

(ignores that)

Your instincts are telling you one thing, and I understand that completely. But I'm telling you, I know differently.

(beat)

This is what it's always been about. This is the reason why I was sent here, to deal with this, and I'm going to need your help to finish this.

(beat)

So I'm asking you for a leap of faith. And to trust me.

(beat)

Can you do that?

A long pause. Jack looks horribly torn. But eventually...

JACK

No.

And Tobias recoils in surprise, looking up to see the honest look in Jack's eye.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Tobias, but ... I just can't believe this.

TOBIAS

Even after everything you've seen?

JACK

I'm a copper, not a priest.

(beat)

I need to get back to investigating this my way. I'm sorry.

And before Tobias can say anything else Jack has turned and exited the room.

Tobias sits by himself for a long moment. Looking angry and defeated.

His eyes drift back to the picture of Patrick.

Pause.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then:

TOBIAS

Fine.

And he pulls out his notebook and makes a note of Patrick's address.

CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

Danni looks up at Larry, forcing him to meet her eye. There's righteous anger in her face.

DANNI

What did you do?

No answer.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Larry, what did you do?!

Long pause. Larry looks to be in agony.

Give it a moment ... let it build ... and then...

LARRY

...I killed her.

And whatever Danni was expecting, it wasn't this. She looks up at Larry in horror.

DANNI

...Katie?

Larry turns away, unable to meet her eye.

LARRY

I killed her.

(beat)

I loved her so much ... and I killed her.

And Danni's mind is whirling, trying to comprehend this. She looks up just as Larry turns to face her again. And the look of honesty in his eye is terrifying.

CUT TO:

EXT. KENDREW HOUSE -- DAY

Patrick's familiar detached house on a nice cul-de-sac. The curtains are open, the lights are off. From the outside, everything looks perfectly natural.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS

stands on the pavement opposite the house, his eyes fixed on the building. A moment of indecision -- wondering if he's doing the right thing.

He glances down at something in his hands; his notebook, showing Patrick's address and the photograph torn from the book.

His eyes fix on the face.

*INSERT: From the previous night, Patrick's face, morphing into that of the Dark Man for just a moment--*

BACK TO SCENE

as Tobias looks up at the house. Resolved. His mind made up. He crosses over the road.

He reaches the front door. Raises his hand, knocks three times.

No answer.

He knocks again. Then again.

TOBIAS  
(calling out)  
Hello? Mr and Mrs Kendrew?  
(knocks again)  
Hello?

No answer. He knocks again ... and then to his surprise the front door SWINGS INWARD. It isn't locked, isn't even shut properly.

Not what Tobias was expecting.

A moment of indecision. Then, with a deep breath to steady himself, he crosses the threshold and enters the house.

INT. KENDREW HOUSE - HALLWAY -- DAY

Tobias stands alone in the hallway. There's dead silence in the house.

Pause.

TOBIAS  
Hello?

No answer. Tobias moves toward the nearest open door.

INT. KENDREW HOUSE - KITCHEN -- DAY

Tobias enters. The place looks normal -- unwashed dishes in the sink, newspaper on the counter. Nothing out of the ordinary.

Except ... Tobias notices the paper. Moves over to it. His eyes are drawn to the date shown there.

TOBIAS  
(to himself)  
...six weeks ago.

He turns, opens the fridge -- RECOILS in disgust at the smell, his hand going to his nose. The milk in the bottle has turned green. The entire contents of the fridge have gone rotten.

He closes the door carefully.

Then something else attracts his attention. A sound, just audible in the distance.

A faint BUZZING.

His eye catches something. BLUE LIGHT coming from beneath a door in the hall. The door to the living room.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)  
(quietly)  
Now our lady and all saints protect  
me.

He crosses himself. Makes his way slowly toward the door.

A moment to steady himself. Then he opens it.

CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

Danni twists her hands behind her, trying to get free, but the knots are still holding.

LARRY (O.S.)  
I didn't intend to.

She looks up. Larry is standing with his back to her.

REVERSE ANGLE

and TILT UP Larry's form to reveal his face. His eyes red, emotions warring across his face. A mask of self loathing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY (CONT'D)  
I didn't want to do it.

DANNI  
Then why did you?

No answer.

DANNI (CONT'D)  
Larry, answer the question, why  
did you kill her?

