

INT. SOUNDSTAGE - 1988

A SMALL FILM CREW gathers on an apartment set. They are in mid-roll of an intimate scene between THREE CHARACTERS.

A young DEE WALLACE stands in front of a DETECTIVE played by BILL MOSELEY. A stretcher is rolled out of a back bedroom. A YOUNG BOY stands next to Dee with concern on his face.

A camera moves toward the actors on a dolly.

DETECTIVE

Mrs. Caruthers, I think we need to consider the possibility...that little Bradley here had something to do with the murders...

MRS. CARUTHERS

Are you out of YOUR MIND? How dare you!

Mrs. Caruthers slaps the detective who looks back toward her with disdain.

MRS. CARUTHERS (CONT'D)

That's my CHILD you're talking about!!!

The child actor steps forward toward the detective. We see on the ground in front of him a pink tape mark in the shape of a "T". The boy looks up just beyond the camera. A LARGE MAN steps out from behind a set flat. He looks intensely in the young boy's direction. The boy stops dead in his tracks - *just shy of the mark.*

BRADLEY

It wasn't me! It was -

DIRECTOR

Cut! Cut.

We hear a loud bell and the crew relaxes. The DIRECTOR steps toward the boy.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

(calmly)

Hey buddy, just remember if you aren't on this T when you say the line...you won't be in focus.

YOUNG ADAM

Oh, sorry.

DIRECTOR
That's okay! We can do it again.

The large man steps up and interrupts the director.

SAL
Sorry Kev, mind if I grab him real quick?

DIRECTOR
Oh, sure.

An ASSISTANT DIRECTOR yells out.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Back in five, people! Back in five.

The large man grabs the boy by the arm and walks off the set.

INT. TRAILER/DRESSING ROOM

In a dusty trailer, the man kneels down in front of the boy - still gripping his arm.

SAL
You know how embarrassing that is, right? Not just for you, for me, too.

YOUNG ADAM
Yessir.

SAL
I mean, they're all gonna laugh at you; you're gonna be a joke to them.

Tears begin to well up in the boy's eyes. He focuses beyond the man and looks toward the makeup table in the distance. A glass of whiskey sits on the table next to an open bottle.

SAL (CONT'D)
Is that what you want dumb-dumb?

The man shakes the boy with such force the entire trailer moves. The makeup table and whiskey glass shake in time with Sal's motions.

SAL (CONT'D)
Huh? Dumb-dumb answer me! Is that what you want?

Sal shakes Adam again, the whiskey shakes, too.

YOUNG ADAM

No, Daddy.

SAL

You don't get your lines right and hit your mark...then you're nothing but a big joke!

Shake, shake. The boy begins to cry. *Sal gets angrier.*

SAL (CONT'D)

Is that what you want?

Shake, shake. Tears stream down the boy's face. Sal is furious.

YOUNG ADAM

NO, DADDY.

SAL

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

The whiskey glass shakes as we hear a loud DING...

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

A glass of whiskey shakes on an airplane tray table.

The plane moves with turbulence. ADAM CASTLE, now in his mid-30s, grips the arm rest of his chair and takes a deep breath in. He twists and contorts in his seat as he grabs the whiskey and slams it back. As he chugs, his finger presses the call button. A moment passes, he presses it again. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT hurriedly approaches Adam and leans down toward him.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(annoyed)

Can I help you, sir?

She resets the call light. *More turbulence.*

ADAM

Yes, thank you. Could I actually get three gin and tonics? Three gins *and a can* of tonic.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Due to the turbulence, I shouldn't actually be out of my seat right now...

ADAM

(stressed but kind)

I know, that's why I'm saying get me three gins now so you don't have to keep getting up, if that's okay -

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

You've had a few drinks already, haven't you?

ADAM

Yeah...yes.

Shake shake - *more turbulence.*

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Sir, I will look into serving you when the captain has turned off the seatbelt sign...

The Flight Attendant moves to leave the aisle - *Adam grabs her by the wrist.*

ADAM

(swallowing nerves)

Look...If I don't get to a certain level of...*calmness*...while this...is happening...things are just...*gonna get worse.*

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

That sounds like a threat. Sir, are you making threats -

ADAM

No, I'm not...

He releases her wrist.

ADAM (CONT'D)

...it's not a threat...it's just *reality.*

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Well the *reality* is, sir, you will need to wait -

ADAM

(growing in desperation)

If I don't get drunk enough to make it through this turbulence, I'm gonna have a fucking panic attack, okay? I'm gonna freak the fuck out.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'm not gonna drink all three at once, I just need to know they're here.

A big rise and fall of turbulence - the biggest so far. Adam closes his eyes.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Mmm.

(beat)

I promise you - no one else on this plane is experiencing what I'm experiencing...

Shake shake. Adam takes a deep staccato breath in and out. The plane shakes more and Adam closes his eyes with a whimper and grips the arm rest.

ADAM (CONT'D)

GOD*fuckin*gdammit.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Give me a moment, sir.

The Flight Attendant heads back to the galley of the plane. Adam steadies himself as his ROW PARTNER speaks up.

ROW PARTNER

Hey, do I know you from somewhere?

ADAM

(embarrassed, under his breath)

Fucking hell.

(to the man)

I don't know man, maybe.

ROW PARTNER

What do you do?

ADAM

(slow to respond)

I'm an actor. *Was* an actor.

ROW PARTNER

Would I know you from anything?

ADAM

I uh...I was in a horror movie...when I was a kid. In the 80s.

ROW PARTNER
 Oh, really? I love horror movies!
 What movie were you in?

ADAM
 It was, ah...it was called -

TITLE SLAM : LITTLE WILLY

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL - DAY

In the lobby of a small, rustic hotel - A BARISTA sets a coffee cup down on a lacquered platform. Written on the cup in Sharpie is the name "ERICA".

BARISTA
 Erica? *Order for Erica.*

A young black woman, with a pierced nose and long green dreads approaches the coffee kiosk counter. AARIKA GREENE. She's in her early 20s and has a large messenger bag slung over her shoulder. Her posture is slouched, and she speaks timidly.

AARIKA
 Oh, that's A-REE-KAH. *Aarika.*

BARISTA
 What?

AARIKA
 You know what? *It's okay.*

She grabs the coffee in one hand, as she grips a thick sketchbook in the other.

BARISTA
 (dismissive)
 Yeah, I know it is.

Aarika grits her teeth through a smile - and walks away.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Aarika quietly enters a large meeting room, coffee in hand. A man in his early 50s stands in the middle of a large group of people. JIM DOOLEY speaks in the commanding but affable tone of a high school baseball coach.

JIM

Alrighty, volunteers! Grab your official MONSTER MAYHEM staff t-shirts and get ready for a wild weekend!

Jim dumps the contents of a large cardboard box onto a table. Numerous black shirts spill into a pile.

JIM (CONT'D)

This year's shirt was designed by an immensely talented artist: our very own Aarika Greene!

Aarika smiles at Jim while she digs for a shirt. He applauds in her direction as numerous volunteers pick up their shirts.

JIM (CONT'D)

We should have small, medium, large, and a bunch of XXXL for some reason...due to an unfortunate miscommunication with our printer.

Aarika unfolds a shirt and looks at the design. On the shirt we see an elaborate logo for MONSTER MAYHEM WEEKEND that has multiple ghoulish monsters rising up from around the lettering, digging their claws into the text. *Aarika grins with pride.*

JIM (CONT'D)

Okay - for those who don't know me, my name is Jim Dooley, and I started this convention twelve years ago. Now, you may be asking yourself...why? Why would I walk away from a sporting goods and camping equipment EMPIRE - Dooley Sports, *over six thriving locations on the Eastern Shore alone* - to start a horror convention on my own dime?

Aarika removes her messenger bag so she can put her staff shirt on. Next to Aarika is an EAGER WOMAN watching wide-eyed as Jim addresses the staff. The woman looks out of place, like a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant wandered into a...horror convention staff meeting.

JIM (CONT'D)

Well, the answer is simple. Like most crazy things we do in life: we do it for love. I LOVE this genre and I LOVE the horror community.

(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)

And if you're here with us this weekend, volunteering your time, I suspect you love it too!

The gathering of volunteers cheer and applaud Jim's message. The eager woman leans close to Aarika and whispers.

MARGOT

(excited to share a secret)

I hate horror movies...

Aarika wasn't expecting the interaction.

AARIKA

What?

MARGOT

(making a grossed-out face)

I HATE horror movies...

Margot makes a "shhh" gesture with her finger.

AARIKA

Really? Then...why are you here?

MARGOT

I just love volunteering...for *ANYTHING*.

Aarika nods her head. She's made a weird new friend.

JIM

So, for those that are newer to the MAYHEM crew, you'll have simpler duties this weekend. Running check-in, line wrangling, policing foot traffic flow, etc.

(beat)

But if you've been with us for awhile, if you're one of my veterans...Terry! Yowie Wowie!...

Yowie Wowie, A MAN DRESSED LIKE AN EVIL CLOWN, salutes Jim.

JIM (CONT'D)

...Aarika!

Aarika smiles.

JIM (CONT'D)

I'll have you tackle some of the bigger jobs, including...being handlers for some of our celebrity talent.

Margot makes an impressed face in Aarika's direction.

JIM (CONT'D)

I've got everyone's jobs broken down here -

Jim holds up a typed spreadsheet on a clipboard.

JIM (CONT'D)

Come see me or Kathy for your assignments and grab a walkie! And let's ALL get ready to UNLEASH SOME MAYHEM!!!

Everyone cheers again, even Margot!

The crowd begins to disperse, Aarika grabs a walkie talkie from a case. On the walkie, written on white tape is "AARIKA". Aarika steps up to Jim and they converse with a comfortable familiarity.

AARIKA

Heyyy!

JIM

Heyyy! Are you excited?

AARIKA

Are you kidding me? You *know* this is my Christmas.

JIM

Well, then, call me freakin' Santa Claus 'cause have I got a GIFT for you.

Jim hands Aarika a manila envelope. She stacks it against her sketchbook and fiddles with the opening.

JIM (CONT'D)

I'm assigning you to be Adam Castle's handler this weekend.

Aarika opens the envelope - we see a print out of Adam's bio, headshot, and schedule for the weekend. Aarika pauses for a moment.

AARIKA
 (in shock)
 Oh Jim, I can't.

JIM
 What? Why not?

AARIKA
 In the interest of professional
 transparency, I must tell you...I'm
 just...*too big a fan.*

JIM
 Aarika -

AARIKA
 No really, Little Willy was, I mean
 it was my entryway into the genre.
 It's still one of my *all-time*
 favorites.

JIM
I know.

AARIKA
 I'm wearing Little Willy earrings
 Jim! THAT I MADE!

She sure is.

JIM
 Exactly! Who better to make sure
 the star of the franchise is taken
 care of and has the BEST Monster
 Mayhem experience possible.

Aarika breathes out and looks at Adam's picture.

JIM (CONT'D)
 You've done SO much for me over the
 years...*I'm sure you can handle*
Adam Castle.

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/FRONT ENTRANCE

Adam drunkenly stumbles out of a black SUV. THE DRIVER of the car rushes to help him to his feet. The driver hands Adam a bottle of water then heads toward the back of the vehicle to get Adam's luggage.

Adam stands and looks toward the front of the hotel. We see a large ornate wooden sign that reads : LAKESIDE LODGE AT DEEP CREEK. A group of VOLUNTEERS are seen hanging a large MONSTER MAYHEM WEEKEND banner high on the hotel.

Adam lifts the water bottle to his lips and chugs. HORROR FANS dressed in black T-shirts and denim jackets head toward the front entrance of the hotel. Someone in the distance yells toward Adam.

GRUFF VOICE

HEY! It wasn't me! It was Little Willy, I SWEAR!

Adam makes a face in the direction of the voice as he finishes the bottle of water. The driver hands Adam his bag.

Adam stares off into the distance - beyond the crowd of people there is a lake. Various CON ATTENDEES walk by the lake, and a few happy FAMILIES are seen feeding ducks and fishing. Adam breathes in the serenity for a moment and steadies himself. After a beat, he walks toward the front entrance of the rustic waterfront hotel.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/LOBBY

A man in his mid 40s stands in the middle of the lobby, ready to greet Adam. RICKY MILLER wears a torn leather jacket and black-rimmed glasses. He looks like a tour manager for a long-forgotten punk band - *but the look works*.

Ricky opens a small amber medicine bottle and slams a few pills into his mouth as Adam enters the lobby.

RICKY

(to himself)

Holy shit. I don't fuckin' believe it.

Ricky swallows his pills and places the bottle back in his pocket.

RICKY (CONT'D)

(to Adam)

There he is! THERE HE IS!

ADAM

Hey, man.

The two men hug.

RICKY

You made it!

(beat)

How you doing? Feeling good? Big weekend!

ADAM

(really trying)

Yeah I feel great, thanks for getting me here.

(beat)

I'm excited we could make this happen...*for the fans...*

RICKY

Well, that's what it's all about.

Ricky gets a little lost for words.

RICKY (CONT'D)

(snapping out of it)

Wow, can't believe you're really here, man. Sorry, so -

Ricky pulls a lanyard and badge out of his jacket pocket.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Here are your credentials, this will give you full access to the con, AND as your *manager extraordinaire*, I also negotiated a HANDLER for you this weekend. They'll make sure you're EXTRA taken care of, properly pampered.

ADAM

Cool cool.

RICKY

Speaking of, here are your meal vouchers...and...

Ricky hesitates.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Do you want, do you want drink tickets for the bar...or?

Adam thinks.

ADAM

No, no I uh...*I'm actually not drinking anymore.*

RICKY
(surprised)
Oh...great. That's really great,
man. *Congratulations.*

ADAM
Yeah, it's been awhile
actually...and I really wanted to
come into this weekend with a clear
head and an...*open mind.*

RICKY
That's awesome. Well, we all
believe in you. It's gonna be
pretty amazing to have everyone
together again.

Ricky pats Adam on the shoulder.

RICKY (CONT'D)
Why don't you get settled in and
we'll talk tonight before the big
show. Speaking of which, you
brought the guest of honor?

ADAM
Of course I did.

Adam holds up a black duffel bag and gives it a smack.

RICKY
Perfect, I'll touch base in a few.

Ricky walks off. Adam watches as he exits the lobby.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S HOTEL ROOM

Adam sets the duffel down on the bed and takes a seat next to it. Adam unzips the bag and folds it open. Inside we see a DOLL. The doll is wearing a red and white striped shirt and has a smiling freckled face. He wears a yellow crown hat with the word WILLY embroidered in blue.

Adam sighs heavily then looks toward the mini-fridge in his room. On top of the fridge is a row of small bottles of alcohol. Adam looks back toward Willy...then stands to move toward the fridge. Just before his hand reaches one of the bottles there is a knock at his door.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika stands in the hallway as Adam opens the door to his room.

AARIKA
Hi, Mr. Castle?

ADAM
Yeah.

AARIKA
I'm Aarika Greene, I'm
your...*handler* for this weekend.

Adam smiles faintly.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S HOTEL ROOM

We focus on the doll - staring blankly out into the room.

AARIKA
Oh my god, is that the *real* Little
Willy?

ADAM
Ha.
(beat)
Yes it is...

Adam sits on the bed, Aarika stands.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(presentational)
...the very doll that tormented me
as a child when I played Bradley
Caruthers in Little Willy 1 and 2.
Go ahead, you can pick him up if
you want.

Aarika lifts Willy out of the bag. Inside the bag we see headshots of Adam as a child and various Little Willy merchandise. Aarika holds Willy in front of her and looks into his dead eyes.

AARIKA
Okay, I might as well get this out
of the way now...
(beat)
I am...the BIGGEST Little Willy
fan. Ha, BIGGEST...LITTLE
Willy..fan...that's funny...

Adam nods his head and listens as Aarika trips up.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 Would you mind if I, could I - take
 a picture with him?

ADAM
Of course.

Aarika makes a happy face while holding the doll excitedly.
 She snaps a quick selfie.

AARIKA
 Okay, I think I got all the
fangirling out of my system.

She hands Willy back to Adam. He holds the doll on his lap.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 Now to the business at hand.

Aarika grabs a folder and guidebook out of her messenger bag.
 She sets everything on her sketchbook to steady the
 documents. Adam can see colorful illustrations peeking out
 from the pages of her sketchbook.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 Here is the official Monster Mayhem
 Weekend guidebook, with a map of
 the convention floor.
 (beat)
 Let's see, you are booth...1308,
 which is right here.

Aarika circles a spot on the map with a sharpie.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 The floor opens in about an hour,
 then after the hall closes you have
 the ah...

Aarika looks at the schedule.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 ...you have the...wow...the 30th
 anniversary screening of the
 original Little Willy. With full
 cast reunion...okay, *the fangirl is
 back. She's back.*

Adam watches Aarika become flustered.

ADAM
 (laughing)
Yes she is.

AARIKA
 (regaining composure)
 Anyway, um...then you have the cast photo-op on Saturday in the Museum Room, and you are judging the big costume contest on Sunday.
 (beat)
 I will be here for you all weekend, in fact, I can take your stuff down to the booth now and start setting up? If you'd like.

Aarika hands Adam his schedule and a map of the convention floor.

ADAM
 That would be great.

Adam slides the duffel toward Aarika who picks it up.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 I'll take Willy. I keep him close to me at these things. He went missing one year, so I don't take my eyes off him anymore.

AARIKA
Totally understand.
 (beat)
 Anything else I can do for you, Mr. Castle?

ADAM
 Nope.

Aarika steps away to exit, revealing the alcohol bottles on the fridge. Adam eyeballs the bottles.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Actually, Aarika.

Aarika looks back toward Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 I wonder if you wouldn't mind...just taking those bottles out of my room.

AARIKA
 Oh...

ADAM

I think I'd feel...*better*...without them here.

AARIKA

Not a problem, without a doubt.

Aarika scoops the bottle into her messenger bag.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

Meet you downstairs in a few!

ADAM

Perfect.

Aarika exits Adam's room. Adam takes a deep breath in and out.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika takes a deep breath in and out. She looks down at her phone and admires the photo of her and Willy. After a moment, Aarika giddily walks off.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BACK HALLWAY

A luggage cart is propping the door open to a dark storage closet. From inside the closet, Aarika tosses a few items onto the luggage cart.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/STORAGE CLOSET

Aarika digs through rows of shelving in a HIGHLY disorganized storage closet. After a few moments of sifting through various pieces of piping and drape - she hears a rustling deep inside the closet. *She stops and listens...*

Deciding it was nothing, she grabs a table skirt, loads it up onto the luggage cart then turns to go back into the closet.

She hears the rustling again. Aarika looks deeper into the shadows at the back of the closet. She sees the faint shape of a man, or a mannequin? She moves closer to it. As she nears it, the shape becomes more distinct.

She sees a tall lanky figure wearing an odd ghoulish mask. As her eyes widen, the shape comes to life and lurches in her direction. Aarika backs up and screams at the top of her lungs. She spills backward out of the closet and falls onto the luggage cart.

The figure stands above her breathing heavily for a beat before removing the mask. Standing above Aarika is PATRICK FELLER, early 20s. He's an unkempt, messy looking dude with wiry facial hair and a stoned/distant look in his eyes. Feller LAUGHS AND LAUGHS as he helps Aarika to her feet.

FELLER
HOLY SHIT I got you Greene. I
MEAN...I GOT YOUUU...

AARIKA
What the FUCK, Feller!?

Feller laughs.

FELLER
Welcome to MONSTER MAYHEM!

AARIKA
I don't understand; how long were
you waiting in the closet?

FELLER
I dunno, a while.

AARIKA
Just, in the hopes that I'd...show
up at some point?

FELLER
(with pride)
Exactly.

AARIKA
You're a fucking idiot, and you're
late - lucky I grabbed you a shirt.

Aarika throws a shirt at Feller. He unrolls it as he laughs.

FELLER
Are you kidding me? This is fucking
HUGE!!!

The shirt is twice the size of Feller's torso. Aarika tosses a walkie talkie at Feller who catches it.

AARIKA
Main channel - one. Secret channel -
three ; codeword SEASON OF THE
WITCH.

Feller lifts the walkie to his mouth. On a strip of white tape written in marker is "FELLER".

FELLER
COPY COPY.

Aarika begins to push the luggage cart down the hallway.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/RESTAURANT

A well-coiffed MAN IN A SUIT sits smoking a cigar and drinking a martini. Sitting across from the man is Ricky who sips beer from a pint glass. LELAND REIGNES, 55, speaks as if he wants the whole room to hear him.

LELAND
 TO NEW BEGINNNINGS!

Leland and Ricky "toast" and tap their glasses together.

RICKY
 (less committed)
To new beginnings.

LELAND
 The fans are gonna go APE SHIT when they hear. I think we should announce it tonight, at the screening.

RICKY
 Tonight? That isn't a little...premature? I mean we still have contracts to sign...

LELAND
 If I've learned one thing in this business Ricky, always...put the CART...before the HORSE. Otherwise you waste your time sitting around...in a fucking cart...that...y'know...I mean...that cart's not going anywhere -

RICKY
 I understand Leland, I just...would like a little more time...make things official...

Ricky looks toward a bank of elevators in the lobby. Adam steps out of one holding Willy and heading toward the restaurant.

RICKY (CONT'D)
 ...before you know, we make a big
 HOOPLAH.

LELAND
 It's the movie business Ricky: it's
 all HOOPLAH.

RICKY
 Okay look - just not a word of this
 to Adam, not yet.

Leland clocks Adam as he approaches.

LELAND
 Well if it isn't little BRADLEY
 CARUTHERS...*LIVE AND IN THE FLESH.*
 (singing)
 ...with his best friend always by
 his side!

Leland looks toward Adam with a slimy smile.

ADAM
 Leland! *Good to see you.*

LELAND
 I'm *surprised* to see you, Adam.
 Surprised you made it.

ADAM
 I wouldn't miss it for anything -

LELAND
 You missed the 20th anniversary
 though, despite my very personal
 and heartfelt invitation...and if I
 remember correctly you made it to
 the right *city* for the 25th, but
 got "lost" at the airport? Or was
 it...*detained?*

ADAM
 (biting his tongue)
Leland...
 (beat)
 Look, I know I've given you reasons
 to...distrust me in the past. But,
 that's all gonna change. I fucked
 up...a lot back then...but I'm here
 NOW -

LELAND
Yes, you are.

Adam tries to say his piece.

ADAM

And I -

LELAND

Was headed to the bar? To get a quick little nip before going to work?

ADAM

(snippy)

No, Leland I -

RICKY

Guys, guys - c'mon, let's not lose our heads, please. *Don't do this.*

(beat)

Adam, sit down with us.

Adam looks at Leland and his stupid fake smile. Adam breathes in steadily and out slowly.

ADAM

No, Leland's right: I should head to the floor.

Leland holds up his glass and "toasts" toward Adam. Adam turns to leave, but stops. He looks back toward Leland.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You know...you saw something in me as a little kid. You gave me an opportunity that changed my life...gimme another opportunity to impress you now. *I won't let you down again.*

Leland stares at Adam as he walks away.

LELAND

I don't believe for A SECOND that kid's got his act together. And if he fucks up what we've got planned...

(beat)

It's game over for him.

Ricky sighs and drinks his beer as Adam disappears in the lobby.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Jim sits at a command station of sorts. NUMEROUS VOLUNTEERS mill about around him as he looks down at a laptop and raises a walkie talkie in his hand.

JIM
 (into his walkie talkie)
 Alrighty everyone it is 5 O'Clock,
 MONSTER MAYHEM WEEKEND...is
 officially...A GO!

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

The main doors to the conference center open and FANS begin to spill in.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTER

This is the MAIN HALL of the Monster Mayhem convention. TABLES OF VENDORS show off their wares, rows and rows of masks and horror T-shirts on display. Other tables/booths are filled with CELEBRITY GUESTS and makeup demonstrations.

At Adam's booth, Aarika stacks publicity photos on his table, and straightens all of the Willy pins and posters. Hanging above the booth is a large banner with Adam's name on it. Adam steps up to the booth with Willy in hand.

ADAM
 Wow, looks great.

Aarika turns to see Adam. He looks at the booth and smiles, then takes a seat behind the table and sets the Willy doll down on a small stand. Adam picks up a Sharpie and looks down toward a photo of himself as a child in the original film.

AARIKA
 Are you still acting?

Fans pass by and begin to fill the main hall.

ADAM
 No, I took a break after the Willy movies. Things just got...*too hot*.
 (beat)
 Then when I tried to get back into it...I was older, I'd already had some...*problems*. Wasn't easy to...find a way in again.

Suddenly, a disembodied GRUFF VOICE cuts through the ambient convention noise.

GRUFF VOICE

What kind of problems were you having? BRAIN problems?

Adam looks around confused.

ADAM

What?

AARIKA

Do you miss it?

ADAM

(weirded out)

Uh, of course I miss it; it was my dream. *Still is my dream.*

Aarika isn't sure what to say.

ADAM (CONT'D)

But that's why I'm here this weekend. To remind the fans, the producers, y'know....*remind everyone - that I'm still here, better than ever...and I'm ready to work.*

Aarika's walkie crackles and pops with Jim's voice.

JIM

Aarika, do you copy?

Aarika lifts the walkie to her mouth.

AARIKA

Go for Aarika.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Feller and Aarika stand in front of Jim. Jim fiddles with an old video camera. Feller has added a belt to his shirt, which now looks more like a dress.

JIM

I think it still works...haven't used it since I made a few commercials for the store back in the day...

(beat)

(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)

...but Leland Reignes - the mega-producer guy - informed me, he's making a BIG announcement tonight at the Little Willy screening. I want us to film it for Monster Mayhem and get it up on all our...*internet places*...

AARIKA

Social Media.

JIM

Right, yeah, on our social medias.

AARIKA

Not...plural...

JIM

...so y'know, the more eyes on Monster Mayhem, the more exposure we get...the more sponsors come on board for next year...

FELLER

Yeah, we know how Social Media works, Jim...

Aarika and Feller nod their heads, Jim smiles.

JIM

Good!

Jim hands the camera to Feller.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika walks down the hall toward Adam's room. Once there, she knocks on Adam's door. After a moment, Adam steps out. He's dressed in a formal suit jacket, a tie, and pressed slacks.

AARIKA

Woah! Getting fancy for the screening!

ADAM

I'm trying, I'm trying. Oops! Forgot something.

Adam disappears back into the room.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ELEVATOR

Adam holds Willy and stands in the elevator with Aarika and OTHER GUESTS. The group rides in silence for a bit until a fan breaks that silence.

ANNOYING FAN

Hey, it wasn't me! It was Little Willy I swear!

Adam smiles and plays nice.

ANNOYING FAN (CONT'D)

Hey, I love Little Willy man.

ADAM

Thanks.

ANNOYING FAN

The third one was the best one. That one's my favorite.

ADAM

Okay, cool.

Adam says nothing. More moments of silence until another voice breaks through.

GRUFF VOICE

Tell him to shut the FUCK up.

It's the same disembodied voice from before. Adam laughs uncomfortably.

ADAM

What?

AARIKA

What?

Adam looks around. *Who said that?*

GRUFF VOICE

Tell him I'm gonna bash his head into the elevator door so hard - his brain is gonna JIZZ out his FUCKIN' nose.

ADAM

(laughing)

OKAY! Okay...what?

Adam laughs again. Aarika looks at him with concern. Adam regains composure.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM A

"Little Willy" 1989 screens for a happy crowd.

Aarika and Adam make their way through the screening room. They come to a stop as Adam looks up toward the large screen. On the screen we see a scene from the original Little Willy.

DETECTIVE

Mrs. Caruthers, I think we need to consider the possibility...that little Bradley here had something to do with the murders...

MRS. CARUTHERS

Are you out of YOUR MIND? How dare you!

Mrs. Caruthers slaps the detective who looks back toward her with disdain.

MRS. CARUTHERS (CONT'D)

That's my CHILD you're talking about!!!

With tears in his eyes, little Adam steps perfectly into frame and speaks up.

YOUNG ADAM

It wasn't me! It was LITTLE WILLY I SWEAR!!!

The crowd cheers and laughs, *Adam smiles a little too.*

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Aarika grabs a small piece of meat from the craft service table. She stands and looks out into the green room. Adam sits on a large couch and catches up with Dee Wallace and Bill Moseley. Ricky sits further down the couch with Leland.

BILL

Hey, I still think you did it y'know...

ADAM

(confused)
What?

BILL

KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE! Haha, just kidding man.

(beat)

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

You are looking SHARP! Looking good!

Bill tugs at Adam's tie.

ADAM

Ha, thanks.

DEE

(to Adam)

Look - I know you don't believe in this stuff - but...*I trust the healing power of crystals...*

ADAM

Oh -

Dee shows Adam a small necklace with a few crystals/beads attached. Adam nods his head.

DEE

I made this for you, for this weekend. It has Quartz, Citrine, and Rudraksha beads. It's to help bring you the energy you need to remove psychic obstacles in your path and advance forward in a positive direction.

Dee puts the necklace around Adam's neck. Bill shows Adam his wrist.

BILL

I got a bracelet! *Pretty cool.*

Leland speaks up from the other end of the couch as Ricky stands and walks toward the back of the room.

LELAND

Adam - we were actually wondering...

Adam looks toward Leland.

LELAND (CONT'D)

Tonight is...*such* a big night...we thought it would be a real treat if you...*dressed up for the fans.*

Near a small dressing room, Ricky holds up an adult-sized version of what Adam wore in the film. A red and white striped shirt, blue jeans, and black converse sneakers. It mirrors Little Willy's costume. Adam looks over the outfit for a moment.

GRUFF VOICE
You're gonna look like a FUCKING
IDIOT.

ADAM
Who thinks that?

LELAND
What's that?

RICKY
We think the fans would really love
it Adam.

Adam looks a bit squirrely...bites his lip...and looks
around the room at all of the people he wants to impress.
Leland smiles back at Adam with that...*big greasy smile*.

GRUFF VOICE
I wanna rip that smile right off
his FUCKING face -

ADAM
Anything for the fans.

Everyone cheers, Aarika watches as Adam stands to retrieve
the wardrobe from Ricky.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM A

Feller stands behind the camera, now on a tripod. He watches
Little Willy on the big screen.

We see the final moments of the Little Willy film play out.
Bradley is covered in soot and holds up a Molotov cocktail. A
battle-damaged Willy zooms toward Bradley while driving a
remote-controlled toy car.

WILLY
(singing)
I'M YOUR BEST FRIEND, ALWAYS BY
YOUR SIDE!!!

BRADLEY
I'm sorry, buddy. BUT YOU'VE BEEN
MARKED...DEFECTIVE!!!

On screen, Bradley throws the fiery concoction in Willy's
direction. The car and Willy explode. Feller stares at the
screen as a stringy, melted Willy screams in pain maniacally.
Flames engulf Willy as Bradley laughs and cries tears of joy.

Credits roll. People applaud. Feller presses a button on the camera as Leland takes the stage. The screen switches to blue for a moment, before playing an old commercial for DOOLEY SPORTS. On the large screen, we see Jim in a straight jacket.

JIM

(from the screen)

Lock me up and throw away the key!
Because I'm slashing prices so
LOW...I MUST BE CRAZEEEE!!!
COOLERS! PROPANE TANKS! GRILLS!
FAMILY-SIZED TENTS! COMMODES!!!

As Jim talks, the items he mentions pop up around him like clip art. Aarika runs up to Feller.

AARIKA

FELLER!

Feller presses a different button - and now the screen is showing what the camera is filming ; Leland addressing the crowd.

LELAND

Wow! Wowow WOWIE! Thank you, thank you. I cannot believe it has been thirty years since Little Willy first terrified audiences and became a beloved cult classic. As a producer - the Little Willy franchise is one of my crowning achievements...

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

The cast and Ricky are still in the main green room catching up and having drinks. Adam sits in a smaller dressing room - dressed in the outfit Leland brought for him.

INT. GREEN ROOM/DRESSING ROOM

Adam stares into the mirror. On the counter in front of him is Willy the doll.

GRUFF VOICE

He's doing it on purpose you know.

Adam looks around the small room. *Where is this voice coming from?*

GRUFF VOICE (CONT'D)

He wants to embarrass you, make a joke outta you. You think he'd ask DARREN KANE from MEAT GRINDER to do this? Or TODD HOLLAWAY from THE GROBLINS? NO WAY, those guys are LEGENDS. You? You're just a JOKE!

ADAM

(under his breath)
What is happening...

GRUFF VOICE

What do ya' think dumb-dumb?

Adam shakes his head and closes his eyes.

ADAM

That's not possible, it's not possible...because you're not -

GRUFF VOICE

Not what?