A long pause, before:

LARRY  
(simply)  
Because I loved her.

And there's something just slightly wrong with the way he says it.

Danni's hands begin twisting in their bonds again.

CUT TO:

INT. KENDREW HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

The door swings open and Tobias enters.

And stops dead at the sight before him.

The blue light is coming from the television, still on but with the sound muted. The horrible BUZZING is from the clouds of flies.

Tobias eye falls on

THE SOFA

where the bodies of Patrick's parents still sit, looking as though they've been here for weeks. We've seen it before but it's still horrible, and Tobias reacts with revulsion at the sight.

He backs out of the room and closes the door behind him.

INT. KENDREW HOUSE - HALLWAY -- DAY

Tobias closes the door firmly. Turns his back on it, eyes wide. Trying to deal with what he's just seen.

Then he pulls out his phone. Dials a number. After a moment:

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

*Larry stands facing someone, eyes to the ground, looking humiliated and exposed.*

LARRY

*I'm sorry.*

GIRL'S VOICE (O.S.)

*Sorry?!*

REVERSE ANGLE

*to reveal who Larry's talking to ... and it is, of course, KATIE COVINGTON herself, dressed as if for a night out and looking pretty stunning, but right now she's utterly furious.*

KATIE

*Sorry? Larry, this isn't normal, what you're saying to me--*

LARRY

*(quiet)*  
*I love you.*

KATIE

*And I love you too.*  
*(before he can speak)*  
*But I love you because I'm your sister, and you're my brother, and what you're talking about it's...*

LARRY

*I can't help the way I feel.*

KATIE

*I thought we'd dealt with all of this, years ago. You said you were past it, you had therapy and everything, you promised me--*

LARRY

*(yelling)*  
*And I can't help it!*

*The shout makes Katie recoil. There's something approaching real genuine anger in Larry's face. He looks at her, eyes pleading.*

LARRY (CONT'D)

*I can't help loving you.*

KATIE

*You don't mean that--*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

*I do!*

KATIE

*You don't know the first thing about love! What you're talking about isn't love, it's sick and it's wrong and it's...*

LARRY

*I love you.*

KATIE

*Stop saying that!*

*She returns the angry look he's giving her.*

KATIE (CONT'D)

*You want something that I can't give you, and until you realise that I won't see you again. I can't come here again.*

LARRY

*(face falling)*

*Katie, you don't mean that--*

*Her phone buzzes. A text message. She reads it.*

KATIE

*I have to go, I have to meet Stephen.*

LARRY

*You'd prefer him to me?*

*And Katie fixes him with a look out outright loathing.*

KATIE

*Yes. I would. That's what real love is.*

*(beat)*

*And you'll never know about that.*

*(beat)*

*You disgust me.*

*She turns to leave. Larry looks up at her, his eyes wide, as though a switch has been thrown.*

LARRY

*No...*

*He RUSHES forward, grabs her arm and hauls her back. She SCREAMS and*

CUT BACK TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

PULL BACK HARD from Danni's face as she recoils from this, sagging against the ropes binding her hands, unable to comprehend what she's just seen.

She looks up at Larry, as if seeing him for the first time.

DANNI

You...

LARRY

She never understood how much I loved her.

(beat)

Or how much I meant it when I said it to her.

A horrible pause as Danni reflects on this--

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

*And that's what a good man will do in the name of love.*

The voice echoes from all directions, utterly terrifying. Danni looks around, desperate, trying to see where it came from--

DANNI

Who's there?

Larry doesn't move. He keeps his eyes on the ground.

LARRY

The Dark Man...

DANNI

Larry--

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

*And so things come to pass.*

Danni looks up as someone steps into the frame. The shadowed, hooded figure of the Dark Man.

THE DARK MAN

*This is my gift to you, Danni. I have shown you this man's true face.*

DANNI

And what about your true face? Show me. Who are you?

Pause. Then the Dark Man steps into the light...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

...And as soon as the light touches his face, the hood vanishes. And Danni recoils in horror at the sight of Patrick, smiling that terrible smile at her.

PATRICK

*Hello Danni.*

His voice has changed -- deeper, darker, more precise. He keeps the voice of the Dark Man.

And Danni looks utterly destroyed. Tears run down her face. This is too much for her.

DANNI

...Patrick?

And he smiles again.