Adam opens his eyes and quickly leans down toward Willy's face.

ADAM

YOU'RE NOT FUCKING REAL. YOU CAN'T TALK. SO THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE. Do you understand? THIS -

Adam motions back and forth between them.

ADAM (CONT'D)

ISN'T HAPPENING...SO JUST STOP FUCKING TALKING!!!

Dee peeks her head in the door.

DEE

Adam.

Adam turns around with a smile on his face.

ADAM

Yeah, yah yah yah yah?

DEE

Leland's about to announce us.

ADAM
 (overcompensating)
 That's great, and I can't wait and
 I'm excited...and it's gonna be
 great. *And I'm excited.*

Dee exits. Adam lets out a deep sigh and stares at Willy.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM A

Leland stands on the stage addressing an enraptured crowd of fans.

LELAND
 Please welcome to the stage the
 CAST OF LITTLE WILLY! DEE WALLACE!
 BILL MOSELEY! AND...ADAM CASTLE!!!

Dee, Bill, and Adam all take the stage waving and smiling. The crowd cheers, Aarika and Feller cheer. Dee, Bill, and Adam each sit on a stool onstage. Adam has Willy in his lap. A GROUP OF FANS line up at a microphone in the crowd. Leland looks toward the fans.

LELAND (CONT'D)
 You, sir - wanna start things off?

A NERVOUS FAN holding a Little Willy plush doll stands at a microphone in the crowd.

NERVOUS FAN
 My question is for Dee...did you
 ever think there'd still be
 fans...of the film today? Getting
 together like this...

Feller zooms in on Dee as she speaks.

DEE
 Well first of all lemme just say,
 Little Willy fans are the best fans
 by far!

The audience applauds. Ricky watches from the wings.

DEE (CONT'D)
 Y'know this was the *little* movie
 that could. No one expected the
 first one to do AS well as it did -
 but I really felt like we were
 capturing something special on set.
 (beat)
 (MORE)

DEE (CONT'D)

You know I always say....you
just...can't keep a good doll down!

The crowd claps and ANOTHER FAN steps up to the mic. Adam stands and sets Willy down on the stool and applauds for the doll.

Adam hears the gruff voice again...

WILLY

You know, they're right. You can't
keep a good ME down.

Adam stares at the doll and begins to sweat.

WILLY (CONT'D)

Or a BAD me either.

From Adam's POV, all sound in the room deadens to a hiss. He can only hear Willy's voice and nothing else.

WILLY (CONT'D)

You wanna pretend like this ain't
happenin' - and I get it. But I
ain't going nowhere.

Bill answers a fan's question as Adam tries to breathe and steady himself.

WILLY (CONT'D)

I'm here because you're gonna need
me when things get...*bad*.

(beat)

And trust me buddy...things are
about to get...*REALLY BAD*.

Leland's voice breaks through to Adam.

LELAND

Adam?

Adam snaps out of his stare down with Willy and looks toward Leland.

ADAM

Mmm...yep?

LELAND

This young man had a question for
you.

Adam looks out toward the crowd at a GOTH FAN standing behind a microphone. The fan has a WHITE MOHAWK and is wearing STEAMP PUNK ATTIRE.

He has goggles on and wears a form-fitting LEATHER HARNESS snugly around his chest. Aarika and Feller are clocking Adam's odd behavior. Feller zooms in on Adam.

ADAM
(distracted)
Yeah, hit it. Hit me. *Hit it.*

GOTH FAN
I love Little Willy...

ADAM
Awesome, yes.

GOTH FAN
The third one was the best one though...

Silence.

ADAM
(unamused)
Okay.

GOTH FAN
You weren't in that one.

ADAM
I was not.

GOTH FAN
Why not?

More silence, a few coughs. Adam opens his mouth to answer - but nothing comes out. Aarika winces.

GOTH FAN (CONT'D)
Weren't you in jail or something?

Deafening silence now. Dee looks toward Adam concerned. Aarika can't handle it - she covers her eyes.

GOTH FAN (CONT'D)
(switching gears)
Haha, HEY IT WASN'T ME! IT WAS
LITTLE WILLY I SWEAR!!!

Adam kinda laughs. Leland tries to salvage the moment.

LELAND
There it is. Adam people quote that to you a lot?

A beat.

ADAM
Ha, yeah. They do.

LELAND
Do you like that? When
people...quote the movie to you
after all these years?

Long pause.

ADAM
(plainly)
No, I don't.

Ricky rolls his eyes. Aarika reacts, saddened.

LELAND
Alrighty well, switching gears just
slightly..I would like to take this
opportunity, here in front of this
amazing crowd at Monster
Mayhem...to make a VERY special
announcement.

WILLY
You listening? Hey!

Adam looks toward Willy.

WILLY (CONT'D)
Brace for impact buddy.

Adam is confused as Leland continues.

LELAND
I actually have quite a big
surprise for all the fans here
tonight. This is...huge, so huge I
don't know if I can even say
this...can I say this?

WILLY
Here it comes...

LELAND
I guess I'm saying it! Here at
Monster Mayhem...we are officially
announcing...THE REBOOT OF LITTLE
WILLY!

Feller has panned to Adam's face during the announcement. On the screen, the large image of Adam is wiped away - and a new shitty "Modern Horror" logo for **LITTLE WILLY : THE RETURN** covers the screen.

Adam is crestfallen. *Ricky grows nervous.* He takes his pill bottle out and ingests a few more pills.

WILLY
CAN YOU FUCKING BELIEVE IT?

The crowd erupts in applause.

LELAND
We are in the VERY early stages of planning. We just negotiated the rights today...
(beat)
...but within the year we will be going into PRODUCTION ON AN ALL NEW LITTLE WILLY! FOR A NEW GENERATION!

Adam's world is literally spinning.

WILLY
Are you FUCKING kidding me with this BULLSHIT!? SAY SOMETHING!

Adam tries to focus on what Leland is saying, but all he can hear is THE VOICE.

WILLY (CONT'D)
They're not including us, EITHER of us. They've NEVER thought about us. You're a FUCKING JOKE to them DUMB-DUMB!

Adam breathes heavily and tries to maintain composure. We push in on Adam as Leland continues to speak to the crowd. The gruff voice crowds Adam's head as Leland's voice is amplified in the room.

LELAND
Anyway folks! Keep an eye out for Little Willy: THE RETURN...COMING SOON FROM REIGNES PICTURES INTERNATIONAL! We'll have a sign-up sheet for updates just outside. Have a wonderful time at MONSTER MAYHEM WEEKEND!!!

WILLY (CONT'D)
I told you he wanted to embarrass you! Look at you, standing there like an asshole! Dressed up in a stupid costume in front of everyone. THIS IS PATHETIC. YOU'RE PATHETIC! You look like a real piece of shit right now you know that DUMB-DUMB?

Adam snaps.

ADAM
(yelling)
SHUT...THE FUUCK...UP!!!!

Leland looks in his direction. The crowd is silent. Aarika is stunned - Feller is locked on a close up of Adam.

AARIKA
Jesus Christ.

Adam looks around at everyone on stage - staring back at him in disbelief.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BACK HALLWAY

Aarika bursts into the back hallway. She has the camera in her hands as she walks toward the green room. Once at the door to the green room, she peers inside without entering or making herself known.

Adam is tying the tie on his "fancy" outfit as he talks with Leland and Ricky. Aarika can't quite hear what they're saying - *but it's not going well*. After a moment, Leland and Ricky storm out of the room. Aarika stands against the wall, like an attendant guarding the door. Leland and Ricky exit and pay her no mind.

LELAND
He's a fucking wild card, Ricky, I told you. I don't want that kid *anywhere* near this project -

RICKY
He just needs some time to calm down. In a few days I'm sure he'll see it from your perspective.

LELAND
He's YOUR fucking client - why don't you knock some fucking SENSE into him...

Aarika watches as Rickey and Leland make their way down the hall. She turns to look back into the room and sees Adam facing Willy. Adam is engaged in a one-way conversation with Willy, yelling toward the doll in an aggressive manner. Aarika grips the camera in her hands and slowly slides the power button ON.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Adam interacts with Willy with...*heightened energy*.

ADAM
What is it?
(beat)
(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Is it the alcohol??? HUH? The JET
 LAG!? The..the crystals???

Adam touches his necklace.

WILLY
 (mimicking the intonation
 of "I don't know")
 Uh huh huh...

ADAM
 That's it! Isn't it? HOLY FUCK
 that's it. *The necklace*. Some weird
 fucking...ESSENTIAL OIL in these
 beads...rubbin' off on my
 skin...making me see things...*hear*
things...

Adam tears at the necklace, it's hard to break loose.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 ...getting into my head...affecting
 my body chemistry. I should've
 known. This fuckin'...VOODOO
 BULLSHIT!!!

The necklace breaks free from Adam's neck, beads fly
 everywhere. Adam stares at Willy.

Nothing.

Adam breathes heavily and continues to stare at Willy.

Nothing.

WILLY
It wasn't the beads.

ADAM
 GODDAMMIT!!!

Adam grabs Willy and heads toward the door. Aarika takes her
 attendant position as Adam steps into the hallway.

AARIKA
 (playing dumb)
 How'd it go?

ADAM
I need a fucking drink.

Adam walks off.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BAR

The bar is crowded, as if everyone attending the convention has attempted to fit into this one space.

A glass is set down on a bar top and whiskey begins to pour. Adam sits at the bar with Willy and Aarika.

ADAM

He said they wanted a clean SLATE.
CLEAN SLATE, MY FUCKING ASS. The
fans won't even want that, what
just...erase me from history? So
Bradley never existed? Never
defeated Willy TWICE BEFORE!? It's
just gonna be some new, young cast
without any ties to the genre,
without any RIGHT TO BE THERE.

Adam slams the drink back and downs it in one gulp. Adam grips the arm of the bar stool like he's back on the turbulent plane. He tries to steady his breath, but he's just too angry.

ADAM (CONT'D)

This is what I NEEDED. THIS is
exactly what I needed. I've been
waiting for this...this *very thing*
that LELAND is in control of - that
HE IS NOW GATEKEEPING...

Adam gets another whiskey. Aarika watches the pour.

AARIKA

Well, give it some time. He could
change his mind? Maybe he'll listen
to the fans...?

Adam slams back the drink.

ADAM

(raising his voice)
Do you know what optimism is,
Aarika? *It's a poison*. A poison
that infects your brain. Optimism
is a TUMOR...that BLOCKS your
synapses from receiving
REALITY...and REALITY IS DEATH.
Reality IS NOTHINGNESS.

Aarika is stunned. Adam takes a breath.

AARIKA

I'm just saying it may still work out. He might eventually want you to be involved, maybe you could prove yourself -

ADAM

Look, you are very nice, and you have been very helpful. *But I do not need your fucking help right now.*

Adam drinks another whiskey as Aarika stares in disbelief and hurt. Suddenly Feller approaches Aarika and breaks the tension. He has altered his shirt/dress with safety pins and horror patches.

FELLER

Hey! Come drink with us! Everyone's getting *Scream-A-Ritas* and Margot has had like...*four shots already.*

Aarika looks to her left, Yowie Wowie, Margot, and a few other VOLUNTEERS and CELEBS are getting rowdy in a corner of the bar.

AARIKA

I'll see you tomorrow, Mr. Castle.
Get some sleep.

Aarika walks off with Feller.

Adam looks across the bar and sees a WOMAN dressed in COLORFUL HORROR COSPLAY. She smiles and giggles with a blue-haired woman seated next to her. The two women look in Adam's direction.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S HOTEL ROOM

Adam and the Cosplayer land on the bed in mid make-out. Willy sits on a chair facing them. Adam and the woman kiss messily.

COSPLAYER

Say it...

Adam kisses and speaks.

ADAM

What?

COSPLAYER

Say it...*the line from the movie...*

Adam pulls away.

COSPLAYER (CONT'D)
Y'know...THE line.

ADAM
Oh I don't, I'd feel stupid. Ha.

She makes an exaggerated frown-y face.

COSPLAYER
(baby voice)
PWETTY PWEASE.

She touches Adam's lip awkwardly. *After a beat he obliges.*

ADAM
It wasn't me! It was LITTLE WILLY I
SWEAR!

WILLY
You're pathetic.

Adam looks over toward the doll.

COSPLAYER
(turned on)
Oh. My. GAWD.

She pulls Adam back in and they continue to kiss.

WILLY
Hey dumb-dumb. Can you feel it? The
LONELINESS eating away at your
insides?

Adam tries to lose himself in the moment, choosing to focus on the woman.

WILLY (CONT'D)
The drinking...all the messy hook
ups...you're runnin' on empty man.

Adam breaks away again and looks directly at Willy on the chair, then back to the Cosplayer.

ADAM
Would you do me a favor? Could you
toss him in a drawer or something?
...he's a...it's creepin' me out.

COSPLAYER
(baby voice again)
Aww...but I wanted him to watch...

ADAM
 (serious)
Please.

After an eye-roll, she grabs Willy.

WILLY
 Hey! Hey, don't you fuckin' touch
 me!

She throws Willy in a dresser drawer and slams it shut.

WILLY (CONT'D)
 If you leave me in here I'll
 FUCKING KILL YOU, I swear to GOD.

The Cosplayer returns to Adam and pushes him back onto the bed as they continue to kiss. The friend pops the cork from the wine bottle as she watches what's transpiring in front of her. We see the corkscrew in her hand as she swigs from the bottle.

WILLY (CONT'D)
 (muffled)
 HOW DARE YOU!? YOU CAN'T GET RID OF
 ME!!!

Adam looks around, the voice sounds...*close*. He looks up at the woman ; *she hears it too*. The Cosplayer looks around the room for a moment before lifting Adam's shirt up to reveal...

...a FLESHY WILLY PARTIALLY GROWING OUT OF HIS TORSO.

WILLY (CONT'D)
 PLANNIN' ON HAVING SOME FUN WITHOUT
 ME!?

ADAM
 Jesus CHRIST!!!

The Cosplayer is not thrown.

COSPLAYER
 Of course not Willy, we were
waiting for you.

The lighting in the room shifts into nightmarish tones of dark green and purple. *Is this real?*

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
 Oh Willy, we love you, Willy.

The Cosplayer traces the weird Willy's lips with her finger.

ADAM
What the...fuck...

She leans down and begins to kiss the Willy that has grown out of Adam's stomach.

ADAM (CONT'D)
You're uh..okay with this?

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
Of course...he's FAMOUS!

The friend scoots toward Adam on the bed and begins kissing Adam. He is distracted, but engages. We hear the gruff voice of Willy enjoying himself with the other woman - his tongue juts out of his slimy mouth and flicks along with hers.

WILLY
Aw yeah, baby...*come to Willy...*

The two women, and Adam...and Willy enjoy themselves on the bed for a few moments...before a SCREAM cuts through the relaxed atmosphere. The Cosplayer lifts her head up from Adam's torso - her lip has been bitten off and she is bleeding...*a lot.*

COSPLAYER
(thrilled)
Oh my GOD...yes WILLY! TAKE ME
WILLY!!!

Adam looks at his torso, the Willy has grown LARGER. It now encompasses his ENTIRE TORSO - with a GIANT TOOTHY OPENING taking up the most space. The Cosplayer leans back down toward the mouth of the monster, and lets Willy tear off another piece of her flesh. This time he takes her ear, a long strand of hair, and a piece of her scalp. Adam is NOT enjoying this.

ADAM
OH FUCK!!!

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
I want some of the action...

The friend continues to kiss Adam, but moves her hand down around Willy's mouth. The creature BITES her fingers off one by one...

With each finger removed, the woman screams in pleasure. Blood sprays everywhere, covering the women and Adam. Willy laughs and laughs as he continues to devour bits of their flesh in a GORY ORGY of BLOOD AND VISCERA. The women begin to kiss each other as ADAM SCREAMS.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM - DAY

Adam opens his eyes. There is a loud knock at the door. He sits up in bed. The Cosplayer and her blue-haired friend are nowhere to be seen. The bed has been stripped of every sheet and cover ; Adam is laying on a bare mattress.

Willy is sitting on the bedside table. *Someone knocks again.*

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM

Adam opens the door. Standing in the hallway is SUNDAY SKYE, 33. She's a tall blonde with large sunglasses on and a limp cigarette hanging out of her mouth.

ADAM
(in shock)
Sunday!?

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM

Adam pours Sunday a cup of coffee. They are sitting near the balcony with a sliding door open. Sunday lights a cigarette using a SMALL YELLOW LIGHTER with a ROSE ENGRAVED on the side of it. She takes a drag from her cigarette and exhales.

SUNDAY
I heard about the remake. I figured you'd be spiraling, so I jumped on the first flight here.
(beat)
Tell me I overreacted.

Adam looks off, unsure of what to say.

ADAM
I'm not...*spiraling*...

SUNDAY
You're not?...

Sunday plays a voicemail from her phone. The message is Adam, from last night. We hear music from the hotel room, and women chattering in the background.

ADAM
(so drunk)
You know you're the only one...*nothing matters*....nothing else has EVER mattered except for you Sunny. I don't want anyone else...

Adam listens to the voicemail, wincing from embarrassment.

ADAM (CONT'D)

(crying now)

I'm a mess when you're not
here...*I'm not even myself*
*anymore...*I'm becoming something I
don't even like...I NEED YOU I LOVE
YOUUUU SUNNNAYYYY -

-CLICK- voicemail over. Adam bites his lip.

SUNDAY

So you're drinking again.

ADAM

Mm.

Adam looks toward Sunday, then toward Willy on the table,
then back toward Sunday.

SUNDAY

I want you to pack your things and
leave with me.

Adam shakes his head.

ADAM

I uh...that's...

SUNDAY

What? Not an option?

ADAM

Not an option. I have to stay here
and talk to Ricky about the movie.
Leland isn't gonna listen to me,
but I think Ricky can change his
mind. Get me involved so I can -

Sunday shakes her head and sighs heavily.

SUNDAY

Which is it Adam? If I'm the only
thing that matters...why stay here?

ADAM

I...it's...there's a lot going on,
and you know...many...*factors*...I
mean...*we're not together*...you
broke up with me -

SUNDAY

If I promise to get back together with you, would you leave with me right now?

Adam is stumped.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

(rolling her eyes)

Right. No, you're more interested in causing chaos. If you're not causing chaos...then who are you?

ADAM

What? *That's not...*

SUNDAY

That's not what you're doing? I know...I've heard it all before. I even believe it, to some degree. Adam, I believe...becoming an emotional hurricane is subconscious for you at this point. But you...you refuse to live a calibrated, balanced lifestyle - I tried to help you...other people have tried to help...put certain safeguards in place -

ADAM

I love you.

Sunday stops.

SUNDAY

There we go -

ADAM

I know I know. I'm using my emotionally vulnerable state to manipulate you. *Yeah.*

Long pause.

SUNDAY

So, what now? What do you do when you've heard it all before?

ADAM

I dunno.

SUNDAY

Adam, I wish you could see who you are without these movies, without this career - or without... constantly grieving the loss of a career.

Sunday takes a breath. Adam stares off.

ADAM

(quietly)
I don't...*have anything else.*

SUNDAY

That's not true Adam. There's something else out there for you, but you have to be willing to get better...*and find it.*

(beat)

Look, I'm flying out tonight and I'm asking you to come with me.

Adam doesn't respond. Sunday stands and gulps the rest of her coffee.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

I'm going downstairs to work. I'm on a deadline. Shower and drink the rest of the coffee.

Adam looks down toward the coffee as Sunday steps up to him.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

Adam.

(beat)

I love you, too. But I can't keep getting weighed down by your... *baggage.*

(beat)

Sooner or later, I have to learn my lesson.

Sunday leaves. *Adam is left alone with Willy.*

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM B/HAUNTED HOUSE

In BALLROOM B is the HAUNT attraction at Monster Mayhem Weekend. There are numerous ghoulish decorations hung, flashing lights, and evil-looking scarecrows strewn about. Feller stands prostrate in the middle of the attraction.

Jim drags a propane tank behind a curtain.

AARIKA
 So...*what* theme did you go with
 this year, Jim?

We hear Jim, but don't see him; he's tucked behind a display
 working with loud power tools.

JIM
 Well, I couldn't decide between
 a...kind of old-school corn maze
 vibe...with...like, evil
 scarecrows...or like, a...retro-
 futuristic robot-apocalypse vibe.

As Jim talks, Aarika looks around the haunted house. Sure
 enough, there are evil robots *and evil scarecrows*. It's a bit
 mismatched.

AARIKA
 Hmm.

JIM
 So I went with both!

FELLER
 (into it)
 You sure did.

JIM
 Alright. Ready, Feller?

Feller straightens his posture.

FELLER
 SIR YES SIR!!!

JIM
 3...2...1!

Jim pulls an unseen lever and a burst of FLAMES shoot out
 near Feller. The flames are inches away from reaching him.
Feller loves it.

FELLER
 WOAH!!! FUCK YEAH.

Jim pops out from behind the display.

JIM
 Now we're talking!!!

AARIKA
 And you're sure this is...safe
 and...code compliant?

JIM
Code compliant? No way. Safe? As long as guests stay behind the yellow line.

Jim points toward broad YELLOW TAPE on the ground.

JIM (CONT'D)
And whose job is it to make SURE they STAY behind those lines?

FELLER
MY JOB, MR. DOOLEY.

JIM
Damn right it is.

Aarika shakes her head as Jim goes to pack up his tools. Feller goofs off with a scarecrow and Aarika approaches Jim.

AARIKA
Jim, got a minute before doors open?

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Aarika sits across from Jim as volunteers work their way through a breakfast buffet in the background. Aarika and Jim are in mid-conversation.

The video camera sits on the table between them, playing the footage of Adam yelling at Willy in the green room. Jim watches for a moment as Adam screams and rips off his beaded necklace.

JIM
These people, you know...they're not like us. They've been in the public eye their whole lives...*they're eccentric*. They've got...*quirks*...

AARIKA
I think this might be...more than a quirk.

Jim presses stop on the camera.

JIM
This is...y'know, us getting a peek behind the curtain. We know these people for the roles they played and for what they mean to us.

(MORE)

JIM (CONT'D)

But I mean, even the legends...like
DARREN KANE are...*still human*. I
know that can be a bummer to find
out.

Aarika closes the video camera.

JIM (CONT'D)

Look, if you're uncomfortable, say
the word and I'll get someone else
to handle him.

AARIKA

No I...don't want that. I
just...*I'm worried*...

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM

Adam is sitting in his room staring off after his
conversation with Sunday. Willy is still on a bedside table.

Adam stands and makes his way into the bathroom.

AARIKA (V.O.)

He's angry...he's lonely...just
feels like a bad combination.

JIMN (V.O.)

So be his friend! Try to speak into
his life a little bit while he's
here. That sort of...gesture, that
kindness, can mean volumes to
someone in pain.

AARIKA (V.O.)

Sure...

Adam flips on the light and grabs a toothbrush. In the deep
background we see BLOOD covering the walls. Adam stares into
the mirror and brushes his teeth. There is blood covering the
mirror as well.

Adam continues to brush his teeth.

JIM (V.O.)

Besides, maybe it was just one bad
night. You've got an incredible
imagination, Aarika. Don't let it
RUN WILD.

(beat)

I'm sure what you're picturing is
far worse than the reality.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Jim is distracted by a staffer grabbing too much food from the buffet.

JIM

HEY! Yowie Wowie, go easy on the sausage patties, huh? You got a whole line behind you. Save some for the rest of us.

Yowie Wowie begrudgingly puts a few patties back.

JIM (CONT'D)

(to Aarika)

Look, you let me know if it feels like things are...*getting out of hand*...and I'll step in.

(beat)

But I'm sure he just needs a friend.

Aarika nods her head, not quite comforted.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM

Adam finishes brushing his teeth, ignoring the blood. He washes his mouth out and exits the bathroom. Adam steps into the main area of his hotel room. Willy stands on a counter top.

WILLY

You wanna talk about last night?

ADAM

I don't...*remember* last night...

WILLY

Oh, I see...*well I can work with that.*

ADAM

Willy, listen. I think, I think you need to...leave me alone. Like, for good...*this needs to stop.*

WILLY

C'mon, buddy. It ain't time to call it quits; we're just getting started.

ADAM

No.

WILLY

You got something better to do? I'm
to HELP YOU...help you get outta
the RUT you're in...

Suddenly the TV comes on - it plays an infomercial for an old
"TOP OF THE POPS" CD release. The band THE SWEET performs on
the infomercial. Adam picks up the TV remote and tries to
turn the TV off - it won't work - TV/MUSIC is BLARING.

ADAM

I don't need your help, I need to
get my shit together, get my
fuckin' head together, I need to...

Adam looks back over toward the counter - Willy is gone.

WILLY

What...? What's your big plan? Get
a part in the new movie? Become a
SUPERSTAR! A LEGEND!?

Adam looks around as Willy's voice dances around the room.

ADAM

I have to TRY...I have to try to
get things...back on track...

Adam is continually looking in different directions as he
chases the voice.

WILLY

Back on track? Oh, I think you are
sufficiently OUT OF TRACK DUMB-
DUMB!

ADAM

That's not true...

We begin to hear the pitter patter of little feet as Adam
searches the room for Willy.

WILLY

The only WAY FORWARD is with me
buddy. Everyone else...they're
gonna LEAVE YOU. But me...I'm your
BEST FRIEND! ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE!!!

Adam looks to his right as Willy laughs.

ADAM

That's not true Willy, if I can get
my act together...then I
can...get...

WILLY
Don't say it...

ADAM
I can get...

WILLY
Don't even THINK it.

ADAM
I can get Sunday back.

WILLY
Oh great - *here we go.*

ADAM
(straining to even say the
words)
She said it herself, the man she
loved is still...somewhere in
here...

Adam closes his eyes and grits his teeth, when he reopens his eyes - Willy is back on the counter.

WILLY
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!! YOU
THINK ANYONE COULD EVER LOVE YOU?

For a moment, we see into the bathroom as Willy yells. A rotted hand grips the shower curtain.

WILLY (CONT'D)
You think SUNDAY wants the man you
are now? You think RICKY and that
SCUMBAG LELAND WANT A PIECE OF WHAT
YOU ARE NOW?
(beat)
They won't. *They don't.* Nobody
wants you; they just want to
embarrass you, humiliate you. Make
A JOKE OUTTA YOU.

We see two pairs of feet dripping with blood and grime walk into the main room while Willy continues to yell at Adam.

ADAM
No.

WILLY
I'm telling you kid, after what
you've done - YOU. ARE. UNLOVABLE.

COSPLAYER
We'll love you Adam.

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
We'll love you Adam.

Adam turns to see the Cosplayer and her friend standing in front of him. They look to be...both alive and dead.

ADAM
What? The FUCK?

The women have RAPIDLY decomposed and their throats have been slit. What little skin is left on their bodies is hanging like blackened/stained tissue paper.

The Cosplayer has a corkscrew sticking out of one eye socket.

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
Could we love him? He's got such
a...LITTLE WILLY...

COSPLAYER
Awww WITTLE WILLY...WITTLE WILLY...

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
WITTLE WILLY!!!

They laugh garbled wet laughs.

COSPLAYER
Well technically the DOLL is Little
Willy...so he's LITTLE WILLY'S
MONSTER!

As they talk, black goo runs out of their mouths. The Cosplayer has a breast exposed that is nearly rotted off.

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
Ha, true.

Adam lunges at the girl and grabs the corkscrew out of her eye.

COSPLAYER
OW FUCK!

Adam stands back wielding the corkscrew as a weapon.

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND
Aw that's cute. So TINY!

She holds up her fingers making a "small" gesture.

COSPLAYER

Yeah shouldn't you have like
a...BIG OLE KNIFE or something? OR
AN AXE!

She makes a "long" gesture with both hands. Adam swipes at
the girls with his corkscrew.

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND

No, don't you get it??? It's a
METAPHOR!!!

COSPLAYER

OH YEAH!!! WITTLE WILLY!!! WITTLE
WILLY!

BLUE-HAIRED FRIEND

WITTLE WILLY!!! WITTLE WILLY!!!

Both women laugh. Willy laughs. Adam tosses the corkscrew to
the ground and laughs. EVERYONE IS LAUGHING MANIACALLY!!!

*We cut to a wide to see Adam laughing by himself. Adam
quickly looks toward Willy.*

ADAM

Are you fucking CRAZY!?

WILLY

No, but you are.

Adam gets close to Willy. The zombies watch.

ADAM

No YOU ARE.

WILLY

I know you are but what am I?

ADAM

I know YOU are but what am - I'm
not doing this.

WILLY

Oh yeah? What ARE you gonna do?

ADAM

I'm gonna put an end to it. RIGHT
NOW.

WILLY

Yeah right.

ADAM

Yeah right YEAH RIGHT I'm gonna
throw you out a fucking window!!!

WILLY

I'd like to see you try -

Adam puts his hands on Willy.

WILLY (CONT'D)

HEY HEY! Calm down, believe it or
not buddy...you NEED ME. I can do
all the things you DREAM OF
doing...but are too afraid to go
through with.

(beat)

And the way THEY make you feel?

The zombies look toward each other.

WILLY (CONT'D)

You start listening to me...you'll
NEVER FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN.

Adam stares into Willy's eyes...*maybe he's got a point?*

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/FRONT ENTRANCE

Sunday sits in the back of a purple hearse parked on the
front lawn of the hotel. The hearse is covered in all sorts
of Monster Mayhem signage and paraphernalia. Sunday has her
feet up clearly taken over the space. She lights up a
cigarette using her yellow rose lighter and taps on the
keyboard of her open laptop.

On the screen is a book she's writing. We see the cover, it's
called "GROWING UP SPUNKY!" and it shows a picture of her as
a colorfully dressed kid leaning back-to-back with her adult
self. After a brief moment of typing - Margot approaches.

MARGOT

Oh my god. Are you...SPUNKY
MCCALLISTER?

Sunday takes a deep breath in and removes her sunglasses and
cigarette.

SUNDAY

Yes I am.

MARGOT

Oh wow, oh my gosh I watched your show every day after school, I...I had your doll, I had a Spunky lunchbox.

SUNDAY

That's very sweet. What's your name?

MARGOT

I'm Margot Jane Kellerman.

They shake hands.

SUNDAY

Sunday.

MARGOT

You were my...I mean...my everything as a kid. I was a Latchkey so...really my only FRIENDS were you and Alf -

SUNDAY

(giving a stock response)

MARGOT : I'm very happy and touched to have been part of your childhood, and while a character I played on television may have helped you define a season of *your* life - I hope you recognize this nuanced human in front of you is not defined solely by said character.

Margot is...*speechless.*

MARGOT

(taken aback)

Oh...sure - yeah. Yes.

Margot kind of bows in Sunday's direction.

SUNDAY

I receive your positivity and accept how it relates to my accomplishments. I hope this interaction has held meaning for you.

MARGOT

I...do? It did...*it does.*

(beat)

(MORE)

MARGOT (CONT'D)

Would you mind if I fulfill a life-long dream and sing the Spunky Mcallister theme song to you while you look into my eyes?

SUNDAY

Oh I don't think -

MARGOT

(singing)

EVERYYYTIME I SEE YOUR FACE!
Y'KNOW MY HEART FILLS UP WITH
GRACE...

As Margot sings, Sunday looks just beyond her - toward the front entrance of the hotel. Making his way inside is Ricky. Sunday closes her laptop and stands from the hearse.

SUNDAY

(to Margot)

Excuse me...

Sunday runs off in Ricky's direction. Margot breathes out heavily.

MARGOT

(to herself)

Dream come true.

Over Margot's shoulder, we see an object fall onto the roof of the hearse. A LOUD CRASH is heard that startles Margot.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

(very startled)

FUCK ME!!!

Margot peers around the hearse to see what made the noise. On the ground, is Willy the doll broken apart into pieces. Margot stares at the doll curiously.

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/FRONT ENTRANCE

Sunday approaches Ricky just as he's taking a few pills out of his bottle.

SUNDAY

Hey ASSHOLE.

Ricky turns around and puts the bottle back in his pocket.

RICKY

Sunday? *Jesus.*

SUNDAY

What was the plan, Ricky? Fly him out so you could watch his meltdown in real time? Ruin his career forever? Make him lose any fans he had left?

She is being LOUD. Ricky speaks in a hushed tone.

RICKY

What? Look, I didn't think he'd even show up -

SUNDAY

Ricky - do your job and FUCKING MANAGE HIM.

Over Sunday's shoulder, we see the lake. Numerous con-goers are walking around the lake and enjoying the morning.

RICKY

You mean BABYSIT?