PATRICK

*Welcome.*

CUT TO:

INT. KENDREW HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

A phalanx of POLICE OFFICERS swarm all over the place, desperately looking for clues.

EXT. KENDREW HOUSE -- DAY

Jack rushes out of the house, over to where Tobias stands by one of the police cars. A cordon has been set up and the neighbours are all straining for a proper look.

JACK

Jesus Christ...

TOBIAS

Don't take the Lord's name in vain, especially at a time like this.

JACK

You pick 'em, don't you?

TOBIAS

Do you believe me now?

Jack shrugs, looks around wildly.

JACK

I dunno, after what I've just seen in there I think I'd believe in the Loch Ness Monster if you told me it was involved. I'm convinced.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

PATRICK  
*To show you the truth.*  
 (smiles)  
*Patrick Kendrew once told you  
 that he loved you. That's why he  
 was so easy to manipulate. Love.  
 It's been used to justify  
 everything.*

He glances sideways at Larry, who's sitting on the floor, huddled over, crying quietly.

PATRICK (CONT'D)  
*Look at him. Look at what I  
 reduced him to.*

DANNI  
 You did that. He's a good man--

PATRICK  
*Everything he did, he had what he  
 needed to do it inside him already.  
 All I did was bring it to the  
 surface. That's what humans are -  
 sick, twisted and easy to corrupt.  
 All I had to do was show him his  
 true self.*

DANNI  
 No, no, that can't be right...

PATRICK  
*Would you like me to show you  
 what he did to his own sister?  
 All in the name of love?*

DANNI  
 No, no, you can't...

Patrick reaches out, presses two fingers to Danni's forehead.

PATRICK  
*See.*

And Danni SCREAMS as--

*INSERT: Katie is thrown back onto the bed -- Larry's on top of her, his body weight holding her down--*

*INSERT: Katie's face, screaming in pain and humiliation--*

*INSERT: Katie's battered form thrown into the boot of Larry's car--*

*INSERT: The boot opens -- Larry's holding Katie down by the river--*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

*INSERT: HEAVY CHAINS are wrapped around Katie's body -- Katie struggles but is unable to get free--*

*INSERT: Larry kisses Katie gently on the cheek ... before SHOVING her off the bridge! She SPLASHES down into the dark water of the river--*

BACK TO SCENE

as Danni SCREAMS in horror and revulsion and hurt for her friend. She looks back up into Patrick's cruel face as he smiles again.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

*That was inside Larry already.  
All I had to do was show him what  
he really was.*

Danni stares into Patrick's face, unable to take this in.

CUT TO:

EXT. CALL CENTRE -- DAY

As Jack's car SQUEALS to a halt. Jack and Tobias leap out, racing towards the call centre.

INT. CALL CENTRE SECURITY OFFICE -- DAY

The security guard from earlier takes them through the CCTV footage of the lobby. Tobias' eyes are fixed on the screen. After a moment--

TOBIAS

There!

He jabs a finger at the screen -- he's spotted Patrick.

JACK

*(to security guard)  
Alright, follow him, see where he  
goes.*

The guard nods, running the footage. After a moment--

JACK (CONT'D)

Where did he go?

SECURITY GUARD

*(shrugs)  
Bit of a blind spot in the cameras  
there, between six and seven.*

TOBIAS

Where is that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SECURITY GUARD  
Right by the doors to the basement.

Jack and Tobias share an urgent look.

INT. CALL CENTRE CORRIDORS -- DAY

Tobias and Jack skid around the corner--

JACK  
There!

He's spotted the door. As Tobias rushes over to it, Jack pulls out his mobile.

TOBIAS  
(tries the door)  
It's not locked.  
(looks at Jack)  
What are you doing?

JACK  
Calling for backup.

TOBIAS  
There's no time, and if we're going to confront that creature then no number of extra bodies will help.

Jack sees the serious look on Tobias' face. He snaps the phone closed.

JACK  
You really believe this, don't you?

Pause. Then:

TOBIAS  
Yes. I do.

JACK  
(beat)  
Well then.

The two of them face the door. A moment to steel themselves. Then Tobias opens the door and the two of them descend into the basement.

CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

Danni looks up at Patrick. Tears running down her face as he keeps smiling at her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI

So now what? What are you going to do now?

No answer from Patrick. Danni swallows, scared out of her wits.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Are you ... are you going to kill me?

Patrick laughs -- hollow and cold.

PATRICK

*Killing you isn't the point, Danni.*

DANNI

Meaning what?

PATRICK

*Meaning you've still got your part to play in all of this.*

DANNI

What are you talking about.

Patrick just gives her a look and gets to his feet. His eyes catch sight of Larry on the ground, still whimpering in fear.

PATRICK

*Pathetic.*

SMASH! The doors of the basement burst open. Danni's eyes whip up as Tobias and Jack come running in--

DANNI

Jack!!!

Patrick turns to face the two of them. WHITE SPOTS OF LIGHT dancing in his eyes.

PATRICK

*And in the end, all the pieces come together.*

Tobias and Jack skid to a halt at the sight. Jack's mouth drops open -- in the half darkness, Patrick is a truly terrifying spectre.

Jack's eyes fall on Danni, the tears still running down her face--

JACK

What have you done to her, you bastard?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICK

*There it is, the anger. That's good.*

TOBIAS

Let them go. This is between you and me.

PATRICK

*No. We are all here because we were all meant to be here.*

TOBIAS

(sideways)

Jack, get Danni out of here.

Jack rushes over to Danni's side. Patrick doesn't try to stop him as he crouches down, starts untying her hands.

JACK

Are you alright?

Danni looks at him, the hurt and fear on her face answering the question for him.

CUT TO Tobias, still facing Patrick, looking him full in the face, unflinching.

TOBIAS

Have you nothing to say?

PATRICK

*What was it brought you here, Tobias Blackwood?*

TOBIAS

The signs.

PATRICK

*Ah, yes. The visions.*

TOBIAS

God has a plan for all creatures, this was no different.

And Patrick laughs at this, hysterically, the sound catching everyone's attention. It throws Tobias completely.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

You find this funny?!

PATRICK

*I find it funny that you think He has any part in any of this.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS

(sharp)  
What do you mean?

PATRICK

*I mean that the creator of all things did not send you those visions. This was never a part of His plan.*

(beat)

*But it was always a part of mine.*

And Tobias reacts as though he's been punched. His knees go weak as he struggles to keep eye contact with Patrick.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

*Yes. You see it now, don't you?*

CUT TO Jack as he frees Danni's hands. She rubs her wrists as Jack turns to look back at Patrick.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

*You know that you aren't here for any sort of divine plan ... you are here simply because I wished it.*

CUT BACK TO Tobias as he struggles with this, looking like a man who's whole world is crashing down around him.

TOBIAS

*...Why?*

PATRICK

*For this moment. It's always been leading to this moment.*

(beat)

*My moment of victory.*

From OS we hear an INARTICULATE ROAR--

--And Jack leaps to his feet, charging towards Patrick in a rugby-tackle--

TOBIAS

*Jack, no!*

Patrick's eyes FLASH--

--And something else collides with Jack mid-tackle, stopping him dead.

Larry.

Their eyes lock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then Jack looks down. Sees the handle of the KITCHEN KNIFE sticking out from his stomach.

DANNI

Jack!

HOLD on Jack's face for a moment as a trickle of blood appears from the corner of his mouth. All sound DROPS OFF for just a second, replaced by a POUNDING NOISE - JACK'S HEARTBEAT...

...And then Jack keels over. Larry's hand stays on the knife and it SLIPS OUT of Jack's gut, covered in blood. Jack collapses to the ground.

DANNI (CONT'D)

JACK!!!

Tobias and Danni rush to Jack's side. He's bleeding badly. Tobias shrugs off his jacket, wads it up into a ball and presses it down over the wound to staunch the flor.

He looks up at Patrick, still watching with that same cold look.

Their eyes meet.

Silence for a long moment. Then:

PATRICK

*Go. Take your friends and go.  
(laughs hysterically)  
You've already lost everything,  
Tobias Blackwood. You've lost  
everything.*

DANNI

Tobias, please...

And her voice is enough to jar Tobias back to the present. He and Danni haul Jack upright with some difficulty and half-carry him out of the basement.

Manic laughter catches Tobias' attention. He glances back for just long enough to see Patrick laughing at him, Larry curled up on the floor again, the knife clasped in his hand.

CUT TO Patrick's face ... eyes shining, laughing maniacally, utter triumph in his face.