SUNDAY

OH FUCK you BABYSIT! Try to get him in that stupid remake. He gets work, you make money -

RICKY

It's not that simple, Sunday.

SUNDAY

Well, please explain it to me Ricky. Explain the business to me...how the industry works -

RICKY

I'm *producing* the remake with Leland. I'm a partner with him on the project, I can't -

SUNDAY

Oh Jesus.

RICKY

It's a conflict of interest Sunday.

(beat)

Leland doesn't want him involved, probably couldn't get the film insured if he was.

SUNDAY

Oh yeah? Is Leland okay with your little habit? Does he trust you're nice and stable!?

Sunday grabs at Ricky's jacket and shakes his pill bottle through the pocket.

RICKY

Jesus, back off.

Ricky shoves Sunday off of him.

SUNDAY

And let me guess: you haven't told Adam any of this?

RICKY

I didn't think he'd show. I was gonna use that as a good excuse to...formally part ways with him. Then he showed up and -

As they argue, a crowd gathers.

SUNDAY

Well maybe you and Leland will just luck out and Adam will kill himself! Then you won't have to have ANY of the hard conversations you piece of shit!

Ricky takes a moment.

RICKY

Honestly Sunday...wouldn't that just be...*better for all of us?*

Sunday slaps Ricky...*then slaps him again.* Ricky covers his face in defense. Sunday's losing it, slapping him so much her purse falls off her arm and onto the ground.

RICKY (CONT'D)

JESUS, YOU FUCKING PSYCHO. I thought you were supposed to be the sane one?

Ricky looks to the ground. A GUN has fallen out of Sunday's purse. *The crowd gasps.*

RICKY (CONT'D)

WHAT THE FUCK.

Sunday looks toward the ground.

SUNDAY

Relax, relax: I'm licensed to carry. *Jesus*. It's for protection, assholes.

Sunday retrieves her bag and gun.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

Y'know how many fucking freak-shows come up and hassle me at these things?

Sunday looks around at a crowd of offended "freak-shows." Sunday chooses not to apologize. She leans back in toward Ricky.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

You need to fucking NUT UP and tell Adam it's over. Act like a fucking adult for once in your life.

She storms off. Ricky turns toward the onlookers.

RICKY

Spunky McCallister, everyone! The sweetheart of 1986 America! Everyone give her a round of applause!

Sunday flips everyone a *double bird*.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTER

Aarika waits at Adam's booth. The convention is in full swing and the hall is full of patrons. Adam appears and snags a sign off his table that reads "ON A KILLER BREAK, BE BACK SOON!"

ADAM

Sorry I'm late. *Long night*.

AARIKA

Yeah, I bet.

Adam takes a seat behind his table and nervously looks around. He is, understandably, on EDGE.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

Hey. I, uh, got a gift for you...

Aarika hands Adam a drawing. It's Adam as a SUPERHERO standing on top of a hill.

He looks strong, proud, and confident. He wears a flowing red cape and looks out over a rising sun.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

I know things seem overwhelming
right now, like you're getting
burned by...life...by...stuff...

(beat)

But *I* think you can rise above it.
The darkest hour is just before
dawn they say. *So I drew you the
dawn.*

Adam looks at the drawing. *He's honestly touched.*

ADAM

Thank you...that's sweet,
thoughtful...

(beat)

Look I'm sorry I yelled at you...I
just...I'm working through a lot
right now. But to be honest, I'm
feeling better today. I thinks are
gonna be -

Before Adam can finish his sentence. WILLY IS SLAMMED DOWN ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF HIM. A woman Adam can't see provides a voice for Willy.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(scary in tone)

ADAM...WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID
YOU DO???

Adam's eyes widen, he can't escape this DAMNED doll. The woman leans up and reveals herself - it's Margot!

WILLY

You piece of shit. You didn't
expect MARGOT to get involved did
YOU?

Adam is panicked.

MARGOT

I found him outside! Luckily, I was
able to use some duct tape and hot
glue to -

As Margot talks, Willy's voice overtakes hers in Adam's head.

WILLY

Don't you get it? You can try and try but you'll never be able to escape me. This is destiny, buddy. Throw me out a window, toss me in a fire - *it won't matter*. I'll keep coming back EVERY. SINGLE. GODDAMN TIME.

Adam is lost in Willy's words. He doesn't realize Aarika has been trying to get his attention.

AARIKA

ADAM!

Adam snaps out of it.

ADAM

WHAT?

AARIKA

You're late for the photo-op.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MUSEUM/PHOTO-OP ROOM

Adam enters the Museum Room holding a cobbled-together Willy. We see him walk by numerous props from other films.

Darren Kane's axe from MEAT GRINDER, a restored GROBLIN puppet on display, many *many* costumes and vintage posters hang on the wall and sit in glass cases. In one corner, there's even some vintage Little Willy props and wardrobe on display.

Fans go wild when they notice Adam.

Adam walks by the long line of fans, each holding Little Willy posters and various Willy merch. As Adam walks, it's as if each piece of Willy merch has taken on a voice of its own. He hears so many Willy voices with every toy and trinket he sets eyes on - it's overwhelming.

VARIOUS WILLIES

You piece of shit! You DUMB-DUMB! YOU NEED ME! YOU'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING WITHOUT ME!

VARIOUS WILLIES

THIS IS DESTINY! CAN'T YOU FEEL IT! CAN'T YOU TASTE IT! YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE DESTINY! YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE ME!!!

At the front of the line we see Dee, Bill, and Ricky waiting for Adam to join them.

DEE
Darling! Did you lose your
necklace?

Adam touches his neck.

ADAM
Oh I guess I did.

DEE
No worries, I have a back up!

Dee places a new necklace around Adam's neck as the first fan steps toward the group.

BILL
(to Adam)
You ready, buddy?

WILLY
Ready as I'll ever be.

ADAM
Ready as I'll ever be.

Fans pose and smile with the cast as a PHOTOGRAPHER snaps pictures. Ricky stands next to the photographer's station and texts on his phone. A slow-motion montage begins showing a few fan interactions. INERCUT WITH photos whizzing by - **FULL SCREEN**. In the lower right hand corner of the images - is the text "**I WENT MAD AT MONSTER MAYHEM WEEKEND!**"

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTER

Aarika sits at Adam's booth, holding down the fort. She draws in her drawing pad. A figure steps up to the booth.

SUNDAY
Who are you?

AARIKA
Adam Castle is currently at a photo-
op, but if you circle back in about
thirty minutes -

Aarika looks up to see Sunday standing in front of her.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
Who are...you?

SUNDAY
I'm not a fan, I'm his ex-
girlfriend.

AARIKA
Oh. *I'm his handler.*

Sunday laughs.

SUNDAY

Oh yeah? I was his *handler* for about...eight years; it's a pretty SHIT gig.

Aarika laughs as Sunday looks toward her drawing pad.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

What's that?

Aarika looks down at her drawing pad.

AARIKA

I'm just killing time until he's back. It's ah...it's me and I'm like...

Aarika holds out her drawing pad and shows Sunday.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

...fighting a bunch of...*big-dicked werewolves*.

Sunday looks at the drawing - *it is exactly that*.

SUNDAY

(matter of fact)
And the werewolves are the patriarchy.

Aarika nods her head.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

You and I should talk.

Sunday looks toward Aarika.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MUSEUM ROOM/PHOTO-OP ROOM

The Little Willy cast takes their last photograph with a group of fans.

BILL

What do you think - lunch?

DEE

Yes! I need coffee!!!

(beat)

You joining us?

Dee looks toward Ricky and Adam.

RICKY

I actually wanted to grab a few minutes alone with Adam if I could. *We'll catch up after.*

DEE

Okay! See you both soon.

Dee and Bill head toward the exit. Adam, holding Willy, looks inquisitively toward Ricky.

RICKY

This is pretty cool. Have you looked around much?

Ricky motions toward the props and pieces in the Museum Room.

ADAM

No.

RICKY

They've got a lot of great stuff. *Rare stuff.*

Ricky steps up to a display case. In the case are numerous buckets of fake blood - and a filthy pair of worn-out overalls.

RICKY (CONT'D)

Ha, Taylor Jenson's coveralls from Buckets O' Blood 3. *Classic.*

Adam moves into a different aisle than Ricky. Ricky takes his pill bottle out and throws a few pills into his mouth.

WILLY

I've got a bad feeling, buddy.

Adam shakes his head - silencing Willy.

RICKY

It's cool, you know? To have a place in...the history of this...*genre.*

ADAM

It is.

RICKY

You have a place in it. Look.

Ricky points toward the Little Willy display. We see animatronics from the original film and many publicity stills featuring young Adam.

ADAM

Hmm.

RICKY

That's awesome man, recognize that!
It's an accomplishment. Something
not everyone achieves.

Adam looks at a prop from THE DAY THEY CAME TO EARTH. It's a grotesque, oozing alien egg.

RICKY (CONT'D)

We've done a lot together, you and
me.

Ricky turns into another aisle.

RICKY (CONT'D)

I've done a lot to...help you
secure that place in history...and
I'm proud of the work we've done.

WILLY

I think I know where this is
goin'...

RICKY

But you know, as important as it is
to find that place, build that
legacy...I think it's equally
important to realize when your work
is done. When you have more to gain
by *walking away* and letting the
legacy speak for itself.

Adam stops at a glass case housing the axe from Meat Grinder.

WILLY

This may be a good time for me to
take over, buddy...*say the word...*

ADAM

(under his breath)
Dumb-dumb.

Ricky has lost track of Adam. Adam isn't responding. Ricky continues to look through the various displays.

RICKY

I guess my point is, man...
(beat)
I think it's time for our
partnership to end. I think we've
done all we can together.

(MORE)

RICKY (CONT'D)

Plus I'm ah...working on the new film with Leland. *I wanted you to know.*

(beat)

I fought for you to be involved, but...*he's just not having it.*

Ricky approaches the case where Darren Kane's axe was housed. *The case is empty.* Ricky looks at the empty display curiously. On top of the case is Willy, seated and happy.

RICKY (CONT'D)

But you have a place in horror history; you've made your mark and they can't take that away from you.

Adam steps out behind Ricky.

ADAM

But Ricky - what if I wanted to leave a *bigger* mark?

Ricky turns around to see Adam wielding the missing axe. With one large swing, Adam SLAMS the axe into Ricky's gut.

WILLY

Now we're talking! Now we're cooking with GAS!!!

Adam attempts to pull the axe back as Ricky spits up blood.

The axe is lodged deep into Ricky's belly and Adam has a hard time with the backswing. Finally with one hefty tug - Adam retracts the axe and pulls it from Ricky's stomach. As he does so, Ricky's entrails spill out onto the ground. Willy watches from atop the display case.

WILLY (CONT'D)

WOAH! It's liked you spilt a big bowl of SPAGHETTI!!!

Adam is in shock. Ricky stumbles toward the photographer's station and knocks down the camera and tripod. He then stumbles over to the Monster Mayhem backdrop and pulls it down to the ground.

Adam stands over Ricky and drives the axe into his body numerous more times. The camera begins to malfunction and snap photos - setting off the flash numerous times in a row. We see **FULL SCREEN IMAGES** whizz by of Adam slamming the axe into Ricky's body and neck. The text at the bottom of the images still reads **"I WENT MAD AT MONSTER MAYHEM WEEKEND!"**.

WILLY (CONT'D)

Look at us GO! LOOK AT US GO!!!

Ricky's head is nearly decapitated from his body - holding on by just a few fibrous threads.

WILLY (CONT'D)

UH OH...buddy...we got a problem.

Adam looks up to see MARGOT STANDING IN THE ROOM - as white as a sheet. She stares toward the bloody mess of Ricky and goes into shock. *Margot can't speak.*

ADAM

(stumbling at first)

It...it wasn't me...it was LITTLE
WILLY I SWEAR!

WILLY

Here we go!

Margot screams and runs. Adam chases her.

They run through numerous movie props and display cases. Margot is scared by Adam and by the numerous ZOMBIES and GROBLINS she encounters in the aisles. Adam surprises her at the end of every aisle and sends her screaming.

ADAM

It wasn't me! It was LITTLE WILLY I
SWEAR!

Margot turns to run with Adam close behind.

ADAM (CONT'D)

It wasn't me! It was Little Willy I
swear!

Margot reaches for her walkie talkie. She grabs it and brings it to her mouth just as Adam overtakes her. He drives the axe into the back of her head with a wet THWACK.

As the axe blade pierces her skull - Margot's eyes go crossed. She falls to the ground and her walkie talkie slides across the floor in front of her. Adam strikes Margot a few more times with the axe. We focus on her hand stretching out toward the walkie.

Margot's hand jerks and twitches with each strike of the axe.

JIM

(through the walkie)

Margot come in, Margot do you copy?
Margot...DO YOU COPY?

Margot's body is pulled out of frame away from the walkie.

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Aarika and Sunday sit in the back of the hearse. Sunday lights a cigarette using her yellow lighter. She flips through Aarika's sketchbook. We catch a glimpse of many different drawings - all horrific and brilliant in detail. We see monsters, ghouls, blood-suckers, and Aarika herself numerous times.

SUNDAY

These are *fucking killer*. Horror is really your...*thing* huh?

AARIKA

Yeah. It's my...whole world. I mean I never really fit in anywhere else.

Sunday continues to peruse the book.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

Too goth for the black kids, too black for the white kids. But in this community, I found my home.

(beat)

So...are you and Adam...together?
Or...

SUNDAY

We dated off and on for the better part of a decade but...the last break-up was real. *In my opinion*. It's been a few months since we spoke. Well, we didn't really speak toward the end of things...we yelled, fought. *We both have anger issues*.

Sunday takes a drag.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

His dad was a real piece of shit. When Adam was a kid, he found out his dad had been spending all the money Adam made on the first two films.

AARIKA

Fuck. On what?

SUNDAY

Booze, cars, more booze. One night him and his dad got in a big fight over it and...Adam lit his dad's car on fire.

AARIKA

Jesus.

SUNDAY

Yeah it was a 1971 Plymouth Barracuda too. Beautiful car.

(beat)

Beautiful car.

(beat)

After that Adam did his first stint in juvie, and that's where we met.

AARIKA

What were you there for?

SUNDAY

Petty theft, mostly. I was frustrated, imposter syndrome, too much fame too young - *I had it all*. Which for some reason...angered me? So I stole a bunch. Shop-lifting little things in the beginning, but eventually a word processor from JCPenney got put me away.

AARIKA

I've never heard of either of those things. A word processor - ?

SUNDAY

It's an old computer, basically. And JCPenney was like...*it doesn't matter*, point is - Adam and I were in similar places when we met. All...twisted up with how the world perceived us, how we felt people...our elders had betrayed us. Only difference is...*Adam never got untwisted.*

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MUSEUM ROOM

Adam wraps the bodies of Margot and Ricky in the photo-op backdrop. He then drags the bodies toward a nearby luggage cart.

SUNDAY (V.O.)

When you love someone, you try to ignore all the dangerous parts of them...you're constantly telling yourself the good outweighs the bad. *Until it's too late.*

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/FRONT ENTRANCE

AARIKA

But he is dangerous...*isn't he.*

SUNDAY

Maybe. But if he ever hurt me...really hurt me...I know he couldn't live with himself.

Sunday closes Aarika's sketchbook and exhales smoke.

AARIKA

I need to show you something...

Aarika opens the camera and presses play. The footage of Adam from the green room flickers onto the tiny screen.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BACK HALLWAY

Adam pushes the cart of bodies down the hall. Willy is slung onto a hook on the cart, and a walkie talkie labeled "MARGOT" is clipped to Willy.

WILLY

We did good, see? See what we can accomplish together?

Adam breathes easy, and smiles.

WILLY (CONT'D)

Together there's NOTHING we can't do...together there's NO ONE that can stop us -

Jim's voice crackles through Margot's walkie.

JIM

(through walkie)
Jim for Aarika.

Adam stops pushing the cart and looks toward the walkie talkie.

AARIKA
 (through the walkie)
 Go for Aarika.

JIM
 (through walkie)
 Can you check on Margot? She's not
 responding and she's supposed to be
 setting up for the BARON VON BOO
 photo-op in the Museum Room.

AARIKA
 (through walkie)
Copy.

Adam breathes heavily.

WILLY
You better think quick.

Adam turns and runs back to toward The Museum Room.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika moves quickly through a crowd of people.

AARIKA
 (into walkie)
Season of the Witch.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Jim sits at his laptop with Yowie Wowie.

JIM
 (regarding walkie)
 What?

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM B/HAUNTED HOUSE

Feller stands in the haunted house guiding people along the
 yellow lines. He switches his walkie to channel 3.

FELLER
Go for Feller.

INTECUT AARIKA IN HALLWAY

AARIKA
Meet me in the Museum Room.

FELLER

What do I do about the haunted house? *Jim said -*

AARIKA

Just find a reason to shut it down, someone peed in there or...threw up from...*fright...or whatever.*

FELLER

I'll do you one better...

Feller begins to gag himself with his own finger and retch.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

From outside the haunted house, we hear a splat from Feller and a DISGUSTED GROAN from the crowd inside.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MUSEUM ROOM

Adam bursts into The Museum Room and looks around manically. On the ground, are numerous pools of blood and bits of guts. Adam looks toward the glass cases - and zeroes in on the BUCKETS OF BLOOD display.

Adam raises the axe and begins to smash each display case. He spills the buckets of fake blood onto the real blood on the carpet below. He trashes cases containing Groblins and alien eggs, and ransacks as he sees fit.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika and Feller meet up from opposite sides of the hallway and walk toward The Museum Room.

FELLER

What's going on?

AARIKA

Dunno. I think Margot's gone AWOL.

They enter The Museum Room.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MUSEUM ROOM

No Adam in sight.

Aarika and Feller walk into the destroyed room. There's blood on the ground, glass everywhere, missing props, torn down displays - *they can't believe their eyes*. Aarika grabs her walkie.

AARIKA
(into walkie)
Jim...do you copy?

JIM
Go for Jim.

Aarika looks at Feller, unsure of how to break the news to Jim.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM

Adam stands in the shower, letting the water run over his face.

WILLY
How you doing? Doing okay?

ADAM
Yeah, I think so.

At Adam's feet sits Willy - also naked as water hits his plastic body and washes Ricky and Margot's blood away.

WILLY
I know that was a lot.
(beat)
I'm here if you need me, need to talk.

ADAM
No I just need to think.

WILLY
Okay.
(beat)
Think about what we're gonna do next? Cuz buddy we are on A ROLL! I mean what you did back there was BRILLIANT. *That's* how you become a LEGEND.

Adam shakes his head and turns the water off.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S ROOM

In a moment, Adam exits the bathroom to see Sunday standing in his hotel room.

SUNDAY

I want you to give me the doll...NOW.

Adam holds Willy in his hands.

ADAM

What? Sunday I -

SUNDAY

NOW ADAM. Give me the doll...you're sick...*you need help.*

ADAM

Sunday...

SUNDAY

Adam I'm through FUCKING AROUND. I'm done with second and third and fourth chances...this is your LAST chance. If you don't come with me now, this is over...

Sunday begins to get emotional.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

...*forever.*

ADAM

Sunday...

Sunday moves over to Adam.

SUNDAY

Adam if you love me, if you ever loved me, you'll choose me now. Over everything, over all of it...don't you want that? Deep down don't you want that Adam?

Sunday puts her hands on Adam's face, he grips the doll tighter.

SUNDAY (CONT'D)

(nearly a whisper)

I love you, Adam.

Sunday kisses Adam. She presses her lips into his as tears stream down her face.

ADAM
 (growing emotional)
I love you, Sunny.

WILLY
 Hey dumb-dumb, this isn't *REAL*.

Adam is lost in the moment. SUNDAY grabs Willy out of Adam's arms.

ADAM
 Sunday, wait...

WILLY
 She's trying to TRICK US!!! RUIN
 EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT...

SUNDAY
 Let's go, get your bag, we're
 leaving.

WILLY
 We're past the point of no
 return...the only way out is
 through...

Adam's eyes well up with tears.

ADAM
 No...

WILLY
 You know what you have to do...

ADAM
 No...

SUNDAY
 Adam...come with me...NOW.

ADAM
 No...

WILLY
 DO IT.

Adam takes a deep breath in.

ADAM
 Noo...

SUNDAY
 Adam -

WILLY
DO IT DUMB-DUMB!

ADAM
Okay. Okay let's go. Let's
ah...yeah let's go...I wanna go.
(beat)
Just ah...lemme grab my stuff.
(beat)
Please.

Adam turns and walks back into the bedroom area of the hotel room. *Sunday follows.*

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

We see the "DO NOT DISTURB" sign on Adam's door.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Jim, Aarika, and Feller sit and have a heavy chat. A mangled Groblin puppet is sitting on the table in front of Jim.

JIM
Most of the stuff in there was from
my personal collection.

AARIKA
I know.

JIM
Fuck. Who would do such a thing?
What kind of fan would...it's just
so disrespectful to me...to the
genre...to the convention -

AARIKA
It is.

Jim is actually holding back tears.

JIM
The camera gear?

AARIKA
All gone.

JIM
And Margot?

AARIKA
No sign of her.

JIM
Dammit. She must've flaked.

AARIKA
You think?

JIM
She's been freaked out all weekend,
I don't think this was her scene.
(beat)
That's what I get for hiring
normies.

AARIKA
Did she turn in her walkie?

JIM
What? No.

AARIKA
So Margot Jane Kellerman flaked on
Monster Mayhem *and* stole a walkie
on her way out?

JIM
I guess?

This doesn't sit well with Aarika.

FELLER
So what do we do?

JIM
The show must go on, kids...

AARIKA
I think we should call the cops.

JIM
Not yet. I'll do my own personal
inventory once the dust has
settled. Police come in now, spook
everyone at the show, people start
leaving...*just looks bad.*
(beat)
I've put too much into this to let
anything hurt the Monster Mayhem
tradition. Besides...

Jim looks at this clipboard.

JIM (CONT'D)
Scaraoke starts...NOW.

Aarika and Feller look toward each other...*really?*

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Feller and Aarika enter the hallway from the meeting room.

FELLER

Somebody robbed the convention, an
employee is straight up missing,
and *your* celebrity has gone full
DEAD OF NIGHT.

(beat)

Can this weekend get any *more*
insane?

They turn into Ballroom C - SCARAOKE.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM C

Aarika and Feller enter the ballroom and look toward the
stage. Their jaws drop.

AARIKA

(dryly)

Y'know...I think it might...

Yowie Wowie stands behind a DJ booth playing LITTLE WILLY by
THE SWEET. Adam wears Ricky's jacket and sings on stage with
a group of GOTH FANS. The fan closest to Adam on the stage is
the same Goth Fan from the panel Q&A days earlier. One of the
other Goths holds Willy in one hand, and a vodka bottle in
the other.

Adam is enjoying himself. He lifts a small yellow lighter out
of his pocket and holds it up high as he sings. Aarika looks
toward Adam quizzically. Adam continues to sing with the
lighter held high - Aarika begins to move into the crowd.

FELLER

Hey!

Feller takes off after Aarika. As she moves, Aarika grabs the
video camera out of her bag and begins filming Adam sing.
Aarika settles mid-crowd and zooms in with the camera on the
lighter in Adam's hand. It's Sunday's yellow lighter, with
the tiny rose on the side. Aarika furrows her brow as she
lowers the camera and watches Adam. *Feller catches up to her.*

FELLER (CONT'D)

What's up?

AARIKA
I don't know...yet.

The crowd lifts their respective lighters high in the air as Adam continues to belt out the song and swig vodka.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Adam exits the ballroom with the group of goths and A LOT of alcohol in tow. Adam is in heaven, the fans around him are talking LOUDLY. Aarika and Feller trail close behind.

AARIKA
Adam! Excuse me, ADAM!?

The crew round a corner and head toward a bank of elevators.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/LOBBY

Aarika runs up to Adam. Feller stands behind her.

AARIKA
ADAM, have you seen Sunday?

Adam stops and turns around. Pause.

ADAM
What?

AARIKA
I uh, I spoke with her earlier and she...was concerned about you. Did you...have you two spoken today?

Adam is visibly annoyed.

ADAM
I haven't seen Sunday.

Adam turns to head toward the elevators.

AARIKA
But you...have her lighter.

Adam stops. He breathes in and out slowly. Adam turns around to face Aarika. He looks at her - closely.

ADAM
I do?

AARIKA
You do.

Adam lifts the yellow lighter out of his pocket and holds it between him and Aarika.

ADAM

I do.

AARIKA

So you saw her.

Adam breathes in slowly.

ADAM

I did.

Adam thinks for a minute, resets himself.

ADAM (CONT'D)

It's...a personal matter. I didn't feel like sharing.

(beat)

She was upset. We got into an argument...and she left.

Adam turns again to head toward the elevator.

AARIKA

You fought and she left, that's it?

Adam stops and walks back to Aarika. He leans in close to her.

ADAM

(quietly)

We had an argument, a personal one. She pushed a little...too hard...so I told her to...

(LOUDLY)

FUCK OFFFF!!!!

The Goth fans parrot what Adam said. They all start saying FUCK OFF to Aarika and Feller. One of them even pushes Feller a little. The elevator doors open and the whole crew shuffles in with Adam. Aarika grits her teeth and breathes in sharply.

AARIKA

I don't believe you!

Adam looks up.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

(defiantly)

I don't believe you, Adam.

Adam smiles.

ADAM
 (from inside the elevator)
 Well, that's neither here nor
 there!

Adam tosses the lighter toward Aarika who catches it. She looks up toward Adam as he disappears behind the closing elevator doors.

FELLER
 Okay, I think you need to catch me
 up on a few things...

Aarika looks down toward the yellow lighter in her hand.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Aarika and Feller sit at a round conference table while various other volunteers pack up and head out for the night. Aarika sketches in her book while Feller sips a beer and plays with Sunday's lighter.

FELLER
Worst case scenario...

AARIKA
 Worst case? He's killed her and
 hidden her body somewhere in the
 hotel.

FELLER
 JEEZUS. You think?

AARIKA
 He's been on a steady decent ever
 since they announced the remake.
 I've seen it - *first hand*.

FELLER
 I know, but, don't guys like that
 just...hurt *themselves*? Drink
 themselves to death?

In Aarika's sketchbook, we see her drawing clearly. It's a messy illustration of Adam, Sunday and Little Willy - surrounded by blood, entrails and eyeballs.

AARIKA
 Yeah, maybe. *Until they don't.*
 (beat)
 Until they decide to turn that
 anger inside out - *and hurt others.*
 Sunday...Margot?

FELLER
Why would he hurt Margot?

AARIKA
I don't know...I'm
still...*thinking*...

Aarika angrily draws - digging her pen deeper into the paper.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
He can yell at me all he wants, but
I'm gonna give him hell until I get
a straight answer.

FELLER
What are you gonna do?

AARIKA
My job. I'll be at his door at nine
am ready to walk him to his booth.
(beat)
No matter how bad things get - I'm
not backing down from him until I
find out what's happening.

Feller takes another sip of beer. Aarika continues to draw - adding some shading to the guts that surround Adam in the drawing.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ADAM'S HOTEL ROOM

Adam does a line of cocaine off one of his autographed pictures. THE PARTY IS IN FULL SWING. Drinking, loud music playing. Willy is being held by a TATTOOED WOMAN.

ADAM
(finishing a story)
So my reaction when Willy pops out
of the closet is REAL. I hadn't
seen the doll until that moment, so
what you see on film is exactly how
I felt - it's genuine terror!

GOTH FAN
That's fucking great man.

A RANDOM FAN heads over to the bathroom. The bathroom door has been barricaded shut with chairs, lamps, and luggage. Adam looks in that direction.

ADAM

Oh hey, bathroom's outta order. So,
if you need to go - gotta use one
somewhere else.

The dude shakes his head and backs away from the bathroom.
Adam looks back toward the group.

GOTH FAN

The third one really was the best
one though.

Adam bites his tongue.

TATTOOED WOMAN

Oh my gosh! Yeah, that's the one
with the WILLY SPIDER-MONSTER
Like...RAWRRR!!!

The woman imitates a crazy animalistic GROWL.

GOTH FAN

No, the best part is when...okay so
they've all recited the chant of
CERNUNNOS...and the walls start
like...shaking...

Adam is annoyed. *None of these stories relate to him.*
Suddenly - there is a BOOM from inside the bathroom. The door
shakes as if someone is trying to kick their way out. No one
notices except for Adam.

RANDOM GOTH FAN

OH OH! Remember in number three,
when the dude gets his face
like...ripped off...that's the best
and he's like AAHH LAH LAH!!

The random goth makes a weird face and juts his tongue out of
his mouth quickly. Adam hears another BOOM from the bathroom
as the door and barricade items SHAKE. The goths continue to
excitedly talk about Little Willy 3 - sharing anecdotes on
top of one another rapidly.

GOTH FAN

NO THE BEST PART WAS...

TATTOOED WOMAN

NO WAY THE BEST PART WAS...

RANDOM GOTH FAN

OH MY GOSH REMEMBER WHEN....

Adam grits his teeth and stares at the group who have all but
forgotten him.

ADAM
 (under his breath)
Dumb-dumb.

BOOM! CRASH! The door to the bathroom opens with force sending the barricade crashing to pieces. A LARGE FIGURE EMERGES from the bathroom. Adam and the partygoers look in the direction of the figure.

Standing before them, is a man the size of a BODYBUILDER (think "Pumping Iron" era Schwarzenegger). The man is dressed just like Willy, blue jeans, and a red and white striped shirt. His head is an over-sized Willy doll head. Plastic and immobile. *Stuck in a friendly doll smile.*

On top of his head is a yellow crown-hat and around his neck is a red flowing cape. He doesn't wield a tiny corkscrew though: he has a Captain Hook-style stump with a LARGE CORKSCREW spiraling out of it. In the other hand, he has the Darren Kane Axe.

BIG WILLY resembles a bastardized version of Aarika's SUPERHERO drawing. The behemoth looks toward Adam.

BIG WILLY
 What'd ya say buddy? Wanna take
 things to the next level with me?

ADAM
Fuck yeah.

Big Willy tosses Adam the axe. A random fan stands paralyzed in front of Big Willy.

RANDOM GOTH FAN
 What the fuck?

Big Willy stabs his corkscrew through the fan's head like a shish kebab. The partygoers scream and scatter in a panic. Big Willy removes his corkscrew and the fan falls to the ground.

Adam stands from the bed and begins to swing the axe wildly at various fans. Big Willy moves further into the room and begins to attack more guests. He slashes throats, breaks necks, and stabs the partygoers one after another. With Big Willy and Adam working in tandem - *it's a massacre.* After intense moments of slaughter zip by in rapid succession...

...we see nearly EVERYONE from the party is dead. The room is *absolutely* covered in blood. The sole survivor is the goth fan who sung with Adam on stage. He has been stabbed multiple times and is clutching a seeping wound on his belly.

Big Willy and Adam stand above the goth fan. Adam steadies the axe in his hands.

BIG WILLY
That was fun, wasn't it buddy?

ADAM
It was.

BIG WILLY
You wanna have some more fun?

ADAM
Of course I do...because...

Adam raises the axe toward the goth.

GOTH FAN
WAIT!

Adam slowly moves the blunt end of the axe into the goth's mouth. The goth's cries becomes muffled. Big Willy and Adam begin to sing.

<p>BIG WILLY (singing) ...I'm your best friend...always by your side...you could never leave me if your tried!</p>	<p>ADAM (singing) You're my best friend always by my side...I could never leave you if I tried!</p>
--	---

With the axe firmly in the mouth of the goth, Big Willy interlaces his fingers to make a "double fist". He raises his fists to the end of the axe handle and SLAMS down hard on the wood. The goth's head splits open at the jaw with a sharp CRACK.

Adam stares at the man's disfigured face. His mouth is crooked and his teeth are shattered.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(to the man)
Say it now...

Adam twists his own face to look like the dead man's.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(mockingly)
THE FIRD ONE WAS THA BESFFT ONE
THO!!!

Big Willy and Adam laugh. A KNOCK AT THE DOOR disrupts their jovial moment.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika stands in the hallway knocking HARD on Adam's door. Adam opens the door - just a crack, and peeks out at Aarika.

AARIKA
Good morning, Mr. Castle.

ADAM
(confused)
Good...morning? *What time is it...*

AARIKA
Nine o'clock.
(beat)
Look, I know we had a somewhat, unprofessional interaction last night - but you still need to be at your booth by ten am if -

ADAM
Of course, of course. Sorry just...gimme a minute to clean up I uh...partied and...*fucked* a bunch last night so...