CUT TO Tobias' face ... and in this moment he looks utterly defeated, as though his soul has been crushed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL WARD -- DAY

Where Jack lies in a hospital bed, hooked up to drips, probes, monitors and other nasty-looking medical gear.

DOCTORS and NURSES flap around him, working at speed.

HOLD on Jack's face for a long moment. And we know he's fighting for his life.

TOBIAS (prelap)  
So it was Larry all along?

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR -- DAY

Tobias sits with Danni on the plastic chairs. Tobias is still holding the bloodstained jacket.

Seated beside him, Danni nods.

DANNI  
He killed Katie. He told me,  
down there, and I believe him.  
He meant it, I could see it in  
his eyes.

Tobias nods, not really hearing. He looks numb.

DANNI (CONT'D)  
So what was that? What really  
happened?

TOBIAS  
I'm sorry?

DANNI  
Patrick, that ... thing, or  
whatever it was...?

TOBIAS  
You probably wouldn't believe me  
if I told you.  
(beat)  
It's a ... creature, something  
older than the world itself. A  
creature of lies and deceit--

DANNI  
No. Not lies. Truth.

Tobias looks Danni in the eye.

TOBIAS  
I'm telling you the truth--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI

That's not what I mean.

(beat)

When it turned Larry into ...  
when he killed Katie, he didn't  
do it because of lies. He did it  
because of the truth. That ...  
thing showed Larry the truth about  
himself, it sounds like something  
he'd been fighting against his  
whole life. And that's why he  
did it.

(beat)

He couldn't handle the truth about  
himself, and it drove him insane.

Tobias looks away, not knowing how to respond to that.

A long, horrible silence.

Finally...

TOBIAS

Danni, I'm so sorry.

And this takes Danni completely by surprise.

DANNI

For what?

TOBIAS

I've ... I thought I came here to  
do God's work, to save your life,  
to ... I don't know ... instead  
I've made things a hundred times  
worse. And now Jack's--

DANNI

(quiet)

I believe in you.

And this catches Tobias completely by surprise. He turns  
and looks her in the eye. Sees the conviction there.

DANNI (CONT'D)

None of what's happened here is  
your fault.

TOBIAS

Danni...

DANNI

It's his. Patrick, the Dark Man,  
whatever ... it's all his. All  
you've done is try to help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS

And look where it got us.

DANNI

Give yourself some credit. You went down to that basement to confront that creature, knowing full well what he was capable of, what he could do to you ... and you did it anyway, without a second thought. You put yourself in danger and you did it willingly ... and you did it to save my life.

(beat)

And I'll always be grateful to you for that.

On impulse she reaches out and wraps her arms around him, hugging him close. Tobias looks utterly shocked by this. A maelstrom of emotions flash across his face.

Danni finally pulls away after a long moment.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Look at me.

Tobias meets her eyes with some reluctance.

DANNI (CONT'D)

I believe in you, even if you don't.

(beat)

And now you need to believe in yourself. And put this thing right.

He meets her gaze. A long pause.

Then a look of determination comes into Tobias' face.

He gets to his feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALL NIGHT CAFE -- DAY

Just to establish.

EXT. SIDE STREET -- DAY

Tobias unlocks the door to his flat and makes his way upstairs.

INT. FLAT OVER CAFE -- DAY

Tobias enters, locks the door behind him.

His eye falls on the one thing he's looking for: the SUITCASE beside the bed.

Without another thought he makes his way across, grabs the case, drops it down on the bed. Opens it.

The black priest tunic with the white clerical collar sits inside, right where he left it.

ON TOBIAS FACE -- a look of grim determination.

CUT TO:

EXT. CALL CENTRE -- DAY

Just to establish.

LARRY (prelap)  
When is it going to end?

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

Larry looks up at the figure of Patrick, stood with his back to him.

LARRY  
When is it going to...

PATRICK  
*Are you saying that you don't  
want to see your sister ever again?*

LARRY  
I didn't say that--

PATRICK  
*I'd have thought you'd be grateful.*

Patrick turns to face Larry. Those terrible eyes boring into him again.

LARRY  
No...

PATRICK  
*Would you like to see her again?*

LARRY  
No, please...

PATRICK  
*Would you like to see Katie?*  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICK (CONT'D)

(beat)

Would you like to see what you  
did to her?

LARRY

(begging)

...Please...

Patrick's eyes FLASH and--

*INSERT: Larry throws Katie down onto the bed, trapping her under his weight. He tears at her skirt--*

BACK TO SCENE

as Larry SCREAMS in utter anguish--

TOBIAS (O.S.)

Let him go.

The voice is strong and determined. Patrick whirls to face

TOBIAS

stood in the doorway, dressed in full priest garb.

A big HERO SHOT as we PUSH IN HARD on Tobias' face as he glares at Patrick:

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Let's finish this. Once and for all.

Dead silence.

Then Patrick smiles.

PATRICK

*As you wish.*

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR -- DAY

Danni walks back to the plastic seats, holding a mug of tea. Her eye is drawn to the door of Jack's room -- it's ajar, no sign of any doctors or nurses.

MOVEMENT coming from within.

DANNI

Jack?

She cautiously moves to the door.

INT. HOSPITAL WARD -- DAY

Danni enters--

DANNI

Jack?

Jack looks up in surprise. He's sitting on the edge of his bed, fully dressed, pulling his boots on.

JACK

(surprised)

Danni?

DANNI

(rushes forward,  
worried)

Jack, you need to get back into bed--

JACK

I'm fine.

DANNI

You're not fine, you were stabbed, you need to--

Jack pulls up his shirt, points to his stomach.

JACK

Look at that.

Danni looks -- and her mouth drops open in amazement.

REVERSE ANGLE

to reveal Jack's stomach ... but there's no sign of the wound whatsoever, just bare, unmarked skin.

DANNI

looks up at Jack in amazement.

DANNI

How did--?

JACK

No idea. One moment I was lying in there, feeling like death warmed up, and the next moment I felt something warm and then ... nothing. I was fine. The wound just went.

Danni looks flabbergasted.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI  
But ... no way, how...?

JACK  
(deadly serious)  
I think someone's just entered  
the game.  
(beat)  
On our side.

And that brings Danni crashing back to the present.

DANNI  
Tobias.

JACK  
What about him?

DANNI  
He's gone to confront Patrick.

JACK  
Well we can't let him do it by  
himself, come on!

He grabs his jacket with one hand, Danni's hand with the  
other and they charge out of the room at speed.

CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

CU Tobias:

TOBIAS  
You've lost.

GENERAL P.O.V.

as Patrick looks amused.

PATRICK  
*You seem very confident.*

TOBIAS  
I am. And I'll tell you why --  
you overstepped your mark. You'd  
played everything absolutely  
perfectly up until the last when--

PATRICK  
*When what?*

Tobias gives him a hard look.

TOBIAS  
When you made Larry attack Jack.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

They head inside at a dead run.

INT. CALL CENTRE RECEPTION -- DAY

The RECEPTION MANAGER looks up in alarm as Jack approaches, flashing his warrant card.

RECEPTION MANAGER

What the--?

JACK

Detective Sergeant Jack Armitage,  
West Yorkshire Police, I need a  
silent evacuation of the building  
right now, there's been a coded  
bomb warning issued.

RECEPTION MANAGER

But--

JACK

Don't argue with me, just do it!

The man gets the hint. He turns to his colleague.

RECEPTION MANAGER

Pass the word for a silent  
evacuation, now.

As they all jump to it, Danni slips off by herself, unnoticed by Jack.

CUT TO:

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

All of Tobias' resolve seems to go out of him. He physically staggers backwards, his legs going weak. He looks up into Patrick's face as the man laughs hysterically again.

PATRICK

*Danni's soul was never important  
to me, only as bait. An innocent  
young woman, always the perfect  
lure for a self-righteous god-  
bothering type such as yourself.  
But you were the real catch here,  
Tobias. You were the prize worth  
fighting for.*

He steps forward, narrowing the distance, eyes fixed on Tobias' face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICK (CONT'D)

*You've enabled me to prove a point.  
I wanted to take someone like  
you, a man of God, a man with a  
faith so strong it was tangible  
... and I wanted to take that  
from you. And I succeeded. You  
fell for it. Tell me, Tobias  
Blackwood ... where is your God  
now, when you need him the most?*

*(beat)*

*Where was your God when that  
pathetic creature down there--*

*(jabs finger at*

*Larry)*

*Where was your God when he raped  
and murdered his own sister? And  
where is he now?! Hmm? Where is  
he now?!*

Horrible silence. Tobias' eyes are fixed on the ground, his face drawn and ashen. He looks somehow older in this moment, older and infinitely more troubled.