Adam closes the door. *Aarika sighs.*

In a beat, Adam opens the door and steps into the hallway. He is wearing his Adult Willy costume - with one distinct modification. Over his red and white striped shirt - he now wears the leather harness previously worn by the goth fan. Furthermore, he has altered the harness to fit the Willy doll snugly in the front.

Adam takes a deep breath in and looks toward Aarika.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Ready?

She's speechless.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ELEVATOR

Adam stands next to Aarika and OTHER GUESTS in the elevator. Adam is strapping the Willy doll tighter into the harness as Aarika holds Ricky's leather jack. She watches Adam curiously.

AARIKA
You look...*cool*.

ADAM

Thanks. I wanted to keep him close....you know...people get grabby at these things.

Aarika nods her head and looks away.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Plus, he's come to life...so...I wouldn't want him running off, now would I?

Aarika, and the rest of the people in the elevator look toward Adam who continues to fiddle with the doll/harness.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/CONFERENCE CENTER

Adam sits at his booth smiling. He is wearing Ricky's jacket and still has Willy strapped to his chest. Adam lifts a vodka bottle up from beneath the table and sets it next to him.

Aarika looks around nervously.

AARIKA

You feeling okay? You good?

ADAM

I feel great! Feel like that superhero you drew...ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

Adam flexes, Aarika nods her head - not buying it. AN EXCITED FAN steps up to Adam's table and hands Adam a publicity still from the original film.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Who should I sign this to?

EXCITED FAN

David.

ADAM

David.

Adam looks down to sign the photo. A moment passes as Adam looks at his child self in the picture.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Y'know David...I don't think you want me to sign this.

EXCITED FAN

I don't? Why?

ADAM
Because it's not me.

Adam slowly looks up toward the fan.

EXCITED FAN
 (confused)
 Oh...

Adam stands up from the table and takes a swig from the liquor bottle.

ADAM
I don't think...

Adam rips the fan's photo in half.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 ...ANY of this is me...*anymore.*

Adam begins to rip more photos on his table. Aarika calls someone on her walkie.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 I'm something else now aren't I?
 I've evolved you know? Become
 something...NEW. *None of this is
 me...*

Adam picks up various merch, Willy posters, every item on his table and begins to rip and toss aggressively. Dee and Bill notice the commotion from their booths, stand, and head in Adam's direction.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 (growing louder)
 This isn't me...this isn't
 me...this definitely isn't me...

Jim rushes into the conference center with NUMEROUS STAFFERS by his side. They head in the direction of Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 (yelling)
 THIS ISN'T ME!!! THIS ISN'T ME!!!

Adam turns and looks toward the large banner.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 Look at that dumb-dumb! That piece
 of shit...NOT ME!

Adam tears down the large banner and begins to overturn the table entirely. Jim reaches Adam and places his hand on Adam's shoulder.

JIM

Hey -

Adam immediately strikes a "karate pose" and backs away from Jim.

ADAM

HEY! Don't you FUCKIN' TOUCH ME!

Adam's voice sounds oddly like Willy.

JIM

Adam, why don't you...*come with me.*
You're drunk, let's take a walk -

ADAM

I am drunk. But I am SO sober.
(beat)
OH MY GOD! WILLY!

Adam acts like Willy just leapt from his chest and started to run through the crowd.

ADAM (CONT'D)

WILLY COME BACK! *He's so fast...*
(to Aarika)
I told you he'd run off if we
didn't look after him! Look at him
go!

No one knows what Adam is talking about, the doll is still FIRMLY affixed to his harness. Adam runs away from Jim and the gathering crowd yelling after Willy.

ADAM (CONT'D)

WILLY! WILLY! COME BACK!

Dee watches in grief as Adam pushes through the crowd and disappears.

DEE

(to Bill)
*I don't think my crystals are
working.*

Dee, Bill, Aarika, and Jim all stare at each other in disbelief.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/MEETING ROOM

Aarika has Jim's attention as the staff gathers for the last meeting of the weekend.

JIM

I hear you, I hear you but -

AARIKA

You really think this is a good idea?

JIM

You want me to cancel the closing night party because of what...one drunken nutball? Adam Castle is probably passed out somewhere sleeping it off.

AARIKA

Did you try -

JIM

I called his manager, *no answer.*

Aarika's eyes dart around quickly as if she's mentally solving an equation. She drifts off inside her own head as Jim continues.

JIM (CONT'D)

That's the only contact I have for him. I'll try again later tonight but to be honest, it's the least of my worries. The museum was ransacked, the haunted house is closed...

(beat)

...we only have one more event to put our monster efforts into...to still make this year one of the best yet.

Aarika relents. Jim looks out toward the staff including Feller.

JIM (CONT'D)

I want to thank everyone, for their hard work and diligence over the weekend. This has been one for the books!

The staff cheers. *Aarika and Feller don't.*

JIM (CONT'D)
 In just a bit, we will have the
 final event of the weekend - the
 MONSTER MAYHEM COSTUME PARTY AND
 CLOSING NIGHT GALA!

People cheer again. Yowie Wowie *especially*.

JIM (CONT'D)
 Feel free to get into your costumes
 and really enjoy the party. Have a
 few drinks and unwind. You all
 deserve it after the work you've
 put in...and thank you again for
 helping us BRING THE MAYHEM!!!

More cheering. Aarika storms out, Feller follows.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika walks briskly, Feller catches up.

FELLER
Talk to me Greene.

Aarika turns around.

AARIKA
 I'm a fucking idiot.

FELLER
 What?

AARIKA
 It's not just Sunday. He's wearing
 Ricky's jacket, and the harness
 from that Goth...and...

FELLER
 What? WHAT?

AARIKA
 He's *killing them* Feller. He's
 killing them and taking...*tokens*.
 Mementos from his murders -

FELLER
 Woah. Okay. Or fans are giving him
 gifts?

AARIKA
 Sure, or that.

She turns to continue walking.

FELLER

Or that or that or...he killed a guy and is shamelessly wearing the dead guy's jacket around the convention?

AARIKA

(exploding)
GODDAMNIT.

Feller is shocked to see Aarika this upset.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

Why is it so hard for you guys to imagine someone doing something fucked up? Has no one ever done anything fucked up to you before?

Feller is speechless.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

You and Jim can tell me not to overreact all you want, but I'M telling you this...

(beat)

...Adam Castle is a murderer. He's already killed this weekend, and if we don't stop him - he's gonna kill again.

Feller is more speechless than before.

FELLER

Okay. Okay. *Murder expert Aarika Greene.*

(humoring her)

Who's he gonna kill next then?

Aarika thinks. She opens her mouth to speak as we cut to...

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Adam stands in the small dressing room in the green room. He wears Ricky's jacket and looks deeply into the mirror. On the counter in front of him is a walkie talkie labeled "MARGOT".

ADAM

Leland.

Adam has this conversation with himself, now seamlessly switching between his voice and the voice of Willy.

WILLY
THERE WE GO! Finally going for the
WHITE WHALE.

ADAM
That's what this was all leading to
wasn't it? *Of course...*

WILLY
How we gonna make it happen?

ADAM
I dunno yet...it's gonna be
hard...it's gonna take a lot of
planning, dialing in details -

As Adam thinks...suddenly a cell phone rings.

Adam goes to look for where the ringing is coming from. He digs in the pocket of the jacket he's wearing - and first lifts out a bottle of pills. Adam shakes the pills, then places the bottle back in his pocket. He then reaches into the other pocket and finds Ricky's phone.

Adam clicks "answer" but says nothing.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/LELAND'S HOTEL ROOM

Leland stands on the phone in his hotel room. Behind him are TWO WELL-DRESSED MEN sipping whiskey and smoking cigars.

LELAND
RICKY WHERE THE FUCK ARE YOU? I'm
here with the financiers. They have
CONTRACTS in hand ready to sign and
my producing partner is off the
FUCKING grid.

Silence.

WILLY
LELAND!? LELAND REIGNES...

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika and Feller are in mid-conversation.

FELLER
LELAND REIGNES?

AARIKA

Yes. He'd want to take down the man
that...took everything from him.
I'm telling you -

FELLER

I'm believing you. I can't believe
I'm believing you.

(beat)

So...what do we do?

AARIKA

Let's get ready for the party, act
like everything's normal - I don't
want Jim to think we're up to
something. You find out what room
Leland is staying in and check on
him, then meet me at the party.

Aarika holds up her walkie.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

Season of the witch.

Feller switches to channel three. Aarika turns to leave.

FELLER

Where are you going?

AARIKA

To find Adam.

The two part ways in the hallway.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Adam continues his call with Leland.

ADAM

(acting drunk, in his own
voice)

It's Adam - I'm with Ricky, he just
ran to get another drink from the
bar. We're pretty...ha fucked up...

INTERCUT LELAND IN HIS ROOM

LELAND

What? The Fuck? Where are you?

Adam waits. Thinks.

ADAM
Um...at the uh...

WILLY
The costume contest!

ADAM
Yeah. Backstage at the costume
contest.
(beat)
He's had a bit much. *We both have.*
You should come grab him before he
gets too far gone.

LELAND
Fucking Hell. *Don't go anywhere.*

WILLY
Oh, we won't.

Adam hangs up and smiles. Adam looks back into the mirror.

WILLY (CONT'D)
Time for the grand finale.

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE of everyone getting ready for the big
COSTUME CONTEST.

-Aarika gets ready in the mirror, lipstick etc.

-Feller puts on a white lab coat.

-Aarika puts her outfit on. We see red leather and a red wig.

-MANY DRESSED UP PEOPLE file into an elevator.

-Aarika walks down the hallway dressed as GRACE JONES from
VAMP.

-Feller exits an elevator dressed as DR. HERBERT WEST from RE-
ANIMATOR.

-Yowie Wowie puts on a fancy bedazzled jacket with his name
on the back in rhinestones.

-Colorful Cosplayers dance and gather at the costume contest.

-Feller sneaks into the meeting room and rifles through
folders at Jim's command station.

-MANY PEOPLE head into the COSTUME CONTEST in BALLROOM C.

-Aarika stands outside of Adam's room and knocks on the door.

MONTAGE ENDS

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM C

The costume contest is in FULL swing. A MAN is on stage dressed like DR. CHANNARD from Hellraiser 2. Most attendees are standing except for the judges in the front row. We see Dee, Bill, and a few other horror celebs seated, with clipboards, watching the stage intently.

Jim and Yowie Wowie host from the stage.

JIM
 (reading from a piece of
 paper)
 Alright! Give it up for Spencer as
 DOCTOR CHANNARD!

Feller enters the ballroom and surveys the scene.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika knocks on Adam's door again, no answer. She thinks for a moment, then lifts her walkie to her mouth.

AARIKA
 Feller, I'm switching back to one
 for a moment. Update on Leland?

FELLER
 (yelling through walkie)
 I went to his room, he wasn't
 there. Some other old dudes said he
 disappeared like ten minutes ago.

AARIKA
Copy.

Aarika switches back to one.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 Hey Mayhem-ers. If anyone has
 Margot Jane Kellerman's walkie,
 could you switch to three?

Silence as she waits.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Adam sits in the dressing room fiddling with SUNDAY'S GUN and looking at Margot's walkie. The doll is no longer attached to his harness, it is elsewhere.

AARIKA

(through walkie)

I REPEAT. If ANYONE has Margot's walkie switch to three. Even if...you are NOT a Monster Mayhem employee...*I, Aarika Greene - would like to talk to you.*

Adam smiles and picks up the walkie.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika switches back to three.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Adam lifts the walkie to his mouth and thinks.

AARIKA

(through walkie)

Is anyone there? Does anyone copy...*anyone new on three?...*

Adam is enjoying this tension. *He waits.*

AARIKA (CONT'D)

Listen to me. *I know what you've done.*

Adam silently laughs from excitement.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BACK HALLWAY

Leland walks briskly.

LELAND

Fuck fuck fuck.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Adam listens to Aarika.

AARIKA
(through walkie)
I know what you've done...and
you're not going to get away with
it.

Leland enters the green room.

LELAND
Hello?

Adam presses the talk button on the walkie.

ADAM
What did I tell you about optimism?
(beat)
You're too late.

He turns off the walkie and stands up, tucking the gun into his pants.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Aarika hears the response over the walkie and runs down the hall.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/GREEN ROOM

Leland looks around the room and sees no one. No one except for Willy the doll sitting on a glass coffee table in the middle of the room. Next to Willy is a bottle of whiskey and two glasses poured.

LELAND
(to himself)
What the fuck?

Leland steps up to the doll and picks him up. Behind Leland, Adam steps out of the smaller dressing room.

ADAM
Hey, Leland.

Leland turns around.

LELAND
Adam, what the fuck? Where's Ricky?

ADAM
*He'll be back. He was pretty
drunk...pretty out of sorts.*

Leland sets the doll down next to the whiskey on the glass table.

ADAM (CONT'D)

He was honest with me about the new venture. I know you don't want me involved and I understand.

Adam reaches for the two whiskey glasses. He hands one to Leland, and takes one for himself.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Honestly, it's gonna be good for me. Step away from the genre for a bit, get some fresh air. Maybe do some...Shakespeare in the park! Ha.

LELAND

Right.

ADAM

But, before we part ways, I thought we could have a toast and bury the hatchet.

Adam lifts his glass toward Leland's.

ADAM (CONT'D)

To new beginnings.

Leland nods in Adam's direction.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Down the hatch.

Adam drinks his whiskey. After a beat, Leland drinks his.

WILLY

Now get the gun.

LELAND

What?

Adam takes Sunday's gun out of his waist band as he looks at Leland. Leland stops.

ADAM

Okay...*the truth is*...I'm not happy with you taking the franchise in a new direction and...leaving me in the dust. Ret-conning me out of existence.

Adam begins to walk toward Leland with the gun aimed at him.
Leland backs up.

ADAM (CONT'D)

So I thought I could pitch you a
few ideas...if you have the
time...take 'em or leave 'em.

WILLY

HIT IT.

ADAM

Well I was thinking...in this
remake. Bradley is BACK...this time
as the...uh...he's actually a nurse
at the hospital...a hospital that
the new kid...whoever you cast as
the little kid...he's, y'know I
imagine at some point he's seeing
like a child psychologist - so I
could be the ADULT child
psychologist...or...

WILLY

I like it, go ON go ONNN.

LELAND

Adam, please -

Leland backs up as Adam speaks.

ADAM

Or or or or or, OR I run the toy
company now. The, in a weird twist
of fate - I run Baker Toys, or like
I inherited it...from the...'cause
you could say Harry Baker from the
original felt bad about the...

Leland blinks and looks toward Adam. Leland has a hard time
focusing as Adam speaks. *Was there something in the drink?*

ADAM (CONT'D)

...what happened with the dolls so
he...with his dying breath...willed
the company to Bradley, ME...as a,
as a means of redemption.

WILLY

Ohh...META.

Leland falls to his knees while Adam advances with the gun.
Leland is dizzy, unable to hold his head up straight.

ADAM

What do you think, Leland? You like any of those ideas?

LELAND

(slurring)

Fuck you.

Leland can barely keep his eyes open. He is kneeling on the ground directly over the glass coffee table. Adam picks Willy up from the table.

ADAM

So you're saying that's a pass?

LELAND

FUCK YOU.

WILLY

FUCK ME? FUCK YOU! You know, you never did take care of the little people did you?

(beat)

Well now the little people...are gonna take care of YOU.

Using Willy's hand, Adam taps Leland ever so slightly. Leland falls forward losing consciousness. He crashes through the glass coffee table violently. The glass shatters and cuts his face and neck in numerous places.

WILLY (CONT'D)

Now...what do ya' say we get THEATRICAL with this shit?

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM C

A YOUNG COUPLE dances onstage to the DISCO SONG from PROM NIGHT. Aarika enters the ballroom and finds Feller.

AARIKA

Did you hear that?

FELLER

I can't hear anything in here.

AARIKA

I called for Margot on the walkie, and ADAM responded.

FELLER

What the fuck?

AARIKA

I'm putting it all together...he killed Ricky after the photo-op, trashed the museum room to cover his tracks - and Margot must've witnessed it...*she was collateral damage.*

The dancers finish their performance and take a bow. Jim talks to the crowd.

JIM

Alright! Yeah! Disco is NOT DEAD!
AM I RIGHT?

The crowd settles.

FELLER

Okay...so we find Adam and call the cops.

AARIKA

He wasn't in his room. Maybe...