Patrick shakes his head in disgust.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

*Pathetic.*

He turns his back to walk away.

TOBIAS

He still loves you.

And that stops Patrick dead in his track. He turns to face Tobias.

PATRICK

*What did you say?*

And Tobias looks Patrick in the eye. That old strength and conviction in his face again.

TOBIAS

You heard me. God loves all the creatures he created, even those who feel they don't deserve His love.

PATRICK

*Stop it.*

TOBIAS

He still loves you, Patrick.

*(beat)*

And He will forgive you if you repent.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Isn't that what you want?

Dead silence. A horrible look passes between Patrick and Tobias, but Tobias holds his ground, looking back at Patrick resolute, unflinching.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Nothing you could possibly say to me will ever shake my faith the way you've shaken others. My faith is intact. My conscience is clean.

(beat)

How's yours?

Long pause.

Then:

DANNI (O.S.)

He doesn't have a conscience.

They both whirl.

Danni stands behind Tobias.

And she's holding a bloody KNIFE in her hands -- the same one Larry stabbed Jack with.

TOBIAS

Danni--

DANNI

He's a lying, murderous piece of shit!

TOBIAS

Danni!

But Danni CHARGES forward, TACKLING Patrick to the ground! In seconds she's on top of him, pinning him to the ground with the knife at his throat--

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Danni!

DANNI

(in Patrick's face)

Confess.

TOBIAS

Danni--

DANNI

Confess!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Patrick just smiles at her.

DANNI (CONT'D)

This is all your fault, don't  
tell me it's any different - you're  
the reason Katie's dead, you're  
the reason Nix is dead--

She raises the knife for a killing blow.

TOBIAS

Danni, don't do it!

DANNI

And why shouldn't I?!

She looks back at Tobias, eyes full of anger and hatred.

DANNI (CONT'D)

Why shouldn't I, after everything  
he did--

TOBIAS

(quiet)

Because if you do, he's won.

And that gets through to her. Tobias presses home his advantage.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

He'll have brought you down to  
his level, proven we're all as  
bad as he is, and that's what  
he's wanted all this time. If  
you kill him, he's won. And you  
will lose everything.

(beat)

And you don't want that on your  
conscience.

(beat)

Believe me.

Long pause. Danni looks from Patrick's face, with that terrible smile, back to Tobias, looking at her honestly, pleadingly.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(quiet)

Don't let Katie have died for  
nothing. Don't become as bad as  
him in her name.

(beat)

She wouldn't want that.

A tear comes into Danni's eye. And her grip sags on Patrick. She gets to her feet, the knife clattering to the ground, and looks Tobias in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI  
(with emotion)  
I'm sorry...

And she falls into his embrace, burying her face in his strong shoulder and weeping.

EXT. CALL CENTRE -- DAY

Lines of people stream out in orderly queues, under the watchful eye of the police officers.

CUT TO Jack, in charge of the whole thing, looking worried as hell.

INT. CALL CENTRE BASEMENT -- DAY

Tobias lets go of Danni and squares up as Patrick gets to his feet.

PATRICK  
*Well fought. You've done well to get through this with your souls intact, both of you. My congratulations.*  
(beat)  
*Not that it matters.*  
(beat)  
*You're all going to die anyway!*

And he spreads his arms wide--

FLAMES shoot up all around him, from all angles -- in moments the place is an inferno--

DANNI  
Tobias!

TOBIAS  
Get behind me!

Danni lets him move in front as Tobias faces Patrick, his eyes blazing with light:

PATRICK  
*Congratulations, Tobias. Give my best to your master when you go and meet him.*

LARRY (O.S.)  
No!

And they all whirl in amazement to see

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LARRY

rising to his feet. Anger in his eyes.

And the knife in his hand.

LARRY (CONT'D)

You don't get off that easily.

TOBIAS

Larry, no--!

But Larry charges forward -- tackling Patrick backwards, the knife going into his throat!

BLOOD FOUNTAINS from Patrick's throat as Larry sends him flying backwards into the flames! A SCREAM rings out, becoming something demonic, unearthly--

--And as Tobias watches, a WHITE SHADOW flashes up from Patrick's body as he crumples back into the flames.

DANNI

Larry!

Larry rushes over to them--

LARRY

Come on, we've got to get out of here!

CRASH! A beam falls from the ceiling, missing them by inches. Tobias grabs up a heavy TARPAULIN from the ground, throws it over the three of them--

TOBIAS

On three! One, two, three!

And they charge forward, running STRAIGHT THROUGH the flames towards the door.

EXT. CALL CENTRE -- DAY

BANG! A huge explosion rocks the call centre as the whole place catches fire! Jack looks up in amazement--

--To see Tobias, Danni and Larry come charging out, under the tarpaulin, as the building COLLAPSES in flames behind them! The three of them are BLOWN to the ground by the force of the explosion--

JACK

Danni!

He charges forward, ripping the tarpaulin off them--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)  
Ambulance, right now!

One of the uniform officers starts calling for an ambulance. Jack looks back -- to find Tobias on his feet, helping Larry and Danni to their feet.

TOBIAS  
I think we're alright.

He catches Jack looking at the priest tunic in surprise.

JACK  
(smiles)  
Looks good on you.  
(beat)  
Father.

And Tobias laughs at that. They all look up as Larry approaches Jack. He's shaky on his feet, but his face is utterly determined.

LARRY  
Jack ... I want to make a  
confession.

And the bravery in his voice surprises all of them.

PULL BACK and HOLD, for just a moment, on the burning wreckage of the call centre.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ALL NIGHT CAFE -- DAY

Just to establish.

INT. FLAT OVER CAFE -- DAY

Finding Tobias packing his things into his suitcase. He's still wearing his priest tunic.

He catches sight of something propped against the wall -- the painting he made of the town, seen from over the river.

A smile from him.

INT. ALL NIGHT CAFE -- DAY

Tobias emerges from the back into the cafe itself, lugging his case and the painting. He stops at the sight of

DANNI

stood waiting for him in the centre of the cafe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI  
Thought you were going to slip  
off without saying goodbye?

TOBIAS  
(smiles)  
Danni...

She moves forward and hugs him for a long moment.

DANNI  
You're really going?

TOBIAS  
I have to.

Pause.

DANNI  
Can I at least walk you to the  
station?

Tobias laughs and nods.

EXT. KINGBY TOWN CENTRE -- DAY

The market's on, packed with traders and shoppers.

Danni and Tobias make their way through the streets towards  
the station. Danni's carrying the painting, Tobias his  
suitcase.

DANNI  
I noticed you ducked out pretty  
quickly.

TOBIAS  
My job was done, there didn't  
seem to be any point sticking  
around.  
(beat)  
So come on, what happened?

DANNI  
Funnily enough, it all sort of  
fell into place.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM -- DAY

CU Larry, talking to the unseen police interviewers. We  
can't hear what he's saying, but his eyes are clear, his  
position strong.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNI (V.O.)

Larry made a full confession to the murders of Nix, Katie, and the attack on Jack. Jack was able to make that one go away completely, and he put in a good word on the others.

TOBIAS (V.O.)

So what's happened?

INT. SECURE HOSPITAL -- DAY

Larry sits on a bed in a small yet comfortable cell. Absently stares out of the window.

DANNI (V.O.)

He's been remanded in a secure mental hospital until they figure out what's going to happen, but Jack reckons he'll get off with diminished responsibility under the mental health act. He said he'd do his best to help Larry.

TOBIAS (V.O.)

He's a smart man, that Jack.

DANNI (V.O.)

Yeah, he is. Larry though ... I doubt he'll ere be able to come to terms with what he did.

CLOSE on Larry's face. The haunted look is still in his eyes.

INT. POLICE STATION - CID -- DAY

Jack, in a smart suit and tie, unpacks his belongings onto an imposing desk. A big grin on his face.

DANNI (V.O.)

Jack got a bravery commendation for being wounded in the line of duty and was promoted to Detective Inspector. It was the result he wanted, not a whitewash, and that left a few people with egg on their faces. He's elected to stay in Kingby, posted here permanently.

Jack leans back in his chair, puts his feet on his desk. Smiles. Satisfied.

(CONTINUED)





# THE HERETIC

**BACK ROOM**  
PRODUCTIONS