JIM

Okay next up we have -

A hand reaches through the curtain holding a piece of paper. Yowie grabs the form and hands it to Jim. WILLY is scrawled in blood on the front of the sheet.

JIM (CONT'D)

Next up is...WILLY? Willy as...

Jim flips the form over to read the back.

JIM (CONT'D)

Willy as...HOLLYWOOD PHONY LELAND REIGNES.

Aarika looks toward the stage.

AARIKA

Maybe he'll find us.

Someone walks out on stage holding a vodka bottle and an axe. They are wearing a large suit and moving with a confident strut. The figure makes their way to the center of the stage before turning and revealing themselves fully to the crowd.

It's Adam, wearing Leland's suit...and Leland's FACE...as a mask. It's held on with tape and looks like a cross between Leatherface and a sagging Ghostface mask.

Adam smokes a cigar through the bloody visage, wields the Kane Axe in one hand, and moves across the stage swigging vodka.

Dee and Bill look on befuddled. Aarika and Feller are in total shock. Adam begins to dance on stage as Leland. He's doing weird "Mick Jagger" type moves and *no one* is getting the joke. Jim is not sure what's happening. Adam begins to "play" the axe like an air guitar a la Marty McFly.

FELLER
(to himself)
What the fuck?

Suddenly the Leland face falls to the ground with a bloody splat. *Adam is exposed.* Adam removes the suit and reveals himself onstage. He's covered in blood, wearing the leather harness with Willy locked in. On one side of the harness, is his tiny corkscrew looped into a clasp.

Adam strikes a showman's pose. Aarika's eyes go wide.

ADAM
HOW DO YA' LIKE MY NEW ACT?

AARIKA
OH GOD.

A limping Leland runs out of the green room, still alive and without a face. He screams and falls to the ground.

JIM
Jesus Christ. Is this a joke?

WILLY
Hey nowww!!! This ain't a three-
person act! He's trying to UPSTAGE
US!!!

The crowd is bewildered. Adam walks over to Leland who is twitching and writhing in unfathomable pain. Adam lifts his axe high and aims the blunt edge of it directly at Leland's...face?

WILLY (CONT'D)
SAY G'NIGHT, GRACIE!!!

ADAM
Goodnight, Gracie.

Adam slams the butt of the axe down into Leland's face. Blood sprays on the front row of audience members. The crowd SCREAMS.

Leland is definitely dead now.

Everyone begins to run out of the ballroom while Aarika and Feller run toward the stage. Jim rushes Adam. Adam uses the axe to stop Jim - he slams the dull end into Jim's chest to keep him at bay.

AARIKA

JIM!

Adam releases his grip on the axe just long enough to grab the cork screw off his harness. As Jim advances, Adam drops the axe but jams the cork screw into Jim's side multiple times. Jim drops to the stage in agony.

Adam looks out toward the diminishing crowd. Disappointment spreads across his face; his audience is leaving! He jumps down off the stage. Aarika, surrounded by Dee, Bill, and Feller - immediately steps toward Adam.

AARIKA (CONT'D)

ADAM!

Adam pulls Sunday's gun from his waist band.

WILLY

Can you BELIEVE IT? They didn't even announce a winner!

DEE

Adam - please -

WILLY

Oh, Adam's long gone.

Adam aims the gun toward Aarika.

WILLY (CONT'D)

You! The happy one! So encouraging...COME WITH ME...*I wanna show you something.*

Adam wraps his arm around Aarika's neck and aims the gun toward her head. He drags Aarika toward the entrance to Ballroom B - THE HAUNTED HOUSE.

FELLER

AARIKA!

AARIKA

FELLER!

Adam disappears with Aarika through the haunted house entrance.

DEE
What do we do?

BILL
We wait for the police.

FELLER
No...we can't.

Feller thinks and grits his teeth.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM B/HAUNTED HOUSE

Aarika and Adam enter the haunted house.

WILLY
You've really tried so hard to get through to him this weekend, and I wanna thank you for that. I'm only as good as my greatest adversary - y'know?

A SCARECROW on a hydraulic spring JUTS out and scares Aarika.

WILLY (CONT'D)
All the well wishes...the little drawings. So cute. *Great effort. Really.*

Adam and Aarika round another corner in the haunted maze. A spray of steam and a spooky audio cue keep Aarika startled.

WILLY (CONT'D)
Unfortunately...*I was right.* Optimism...is a poison...it keeps you from seeing REALITY. You wanna see what the REALITY of this situation is honey? Huh?

Another SCARECROW SHOOTs out of the darkness, only it isn't a scarecrow at all. The scarecrow has been replaced with the BODY OF MARGOT. Aarika SCREAMS wildly in shock.

WILLY (CONT'D)
AND WHAT DID I SAY!? REALITY...IS NOTHINGNESS...

They round another corner in the haunted house - another body SPRINGS OUT on display. It's Ricky's HEADLESS CORPSE.

WILLY (CONT'D)
REALITY IS DEATH.

Adam takes Aarika deeper into the maze. She is crying and trying to maintain composure. They settle in a more open area of the attraction - flashing lights and spooky sound effects continue. He releases Aarika while keeping a grip on her person. He takes a deep breath in and aims the gun toward her. Adam looks to his left to find a bottle of vodka he left in the attraction. He lifts the bottle and swigs.

WILLY (CONT'D)

Now, I'd like to give YOU the honor, of being added to this attraction...becoming a part of OUR LEGACY...

As Adam rambles Aarika sees Feller, Dee, and Bill creep out from the shadows of the haunted house.

ADAM

...the LEGEND that is -

AARIKA

WILLY, I need to speak to Adam.

Adam stops for a moment.

WILLY

WHY?

AARIKA

Because...he...

(beat)

He has an audition.

Adam breathes in heavily. Long pause. Feller, Dee, and Bill freeze where they are.

ADAM

(speaking normally)

An audition for what?

Aarika looks at Dee who's catching on.

DEE

For the remake! They want to see you.

Adam looks behind him to see Dee, Bill, and Feller.

ADAM

They do?

BILL

Yes, they do. They want to see you immediately Adam.

DEE

They said there may be a role for you. *They told me so.*

ADAM

Really?

Everyone waits to see if he's buying it...

ADAM (CONT'D)

This is big. *Really big.* Is there a script?

Adam lowers the gun and Aarika runs over to join the group.

DEE

No sides, but we're gonna...do a scene with you. *We'll improvise.*

AARIKA

We're here to help. Feller will run the camera...

Aarika sets her bag down on the ground and begins to dig for the camera. She looks over to Adam...he is nearly standing on the yellow guideline tape. Aarika looks in front of her - THE PROPANE TANK. She looks up toward Adam who takes another swig of vodka.

DEE

And uh...we'll just feel it out.

Aarika looks back down toward her bag and searches for the camera, she uses her other hand to reach for the propane tank hidden behind a small curtain. She fiddles for a knob, finds it, and begins to turn. We hear the hiss of gas as propane spills out into the room.

Aarika stands up and hands the camera to Feller.

ADAM

That's good, that's good.

(beat)

Agh, okay I gotta...just get into the headspace, you know? It's been a while.

Adam begins to do vocal warm-ups as he tucks the gun into his waist band.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 (vocalizing)
 Red leather yellow leather red
 leather yellow leather red leather
 yellow leather red...

Feller and Aarika look toward each other, then they look back toward Adam. Feller aims the camera toward Adam who breathes out slowly and shakes his neck in a stretch. Dee and Bill stand near Adam just out of frame of Feller's camera.

AARIKA
 Okay...and...do me a favor
 Adam...step right up to that mark.

Adam looks down and steps up toward the strip of broad yellow tape on the ground.

AARIKA (CONT'D)
 And you feel good?

ADAM
Great.

AARIKA
 Let's do it, and...ACTION!

Adam snaps into an improvised scene. Aarika begins to undo the TIE she is wearing as part of her costume.

ADAM
 Not again, this can't be happening again. I thought I'd do better, better than Mr. Baker but...here I am backed up into same GODDAMN corner he was...

Dee steps up to Adam.

DEE
 Mr. Caruthers?

ADAM
 Yes!? My assistant, Judy enters...

DEE
 We've got more reports of dolls going haywire...in the East Bay this time...

ADAM
 Oh no, it's spreading...it must be a bug across...
 (beat)
 (MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

Let me take that again.

(beat)

Oh no, it's spreading. It must be a bug across ALL new exports. GODDAMN IT this can't be my legacy, this can't be my LEGACY!!!

Feller continues to film.

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/FRONT ENTRANCE

First responders arrive at the hotel. The front area has been flooded with attendees fleeing the con.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM C

Adam is in mid-scene with Dee and Bill. His vodka bottle is on the floor by his feet.

ADAM

GO NOW JUDY! YOU MUST STOP THAT TRUCK FROM LEAVING THE FACTORY OR THE PANIC WILL BE CITY-WIDE.

BILL

But what if it's too late? There could be an EVIL BEST FRIEND doll in every...major CITY IN THE WORLD.

ADAM

Then GODDAMN IT...I won't rest until EVERY LAST GODDAMN one of those things is destroyed...or my name isn't Johnson T. Johns...the NEW CEO of BAKER TOYS.

Adam takes a deep breath in.

ADAM (CONT'D)

AAAAAND SCENE.

Dee, Bill, and Aarika applaud.

AARIKA

Amazing. *Just amazing.*

ADAM

Thoughts? I can go again, make some different decisions. Try some dialects even?

AARIKA

Why don't, Bill and Dee...Feller
why don't you let them
review...step out and...

DEE

Yeah we're gonna step outside
and...talk it over...yeah, and
watch back what you did. It was
brilliant, really.

Dee and Bill move toward Feller.

ADAM

Right...

Adam looks down toward the yellow mark on the floor. Dee,
Feller, and Bill exit the haunted house. Only Aarika and Adam
remain.

AARIKA

Adam...

ADAM

I know what the answer will be.
Don't call us...*we'll call you.*
(beat)
I think we're...going in a...
different direction.

Adam removes the gun from his waist band.

AARIKA

Adam...where's Sunday?

Adam looks toward Aarika.

ADAM

She left. I told you.

AARIKA

Adam...I don't believe you...

ADAM

SHE LEFT I TOLD YOU. I've got
nothing to...I DON'T OWE YOU
ANYTHING!

Adam begins to twitch and look away from Aarika. He stares at
the yellow line of tape at his feet. For a moment, we see the
pink "T" mark he missed as a child on the set of Little
Willy.

ADAM (CONT'D)
 (to himself)
 What do you want from me...

Aarika slowly reaches for the vodka bottle.

AARIKA
 I want you to be honest...with
 yourself...WHERE...IS...SUNDAY...

Adam closes his eyes. Suddenly We see a flash of memories
 explode on screen as Adam winces and reacts.

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE -

-ADAM FIGHTING WITH SUNDAY IN HIS HOTEL ROOM OVER
 RELINQUISHING WILLY.

-SUNDAY TRYING TO TAKE WILLY FROM ADAM.

-ADAM BECOMING ANGRY AND REACHING FOR A LARGE BOTTLE OF
 ALCOHOL.

-ADAM LIFTING THE BOTTLE OF ALCOHOL OVER SUNDAY'S HEAD.

-ADAM SMASHING THE BOTTLE OVER SUNDAY'S HEAD. GLASS AND
 WHISKEY SHIMMER ACROSS THE SCREEN AS SUNDAY COLLAPSES.

-AT NIGHT, ADAM DRAGS SUNDAY AND A PIECE OF HIS LUGGAGE TO
 THE EDGE OF THE NEARBY LAKE.

-ADAM FILLS HIS LUGGAGE WITH LARGE ROCKS FOUND ON THE SHORE.

-ADAM TIES THE LUGGAGE TO SUNDAY'S FEET AND ROLLS HER INTO
 THE WATER.

-SUNDAY SINKS DEEPER BELOW THE WATER'S DARK SURFACE.

-ADAM CRIES AND WATCHES HER DISAPPEAR UNDER THE WATER.

MONTAGE ENDS

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM B/HAUNTED HOUSE

Adam opens his eyes and looks up. In front of him - A
 ZOMBIFIED version of Sunday appears. Adam begins to
 frantically back up from the creature.

ADAM
 WILLY WHAT DID YOU DO!? WHAT DID
 YOU DO!?

WILLY
 WHAT DID I DO!??? I DID WHAT YOU
 COULDN'T!!! YOU DUMB-DUMB!!! YOU
 PIECE OF SHIT!!!

Zombie Sunday walks toward Adam with her mouth agape in a wail.

ADAM
 NOT HER!!! NO WILLY NOT HER!!!

Aarika watches as Adam backs up - running from nothing. She begins to stuff her tie down into the vodka bottle. The gas HISSES from the propane tank, continuing to FILL THE ROOM.

AARIKA
 ADAM...

ADAM
 WILLY NO!!! NO!!!

AARIKA
 Adam come with me, turn yourself
 in.

WILLY
 WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME!!! YOU SAY
 ONE THING!!! YOU WANT ANOTHER!!!
 YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!!!

Aarika removes Sunday's lighter from her pocket and readies her thumb on the sparkwheel. Adam raises the gun toward the zombie.

ADAM
 PLEASE STOP!!! I'm SORRY!!!
 PLEASE!!!

Aarika's eyes widen.

AARIKA
 ADAM NO!!!

Adam pulls the trigger and fires the gun. Aarika turns and runs for the exit. Adam continues to fire wildly toward the "zombie". The bullets ricochet off of robots, scarecrows, and various pieces in the haunted house.

Aarika rushes through the door just as Adam's gunfire connects with the PROPANE TANK CAUSING A SPARK AND AN EXPLOSION.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/HALLWAY

Police approach Ballroom B just as the propane tank explodes. The doors to the ballroom are blown off and the police are thrown back with force.

Aarika is thrown into the hallway.

INT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/BALLROOM B/HALLWAY

SLOW MOTION MONTAGE -

-SPRINKLERS RAIN DOWN.

-Emergency responders rush into the hallway and find Aarika covered in ash and debris.

-MEDICS grab Aarika and lift her to her feet.

-FIREMEN spray down the HAUNTED HOUSE.

-Dee and Bill sit on the curb of the hotel.

-Jim is wheeled out on a stretcher, barely alive.

-Police gather near Adam's hotel room door as a HOTEL EMPLOYEE swipes a key. Police open the door and rush in.

-Bodies from the party are scattered everywhere.

-Aarika is brought outside and placed in an ambulance. Feller is nearby.

-Police discover Margot and Ricky's bodies in the haunted house.

-Police discover Ricky's head in the museum room on display in a glass case.

-Medics check Aarika's vitals. In her hands, she holds the drawing of SUPERHERO ADAM. Aarika stares at the drawing while tears stream down her face.

-SWAT moves through the extinguished HAUNTED HOUSE: NO SIGN OF ADAM.

MONTAGE ENDS

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL

The camera drifts low on the ground to the corner of the building.

We slowly crawl through running legs and crossing manic people. We make our way to the side of the building. Adam is crouched on the ground, on fire. There is glass around him. It's apparent he jumped out a window.

Adam writhes in pain as he crawls toward the edge of the lake. He begins to tear at his clothes. They peel away with ease and reveal melting skin and plastic as the doll begins to blend into his body from the heat/fire.

Adam screams as he makes his way to the edge of the lake on his back, the doll fuses to his body with every flicker of the flame. Once he gets to the edge of the lake, he turns over and rolls into the water.

Below the water, Adam sinks as the flames on his body are extinguished. As he drifts into darkness, a woman's arms suddenly appear in the murky water, gripping Adam from behind.

The woman peers over Adam's shoulder; it's Sunday, dead and decaying. Her hollow eyes look directly at Adam.

Bubbles stream from his mouth as he SCREAMS.

CUT TO BLACK...

...AFTER CREDITS BUMPER

EXT. LAKESIDE HOTEL/ACROSS THE LAKE

The camera glides along the ground pushing toward the lake's edge. We are on the OTHER side of the lake now. We see the crowd, hotel, ambulances, and lights in the distance.

As we near the lake's edge, A BURNT HAND juts out of the water and grips the shore. A disfigured and contorting Adam lifts himself onto the muddy bank. Shakily, he stands to his feet. It's LITTLE WILLY'S MONSTER truly risen for the first time. His red and white striped shirt torn to reveal the doll permanently fused to his torso. His skin, rippled and twisted over his chest, neck, and face.

Adam takes a deep breath in and screams toward the sky. Lightning flashes around him, illuminating a terrifying silhouette of a man reborn for evil's doing.

THE END